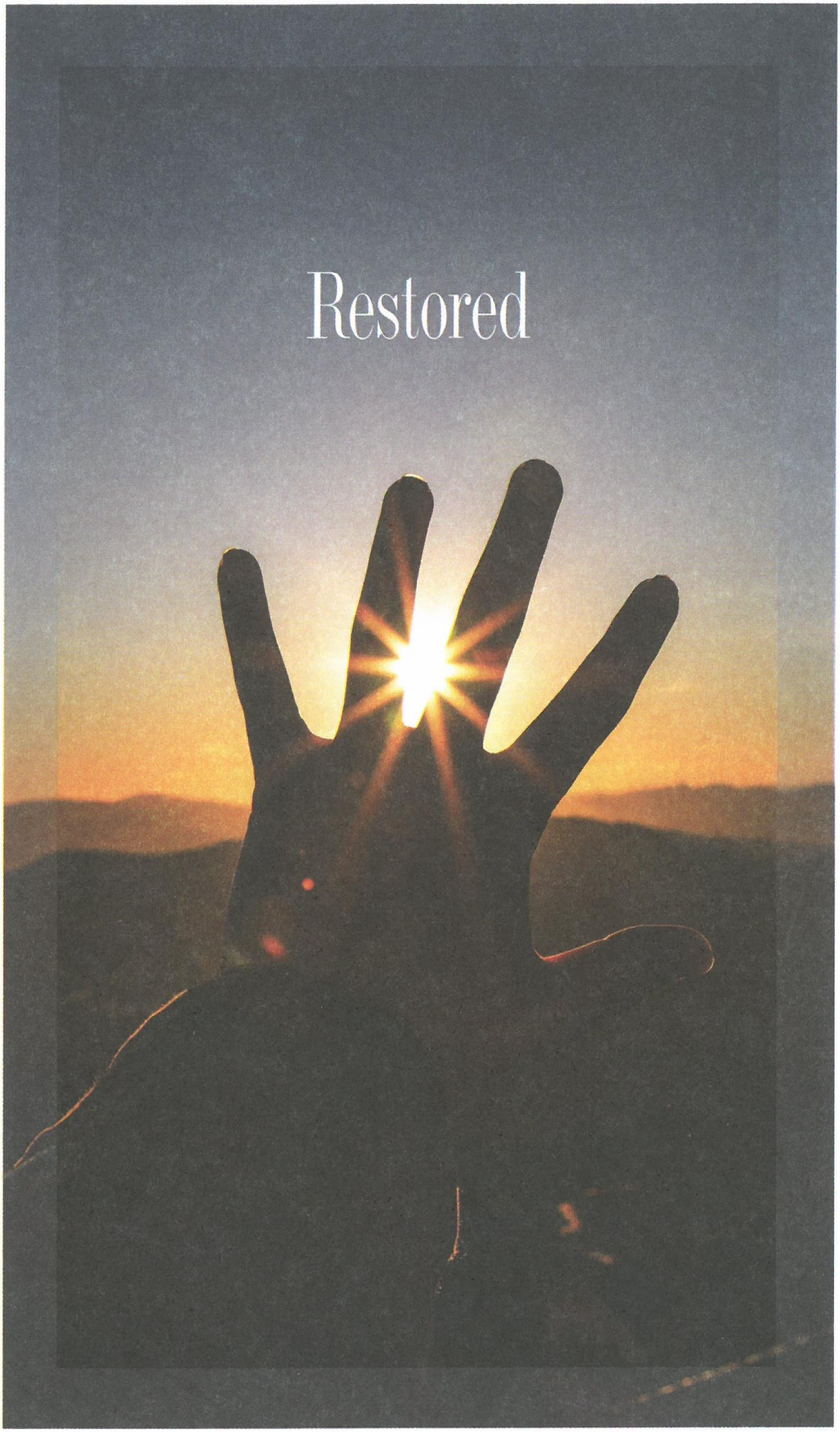
# Restored



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

For 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.

Hymn 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 worshiping 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.

We 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.

There is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: 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
The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus* ~ burschenherrlichkeit@gmail.com
The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate for Faith Formation & Parish Life* ~ ksrhoads@erucc.org
Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*
Tyler L. York ~ *Office Administrator* ~ tyork@erucc.org
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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 –

March 19, 2023 **Fourth Sunday in Lent** 10:30 am

seeking: Who sinned?

