

BEAUTIFUL
LAW

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
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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 –



March 3, 2024

Third 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 *Praise the Mount* by Rev. Sarah Speed)

I have stayed quiet before. I have held my tongue while passing mountains.

I have slipped my hands deep into pockets, despite the music that invites me to dance.

I have glimpsed a new moon and a new love and have acted as if it was something other than a complete, God-given miracle.

But not today. Not today. Today I will dance.

Today I will tap my toes all the way to heaven's gates. Today I will point out every shade of gold and periwinkle that we pass.

Today I will tell you that God did such a good job with freckles, willow trees, and your entire being.

And I will not be embarrassed by my own conviction. I will not swallow my praise.

I have stayed quiet before, but not today.

Today I will sing.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Holy Word,

For generations people have bowed their heads,

have prayed the Psalms, have asked for your presence in their lives.

For generations people have whispered,

“May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable and pleasing to you, O God.”

For generations we have gathered here, we have quieted our minds, we have prayed to feel your presence in our midst.

So once again, just as the generations before, we turn our hearts to your Word. Still our busy minds so that we might truly comprehend what you have to say to us today.

With joy and hope we pray, amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

How Firm a Foundation

#407

stanzas 1, 5

**How firm a foundation for you has been laid,
by God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!
What more can God say than to you has been said,
to you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

In our scripture for today, Jesus asks the disciples,

“Who do you say that I am?”

Peter said, “You are the Messiah.”

Have you ever wondered if his voice faltered when he answered?

Did he respond loudly and with confidence, or with a tentative whisper?

We’ll never know. The text doesn’t provide those details. But we can trust that, no matter how we speak to God, when we speak, God is listening.

So friends, join me in the prayer of confession. Whether you whisper these words or speak them with conviction, may you trust that our gracious and merciful God is listening with love. Let us pray together:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God,

Some days, we are quick to declare your goodness.

Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith.

Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers.
Forgive us for losing sight of you.

Some days we are quick to trust your blessings—
trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference.
Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in.
Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves.

We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith.
But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask
for your tender grace.
**Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of
our faith. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends,
Whether you speak to God in a whisper or with clear conviction, with
questions or with answers, with hope in your heart or with doubt in your
throat— God will always listen with love and mercy.
So rest in this good news: regardless of how loudly you live your faith—
you belong to God. You are loved. You are claimed. You are forgiven.
Speak *this* good news with confidence.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

You Are My All in All

Children's Music and Movement
– Dennis Jernigan

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

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

THE SCRIPTURES

Rob Peters

Psalm 19 OT page 498

Matthew 16:13-20 NT page 18

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

MORNING PRAYERS

– RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS –

INVITATION

Pastor: We invite to come *forward those* who wish to affirm *their* baptism by uniting with us in this household of faith.

Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

SENTENCES

Pastor: Hear the words of Jesus: I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

Pastor: *Name(s)*, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may be seated.

ADDRESS

Pastor: By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today, we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence *with us here at Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ.*

QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

Pastor: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

*WELCOME AND RECEPTION

Leader: Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, let us express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Thanks be to God!

The congregation may be seated.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this church.

PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your servant people and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for sending to us this believer these believers that we may work together in serving the needs of others. Confirm in us the power of your covenant that we may live in your Spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other that we may have

among us the same mind which was in Christ Jesus, to whom be all honor and glory.

All: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

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
– D. Cherwien

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

O God,

whose richness is not found at the tables of those willing to exchange goods for the sake of acquiring earthly riches, but rather is found at the table of extravagant love for neighbor, we entrust these gifts to your care that they may abound in your steadfast love for all persons. Use them for the building of your beloved community here on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

– SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

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

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

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

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

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

All who desire the Sacrament, including children, are invited to come forward at the direction of the deacons. You may kneel or stand to receive the elements. The cup contains grape juice, and all bread is gluten-free. Consume the bread and drink from the cup as it is given to you, and hand your empty cup to one of the ushers.

