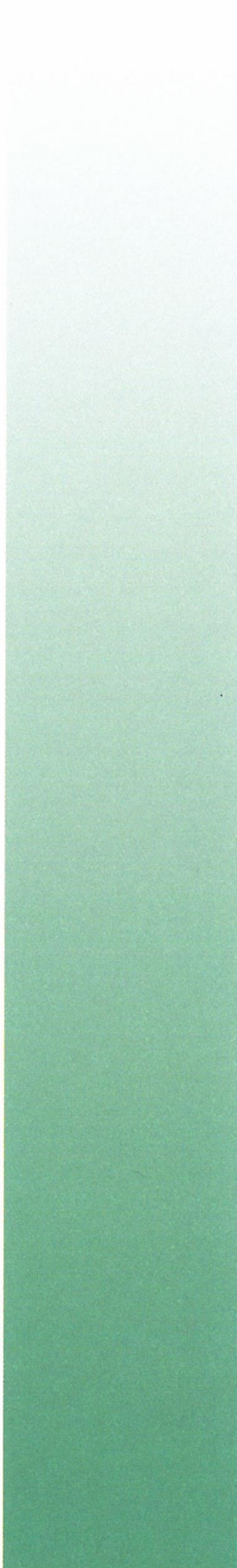
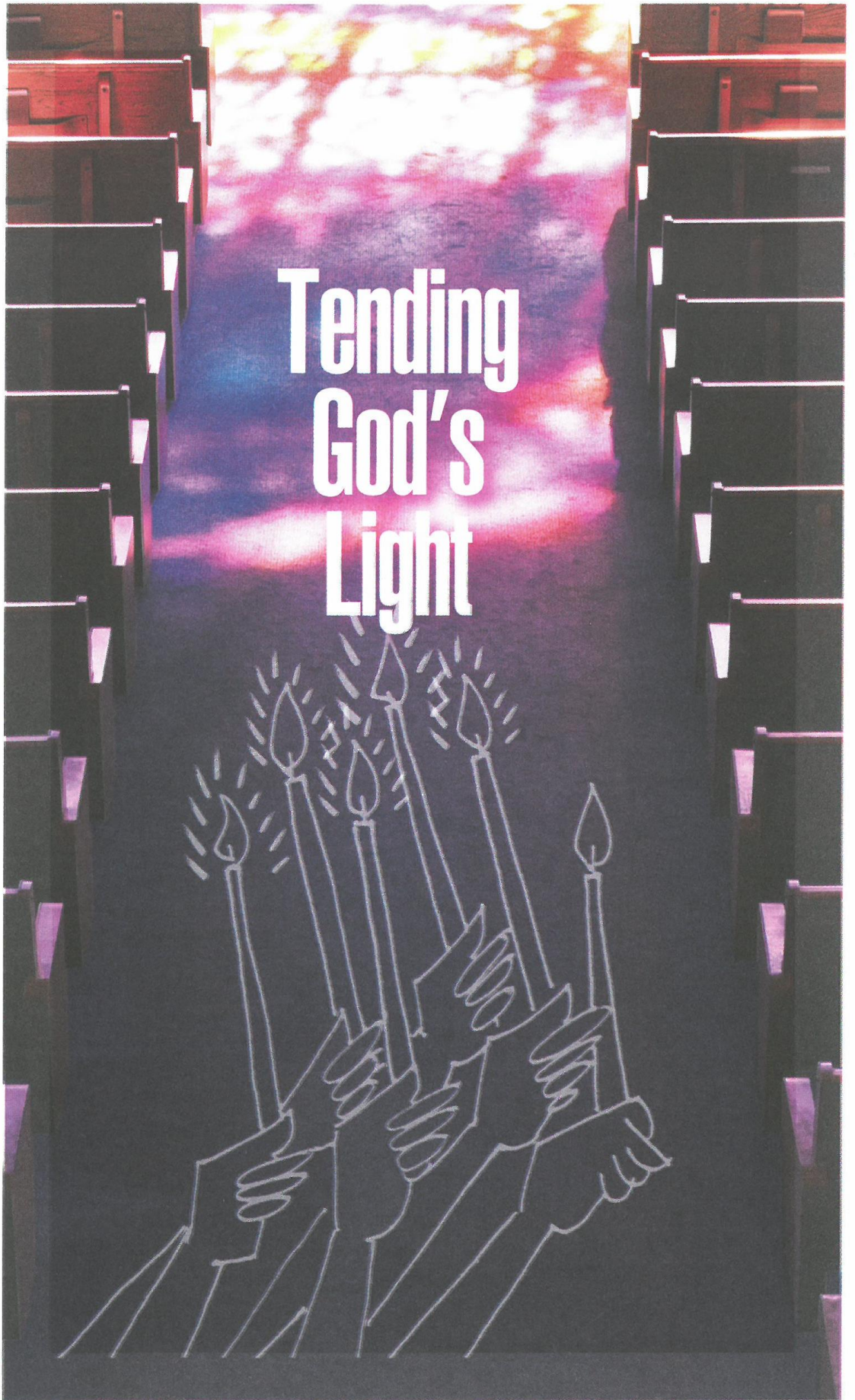
