

Power to **Do**

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. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan ~ *Intentional Interim Senior Pastor* ~ mmorgan@erucc.org
The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate Pastor 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 –



January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 AM

The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal

*All who are able may stand

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Inspired by Psalm 111 and Deuteronomy 18:15-20*)

We come to worship...

Giving thanks with whole hearts...

In the company of this congregation...

We worship the One who is gracious and merciful...

Holy and awesome is God's name!

Let us worship God together!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Holy God, holy, gracious, and merciful, we gather mindful of your covenant with us and all creation. We gather mindful of your wonderful deeds and your powerful work among us. Grant that we may be joined with all your creation in praising you in the name of the One who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer*

#18

**Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.**

**When I reach the River Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on heaven's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

God invites us to come to worship with our whole hearts, to inventory our deeds and our works, mindful of our covenant with God. God offers us a new beginning day by day and week by week. Trusting in God, we pray for transformation and new life:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious and Merciful God, maker of covenant, faithful and just, we examine our lives in light of your righteousness which endures forever. You give us commandments, raise up prophets among us from among our own people. You speak to us, and ask us to become accountable. Yet often we ignore your ways and disdain your works. We close ourselves to your prophets and to the suffering in our world. Forgive us and renew us, that we may walk in faithfulness to you today, tomorrow, and all days. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God's righteousness endures forever, and God is mindful of God's covenant with us. The promises of God's covenant of grace assure us that this day and all days we can walk in renewed faithfulness, as we witness goods works, and follow God's call.

Thanks be to God, whose righteousness endures forever!

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. 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** *O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come* – tune O WALY WALY

**O Christ, the healer, we have come
to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored,
when reached by love that never ends?**

**From every ailment flesh endures
our bodies clamor to be freed.
Yet in our hearts we would confess
that wholeness is our deepest need.
In conflicts that destroy our health
we recognize the world's disease;
Our common life declares our ills.
Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?**

**Grant that we all, made one in faith,
in your community may find
The wholeness that, enriching us,
shall reach and prosper humankind.**

THE SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 OT page 174

Mark 1: 21-28 NT page 35

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

MORNING PRAYERS

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

If you wish to give, you can give online at www.erucc.org or by placing your gift in the offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary before or after the service.

Just as God's works are gracious and merciful, faithful and just, God calls us to works of grace, mercy, faithfulness and justice. The offerings we bring are a witness and a contribution to this church's works in the world. May we freely share and participate in God's work of grace and mercy, faith and justice.

OFFERTORY *Dona Nobis Pacem*

– M. Lightfoot
Senior Choir

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray:

We worship with our whole hearts, and give with our whole hearts, remembering your covenant with us, O God. As we share these gifts, may they be for the work of faithful justice and gracious mercy through your church and in your world. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN *Lord Speak to Me*

#531

**God, speak to me, that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your erring children lost and lone.**

**O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
some wanderers along life's way;
O feed me so that I may feed
your hungering ones without delay.**

**O fill me with your fullness, God,
your overflowing love to know;
In glowing word and kindling thought,
your love to tell, your praise to show.**

**O use me, God, use even me
just as you will, and when, and where,
until your blessed face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glory share.**

***BENEDICTION**

May the One whose righteousness endures forever, keep you in holy covenant with all creation, and may you know God's grace and mercy, forever and ever. **Amen!**

***SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

POSTLUDE

Please be seated.



Worship Notes: *“The Works:” Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany* are an adaptation of those written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

FELLOWSHIP

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

The flowers on the altar are given in honor of Aiden Baldree's 21st birthday and his upcoming semester abroad.

The yellow rose honors our veterans, active-duty military, and their families.

If you are interested in sponsoring the yellow rose, please contact the church office at (301) 662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org.

Attendance Last Sunday: 11 at 8:30 AM, 144 at 10:30 AM, and 70 online.

