

Marks  
**OF**  
**F A I T H**

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

**F**or 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.

**H**ymn 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](http://www.erucc.org/give) or by scanning this code:



**W**e 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.

**T**here is more information about the church in this bulletin and our website: [www.erucc.org](http://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](mailto:mmorgan@erucc.org)

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate Pastor for Faith Formation & Parish Life* ~ [ksrhoads@erucc.org](mailto:ksrhoads@erucc.org)

Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music* | Tyler L. York ~ *Office Administrator* ~ [tyork@erucc.org](mailto:tyork@erucc.org)

Jaci Clayton ~ *Facilities Manager* ~ [jclayton@erucc.org](mailto:jclayton@erucc.org)

Tricia Coffey ~ *Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director*

Kelly Esslinger ~ *Assistant Director for Bell Choirs & Children's Music*

Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Assistant* | Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

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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 –



April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter

10:30 AM



The numbered hymns are from  
The New Century Hymnal

\*All who are able may stand

**HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY**

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**PRELUDE**

*Dry Bones*

Cambridge Handbell Choir  
– arr. H. Morris

**\*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Joy Together*

Spirit  
– C Townley, arr. Butler-Moore

**Joy together and worship the name. Joy together in Jesus.**

**Joy together and worship the name. Joy together in Jesus.**

Refrain:

**Celebrate joy and worship the name. Joy together in Jesus.**

**Celebrate joy and worship the name. Joy together in Jesus.**

**Praise together and worship the name. Praise together in Jesus.**

**Praise together and worship the name. Praise together in Jesus.**

Refrain

**Live together and worship the name. Live together in Jesus.**

**Live together and worship the name. Live together in Jesus.**

Refrain

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jesus said,

**“Follow me.”**

Jesus said,

**“Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”**

Jesus said,

**“Forgive seventy times seven.”**

Jesus said,

**“Feed my sheep.”**

In response, we say:

**“Here’s my heart.**

**Take and seal it.**

**Seal it for thy courts above.”**

Let us worship God with all our hearts.

## **\*OPENING PRAYER**

**God of second chances and God of new life, we have spent our days wandering. Like Peter, we have had milled about through nearly every state of faith. We have had courageous days and convicted days, learning days and questioning days.**

**We have had days where we run to you, days for diving out of the boat, days for deep joy, and days where the pain of the world feels too close to bear.**

**So as we bring our wandering hearts to you, we ask that you draw us in. Allow this story to spark something new in us.**

**Allow this story of grace to give us pause and pull us in.**

**We are listening. Amen.**

## **HHS MOMENT – HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY MOMENT**

### **\*OPENING HYMN**

*Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day*

#241

**Joy dawned again on Easter Day,  
the sun shone out with bright array;  
For when the Apostles hid in fear,  
the Risen Christ to them appeared.**

**O Jesus, Savior, Gentle One,  
come take our hearts to be your own,  
That we may give you all our days  
the willing tribute of our praise.**

**O Sovereign One, with us abide  
in this our joyful Easter-tide;  
From every weapon death can wield,  
your own redeemed forever shield.**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

For the last seven weeks we have been following the life and faith of Peter. Despite being one of Jesus' most loyal disciples, Peter still made mistakes. He was faithful and messy, humble and afraid, loving and cautious.

Friends, we're a lot like Peter.

Despite our faith, we make mistakes.

Despite our belief, we carry unbelief.

Despite our love, we can cause hurt.

So like Peter, let us return to God in prayer, confessing the truth of our lives.

God's grace does not stop with that humble yet fearful disciple.

