

**EXTRAVAGANT
OPPORTUNITY**

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 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, 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. Plates for offering are 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.



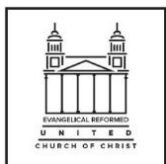
Ministers and Staff of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate for Faith Formation & Parish Life* ~ ksrhoads@erucc.org
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Kelly Esslinger ~ *Assistant Director for Bell Choirs & Children's Music*
Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Assistant* | Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

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 19, 2023 Twenty-Fifth 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

Dawn Lagrotteria

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 Prelude on KREMSER

– J. Pethel

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Inspired by Psalm 123

We lift our eyes to you, O God; we lift our spirits in worship

We look to you, seeking guidance and comfort.

We look to you seeking healing and renewal.

We look to you, seeking mercy and grace;

for we have had our fill of struggles and stress.

We have had more than our fill of worrying and wondering.

To you, O God, we lift our eyes and spirits, with hope and confidence in your love.

Be known to us as we worship and help us find rest.

***OPENING PRAYER**

**You have given us each many talents, Gracious Creator,
and we give thanks to you for such generosity and kindness.
You have given us, as a community, many opportunities to reflect your
beauty, wisdom, and love, and for this, we give thanks.
You have bestowed upon us opportunities to invest the gifts you have
given us – to reach out in faithful joy and to share from our abundance.
And you have called us together in worship and invite us to be
accountable to you for our lives and our love.
Be with us as we gather and help us to boldly proclaim the ways we
have shared your love, through the gifts you have given us.
Hear our songs, prayers, and silences as testimony of our stewardship.
And bless us as we worship – increase our strength and courage
through this time, we pray. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN** *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

#7

see next page

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**You gave us lands and seas, mountains and plains;
and we confess we have polluted and allowed for their demise.
You gave us diversity in ethnicity, culture, and race;
and we confess we have often used these to uphold and support division.
You gave us creatures and plants, flora and fauna beyond imagining;
and we confess we have consumed and overtaken habitats, allowing
whole species to disappear.
You gave us humanity in miraculous diversity.
We confess we have failed to invest in this beauty and celebrate it, and
have allowed prejudice and judgment to create suffering for too many.
You entrusted us with so much, and yet we allowed our fears to
overtake us and failed to bring new life in the abundance possible in
your love.
Forgive us, Holy Wisdom, and teach us again how to trust in you, how
to live in the hopeful knowledge that you will multiply our investments,
and be with us all the ways. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

7

William Kethe, 1561

Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992

Ps. 100

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
2 Know that there is one God, in - deed, who
3 En - ter the sa - cred gates with praise, with
4 Pro - claim a - gain that God is good, whose

out your faith with cheer - ful voice; De - light in God whose
fash - ions us with - out our aid, Who claims us, gives us
joy ap - proach the tem - ple walls. Ex - tol and bless our
mer - cy is for - ev - er sure, Whose truth at all times

praise you tell, whose pres - ence calls you to re - joice.
all we need, whose ten - der care will nev - er fade.
God al - ways as peo - ple whom the Spir - it calls.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

ANTHEM

Chancel Handbell Choir

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 singing of the hymn.

***HYMN** *We Praise You, O God*

#420

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our moth - ers and fa - thers;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer,

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through life's storm and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our song of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you nev - er will for - sake us,
Our sins now con - fess - ing, we pray for your bless - ing;

we bless your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O God, in life's strug - gles we win.
to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

THE SCRIPTURES

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 NT page 205

Matthew 25: 14-30 NT page 28

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

MORNING PRAYERS

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

OFFERTORY *For the Beauty of the Earth*

– J. Rutter
Senior Choir

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Oh, Generous One, here is it – our treasure – returning to you what you have given to us. Bless and sanctify it, we pray, that it may multiply and increase in every way, through your love and promise. May we grow in confidence in the way we choose to use your gifts of money, time, and trust in us so that our actions shine with the grace of God. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN *Now Thank We All Our God*

#419
see next page

*BENEDICTION

*SEVENFOLD AMEN

#814

POSTLUDE *Toccata on Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Please be seated.

