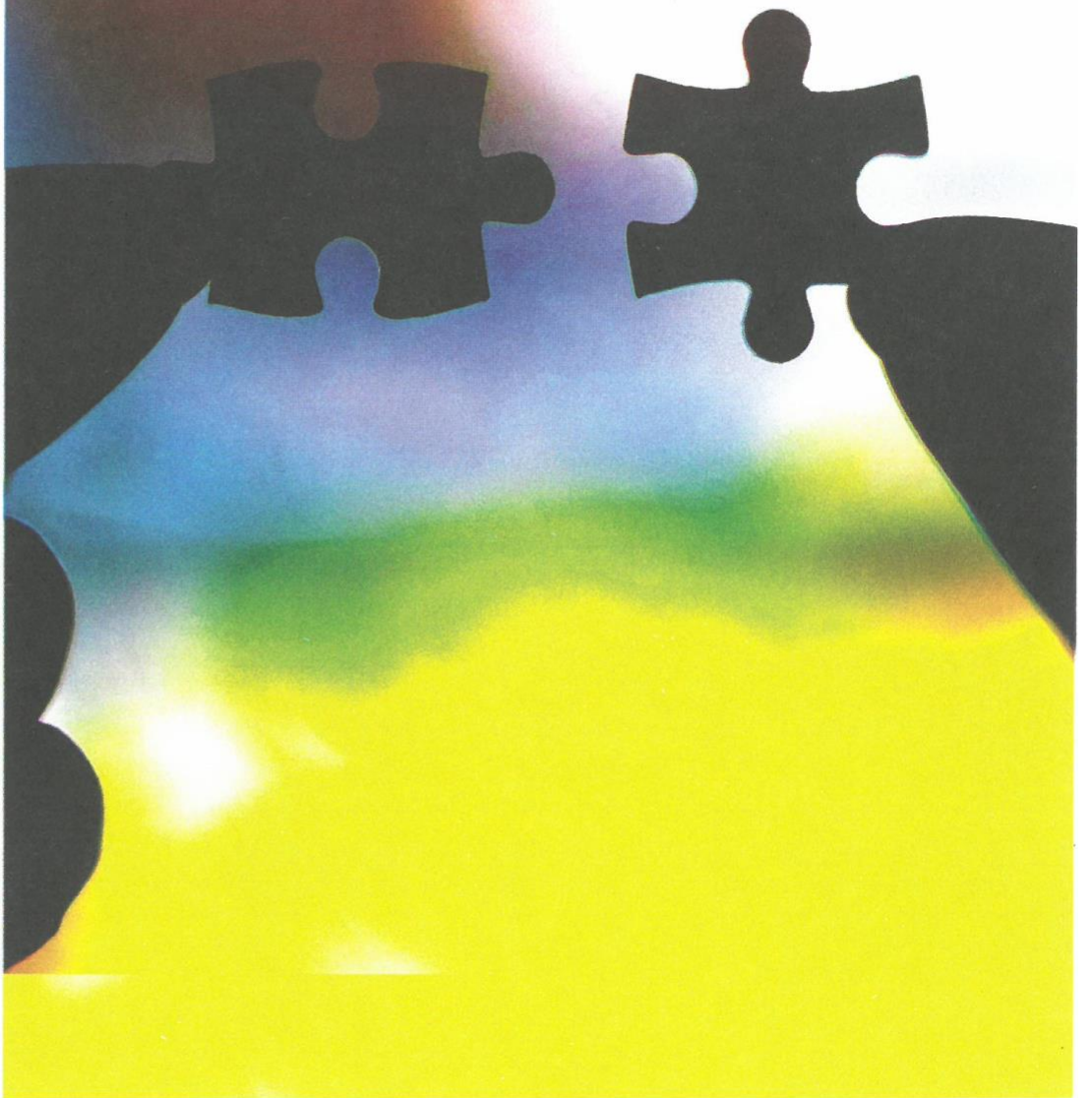


Always Close



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 25, 2024

Second 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 *Rescue Me* by Rev. Sarah Speed)

I'd rather not need rescue.

I'd prefer a five-step plan and a quick-fix solution.