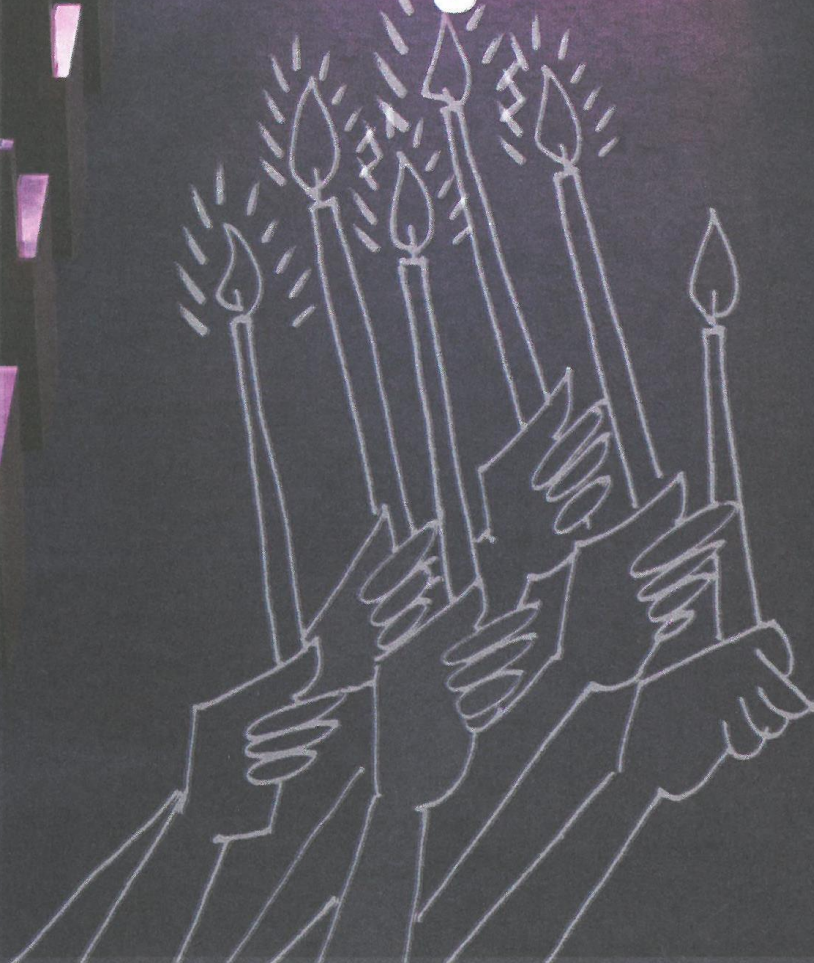