– M. Burkhardt



FELLOWSHIP

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

Nun danket alle Gott

(Now Thank We All Our God)

Sir. 50:20–24; 39:35; Ps. 67

Martin Rinkart, 1647; transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.

1 Nun dank - et al - le Gott, mit Herz - en, Mund und Händ - en,
 1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
 2 O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God our Mak - er now be giv - en,

der gro - sse Ding - e tut an uns und al - len End - en;
 Who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es,
 With ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
 To Christ, and Spir - it, too, our help in high - est heav - en,

der uns von Mut - ter - leib und Kind - es - bein - en an
 Who, from our par - ents' arms, has blessed us on our way
 And keep us still in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 The one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a - dore,

un - zäh - lig viel zu gut bis hier-her hat ge - tan.
 With count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 And free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 For thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

The flowers on the altar are in honor and memory of my parents John and Olive Derr by Sandra Trout.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 15 at 8:30 AM, 116 at 10:30 AM, and 44 online.



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

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

Serving Today: November 19

Scripture Reader: Marc Kline
Deacons: Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher
Elder: Tyler L. York
Greeters: Rachel and Tom Ford
Felecia Bishop
Welcome: Holly Davis
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Larry Martin
Jeff Baker
Nursery: Stephanie Fisher
Fellowship: Emily Button Kambic
Susan Kulp, David Howard

Serving Next Week: November 26

Linda Coyle
Betsy Selby, Jim Brittain
Peter Brehm
Kathy and Niel Jefferson
Cliff Barr
Jeanellen Kallevang
Larry Martin, Kelly Esslinger
Jeff Schaeberle
Catie Schaeberle
Susan Kulp, David Howard

Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC



ONLINE

Go to erucc.org/give
or Scan this Code



ENVELOPE

Cash and
Checks made out to
Evangelical Reformed UCC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Next Week: Reign of Christ Sunday | Climate in the Pulpit

Genesis 1:26-31 | Psalm 8: 1, 2-9 | Matthew 7: 7-12

The reign of God, observed on this Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday. We will remember our commitments as a Creation Justice Church during worship where The Rev. Gerald Fuss will be preaching. 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:

Katharine Alley
Claire Kershner
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)

**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

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.

TUESDAY EVENING YOGA

Community Room

7:00 PM

Join your ERUCC friends for our drop-in Tuesday night yoga class! The class will not meet November 21 and will have its final class of 2023 on November 28. Classes will resume in 2024 on January 16. 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.

WEDNESDAY EVENING – LET’S STUDY THE BIBLE

with The Rev. John Shillingburg

Wednesdays through December 20 North Room / Zoom

7:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERwedstudy

Meeting ID: 892 1764 4500

Passcode: 848933

Like the Sunday morning class, this new evening class offers an opportunity to read and discuss the scriptures, looking at them in their original context, considering when and by whom they were written, and how they have been interpreted through the centuries. All you need is a Bible; no prior knowledge is necessary.

We are currently studying the Prologue in Genesis (chapters 1-11), the origin stories of the Hebrew Scriptures—creation, Adam and Eve in Garden, Noah and the flood, and the Tower of Babel.

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

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 to sign up for a date and time to record in the sanctuary with Jenna Duranko and Pastor Kirstin.

MULTIFAITH COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tuesday, November 21

Asbury UMC, 101 W All Saints St

7:30 PM

Sponsored by Frederick Interfaith and FAMA (Frederick Area Ministerial Association), this special service hosted by Asbury United Methodist Church will include prayers of Thanksgiving by a diversity of faiths.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

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 or talk with Peter Brehm.

LEND SHIP A HELPING HAND THIS SEASON

November 26 – December 31

SHIP, the Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership, provides critical resources and urgent services to the hundreds of Frederick County youth experiencing homelessness each year. This season, the Mission & Social Action Committee invites everyone to lend SHIP a helping hand by dropping off critically needed, new, FULL-SIZED hygiene supplies in the bin located in the upper lobby (4th floor).