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

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

**Greetings and Announcements**

**Prelude**

**Threshold Moment** *Jesus in the psych ward* Dan Smith

Jesus is in group therapy, plastic chairs in a circle.
Paper cups with weak coffee. Everyone in the room has seeking eyes.

The Pharisees admitted him. They said things like,
He's more than we can handle. They let the rumors fly.

The other patients like him. They say, He listens to me.
He calls them by name.

And when one of them asks,
Is this our fault? Are we here because we sinned?
Jesus does not wait for the facilitator to speak.
He crosses the circle. He kneels down. He grabs their hands in his and says,

*Child of the covenant, God loves you too much to ever wish you pain.*
*Bodies and minds crumble sometimes, but God's love for you does not.*

And after that
there were happy tears and the group was dismissed to lunch,
where they broke bread and no one talked of sin.

**A Time of Silence**

***Call to Worship**

Scripture is full of questions…
**Where are you?**
Am I my brother's keeper?
**Whom shall I send?**
Who do you say that I am?
**Who sinned?**
How many times shall I forgive?
**If God is for us, who can be against us?**
Scripture is full of questions, so just like those in our scriptures,
may we bring our full curiosity and wonder into this space.
Let us ask and seek after our merciful God.

***Opening Prayer**

**God of Good news,**
**there is reading your Word,**
**there is hearing your Word,**
**and then there is tunneling ourselves into your Word—**
**harvesting your Word,**
**building a home in your Word,**
**laying your Word over us like a blanket,**
**wrapping ourselves in your Word,**
**know your Word like the back of our hand,**
**singing your Word,**
**planting ourselves like a garden in your Word.**
**God, we could listen to scripture like we listen to the news,**
**or we could cocoon ourselves in your Word and it could change us entirely.**
**So bundle us up. Give us the latter.**
**We want to know you.**
**With hopeful hearts we pray, amen.**

***Opening Hymn** *O Word of God Incarnate* #315

see next page

# 315 O Word of God Incarnate

*Ps. 119:105*

*William W. How, 1867; alt.*

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon**

**Who here has sinned? We have sinned.**
**We put our heads in the sand.**
**We ignored people in need.**
**We make false assumptions and fail to be kind.**
**We are in need of forgiveness.**

Good news! Our God is a merciful God.
God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score.
When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives.
When you lose your way, God comes running.

**Thanks be to God for a love like that. Have you sinned?**

I have sinned. I put my head in the sand. I ignore people in need.
I make false assumptions and fail to be kind.
I, too, am in need of forgiveness.

**Good news! Our God is a merciful God.**
**God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score.**
**When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives.**
**When you lose your way, God comes running.**

Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

**Ministry Moment** Rick Weldon
Chamber of Commerce

**Thought For the Day**

**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 reading of the scripture.*

## The Scripture

John 9: 1-41 Readers Theatre, arranged by David A. Douthett

*Narrator,* Jim Weitz
*Disciples,* Senior Choir
*Jesus,* Tyler L. York
*Blind Man,* Dan Smith
*Crowd,* Congregation
*Pharisees,* Men of the Congregation
*Leaders,* Women of the Congregation
*Parents,* JoAnn Fritz and Richard Leslie

**Narrator** As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who was blind from birth. His disciples asked him,

**Disciples** "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

**Jesus** "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

**Narrator** When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, Jesus "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam"

**Narrator** (which means Sent). Then the man went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask,

**Crowd** **"Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"**

**Narrator** Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying,

**Blind Man** "I am the man."

**Narrator** But they kept asking him,

**Crowd** **"Then how were your eyes opened?"**

**Blind Man** "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

**Crowd** **"Where is he?"**

**Blind Man** "I do not know."

**Narrator** They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight.

**Blind Man** "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

**Narrator** Some of the Pharisees said,

**Pharisees** [men] **"This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath."**

**Narrator** But others said,

**Pharisees** [men] **“How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?”**

**Narrator** And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man,

**Pharisees** [men] **“What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”**

**Blind Man** “He is a prophet.”

**Narrator** The Jewish leaders did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them,

**Leaders** [women] **“Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”**

**Narrator** His parents answered,

**Parents** “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”

**Narrator** His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders; for the Jewish leaders had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