**I'd prefer stubborn insistence over honest vulnerability,
because rescue requires asking for help.**

Rescue names the rising water. Rescue sees the tired, treading feet.

Rescue feels the swell of the wind and the rain at a slant.

But when the floor falls out and the world is on fire
and my small hands cannot fix the hurt welling in me,
the prayer that slips out is *rescue, rescue, rescue me.*

***OPENING PRAYER**

Holy God,

**There are days where the wind is loud. There are days where the rain
tears through the trees and the storms of life beg for our attention.**

So just as you stilled the wind and the sea, still our wandering hearts.

**Quiet our restless minds. Reach out your hand to us and pull us into
your Word so that we might hear, really hear, your message to us
today. With one foot out of the boat, we pray, amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

#441

**Jesus, Savior, pilot me
over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
hiding rock and treacherous shoal;
Chart and compass ever be;
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**

**As a mother stills her child,
you can hush the ocean wild;
Boisterous waves obey your will
when you say to them, "Be still."
Wondrous sovereign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**

**When at last I near the shore,
and the fearful breakers roar,
Keeping me from peaceful rest,
then, while leaning on your breast,
May I hear your words so true,
"Fear not, I will pilot you."**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

In our scripture passage for today, Peter is out on a boat with the disciples when a storm hits. Instead of cowering in fear, Peter spots Jesus on the water and bravely crawls out of the boat to move closer to Christ.

Friends, I think the prayer of confession is one way that we do the same; it's one way that we can crawl out of our boats. And here's what I mean:

In the prayer of confession, we are honest about the storms that rage within and around us. In this prayer, we speak with honesty in an effort to move closer to God.

This is our moment to crawl out of the boat. So friends, let's be like Peter. Join me in being courageous. Join me in truth-telling. Join me in prayer. It's time to get our feet wet. Let us pray together:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God,

There are days that threaten to swallow us, days when the storms of life feel too big. In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear, spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you. Forgive us for doubting ourselves. Forgive us for doubting you. Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us. With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Family of faith,

You could get out of the boat and walk on water like Peter, or fall to your knees and stay in one place. No matter what you do, Christ's love for you is unchanging. Fearful or brave, faithful or doubting, Christ is always walking toward you. So hear and believe this good news:

God's love is stronger than any storms. On our best days, and on our worst days, we are seen, forgiven, and loved. God is always walking toward you.

Thanks be to God!

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 Walk along Our Shoreline

#504

**You walk along, our shoreline where land meets unknown sea.
We hear your voice of power, "Now come and follow me.
And if you still will follow through and wave and shoal,
Then I will make you fishers, but of the human soul."**

**You call us, Christ, to gather the people of the earth.
We cannot fish for only those lives we think have worth.
We spread your net of gospel across the water's face,
Our boat a common shelter for all found by your grace.**

**We cast our net, O Jesus; we see your promised reign;
We work for love and justice; we learn to hope through pain.
You call on us to gather God's daughters and God's sons,
To let your judgement heal us so that all may be one.**

THE SCRIPTURES

Betsy Selby

Psalm 22:23-31 OT page 501

Matthes 14:22-33 NT page 16

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in a God who moves toward me when storms rage.

I believe in a God who invites me to be brave.

I believe in a God whom the wind and waves obey.

I believe in a God who knows my name.

I believe in a God of love. I am not afraid. 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

Total Praise

Senior Choir

– R. Smallwood, arr. D. Rao

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Creator God,

You have given us blessings that are beyond measure. We come to You today with thanksgiving in our hearts. You have given us homes for personal and family shelter, clothes to warm our bodies, food for nourishment, and water to quench our thirst.

You have blessed us with eyes to see the beauty of creation, the sense of smell to enjoy the aromas that fill the air, ears to hear the humming of birds and the voices of friends from one day to the next, and You have given us hands to touch the lives of many. For all the gifts You have showered upon us, we give you thanks. Receive now the financial gifts and the gifts of time and talent we offer to you today. May they be used in ways that bless communities near and far, and may they bring glory and honor to you. In your many names we pray, amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Dear God, Embracing Humankind

#502

**Dear God, embracing human-kind,
forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives your service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of your word,
let us, like them, be spirit stirred,
rise up and followers be.**

**O sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above!
There Jesus met you prayerfully:
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love.**

**Drop your still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of your peace.**

**Breathe through the pulses of desire
your coolness and your balm;
Let sense be numb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.**

***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 this 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.

The flowers on the altar are placed to provide happiness to those who deal with chronic physical and emotional pain by Darryl Glick and Mark Ulrich.

