



Reigning
Compassion

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
Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music* | Tyler L. York ~ *Office Administrator* ~ tyork@erucc.org
Jaci Clayton ~ *Facilities Manager* ~ 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*

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 26, 2023

Reign of Christ Sunday

10:30 AM

The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal

*All who are able may stand

CLIMATE IN THE PULPIT SUNDAY

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATION CENTERING PRAYER

The Coen Family

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 96, selected verses, Contemporary English Version)

Sing a new song to the LORD!

Everyone on this earth, sing praises to the LORD...

“The LORD is wonderful and does marvelous things!

The LORD is great and deserves our greatest praise!

Tell the heavens and the earth to be glad and celebrate! Command the ocean to roar with all its creatures and the fields to rejoice with all their crops.

Then every tree in the forest will sing joyful songs to the LORD.

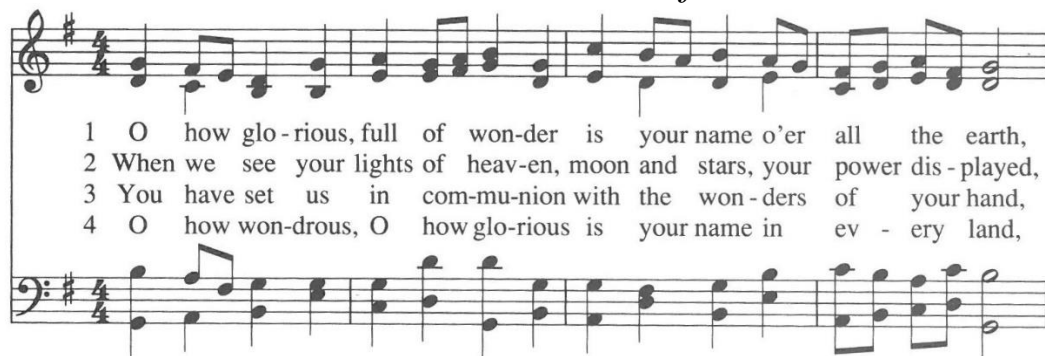
***OPENING PRAYER**

– Arnold Kenseth, NCH, 826

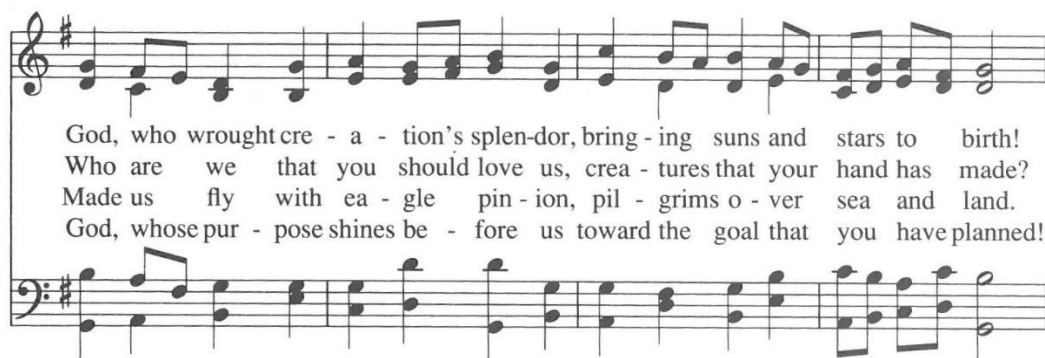
Come, O Creator, O Immensity of Love, O Eternity of mercy. Come, and be with us and in us and beside us and over us. Be as hands upon us, and fashion us for shining. Be as warmth with us and fire for caring. Be as strength beside us, and shape our lives for healing. Abide in our prayers, the spoken and the unspoken, and make you Word come true in our flesh; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen

OPENING HYMN *Oh How Glorious, Full of Wonder

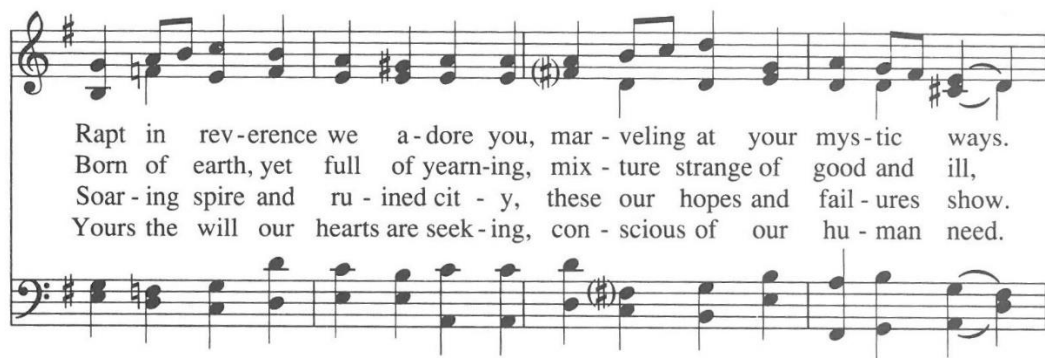
#558



1 O how glo - rious, full of won - der is your name o'er all the earth,
2 When we see your lights of heav - en, moon and stars, your power dis - played,
3 You have set us in com - mu - nion with the won - ders of your hand,
4 O how won - drous, O how glo - rious is your name in ev - ery land,



God, who wrought cre - a - tion's splen - dor, bring - ing suns and stars to birth!
Who are we that you should love us, crea - tures that your hand has made?
Made us fly with ea - gle pin - ion, pil - grims o - ver sea and land.
God, whose pur - pose shines be - fore us toward the goal that you have planned!



Rapt in rev - erence we a - dore you, mar - veling at your mys - tic ways.
Born of earth, yet full of yearn - ing, mix - ture strange of good and ill,
Soar - ing spire and ru - ined cit - y, these our hopes and fail - ures show.
Yours the will our hearts are seek - ing, con - scious of our hu - man need.



Hum - bly now we bow be - fore you, lift - ing up our hearts in praise.
From your ways so of - ten turn - ing, yet your love does seek us still.
Teach us more of hu - man pit - y, that we in your im - age grow.
Spir - it in our spir - it speak - ing, make us yours, O God, in - deed.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us now examine ourselves in the presence of God, humbly confessing our sins, weaknesses, and unmet possibilities--by opening our hearts to God's gracious, healing, forgiving, and empowering presence.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Living God, you call us to be good stewards of this earthly home, strengthen us to care for your creation. Forgive us when, through our greed and indifference, we abuse its beauty and damage its potential for renewal. Empower us, through your Spirit to so nurture and love the world, that all creation may sing to your glory. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God our Creator gives us life, grace, and newness of life to live in the light of God's love, compassion, and ways of justice and peace demonstrated for us through Jesus Christ, the Living Word. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

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** *Touch the Earth Lightly*

#569

see next page

THE SCRIPTURES

Genesis 1:26-31 OT page 1

Psalms 8: 1-9 OT page 492

Matthew 7: 7-12 NT page 7

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
 * 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

**The second verse only may be sung in A minor, omitting the sharps except where indicated in parentheses.*

nour-ish the life of the world in our care:
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

Gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,
 We who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—
 Health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
 Teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

SERMON

The Rev. Gerald D. Fuss

MORNING PRAYERS

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

Having received life through the generosity of God and the hope that Christ brings, let us give thankfully of our gifts this day and every day.

OFFERTORY *Care for Creation*

– P. Choplin
Senior Choir

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received: accept, we pray, this offering of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given; so follow it with your blessing that it and we may promote peace and goodwill among all people and advance the realm of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit*

#567
see next page

***BENEDICTION**

***SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

POSTLUDE

Please be seated.



1 Stars and plan - ets flung in or - bit, gal - ax - ies that
 2 Skies a - dorned with sun - set splen - dor, si - lent peaks in
 3 Life in won - drous, wild pro - fu - sion, seed and fruit, each
 4 Hu - man - kind, earth's deep - est mys - tery, born of dust but

swirl through space, Pow - ers hid with - in the at - om,
 calm re - pose, Gold - en fields a - wait - ing har - vest,
 flower and tree, Beast and fish and swarm - ing in - sect,
 touched by grace, Torn a - part by tongue and col - or,

cells that form an in - fant's face: These, O God, in
 foam - ing surf and fra - grant rose: Earth, its boun - ty
 soar - ing bird, re - joic - ing, free: These, your crea - tures,
 yet a sin - gle, striv - ing race: We, in whom you

si - lence praise you; by your wis - dom they are made.
 clothed with beau - ty, ech - oes all cre - a - tion's praise.
 join in cho - rus, prais - ing you in word - less song.
 trace your im - age, add our words to na - ture's song.