**Narrator** So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him,

**Leaders** [women] **“Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”**

**Blind Man** “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”

**Leaders** [women] **“What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”**

**Blind Man** “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”

**Leaders** [women] **“You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”**

**Blind Man** “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

**Leaders** [women] **“You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?”**

**Narrator** And they drove him out. [ *pause* ] Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said,

**Jesus** "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

**Blind Man** "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

**Jesus** "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."

**Blind Man** "Lord, I believe."

**Narrator** And he worshiped him.

**Jesus** "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind."

**Narrator** Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him,

**Pharisees** [men] **"Surely we are not blind, are we?"**

**Jesus** "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

## Sermon

## Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a merciful God,

**a God who does not keep score,**
**a God who wants good for us.**

We believe in a creative God,

**a God who would heal with mud,**
**a God capable of seeing what we cannot.**

We believe in a saving God,

**a God who heals,**
**a God who greets our questions with patience,**
**a God who sends us out with hope in our step.**
**What wondrous love is this. Amen**

## Morning Prayers

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

**Offertory** *I Will Arise and Go to Jesus* – R. W. Lehman

Senior Choir

***Prayer of Dedication**

**Gracious God, in our offering we return to you a portion of the blessings you have showered upon us. Bless these gifts, that they might bring comfort, food and shelter to those who need it. Bless those who will receive them. Let them know your love through full bellies, warm clothing, and safe places to sleep. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** *Amazing Grace* #547

***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.

****Sevenfold Amen*** #814

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

Today's liturgy was written by: rev. sarah speed | sanctifiedart.org | The prayer of dedication is from Seasons of the Spirit.

**The flowers on the altar** this morning are in loving memory of my husband, Bill Stahler, and our granddaughter, Liz Coffey, by Peg Stahler.

**The yellow rose bud** is presented by John Stush in memory of his brother, Gerald Stush, US Air Force.

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**Attendance Last Sunday:** 15 at 8:30 am, 132 at 10:30 am, and 65 online.

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

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| | **Today: March 19, 2023** | **Next Week: March 26, 2023** |
|---|---|---|
| Scripture Reader: | Jim Weitz, Tyler L. York<br>Dan Smith, JoAnn Fritz<br>Richard Leslie | Nancy Jones, Ron Terbush<br>Glenn Wallace, Pastor Daniel |
| Deacons: | Matt Davis, Andrew Beadle | Betsy Selby, Harrison Fisher |
| Elder: | Starr Schaeberle | Starr Schaeberle |
| Greeters: | Rachel and Tom Ford<br>Pat Condo | Ave and Cliff Barr<br>Felecia Bishop |
| Welcome: | Holly Davis | Pat Condo |
| Audio/Visual: | Rodney Martin, Larry Martin<br>Jeff Schaeberle | Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Schaeberle<br>Kendra Sampson |
| Fellowship: | Starr Schaeberle, Julie Clark | Gail Ellam, Starr Schaeberle<br>Julie Clark |
| Nursery: | Kate Fromknecht, Linda Coyle | Stephanie Fisher, Linda Coyle |
| Saturday Chimer: | Dick Williams | Suzanne Morris |
| Sunday Chimer: | Tricia Coffey | 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 1st floor, is accessible by stairs or elevator.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Worship Next Week: Fifth Sunday in Lent**
**Seeking: Can these bones live?** John 11:1-45 | Ezekiel 37:1-14
In Ezekiel's vision, God asks the prophet, "Can these bones live?" Do we believe new life can come after death? Can we find hope when things are bleak? Can we really trust in God's resurrection? While we look to God to carry us through the valley, God looks to us to embody hope for others. As we prepare to enter Holy Week, we remember how Jesus began his final journey toward resurrection: by returning to Judea after the death of his dear friend, Lazarus. As we walk through the valley of dry bones that leads us to Calvary Hill, let us seek out the hope that will stir in us and sustain us.

Today the Senior Choir will be offering their Lenten Cantata – John Rutter's *Requiem.*

**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:*
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).

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## Sunday Education Opportunities for Adults

**LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE with The Reverends John & Rebecca Shillingburg**
**Sundays** **North Room / Zoom** **9:00 – 10:20 am**

Zoom: bit.ly/ERsunstudy Meeting ID: 893 8670 5888 Passcode: 327128

**Foundational Stories of the Old Testament … in Order!** The Exile … and the Exodus … is that one event with two names … or two? And if they are different, which came first? Was Daniel in the lion's den because Joseph put him there?

If you have ever pondered questions like these, join the *Let's Study the Bible* class for an 8-week (or so) survey of the big stories of the Old Testament in the order they occurred. No prior experience needed; just bring your Bible!

