

Compassionate.
Community

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

For Children: We have trained nursery staff (a 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 to 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 or 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.

Restrooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the second floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

There is more 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 11, 2024

Transfiguration Sunday

10:30 AM

The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal

*All who are able may stand

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tyler L. York

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

We Are Standing on Holy Ground

This Is Holy Ground

Spirit

– G. Davis

– C. Beatty

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Rev. Marvin L. Morgan

Gathering in this sacred place we anticipate new wonders each week.

Wherever two or three are gathered to worship, a holy spirit is present.

Open our eyes to witness the fantastic love and wondrous joy waiting to be revealed, even this day, even in this place.

We will want to linger and camp in this sanctuary but when we leave today may our hearts be open to all the wonders of God's beautiful world.

Come, let us worship.

***OPENING PRAYER**

O Holy One, on mountaintops and valley floors, you reveal to us the light of your love. Our hearts' desire is to bask in the amazing glory of the divine presence. With each encounter, we are changed and transformed.

Draw us nearer that we might receive a double portion of your Holy Spirit. Help us, O Holy One, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory. May we walk among our siblings and friends as a blessing, bearing light into dark places, hope to displace despair, and love that casts out hate.

Our world is hurting and we need the followers of Jesus to follow more closely. Maybe then we will hear your voice speaking to us and saying, ... “listen to my Child, the Beloved!” Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

tune – AMAZING GRACE

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one,
lay down your head upon my breast”**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this lost world’s Light,
Look unto me your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright.”**

**I looked to Jesus, and I found
my guiding Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I’ll go
till traveling days are done.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We confess that we are quick to find our faith in systems that ensure our entitlement and find your sovereignty in situations we can control ourselves. Forgive us, God, when we linger too long by the waters, and on the mountain tops, enthralled with your glory. When we fail to listen to your voice, leading and guiding us, shake us from our contentment, and send us forward endowed with your purpose and power. Help us to come to you with a contrite heart, not to proclaim ourselves, but to be ready to follow.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Sit with hope for God’s healing presence both today and for many tomorrows to come. God’s light shines in your hearts and through you into the whole wide world. In the bright face of Jesus the Christ, we remember God’s glory and grace are revealed and accessible to you, and to me.

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 reading of the scripture.*

THE SCRIPTURES

Peg Stahler

2 Kings 2:1-12 OT page 332

Mark 9:2-9 NT page 44

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

MORNING PRAYERS

SHARING OUR STORIES

Tom and Pat Dorsz

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.*

OFFERTORY

The Lord Is My Light

Spirit

– A. Crouch

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of glory, it is good for us to be in this place, to find shelter, to
mark the occasion of your presence among us, to know that we are full
of hope and aching with desire for you to stay with us, comfort us and
provide the wisdom we need. In this, we offer ourselves fully. We offer
time, talent, treasure. We offer one another the best of what we have to
give and know you will know just how to use it for your glory as you
prepare us, and send us. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN**

Shine, Jesus, Shine

– G. Kendrick

**Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me**

Refrain:

**Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light**

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me**

Refrain

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me**

Refrain

***BENEDICTION**

Now may the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness” and has shone in our hearts, give us light to bear to the world that all may see and know that God is love. **Amen.**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

May You Run and Not Be Weary

– P. Murakami

**May you run and not be weary
May your heart be filled with song
And may the love of God
Continue to give you hope
And keep you strong
And may you run and not be weary
May your life be filled with joy
And may the road you travel
Always lead you home**

POSTLUDE

Please be seated.



**We thank Laura Walling and Joe Baker for sharing their gifts
with us in worship today!**

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 last Sunday were presented by Belinda Rhoads in loving memory of her husband, Michael Rhoads, on the anniversary of his birthday.

The flowers on the altar this morning are in loving memory of Walter and Suzanne Schmid from Dennie and JoyceAnn Schmid.

The yellow rose is placed by Jack Stush in memory of his brother, Gerald Stush, US Air Force.

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, 142 at 10:30 AM, and 74 online.



