



God's Loving Paths

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 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

10:30 AM



The numbered hymns are from
The New Century Hymnal

*All who are able may stand

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from *All This Time* by Rev. Sarah Speed)

I put my headphones in. I walk quickly. I look toward the ground. I create one million barriers of independence, but still God seeks after me.

God leans a rainbow over the sky. God sends sun after the rain. God blankets the earth with wildflowers. God allows music to carry and laughter to rise, all so that I might notice.

And when I do notice, the unfurling that begins in my soul is slow and holy and burning.

I am not alone. God has been chasing after me all this time.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Creator God, you hear everything. You hear the rush of the wind through the trees. You hear a baby's first cry. You hear the crickets chirping, our silent prayers, and laughter around tables. You hear it all! We don't need that same capacity, but we do need to hear your Word, O God, for we cannot live on bread alone. So today we pray: give us the ability to truly listen. Give us the ability to listen with our hearts, and may the truths revealed in your scripture today change us. With hearts full of gratitude we pray, amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

#21

**God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low,
The farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beauty show.
God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains,
In rainbow hues – reds, yellows, blues – of streams and country lanes.**

**God reigns o'er human life! Through youth and aging years,
In death, in birth, in grief, in mirth in all our hopes and fears.
God reigns o'er human life! Our inspiration still.
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reigning will.**

**God reigns o'er time and space! In history's bygone days,
Christ's faithful folk in reverence spoke to bring God earnest praise.
God reigns o'er time and space! O'er galaxy and sun,
through timeless years the cosmos hears the heavenly music run.**

**God reigns! Emmanuel! God with us every day,
In all our past and to the last our comfort and our stay.
God reigns! Emmanuel! Let praise to Christ be sung!
God's presence here makes all things dear. Let joyful bells be rung!**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

In our scripture passage for today, we will read about Jesus calling Peter to be a disciple. In the story, Peter is in the presence of the Divine for quite some time before he realizes it. Jesus crawls into Peter's boat. He tells him to head toward deep water. Together, they let the nets down. And it is only when the boat threatens to sink, due to the extreme abundance of fish, that Peter turns to Jesus and truly sees who's in his boat.

Sometimes we miss what's right in front of us. Fortunately, Christ keeps crawling into our boats anyhow. So join me in the prayer of confession, not out of fear, but out of a desire to finally see who's right in front of us. Let us pray:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God,

You call us by name. You join us in the deep waters of life.

You invite us to drop our nets and follow you, and yet, more often than we'd like to admit, we are like Peter.

Over and over again, we stand slack jawed and surprised to find you in our midst.

Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own.

Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves.

Forgive us for forgetting that you will never stop climbing into our boat.

Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you, for you are the Lord our God, and it is in your many names that we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, Peter didn't exactly make a good first impression when Jesus got into his boat. He questioned dropping his nets, as they hadn't caught any fish all night. He was oblivious to who Christ was for quite some time, and once he realized the Divinity standing in his boat, he quickly deemed himself unworthy.

And even still, Jesus called Peter a disciple and a friend.

Church family, hear and believe this good news:

You can make a thousand bad impressions. You can make every mistake in the book, roll your eyes, and assume you know better. And *even still*, Christ will forgive you, claim you, and continue to seek your heart. That is the good news of the gospel. Rest, celebrate, and trust in that good news.

Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

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**

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

#173

**You have come down to the lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy.
But only asking for me to follow.**

Refrain:

**O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
Now with you I will seek other seas.**

**You know full well my possessions.
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
Just these my fishnets and will for working.** *Refrain*

**You need my hands, my exhaustion,
Working love for the rest of the weary –
A love that's willing to go on loving.** *Refrain*

**You who have fished other waters;
You, the longing of souls that are yearning:
As loving Friend, you have come to call me.** *Refrain*

THE SCRIPTURES

Nancy Jones

Psalm 25:1-10 OT page 502

Luke 5:1-11 NT page 62

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in a God of abundance—
**a God who sees possibilities where I cannot,
and who holds onto hope when I am at the end of my rope.**

I believe in a God who comforts—
a God who says, “Do not be afraid;”
a God who joins me in life’s deep waters.

I believe in a God who invites—
a God who says, “Follow me,”
and, “You will be fishers of people.”

I believe in a God who seeks after me relentlessly and persistently—
a God of second chances and boundless mercy;
a God who calls us by name.

We believe.
Help our unbelief.
In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

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.

OFFERTORY

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Senior Choir
– African American Spiritual
arr. D. Cherwien

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Abundant God, receive these gifts of love from your servants and use them for the breaking in of your Kingdom of love and light. In the name of Jesus, whose way calls us forth in service, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Christians, Rise and Act Your Creed

#537

**¹Christian, rise and act thy creed;
let your prayer be in your deed;
Seek the right, perform the true,
raise your work and life anew.**

**³Offer others hope and joy,
and God's worship your employ;
Giving thanks in humble zeal,
learning all God's will to feel.**

**²Hearts around thee sink with care,
you can help their load to bear;
You can bring inspiring light,
strengthen them to do the right**

**⁴Come then, law divine, and reign;
faith that doubt assails in vain,
Perfect love bereft of fear,
born in heaven and radiant here.**

*BENEDICTION

Beloved wanderer,
as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.
May you look for God in every face.
May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb,
and to speak of your faith.
And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within,
saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid."
You are called. You are blessed.
In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God.
Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news.
Amen.