## Sunday Fellowship Opportunities for Adults

**FRIENDS AND FELLOWSHIP** **Community Room** **9:30 – 10:15 am**

Come to the Community Room for some coffee or tea and to chat and relax.

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**THE PARENT'S PLACE** **West Classroom, Trinity Chapel** **9:30 – 10:25 am**

Take a moment to unwind in a new space for parents to gather in Trinity Chapel after your kids are in Sunday School. The West Classroom is the room to the right as you enter the chapel.

## Weekly Education Opportunities for Adults

**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel**
***Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week***
**Tuesdays, February 28–March 28 North Room / Zoom 11:00 am – Noon**

Zoom: **bit.ly/3TdUnOy** Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398 Passcode: 973365

Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges.

In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week,* author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

March 21 - The First Dinner: Risking Rejection
March 28 - The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends

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**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**

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.

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.

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

### INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT ERUCC?

An opportunity to learn more about ERUCC, the United Church of Christ, and what it means to be a church member will be held on:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sunday, March 19** | **Zoom** | **7:00 pm** |
| Zoom: **bit.ly/er19march** | Meeting ID: 859 8769 4208 | Passcode: 378276 |

We will be receiving new members into the church on Sunday, April 16 at the 10:30 am service. Thanks to our newer friends and guests for your participation in the life of ERUCC and for the joy you bring us.

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### ERUCC SPRING CLEANING DAY

**Sunday, March 19** **11:45 am**

Following service, 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 or (301) 401-4947.

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### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING **Sunday, March 19**

Today, we participate in One Great Hour of Sharing, one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. 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.

Special offering envelopes are located in the pews and in your giving envelope packets.

**OGHS Mission Moment: Invest in Futures**

"Maybe I'll go back to my country and die there." That's how Ajuwa felt after spending seven years in a refugee camp in Malawi.

Ajuwa and his wife, Imani, had fled their homes in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo to a refugee camp. After the Rwandan Genocide, conflict among rebel groups and various governments arose in eastern Congo. War broke out, and Ajuwa and Imani were no longer safe.

"Almost every day, people were killed. Usually, they would come at night. They come with guns to take things, kill people, and take people away."

After seven years in a refugee camp, Ajuwa, Imani and their four children who were born in the camp were accepted into the resettlement program which allowed them to move to the U.S. Now, the family is adapting to their new life in Greensboro. The children are doing well in school, Ajuwa has a good job and obtained his driver's license, and they've been able to buy a car to get the kids to school and for Ajuwa to get to work.

It took hard work, motivation, persistence, and—most importantly—learning English (Ajuwa already speaks 5 languages, and now also wants to learn Spanish) for them to get to this point.

Ajuwa and Imani ask that all of us remember that there are refugees still suffering in camps, urging us to "be attentive to refugees…When you meet a refugee, it is better to help them."

Ajuwa and family along with other refugees are supported through OGHS' partnership with Church World Service. Together we are making a difference in the lives of refugees.

# IT'S TIME TO SHARE...

*So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all.*[9-10]

Galatians 6: 9–10 (The MSG)

**GREEN TEAM NETWORKING EVENT**
**Wednesday, March 22 Community Room 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Join us in welcoming other Green Teams into our space. We will celebrate each other's accomplishments, discuss challenges, and look for ways to collaborate. Teams from UCC, Catholic, Jewish, Islamic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Unitarian, and Quaker faiths and community teams from Middletown, Urbana, Frederick, and Thurmont will be invited. Light food and drinks will be served. If you know of any other teams that should also be invited, please let us know!

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**FRANKLINTON CENTER WEEKEND TRIP**
**March 23 –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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**CONFIRMATION CLASS TO HOST MOVIE DAY**
**Saturday, March 25 Community Room 1:30 pm**

The Confirmation Class invites you and your friends and family to a movie day to benefit Frederick County Animal Control.

Admission: unopened bags of dog or cat food, cans of dog or cat food, strong dog toys, cat toys and treats (especially Churu), food for small animals like guinea pigs, rabbits, and mice. Cash donations also gladly accepted!

## Upcoming at ERUCC

### SPECIAL LET'S TALK

**Sunday, March 26** **Community Room** **9:30 am**

Consistory President Peter Brehm joins Senior Pastor Daniel in a discussion on the preparations and planning underway as the Senior Pastor retires. Come join us with questions!

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### ERUCC BOOK GROUP

**Tuesday, March 28** **Liz Coffey Room / Zoom** **7:00 pm**

Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574 Passcode: 226669

***In the Shadow of the Mountain: A Memoir of Courage*** by Silvia Vasquez-Lavado. Read a book synopsis in the March *Trinity Chimes* at bit.ly/mar23chimes.