Bathing Items

Shampoo
Conditioner
Body Wash
Face Wash
Shaving Cream

Hair Care Items

Hair Brushes
Hair Ties
Hair Accessories
Ethnic Hair Care
Products

Dental Items

Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Mouthwash
Dental Floss
Chap Stick

Other

Deodorant
Lotion
Face Wipes
Pod Laundry
Detergent
Feminine Hygiene
Products
Toilet Paper
Q-Tips
Band-Aids
First-Aid Items

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, November 28

North Room / Zoom

7:00 PM

Zoom: 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 or Angela at angela2cats@yahoo.com.

3rd ANNUAL COOKIE SWAP

Sunday, December 3

North Room

12:00 PM

Celebrate the sweet treats of the season at ERUCC's 3rd 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 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.

CHIMES LEARNING AND SERVICE GROUP

Thursday, December 7

Red Horse Inn

11:30 AM

The Chimes Learning and Service Group will meet for lunch on December 7 at 11:30 AM at the Red Horse Inn on the Golden Mile. Reservations are required, please email Sue Pinner, pinbenco@gmail.com, no later than December 4.

COCOA OUTREACH AT KRIS KRINGLE PROCESSION

Friday, December 8

6:00 – 9:00 PM

As we prepare for our 2nd annual cocoa hospitality and outreach before and after the Kris Kringle Procession, we could use your help! Donations of large containers of hot chocolate mix, candy canes, and mini marshmallows are needed for this fun evening.

Sign up to donate: bit.ly/cocoa1208.

As our children invite neighbors for a cup of hot chocolate, adult helpers make sure hot water is full, cocoa is in cups, and invitations are shared to our Christmas Eve services and the Historic Houses of Worship Candlelight Tour. Guiding our young people as they share welcome is a fun and important task of its own. We will walk down to the corner to see the parade and then come back to clean up for the night!

LATE NIGHT DESSERTS

Friday, December 8

Brewer's Alley

9:00 PM

We are hosting a “Younger” Adult gathering post-Kris Kringle Parade. Whether or not you are able to volunteer serving Cocoa earlier that night, join us at Brewers Alley at 9 PM! Buy your own food and drinks, but enjoy dessert gifted from ERUCC with the hopes of helping us form small group community! RSVP to Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org.

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. We are the church, and everyone's participation is encouraged.

A light lunch will be served. You are invited to bring a dessert to share.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, December 15

Community Room

5:00 – 9:00 PM

Enjoy a night out while members of the ERUCC Youth Group care for your children! Donations toward Youth mission trips and retreat are welcome.

Our time will include a meal, Pageant practice, games, crafts, and a Christmas Dance Party! Feel free to wear your Christmas pjs! We will stay inside for the evening. Please RSVP by emailing Pastor Kirstin or signing up at Fellowship.

Parents/guardians must complete an annual registration so that we have emergency contacts, allergies, etc. available. Email Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org, or the church office, erucc@erucc.org, for a copy to complete.

FRANKLINTON CENTER WORK TRIP

January 13 – 15, 2024

Open to adults and youth (6th – 12th grade)



Please let Pastor Kirstin know if you are interested in going on our annual work trip to Franklinton Center at Bricks over the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. weekend! We will leave early on Saturday, January 13 and return later in the day on Monday, January 15 (time to be determined as we choose projects).

To learn more, attend an interest meeting in the Community Room on Sunday, December 17 at 9 AM or immediately following the 10:30 AM worship service.

The Franklinton Center at Bricks is a conference, retreat, and educational facility in eastern North Carolina with a focus on justice advocacy and leadership development. Franklinton Center is an historic center of transformation where issues affecting the marginalized, the oppressed, and the poor are addressed.

A former plantation, Franklinton Center traces its beginnings to the founding of Franklinton Christian College in 1871 and the Congregationalist Bricks School in 1895. A merger of those two schools in the 1950's formed Franklinton Center at Bricks. The Center is related to the United Church of Christ and is managed by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries.

As with all church buildings, the more work a volunteer group can provide to maintain facilities, the more funds that are available for programs and meeting the direct needs of people.

