



*Enfolded by*

LOVE

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](http://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](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*

---

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 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:30 AM

The numbered hymns are from  
The New Century Hymnal

\*All who are able may stand

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Tyler L. York

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**PRELUDE**

*A Little Prayer*

Jenna Duranko, marimba  
– Evelyn Glennie

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

In this time of worship and throughout our lives, we call on God.

In moments when we search for the power to act justly,

**let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.**

In situations when our lips long for powerful words to speak,

**let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.**

At times when we feel lost and need to find the power to follow,

**let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.**

When it is easier to hate, and we desperately need the power to love,

**let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.**

God offers salvation, transformation, solace, and refuge.

In it, we obtain the power to act, the power to speak, the power to follow,  
and the power to love.

**In all we do and all we say,**

**let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.**

Come, let us worship.

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Loving and living God,**

**we gather together today, guided by you, our Shepherd.**

**You protect and care for us; you lead us as we journey through life.**

**During this time of worship,**

**we ask that our ears are open to hear your word,**

**our eyes are open to see your light,  
our hearts are open to feel your love.  
As your sheep, we know love,  
and we have heard the commandment to love one another.  
May our worship be a testament to your love and our dedication to  
love one another. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*My Shepherd Is the Living God*

#247

**My shepherd is the living God,  
I therefore nothing need;  
In pastures fair, near pleasant streams  
you settle me to feed.  
You bring my wandering spirit back  
when I forsake your ways,  
And lead me for your mercy's sake  
in paths of truth and grace.**

**When I walk through the shades of death,  
your presence is my stay;  
A word of your supporting breath  
drives all my fears away.  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,  
does still my table spread;  
My cup with blessings overflows,  
your oil anoints my head.**

**The sure provisions of my God  
attend me all my days;  
O may your house be my abode,  
and all my work be praise.  
There would I find a settled rest,  
while others come and go -  
No more a stranger or a guest,  
but like a child at home.**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Standing before the religious authorities in Jerusalem, Peter cried out, “the stone rejected by you, the builders, has become the cornerstone.” Like those who threw Peter and John in prison and placed law before love, we too confess that we have rejected the stone that is Christ Jesus. In our doubt, we have turned towards false securities, hopes, and promises. In our ignorance, we have invested in artificial love and cheap grace. In our defiance, we have denied our beliefs and ignored your guidance. We, too, have rejected the stone in these ways and others. In this silence, we confess our acts of rejection now (*pause*). Hear our confessions as recognition for wrongs done in the past and hope for transformation to come. Amen.**

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

People of God,  
be assured that even though the stone was rejected,  
it now sits as the cornerstone,  
ever-present, ever-forgiving, ever-lasting.  
You are forgiven, stand firm on this foundation,  
proclaiming the name of Jesus Christ now and forever. **Amen.**

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

Linda Coyle

## **\*HYMN**

*Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

#400

**Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of our Go, and precious,  
binding all the Church in one;  
Holy Zion's help for ever,  
and our confidence alone.**

**To this temple, where we call you,  
come, O God of Hosts, today!  
With your constant, loving kindness  
hear your people as they pray.  
Give your fullest benediction:  
grace to follow Christ the Way.**

**Here renew your servants' vision,  
that by faith they may attain  
peace and hope, renewed compassion,  
strength to comfort those in pain,  
Tears and grief transformed to gladness  
in your everlasting reign.**

### **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 SCRIPTURE**

Darryl Glick

Psalm 23

OT page 501

John 10:11-18

NT page 103

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### **SERMON**

The Rev. John Shillingburg

### **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**

*Brother James' Air*

Senior Choir  
– Gordan Jacob

### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**To the one who has commanded us to love one another,  
we give thanks for the love we have received.**

**Hugs, prayers, gifts, words of encouragement, forgiveness, and grace.  
In recognition of all we are given let us now commit to doing love.  
Sharing, caring and sacrificing, being patient, generous, selfless,  
risking judgment, loss, disappointment.  
Let us offer all the love we have in all the ways we can  
until our doing becomes our being.  
Let us do love, let us be love, in the name of the one who is love. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Savior, Again to Your Dear Name*