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

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

Serving Today: February 11

Scripture Reader: Peg Stahler
Deacons: Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Elder: Peter Brehm
Greeters: Cathie Duncan, Rob Smith
Cliff Barr
Welcome: Julie Clark
Audio/Visual: Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Baker
Jeff Schaeberle
Nursery:
Fellowship: Ave and Cliff Barr, Joan Maples
Allen Maples, Jen Powell
Pat Condo, Bud Rossig

Serving Next Week: February 18

Nancy Jones
Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher
Marc Kline
Rachel and Tom Ford, Felecia Bishop
Holly Davis, Pat Condo
Rodney Martin, Larry Martin
Emily Spear, Abby and Ben
Karen Justice, Marj Berkheimer
Peter Brehm, Felecia Bishop
Rob McGuire, Alex Martinez

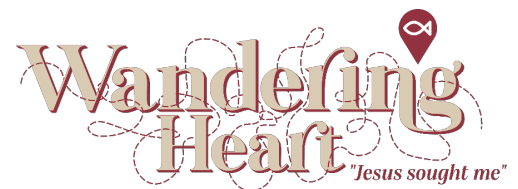
Next Sunday: February 18 – First Sunday in Lent

“Jesus sought me”

Psalm 25:1-10 | Luke 5:1-11

Jesus doesn't seek out trained rabbis and priests to be his disciples; instead, he calls a few Galilean fishermen to follow him and join his ministry. In this story, Jesus tells Simon Peter to drop his nets one more time, even though they've been fishing all night long and have caught nothing. To their surprise, they haul in nets bursting with fish. In response to this abundant miracle, Peter says, "Go away from me, Lord!" And yet, Peter and his partners drop their nets and follow Jesus. What is the beginning of your faith story? When has God sought you out? Have you ever felt like your calling was pursuing—or chasing—you? Did you resist? Did you follow?

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 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
Elsa
Richard Leslie
Bob Pinner
Betsy Fisher
Caughy Family
Delmar Speak
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)

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 – PICK UP TODAY

If you ordered sub sandwich(es) from the ERUCC Youth Group, please pick up and pay if needed after worship in the Community Room. Did you forget to place an order in advance? There may be extra sandwiches available for \$9. Proceeds from this fundraiser will help offset costs for the Youth Group's planned mission and service-related projects throughout the 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.

Show support for your favored team in the Big Game by filling your team's pot with cash and change!

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.

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 this 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 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, February 14

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.

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

This class will not meet on Ash Wednesday, February 14.

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?

Upcoming at ERUCC

INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT ERUCC?

Sunday, February 18 Community Room / North Room 9:30 AM / 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 at 9:30 AM and in the North Room at 11:45 AM. 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.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE AND SOUP LUNCH

Wednesdays, February 21 – March 27 Sanctuary/Community Room 12:00 PM

We will have a brief service in the sanctuary at 12:00 PM each Wednesday during Lent followed by time for a soup lunch and reflection in the Community Room.

VISIT FROM OUR GERMAN PARTNERS IN JUNE/JULY 2024

Our friends from Germany will be with us from June 23 – July 6, and you are invited to participate in various ways.

First, we invite youth and young adults to join us in Bethany Beach for a beach day, campfire, kayaking, and more! We will depart Tuesday, June 25, and return Saturday, June 29. Adults may also sign up, with priority given to parents of youth or adults who have already undergone the Safe Sanctuary training. We have 20 available spots.

Second, we plan to visit the White House and other places in DC on Friday, July 5. Please sign up if you are interested so we can share your name with David Trone’s office as a part of the group request.

Third, we are looking for commitments to be a host family. **We will hold another information session on Sunday, February 25, after our 10:30 AM worship service.** Please let Marc Kline or Pastor Kirstin (ksrhoads@erucc.org) know if you can host and how many people you can accommodate. If you cannot host this time, there are other ways you can help! We will need drivers, meal hosts/ helpers, and more!

PASTORAL TRANSITION – TRANSITION TEAM

Sunday, March 3

Community Room

during Fellowship

The time has come to identify a core group of church participants to serve on our Transition Team (the T Team). We need your help identifying the church participants to serve on the T Team at Fellowship immediately following worship on Sunday, March 3.

Please take a few minutes to carefully review the information shared in *Thursday Thoughts* (February 8) or on the “Pastoral Transition” page online at www.erucc.org/transition regarding the nature of a Transition Team and the services they will provide. Dr. Morgan will share more about this key group during Fellowship on March 3.