# Tending God's Light



Thank you for worshiping 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 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, 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. Plates for offering are 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. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate for Faith Formation & Parish Life* ~ [ksrhoads@erucc.org](mailto:ksrhoads@erucc.org)  
Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music* | Tyler L. York ~ *Office Administrator* ~ [tyork@erucc.org](mailto:tyork@erucc.org)  
Jaci Clayton ~ *Facilities Manager* ~ [jclayton@erucc.org](mailto:jclayton@erucc.org)  
Tricia Coffey ~ *Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director*  
Kelly Esslinger ~ *Assistant Director for Bell Choirs & Children's Music*  
Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Assistant* | Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

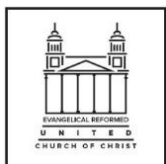
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The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Pastor Emerita*  
The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

**Elders of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ**

Marc Kline | Peter Brehm | Robin Cooney | Eric Weakly | Ave Barr | Matt Huetting





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



November 12, 2023    Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost    10:30 am

The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal

\*All who are able may stand

## GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONGREGATION CENTERING PRAYER

Donna and Terry Logee

**As we journey through this time of transition, remembering our past and welcoming our future, 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;**
- **Caring for one another as God cares for us; and**
- **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 missions, remembering the work of our ancestors, actively participating in our congregation's life, and laying a foundation for our generations to follow. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE CENTERING CANDLE

### PRELUDE *Ovation of Praise*

– Arnold B. Sherman  
Cambridge Handbell Choir

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Through the psalmist, God says, "Give ear, my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth."

**We will tell of your glorious deeds, O Lord, and the wonders that you have done.**

Tell your children and your children's children that they should set their hope in God.

**And not forget your works, O God, but keep your commandments.**

Let us now worship the God who saves us!

## \*OPENING PRAYER

Gracious One, your righteousness is like streams of goodness washing our soul. You purify the thoughts of our minds and sanctify our actions. We appear now before you as children renewed by your mercy, to give you praise in response to your grace. Amen.