#80

**Savior, again to your dear name we raise  
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;  
We join to bless you ere our worship cease,  
then, in the silence, wait your word of peace.**

**Grant us your peace upon our homeward way;  
with you began, with you shall end the day;  
Guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
that in this house have called upon your name.**

**Grant us your peace, as day turns into night;  
stay with us till the coming of the light;  
Keep safe all those who call upon your name,  
for dark and light to you are both the same.**

**Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life,  
our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;  
Then, when your voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
call us, O God, to your eternal peace.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

You have heard it proclaimed: God is love. This love is powerful and transformative. It sacrifices everything, even one's life. It boldly cries out for justice. It beckons us to leave behind jealousy, hatred, and grudges to abide within. It convicts us to act courageously. Go from this place, knowing that the one who is love profoundly loves you. Take this love and share it with family and friends, as well as stranger and foe, gift it to the hurt and sick, the lonely and troubled. Be bold, be humble, be love. **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE** *Please be seated.*  
*Wind in the Bamboo Grove*

Jenna Duranko, marimba  
– Keiko Abé

**WORSHIP NOTES:** Today's liturgy is from Seasons of the Spirit.

---

## 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.

---

**The flowers on the altar** this morning are placed in honor and remembrance of those who have died in service to the United States.

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

---

**Attendance Last Sunday:** 17 at 8:30 AM, 173 at 10:30 AM, and 54 online.



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

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

---

### Serving Today: April 21

Scripture Reader: Darryl Glick  
Deacons: Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher  
Elder: Tyler L. York  
Greeters: Tom and Rachel Ford  
Felecia Bishop  
Welcome: Jeanellen Kallevang  
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Jeff Schaeberle  
Jeff Baker  
Nursery: Stephanie Fisher  
Fellowship: Karen Justice, Marj Berkheimer  
Peter Brehm, Felecia Bishop  
Rob McGuire, Alex Martinez

### Serving Next Week: April 28

Youth  
Betsy Selby, Jim Brittain  
Peter Brehm  
Niel and Kathleen Jefferson  
Rob Smith  
Jeanellen Kallevang, Sue Pinner  
Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin  
Linda Coyle, Tommie Bradshaw  
Shelley and Eric Weakly  
Colleen and Chuck Baldree

---

**Next Sunday: April 28 – Youth Sunday**

John 15:1-8

ERUCC Youth will be leading worship this morning.



# 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).

---

## 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:**

Bill Gourlie  
Pat Hanberry  
Mary Staley  
Charlie Woodward  
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)  
Autumn Crutchley  
Jason Rhoads  
Nathan Cable  
Greg Rhoads  
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)

*Please notify the church office when you want your request removed from the prayer list.*

## Today at ERUCC

### **LET'S TALK: BOOK STUDY OF CASTE**

**led by The Rev. Richard Leslie and Peter Brehm**

**Sundays, April 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.*

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.

---

### **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.

*Let's Study the Bible will not meet on Sunday morning, April 21.*

---

### **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.

*Youth Sunday School will not meet on April 21 due to the Youth Group trip to Pittsburgh, nor will it meet on April 28 when Youth will meet in Trinity Chapel at 8:30 AM to prepare to lead the 10:30 AM Worship Service.*

---



## **PASTORAL TRANSITION**

**Heritage - Mission - Leadership - Connections - Future**

Learn more about our interim journey at [www.erucc.org/transition](http://www.erucc.org/transition)

## 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.

---

### **TUESDAY EVENING YOGA**

**Tuesdays**

**NEW LOCATION: Trinity Chapel**

**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).

**Starting April 16**, yoga classes are now held in Trinity Chapel's large ground-floor classroom. To access the classroom, walk through the gate to the left of the building, down the walkway to the chapel's side door, and then into the hallway leading to the classroom.

---

## **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



## Upcoming at ERUCC

### EVERYBODY'S BIRTHDAY

Saturday, May 4

Community Room

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Happy birthday to you! And you ... and you .. and you! Join your church family for our annual fun dinner and dessert social to celebrate *everybody's* birthday. We will sit together at birthday tables to get to know each other a little bit more.

