



NO MATTER WHAT

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

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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 –



March 10, 2024

Fourth 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

HONORING OUR SCOUTS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

You Are Welcome Here

Spirit
– G. DeMan

Refrain You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
no matter where you are on life's journey.
You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
come and join with us, we're united in the church of Christ.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from *Open Hands* by Rev. Sarah Speed)

We are born with the ability to wrap our fingers around another, to hold tight to what we know.

Maybe that's where the instinct comes from—this clinging, this sinking, this holding on.

Maybe that's why Peter cries, "Never!" when Jesus must leave. From the very Beginning we've known how to hold tight.

So I pray: open up my hands. Uncurl my fingers one by one.

Loosen the grip that I hold unyielding. Remind me that birds must fly and children must grow and leaves must fall.

And even though we are born with the ability to hold tight, we can learn how to love with open hands.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Listening God,

If we could attach ourselves to you, we would. We would scribble your scripture onto our tender hearts. We would weave your good news into the fiber of our being. We would bind ourselves to you, but instead, we wander. Instead of attaching ourselves to you, we find ourselves swept up in the business of the day. Like a seesaw of faithfulness, we move back and forth, up and down, constantly trying to find you in the midst of it all.

So speak clearly to us now.

Quiet the distractions long enough for us to affix ourselves to your good news. We are listening. We are hungry. We are hopeful. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

#459

**Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.**

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,

Come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,

Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!

Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.

Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:

Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

There's a moment in our scripture today when Jesus turns to Peter, named "the rock" of the church, and says, "Get behind me, Satan!"

I don't know about you all, but that's a pretty bad day for Peter.

It's a pretty bad day when Jesus calls you Satan!

Fortunately, this absurd moment comforts me with the knowledge that even

Peter made mistakes. Peter, who was given the keys to Heaven. Peter,

Jesus' right-hand man, made mistakes just like me.

And still, Jesus chose him.

Knowing that, let us speak honestly with God. For even on our worst days, we belong to God, and that will never change. Join me in prayer—

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God,

We often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense. Like Peter, we want to yell out, “This should not happen!”

We want to control scenarios beyond our reach. We want to hold your world in our hands. Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity. Forgive us for arguing when we could listen. Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many. Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen. With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, no matter how many times you have dug your heels in, no matter how many fights you have wanted to pick with God, no matter how many times you have disagreed, raged, or clung to what you know instead of embracing holy change—we worship a God of grace. Nothing can separate us from God’s love, not even a stubborn attitude or a tense heart. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

God’s love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine. We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven. Now follow Peter, and go be the Church in the world.

Thanks be to God!

– SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM –

INVITATION

WELCOME

Pastor: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

People: “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”

Pastor: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

ADDRESS

Pastor: Jesus said: Unless we are born anew, we cannot see the reign of God; unless we are born of water and the Spirit, we cannot enter God's new order.

Paul the apostle said: All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into Christ's death. We are buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, to the glory of God, we too might walk in newness of life.

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

Pastor: Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach this child that he may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, 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?

Parents: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the Christian faith, to help this child to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by further Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that he may affirm his baptism?

Parents: We do, with the help of God.

A BLESSING

Pastor: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the one baptized this day that he may rise in Christ. Glory to you eternal God, who was, who is, and who shall always be, world without end. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT**

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism.

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

Parents: We promise our love, support, and care.

***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.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

Pastor: Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.

In the time of Noah, you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning.

In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb.

Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all the nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

Now by your Holy Spirit, dear God, bless this sacred act of baptism, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ACT OF BAPTISM

Pastor: By what name will your child be called?

Parents: *Name.*

Pastor: *Name,* I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE BAPTIZED

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

Pastor: Let us pray for the one baptized today.

Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus. Bless this newly baptized person. May he be filled with joy; may he never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in you.

Bless the parents and sponsors of this child. May they always show their gratitude for the life you have given by loving and care for *name*.

Bless these your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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 reading of the scripture.*

THE SCRIPTURES

Laurel Nguyen-Powell

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 OT page 559

Matthew 16:21-23 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

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

My Jesus Walked

Spirit

– L. H. Doucet

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Thank you, God, for loving us to the very ends of the earth and back.
Your willingness to say yes to coming in the flesh to redeem our world
through love and not to the powers of oppression has led us to give of
ourselves generously this day. Take these gifts and multiply them
across this world that you love so extravagantly. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN**

Give Thanks

– H. Smith

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks, because God's given
Jesus Christ, his Son.**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks, because God's given
Jesus Christ, his Son.**

**And now let the weak say 'I am strong',
let the poor say 'I am rich',
because of what the Lord has done for us;
and now let the weak say 'I am strong',
let the poor say 'I am rich',
because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks...**

***BENEDICTION**

Go, dear ones, in the hope of the one who does not condemn, but brings life, light, and compassion to all. Step into this world in the assurance that God's love is enough for our lives. In fact, it is more than enough. In the name of the Friend, the Companion, and the Comforter, go forth in peace.
Amen.