Watch
Worship
Live



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

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

Serving Today: January 28

Scripture Reader: Pam Shepp
Deacons: Betsy Selby, Jim Brittain
Elder: Peter Brehm
Greeters: Kathy and Niel Jefferson
Mary Lou Blessing
Welcome: Pat Condo, Thi Nguyen
Audio/Visual: Larry Martin, Jeff Baker
Jeff Schaeberle
Nursery: Emily Spear, Abby, Ben
Fellowship: Susan Kulp, David Howard
Carolyn Roberts, Colin Neely
Robert Morris

Serving Next Week: February 4

Eliza Stitely
Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick
Eric Weakly
Anne Hoffmann, Danielle Carbone
Ave Barr
Marj Berkheimer
Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin
Kelly Esslinger
Kate Fromknecht
Rena Kline, Cathie Duncan
Jim and Glenn Wallace-Weitz,
Kathleen and Niel Jefferson
Emily Button Kambic

Next Sunday: February 4 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31 | Mark 1:29-39

The readings today affirm the importance of prayer in keeping our focus for ministry. Restored by God's transforming love, we are reshaped as messengers of good news. In our Gospel lesson, Mark 1:29-39, as Jesus is seeking rest at the home of Simon and Andrew, he is called upon to heal Simon's mother-in-law. Crowds begin to press in around the house, demanding more words and deeds of power from Jesus. Isaiah 40: 21-31 calls God's people to remember that God – who created the universe and rules everything within it – is their source of strength.

We will share in communion this morning. The Senior Choir will be singing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

ERUCC members that are in nursing homes and those that currently reside in their homes but are unable to come to regular Sunday morning services will continue to receive visits (and communion) from Rev. Bob Manthey.

If emergency pastoral care is needed in the case of crisis, death, or severe illness, please contact the church office at (301) 662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org.

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:

Mark Ulrich
Emogene Wyand
Donald Wyand
Elsa
Richard Leslie
Bob Pinner
Betsy Fisher
Caughy Family
Donna Hill (mother of Collen Baldree)
Philip Hill (father of Colleen Baldree)
Tanya Pearre (sister of Colleen Baldree)
Jim Baldree (father of Chuck Baldree)
Katharine Alley
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
Autumn Crutchley
Christiane Armitage (sister-in-law of Linda Coyle)
Jason Rhoads
Nathan Cable
Hillal Eastburn
Barbara Rhoads
Pat Condo
Cathy Crome (sister of Nancy Jones)
Greg Rhoads
Holly Davis
Marcia Eisenstein
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.

In January we will be skipping lightly through 1 & 2 Kings, focusing on Solomon, the prophets Elijah, Elisha, and Jeremiah, as well as the stories of the destruction of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms. What happened to the 10 Lost Tribes of Israel?

LET'S TALK with Rev. Esther Ziegler

Sundays, January 28

Community Room

9:30 – 10:15 AM



Over these three Sundays we will discuss three women who lived during very different times in the course of Israel's history as it moved from a confederation of tribes descended from Jacob to a monarchy under Saul's rule, to the brink of defeat because its rulers and aristocracy had strayed from their covenant with God.

January 28 - Gomer lived in the northern Kingdom of Israel, the wife of the prophet Hosea, just prior to the fall of Israel to the Assyrian forces in 722 BCE. Her tragic story is found in Hosea 1-3. We will return to *Eavesdropping on the Echoes* by Ted Loder for the material.

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.

SPECIAL OFFERING

Today, we will receive a special offering for Elsa and Juan, our beloved cleaning team, as a gesture of our congregation's appreciation and support. In December, Elsa was hospitalized with a back injury and subsequently suffered a stroke; they have been unable to work. While we continue to pray for Elsa and her recovery, please place any contribution you can make in the woven basket at the back of the sanctuary.

EVANGELICAL REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FREDERICK, MARYLAND

SERVICE OF BLESSING FOR OUR INTERIM JOURNEY

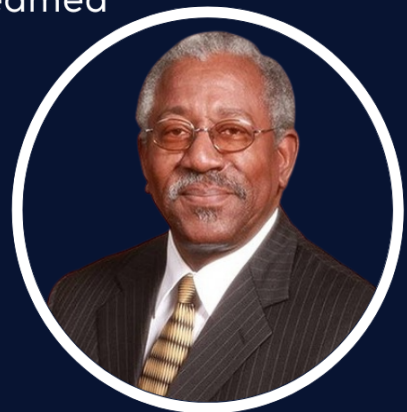
Your prayers and presence are invited at a *Service of Blessing for Our Interim Journey* to celebrate our newly established relationship with The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan as our Interim Senior Pastor on **Sunday, January 28, 2024.**

The service of blessing will be celebrated with worship at 3:00 PM at ERUCC and livestreamed at www.erucc.org.

The Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Camp, UCC Conference and National Staff Executive (Retired), will be preaching.

A reception will immediately follow worship in the Community Room at ERUCC.

Clergy are invited to arrive at 2:30 PM to robe, stole (red if available), and process.



The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan
Interim Senior Pastor

This Week at ERUCC

YOUTH GROUP SUB SALE

The infamous ERUCC Youth Group sub-sale is underway! The special fundraising event is a long-time favorite. Our ERUCC Youth Group will lovingly make these delicious 8" submarine sandwiches just in time for the Super Bowl! Proceeds from this fundraiser will help offset costs for the Youth Group's planned mission and service-related projects throughout the year.

Sandwiches are \$9. Order by February 4! Youth will have paper order forms or you may order online using the digital form available by scanning the QR Code or by going to <https://form.jotform.com/240175169725157>.



Sandwiches will be available for pick up on Saturday, February 10 at 3:00 PM or after worship services on Sunday, February 11.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg

Tuesdays

North Room / Zoom

11:00 AM

Zoom: bit.ly/3TdUnOy

Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398

Passcode: 973365

During the first half of January, we discuss the New Testament chapters in *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time* by Marcus Borg.

We will begin *Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Tool* by Lauren Artress on January 30. 'Walking the Labyrinth' has reemerged as a metaphor for the spiritual journey and a tool for transformation. This walking meditation is an archetype, a mystical ritual found in all religious traditions. It quiets the mind and opens the soul.

Reading Schedule:

January 30	Chapter 1: To Walk a Sacred Path
February 6	Chapter 2: New Pilgrims, New Paths
February 13	Chapter 3: The Labyrinth: Sacred Pattern, Sacred Path
February 20	Chapter 4: Walking the Labyrinth: The Process
February 27	Chapter 5: The Seeds of Spiritual Hunger
March 5	Chapter 6: Rediscovering the Divine Within
March 12	Chapter 7: The Labyrinth: Blueprint for Transformation
March 19	Chapter 8: The Birth of a Vision

TUESDAY EVENING YOGA

Tuesdays

Community Room

7:00 PM

Join our drop-in Tuesday night yoga class! The first class of 2024 is 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

North Room / Zoom

7:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERwedstudy

Meeting ID: 892 1764 4500

Passcode: 848933

Like the Sunday morning class, this 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 studying the stories of the matriarchs and patriarchs in Genesis: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Rachel, and Joseph. Just how exemplary were these heroes and heroines of the Hebrew Scriptures? Do they provide good models for us today?

MOBILIZE FREDERICK'S 2024 CLIMATE SUMMIT

February 2 and 3

Hood College

Are you interested in putting your faith into action for a safe climate? Attend one or both days of Mobilize Frederick's 2024 Climate Summit co-hosted by Hood College on February 2 – 3. This year's theme is "Reason to Hope – Progress and Solutions to Climate Change." Free to attend but registration is required.

Learn more and register at www.mobilizefrederick.org/summit-2024.

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.

Forgive often. Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.



Upcoming at ERUCC

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY

Sunday, February 4

Mortgage Assistance: On the first Sunday of each month, we have a special opportunity for giving towards Mortgage Assistance. Donations fund ERUCC's mortgages with the Fisher Fund and FCB Bank, a division of ACNB Bank, payments on which are about \$153,000/year.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Sunday, February 11



tacklehunger.org

ERUCC Youth will join a nationwide youth movement to collect resources to tackle hunger on Sunday, February 11. Our youth will collect monetary gifts in big soup pots following worship.

Share in God's love for our neighbors in need and give generously on Souper Bowl Sunday. All the monetary gifts and food donations collected will go directly to the Frederick Food Bank, operated by the Frederick Community Action Agency.

"YOUNGER" ADULTS DINNER

February 9

Location TBD

5:30 PM

Reach out to Pastor Kirstin at ksrhoads@erucc.org to be included in the invitation! We hope to help some of our young adults make connections with others who may be sharing similar life stages and circumstances in ways that strengthen their sense of community and ability to support one another.



**LOVE IS
LOUDER**
Love Your Neighbor **OUT LOUD**

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 & YOUTH RAISING FUNDS FOR HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Our Sunday school classes are collecting cash and change to make donations to Heifer International. Our donations will help to “build inclusive, resilient economies, so communities can develop effective ways to end global hunger and poverty in a sustainable way.”

