

BREATH OF

HOPE

Thank you for worshipping 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 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.

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

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



March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:30 am



seeking:
*Can these
bones live?*

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 *the answer is yes*

Ron Terbush

It's the question we ask at the end of our rope,
when the storm is raging,
when the monsters under the bed have introduced themselves.

When everything around us seems to be on fire.

It's the question we ask when hope slips through like sand in a bottle,
when the mockingbirds stop singing,
when the news reporter leads with another mass shooting.

It's the question we ask when the depression moves in,
making herself at home, making a mess of it all.

It's the question we ask
when we're not sure if Easter will come.

Will it be Lent forever?

Will the sun ever rise?

Will this hope lead to something?

Can these bones ever live?

A Time of Silence

***Call to Worship**

Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?

Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?

If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house.

Hope lives here.

So, come. Rest your weary bones.

Let us worship Holy God.

***Opening Prayer**

Creator God,

Why is bad news so loud?

In the midst of gun violence,

hunger,

melting ice caps,

and anxiety,

it often feels like suffering has a microphone.

How do we hear you?

How do we find you?

How do we know that these bones can live?

Today we bring our raw selves into this space

asking that once more you would

rush through this room like a mighty wind.

Remind us that these bones can live.

Speak to us in your still, small voice

and let it be loud enough to speak to the sorrow of the day.

We know that good news rests in you,

and we know that you are here.

So help us listen, not to the bad news of the day alone,

but to the hope that you breathe into every word.

With open hearts we pray, amen.

***Opening Hymn** *Let It Breathe on Me*

#288

see next page

1 Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me, let the breath of the
 2 While I'm work - ing, God, in your vine - yard here, I can - not
 3 When the path - way, God, I can - not see, when the way is

Spir - it breathe on me. Let it breathe on me, let it
 serve with - out you near; O come, blessed Spir - it, so
 hard, O breathe on me; Give me grace to know when

breathe on me, let the breath of God now breathe on me.
 close to me that I may feel you breathe on me.
 you are near, then, I pray, O Spir - it, breathe on me.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Jesus of Nazareth,

I confess: I forget that you know this feeling.

I forget that you, too, have wept.

I forget that you, too, have lost.

I forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb,

have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity.

Forgive me for all the times I place blame on you.

Forgive me for all the times I create distance, imagining that you could never feel what I feel. Forgive me for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us.

Pour yourself into the cracks in my heart. Bring these bones back to life. Bring me closer to you. With gratitude I pray, amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, you could spend your whole life ignoring God, pushing God away, or trying to solve the world's problems all on your own, and God would still love you all the same.

Even in our shortcomings, we are God's beloved.

So hear and believe this good news:

We are saved by grace through faith.

We belong to God. We are not alone.

Ministry Moment

Ashley Waters
Rotary Club of Carrol Creek

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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

John 11:1-45

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that God loves us—

God loves us enough to weep when we are gone.

We believe that God does not give up on us—

breathing new life into tired bones.

We believe that God returns to us—

always seeking us when we are lost.

We believe that God holds hope for us—

so we hold onto hope as well.

We believe, help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray, amen.

Morning Prayers

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

*Prayer of Dedication

Spirit of Life, we breathe our lives upon these gifts that they may be become a fertile plain of green life and strengthened hope for all who live in the valley of dry bones.

May the wind of your love carry these gifts far beyond us to the places most in need of your compassionate grace.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

– CANTATA –

Requiem

– John Rutter

Senior Choir; Mary Huegel, oboe; David Howard, cello

I. Requiem æternam

Requiem æternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

*Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,
and may light perpetual shine upon
them.*

Te decet hymnus Deus in Sion:
et tibi reddetur votum in Ierusalem,
exaudi orationem meam,
ad te omnis caro veniet.

*It is fitting that a hymn should be
raised unto Thee in Zion
and a vow paid to Thee in Jerusalem;
give ear to my prayer, O Lord,
unto Thee all flesh shall come at last.*

Kyrie, eleison.
Christe, eleison.
Kyrie, eleison.

*Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.*

From Missa pro defunctis

II. Out of the Deep

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord:
Lord, hear my voice.
O let thine ears consider well:
the voice of my complaint.
If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme
to mark what is done amiss:
O Lord, who may abide it?
For there is mercy with thee:
therefore shalt thou be fear'd.
I look for the Lord:
my soul doth wait for him,
and in his word is my trust.
My soul fleeth unto the Lord:
before the morning watch, I say,
before the morning watch.
O Israel, trust in the Lord,
with the Lord there is mercy,
and with him is plenteous redemption.
And he shall redeem Israel from all his sins.

Psalm 130

III. Pie Jesu

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem,
requiem æternam, dona eis Domine,
Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem,
sempiternam requiem.

*Blessed Lord Jesus, grant them rest,
Rest eternal, grant them, Lord,
Blessed Lord Jesus, grant them rest,
Everlasting rest.*

From 'Dies Irae,' Missa pro defunctis

IV. Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra Gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power
and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Benedictus qui venit in nomine
Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

From *Missa pro defunctis*

V. Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.

*Lamb of God, who takes away the
sins of the world, grant them rest.*

Man that is born of a woman
hath but a short time to live,
and is full of misery.
He cometh up, and is cut down like a flower;
he fleeth as it were a shadow.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.

*Lamb of God, who takes away the
sins of the world, grant them rest.*

In the midst of life, we are in death.
Of whom may we seek for succor?
Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.

*Lamb of God, who takes away the
sins of the world, grant them rest.*

I am the resurrection and the life,
saith the Lord:
He that believeth in me, though he were dead,
yet shall he live:
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me
shall never die.

Latin text from *Missa pro defunctis*
English text from the Burial Service,
1662 Book of Common Prayer

VI. The Lord is my shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture,
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul,
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness,
for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For thou art with me:
Thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table before me
against them that trouble me:
thou hast anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving-kindness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 23

VI. The Lord is my shepherd

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me.
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord,
for they rest from their labours.
Even so saith the Spirit,
for they rest.

Lux æterna luceat eis, Domine:
Cum sanctis tuis in æternum,
quia pius es.
Requiem æternam dona eis Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

*Let eternal light shine upon them,
O Lord;
with Thy saints in eternity,
for Thou art merciful.
Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,
and may light perpetual shine on them.*

English text from the Burial Service,
1662 Book of Common Prayer
Latin text from *Missa pro defunctis*

Benediction

Postlude *(please be seated)*

Today's liturgy was written by: rev. sarah speed | sanctifiedart.org | The prayer of dedication is from UCC Worship
Ways written by the Rev. Elizabeth Dilley.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Kathy and Andy Johnston in honor of the new life in our family, Hazel Olivia Johnston Nelson, born February 11, 2023.

The yellow rose bud is presented in honor of veterans by Bob and Sue Pinner.

Attendance Last Sunday: 15 at 8:30 am, 155 at 10:30 am, and 62 online.

Watch
Worship
Live



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

Today: March 26, 2023

Scripture Reader: Nancy Jones, Ron Terbush
Glenn Wallace, Pastor Daniel

Deacons: Betsy Selby, Harrison Fisher

Elder: Starr Schaeberle

Greeters: Ave and Cliff Barr
Felecia Bishop

Welcome: Pat Condo

Audio/Visual: Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Schaeberle
Kendra Sampson

Fellowship: Gail Ellam, Starr Schaeberle
Julie Clark

Nursery: Stephanie Fisher

Saturday Chimer: Suzanne Morris

Sunday Chimer: Robin Cooney

Next Week: April 2, 2023

Pastor Kirstin

Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick

Eric Weakly

Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Baker

Larry Martin

Green Team

Nancy Doll

Tricia Coffey

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: Palm Sunday

Seeking: Where are you headed?