Rev. Gerald D. “Jerry” Fuss, BA, Catawba College, 1970, and M. Div., Yale Divinity School, 1973, was ordained as a minister of the UCC in 1973. He served three UCC congregations in the Central Atlantic Conference and also as Chaplain at Hoffman Homes for Youth in his full-time ministry. He retired in 2011, having served Emmanuel (Baust) UCC, Westminster, MD. for 16 years. The Fusses lived in Carroll County for 40 years. Jerry and his wife Libby have two adult sons and daughters-in-law and two granddaughters. They currently live in a cottage at Homewood Retirement Center at Frederick. He has chaired and worked with the Environmental Awareness Committee at Homewood since 2018. Jerry is active there advocating for environmental stewardship, sustainable practices and educational programs and is a member of the Multi-Faith Alliance of Climate Stewards of Frederick.

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.

The flowers on the altar this morning are in loving memory of John Deckenback.

The yellow rose is presented in memory of M. Amos Martin by Larry and Sedonia Martin.

Attendance Last Sunday: 14 at 8:30 AM, 131 at 10:30 AM, and 39 online.



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

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

Serving Today: November 26

Scripture Reader: Linda Coyle
Deacons: Betsy Selby, Jim Brittain
Elder: Peter Brehm
Greeters: Kathy and Niel Jefferson
Cliff Barr
Welcome: Jeanellen Kallevang
Audio/Visual: Larry Martin, Kelly Esslinger
Jeff Schaeberle
Nursery: Catie Schaeberle
Fellowship: Laura Rhoderick
Susan Kulp, David Howard

Serving Next Week: December 3

Patti Patterson
Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick
Eric Weakly
Anne Hoffmann, Danielle Carbone
Ave Barr
Julie Clark, Marj Berkheimer
Larry Martin, Kelly Esslinger
Jeff Baker

Green Team

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: First Sunday of Advent

We acknowledge our weariness

Luke 1:1-23 | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

As Advent begins, we start by acknowledging the weariness, grief, rage, and hopelessness we carry—and we also affirm that we are made for joy. Joy is designed to live in a full house of other emotions. We start the season with Zechariah and Elizabeth; they have battled infertility and have lived many years steadfast in their faith. Perhaps they feel the weight of hopes and dreams unattained. The angel comes to Zechariah with promise of good news, but Zechariah can't fully receive it, and he is cast into silence for the duration of Elizabeth's pregnancy. Sometimes weariness can harden us and prevent us from living fully. We've had hard journeys. Grief has left a scar on us. This is how we show up to Advent. Let us acknowledge the ways we, too, are hardened by disbelief. Like the psalmist, let us ask, "how long?" and plead for restoration.

The Rev. John Shillingburg will be preaching. The Senior Choir will be singing, and the Cambridge Bell Choir will offer special music. Communion will be shared at the chancel rail.

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:

Kathy Gourlie
Barba Speak
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)

Today at ERUCC

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE with Revs. John and Rebecca Shillingburg

Sundays

North Room / Zoom

9:00 – 10:15 AM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERSunstudy

Meeting ID: 893 8670 5888

Passcode: 327128

We are studying the foundational stories of the Old Testament, the big stories in the order they occurred. No prior experience needed; just bring your Bible.

We are now in the stories about David, Israel's ideal king. Except for an ideal king, David was pretty ruthless at times and a not-very-good parent. What's with that?

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

9:30 – 10:10 AM

We have two classrooms for **Children's Sunday School**. Our Pre-K – 2nd Grade class meets in the Liz Coffey Room and our 3rd – 5th Grade class meets in the Thomas Room.

Our **Youth Sunday School** class for 6th – 12th Grade meets in the Clapp Conference Room in the Parish House Church Offices from 9:30 – 10:20 AM.

LET'S TALK

Community Room

9:30 – 10:15 AM

Sunday, November 26: *The Creation* by Joseph Haydn



David Howard, musician and classical music scholar, will lead three sessions on *The Creation* by Joseph Haydn. Join us in the far corner of the Community Room for these three special weeks.

The Creation by Joseph Haydn is an oratorio depicting and celebrating the creation of the world and is based on three sources - Genesis, the book of Psalms, and Milton's "Paradise Lost". In class we will listen to portions of this 4-hour work and experience how Haydn, writing for orchestra, chorus, and soloists, skillfully brings to life through music, texts we have long held sacred.

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.



This Week at ERUCC

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with 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 our drop-in Tuesday night yoga class! The final class of 2023 is November 28. Classes will resume in 2024 on January 16. You will need to bring yoga mat, blocks if used, and a water bottle. Each class is \$10. Questions? Contact Renae, rdkline15@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE with 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 (ch. 1-11), the origin stories of the Hebrew Scriptures—creation, Adam and Eve in Garden, Noah and the flood, and the Tower of Babel.