After all have received the bread and the cup:

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

A BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE

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

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

*CLOSING HYMN

Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts

#329

**Jesus, the joy of loving hearts,
fount of our lives, and light of all:
From every bliss that earth imparts
we turn, unfilled, to hear your call.**

**Your truth unchanged has ever stood;
you plead with all to call on you;
To those still seeking, you are good;
to those who find you, life is new.**

**O Jesus, ever with us stay!
Make all our moments calm and bright!
Oh, chase the cloud of sin away!
Shed o'er the world your holy light.**

***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.

Today, a lunch will be served so that all may participate in the

The flowers on the altar are placed by Cliff and Ave Barr in memory of their parents Paul and Ival Barr and Bill and Betty Lou Cassell.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 13 at 8:30 AM, 144 at 10:30 AM, and 64 online.



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

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

Serving Today: March 3

Scripture Reader: Rob Peters
Deacons: Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick

Elder: Robin Cooney
Greeters: Anne Hoffmann, Ave Barr
Danielle Carbone
Welcome: Marj Berkheimer, Thi Nguyen
Audio/Visual: Larry Martin, Jeff Baker
Kelly Esslinger
Nursery: Kate Fromknecht
Fellowship: Julie Clark, Joe Adkins, Quynn
Hollie Mercier, Kyle Miller
Pat Dorsz, Bobby Van Dyk

Serving Next Week: March 10

Laurel Nguyen-Powell
Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Ave Barr
Cathie Duncan, Robin Cooney
Cliff Barr
Julie Clark
Larry Martin, Rodney Martin
Jeff Schaeberle

Chili Cook-off



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

Next Sunday: March 10 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

“I’m fixed upon it”

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 | Matthew 16: 13-20



When your world unravels and your beliefs are tested, you may cling to what you know. As Jesus foretells his death and resurrection, Peter protests. Peter is fixed upon the way he thinks things should go; he resists the pain of what will come. But Jesus is fixed upon his calling and calls Peter out. For everyone, there comes a time when your faith is tested and you will have to face difficult and inconvenient truths. We may want to take the easier path, the path with less pain. We may want to cling to easy or simplistic answers. Instead, what does it look like to welcome complexity? Can you stay fixed upon your convictions while also expanding your perspective?

Spirit will be sharing in music leadership this morning. Today we will be celebrating the baptism of Caiseal Penn Bernstein Lynch.

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
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)
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:

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! 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.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Sunday, March 10

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>.

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, March 26

North Room / Zoom

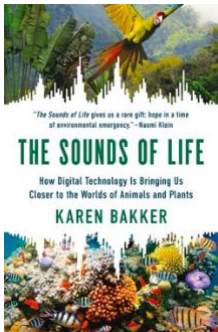
7:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks

Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574

Passcode: 226669

The Sounds of Life: How Digital Technology is Bringing Us Closer to the Worlds of Animals and Plants by Karen Bakker. The natural world teems with remarkable conversations, many beyond human hearing range. Scientists are using groundbreaking digital technologies to uncover these astonishing sounds, revealing vibrant communication among our fellow creatures across the Tree of Life.



At once meditative and scientific, *The Sounds of Life* shares fascinating and surprising stories of nonhuman sound, interweaving insights from technological innovation and traditional knowledge. We meet scientists using sound to protect and regenerate endangered species from the Great Barrier Reef to the Arctic and the Amazon. We discover the shocking impacts of noise pollution on both animals and plants. We learn how artificial intelligence can decode nonhuman sounds, and meet the researchers building dictionaries in East African Elephant and Sperm Whalish. At the frontiers of innovation, we explore digitally mediated dialogues with bats and honeybees. Technology often distracts us from nature, but what if it could reconnect us instead?

BOOK STUDY OF *CASTE* led by The Rev. Richard Leslie and Peter Brehm

Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, 28

Community Room

9:30 – 10:15 AM

Richard Leslie and Peter Brehm will co-lead a study of the book *Caste* by Isabelle Wilkerson for four Sundays in April. Participating in this class will offer many “ah-ha moments,” maybe some discomfort and lots of opportunity for discussion and reflection.

In Caste, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched, and beautifully written narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend *Let's Talk* in April to be part of this important conversation. If you would like to participate but need a book (\$17), contact the church office at erucc@erucc.org or (301) 662-2762.



