Partners *in* Service

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

For Children: We have trained nursery staff (paid nursery attendant as well as adult volunteers) for ages 0-4. The nursery is located on the first floor outside of the Community Room (accessible by the stairs from the Church Street entrance or via the elevator). Children ages 5 and above are invited to stay and worship with their families. Children's programs, books, and crayons are 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 worshiping 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 Hueting

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

November 5, 2023 Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 am

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

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATION CENTERING PRAYER Will and Cathie Duncan

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

When we stand at the edge of fear and worry,
God invites us to step into the waters of faith and trust.
When we stand at the edge of the world's pain and need,
Jesus invites us to step into the land of humble service.
When we stand at the edge of our hunger and thirst:
the Spirit invites us to sit at the table of grace.

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of all ages: we thank you for the faithful witness of your apostles, prophets, and martyrs throughout your church's history and continuing in the world even today. Through their witness, we see and hear your truth. We bless you for all who bless your name through their writing, speaking, art, and music. Through their work, we glimpse your beauty. We praise you for all who serve you without recognition or honor, offering encouragement to the lonely, the sick, and the fearful. Through their lives, we see your faithfulness and sense your comfort.

Now, we pray that you will use us to reflect the glory we see in Christ. May the voices of all your saints, made holy in Christ, swell in joyous praise to you, the giver of all good gifts, through Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *For All the Saints* #299

see next page

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

God turns the desert into pools of water and guides those who have gone astray. Let us confess to God the depth of our need.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Source of Grace, we confess that we can sometimes be indecisive, wavering, and even suspicious concerning you. Yet, you are loving toward us even when we are not. We know you are trustworthy, so we yield our doubts to you. You are persistent in extending grace toward us because your compassion is ever-expanding. Thank you for this moment of transformation. We give you thanks for wholeness. Amen.

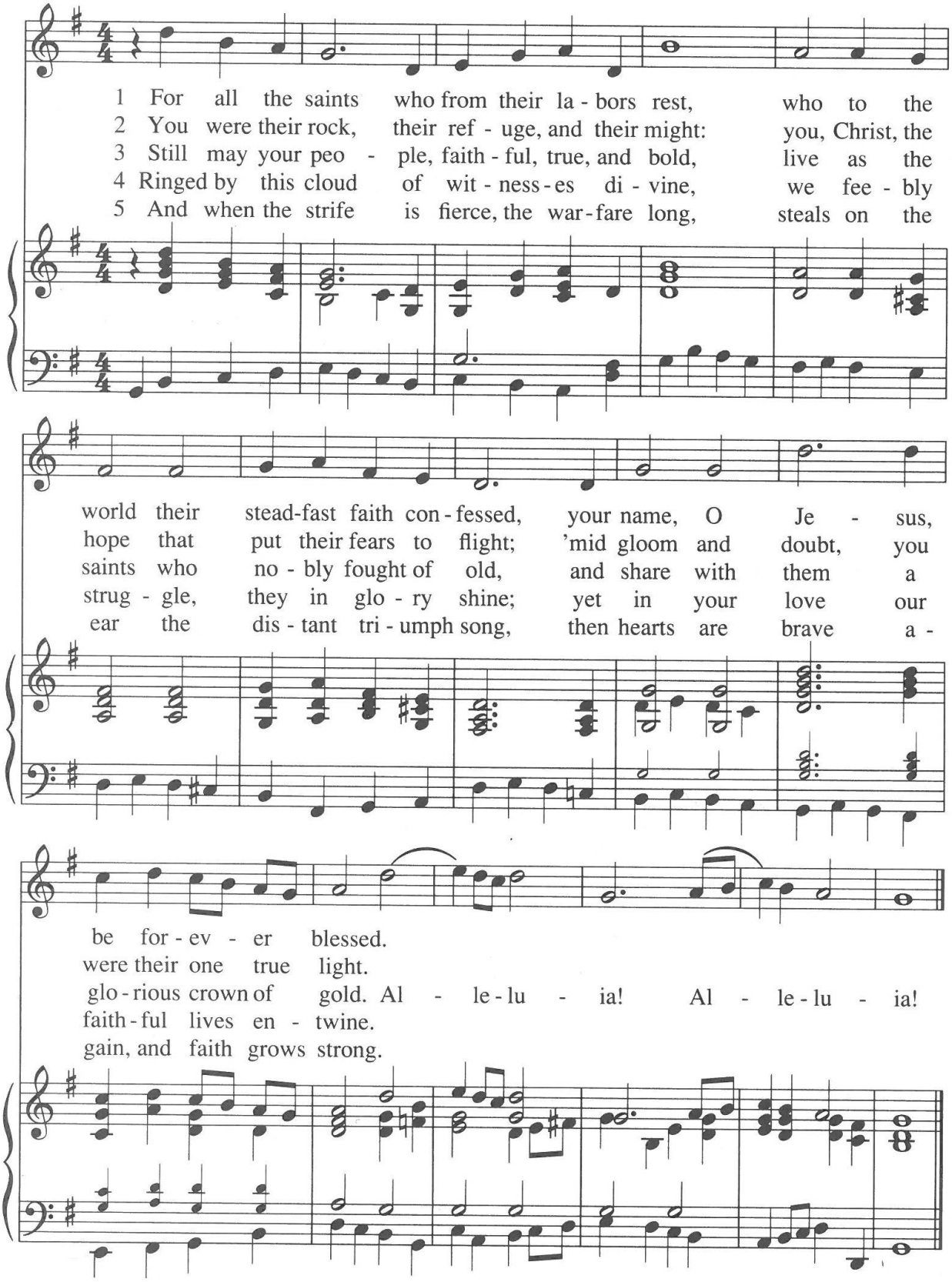
***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God is unwavering in mercy, and because we come from God, we know God’s grace is sufficient no matter our condition. Grace and mercy are extensions of God’s steadfast love and are present for us and in us. Amen.