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>.

**ERUCC Youth are collecting
non-perishable food items and monetary
gifts before and after worship.**

**Support your favored football team by
putting your donation in the TEAM pot!**



VS



**TACKLE
HUNGER
SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**



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.

YOUTH GROUP – SNOW TUBING

Sunday, February 11 Snow Riders, Harpers Ferry 1:15 – 4:00 PM

We will meet at church to leave by 1:15 PM for Snow Riders in Harpers Ferry. 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 ksrhoads@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.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Patsy “Pat” Hevner who passed away Saturday, February 3. A Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for the life of Pat will be held Saturday, March 2 at 11:00 AM at Evangelical Reformed UCC.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Barba Speak who passed away Thursday, February 8. A Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for the life of Barba will be held at Evangelical Reformed UCC at a date and time to be determined.

Other Announcements and Reminders

FELLOWSHIP

We are grateful for the dozens of people who have formed Fellowship teams to help prepare, serve, and clean up our weekly Fellowship! We welcome donations for Fellowship on any Sunday. Foods that can be placed on a napkin such as cheese, brownies, and clementines are ideal. Other foods such as prepackaged cookies, chips, gluten free items and vegan items are also welcome. Simply bring your donation to the kitchen as you come to worship.

ERUCC MAP PROJECT UPDATE

If you have not already placed a flag pin on the map to show where you live, please do. We are approaching the end date, February 18, of collecting data. If you are not able to get to church in person, we will be glad to place your flag for you if you email Susan Kulp at smkulp@earthlink.net.

If you live off the map - let us know where you live and we will enlarge the map so that everyone is located and counted!

Online attendees - We will soon have figures for the locations of online worshippers, thanks to Jeff Schaeberle's generosity, so we all will have a visual sense of our entire congregation.

Digitizing the data - We hope to find a way to create a digital map for everyone to see.

Please give us your feedback - Our hope was to give a concrete, visual experience of how we are connected physically to each other and to enhance the community we have. What was your experience in placing the pin on the map? Do you have questions about the data - what would you like to know? Any suggestions for how we might use this information? Please send your feedback to Susan Kulp, or, write comments on the notebook on the table next to the map.

The Map Committee: Susan Kulp and Carolyn Roberts

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 RECYLCING



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



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

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.

Graphic Design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



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 in the offering plate or 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:

Compassionate Community
Racial Justice Sunday
Science and Technology Sunday

Today, as we recognize Racial Justice Sunday in the United Church of Christ, nearly four decades ago, the United Church of Christ was not just the first denomination, but the first organization of any kind to formally research and quantify the connection between racism and earth justice. The 1987 document, *“Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States: A National Report on the Racial and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Communities with Hazardous Waste Sites”*, states:

“In January 1986, two cross-sectional studies were initiated, utilizing appropriate statistical techniques, to determine the extent to which African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, Native Americans and others are exposed to hazardous waste in their communities... Much of the data in this report has never before been compiled for public review. It is our hope that this information will be used by all persons committed to racial and environmental justice to challenge what we believe to be an insidious form of racism. We share a common definition with National Council of Church Racial Justice Working Group.”

As you read the below definition of racism from 1987, consider if it still resonates today. What would you keep the same? What would you change?

“Racism is racial prejudice plus power. Racism is the intentional or unintentional use of power to isolate, separate and exploit others. The use of power if based on a belief in superior racial origin, identity or supposed racial characteristics. Racism confers certain privileges on the dominant group, which in turn sustains and perpetuates racism. Both consciously and unconsciously, racism is enforced and maintained by the legal, culture, religious, educational, economic, political, environmental, and military institutions of societies. Racism is more than just a personal attitude; it is the institutionalized form of that attitude.

We realize that involvement in this type of research is a departure from our traditional protest methodology. However, if we are to advance our struggle in the future, it will depend largely on the availability of timely and reliable information. We believe this date should be utilized by federal, state, and municipal governments to prevent hazardous wastes from becoming an even greater national problem. No residential community, regardless of race, should be left defenseless in the midst of this mounting crisis.”

To read the report in its entirety, as you consider what has changed and what has yet to be transformed, navigate to:

<https://new.uccfiles.com/pdf/ToxicWastes&Race.pdf>.

