



Alleluia!

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
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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 Huetting



EVANGELICAL REFORMED
United Church of Christ
– An Open and Affirming Congregation –



March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

10:30 AM



The numbered hymns are from
The New Century Hymnal

*All who are able may stand

PRELUDE

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

Cathy Fronck, trumpet; Jeff Baker, trombone

– LLANFAIR, arr. J. Biery

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

PRELUDE

Hymn to Joy

– Beethoven, arr. L. Larson

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Yesterday we thought death had won.
Yesterday we thought all was lost.
Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

But not today.

Today we know that love has won.

Today we know that hope is real.

Today we know that Christ is here.

We have a reason to hope.

We have a reason to sing!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Christ is risen today.

***HYMN OF ADORATION**

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

#233

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Mortal tongues and angels say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

**Let the Victors people sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting, Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of new beginnings,

On that first Easter morning, the disciples struggled to hear the good news. Doubt clouded their minds. Negativity took root and hope vanished with a simple shake of their heads.

As we return to this familiar text, help us to hear differently this morning. Open our ears that we might hear the sound of Alleluias ringing through this text. Open up our minds that the mystery and joy of Easter might feel within reach. Open up our hearts that we might believe the unbelievable.

And like Peter, in this hearing, may we move closer to you.

God of the empty tomb, we are hungry for your good news.

Speak to us now. With hope in our hearts we listen and we pray, amen.

***A CELEBRATION OF NEW LIFE**

**In this season of springtime, of birth and rebirth,
we welcome and celebrate baby chicks transformed from eggs,
buds and bulbs, new blades of grass and flowering trees.**

**We celebrate with light and love,
the hope and wonder of the Resurrection.**

**In this season of transition for our congregation,
we welcome signs of growth and change in the journey,
forming a Transition Team and setting vision for new life.**

**We celebrate with light and love,
the hope and wonder of the Resurrection.**

On this Transgender Day of Visibility,
we welcome new names as a part of rebirth,
and honor when transgender and non-binary people live into their true
selves with resilience and joy, in transformative ways.

**We celebrate with light and love,
the hope and wonder of the Resurrection.**

On this Easter Sunday,
we welcome with surprise and awe the Resurrected Jesus,
reminding us that God's love overcomes death
and brings new life as a gift to all of us! Alleluia!

**We celebrate with light and love,
the hope and wonder of the Resurrection.
Alleluia, Amen!**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

In the Gospel of Luke, the women come to the tomb, and to their surprise,
instead of finding Jesus, they find angels. The angels tell the women,
"Jesus is not here," and when that answer is met with confusion, the angels
say, "Remember what he told you." *Remember*. It's one of the words Jesus
used at his last supper, and it's one of the first words we hear at the empty
tomb. *Remember*.

I think this call to remember is why we need the prayer of confession and
these words of forgiveness every single week. It's not enough to hear of
God's grace once. We need to hear it over and over again, week after week.
We need to be reminded that God's grace and mercy will never run out.

So friends, let us run to God like the women ran to the tomb.

Let us tell the truth of our lives so that once again we can be reminded that
our God is a God of grace, mercy, and love. Let us pray so that we can
remember. Join me in the prayer of confession:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

The stone is rolled away!

We assume it is a mistake.

The angels say, "He is not here!"

We assume their news is fake.

The women tell the story,

but we do not want to hear it.

Peter runs to the tomb,
but we do not understand.

Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb
is nothing more than a prank.

**Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths
and still holding tight to death.**

Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope
when you are alive and well in the world.

Teach us to see what you see.

Unravel the threads of our unbelief.

Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The angels tell the women, “Remember what Jesus told you.”

So, church, remember this:

You are seen.

You are forgiven.

You are held in God’s grace.

All of this is true.

Grace and mercy abound for you.

Remember this.

Amen!

ANTHEM

Risen Indeed!

Senior Choir

– A. Pote

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.

THE SCRIPTURE

John Shillingburg

John 20:1-8 NT page 114

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, by placing your gift in the offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary before or after the service, or by scanning the QR code to give from your phone.



OFFERTORY

Crown Him!

Senior Choir

– D. Forrest

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us remember that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes early in the morning. May these gifts of blessing be a sign of the love, light, and glory of our redeeming God who has created a world of abundance with all that we need. May we remain thankful for your generosity, O God, as we dedicate these offerings to you and your beloved creation. 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 to one of two locations at the front of the sanctuary, where you will be served the bread and the cup. All bread is gluten-free and the cup contains grape juice (cups containing apple juice are at the center of each tray). Please partake of the elements as they are given to you, then give the empty cup to the nearby steward before returning to your seat by the side aisle. If you want to receive the elements in the pew for any reason, please notify a deacon.

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.