299 For All the Saints

Heb. 12:1

William W. How, 1864; alt.



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 ive 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 of all ages are invited to participate in the service today, including in the Sacrament of Communion. Today, children may remain on the carpet to decorate collection boxes we will use to receive donations for the shelter programs of the Religious Coalition. A book nook with children's programs, books, crayons, and activities is also available in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table.

Junior Church for children ages 5 through 5th grade will resume next week.

THE SCRIPTURES

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 OT page 559
Joshua 3:7-17 OT page 195

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg

MORNING PRAYERS

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

OFFERTORY *In the Sweet By and By* – J.P. Webster, arr. C.F. Brown
Senior Choir

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Divine One, receive our gifts in the love we give them. Thank you for blessing us with gifts to share, so the needs of your people can be met. May what we give be used for wholeness for all. Amen.

– LITANY FOR ALL SAINTS DAY –

All Saints Day gives us an opportunity to celebrate and remember those in our community who have gone before us.

Their presence in our community has shaped our work, life, character, and story.
We remember those whose faithful witness proclaims the gospel and commandments of Jesus Christ in words loud and soft, in actions great and small.

We gather before you, God, and remember the saints who have told your stories of your people and witnessed to their faith in times gone by.

We remember those who died in the past year:
(a bell will chime for each one mentioned)

For all their gifts, great and small, we give thanks. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen!

Following this time of remembrance, you are invited to come forward and light a candle as you remember a loved one this day. Candles can be lit from the Christ candle in the middle of the table. It has been said that it is better to light one candle than it is to curse the darkness. Yet a candle burning in the night can bring us comfort, peace and even hope. May the light of the candles remind us that even though our loved ones are no longer present with us in body, the life of their spirit has not been extinguished.

– SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –

INVITATION

The Apostle Paul taught us that God's enduring love binds us together in community. We are called to live as the body of Christ.
Our faith begins with memory. We come to this table to remember.
Jesus Christ, manna of heaven, is the host of this table.

PRAYER

Eternal God, who has created the universe, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. As we partake of this table, we honor you, everlasting God. We give thanks that you come to us and abide with us.