The ERUCC Book group meets bi-monthly at 7:00 pm on the fourth Tuesday. Our 2023 Book Group Coordinators are Susan Kulp and Rebecca Shillingburg.

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### FIELD TRIP TO LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**Wednesday, April 12** **Depart ERUCC at 9:00 am, return between 6:00 and 7:00 pm**

Lancaster THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Visit the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society on campus, attend noon chapel service, followed by a scholarship luncheon whereby our church will be thanked for our generous giving to the school.

Please let Pastor Daniel know by March 26 if you are interested. She will drive and depending on the number of people who want to go, we may need some more drivers.

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### SAVE THE DATE – DISCO NIGHT

**Friday, May 5** **Community Room** **7:00 – 10:00 pm**

Save the date for Friday, May 5 when ERUCC will host a Disco Night to benefit the ERUCC Handbell Choirs' "Ring My Bell" campaign to refurbish our handbells. It's time to boogie on down as we dance the night away raising funds toward this much needed refurbishment. Refreshments will be provided along with a cash bar.

See more details about the handbell refurbishment and learn how you can help in "Additional Announcements."

**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 or Betsy Fisher, bcfishe@hotmail.com

## Children and Family Ministry

**GOD'S KIDS CLUB**
**Wednesday, March 22** **Community Room** **9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

We welcome back Kim Sexton to lead activities for God's Kid's Club. Bring any board games that you aren't going to play anymore, including ones with missing pieces! Pack a sandwich and share in soup with the congregation after our noon Lenten service this day. Sign up in the Community Room or see Pastor Kirstin when you know you can attend.

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**ZIPLINE AT CAMP MANIDOKAN**
**Saturday, March 25** **Camp Manidokan** **10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Sign up in the Community Room or see Pastor Kirstin when you know you can attend. The cost of $20 covers the zipline and food!

Kids and family members can take two zips along this wooded 840-foot zipline course. Young people need to be at least 50 pounds to go on the zipline. Adults need to weigh less than 275 pounds. There is a great viewing fence to watch and take pictures of your young ones zipping by! After, we will share in a devotion and campfire snacks, including hot dogs, Uncrustables, chips, fruit, and s'mores!

**EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA**
**Saturday, April 1** **Community Room** **12:00 – 2:00 pm**

It's no joke! And no yoke either, as we hope all our eggs are hard boiled … You are invited to ERUCC's annual egg painting EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

ERUCC Eggstravaganza will include several styles of egg decorating, healthy snacks, with some punny humor thrown in too!

Can you help donate towards this fun day for families of all ages? If so, hop on over to the list of things we need and bring items to the church by noon on Friday, March 31! We need everybunny who can help!

**Donation List:** bit.ly/er0401eggs

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**FAMILY CAMPING**
**June 9 – 11** **Cowan's Gap State Park, PA**

We will take off for a camping trip at Cowan's Gap State Park in Pennsylvania. We have reserved a group spot for 40 people. If you want to rent a cabin or spot for an RV and share meals, fellowship, and worship with us, you can make your reservation by going to Cowans Gap State Park: www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/CowansGapState-Park/Pages/default.aspx.

We have a planning team working on meal plans, and then we will send out the costs for the trip! We will plan some meals together, some packed lunches, and campfire snacks! Contact Pastor Kirstin for more information.

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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

**CHURCH OVERNIGHT AND BREAD BAKING**
**Friday, March 31** **6:00 pm**

Bread baking and movie night at the church. We'll bake bread to sell for a fundraiser and for Communion. Hopefully do some planning for Youth Sunday too!

# Lent 2023 at ERUCC

**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. 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.

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|---|---|---|
| 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

## UPDATING THE DONOR WALL – THE JOHN THOMAS SCHLEY SOCIETY

Have you remembered the church in your estate plans? With a planned gift?

In May 2012, the congregation voted to establish the John Thomas Schley Society, to acknowledge and encourage planned gifts for the mission and ministry of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ.

This Society is named for one founder of our congregation, John Thomas Schley, who provided the vision and leadership for this congregation's establishment in 1745 and served as its primary worship leader and teacher in those early years of the congregation's existence.