***HYMN**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

tune – HYFRYDOL

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
Jesus on the cross as Savior for the world's salvation bled;
But the crucified Redeemer now is risen from the dead!**

**Now the iron bars are broken, Christ from death to life is born;
Glorious life, and life immortal on this holy Easter morn;
Christ has triumphed, and we conquer by God's liberating deed;
Now the Christ with us abiding to eternal life shall lead.**

**Christ is risen, we are risen; shed upon us heavenly grace,
Rain and dew, and gleams of glory from the brightness of your face;
That we, with our hearts in heaven, here on earth may fruitful be,
And by angel hands be gathered, and be yours eternally.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to the God of joy;
Alleluia to the Savior who came death's bonds to destroy;
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia! To the Triune Majesty.**

***BENEDICTION**

Children of God, go out and nurture the world so new life will rise. Let go of that which binds you to distraction and isolation. And look towards your days with the hope of a single grain multiplying into the abundance of God's joy and love. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE *Please be seated.*
Rigaudon

Cathy Fronck, trumpet; Jeff Baker, trombone
– A. Campra, arr. S. Drummond Wolff



WORSHIP NOTES: Portions of today's liturgy was written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | Graphic Design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. The texts have been adapted for our use.

We thank Cathy Fronck, trumpet, and Jeffrey Baker, trombone, for participating in our Easter celebration!

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 placed in memory of our parents Ed and Jane Rossig, by Bud, Jennifer, and Ellen.

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: 12 at 8:30 AM, 180 at 10:30 AM, and 72 online.



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

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

Serving Today: March 31

Scripture Reader: John Shillingburg
Deacons: Betsy Selby, Jim Brittain
Elder: Ave Barr
Greeters: Bob and Nancy Manthey
Barb Barry
Welcome: Thi Nguyen
Audio/Visual: Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin
Jeff Baker
Nursery: Colin Neely
Fellowship: Felecia Bishop, Ave Barr
Susan Kulp, David Howard
Starr Schaeberle, Bud Rossig

Serving Next Week: April 7

Richard Leslie
Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick
Starr Schaeberle
Anne Hoffmann, Danielle Carbone
Ave Barr
Cliff Barr, Thi Nguyen
Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin
Jeff Baker
Renae Kline, Jim Weitz
Glenn Wallace, Cathie Duncan
Kathleen and Niel Jefferson
Emily Button Kambic



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

– EASTER LILY DEDICATIONS –

In Memory of

- John R. Deckenback by Carolyn Roberts
- Don and Emmy Roberts by Carolyn Roberts
- John and Bette Deckenback by Carolyn Roberts
- Marie Wallace by Glenn Wallace
- Kevin and Blaine Hoffmann by Ken and Anne Hoffmann
- My husband, Bill Stahler, by Peg Stahler
- My granddaughter, Liz Coffey, by Peg Stahler
- Betty Glick by Darryl Glick and Mark Ulrich
- John and Martha Morris by Robert and Suzanne Morris
- Herman and Mildred Smith by Robert and Suzanne Morris
- Our beloved ones by Tom and Rachel Ford
- Loved ones by John Stush and Audrey Rayfield
- Todd Stush by John Stush
- Missy Ross by her loving husband, Norm
- Sam Wynn and Margaret Quynn Maples by Allen, Joan, and Larry Maples; Jay, Lois, and Virginia Gaul
- Lawrence Schwin, Sr. and Lois M. Schwin by Allen, Joan, and Larry Maples; Jay, Lois, and Virginia Gaul
- Roger and Dawn Williams by Jeff and Starr Schaeberle
- Dale and John Schaeberle by Jeff and Starr Schaeberle
- H. David Kelly and Douglas Ely by E.J. Kelly
- Our moms: Julie Black and Cindy Kerr by Rob and Molly Black
- Charles and Erma Routzahn and all our family members by Mary and Janice Staley and Diane and Olivia Waggy
- My husband and our father, Orivs Staley, by Mary and Janice Staley and Diane and Olivia Waggy
- John and Rita Coyle by Linda Coyle
- Robert Armitage by Linda Coyle
- Our Family Saints by Cindy Smith, Cynthia Duranko, and Jenna Duranko
- Our parents, Kathleen and Joe Clancy and Margret and Bruce Jefferson, by Kathleen and Niel Jefferson
- My parents, Bob and Martha Menchey, by Marj Menchey Berkheimer
- My sister, Marty Menchey Mandras, by Marj Menchey Berkheimer

In Honor of

- Carol Spera by Darryl Glick and Mark Ulrich
- Barbara Kershner Daniel by Mary Ann Simmons
- Our daughter: Julianne, by Rob and Molly Black
- My great grandson, Nikao, by Patti Patterson
- Our children, Marisa, Tyler, Brian, and Jessica, and our grandchildren, Watts, Graham, Greta, Avery, Oliver, Eloise, and Lulu by Kathleen and Niel Jefferson



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:

Milt Crutchley
Sherry Murray
Jack Mens
Charlotte Blue and Family
(friends of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Delano Slifer
Mark Ulrich
Emogene Wyand
Richard Leslie
Bob Pinner
Betsy Fisher
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)
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)
Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley)
Marcy Channell (daughter of JoAnn Fritz)
Paige Coffey
Fran Wenner
Bonnie Devilbiss
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)

Remember to notify the church office when you want your request removed from the prayer list.

Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

WEBSITE

www.erucc.org/give



one time or recurring gifts

GIVE THE NEW WAY



We're moving to a better way of giving. Scan to try it for yourself!

CASH OR CHECK

made payable to
Evangelical Reformed UCC
15 W. Church St,
Frederick MD 21701



offering plates
are available in the
rear of the sanctuary
before and after worship

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 April, we will be skipping lightly through Ezra, Nehemiah, and other post-Exile scriptures to see how the people returning from Babylon struggled to rebuild their lives and the Judean community.

Class will not be held on Easter Sunday.

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.

Classes will not be held on Easter Sunday.

This Week at ERUCC

PASTORAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES CLOSED: APRIL 1 – APRIL 5

During this period, we may take longer than usual to reply to your messages. The church voicemail and email will be monitored at least once daily and messages requesting pastoral care and other urgent needs will be returned; all other messages will receive a response the week of April 8.

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

A new study began March 26 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. Books are available through the church office for \$10.

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.

In April we will be studying the story of the Exodus – one of the two central stories of the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). How did God free the people from Egyptian slavery, and how did God shepherd the people in the wilderness? Netflix is releasing a three-part retelling of the Exodus story on March 27. As a companion piece, we'll consider how well it treats the biblical text and the larger truths about the story.

Upcoming at ERUCC

LET'S TALK: 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.

Participants are encouraged to read as much of the first one hundred pages as possible before the first class.

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 WORKDAY

Saturday, April 13

ERUCC

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Spring is here! It's time for some spring cleanup at ERUCC. We are looking for volunteers to share their time and talent in cleaning up and completing 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 by phone/text (301) 401-4947.

HISTORIC CLOCK TOWER PROJECT AND FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Sunday, April 14

Community Room/Zoom

during Fellowship

Plans to restore and secure the historic clock tower are moving forward. Plans are also moving ahead to address funding the project. Read more about the campaign here: bit.ly/3TncfaC

A presentation will be given during fellowship time on Sunday, April 14. You will be updated on the project needs and where we stand. There will also be an opportunity for questions. We agreed as a church that the tower must be repaired. The time is upon us. Be sure to stay after church on April 14 to learn how we can get it done.

2nd ANNUAL GREEN TEAM NETWORKING EVENT

Tuesday, April 16

Community Room

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Let's share, learn from, and support each other in creating a more sustainable, just, and healthy Frederick County at this event we are co-hosting with the Multi-Faith Alliance of Climate Stewards (MACS). Our ERUCC family is encouraged to attend to see all the great things being done across Frederick County to care for the earth.

We would also love to have some ERUCC volunteers to greet, direct visitors and manage the food and drinks!

Contact Linda Coyle, lkcoyle@yahoo.com, to RSVP or volunteer.



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.

Junior Church will not be held on Easter Sunday; it will resume on April 14.

YOUTH GROUP RETREAT

Bethany Beach

April 3-6

Youth going to Bethany Beach will relax in the sun and sand, enjoy mini-golf, and participate in a photo challenge designed by Pastor Kirstin and some creative play with “Making Waves!”

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FREDERICK SCHOOL OF RELIGION

The Frederick School of Religion convenes for its 40th year on 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.

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 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.

E A S T E R S U N D A Y

March 31, 2024

Mark 16:1-8

"Now What?"

The gospel story this morning begins with two women setting out to perform a routine task. These women, along with their companions and good friends have had a most disconcerting week. First, they saw Jesus - the one who is to them teacher and healer and leader - welcomed into the city of Jerusalem, only to see the crowd and those closest to him turn on him, and then to witness his excruciating death. Now these two women - these two Marys - are heading toward the tomb to perform the distressing but necessary task of anointing the body of their friend who has died. A difficult task, yes, but a routine one.

Coming to the tomb to complete their task they find not, as they had expected, the heavy stone and the body of their teacher but instead a young man in white, an angel who gives them instructions that the text tells us they are too frightened to repeat.

Although some verses were added later, most scholars agree that the gospel of Mark originally ended here.: "So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." Not only does this verse fail to provide proper narrative closure, writes preacher Tom Long, it also lurches to an awkward grammatical stop. A more literal translation would read, "To no one anything they said; afraid they were for..." It is almost as if the author of this gospel of Mark had suddenly been dragged from his writing desk in mid-sentence.

Perhaps they were afraid because they realized in seeing the impossibly heavy stone moved easily away, in seeing the empty space where the dead body they had come to anoint was supposed to have been should have been that Jesus really was who he said he was. He was not only a teacher or a healer or a leader and their friend, but the Christ. And if that is true, and they really are going to follow him, it means the Marys' lives are going to be anything but routine from now on.

So, for a while they said nothing, as this new reality took root in their souls. But they couldn't keep silent forever. We know that, because although those two first witnesses said nothing to anyone, here you are on Easter morning twenty centuries later and half a world away, telling their story. It was a story too powerful, too holy, and too good to keep silent.

Happy Easter! This is your story now! And that awkward ending? It's not the end. It's just the beginning.



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

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