Come, Holy One, come. Bless this meal; bless this fellowship; bless our lives, that justice and love may be the measure of our common witness. **Amen.**

As we bless and share these gifts, we celebrate the hospitality of Christ's table. All are worthy. All are welcome! Receive the fruits of Spirit, and celebrate the communion of all things. Creator, Christ, and Spirit dance as one. So may it always be.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND LIFTING OF THE CUP

Gathered with his friends, Jesus took bread, broke it and said:
"This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat."
And pouring the wine:
"This is the cup of my covenant. Do this in remembrance of me."
Come, the table is ready.

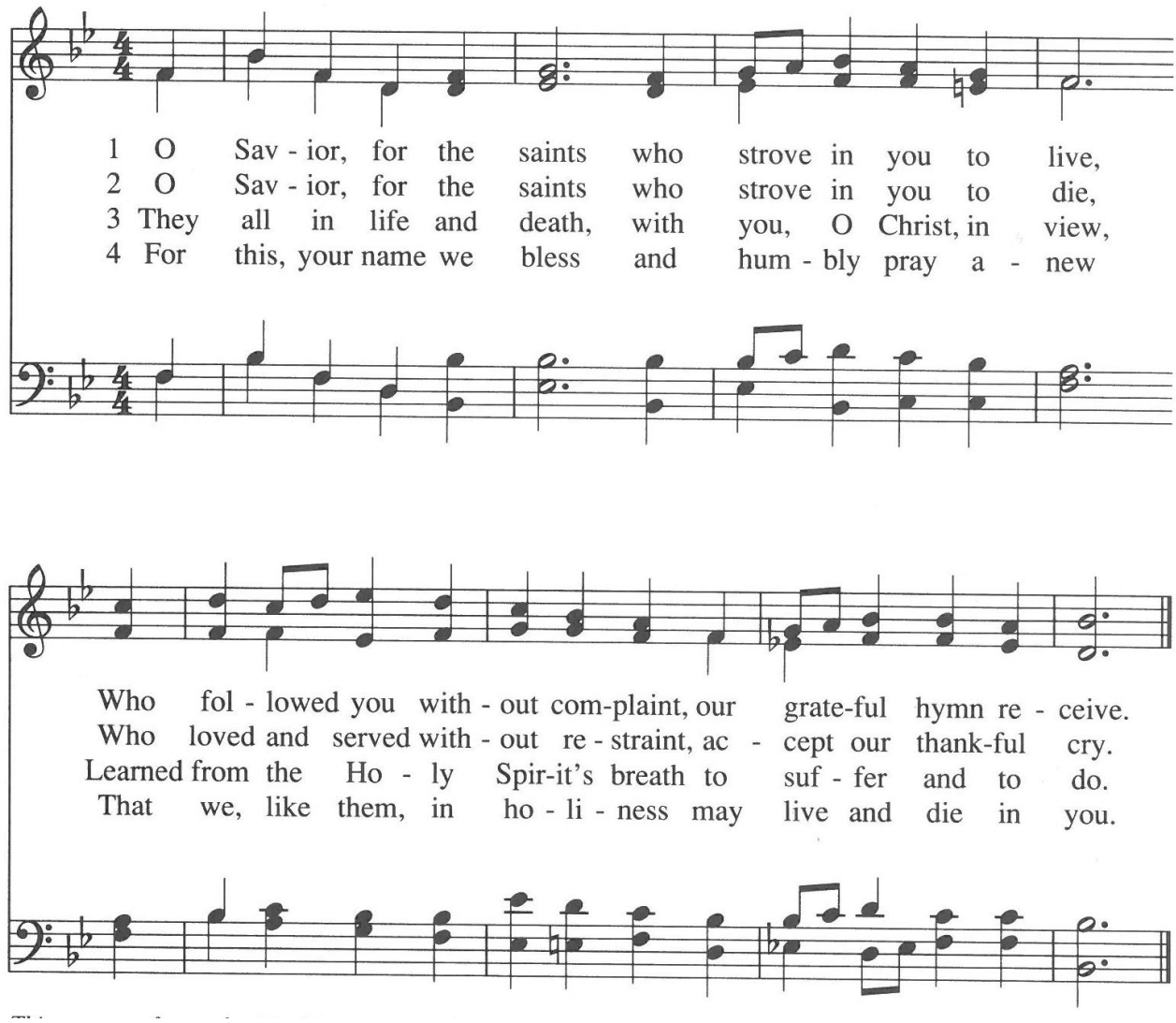
SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