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.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS

Our Christmas Pageant, *A Very Special Child*, is inspired by the stories in Luke 1-3. We need 11 characters and singers as well as some helpers with props. Rehearsals will take place Sundays after worship beginning November 19 in the Liz Coffey Room. Rehearsals on November 26, December 3, and December 10 will be in the Sanctuary. We will also practice on Friday, December 15 during the Youth Babysitting Night.

Pageant participants will gather on Sunday, December 17 at 5:00 PM for dinner in the Community Room, will perform in the Sanctuary at 6:00 PM, and celebrate afterward with a cookie and milk reception. Contact Ms. Trish or Ms. Kelly with questions or for more information.

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.

Sunday, December 3

Community Room

5:30 – 7:00 PM

Dress-up dinner!

Friday, December 15

Community Room

5:00 – 9:00 PM

Babysitting for Parent's Night Out. This is a fundraiser for youth mission trips and retreat.

Advent and Christmastide at ERUCC

HOW DOES A WEARY WORLD REJOICE?



How does a
weary world
rejoice? An Advent series in
Luke's Gospel

Christ was born into a weary world. King Herod ruled the land with a legacy of ruthlessness. The Romans treated the people of Israel with contempt, imposing harsh taxes and land seizures that forced many into subsistence farming. Poverty and destitution

were pervasive. And yet, Christ was born, bringing good news of great joy for all people.

As Advent comes again to a weary world, we ask, “How does a weary world rejoice?” From the opening chapters of Luke’s Gospel, we have found a few answers: we acknowledge our weariness, we find joy in connection, we allow ourselves to be amazed, we sing stories of hope, we make room, we root ourselves in ritual, and most importantly, we trust our belovedness. In the parallel birth stories of Jesus and John, joy arrives—despite trepidation, fear, or grief. In these stories, we find rhythms for rejoicing. As we move through our series, we hope to create space for acknowledging the weariness of our world while celebrating God’s closeness with great joy.

And so, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy. We will seek a “thrill of hope” in our hurting world. We will welcome joy—even if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1). In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Beginning with the first week of Advent, this daily devotional is designed to help you practice joy in a weary world. Each week offers art, reflections, poetry, and hymns. Journey through these pages at your own pace. The devotional will be available in the rear of the Main Sanctuary starting Sunday, November 26 in preparation of the First Sunday of Advent on December 3, or request a copy through the church office at erucc@erucc.org.

LET'S TALK – EXPLORING ADVENT THROUGH THE LENS OF MATTHEW

Sundays, December 3, 10, and 17 **Community Room**

9:30 – 10:15 AM



Long before the genealogical resources of 23andme, myheritage, and ancestry.com, the Gospel According to Matthew lays out a genealogical theology. Just as the Bible's theological history lays foundations for the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses, David, and the prophets, Matthew's genealogical theology lays foundations for the story of Jesus. But what does this genealogy say to us? Join Carolyn Roberts as we explore one of the least-read texts of the Advent season: the genealogy of Jesus as found in Matthew 1.1-17.

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20 Sanctuary

12:00 PM

Join us in a brief mid-week Advent service as we reflect on the themes of *An Unlikely Advent* by Rachel Billups, which takes a deeper dive into contemplating the extraordinary people of the Christmas Story. Then we will make a cozy journey to the Community Room to share a meal of soup and bread and reflect on some of our worship themes.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 17

Sanctuary

6:00 PM

Come one, come all to our annual Christmas Pageant! A Very Special Child tells the Christmas story from the book of Luke. It begins with Elizabeth and Zechariah, follows the interwoven birth stories of Jesus and John, and concludes with Jesus' baptism.

Plan to come enjoy a sweet performance, join in singing classic Christmas Carols, and partake in a brief cookies and milk reception afterwards in the Community Room. Donations can be brought that day to contribute to SHIP, (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership) and boxes of birthday cake mixes can be brought to donate to the family shelter.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 21

Sanctuary

7:30 PM

Although Advent is a joyful season for so many, we also know that this time of year can be drenched in fatigue, grief, and loneliness. We will gather as a community to honor that reality and draw near to God to allow space for healing and prayer. Bring your grief. Bring your weariness. Bring your fatigue. May you find peace in your journey.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sanctuary

Sunday, December 24

Children's Service, 5:30 PM

Candlelight & Carol Service, 7:30 PM

Communion & Candlelight Service, 10:30 PM

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. Outside of office hours, you may contact Nancy Manthey, pastoral care coordinator, at (240) 629-8030.