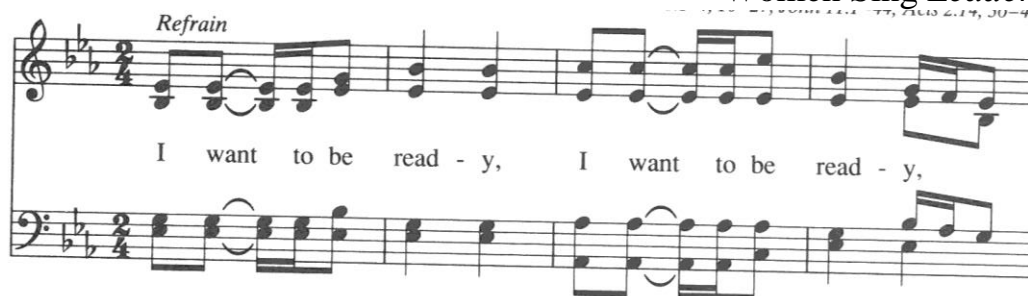
## \*OPENING HYMN *I Want to Be Ready*

#616

Men Sing *Leader* for Stanzas 1, 3, 5

Women Sing *Leader* for Stanzas 2, 4

*Refrain*

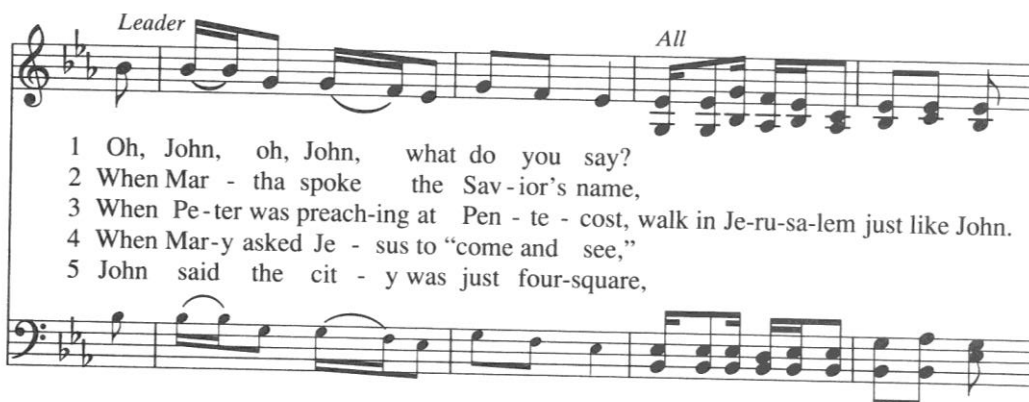


I want to be read - y, I want to be read - y,



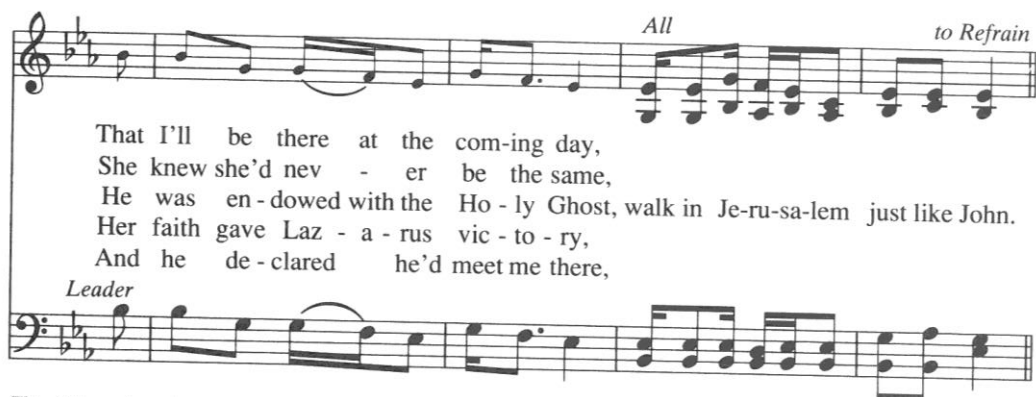
I want to be read - y to walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John. *Last time, end*

*Leader* *All*



1 Oh, John, oh, John, what do you say?  
2 When Mar - tha spoke the Sav - ior's name,  
3 When Pe - ter was preach - ing at Pen - te - cost, walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.  
4 When Mar - y asked Je - sus to "come and see,"  
5 John said the cit - y was just four - square,

*All* *to Refrain*



That I'll be there at the com - ing day,  
She knew she'd nev - er be the same,  
He was en - dowed with the Ho - ly Ghost, walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.  
Her faith gave Laz - a - rus vic - to - ry,  
And he de - clared he'd meet me there,

*Leader*

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**You brought our ancestors out of Egypt, yet we do not always trust you to hear our needs. You protected them all along the way they went, yet we wonder if you hear us when we cry out to you. We lay our sins before you, O God, and implore you, “Have mercy upon us and give us your grace. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**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 forg iver 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** *Let Justice Flow Like Streams*

#588

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spark - ling wa - ter, pure,  
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,  
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

En - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.  
An ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.  
And jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

## THE SCRIPTURES

Amos 5: 18-24            OT page 854

Matthew 25:1-13        NT page 28

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

All:            **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

The Rev. John Shillingburg

## MORNING PRAYERS

## OFFERING OF TITHES, GIFTS AND LIVES TO CHRIST'S SERVICE

OFFERTORY *Rain Down*

– J. Cortez  
Spirit

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Wherever we look, O God, we see your grandeur about us. All that we have is a gift of your grace. You fill each day with bountiful blessings. We return to you now what you have already provided; may it be a symbol of our thanksgiving and love. Multiply our gifts, so that your love may be spread widely, reaching those who are in need. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

#369  
*see next page*

## \*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION *God Be in My Head*

– V. Pennington

**God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in my eyes, and in my looking; God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in my heart and in my thinking. [REPEAT]**

**God be in my head, God be in my eyes, God be in my mouth, my heart, and in my thinking. God be at my end and my departing.**

## POSTLUDE

*Please be seated.*



## Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Matt. 25:1-13; Gal. 6:9

African-American spiritual

1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn -  
 2 It's our faith makes us hap - py, it's our faith makes us hap -  
 3 We are climb - ing Ja - cobs's lad - der, we are climb - ing Ja - cob's lad -  
 4 Ev - ery round goes high - er, high - er, ev - ery round goes high - er, high -

*Last time, end*

- ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
 - py, it's our faith makes us hap - py, for this work's al - most done.  
 - der, we are climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der, for this work's al - most done.  
 - er ev - ery round goes high - er, high - er, for this work's al - most done.

*Refrain*

Sis - ters, don't grow wear - y, broth - ers, don't grow

wear - y, chil - dren, don't grow wear - y, for this work's al - most done.