PASTORAL TRANSITION

Heritage - Mission - Leadership - Connections - Future

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

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.

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA AS GOD'S KIDS CLUB

Friday, March 22

Community Room

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

In the morning, we will be painting Easter eggs! Families with tots are also invited to join the God's Kids Club crew with egg painting. Please have an adult stay with your **Tiny Tot** child. We will begin the morning at 9:30 AM and likely paint until 11:30 AM.

In the afternoon, we will play with baby chicks, learn about and practice for Palm Sunday, and more! Bring a packed lunch and water bottle. Wear clothes that can get paint on them and send an extra set of clothes just in case. Sign up in the upper lobby or email Pastor Kirstin.

TINY TOTS

Saturday, March 23

ERUCC

TBD

Tots families are considering extra chick time on Saturday, March 23 with a story and feather game or craft. Time TBD by the group. Sign up by emailing Pastor Kirstin.

GOOD FRIDAY GOD'S KIDS CLUB

Friday, March 22

Community Room

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Like last year, we will host a half day of educational fun for our youngest group. We will interact with the symbols of Holy Week in some creative ways, and have some chick time. No need to pack lunch. Snacks will be provided; please send a water bottle. Sign up in the upper lobby or email Pastor Kirstin.



Sunday Morning Schedule

subject to change

8:30 – 9:15 AM	Early Worship Service , Sanctuary
9:00 AM	Coffee and Conversation , Kieffer Lobby, 2 nd Floor
9:00 – 10:15 AM	Let's Study the Bible , North Room, 2 nd Floor
9:30 – 10:15 AM	Let's Talk , Community Room, 1 st Floor
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Nursery Care , 1 st Floor
9:30 – 10:10 AM	Sunday School <i>Pre-K – 2nd Grade</i> , Liz Coffey Room, 2 nd Floor <i>3rd – 5th Grade</i> , Thomas Room, 2 nd Floor <i>Youth (6th – 12th Grade)</i> , Clapp Conference Room, Church Office
10:10 – 10:25 AM	Children's Music and Movement , Liz Coffey Room, 2 nd Floor
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Worship , Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org Junior Church , Thomas Room, 2 nd Floor <i>Children are dismissed from the sanctuary after Thought for the Day during Worship</i>
11:30 AM	Fellowship , Community Room, 1 st Floor

Stay Informed

TRINITY CHIMES

Read the ERUCC monthly newsletter, *Trinity Chimes*! Find printed copies in the back of the sanctuary or read online at <https://erucc.org/category/news/monthly-newsletter/>.

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.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 3, 2024

Psalm 19

“Beautiful Law”

Today in the United Church of Christ, we celebrate both Amistad Sunday and the first day of UCC Women’s Week. As we honor the heroes of the Amistad, we remember the captured people of African descent who spoke up and fought for freedom for themselves and those who would follow. During UCC Women’s Week, we give thanks for the women who, long before most congregations would ordain women into ministry, offered lifetimes of service, wisdom, justice work and leadership to local congregations and the wider church.

The Oxford Dictionary defines intersectionality as the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

On this day, a day to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of women and people of African descent, take a moment to celebrate the 2023 election of Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson as the first woman woman of African descent to be elected to the UCC’s highest office, the office of General Minister and President.

“Rev. Thompson is the third woman nominated for the post, after the Revs. Yvonne Delk (in 1989) and Barbara Brown Zikmund (in 1999), but the first to be elected. A Jamaican immigrant, Thompson is the third person of African descent to serve as leader of the denomination.

“Today, United Church of Christ, we created a first together,” she said after the vote. “It won’t be the last first.”*^x

Jesus calls us to explore intersectionality, those boundary places where social categories like race, class and gender meet and merge. Rev. Dr. Thompson has bumped into those places all of her life. Now, her leadership will provide new ways for the United Church of Christ to understand our place in the intersections of intersectionality.

*<https://www.ucc.org/karen-georgia-thompson-becomes-first-woman-to-lead-ucc-in-historic-vote/>



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

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