You can help each of our classrooms to meet their goals by donating! Each classroom has a goal to meet by Sunday, January 28. Our Younger Elementary class (Pre-K through 2nd grade) has decided to raise money to purchase sheep; The Older Elementary class (grades 3-5) are raising money to purchase and gift families ducks; and our Youth are raising money to purchase the Dream Basket, which includes sheep, heifer, goats, ducks, and chicks. All are on their way to meeting their goals but would appreciate your help! You can give online by designating your gift for Heifer Project or by placing it in a jar at the back of the sanctuary during January only.

YOUTH GROUP – PIZZA AND PLANNING

Sunday, January 28

Youth Room, Parish House

1:00 – 2:45 PM

Enjoy a pizza lunch, a devotion, and time to plan the coming months together. Youth are encouraged to attend the *Service of Blessing for Our Interim Journey* at 3:00 PM.

KIDVENTURES: SNOW TUBING

Sunday, February 4

Snow Riders, Harpers Ferry

4:30 - 6:30 PM

We will meet at 4:30 PM at Snow Riders just off 340 in West Virginia, headed towards Harpers Ferry. This is a partnership with Harpers Ferry River Riders. Our meetup time allows us to tube from 5-6:30 PM. Hot chocolate and small snacks are available for purchase from a food truck. KidVentures activities are for elementary-aged children. Parents who want to come and watch can also sit by a campfire at the top of the hill. Cost \$20.

RSVP in the Community Room or by emailing Pastor Kirstin at ksrroads@erucc.org.

YOUTH GROUP – SUB SANDWICH MAKING

Saturday, February 10

Community Room Kitchen

1:00 – 3:00 PM

You've sold the products; now come help get them ready!

YOUTH GROUP – SNOW TUBING

Sunday, February 11

Location TBD

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Location TBD at our January 28 Youth Group meeting! Cost \$20.

GOD'S KIDS CLUB

Monday, February 19

Community Room

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

We will merge Mardi Gras fun with games centered around drama and acting, including making short video creations to play at the end of the day. We'll also participate in acolyte and scripture reading practice as we discuss parts of worship. Each person will have a chance to carry the light. In addition to making videos, we may bake some favorite New Orleans pastries!

RSVP in the Community Room or by emailing Pastor Kirstin at ksrroads@erucc.org.



LENT AT ERUCC

WANDERING HEART: FIGURING OUT FAITH WITH PETER

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we



watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter's story, you find Jesus at each step

along the way—offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him agapē love. This Lent, we're joining Peter in figuring out faith. We're not idolizing or vilifying him; instead, we're hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes.

In this series, we want to affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. We want to affirm that wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. We want to affirm the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

This Lent, we will look for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story, reflecting on the stages of our faith journeys and who and what has shaped us along the way. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, February 14

"Tune my heart" | Psalm 51:1-17

12:00 PM

Service will include the Imposition of Ashes.

A time of fellowship and lunch will follow the service.

7:30 PM

Services will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.



Other Announcements and Reminders

2023 YEAR-END GIVING STATEMENTS

The Finance Committee would like to thank you all for your continued extravagant generosity to the financial well-being of ERUCC in support of its programs and mission in 2023. The final 2023 year-end giving statements will be distributed before the end of January 2024, either via e-mail or printed and mailed.

MAPPING OUR CONGREGATION

We have posted maps of Frederick City and County in the foyer and are supplying flag pins that ERUCC attendees can use to document where they live. These maps will help us objectively and subjectively as a congregation to see where we live. This can help us to understand not only one aspect of our demographics, but also our connection to people living throughout the county.

When time permits, please place a pin on the map to identify where your household is located. One pin per household, please! You do NOT need to be a member to place a pin. Just number and sign your name in the notebook on the table provided, write your number on the pin, and place it on the map.

REMEMBER TO READ: *THURSDAY THOUGHTS* AND *TRINITY CHIMES*

Pastor Morgan asks that ALL church participants be reminded of the importance of reading ERUCC's two primary communications, the *Thursday Thoughts* weekly update (email) and the *Trinity Chimes* monthly newsletter (print and digital by email and online at www.erucc.org). In addition to the very helpful, ongoing news regarding ministries and activities among church participants, some very informative preliminary articles are being shared to help clarify the nature of the "Interim Journey," soon to be launched at ERUCC. If you are a regular reader of these two publications, please join us by encouraging at least two additional church friends and participants to follow your example.