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

An Old Irish Blessing

– T. Jennings

**May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of God's hand until we meet again.**

POSTLUDE

Please be seated.

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

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 this morning are given by the Maples/Rhoderick family in loving memory of Sam Maples.

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.*

Girl Scouts

The following are active in Girl Scouts: Zoe Bowen, Laurel Nguyen-Powell, Kali Chappell, Peyton Bowen, Emma Baker, Katie Zander, and Marley Rhoads

Adults active in Girl Scouts: Kim Sexton, Catie Schaeberle, Julie Chappell, Barb Barry, Tricia Coffey, Thi Nguyen, Evelyn and Tom Frazier, Dawn Lagrotteria, and Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

Adults in our congregation who have earned Girl Scouting's highest award, the Gold Bar, First Class or Gold Star: Eleanor Fisher, Kim Jahoda, Barbara Kershner Daniel, RaeAnn Butler, Catie Schaeberle, and Kim Sexton

Boys Scouts

The following are active in Boy scouting: Austin Bowen, Lucas Nguyen-Powell, and Eli Baker

Adults active in scouting: Marc Kline and Jennifer Powell

Members of our congregation who are Eagle Scouts: Chris Spear, Bud Rossig, Allen Maples, Mark Daniel, Chris Daniel, Tyler Schaeberle, Alex Schaeberle, Sean Sexton, Ethan Kline, Aiden Baldree, and Kyle Miller

Attendance Last Sunday: 23 at 8:30 AM, 169 at 10:30 AM, and 51 online.



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

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

Serving Today: March 10

Scripture Reader: Laurel Nguyen-Powell
Deacons: Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Elder: Ave Barr
Greeters: Cathie Duncan, Cliff Barr
Robin Cooney
Welcome: Julie Clark
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Larry Martin
Jeff Schaeberle
Nursery: Robert Kambic
Fellowship: *Chili Cook-off*

Serving Next Week: March 17

Peter Brehm
Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher
Eric Weakly
Tom and Rachel Ford, Felecia Bishop
Holly Davis, Pat Condo
Rodney Martin, Jeff Schaeberle
Kelly Esslinger
Stephanie Fisher
Starr Schaeberle, Mark Ulrich
Darryl Glick, Julie Chappell
Betsy Selby, Angela Brittain

Next Sunday: March 17 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

“Teach me”

Psalm 119:9-16 | Matthew 18:15-22

Peter is often all or nothing—either resisting Jesus or drawing closer to him in earnest. In this scripture, we see a version of Peter who is hungry to learn. His posture is humble and open—he wants to absorb Jesus’ teachings like a wet sponge. He asks a question and might expect a straightforward answer: “How many times should I forgive?” Instead, Jesus’ math is not predictable—it’s infinite. Forgiveness is abundant; grace is not earned. In your own faith, do you find comfort in theological formulas? Do you wish for straightforward answers? Can you let go of black-and-white thinking and instead embrace the infinite colors of grace?

Today, we will hear special music by the Cambridge Handbell Choir and the Senior Choir will offer their Lenten Cantata – Gabriel Fauré’s Requiem.



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)

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.

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

Sundays, through 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 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.

CHILI COOK-OFF

Sunday, March 10

Community Room

during Fellowship

It's time to turn up the heat for another ERUCC Chili Cook-off! During Fellowship today, we will enjoy some friendly competition (and delicious cups of chili). Come enjoy and vote for your favorite as our chili cooks compete for fun prizes!

We are grateful to Trish Coffey and Owen York for coordinating!



**OFFERING DATE:
MARCH 10, 2024**

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.



PASTORAL TRANSITION

Heritage - Mission - Leadership - Connections - Future

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

BE A BLESSING

PRACTICE PEACE.
LEAD WITH LOVE.

BE JOYFUL. PRAY OFTEN. BE KIND. GIVE THANKS.

DO GOOD. HAVE COURAGE. WORK FOR JUSTICE.

BE THE LIGHT. ENCOURAGE OTHERS.



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 12 Chapter 7: The Labyrinth: Blueprint for Transformation
March 19 Chapter 8: The Birth of a Vision

Beginning March 26, we will begin a study using *Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*. Revs. David Felten and Jeff Procter-Murphy, along with an all-star cast of Bible scholars and top church teachers, provide a primer to a church movement that encourages every Christian to "live the questions" instead of "forcing the answers." We will supplement our reading with the DVD course of the same name, *Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*, which includes commentary from such bestselling authors as Diana Butler Bass, John Shelby Spong, Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Brian McLaren, and others.

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.

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?

MAUNDY THURSDAY: HOLY COMMUNION AND TENEBRAE SERVICE

Thursday, March 28

Sanctuary

7:30 PM

Maundy Thursday is an alternate name for Holy Thursday, the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment."

As recorded in John's gospel, on his last night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and then gave them a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34).

