

Abundant Grace

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

**F**or Children: We have trained nursery staff (paid nursery attendant as well as adult volunteers) for ages 0-4. The nursery is located on the first floor outside of the Community Room. (Accessible by the stairs from the Church Street Entrance or via the elevator). Children ages 5 and above are invited to stay and worship with their families. Children's programs, books, and crayons are located in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table.

**H**ymn selections can be found in the black hymnals in the pew racks or printed in the bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk in the downstairs lobby please stop by after the service they would love to meet you or, please feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. Many of our visitors ask us about the time of offering. This is a time in our service when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift towards the ministries and programs of our church. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts in sharing God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshipping with us. At this time, we are taking offering at the end of the service. Plates for offering will be placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary. Thank you.

**W**e ask that you please silence your cell phones during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Rest rooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the first floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

**T**here is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org).

Donate online by scanning this code:  
or download the **GivePlus Church** application and  
make your donation via the app. Thank you.



**Ministers and Staff of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ**

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Senior Pastor* ~ [bkdaniel@erucc.org](mailto:bkdaniel@erucc.org)

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus* ~ [burschenherrlichkeit@gmail.com](mailto:burschenherrlichkeit@gmail.com)

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Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

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Tricia Coffey ~ *Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director*

Kelly Esslinger ~ *Assistant Director for Bell Choirs & Children's Music*

Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Assistant*



**EVANGELICAL REFORMED**  
**United Church of Christ**  
– An Open and Affirming Congregation –



February 26, 2023

10:30 am



**seeking:**  
*Who will you  
listen to?*

The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal  
\*All who are able may stand

## First Sunday in Lent

**Chimes Concert** at 10:00 am from Trinity Chapel's steeple

### Greetings and Announcements

### Prelude

#### **Threshold Moment** *Who will you listen to?*

Glenn Wallace

Twitter or the BBC / the ads on late-night television / the wind as she blows  
/ the echo of children playing / the quiet of snow / the ice bucket challenge /  
the phone when it rings / your pastor / your mother / your doctor / your gut /  
the tension in your shoulders / the restaurant singing happy birthday / audio  
books / TED talks / the rhythm of the music / the coffee drip in the morning  
/ your therapist / the wisdom of the enneagram / the way your heart comes  
alive when you're being creative / the man on the corner asking for change /  
the kid on the subway selling chocolate / the labels on the makeup bottle that  
promise timeless beauty / the magazines that tell you you need timeless  
beauty / astrology / the Dow Jones / the hiss of the radiator / the pitter patter  
of little feet / financial advisors / the top 40 pop / the top 40 country / the  
New York Times / the rumor mill / the Book of Psalms / your sense of self /  
Jesus, when he says, "I am with you, always."

### A Time of Silence

### **\*Call to Worship**

Listen!

**There is hope to be found here.**

Listen!

**God calls you by name here.**

Listen!

**There is love that abides here.**

This world is full of chatter, so may we do our best to listen.

**God is speaking.**

Let us worship. **Amen.**

### **\*Opening Prayer**

**\*Opening Hymn** *We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness*

#179

see next page

### **\*Call to Confession**

Friends, if you are seeking grace, this moment is for you.

If you are seeking growth, this moment is for you.

If you are seeking honesty, this moment is for you.

In the prayer of confession, we admit to ourselves and to God that we do not have it all figured out.

And in that vulnerability, we are surrounded by God's grace.

So let us pray together:

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God,**

**Listening is always easier said than done.**

**We shuffle into this space and try to quiet our minds,  
but the list of distractions is long.**

**We need your help to listen.**

**So today we ask that you would marinate us in your Word.**

**Dust the cobwebs from our ears.**

**Stir our souls awake.**

**Crack open our hearts to make room for you.**

**Scoop us up. Put us in your pocket.**

**Carry us with you wherever you go.**

**We want to hear you, really hear you, so speak to us now.**

**With hope we pray, amen.**

# We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness

179

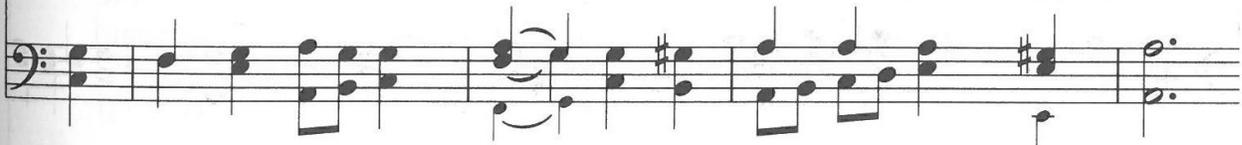
*Dosia Carlson, 1986; rev. 1993*



1 We yearn, O Christ, for whole - ness and for your heal - ing touch;  
2 We long to have com - pan - ions who trav - el by our side,  
3 We need your liv - ing pres - ence, O Christ of Gal - i - lee,



too long have we felt help - less; our bur - dens seemed too much.  
strong friends to call and an - swer with whom we are al - lied;  
a pres - ence that re - vives us and sets our spir - its free.



For - get - ting all pre - tens - es we make our plead - ings heard,  
As we lift up each oth - er when strug - gles lay us low,  
No long - er are we fear - ful, your love per - vades each place.



in hope and ex - pec - ta - tion a - wait your gra - cious Word.  
com - mu - ni - ty de - vel - ops; our faith and car - ing grow.  
Em - pow - er us with cour - age to claim your heal - ing grace.