**We thank Ann Thompson, Laura Walling, and Joe Baker for sharing their gifts with us in worship today!**

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### **FELLOWSHIP**

Please join us after worship in our Community Room for a time of fellowship with light refreshments. The Community Room, located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, is accessible by stairs or elevator.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

**WE SALUTE  
OUR VETERANS**

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MAY THE PEACE OF GOD BE WITH YOU



**The flowers on the altar** this morning are in loving memory of my father, William B. Kreh from Susan E. Kreh.

**The yellow rose bud** is presented in honor of veterans by Peter Brehm and Jack Day.

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**Attendance Last Sunday:** 13 at 8:30 AM, 131 at 10:30 AM, and 55 online.



**Watch worship live every Sunday at 10:30 AM or on-demand:**

<https://sundaystreams.com/go/ERUCC>

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**Serving Today: November 12**

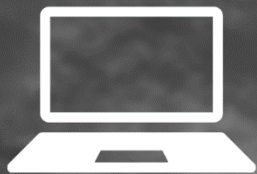
Scripture Reader: Peter Brehm  
Deacons: Robin A. Brady-Slifer  
Robin L. Brady-Slifer  
Elder: Marc Kline  
Greeters: Cathie Duncan, Rob Smith  
Mary Lou Blessing  
Welcome: Julie Clark, Sue Pinner  
Audio/Visual: Jeff Baker, Jeff Schaeberle  
Kelly Esslinger  
Nursery: Robert Kambic  
Fellowship: Peter Brehm, Susan Kulp  
David Howard

**Serving Next Week: November 19**

Linda Coyle  
Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher  
  
Tyler L. York  
Rachel and Tom Ford  
Felecia Bishop  
Holly Davis  
Rodney Martin, Larry Martin  
Jeff Baker  
  
Emily Button Kambic  
Susan Kulp, David Howard

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**Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC**



**ONLINE**

Go to [erucc.org/give](https://erucc.org/give)  
or Scan this Code



**ENVELOPE**

Cash and  
Checks made out to  
Evangelical Reformed UCC

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Worship Next Week: Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 | Matthew 25: 14-30

*The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads will be preaching this morning. The Senior Choir will be singing.*

### PRAYER LIST

*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:

Anne Gallagher (friend of  
Milt and Bettie Joe Crutchley)  
Lee Thomas  
Joan Thomas (mother of Dan  
Smith's friend)  
Lucy Patterson Cox (friend  
of Kathleen Jefferson)  
Shannon Baxter (daughter of  
Kathy Gelles-Baxter)  
Milt Crutchley  
Sandra Trout  
Audrey Rayfield  
Autumn Crutchley  
Leandra Caughy  
Christiane Armitage (sister-  
in-law of Linda Coyle)  
June Brehm  
Jason Rhoads  
Nathan Cable  
Hillal Eastburn

Barbara Rhoads  
Pat Condo  
Cathy Crome (sister of Nancy  
Jones)  
Greg Rhoads  
Holly Davis  
Marcia Eisenstein  
Joyce Kallevang (sister-in-law  
of Jeanellen Kallevang)  
Derek C. Hupp (grandson of  
Beanie & Gaylon Cornell)  
Wayne Kolb (friend of Stefan  
and Judi Mach and Tony and  
Linda LaFianza)  
Conway Barnes (brother-in-  
law of George & Linda Kline)  
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  
Fran Wenner  
Bonnie Devilbiss  
The McCarty family  
Tina Prescott (daughter-in-law  
of Barbara & Bill Prescott)  
Mary Remsberg  
Heleen (sister of Karin Mens)  
Kathy Blue Shores (friend of  
Jean Fish & Barb Biser)  
Gretchen Manuel (niece of  
Audrey Rayfield)

Joan Thomas  
20990 Father Hurley Blvd  
Germantown, MD 20874



LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR  
CHILDREN PRAYING



## This Week at ERUCC

### **TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with The Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg**

*Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*

**Tuesdays through December 19**

**North Room / Zoom**

**11:00 AM**

Zoom: [bit.ly/3TdUnOy](https://bit.ly/3TdUnOy)

Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398

Passcode: 973365

One of the vital challenges facing Christians today is how to read the Bible faithfully without abandoning our sense of truth and history. *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time* provides a much-needed solution to the problem of how to have a fully authentic yet contemporary understanding of the scriptures.

Many mistakenly believe there are no choices other than fundamentalism or simply rejecting the Bible as something that can bring meaning to our lives. Answering this modern dilemma, Marcus Borg reveals how it is possible to reconcile the Bible with both a scientific and critical way of thinking and our deepest spiritual needs, leading to a contemporary yet grounded experience of the sacred texts.