Matthew 21:1-11

Imagine you are in Jerusalem when Jesus enters on a donkey. Within the chaos and commotion of that scene, where are you and which way will you go? Will you follow Jesus all the way to the cross? Jesus' willing surrender to his arrest should always catch us off-guard. As dismayed as the disciples, we ask, "Jesus, are you really headed this way, straight to your death?" Many of our weekly questions throughout the season so far have helped us prepare spiritually for Holy Week. Now we examine if our beliefs have changed our behaviors. Has your path changed? In the midst of opposing forces, which way will you go?

We will hear of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as we read from Matthew 21: 1-11 and then of his passion as we read from Matthew 26:14 – 27:66.


Market Street Brass will be featured at the 10:30 service along with the Senior Choir and Children's Music and Movement.

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:

Holly Davis, David Cooney, Mike Roberston (friend of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson), 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**

Sunday Education Opportunities for Adults

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE with The Reverends John & Rebecca Shillingburg

Sundays

North Room / Zoom

9:00 – 10:15 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 as we survey of the big stories of the Old Testament in the order they occurred. No prior experience needed.

Sunday Fellowship Opportunities for Adults

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!

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.

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.

March 29 Restoration Ezekiel 37:1–14; John 11:1–45

April 5 Time Luke 19:29–40; Luke 22:66–23:56

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–April 4

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 28 - The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends

April 4 - Gethsemane: Risking Temptation

Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life

Tuesdays, April 11–May 23

North Room / Zoom

11:00 am – Noon

Zoom: bit.ly/3TdUnOy

Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398

Passcode: 973365

First released in 1995, this spiritual classic continues to be a bestseller, as thousands each year accept Marjorie Thompson's invitation to the Christian spiritual life. Offering a framework for understanding the spiritual disciplines and instruction for developing and nurturing those practices, *Soul Feast* continues to be a favorite for individual reflection and group study.

April 11 - Hunger and Thirst for the Spirit: The Spiritual Yearning of Our Time

April 18 - Chewing the Bread of the Word: The Nature and Practice of Spiritual Reading

April 25 - Communication and Communion with God: Approaches to Prayer

May 2 - Reclaiming Sabbath Time: The Sacred Art of Ceasing

May 9 - Of Conscience and Consciousness: Self-Examination, Confession, and Awareness

May 16 - Companions on the Journey: The Gift of Spiritual Direction

May 23 - Entertaining Angels Unawares: The Spirit of Hospitality

Please plan to stay for lunch as we celebrated our years together

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 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

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.

Upcoming at ERUCC

FIELD TRIP TO LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Visit the Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society, attend noon chapel service, followed by a scholarship luncheon whereby ERUCC will be thanked for our generous giving to the school on Wednesday, April 12, departing at 9:00 am and returning between 6:00 and 7:00 pm.

Please let Pastor Daniel know by Sunday, 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.

MEDITATIVE COLORING

Wednesday, April 5 Main Sanctuary 7:00 – 8:00 pm

We will gather in the sanctuary for a time of contemplation with soft music, prayers, and reading of scripture as we engage in the spiritual practice of coloring.

EASTER CROSS DECORATING: CALLING ALL FLOWERS



Our yards are already seeing the emerging of spring flowers, heralding the coming of Easter and the promise of new life. Easter takes place Sunday, April 9, and in keeping with ERUCC's tradition will include a flower-bedecked cross that we will use to help celebrate Christ's joyous resurrection at the 10:30 am service before placing it on our front steps for our Frederick neighbors to enjoy.

Please bring flowers from your gardens or florist with you Easter morning to add to our Easter cross.

CHIMES SERVICE AND LEARNING GROUP

Thursday, April 13

Community Room

11:00 am

The Chimes Service and Learning Group will meet Thursday, April 13 in the Community Room at 11:00 am. Our guest speaker will be Chris Hough, Community Relations & Historic Preservation Manager of Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

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

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!