All who desire the Sacrament, including children, are invited to come forward to the chancel rail at the direction of the deacons. You may kneel or stand to receive the elements. Consume the bread and drink from the cup as it is given to you, and hand your empty cup to one of the ushers.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Spirit of Christ, stay with us where we stay, as familiar as our daily bread. Go with us where we go, full of love as the cup that has touched our lips. May we, your eager and sometimes awkward saints, carry in us a communion from which all can share – comfort for loss, courage for speaking, compassion for healing. We give you thanks for both the shelter and the road. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *O Savior, for the Saints* #298



***BENEDICTION**

***SEVENFOLD AMEN** #814

POSTLUDE

Please be seated.

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.

WE REMEMBER

Robert (Bob) Marendt, Jr.
Peggy Lou Githerman
Edwin (Ed) Hoffman
Evelyn Manwiller
Connor Joel Crutchley

Worship Notes: Today's liturgy has been adapted from Worship Design Studio, the UCC Book of Worship, and Seasons of the Spirit. The Call to Worship was written by Robert Blezard. The Prayer of Thanksgiving is from Seasons of the Spirit, 2021.

The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of Dorothy D. and E. Earl Remsberg and Emory E. Remsberg Jr. by Tom and Rachel Ford and Mary Remsberg.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 14 at 8:30 AM, 130 at 10:30 AM, and 56 online.

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

Serving Today: November 5		**Serving Next Week: November 12**
Scripture Reader:	Tyler L. York	Peter Brehm
Deacons:	Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick	Robin A. Brady-Slifer Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Elder:	Ave Barr	Marc Kline
Greeters:	Anne Hoffmann, Ave Barr Danielle Carbone	
Welcome:	Sue Pinner	
Audio/Visual:	Larry Martin, Jeff Schaeberle Kelly Esslinger	Jeff Baker, Jeff Schaeberle Kelly Esslinger
Nursery:	Kate Fromknecht Meredith Neely	Robert Kambic
Fellowship:	Peter Brehm	Peter Brehm, Susan Kulp David Howard

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Next Week: Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 5:18-24 | Matthew 25:1-13

In Matthew 25, Jesus is teaching his disciples and the crowd during his final week in Jerusalem. The chapter contains the final three parables of Jesus' teaching—the 10 bridesmaids, the talents, and the great judgment in which Jesus talks of separating people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. In each parable we're faced with the question "Who are we in the parable? The wise or the foolish bridesmaid, the entrepreneurial or the fearful servant, the sheep or the goat?"

The Rev. John Shillingburg will be preaching this morning. Spirit will be sharing in music leadership this morning.

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:

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 (friends 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

Today at ERUCC

SUNDAY EDUCATION FOR ADULTS
***LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE* with The 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.

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.

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.

Books available for $5.

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.

CHIMES LEARNING AND SERVICE GROUP
Thursday, November 9 Community Room 10:00 AM

Our speaker will be Chris Haugh from Mount Olivet Cemetery.

HELP REFOREST MARYLAND
Saturday, November 11 16683 Creamery Rd, Emmittsburg 9:00 – 11:00 AM

STREAMLINK EDUCATION

Join the Green Team and other volunteers for a Stream-Link Education tree planting event. This activity is good for all ages. Bring work gloves and wear sturdy shoes. Sign up now and bring a friend or your family!