### **\*Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, even when we tune God out,  
even when we prioritize other voices,  
even when we do all the talking and fail to listen,  
we are still held by God.

Our sins are forgiven.

Nothing could ever separate us from God's love.

So with joy in our hearts, please repeat after me:

I am loved!

**I am loved!**

I am held in grace!

**I am held in grace!**

I belong to God.

**I belong to God.**

**Amen.**

### **Ministry Moment**

Rev. Richard Leslie

### **Anthem** *Play from Your Heart*

– J. Alayra  
Children's Music and Movement

### **Thought For the Day**

Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven  
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done**

**on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

*Children ages 5 through 5th grade may be dismissed for Junior Church,  
located in the Thomas Room, during the singing of the hymn.*

**\*Hymn *Jesus Tempted in the Desert***

– tune – EBENEZER

**Jesus, tempted in the desert,  
lonely, hungry, filled with dread:  
'Use your power,' the tempter tells him;  
'turn these barren rocks to bread!'  
'Not alone by bread,' he answers,  
'can the human heart be filled.  
Only by the Word that calls us  
is our deepest hunger stilled!'**

**Jesus, tempted, at the temple,  
high above its ancient wall:  
'Throw yourself from lofty turret;  
angels wait to break you fall!'  
Jesus shuns such empty marvels,  
feats that fickle crowds request:  
'God, whose grace protects, preserves us,  
we must never vainly test.'**

**Jesus, tempted on the mountain  
by the lure of vast domain:  
'Fall before me! Be my servant!  
Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!'  
Jesus sees the dazzling vision,  
turns his eyes another way:  
'God alone deserves our homage!  
God alone will I obey!'**

**When we face temptation's power,  
lonely, struggling, filled with dread,  
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour,  
come and be our living bread.  
By your grace, protect, preserve us  
lest we fall, your trust betray.  
Yours, above all other voices,  
be the Word we hear, obey.**

## The Scripture

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7      OT page 2

Matthew 4:1-11              NT page 3

Reader:    The Word of God for the people of God.

All:        **Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

### Affirmation of Faith

In a world full of noise,  
**we believe that God is speaking.**

In a world full of chaos,  
**we believe that God is singing.**

In a world full of temptation,  
**we believe that God is healing.**

Church, who will you listen to?

**We will listen to God—our Creator, Friend, and Guide.**

Church, what will you listen for?

**We will listen for water in the desert,  
for the wind of the Spirit,  
for the laughter of children,  
for the sound of open doors,  
and for God’s voice, who calls us beloved.**

## Morning Prayers

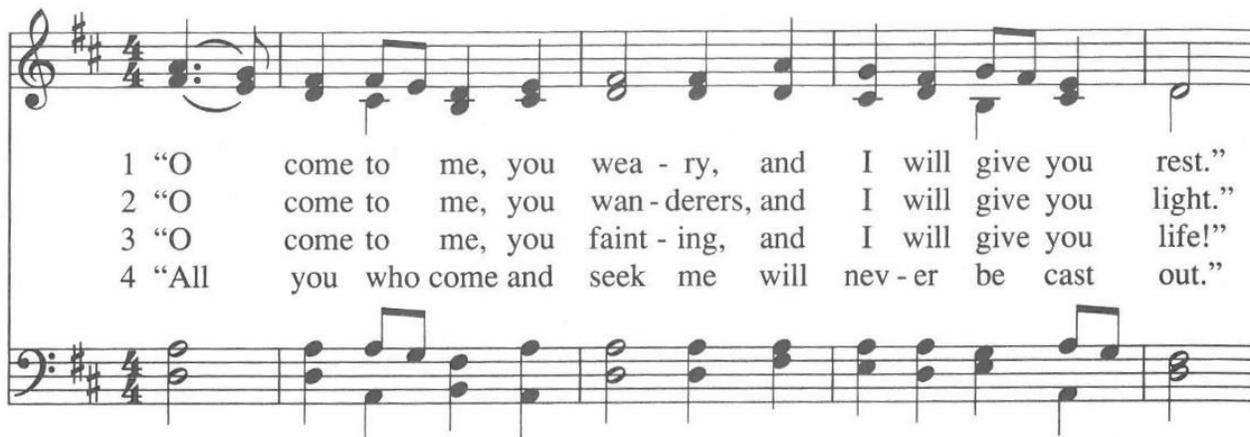
### Offering of Tithes, Gifts and Lives to Christ’s Service