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



GOD'S KIDS CLUB

Friday, April 7

Community Room

9:00 – 12:00 pm

Come one, come all! During this half-day God's Kids Club, teams will participate in a scavenger hunt/Amazing Race through the church and through Holy Week. At each stop, they will be asked to learn something and complete an activity related to that learning that takes us from Palm Sunday through Easter Morning. Each child will take home a miniature Good Friday Garden that can be transformed on Sunday to a Resurrection Garden. Snack will be provided. Sign Up by emailing Pastor Kirstin or signing up in the Community Room!

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.

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!

BETHANY BEACH DAYS

Thursday – Saturday, April 13-15

Leaving the church at 9:00 am on Thursday, April 13th to travel to Bethany Beach. We will be staying again at the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Conference Center and cooking our own meals. (This is the end of the Spring Break time for FCPS). Cost is \$25 per person.

Bread and Subs for Sale

The Youth Group will be baking bread and making subs that will be available for purchase on Sunday, April 2.

Proceeds will support their trip to Germany this summer.



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

Additional Announcements

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

A small group of ERUCC members has examined our current preparedness in response to emergencies. We will be having a fire drill on Sunday, April 16 towards the end of the 10:30 am service. We are also preparing more first aid kits for our buildings and are seeking donations to refresh and complete those kits. Please consider contributing towards the purchase/donation of supplies.

Emergency supply donation list: bit.ly/3lvVWLv

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. The 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.

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.

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.

Forgive often. Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

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 on Friday, May 5 from 7:00 – 10:00 pm 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. Suggested donation of \$10/person. Beer, wine, and beverages available for purchase.



DISCO

Night

Friday, May 5
Community Room, 7–10 pm
Suggested donation \$10/person



A celebration to raise funds for the
ERUCC Handbell Choirs' "Ring My Bell" campaign

ERUCC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

ERUCC is fortunate to have several scholarship programs available to our members as they seek educational opportunities to develop knowledge and skill in realization of their full potential. The McCardell Scholarship Fund was established by Mr. Robert McCardell in honor and memory of members of the McCardell family. The Kieffer Scholarship Fund was established in honor of Henri L.G. Kieffer, pastor of this church from 1910-1946. The Liz Coffey Scholarship Fund was established in memory and honor of our beloved youth Liz Coffey. Also included are funds given in memory of Tina Baker, a long time educator and member of the ERUCC Scholarship Committee. Contributions to these Scholarship Funds by members and friends of the church are always welcome.

These scholarships are gifts to church members for post-secondary undergraduate education and are awarded by the Scholarship Committee. The awards are based on the quality of the candidate's plan for use of the funds, the ability and promise of the applicant, and the need for financial assistance. The aid may continue for subsequent years after an interview with the Scholarship Committee, submission of intent to reapply, and a transcript of grades for the current year.

Scholarship applications for new applicants are available through the Church Office, erucc@erucc.org or 301-662-2762.

Students wishing to renew scholarships must also contact the Church Office providing the information requested. All application materials must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee through the Church Office by the April 30 deadline.

Any further questions can be directed to Sandra Trout, Chairman of Scholarship Committee at troutsandra@aol.com or 301-676-6585.

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.

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!

Holy Week Services

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 2

8:30 am **Worship, Trinity Chapel**

10:30 am **Worship, Main Sanctuary** (special music with brass)

On Palm Sunday, we shout our praises before quieting our voices to enter into the passion of our God. We will hear of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as we read from Matthew 21: 1-11 and then of his passion in Matthew 26: 14 – 27: 66.

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 6

7:30 pm **Holy Communion and Tenebrae Service in Main Sanctuary and Livestream**

Maundy Thursday is an alternate name for Holy Thursday, the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment." As recorded in John's gospel, on his last night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and then gave them a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34).

This service has three main parts:

- A Service of Light based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light
- A Service of Holy Communion in which we are invited to participate as one of The Twelve at the Last Supper
- A Service of Shadows: Tenebrae, in which we meditate on the Passion of Christ and experience in dramatic form the extinguishing of the Light

If you are participating in worship online, please have a plate with a piece of bread or cracker and a cup with grape juice, wine, or water. You may also consider adding a small bowl with water and a hand towel. During the service, you will be invited to lift the bread or cracker and the cup for a blessing.