Sign up: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CA4A72EA7FCCF8-streamlink#/

Upcoming at ERUCC

NEW ERUCC CHRISTMAS MUSIC TRADITION

This year, instead of sharing Christmas stories, 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 the first two weeks in November and release a song during each night of Advent. Email Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org, if you want to participate.

LET'S TALK **Community Room** **9:30 – 10:15 AM**
Sundays, November 12, 19, and 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.

FALL PAINTING FUNDRAISER for SUICIDE PREVENTION

Sunday, November 19 **Location TBA** **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

HANGING OF THE GREENS AND ADVENT WREATH MAKING

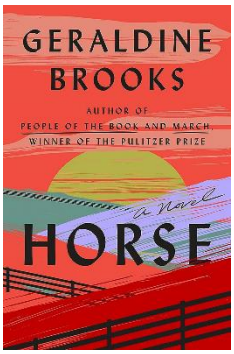
Sunday, November 27 **12:00 – 2:00 pm**

Join us after worship to help prepare the church for Christmas. Many hands make light work, so we have set up a Sign-up Genius to organize ourselves into decorating teams: bit.ly/greens24.

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. And, like the races Lexington runs, this is a fast, exciting, and altogether remarkable read from Pulitzer Prize winning author Geraldine Brooks.

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.

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 2023 ERUCC mission spending plan. A light lunch will be served. We are the church, and everyone's participation is encouraged.

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.

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.

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 12, 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 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!**

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, up until closing time! Our 12:45 PM arrival includes a Keeper Talk at 1:00 PM: Alligator Encounter at Alligator Bayou. An additional $5 per person lets you feed tortoises up until 3:00 PM. Feed fish in the Japanese Koi Pond with special koi food from vending machines: so bring your quarters! 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, 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.

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.

DON'T GET SCAMMED

Imposter scams often begin with an email, text message, or call. The scams may vary, but work the same way ... a scammer pretends to be someone you trust *(like a pastor)* to convince you to send them money or share personal information.

Scammers may ask you to put money on a gift card, wire money, or send cryptocurrency, knowing these types of payments can be hard to reverse.

SLOW DOWN!

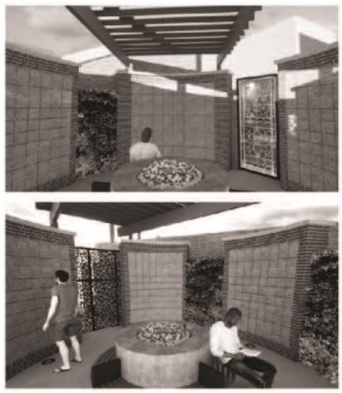
Scammers pressure you to act urgently. Don't!

Contact the person the request is allegedly coming from in a separate email or call and report the scam / block sender.

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

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.

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.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 5, 2023 Matthew 23:1-12

Partners in Service

Long before he was Pope, a priest called Francis developed a prayer he called the five-finger prayer. On this All Saints Day, it's a good way to call to mind those saints in our lives and in the world who have led the way in the faith.

Hold your hands palm down in front of you, and look at your fingers one by one, beginning with your thumb, which is the closest to your heart.

Thumb: Pray for those closest to you. Pray for those in your chosen family, or for your close friends.

Pointer finger: Pray for those saints who have pointed you in the right direction. Pray for older relatives, wise teachers, good employers, and thoughtful mentors.

Middle finger: This finger stands tall. Pray for the saints in leadership in your community and the world. Pray for those in business, government, and church leadership whose decisions affect so many.

Ring finger: This finger is the weakest of all the fingers. Pray for those on the margins, pray for the oppressed or the downtrodden. Pray for the ill and the dying. Pray for the addicted and the imprisoned.

Pinky finger: This finger is the smallest. This is where you put your prayers for yourself.

In today's scripture story, Jesus teaches the crowds and disciples about servant leadership. He showed them that when we are followers of Christ, our words and actions need to be consistent. As we pray this prayer, we can get clearer about who are the ordinary, everyday saints in our lives and the world. We can better understand who those are who walk their walk and talk their talk, those saints who have something to teach us here and now.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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