USE YOUR CREATIVITY WITH THE WORSHIP DESIGN TEAM

The Worship Design Team is searching for helpers as we go forward with worship enhancements and thought-provoking displays. We'd like to compile a list of folks who like to design, sew, quilt, paint, craft and even climb on ladders if necessary. This would be working on an "as needed" basis, not attending committee meetings, etc. Some projects might be things that can be done at home. Some might be done with others at the church. If you would be interested in sharing your skills, or perhaps broadening them, please contact any member of the Worship and Design committee: Ave Barr, Pat Condo, Betsy Selby, Nancy Jones, and Mark Ulrich.

NOTES OF GRATITUDE

Dear ERUCC Congregation,

We have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support from our amazing church community. The prayers leading up to my delivery really helped and to know all of you were thinking of us meant more than you'll ever know. We can't wait for you to meet our sweet girl!

Love, Lois, Jay and Virginia Gaul

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, kindness, visits, and cards. Thank you!

Barbara Rhoads

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING

The Church Office will be closed November 23 and 24 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Additionally, our church administrator will be out of the office November 27 – December 1. Please be patient as volunteers help in the office. During this time, if you need *urgent* church assistance, please contact Nancy Manthey for pastoral care at (240) 629-8030 or for all other concerns, Peter Brehm, pbrehm@comcast.net, (240) 454-1364.

Sunday Morning Schedule

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



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.

Poinsettias



We will be ordering poinsettias from Frederick High School this year. All funds will benefit the horticultural program and Frederick High FFA Chapter. Each plant will have 4-6 blooms and will cost \$10. Plants will be placed on the chancel in the Sanctuary.

To order, please fill out the form and return with payment to the Church Office by December 10.

Plants can be picked up after the Christmas Eve Services; however, we would appreciate having some left in our buildings for the Candlelight Historic Houses of Worship Tour on Tuesday, December 26.

Donor Name(s): _____

I would like to place _____ poinsettias in the church for Christmas.

Enclosed is \$_____ (\$10 per plant).

If you wish for your poinsettias to be listed in memory of, in honor of, or placed by the donor, please indicate which and PRINT the names below.

In memory of:

In honor of:

Placed by:

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 19, 2023

Matthew 25:14-30

Extravagant Opportunity *Thanksgiving Sunday*

What if Jesus were telling this story now? Might it sound a little like this?

So, the reign of God is like a businesswoman, preparing to leave for the airport on a business trip, who called three of her employees into the conference office. The employees sat somewhat nervously around the conference table, not sure what to expect. The businesswoman arrived in a hurry and took her customary place at the head of the table. Only then did they notice the large box that sat in front of her on the table.

Then, one by one, she pulled three items out of the box. To the first employee, she gave a small but powerful video camera. That employee immediately left the conference room and began conducting interviews with her coworkers, asking them what had brought them to work at that company. She was amazed about what she learned about people she worked with every day. This employee uploaded the videos onto social media and a couple of them even went viral.

To the second employee, the boss gave a compact typewriter in a carrying case. The next day, during lunch, he offered to type a poem about any subject his coworkers might choose. One by one, his coworkers told him stories about the people they loved, the animals that made them laugh, the mountains that inspired them. And this second employee wrote poems for them all. They shared the poems with each other, delighted to get to know each other in this new way.

To the third employee, the businesswoman gave a pencil. But the third employee didn't know what to do. She stayed in her office alone many nights, just looking at that pencil and wondering what the boss could have meant by giving her such a small and worthless gift.

When the boss came back, she praised the social media campaign of the first employee and thanked the second employee for the increase in morale and sense of comradeship in the office. But with the third employee, who, with a sheepish expression, tried to give her back the pencil, the boss was visibly disappointed. "There are so many ways you could have used this tool, but you chose to do nothing. This is a place for people to take risks and express their creativity, but you have twiddled your thumbs. Next time, the gift will go to someone else altogether."



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