This service has three main parts:

- A Service of Light-- based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light;
- A Service of Holy Communion in which we are invited to participate as one of The Twelve at the Last Supper;

- A Service of Shadows--Tenebrae--in which we meditate

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, March 28 Sanctuary and Livestreamed (evening) 12:00 and 7:30 PM

On this Holy Day, we are paying close attention to how Peter acts in Jesus' final hours. So much happens in a short amount of time: Jesus predicts Peter's denial, soldiers come and Peter draws his sword, Jesus is arrested and Peter denies him, Peter denies Jesus again and again and the cock crows, then Jesus is crucified and dies. Peter is prone to mess up, to fight, to deny, to leave, to seek safety for himself. But aren't we all? May we lament all the ways we are prone to leave the God we love.

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.

SPRING WORK DAY

Saturday, April 13 ERUCC 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Spring is coming! It's time for some spring cleanup at ERUCC. We are looking for volunteers to share their time and talent cleaning up and completing some small maintenance on our spaces. Tasks include painting (as always), cleaning windows, cleaning chairs in the Community Room, organizing, and other odds and ends. We are also looking for some volunteers to help provide lunch for the group.

If you have time we'd love your help! Please RSVP to the Property Chair, Owen York, in person, via email at property@erucc.org, or phone/text (301) 401-4947.



Children and Youth Ministry

JUNIOR CHURCH

Junior Church, a space to join in creative spiritual formation activities, meets most Sundays, except the first Sunday of each month when we observe Communion. Children aged 5 – 5th grade may go to Junior Church in the Thomas Room after the Thought for the Day in the worship service. Parents should pick up children from Junior Church following service.

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, March 10

Community Room

5:00 – 7:00 PM

World Religions: Purim and Ramadan and Eid, plus dinner!

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.

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, March 24

Tree Trekkers, 9560 Old National Pike

2:00 – 5:00 PM

Join us as we take in the awesomeness of trees and our adventures in them! The group will meet at Tree Trekkers with closed-toe shoes and long pants or longer shorts. Hair should be tied back if longer than the shoulders. This is a rescheduled event from 2023 when we got rained out. If you paid in 2023, you do not need to pay now. The cost for youth or adults who want to join them is \$25. If you are a youth or youth parent and you did not sign-up last year, please let Pastor Kirstin know.

GOOD FRIDAY GOD'S KIDS CLUB

Friday, March 29

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.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Frederick School of Religion

The Frederick School of Religion convenes for its 40th year April 8. The School is an ecumenical teaching organization that provides a '*Learning for Life*' experience. This year's school consists of 9 courses (8 six-week courses and 1 single afternoon course), which cover a broad range of topics appealing to diverse faith groups.

The location is Brook Hill United Methodist Church, 8946 Indian Springs Road, Frederick, MD 21702. These courses will be offered on consecutive Monday and Tuesday afternoons and in the evenings from April 8th through May 15th. Each 6-week long course is eligible for up to 1.2 Continuing Education Units. For more information and registration forms, you may visit our website www.frederickschoolofreligion.org or call 240-651-1865 or 240-490-5657.

ERUCC Scholarships Available

ERUCC is fortunate to have several scholarship programs available to our members as they seek educational opportunities to develop knowledge and skill in realization of their full potential. The McCardell Scholarship Fund was established by Mr. Robert McCardell in honor and memory of members of the McCardell family. The Kieffer Scholarship Fund was established in honor of Henri L.G. Kieffer, pastor of this church from 1910-1946. The Liz Coffey Scholarship Fund was established in memory and honor of our beloved youth Liz Coffey. Also included are funds given in memory of Tina Baker, a long-time educator and member of the ERUCC Scholarship Committee.

Contributions to these Scholarship Funds by members and friends of the church are always welcomed.

These scholarships are gifts to church members for post-secondary undergraduate education and are awarded by the Scholarship Committee. The awards are based on the quality of the candidate's plan for use of the funds, the ability and promise of the applicant, and the need for financial assistance. The aid may continue for subsequent years after an interview with the Scholarship Committee, submission of intent to reapply, and a transcript of grades for the current year.

Scholarship applications are available through the Church Office for new applicants: (301) 662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org.

Students wishing to renew scholarships must also contact the Church Office providing the information requested. All application materials must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee through the Church Office by the April 30 deadline.

Any further questions can be directed to Sandra Trout, Chairman of Scholarship Committee at troutsandra@aol.com.

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 10, 2024

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

“No Matter What”

Only a portion of Psalm 107 is suggested for the reading today by the lectionary committee. But the psalm in its entirety is worth studying. Each verse reminds the reader of those who have, in moments of extremity, called upon God. The suffering of refugees, the imprisoned, the hungry and enslaved is told, bookended by the miracle of God’s saving power that has visited those who suffered. What response can there be but the overflowing gratitude of grateful hearts?

Today, many UCC congregations will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Like the psalmist generations ago, our hearts break at the suffering around us. And as humans capable of holding many emotions at once, we also feel deep gratitude in situations where we see that suffering has been alleviated. Like the psalmist in those moments, we join with multitudes in offering the overflowing gratitude of our hearts back to God.

Today, One Great Hour of Sharing is one way we can co-create with God in shaping a compassionate and just response to the suffering in our nation and world.

<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/>

“One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of 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 to 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.”



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