The purpose of the John Thomas Schley Society is to encourage persons to consider a planned gift to ERUCC. This is an invitation to become "stewards of the future." Members of the Society have made a current gift of $10,000 or more to the Endowment Funds of the church and/or have established the church as the recipient of a gift annuity, bequest, life insurance policy, securities, or Charitable Remainder Trust. What we can give through these means can ensure the health and vitality of the Church's mission for future generations.

We are updating the names listed on the donor wall in the Kieffer Foyer (Church Street entrance). We are aware of some who have made a planned gift to the church but not everyone. If you have made provisions in your will or estate, **please inform Pastor Daniel by April 9** so your name(s) can be included on the updated panel.

## YOU CAN RING MY BELL: ERUCC HANDBELLS REFURBISHMENT

As we have heard during our 10:30 am service on several occasions this year, ERUCC has been blessed with a five-octave set of 61 handbells manufactured by the Schulmerich Handbell Craftsmen of Hatfield, Pennsylvania; we purchased a three-octave set in the 1960s and fourth and a fifth octave in the 1970s. Best practice calls for handbells to be cleaned, polished, and adjusted every five years. It appears the last time ERUCC had this service completed was in 2001, meaning that we need now to undertake a Complete Service, which costs $12,000.

The Consistory unanimously supports this effort, which entails seeking donations from the congregation to fund maintenance of these instruments. We are calling it the ERUCC Handbell Choirs' "Ring My Bell" campaign. Donations of any amount are invited, and in case it is helpful, refurbishing one bells costs $200. When making a gift to support this project, please note "handbells project" in the memo line or other description field. We hope you will consider joining us to support this important effort.

We will also hold a major fundraising event the evening of Friday, May 5 in the Community Room. The evening will feature a disco-themed celebration centered around our theme of "Ring My Bell." So, get your disco costumes ready and prepare for an evening of fun.

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## WORSHIP AND INSTALLATION SERVICE OF CONFERENCE MINISTER

**Saturday, March 25 St. Johns Grace UCC, Catonsville / Zoom 1:30 pm**

Everyone is cordially invited to attend the Worship and Installation Service of the Conference Minister of the Central Atlantic Conference, Rev. Freeman Palmer.

The service will be held in person at St. John's Grace United Church of Christ, 1000 South Rolling Road, Catonsville MD 21228 or online at tinyurl.com/revpalmer. A time of lunch and fellowship at the church begins at 12 noon.

# 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 or talk with Laura Rhoderick or Starr Schaeberle for more details.

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## MEAL TRAIN – HOLY CASSEROLER CREW

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 or see her before or after church. The "Holy Casseroler" crew thanks you in advance!

## Sunday Morning Schedule

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

## Stay Informed

### MARCH 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/mar23chimes.

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### 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

*THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT*

## seeking: *Who sinned?*

# write your own poem

Write a poem that is also a letter. Address the letter to a past version of yourself. What do you want to say to the older version of you? What about life or faith do you know now that you didn't know then?

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 19, 2023 John 9:1-41

# Restored

## *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering*

For many churches, generations of givers have placed their tithe to the church in a basket or plate that is passed during worship. Usually taking place toward the end of the worship service, the receiving of the offering in this way was both practical and also symbolic of the gifts that each congregation member has to offer. In the past couple of years, spurred by pandemic changes, many congregations have made a shift from receiving the offering in person to receiving it online or virtually. This shift in giving is the tip of the iceberg, a symbol of all the changes that have visited all churches in these unprecedented times.

In today's story, Jesus' healing of a man blind from birth is met with skepticism and uncertainty by those who have known the man. They are not prepared for this change and may feel ill equipped to handle it. Like the townspeople, you may feel unready for change. And yet, you have been living with and adapting through change as it happens both without and within.

In your lifetime, there has been nearly unfathomable change in the world. Borders have opened and closed, names of countries have changed, allies have banded together to make war on other nations, and then turned on one another, and the English language has added hundreds of new words to the dictionary. (Before 2020, had you ever heard or used the word "superspreader" before?)

And that doesn't even count the individual changes that you have adapted to in your lifetime. You have weathered and even thrived through changes in self-understanding, knowledge, relationships, emotional landscape, climate, education, fortune, health, travels, travails, employment status, living arrangements, and multiple television remotes with their array of mysterious black on black buttons.

You may push back against change or wish it would not come so fast, but in fact your whole life has been preparing you for the changes we are experiencing now. Whether your giving is the "old" way in a passed plate, or a "new" way through a computer terminal, you have everything you need to weather the changes around you.

*One Great Hour of Sharing*® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

8½" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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