*SEVENFOLD AMEN

#814

POSTLUDE

Please be seated.



Worship Notes: Today's liturgy was written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | Graphic Design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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.

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 North Room, 2nd Floor. You are welcome to bring refreshments from Fellowship!

The flowers on the altar this morning are for the praise and glory of God.

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

The red rose is in celebration of the birth of Luca Charles, born to Laura and Evan Broderick, grandson of Cathie and Will Duncan, on Tuesday, February 13.

*If you want to sponsor the yellow rose throughout the year,
please contact the church office at (301) 662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org.*

Attendance Last Sunday: 14 at 8:30 AM, 164 at 10:30 AM, and 68 online.

Attendance Ash Wednesday: 28 at 12:00 PM, 38 at 7:30 PM, and 6 online.



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

Serving Today: February 18

Scripture Reader: Nancy Jones
Deacons: Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher
Elder: Marc Kline
Greeters: Rachel and Tom Ford
Felecia Bishop
Welcome: Holly Davis, Pat Condo
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Larry Martin
Nursery: Emily Spear, Abby and Ben
Fellowship: Karen Justice, Marj Berkheimer
Peter Brehm, Felecia Bishop

Serving Next Week: February 25

Betsy Selby
Betsy Selby, Jim Brittain
Tyler L. York
Kathy and Niel Jefferson
Robin Cooney
Jeanellen Kallevang, Pat Condo
Jeff Schaeberle, Jeff Baker
Kelly Esslinger
Linda Coyle, Eric Weakly
Colleen and Chuck Baldree
Tommie Bradshaw

Next Sunday: February 25 – Second Sunday in Lent

“Rescue me from danger”

Psalm 22:23-31 | Matthew 14:22-33

As a new disciple, perhaps Peter wants to prove himself. Boldly, in the middle of a storm, Peter steps out of the boat to join Jesus who is walking on top of the waves. He, too, walks on water until the wind shakes his trust and he begins to sink. Many of us know what it feels like to be thrown off balance, to feel as if we’re sinking. Maybe this looks like doubt, unexpected change, too-busy seasons of life, devastating grief, or distance from God. In this story, we empathize with the desperation Peter feels as he cries out, and we pray for God to save us when we sink.

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:

Delano Slifer
Virginia Gaul
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.

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 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.



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

This Week at ERUCC

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED – PRESIDENT’S DAY

Monday, February 19

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

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 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 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?

Upcoming at ERUCC

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.

LET'S TALK – LENTEN CONTROVERSIES led by The Rev. David Cooney

Sundays, February 25 - March 10 Community Room 9:30 – 10:15 AM



Why do the Sadducees, Pharisees, Scribes, Herodians, and Zealots all have a problem with Jesus? What were the political, social, and religious currents against which Jesus was swimming? Many of the answers are found in the books of the Apocrypha, literature considered scripture by some and not by others, that span the intertestamental times.

Never heard of these books? Do not have them in your Bible? Come February 25, March 3 and 10 at 9:30 AM to *Let's Talk* in the Community Room to hear the story. The Rev. David Cooney will be leading the conversation about these mysterious books of the Apocrypha.

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 during Fellowship in the Community Room.** 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>.

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.



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.

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.

YOUTH PARENT MEETING

Sunday, February 25

Flora Room

9:30 AM

Meet together with Pastor Kirstin to fill in the needs for adult volunteers, the Bethany Beach retreat, and other updates!

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, February 25

Youth Room, Parish House

5:00 – 7:00 PM

We’ll discuss Caring for God’s Creation through activities related to ageism, racism, and poverty. Youth may bring a phone to use during one activity. We’ll also make “hobo-style” foil dinners over the campfire!

KIDVENTURES: SPLATTER ART

Friday, March 1

Dream Free Art, 1341 Hughes Ford Rd

5:00 – 7:00 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 – 7 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

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



Last Sunday, ERUCC Youth joined a nationwide youth movement to collect resources to tackle hunger. With your help, our youth collected a total of \$746 and many non-perishable food items for the Frederick Food Bank!

We continue to tackle hunger every week at ERUCC by collecting non-perishable food items in baskets located in the narthex as you enter the sanctuary.

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 for collecting data, February 18. 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.



PASTORAL TRANSITION

Heritage - Mission - Leadership - Connections - Future

Learn more about our interim journey at www.erucc.org/transition

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

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

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.

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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:

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 18, 2024

Psalm 25:1-10

God's Loving Paths

The psalmist asserts that God is with them all the way along the path. Sometimes, it is not so clear to see God's hand at work. To understand God's movement in your life, it can be helpful to create a spiritual timeline. Why wait? Use this paper to begin creation of your spiritual timeline right now.

When was the first time you remember sensing God's presence?

What names or images of God did you hold when you were younger that are different now?

List two or three times of illness, grief or despair when you experienced God with you.

List two or three times of gratitude or joy when you experienced God with you.

Looking back, was there a circumstance or common thread that is carried across all the memories you share here? Were you alone or with a group? Were you in a church building or in nature? Were you actively seeking God's presence, or did the Divine intrude unexpectedly into everyday life?

What does this exercise reveal about the presence of God in your life? Up to now? In this present moment? Into the future?



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

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