God's grace reaches all the way to us. Let us pray:

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious God,**

**Like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink.**

**You tell us your truth and we push it away.**

**We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance.**

**We profess our faith and deny it three times.**

**We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence.**

**Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering along the journey of faith.**

**Tether us to your heart. Forgive our surprise, our denial, and our limited imagination.**

**Call us out of the boat once more. We are eager to return to you.**

**With humble hearts we pray, amen.**

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, the first time that Peter saw Jesus after the crucifixion, Jesus asked him three times, “Do you love me?” This repetition was not because Jesus doubted Peter’s word. This repetition was Jesus offering Peter grace. You see, the last time Jesus and Peter were together, Peter said three times, “I do not know that man.” So when Jesus returned, he asked Peter, “Do you love me?” And in that moment, he allowed Peter to turn his denials into love.

Friends, the grace of our God knows no end. When we stumble, when we fall, when we deny God or cause harm, Jesus meets us where we are and offers us a second chance. So rest in this good news.

Does God love you? Yes, yes, yes. God loves you.

We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for a love that never ends. **Amen.**

## **HHS MOMENT**

### **ANTHEM**

Children’s Music and Movement

I Am A *C.H.R.I.S.T.I.A.N.* *Down In My Heart*

– arr. H. Wright

## **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.*

*Junior Church for children ages 5 through 5th grade will resume April 14.*

*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.*

### **THE SCRIPTURE**

Richard Leslie

John 21:1-19 NT page 115

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

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](http://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

*The Joy of the Lord*

Spirit  
– T. Paris

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of the Resurrection, help us use these gifts to offer hope where there is sorrow, peace where there is chaos, and love where there is fear. We can do incredible things because your Spirit lives within us. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

*We are Marching*

#526

**We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, marching, we are marching  
Oo, we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are singing in the light of God,  
We are singing in the light of God.  
We are singing in the light of God,  
We are singing in the light of God.  
We are singing, singing, we are singing  
Oo, we are singing in the light of God.**

**We are laughing in the light of God,  
We are laughing in the light of God.  
We are laughing in the light of God,  
We are laughing in the light of God.  
We are laughing, laughing, we are laughing  
Oo, we are laughing in the light of God.**

## HHS MOMENT

### \*BENEDICTION

Beloved, go in peace, and go be peace! Receive the Holy Spirit deep in your being, and share your new life in Christ with the world! **Amen!**

### \*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*May You Run and Not Be Weary*

– P. Murakami

**May you run and not be weary  
May your heart be filled with song  
And may the love of God  
Continue to give you hope  
And keep you strong  
And may you run and not be weary  
May your life be filled with joy  
And may the road you travel  
Always lead you home**

**POSTLUDE** *Please be seated.*



**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.

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**We thank Laura Walling, bass, and Joseph Baker, drums, for participating in our Holy Humor 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 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

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**The flowers on the altar** this morning are placed by Rob McGuire and Alex Martinez in honor of their parents, Robert and Rosemarie McGuire and Jaune and Helen Martinez.

**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.*

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**Attendance Last Sunday:** The attendance numbers from Easter Sunday, March 31, will be reported in next week's bulletin.



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

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

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**Serving Today: April 7**

Scripture Reader: Richard Leslie  
Deacons: Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick  
Elder: Starr Schaeberle  
Greeters: Anne Hoffmann, Ave Barr  
Danielle Carbone  
Welcome: Cliff Barr, Thi Nguyen  
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Larry Martin  
Jeff Schaeberle  
Nursery: Kate Fromknecht  
Fellowship: Renae Kline, Jim Weitz  
Glenn Wallace, Cathie Duncan  
Kathleen and Niel Jefferson  
Emily Button Kambic

**Serving Next Week: April 14**

Robin Cooney  
Robin A. Brady-Slifer  
Robin L. Brady-Slifer  
Marc Kline  
Cathie Duncan, Marj Berkheimer  
Nancy Manthey  
Julie Clark, Sue Pinner  
Larry Martin, Jeff Baker  
Kelly Esslinger  
Ave and Cliff Barr, Jen Powell  
Joan and Allen Maples, Pat Condo  
Bud Rossig

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**Next Sunday: April 14 – Third Sunday of Easter**

Luke 24:36b–48

Here it is again – another story like last week from John's gospel (John 20:19–31) when Jesus encounters the disciples after the Resurrection and greets them with a word of peace. This encounter, however, doesn't seem to calm the disciples but stirs them up. When does being a Christ-like peace bearer stir things up?