Sign up at <http://eepurl.com/gDNCu5> to receive both publications in your email inbox!

GERMANY FAMILY HOSTING "SAVE THE DATES" FOR HOSTING

Please save the dates from June 22 - July 8 as the arrival and departure dates for our group visiting from Germany. We expect to host about 15 people which means that we need 10-15 families depending on how many people a family can host. We also plan to go to Bethany Beach and stay at the Discipleship Center from June 25-29. During this time, you would not be hosting in your home. All ERUCC youth are invited to come to the Bethany Beach retreat. Other group plans include being at Baker Park for the 4th of July and seeing the sites in DC again, including hopefully the White House and the German Embassy.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

SUNDAY MORNING

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ prefers not to cancel worship services because of the weather. We advise you to use your own good judgment about whether conditions where you live are too treacherous for you to make it to services safely.

If conditions are such that the ERUCC needs to cancel services, we will make that decision no less than one and a half hours ahead of the time each worship service begins. Activities such as Christian Education classes for children, youth, and adults and Nursery Care may be cancelled even if worship services continue as scheduled.

Notification: If services are cancelled, we notify people via email, our Facebook page(s) and the website at www.erucc.org.

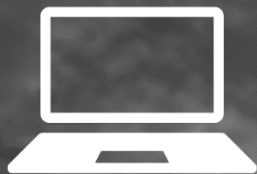
WEEKDAYS AND SATURDAYS

Church classes, groups, meetings, and other activities may be canceled or held virtually when possible and appropriate if weather conditions are hazardous or are predicted to become hazardous. If you have a question about whether or not your specific event is cancelled, please contact the coordinator/leader of the event.

The church office is generally governed by the Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) inclement weather plan. In the event inclement weather requires FCPS to close, delay opening, or dismiss early, the church office will similarly delay opening or be closed and ERUCC activities will also be cancelled or may be held virtually when possible and appropriate.

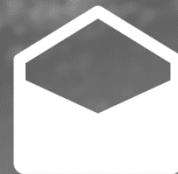
Notification: If the church office is closed or will delay opening, we will post a notification on our Facebook page(s) and the website at www.erucc.org.

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

Sunday Morning Schedule

subject to change

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

Stay Informed

JANUARY 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/jan24chimes.



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.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 28, 2024

Mark 1:21-28

Power to Do *Health and Human Service Sunday*

In the story today, Jesus casts out an unclean spirit in the temple. As he gazes with love on the broken person in front of him, Jesus thinks only of how that person could be healed. He is not concerned about distracting others from the way things “should be” or making a mess in that holy space. Jesus only lovingly wants to act in ways that bring wholeness where there is brokenness, health where there is illness, community where there is isolation.

Today is Health and Human Service Sunday when we honor the work of the United Church of Christ’s The Council for Health and Human Service Ministry (CHHSM).

Last year CHHSM’s annual meeting was held in Denver, which gave Archway Homes a chance to showcase the work they have been doing in Colorado for fifty years.

“Since its founding in 1974, Archway Communities, initially established as Mountain United Church Housing, became Rocky Mountain HDC in 1995 and is now Archway Communities, has remained steadfast to its commitment to provide service-enriched affordable housing for very low-to-moderate income families in the Denver Metro region and Colorado Springs.

With 8 properties in the Denver metro and Colorado Springs (and two more in development!), we have been developing affordable housing communities, expertly managing properties, and providing essential supportive services to individuals and families for almost 50 years.

By integrating housing and supportive services, Archway Communities is helping 1,516 residents improve economically and socially. We are a faith-based non-profit that is affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

Archway wishes to create communities of dignity and respect for families, neighbors and staff.

Creating community requires a commitment to seeing the humanity and interconnectedness of all that we do.

It requires a willingness to step up with courage and decency, to do the hard tasks, and the ability to celebrate each triumph joyfully.”

Find out more at Archway’s website:
<https://www.archwaycommunities.org/mission/>.

What are the health and human service organizations in your area? How can you celebrate and support them?



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

BUL0209

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