Offertory *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

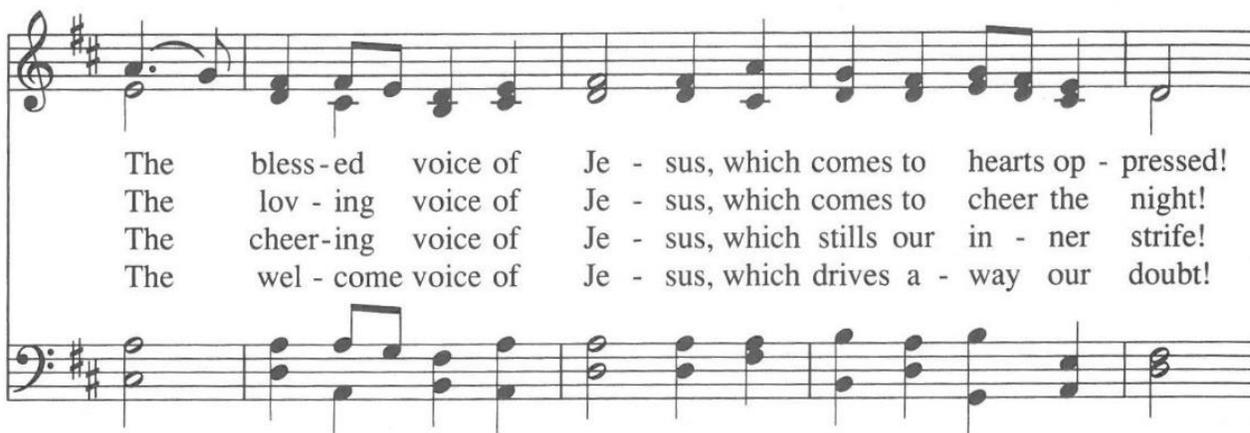
– D. Cherwien  
Senior Choir

### \*Prayer of Dedication

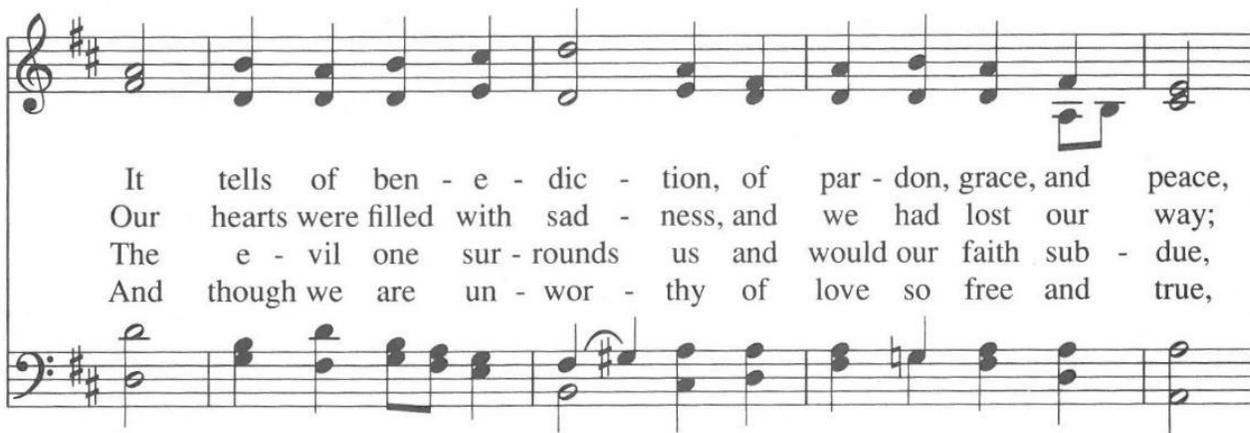
**Holy Stream of Gifts, we share our gratitude for all of our fruits – from our possessions to knowledge and from our time to abilities. May our “best” be something that we do not hoard but that we freely give away. As we embrace this season of fasting and reflection, may we recognize the best of our talents, treasures, and time and share with God and neighbor. Amen.**



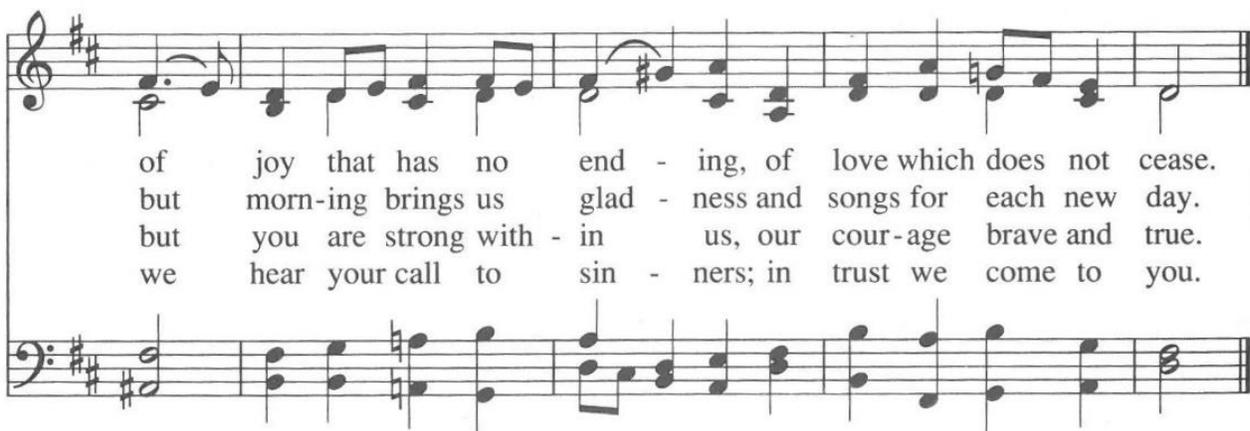
1 "O come to me, you wea - ry, and I will give you rest."  
2 "O come to me, you wan - derers, and I will give you light."  
3 "O come to me, you faint - ing, and I will give you life!"  
4 "All you who come and seek me will nev - er be cast out."



The bless - ed voice of Je - sus, which comes to hearts op - pressed!  
The lov - ing voice of Je - sus, which comes to cheer the night!  
The cheer - ing voice of Je - sus, which stills our in - ner strife!  
The wel - come voice of Je - sus, which drives a - way our doubt!