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

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: 13 at 8:30 AM, 144 at 10:30 AM, and 49 online.



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

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

Serving Today: February 25

Scripture Reader: Betsy Selby
Deacons: Betsy Selby, Jim Brittain
Elder: Tyler L. York
Greeters: Kathy and Niel Jefferson
Robin Cooney
Welcome: Jeanellen Kallevang, Pat Condo
Audio/Visual: Jeff Schaeberle, Jeff Baker
Kelly Esslinger
Nursery:
Fellowship: Linda Coyle, Eric Weakly
Colleen and Chuck Baldree
Tommie Bradshaw

Serving Next Week: March 3

Rob Peters
Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick
Robin Cooney
Larry Martin, Jeff Baker
Kelly Esslinger
Kate Fromknecht
Julie Clark, Joe Adkins, Quynn
Hollie Mercier, Kyle Miller
Pat Dorsz, Bobby Van Dyk



**PASTORAL
TRANSITION**

Heritage - Mission - Leadership - Connections - Future

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



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

Next Sunday: March 3 – Third Sunday in Lent

“Praise the mount”

Psalm 19 | Matthew 16: 13-20

“Praise the mount of God’s unchanging love. . .”

This lyric represents Peter’s mountaintop faith moment. It speaks to spiritual euphoria and feeling the closeness of God. In this story, Peter proclaims who Jesus is. He speaks with conviction. Peter claims his faith. If you had to speak your faith in one sentence or phrase, what would you say? When we have the courage to say, “This, I believe...” then that conviction has a ripple effect on others. When life gets rocky, we lean on mountaintop moments and our deepest convictions to see us through.

We will receive new members and share in communion this morning. The Senior Choir will be singing.



WANDERING HEART: FIGURING OUT FAITH WITH PETER



This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus’ most famous disciples: Peter. 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. 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. We continue to reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as 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.

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

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)

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 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 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, through March 27 Community Room

12:00 PM

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

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.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Sunday, March 19

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS, you engage in holistic development programs, including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing, and women’s empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership with churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment, and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs, and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.



**OFFERING DATE:
MARCH 10, 2024**

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.

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.

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:

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 25, 2024

Psalm 22:23-31

Always Close Seminary Sunday Church Vocations Sunday

Psalm 22:30-31

*Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.*

The psalmist is confident that those to come will be taught about the ways of God, and proclaims boldly that even generations yet to be born will know to praise the Divine One.

How confident are you and your congregation that “future generations will be told” about God? If your confidence is wavering, maybe now is the time to look around, to notice those who have gifts for leadership and ministry, and to lift them up. Maybe it’s time for your church to be a place that nurtures ministers.

Congregations who successfully call out gifts of ministry from among their members do so intentionally and prayerfully. Wondering how your congregation can nurture the call to ministry in young people? Here are some ideas to try.

1. Remember that the church needs a variety of kinds of leadership in the future. Maybe that tech genius who always helped you fix the projector in your confirmation class is called to ministry. Maybe the young person who is always ready to argue with authority figures or scripture is ready for ministry. Maybe the artist, whose bulletin doodles often echo the theme of worship, is ready for ministry.
2. Too often we see gifts in others and fail to recognize or celebrate them. Calling out what we see in others can help them see something new in themselves. If you think someone has a gift for ministry, say so!
3. Create an atmosphere where people can try and mess up and try again. Ministry has a steep learning curve, and giving lay people the chance to preach, to make pastoral calls and to stretch their skills in other ways can be the best preparation of all for those who are called to ministry.
4. Support those who are called to ministry spiritually and practically. Pray for and with them. And find ways to support those who are called to ministry materially as well, whether it's through gifts of money, books or just the occasional cup of coffee and listening ear.



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