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### **TUESDAY EVENING YOGA**

**Community Room**

**7:00 PM**

Join your ERUCC friends for our drop-in Tuesday night yoga class! You will need to bring yoga mats, blocks if used, and a water bottle. Each class is \$10. For more information, contact Renae Kline, [rdkline15@gmail.com](mailto:rdkline15@gmail.com).



a just  
world  
for all  
**ucc.org**

## Upcoming at ERUCC

### **NEW ERUCC CHRISTMAS MUSIC TRADITION**

This year, we will create an Advent experience of sharing a new Christmas carol or song every night! We invite you to record a song that is meaningful to you either as a solo or with a group. All those in our church community will have the opportunity to then play your song recorded online, and to sing along from home or wherever they are! We'll begin recording in November and release a song during each night of Advent.

Go to [bit.ly/ERSingsadvent](https://bit.ly/ERSingsadvent) to sign up for a date and time to record in the sanctuary with Jenna Duranko and Pastor Kirstin.

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### **FALL PAINTING FUNDRAISER for SUICIDE PREVENTION**

**Sunday, November 19**

**Frederick Made**

**2:00 – 4:00 PM**

Join with others at ERUCC for a fall painting project in partnership with Frederick Made, an artisan and creative studio on Patrick Street in the old FSK Hotel. You will walk away with a beautiful fall canvas for your choice of displaying at home or giving as a gift, while raising money for suicide prevention. This is an all-ages activity, with a cost of \$40 per person. BYO beverage, snacks will be provided. Payments can be made to ERUCC noting it is for “Fall Painting.”

**RSVP:** [bit.ly/46Uh1SE](https://bit.ly/46Uh1SE)

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### **HANGING OF THE GREENS AND ADVENT WREATH MAKING**

**Sunday, November 26**

**12:00 – 2:00 PM**

Join us after worship to help prepare the church for Christmas. Many hands make light work, see the Sign-up Genius to join a decorating team: [bit.ly/greens24](https://bit.ly/greens24).

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### **ERUCC BOOK GROUP**

**Tuesday, November 28**

**North Room / Zoom**

**7:00 PM**

Zoom: [bit.ly/ERUCCbooks](https://bit.ly/ERUCCbooks)

Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574

Passcode: 226669

*Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. This novel is a heart-pounding American epic that gallops backward and forward in time to tell a story about race and freedom, horses and art, and the lineage of not just ancestors but actions. In present day, we meet Theo Northam, a Black art historian who is researching 19th century equestrian paintings, and Jess, a bone specialist who is called to help uncover an old horse skeleton lodged somewhere in the Smithsonian. And flash back to the 1850s, there is Jarret Lewis, an enslaved groom for Lexington—a horse that will become the fastest thoroughbred ever to race—who desperately wants to be free but will do anything for the horse he's raised. Weaving together these different narratives, *Horse* tells a distinctly American story that shines a light on the legacy of slavery and the pursuit of independence.



## MISSION OF MERCY MEAL PREP

**Thursday, November 30**                      **Community Room Kitchen**    **10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

Join Nancy Jones and Angela Brittain to prepare pasta meals to be frozen for upcoming lunches at Mission of Mercy. All ingredients are provided. Don't worry, you don't have to be Julia Child to come help and enjoy the fellowship!

Please RSVP: Nancy at [ncjsquared@msn.com](mailto:ncjsquared@msn.com) or Angela at [angela2cats@yahoo.com](mailto:angela2cats@yahoo.com).

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL COOKIE SWAP

**Sunday, December 3**                      **North Room**                      **12:00 PM**

Celebrate the sweet treats of the season at ERUCC's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cookie Swap! Bring 5 dozen cookies and an extra container to take your cookies home in. Children and their cookie creations are welcome. We will also be taking cookies to our members who are homebound. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Starr Schaeberle at [starr.schaeberle@comcast.net](mailto:starr.schaeberle@comcast.net) or (301) 662-6902.

Let us know what kind of cookie you will bring to help ensure we have a good variety: [bit.ly/cookieswap23](http://bit.ly/cookieswap23).