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, of par - don, grace, and peace,  
Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, and we had lost our way;  
The e - vil one sur - rounds us and would our faith sub - due,  
And though we are un - wor - thy of love so free and true,



of joy that has no end - ing, of love which does not cease.  
but morn - ing brings us glad - ness and songs for each new day.  
but you are strong with - in us, our cour - age brave and true.  
we hear your call to sin - ners; in trust we come to you.

## **\*Benediction**

As you leave this place,  
may God bless you with seeking.  
Seek out the hungry.  
Seek the weary.  
Seek the good in every person you pass.  
Seek out the hopeful.  
Seek the faithful.  
Seek God in each of us.  
As you seek and as you wonder,  
may you find what you are looking for.  
In the name of our loving God,  
who is always seeking us,  
go now in peace. Amen.

**Postlude** *(please be seated)*

**The flowers on the altar** are placed to provide happiness to those who deal with chronic physical and emotional pain by Darryl Glick and Mark Ulrich.

**The yellow rose bud** is presented in honor of Alex Schaeberle, who wears the Marine Corps uniform. Thank you to him, as well as the Schaeberle and Sexton families, for their sacrifices made in service to our country.

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**Attendance Last Sunday:** 19 at 8:30 am, 110 at 10:30 am, and 78 online.

Watch  
Worship  
Live



**Watch worship live every Sunday at 10:30 am or on-demand:**  
<https://sundaystreams.com/go/ERUCC>

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**Today: February 26, 2023**

Scripture Reader: Glenn Wallace

Deacons: Harrison Fisher, Andrew Beadle

Elder: Eric Weakly

Greeters: Eliza Stitely, Felecia Bishop  
Sue Pinnerl

Welcome: Pat Condo

Audio/Visual: Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin  
Kelly Esslinger

Fellowship: Rachel and Tom Ford  
Rena Kline

Saturday Chimer: Suzanne Morris

Sunday Chimer: Tricia Coffey

**Next Week: March 5, 2023**

Nancy Jones, Ron Terbush  
Dan Smith

Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick

Laura Rhoderick

Anne Hoffmann, Nancy Manthey  
Danielle Carbone

Marj Berkheimer

Kelly Esslinger, Larry Martin  
Kendra Sampson

Sexton and Schaeberle Families

Dick Williams

Robin Cooney

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**FELLOWSHIP**

Please join us for fellowship in the Community Room after worship to chat with friends, welcome our visitors, and enjoy a time of refreshment.

The Community Room, located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, is accessible by stairs or elevator.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Worship Next Week: Second Sunday in Lent**

#### **Seeking: How do we begin again?**

John 3:1-17 | Genesis 12:1-4a

Nicodemus comes to Jesus under the veil of night to ask him big faith questions. Jesus invites him to begin again, to learn a new way of knowing and living out his faith. In Genesis, God commands Abram and Sarai to leave everything—their home, their family, their land—to seek the land of Canaan and begin again. Like Nicodemus, what are the questions we ask in the dark? Like Abram and Sarai, how do we follow God's calling to begin again?

*The Senior Choir will be singing. Communion will be shared at the chancel rail. Today we will celebrate the baptism of Paisley Schaeberle.*

### **HOSPITAL AND PRAYER LIST**

Your pastor wants to be available when members of ERUCC are in the hospital. Please let us know so that we can visit with you and your family and provide support. We always ask permission before adding a name to be included in the prayer list or in the verbal announcements on a Sunday morning. There are many for whom we pray and visit whose names are not listed in the bulletin by their request.

*Please remember the following people in your prayers:*

Jeff Schaeberle, David Cooney, Mike Roberston (friend of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson), Ed Hoffman, Bob Pinner, Stacie Carey (niece of Darlene Brunner and Jeannette Johnson), Ginny Peters, Marcia Eisenstein, Bob Shafer, Joyce Kallevang (sister-in-law of Jeanellen Kallevang), Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie and Gaylon Cornell), Wayne Kolb (friends of Stefan and Judi Mach and Tony and Linda LaFianza), Conway Barnes (brother-in-law of George and Linda Kline), Mary Ellen Baker, Pat Hevner, Jeannette Johnson, Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby), Tamara Tamas, Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley), Marcy Channell (daughter of JoAnn Fritz), Paige Coffey, Jane Doll, Emogene Wyand, Fran Wenner, Neremiah Castillo (niece of Andrew Beadle), Bonnie Devilbiss, The McCarty family, Tina Prescott (daughter in law of Barbara and Bill Prescott), Mary Remsberg, Heleen (sister of Karin Mens), Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser), Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield).



**LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR  
CHILDREN PRAYING**



**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY with The Rev. Esther Ziegler**  
***The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings***  
**Wednesdays, March 1–April 12      North Room / Zoom      2:00 pm**

If these words “Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow Torah, God’s word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature; he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. In *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how they have been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation...” sound familiar to you it is because Pastor Barbara just finished leading this curriculum on Tuesday mornings. But both Jesus’ words and Professor Amy-Jill Levine’s intriguing and often entertaining interpretation of them bear repeating so if you missed a session with Pastor Barbara, or couldn’t make the Tuesday morning schedule, you have a chance to participate in the class on Wednesday afternoons with a different group of people. If you plan to participate via Zoom, please contact the church office (erucc@erucc.org) or Esther Ziegler (estherrziegler@gmail.com) via email for the link. If you need the book, it can be ordered on Amazon. During the first class on March 1, we will review Professor Levine’s approach to understanding the teachings of Jesus by “wrestling” with them and then discuss the Introduction to the book. The following weeks we will cover:

March 8 - Chapter 1: Sell What You Own  
March 15 - Chapter 2: Hate Father and Mother  
March 22 - Chapter 3: Slave of All  
March 29 - Chapter 4: Nowhere Among the Gentiles

April 5 - Chapter 5: Outer Darkness  
April 12 - Chapter 6: Your Father the Devil and  
Afterword

## **This Week at ERUCC**

### **KITCHEN / FELLOWSHIP 101**

**during Fellowship**

Peter Brehm will lead anyone interested in a tour of the kitchen including how to make coffee and where to find things for Fellowship. Connect with Peter during Fellowship!

