

Source of Strength



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 or donate online at www.erucc.org/give by scanning this code:



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 second 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.

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 –



February 4, 2024

Fifth 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**

To whom can we compare you, O Holy One?

We lift up our eyes,

We wait upon the Eternal our God.

How good it is to sing praises to our God. A song of praise is fitting!

Let us worship God together.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth, you who spread the heavens like a curtain, and make us a tent to live in, gather us in the shelter of your love and renew our strength, that with wings as eagles, we might not grow weary as we walk with you. We pray in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command*

#592

**God of the ages, who with sure command
brought forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful sons before your throne arise.**

**Your purpose, just, envisions mortals free;
God, set our path toward human liberty.
Still be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay
Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.**

**From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
With steadfast care be ever our defense;
Your love and faith within our hearts increase;
With bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.**

**Refresh your people on life's toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
With truth and love guide us through error's maze,
And we shall give you glory, laud, and praise.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

God invites us to come to worship as our whole selves: 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**

Holy One, we hope in your steadfast love, bringing our broken hearts and our wounded spirits. Make us aware of the hearts we break, the spirits we wound, of those we treat as outcasts, of those we tread down. Renew us in your grace, renew us in your strength. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Have you not known? Have you not heard? God does not grow weary with us, but loves, forgives, and renews us. Go with renewed strength in your walk of faith.

Alleluia! And thanks be to God!

ANTHEM *It Is Well With My Soul*

– arr. C. Moglebust
Cambridge Handbell Choir

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Children of all ages are invited to participate in the service today. A book nook with children's programs, books, crayons, and activities is in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table and a wiggle space is available in the front of the sanctuary near the baptismal font.

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

THE SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 40:21-31 OT page 668

Mark 1:29-39 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.

Our scripture this morning teaches that God builds up, lifts up, binds up, heals, covers, and shelters us. May the gifts that we bring and share extend these ministries.

OFFERTORY *There is a Balm in Gilead*

— arr. W. L. Dawson
Senior Choir

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Let us pray:

Holy One, we bring our gifts and pray that they may be for the building up and lifting up of your people, for the binding of wounds and the healing of hearts, for shelter and for covering and clothing for those in need. With these gifts we offer our songs of praise as we hope in your steadfast love. Amen.

– SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

God, we gather at this table representing all people in all places in our world. We bless and pass the bread and cup as Christ passed it to his friends. Please allow these elements to remind us of the good that you have done and inspire us to do the good that Christ calls us to do. May we leave this table revived and refreshed, having sipped from the cup of bold courage so that we may challenge all forms of injustice and pain. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night he was betrayed, the Light of the World took bread and blessed it. Then he thanked God for it and broke it, saying:

“This is my body which is broken for you. Whenever you eat it, remember me.”

And likewise at the end of the meal, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and thanked God for it. Pouring out the red wine, he said:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you. When you drink this cup ever after this night, remember me.”

Now, let us come to receive the bread and the cup.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

All who desire the Sacrament, including children, are invited to come forward 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.

After all have received the bread and the cup:

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

A BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE

May the presence of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, keep and preserve you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**We have been fed, dear God, by your presence and led by your light.
May we bask in this glow now and forevermore. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN** *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

#593

**Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;**

**Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.**

Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,

let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,

felt in the days when hope unborn had died;

Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,

come to the place for which our people sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,

We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,

Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last

where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,

God who has brought us thus far on the way;

God, who by your might, led us into the light,

keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,

Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;

Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,

true to our God, true to our native land.

***BENEDICTION**

May the Holy One, Creator of the End of the earth, lift up your spirit, bind up your soul, and renew your strength. Go with hope in the steadfast love of God. **Amen!**

POSTLUDE

Please be seated.



Worship Notes: *“The Lifting: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Year B”* was written by The Rev. Stephanie Perdew, PhD, Director, The Damascus Project, Shared Theological Education Ministry of the Wisconsin & Minnesota Conferences of the 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 this morning are in loving memory of Walter and Suzanne Schmid from Dennie and JoyceAnn Schmid.

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

If you want to sponsor the altar flowers on Sunday, February 18, or the yellow rose throughout the year, please contact the church office at (301) 662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org.

Attendance Last Sunday: 13 at 8:30 AM, 133 at 10:30 AM, and 65 online.

Attendance at Service of Blessing: 82 in-person and 27 online



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

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

Serving Today: February 4

Scripture Reader: Eliza Stitely
Deacons: Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick

Elder: Eric Weakly
Greeters: Anne Hoffmann, Ave Barr
Danielle Carbone
Welcome: Marj Berkheimer
Audio/Visual: Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin
Kelly Esslinger
Nursery: Kate Fromknecht
Fellowship: Renae Kline, Cathie Duncan
Jim and Glenn Wallace-Weitz
Kathleen and Niel Jefferson
Emily Button Kambic

Serving Next Week: February 11

Peg Stahler
Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Peter Brehm
Cathie Duncan, Rob Smith
Cliff Barr
Julie Clark
Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Baker
Jeff Schaeberle

Ave and Cliff Barr, Joan Maples
Allen Maples, Jen Powell
Pat Condo, Bud Rossin

Next Sunday: February 11 – Transfiguration Sunday

2 Kings 2:1-12 | Mark 9:2-9

The Season after the Epiphany ends with the story of Jesus' transfiguration in Mark 9: 2-9. This revealing of Jesus' glory is a turning point, marking the end of Jesus' ministry in Galilee and the beginning of the journey toward Jerusalem and the fate that awaits Jesus there. Just before today's reading, Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah. But Peter does not understand Jesus' teaching about the kind of Messiah Jesus has come to be.