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. 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.

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.

LEND SHIP A HELPING HAND THIS SEASON

through 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, Chapstick

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

COLLECTING FOR THE MITTEN PROJECT

through December 31

In 2017, Federated Charities launched The Mitten Project by inviting the community to participate in a small action to reach out in kindness during the cold, winter months. Thousands of pairs of mittens (plus scarves, gloves, jackets and socks) have been made available to anyone who needs them in the time since.

Bring your donations of NEW mittens, gloves, scarves, warm socks, and coats to the donation box located in our upper lobby to contribute to our community.

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.

SAFE CHURCH TRAININGS

Sunday, December 3

Thomas Room

12:00 – 2:00 PM

Monday, December 4

Zoom

7:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/safe1204

Meeting ID: 825 7552 9900

Passcode: 302452

It is that time of year to offer our Safe Church trainings. If you are setting a goal for yourself to volunteer with our children or youth headed into 2024, then this training is for you! Choose Sunday, December 3 in the Thomas Room (feel free to bring a lunch!) or join us for the same training on Monday, December 4 on Zoom. Volunteers will need to complete an application and a background check in addition to attending the training. Training is renewed every 2 years and background checks are renewed every 3 years. Anyone attending Franklinton must have a background check completed.

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 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.

HELP WITH CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF HISTORIC HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Tuesday, December 26

Main Building

various times

The beloved Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship returns this holiday season in Downtown Frederick. This special open house celebrates Frederick's tradition of religious diversity, local history, and the holiday season on Tuesday, December 26, 2023 from 4 PM-9 PM. This is Frederick's most popular church tour and is a great opportunity to step inside some of its most beautiful buildings.

We will be opening our main building at 15 West Church Street to the public for this Candlelight Tour. We will be offering refreshments and our wonderful hospitality.

Interested in volunteering at this event? Sign up at <https://bit.ly/ertour1226>.

Questions? Contact Julie Clark, Jclarkad@yahoo.com.

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.

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 in the Sanctuary on November 26, December 3, and December 10. 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 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.

MID-WEEK FAMILY ADVENT DINNER AND ACTIVITY

Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20 Community Room/Thomas Room 5:00 – 6:30 PM

This year Advent has only three weeks! Each Wednesday evening of Advent, we will share a light dinner at 5 PM in the Community Room, then begin our program around 5:30 PM in the Thomas Room. Dress to be comfortable sitting on the floor or crafting at a table.

RSVP to Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org, or sign up at Fellowship. When you RSVP please note if you will be joining for dinner too, YUM! While Pastor Kirstin is still working out the details for the activities on December 6 and 13, on December 20 we will leave the building to go Christmas caroling!

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.

NOTE ABOUT CHURCH OFFICE

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 , Sanctuary

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:

November 26, 2023

Matthew 25:31-46

Reigning Compassion
United Black Christians Anniversary

Today we celebrate the Anniversary of the United Black Christians (UBC) group of the United Church of Christ. From the ucc.org website: United Black Christians represents lay and clergy persons who faithfully minister in more than 278 predominantly African American congregations of the United Church of Christ and those African American members in congregations that are not predominantly African American.

UBC seeks to preserve our tradition as a people of faith and hope. UBC recognizes that it is the Black Church that has meant survival for African Americans on these shores.

UBC affirms that it is the Black Church that will assure our continued growth, development, endurance and ultimate liberation.

UBC affirms that each of us has gifts to offer and is entitled to the full rights and privileges of the United Church of Christ.

United Black Christians (UBC) is an officially recognized special interest group of the United Church of Christ (UCC), providing voice and vision for more than 70,000 African Americans.

United Black Christians seeks to:

Provide voice for the African American members of the United Church of Christ

To strengthen Black churches in the UCC

To train and nurture leaders of our churches for Gospel inspired service to the Black community

To provide relevant ministry for our youth and young adults

To empower the laity for present day ministry

To create ecumenical and worldwide partnership for service and evangelism

To be active advocates for liberation and racial justice at home and abroad

To provide spiritual nurture for our members

To enhance clergy-lay ministry partnership

To provide support to African American Seminarians

You can learn more about United Black Christians at their website: https://www.ucc.org/domestic-policy/ourfaithourvote_about/about-us_united-black-christians/