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### **TUESDAY EVENING YOGA**

**Tuesdays, February 28 – April 4      Community Room      7:00 pm**

Sign up and join your ERUCC friends for Tuesday night yoga starting February 28! You will need to bring yoga mats, blocks if used, and a water bottle. Space is limited to 20 participants.

For more information or to sign up, contact Renae Kline, [rdkline15@gmail.com](mailto:rdkline15@gmail.com). The 6-week session is just \$60! Payments should be marked “yoga.”

*Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ*

Presents

SHANA OSHIRO, SOPRANO

# CROSSING OVER



VINCENT STRINGER,  
ARTIST, BARITONE



EDMOND CHARLES, PIANIST



JODI BEDER, CELLIST

**PROGRAM OF SPIRITUALS  
& ART EXHIBIT**

Saturday, March 4, 2023  
6:00 pm

**EVANGELICAL REFORMED  
UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST**

15 West Church St.  
Frederick, MD 21701  
(301) 662-2762  
erucc@erucc.org

**DONATIONS WELCOME,  
ADMISSION FREE**

## Upcoming at ERUCC

### **CHIMES SERVICE AND LEARNING GROUP**

**Thursday, March 9**

**North Room**

**11:00 am**

Our speaker will be Nancy Geasey to discuss Monocacy Church from 1700.

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### **LET'S SING! – NEW 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OPPORTUNITY**

**Sunday, March 12**

**Liz Coffey Room**

**9:30 – 10:00 am**

Did you know that singing together can be a therapeutic or spiritual experience, a great bonding activity and just plain fun? Research shows that people who sing together feel happier. So whether you are a gifted choir member or can't hold a tune, join us for a half hour hymn sing. We will be led by Kathy Gelles-Baxter, new choir member and trained vocalist.

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### **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

**Sunday, March 19**

We will participate in One Great Hour of Sharing, one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ on March 19. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment, and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs, and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.



**OFFERING DATE:  
MARCH 19, 2023**

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### **ERUCC SPRING CLEANING DAY**

**Sunday, March 19**

**11:45 am**

Following service on March 19, please join us for lunch followed by spring cleaning and maintenance of our spaces. Tasks include general cleaning, painting, polishing wood floors, and some general repairs.

Please RSVP or send inquiries to Property Chair, Owen York at [property@erucc.org](mailto:property@erucc.org) or (301) 401-4947.

## **FRANKLINTON CENTER WEEKEND TRIP**

**March 23 – March 26**



There were some items left to finish from our January trip to Franklinton. In consultation with Keith Stickley, we have scheduled a weekend trip for adults to Franklinton for March 23-26. Plan is to travel Thursday to have Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for working. If you want to drive down Friday night that's okay, too.

Let Pastor Daniel or Keith Stickley know if you have any questions and if you can go.

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## **SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF BARBARA'S RETIREMENT**

With gratitude and appreciation, we will be celebrating Barbara's 40 years of ministry.

**Saturday, June 3, 2023**

5:00-8:00 pm – Reception in our Community Room

Congregation, family, friends, and the Frederick community invited

Program highlighting her career

Beer and Wine and heavy appetizers

**Sunday, June 4, 2023**

10:30 am – Barbara's last Sunday preaching

11:30 am – Special Fellowship Time

Congregation and Family invited

If you would like to help with the celebration please contact:

Cathie Duncan, [cathieduncan@comcast.net](mailto:cathieduncan@comcast.net) or Betsy Fisher, [bcfishe@hotmail.com](mailto:bcfishe@hotmail.com)

## **Children and Family Ministry**

**SCOUT SUNDAY**

**Sunday, March 12**

All scouts are invited to come in uniform on March 12 for a combined Scout Sunday! We would like to include both current and alumni scouts from all programs in the bulletin and in helping as greeters, readers, and such! To volunteer, see Evie Frazier or Pastor Kirstin.

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## **JUNIOR CHURCH**

On all Sundays except the first Sunday of each month, children aged 5 – 5th grade may go to Junior Church after the Thought for the Day in the worship service. Junior Church, a space to join in creative spiritual formation activities, will take place in the Thomas Room most weeks. Parents should pick up children from Junior Church following service.

Volunteer leaders needed! Contact Pastor Kirstin for more information and to express interest.

## **Youth Group Ministry**

### **CAMPFIRE AND GAMES**

**Sunday, February 26**

**5:00 – 8:00 pm**

We are going to the Coffey's for a campfire, outside games (we hope), cooking hot dogs over the fire, and s'mores. Just a fun night to hang out. Thanks to the Coffeys for hosting us.

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### **SUMMER GERMANY TRIP MEETING**

**Sunday, March 5**

**Community Room**

**following 10:30 am service**

This will be the first of our summer Germany trip meetings.