*The Senior Choir will be singing. Today we will welcome Brennen Robert Marsh through the Sacrament of Baptism. Brennen is the child of Breanne Marsh and the grandchild of Bob and Suzanne Marsh.*

# 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](mailto:erucc@erucc.org).

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## 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)  
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)  
Shannon Baxter (daughter of Kathy Gelles-Baxter)  
Autumn Crutchley  
Jason Rhoads  
Nathan Cable  
Hillal Eastburn  
Barbara Rhoads  
Pat Condo  
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)  
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.***

## **Today at ERUCC**

Today, Holy Humor Sunday, celebrates Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday after Easter. For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including "Bright Sunday" (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "Risus paschalis - the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it.

**Be prepared to make a joyful noise.**

**Celebrate the gift of new life in Christ. Christ is risen, risen indeed.**

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### **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](mailto:erucc@erucc.org) or (301) 662-2762.

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### **LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE with Revs. John and Rebecca Shillingburg**

**Sundays**

**North Room / Zoom**

**9:00 – 10:15 AM**

Zoom: [bit.ly/ERSunstudy](https://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.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

9:30 – 10:10 AM

We have two classrooms for **Children's Sunday School**. Our Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade class meets in the Liz Coffey Room and our 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade class meets in the Thomas Room.

Our **Youth Sunday School** class for 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade meets in the Clapp Conference Room in the Parish House Church Offices from 9:30 – 10:20 AM.

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## SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY

Sunday, April 7

**Mortgage Assistance:** On the first Sunday of each month, we have a special opportunity for giving towards Mortgage Assistance. Donations fund ERUCC's mortgages with the Fisher Fund and FCB Bank, a division of ACNB Bank, payments on which are about \$153,000/year.

## This Week at ERUCC

### TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg

Tuesdays

North Room / Zoom

11:00 AM

Zoom: [bit.ly/3TdUnOy](https://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.

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### 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](mailto:rdkline15@gmail.com).

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## Upcoming at ERUCC

### **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](https://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.

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### **2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:lkcoyle@yahoo.com), to RSVP or volunteer.

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## **Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC**

### **WEBSITE**

[www.erucc.org/give](http://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*