---

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday, December 10**                      **Community Room/Zoom**    **after 10:30 AM service**

The Consistory invites you to attend ERUCC's annual congregational meeting on Sunday, December 10, following the 10:30 AM service. Agenda items will include reports on Consecration Sunday outcomes, voting on a path forward for Trinity Chapel, and sharing and approval of the proposed 2024 ERUCC mission spending plan. A light lunch will be served. We are the church, and everyone's participation is encouraged.

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## **Children and Youth Ministry**

### **JUNIOR CHURCH**

Junior Church, a space to join in creative spiritual formation activities, meets most Sundays, except the first Sunday of each month when we observe Communion. Children aged 5 – 5th grade may go to Junior Church in the Thomas Room after the Thought for the Day in the worship service. Parents should pick up children from Junior Church following service.

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### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS**

Our Christmas Pageant will follow our theme for Advent. The pageant from Sanctified Art, “A Very Special Child,” is inspired by the stories in Luke 1-3. We will need 11 characters and singers as well as some helpers with props. Rehearsals will take place on Sundays after worship on November 19, 26 and December 3, with a dress rehearsal on December 10 (Chancel Handbell rehearsals will pause during this time). We will perform in the evening of Sunday, December 17, when we will have a final practice, perform, and then share a family meal together!

---

### **CHILDREN, YOUTH, and FAMILIES – DINNER AND CARE PACKAGES**

**Sunday, November 12**

**Community Room**

**5:00 – 7:00 PM**

Join in a shared meal, packing gift boxes and signing cards for those in our community who we especially want to know we are thinking of them in this season. As a church, we are collecting individual snack items and small office or household items. For example, hot chocolate packs, chips/crackers, fruit pouches, pudding cups, granola bars, cookies, soup packs and more. Also, sticky notes, silly pens, reusable straws, decks of cards, hand-sized wordsearch or game books, stress balls, and chapstick can be useful and fun!

RSVP to Pastor Kirstin, [ksrhoads@erucc.org](mailto:ksrhoads@erucc.org) if you are able to join so we have a count for our food preparation. **Youth Group will meet at 4:00 PM in the Youth Room in Parish House!**

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### **TINY TOTS**

**Saturday, November 18**

**Catoctin Wildlife Preserve**

**12:45 – 3:00 PM**

Come to the Catoctin Wildlife Preserve (13019 Catoctin Furnace Rd, Thurmont) when you can and stay as long as your family wants! Our 12:45 PM arrival includes an Alligator Encounter Keeper Talk at 1:00 PM. An additional \$5 per person lets you feed tortoises up until 3:00 PM. Bring quarters to feed fish in the Japanese Koi Pond. We'll explore the park and the animals that live there to learn about Catoctin's amazing creatures and their habitats.

We will order tickets ahead of our date to save time at entry and allow us to enter at a variety of times as needed. Email Pastor Kirstin, [ksrhoads@erucc.org](mailto:ksrhoads@erucc.org), with the number of child and adult tickets you want to purchase. You pay \$10 per child and \$15 per adult. ERUCC will pay the difference. Parking is free!

## YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, November 26

Hoewing-Moxley Farm

5:00 – 8:00 PM

Youth Campfire and Harry Potter style adventure at Hoewing-Moxley farm. RSVP and get details from BAND App.

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## DONATE TO SUPPORT YOUTH

Help our Youth Group with in-kind donations for programming this month! View a list of needed items and sign up to donate at [bit.ly/47eeOB7](http://bit.ly/47eeOB7).

## Other Announcements and Reminders

### PASTORAL CARE

Evangelical Reformed UCC wants to be there for you when you're experiencing an illness, hospitalization, or other life-event for which you, or someone you love, may need a visit.

If emergency pastoral care is needed in the case of crisis, death, or severe illness, please first contact the church office at (301) 662-2762 or [erucc@erucc.org](mailto:erucc@erucc.org). Outside of office hours, you may contact Nancy Manthey, pastoral care coordinator, at (240) 629-8030.

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### SEEKING VOLUNTEER . . .

Are you looking for a way to support ERUCC without ever leaving home? Do you enjoy sending greeting cards? We have the perfect way for you to share your gifts with the church - send a welcome card to each Sunday's new church visitors (cards provided). All information you need will be emailed to you weekly. If interested, please email Robin Cooney, Evangelism Team member, at [rdcooney@comcast.net](mailto:rdcooney@comcast.net). Thank you for considering this opportunity.