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### **LOW ROPES COURSE AT CAMP MANIDOKAN**

**Sunday, March 12**

**2:00 pm**

We will be leaving the church at 2:00 pm to travel to Camp Manidokan to participate in a low ropes course experience with Pastor Kirstin. Please bring a refillable water bottle. Snacks and a light supper will be provided. The cost is \$10 per person.

## **What is Lent?**

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of the season of Lent. The traditions of Lent are derived from the season's origin as a time when the church prepared candidates, or "catechumens," for their baptism into the Body of Christ. It eventually became a season of preparation not only for catechumens but also for the whole congregation. Self-examination, study, fasting, prayer and works of love are disciplines historically associated with Lent. Conversion—literally, the "turning around" or reorientation of our lives towards God—is the theme of Lent. Both as individuals and as a community, we look inward and reflect on our readiness to follow Jesus in his journey towards the cross. The forty days of Lent correspond to the forty-day temptation of Jesus in the wilderness and the forty-year journey of Israel from slavery to a new community.

On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed on the foreheads of the congregation as a symbol that we have come from dust and one day will return to dust. It is one of many Lenten and Easter customs that remind us of our historical connection with Jewish tradition. With this sobering reminder of life's fragility, we begin a spiritual quest that continues to the celebration of the risen Christ at Easter.

Each season of the Church Year is symbolized with different colors. The colors express emotions and ideas that are associated with each of the seasons of the liturgical year. The cloths on the altar, lectern and pulpit – paraments – reflect these changing seasons. On Ash Wednesday through Good Friday, the purple or violet paraments will be present in the sanctuary. Violet is the ancient royal color and therefore a symbol of the sovereignty of Christ. Violet is also associated with repentance from sin.

## Lent 2023 at ERUCC

### SEEKING: HONEST QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER FAITH



**seeking:**  
honest questions  
for deeper faith

This Lenten season, we will read many stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking: a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. In these interactions, an unveiling often occurs—assumptions are disrupted, a new perspective is revealed, mystery grows.

And so, we've crafted a Lenten series founded on questions. Many of our weekly questions feel restorative ("Can these bones live?"). Some feel like a charge or challenge ("Who will you listen to?"). Some questions are hopeful and curious ("How do we begin again?"). Our questions won't necessarily lead to answers, but they can help us find clarity and a new perspective. Ultimately, we pray they lead to a new beginning, a restoration, a wider grace.

Like the characters in our Lenten scriptures, we are also seeking many things: clarity, connection, wonder, justice, balance. We are seeking our calling, the sacred, and how to live as a disciple. We hope this devotional will help you unpack some of your big questions in ways that are honest and faithful. We encourage you to journey through these weekly readings and reflections at your own pace, asking yourself often: what am I seeking? What is God seeking?

This Lent, may you engage in the spiritual practice of seeking—by asking questions, and by staying curious, open, and nimble. We hope you will soften your assumptions and expand your perspectives. We pray that these questions will create a safe space to explore—to be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God.

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### LENTEN DEVOTIONAL and DAILY DEVOTIONAL CARDS

Lenten Devotionals and Devotional Cards are available in the rear of the Main Sanctuary and in Trinity Chapel. The devotional is also available in an e-reader version: [online.flippingbook.com/view/928029194/](https://online.flippingbook.com/view/928029194/).

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### LENTEN CREATION CARE CALENDAR

Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and more intentional sharing. This year, our church is joining with many others in heeding the call to be stewards of God's Creation throughout this season. Consider using the Lenten Creation Care calendar found at [bit.ly/carecal23](https://bit.ly/carecal23) or printed in the rear of the Main Sanctuary as a reminder to be more mindful of the ways that our daily habits impact both our common home and all those with whom we share it.



## MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays through April 5

Noon – 12:15 pm

Service of Prayer in Trinity Chapel

### Lunch and Bible Study Reflection

12:15 – 1:00 pm

*Theme: A Time to Grow*

From Eden to Gethsemane to the garden in which Jesus was buried and raised, our story of faith wanders through much fertile soil. But in our current world of fast food and to-go meals, we often do not make time to explore where our food comes from and how we break bread together. Journeying through the season of Lent with this in mind, *A Time to Grow* encourages readers to slow down, move through the painstaking process of growth, and end together with great feasting and celebration of the resurrection. Themes of soil, water, light, time, fasting, feasting, and more guide the way to Easter Sunday. We will explore the intricacies of how faith is required to produce food and how that faith can lead us all to feast at the table on Easter morning.

March 1	Order	Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–17; Luke 4:1–13
March 8	Life	Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18; Mark 8:31–38
March 15	Water	Psalms 63:1–8; John 4:5–42
March 22	Light	1 Samuel 16:1–13; John 3:14–21
March 29	Restoration	Ezekiel 37:1–14; John 11:1–45
April 5	Time	Luke 19:29–40; Luke 22:66–23:56

## Additional Announcements

### FALL 2023 GERMANY TRIP

Our friend Pastor Daniel Müller Thór of the Ev. Kirchengemeinde Inden-Langerwehe extended an invitation to our congregation to visit his group in Germany this Fall. The dates will be between October 16-29, 2023. We are excited to share that the cost for the trip will be only \$600 per person. Costs for the trip are being supplemented through the Fisher Fund. In order to take advantage of this great opportunity, we must have confirmation from all who are interested in attending no later than March 1 along with a \$250 deposit. There will be no hotel costs and the only other funds necessary would be spending money. If you have any questions, or are interested in attending, please speak with Trish Coffey or Joe Adkins soon!