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 7

Noon in Main Sanctuary

7:30 pm in Main Sanctuary and Livestream

Seeking: Why have you forsaken me?

Matthew 27:27-50

Jesus' final lament gives voice to all those who have been forsaken— those who suffer injustice, those who are abandoned, those who are unjustly convicted. Instead of trying to answer this question with logic or theology, we are invited to live it, to sit with it. Sitting with this unsettling question unearths and unveils many more questions: What do we do in the face of unimaginable suffering? Can we sit in the silence of death and trust that God is there? Will we be in solidarity with those who suffer and grieve?

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 – 9:15 am	Worship , Trinity Chapel
9:00 am – 10:20 am	Adult Education , North Room and Online <i>Let's Study the Bible</i>
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 <i>Ages 3 – 2nd Grade, 3rd – 6th Grade, Confirmation Class</i>
10:10 – 10:25 am	Children's Music & Movement , Trinity Chapel <i>Pre-K through high school</i>
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 <i>Pre-K through high school</i>

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.



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: *Can these bones live?*

blackout poetry

Below is a creative retelling of John 11:1-45, 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

Jesus was on his way to the town of Bethany, where his friends lived. He was traveling to Bethany because he heard that his friend Lazarus had died after being sick. Lazarus's sisters, Mary and Martha, had buried Lazarus in a tomb four days ago. When they heard that Jesus was on his way to see them, Mary and Martha went to meet Jesus. They were very sad because their brother had died. They told Jesus, "If you had been here, Lazarus would not have died. You could have saved him! We know you are the Messiah, and you can work miracles." Jesus told them, "Your brother will live again." But they did not understand what he meant. They thought he was talking about life in heaven. Jesus was very sad and began to cry. He asked Mary and Martha to take him to the tomb where they had buried their brother. Mary and Martha took Jesus to the tomb to see Lazarus. When they got to the tomb, Jesus called to his friend who had died, "Lazarus, come out!" And Lazarus came out of the tomb. Since he was still wrapped in burial linens, Jesus told them to take the linens off so he could be free.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 26, 2023

John 11:1-45

Breath of Hope

Traveling with his disciples, Jesus learns that his friend Lazarus is ill. Although his friends urge him to go to Lazarus at once, Jesus continues to travel and teach. When he reaches Lazarus's hometown, he meets his friends Mary and Martha, who give him the news that their beloved brother Lazarus has died. Jesus is moved to tears at this.

This is a short recap of a long story that is worth reading in its entirety. You will find in the book of John, chapter 11, if you have not heard it already in worship. As you read, notice that several times Jesus proclaims that the healing of Lazarus will be to show God's glory. This story reveals that God's glory is revealed not only when Lazarus is raised but whenever those who are bound or considered dead are set free.

As far as we know, this is the only time Jesus commands someone to "Come out!" As you read this story, listen! Is The Living Christ saying those same words to you? What death do you need to come out of?

Perhaps it is time to come out of the closet, embracing for yourself and to others in your life the totality of who God made you to be. Maybe it's time to come out of a suffocating relationship, one that stifles your growth and life. Maybe it's time to come out of a job or career, taking new steps into a new life. Maybe it's the right time to come out from under the heavy weight of limits you or others have placed on you because of your abilities.

Listen! Jesus is saying, Come out! because it shows God's glory when you live no longer bound, but as your full and true self.

And pay close attention to the end of the story. After commanding Lazarus to come out, Jesus gives another command to the wider community. They are to help to unbind the resurrected man. So, the process of coming out is not an individual one. It requires the help of a wider supportive community who can provide prayer, assistance, shelter, and encouragement.

How can you both come out yourself and support others in the process of coming out? This is how the glory of God is shown indeed!



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

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