It is in the seeing and understanding that God's messenger is known. In 2 Kings 2:1–12, the prophet Elijah is carried up to heaven, and Elisha glimpses the sacred and comes to a fuller understanding of who Elijah is. Elisha receives a double portion of the spirit of Elijah, and is thus known as a prophet in the true succession.

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads will be preaching. Spirit will be sharing in music leadership this morning.

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 who are in nursing homes and those who 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 February, 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?

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.

YOUTH GROUP SUB SALE – ORDERS DUE FEBRUARY 4

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.

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.

This Week at ERUCC

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

We will use *Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Tool* by Lauren Artress for our next study series. '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:

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?

“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.

Upcoming at ERUCC

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Sunday, February 11



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.

INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT ERUCC?

Sunday, February 18

Community Room

9:30 AM AND 11:45 AM

If you want to learn more about ERUCC, the United Church of Christ, and what it means to be a church member, we hope you join us for a conversation in the Community Room. Questions? Contact erucc@erucc.org.

We will receive new church members during worship services on Sunday, March 3. Thanks to our newer friends and guests for your participation in the life of ERUCC and for the joy you bring us.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED – PRESIDENT’S DAY

Monday, February 19

The church office will be closed Monday, February 19, in observance of President's Day.

CHILI COOK-OFF

Sunday, March 10

Community Room

during Fellowship

Get ready! It's time to turn up the heat for another ERUCC Chili Cook-off! This year, we will enjoy some friendly competition (and delicious cups of chili) during Fellowship on Sunday, March 10. More details to come as we near the date, but if you think your chili has what it takes to win – or at least fill some hungry bellies – sign up by March 3 to compete! We're looking for ten competitors who can bring the heat. Chili should be brought to church on March 10, ready to serve in a crockpot.

Sign up to compete (\$10 participation fee) at <https://bit.ly/481uzLR>.

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.

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. 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.

KIDVENTURES: SPLATTER ART

Friday, March 1

Dream Free Art, 1341 Hughes Ford Rd

5:00 PM

We will meet at Dream Free Art (1341 Hughes Ford Rd, Frederick MD 21701) to make splatter t-shirts! The shirts will say “ERUCC,” then become your own original piece of art as you enter the splatter room and play with your creative senses to add color. Join the group for pizza as well. Our event will be 5 – 6 PM. Cost: \$15, covers splatter paint, t-shirt, and pizza.

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

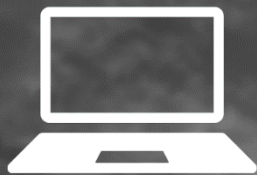
Other Announcements and Reminders

REMINDER 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!

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

CANDY WRAPPER RECYCLING



Bring your candy wrappers to ERUCC and deposit them in the Trash or Treasure recycling box in the upper lobby. Now, you don't have to trash candy wrappers and doom them to an eternity in a landfill - or, even worse, our oceans. By putting your wrappers in the candy wrapper recycling box, you can keep our planet clean and contribute to the circular economy. Thank you for helping to make the holiday sweet and sustainable!

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Candy wrappers
- Gum wrappers
- Snack and chip bags
- Aluminum foil
- Granola bar wrappers
- Foil-based packaging

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- No paper
- No food

The infographic features a teal background with a grid of colorful hearts (orange, pink, blue, green, purple, yellow) containing the words REUSE, RCYCL, LOVE, and REDUCE. A central white box with a checkmark icon is labeled 'ACCEPTABLE ITEMS' and a box with an 'X' icon is labeled 'PROHIBITED ITEMS'. Each item is accompanied by a circular icon representing the material.

GERMANY FAMILY HOSTING “SAVE THE DATES” FOR HOSTING

Please save the dates from June 23 - July 6 as the arrival and departure dates for our group of thirteen friends visiting from Germany. We plan to visit 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.

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

Service will include the Imposition of Ashes.



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 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

FEBRUARY 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/3SIKzOv.



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.



This year we will be filling our chancel area with beautiful Easter lilies on Easter morning.

Plants will be ordered from the Dutch Plant Farm. You may take your plant home after the Easter Service.

If you would like to place an order, please fill out the information below and return with payment to the church office **by February 25.**

The cost per plant is \$16.

Donor Name: _____

I would like to place _____ **lilies** in the sanctuary for Easter morning.

If you wish your lily 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:

Source of Strength

In today's story, a woman is healed by Jesus and then serves a meal to him and his disciples. It was a simple act but a profound one that was recognized and remembered and the server's story was told and retold for generations to come.

On this first Sunday of the month, many congregations will celebrate communion. Who serves communion in your congregation? Do you recognize and remember those who serve in the church in this special way? One church community recognizes their communion servers with these words of blessing and gratitude.

Might your community do something similar?

Pastor: Recognizing that the Spirit falls on all, we rejoice that these people have been called out of our community to serve in this way. They are our communion servers.

Servers: It is a blessing to serve the community in this way. As we serve the elements, we look for the face of Christ in each of you, and we ask God's help, that you might see the face of Christ in each of us.

Congregation: We thank you for this service to our family of faith. As we share communion with each other, we remember, through your leadership, Our Lord Jesus Christ. We rejoice that Christ came to us as Jesus to live, to die and to rise again; we celebrate that Christ lives with us still; and we look forward to the time when all will be gathered at the table of plenty.

Pastor: Grateful for the service of these among us, let us enter into a time of prayer together:

All: (prayer) Holy One, Bless these, our communion servers, as you bless each of us in the ministry to which we have been called. Thank you for your Spirit, poured out so abundantly on each of us. Create in each one of us a pure heart and a true intention to serve, however you have called us. In your name we pray. Amen.