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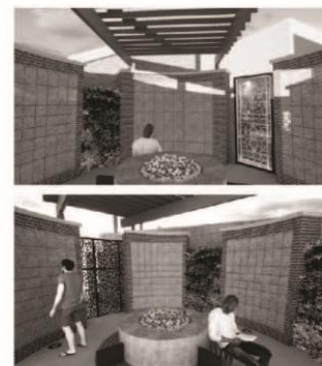
## ERUCC COLUMBARIUM ~ RESERVE YOUR SPACE NOW

Those interested in securing their final resting place here at ERUCC should contact the committee by email at [columbarium@erucc.org](mailto:columbarium@erucc.org) or calling the office at 301-662-2762.

**\$10,000 Top-tier Leadership niche (12"x12")**

**\$5,000 Standard niche (8"x8")**

Each niche accommodates two urns.



## Sunday Morning Schedule

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 8:30 – 9:15 AM     | <b>Early Worship Service</b> , Sanctuary  |
| 9:00 AM            | <b>Coffee and Conversation</b> , Kieffer Lobby, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor   |
| 9:00 – 10:15 AM    | <b>Let's Study the Bible</b> , North Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor  |
| 9:30 – 10:15 AM    | <b>Let's Talk</b> , Community Room, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor   |
| 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM | <b>Nursery Care</b> , 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor   |
| 9:30 – 10:10 AM    | <b>Sunday School</b><br><i>Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</i> , Liz Coffey Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor<br><i>3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade</i> , Thomas Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor<br><i>Youth (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade)</i> , Clapp Conference Room, Church Office |
| 10:10 – 10:25 AM   | <b>Children's Music and Movement</b> , Liz Coffey Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor   |
| 10:30 – 11:30 AM   | <b>Worship</b> , Sanctuary and Online at <a href="http://www.erucc.org">www.erucc.org</a><br><b>Junior Church</b> , Thomas Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor<br><i>Children are dismissed from the sanctuary after Thought for the Day during Worship</i>                                       |
| 11:30 AM           | <b>Fellowship</b> , Community Room, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor<br><b>Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal</b> , Flora Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor  |

## Stay Informed

### NOVEMBER 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/nov23chimes](http://bit.ly/nov23chimes).



### WEEKLY THURSDAY THOUGHTS EMAIL

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



## Mission Statement of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

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.

Worship services and events at Evangelical Reformed UCC are sometimes photographed and videotaped to document the vibrant life of our church. If you do not wish to be included in these recordings, please notify a deacon or the church office. Always obtain permission prior to sharing images and videos that include minors on your personal social media.



## TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 12, 2023

Matthew 25:1-13

### Tending God's Light *Stewardship Sunday*

Today's story reminds us that we all carry the light of Christ within us, and it is our joy as well as our responsibility as followers of Christ to tend to that light so that it can shine brightly in service of God and the world.

As this year's stewardship materials remind us, because of YOU and the light you shine in the world, our church changes lives. The materials claim, "It is a statement both bold and simple. It boldly expresses the truth about the ultimate nature and the purpose of the church: to engage in acts of transformation. It boldly asserts that we see our mission as one that gives assurance to every individual that their life matters, not because we say so, but because the gospel says so.

... We can be bold because we know it's true. Our own life stories bear witness that being a part of the beloved community in some way has either made us different or causes us to fervently believe that it will. It gives us hope, reminds us of our value, calls us to discover and claim our purpose, clarifies the moral Right and Wrong, motivates us to be a part of something bigger than ourselves all for the sake of change! Change that can more closely align us and our world with the values of the Realm of God. Our church matters because of you.

Our theme, Because of YOU, our church changes lives, is also simple. It recognizes that each of us, by our gifts and the decisions we make to employ them, power this sacred work. Our resources make ministry happen. The arithmetic is not complex. Our choice to grow in our generosity to the church increases the impact of the difference it makes.

By choosing to give even a little bit more, we will expand our shared quest to change lives - even our own. Be bold! Take a step forward in your generosity. It's simple! The choice is yours!"

God has given you a light to tend. How will you tend that light today and into the year to come? The choice to let your light shine is as simple as it is bold. Let it shine!



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