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### MARKET STREET BRASS QUINTET

Sunday, March 5

Coffman Chapel, Hood College

3:00 pm

Our friends, The Market Street Brass is performing as part of the Hood College Music Department's spring 2023 concert series in Coffman Chapel, 521 Coffman Chapel Dr.

“We have a very nice variety of selections by Bach, Kamen, Ewazen, Bizet and others. It should last about 90 minutes including intermission. We have been working hard on this and would love to perform for a big, friendly audience. We hope to see some of the ERUCC choir and congregation there!” – Dan Cheston, Market Street Brass

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: I HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOUR FAITH**

**Friday, March 10**

**Calvary United Methodist Church**

**2:00 pm**

Faith. This year's theme for the Word Day of Prayer comes from the Prayer Committee in Taiwan. The stories of women who heard about faith in Christ and believe steadfastly, face injustice and persecution throughout the world. Their belief in Christ gives them the courage to persevere despite ill-treatment, punishment, and even death.

Please join Calvary United Methodist Church in celebrating the World Day of Prayer on March 10 with a 2:00 pm service in their Chapel, 131 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Frederick.

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## **GIVE THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME**



Would you like to help someone learn to read? It's the gift of a lifetime!

Find out more about the Literacy Council by registering for a [volunteer information session](#). There is still time to register for one of the [March trainings](#).

## **Opportunities to Serve**

### **VOLUNTEER FOR SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP**

Sunday Fellowship can be as easy as helping set up before worship, helping serve after worship, or bringing a special treat to share. Sign up at [bit.ly/ERUCC\\_fellowship](http://bit.ly/ERUCC_fellowship) or talk with Laura Rhoderick or Starr Schaeberle for more details.

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### **MEAL TRAIN – HOLY CASSEROLER CREW**



**Meal Train®**

All aboard the Meal Train! We are curating a list of individuals and families interested in providing meals and other necessities for church members in times of recovery. Participation is completely optional; you will receive a request and can accept however you are able. If you would like to be added to this list, please email your preferred contact information (phone/email address) to Kelly Esslinger at [kellbell.erucc@gmail.com](mailto:kellbell.erucc@gmail.com) or see her before or after church. The “Holy Casseroler” crew thanks you in advance!

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### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Chaired by Will Duncan, the Finance Committee is seeking interested members of the congregation to join the team and participate in the process of creating and managing the ERUCC budget and church financial processes as well as advising the Consistory on allied financial matters. Knowledge about financial statements or a degree or career in accounting or finance is not needed. A desire to help guide the congregation on financial matters is the only criteria. The team meets monthly via Zoom at this time. If you discern God is calling you to help with this important work, please let Will know via email at [wduncan54@comcast.net](mailto:wduncan54@comcast.net).

## COUNTING TEAM

Each Sunday after church, a team of two or three members of the congregation gather to count donations received by ERUCC during the prior week and Sunday services. The donations are organized by category of contribution (pledge, altar flowers, mission trip, OCWM, etc.), processed for deposit, data-entered into a simple spreadsheet, and then deposited at the bank. A counting team handles one Sunday per month. The process takes about an hour. We need additional counters. If you discern God is calling you to help with this important work, please let ERUCC Treasurer Rodney Martin know via email at [treasurer@erucc.org](mailto:treasurer@erucc.org). On this, a step-by-step manual documenting the counting process is available, as is training.

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## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Working with ERUCC Property Manager Jaci Clayton, the Property Committee oversees ERUCC building and maintenance policies and activities, ranging from large capital projects like the Trinity Chapel Preservation Effort to snow shoveling. In some cases, team members undertake the work directly either on their own or as part of scheduled Work Sessions that include other members of the congregation. Chaired by Owen York, the Property Committee is seeking additional members to join this group, which meets after church every other month. If you discern God is calling you to help with this important work, please let Owen know via email at [owenjyork@gmail.com](mailto:owenjyork@gmail.com).

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## NOMINATIONS

In May our congregation will elect Lay Leaders for the coming year. To prepare for this, and with the Elders serving as the core Nominating Committee, we are starting to identify congregational members who might take on these important roles in the church. Please let Consistory President Peter Brehm know ([pbrehm@comcast.net](mailto:pbrehm@comcast.net)) if you wish to join the Nominating Committee or are interested in serving in one of the opening Lay Leader roles.

These include serving as Elder (two people); a Deacon (up to four people); Member-at Large (one person) and selected standing committee chairs. The Nominating Committee will begin by canvassing people who can stand for reelection to their position over the coming weeks.



*Gracious God*  
**Give us the  
courage to say  
yes to the call.**

## Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 – 9:15 am	<b>Worship</b> , Trinity Chapel
9:00 – 10:20 am	<b>Adult Education</b> , North Room <i>Let's Study the Bible</i>
9:30 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Nursery Care</b> , Main Building
9:30 – 10:10 am	<b>Children's Sunday School</b> , Trinity Chapel <i>Ages 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Confirmation Class</i>
10:10 – 10:25 am	<b>Children's Music &amp; Movement</b> , Trinity Chapel <i>Pre-K through high school</i>
9:30 – 10:25 am	<b>Parent's Place</b> , West Classroom, Trinity Chapel
9:30 – 10:25 am	<b>Coffee and Conversation</b> , Community Room
10:30 – 11:30 am	<b>Worship</b> , Main Sanctuary
11:30 am	<b>Fellowship</b> , Community Room
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Cambridge Handbell Choir Rehearsal</b> , Flora Room <i>Pre-K through high school</i>

## Stay Informed

### FEBRUARY TRINITY CHIMES

Read the ERUCC monthly newsletter, *Trinity Chimes*, in the back of the sanctuary or online by scanning the QR code or going to [bit.ly/Feb23Chimes](http://bit.ly/Feb23Chimes).