## 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 resume on April 14.*

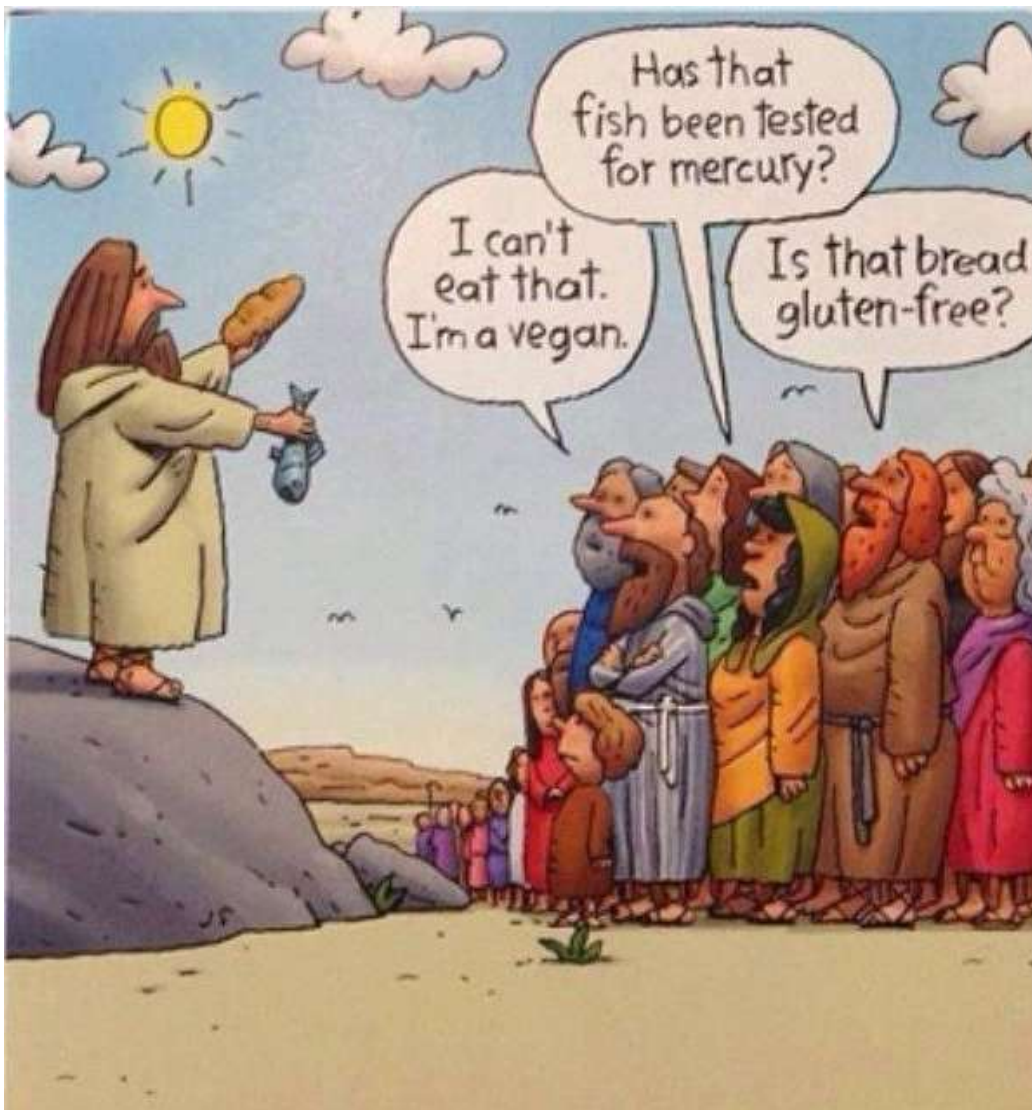
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### YOUTH GROUP – PITTSBURGH DAY TRIP

April 21

After an early morning departure, we will explore some of the city's highlights, including the Duquesne Incline and Heinz Museum.

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## **Sunday Morning Schedule**

*subject to change*

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

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### **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.



## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 7, 2024

John 20:19-31

### “Marks of Faith”

[https://www.ucc.org/science\\_and\\_technology\\_network\\_page/](https://www.ucc.org/science_and_technology_network_page/)

Today you are invited into the story of Thomas. Whether it is new to you or very familiar, take a few moments to read his story in the book of John. Sit with one or more of these questions. What words, phrases, or ideas jump out at you? What seems comforting? What is unsettling? What about this story stands the test of time? What part of this story seems better left in the past? What is God calling you to, using this story?

Although he is sometimes called “Doubting Thomas,” the disciple’s willingness to ask questions does not show doubt but in fact its opposite; curiosity and a deep desire to experience the risen Christ using all his senses. This post-Easter impulse, to deeply know the risen Christ however one can, is at the heart of the United Church of Christ’s Science and Technology Network.

The Network is guided by the Pastoral Letter on Faith and Science, an epistle that turns twenty-five years old this year. Some issues, like the rise of the use of AI, for example, and a more global awareness of the seriousness of climate change, are new. But the questions the Pastoral Letter on Faith and Science asks are just as salient today as they were two and half decades ago.

As you were invited into the story of Thomas, take some time to read or re-read the Pastoral Letter on Faith and Science. You can find it online at <https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/pastoral-letter-on-faith-and-science.pdf>

As you read, ask yourself the What words, phrases, or ideas jump out at you? What seems comforting? What is unsettling? What about this letter stands the test of time? What part of this letter seems better left in the past? What is God calling you to, using this letter?



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

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