### WEEKLY THURSDAY THOUGHTS EMAIL

Subscribe to receive our weekly email newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/gDNCu5> or by scanning the QR code!

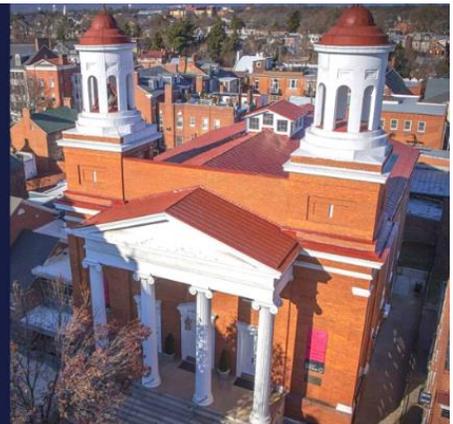


## MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of this congregation, seek to celebrate in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ, by nurturing spiritual growth through worship, study and prayer; by caring for one another as God cares for us; and by proclaiming God's love for all people as we work to help our neighbors near and far. We commit ourselves to develop and implement specific programs to fulfill our mission.



EVANGELICAL REFORMED  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**seeking:** *Who will you listen to?*

## blackout poetry

*Below is a creative retelling of Matthew 4:1-11, written by Rev. Anna Strickland. As you read the story, use a black marker or pen to underline or circle the words and phrases that speak to you. Then, blackout the rest of the words on the page. From the words that remain, you may find that a new message, poem, or image emerges. Visit this link to view examples of blackout poetry: [pinterest.com/sanctifiedart/blackout-poetry-ideas](https://pinterest.com/sanctifiedart/blackout-poetry-ideas)*

When Jesus had been baptized, he went into the wilderness to listen to God. After forty days, the Tempter came to try to trick Jesus into disobeying God. The Tempter knew that after not eating for so long that Jesus would be very hungry. He told Jesus, "If you really are God's son, you could turn these rocks into bread." But Jesus did not listen to the Tempter. He said, "God tells us that we do not live on bread alone." Then the Tempter took Jesus to the very top of the tallest building in Jerusalem. And the Tempter told Jesus, "If you really are God's son, you could jump off this building and angels would catch you. The Bible says so." But Jesus did not listen to the Tempter. He said, "The Bible also says not to test God." Then the Tempter took Jesus to the very top of a mountain where they could see all of the kingdoms of the world. The Tempter told Jesus, "I'll give you all of these kingdoms. Just bow down and worship me, and all the riches and power of the world will be yours." But Jesus did not listen to the Tempter. He said, "God tells us to worship only God." Realizing that he could not trick Jesus into disobeying God, the Tempter left. Then angels came to take care of Jesus.



This year we will be filling our chancel area with beautiful Easter lilies on Easter morning.

Plants will be ordered from the Dutch Plant Farm this year. You may take your plant home after the Easter Service.

If you would like to place an order, please fill out the information below and return with payment to the church office **by March 7.**

**The cost per plant is \$13.**

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to place \_\_\_\_\_ **lilies** in the sanctuary for Easter morning.

If you wish your lily to be listed “in memory of,” “in honor of,” or “placed by [the donor],” please indicate which and **PRINT the names below.**

In memory of:

In honor of:

Placed by:

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 26, 2023

Matthew 4:1-11

### Abundant Grace

#### *Seminary Sunday/Church Vocations Sunday*

UCC General Minister and President Rev. John Dorhauer produces and presents a weekly podcast called *Into the Mystic*, a reminder that the art of spiritual reflection should be made a priority, taken seriously and practiced regularly.

On this Seminary Sunday and Church Vocations Sunday, his emphasis on spiritual reflection is especially timely for those on the path to theological education and church work.

On a recent episode of the podcast called “Watch Over Your Heart’s Integrity,” he begins with a favorite quotation from the ancient and wise desert fathers, “In your exploration of God, whatever path you find your soul longs after in your quest for the Sacred, do that, and always watch over your heart’s integrity.”

Rev. Dorhauer goes on to say that he was surprised to learn as a student that there were so many different theologies and that so many of them were incompatible with each other. The more he studied, the more in awe he became of all the ways there are to access God and determine what Her primary characteristics might be. Was God removed and heavenly, or accessible and willing to sit with us, or present in sanctuaries and available to priests alone, or over seeing judge. He learned as a student that the answer to all these is a resounding YES. Dorhauer was further in awe that those who put together the texts seemed to accept, even to celebrate, these dichotomies.

How do you find God? In a soaring cathedral? In nature, being on a mountain? In a quiet and rustic chapel in silence? In the smile of a child or a hug from a loved one? In a beautiful and artistic turn of phrase? Any of these things and many more can call to mind the goodness of God.

“There are as many pathways to God as there are people walking the earth,” Dorhauer concludes. Whatever path you might find yourself on, follow the words and wisdom of the desert fathers. “In your exploration of God, whatever path you find your soul longs after in your quest for the Sacred, do that, and always watch over your heart’s integrity.”



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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