Want to decorate a birthday table or contribute to the meal? **Sign up:** [bit.ly/3JdYyGj](https://bit.ly/3JdYyGj)

---

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, May 5

Community Room / Zoom

12:00 PM

Our annual meeting will be Sunday, May 5, in the Community Room, with lunch being served immediately following worship. We will be electing new elders, deacons, and committee chairs. Members and friends of the congregation may also participate via Zoom.

Desserts wanted! Lunch will be provided, but please consider bringing a dessert dish to share!

### Nominating Committee Report

#### To be elected by the Congregation:

Elder for first 3-year term

Jeanellen Kallevang

Elder for second 3-year term

Eric Weakly

Deacon for first 2-year term

Quynn Adkins

Deacon for first 2-year term

Kyle Miller

Deacon for first 2-year term

*vacant*

Deacon for second 2-year term

Harrison Fisher

Head Deacon

Matt Davis

Finance Chair for second 1-year term

Will Duncan

Property Chair for first 2-year term

*vacant*

Christian Education Chair for first 2-year term

*vacant*

Mission and Social Action Chair for first 2-year term

Shelley Weakly

#### To be elected by the Consistory

Secretary for 2023-2024

David Kehne

Treasurer for 2023-2024

Robert Morris

## 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.

---



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

## Other Announcements

### **YOUNG ADULT ACTIVITY PACK**

As we continue to support young adults, we have been asked to help provide an activity pack for hanging out in the park. If you are interested in contributing, you can purchase an item from the list and bring it to the church office or you can email Pastor Kirstin, [ksrhoads@erucc.org](mailto:ksrhoads@erucc.org), to make a donation towards these items! An Amazon card would allow the group to purchase some board games as well.

**Wish List:** [bit.ly/4aNDn9Y](https://bit.ly/4aNDn9Y)

---

### **SERVICE OF INSTALLATION FOR THE REV. KATIE PENICK**

**Sunday, April 21**                      **Trinity UCC, 3229 York St, Manchester MD**      **2:00 PM**

The Catoctin Association, Central Atlantic Conference, United Church of Christ and Trinity United Church of Christ in Manchester cordially invite your presence and prayers to the Service of Installation for Rev. Katie Penick as pastor to the congregation.

Clergy who wish to robe and process should arrive one-half hour prior to the service to robe, pray and prepare for the processional. Stoles should reflect the liturgical color of red. There will be a reception of light refreshments following the service.

---

### **ERUCC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

ERUCC is fortunate to have several scholarship programs available to our members as they seek educational opportunities to develop knowledge and skills in the 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.

All application materials must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee through the Church Office by the **April 30 deadline**.

Request an application for new or renewing applicants by email: [erucc@erucc.org](mailto:erucc@erucc.org).

---

### **INVISIBLE SYSTEMS: MY EXPERIENCE OF PRIVILEGE AND RACISM**

**Sunday, April 28**                      **St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church**                      **2:00 PM**

The Social Justice Ministry at Saint Katharine Drexel (8428 Opossumtown Pike) is sponsoring a performance, followed by a facilitated conversation, looking at issues of personal and systemic privilege and racism. The event will include music, storytelling, and reflection.

## **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
9:30 – 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/>.

---

### **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. Please notify a deacon or the church office if you do not wish to be included in these recordings. Always obtain permission prior to sharing images and videos that include minors on your personal social media.



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21, 2024

John 10:11-18

### “Enfolded by Love”

Today is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday. In an increasingly urban culture, Shepherd can be a difficult metaphor to grasp. But, for some ministers, the metaphor of shepherd is very powerful, precisely because their work with livestock helps inform their ministry.

When she was asked what about ministry and shepherding crosses over, Catherine Foote (who describes herself as retired from ministry, but still shepherding) checked in from England, where she had traveled to participate in sheep dog trials.

“Ha!” she wrote, “Well, that would be just about everything! But I would say it has kept me aware of the everyday, ordinary diligence and joy of ministry. Sheep need to be fed, every day. Watered, every day. Tended, every day. And if I stop to notice, the work brings me joy, every day.”

Although she’s not a shepherd, Jackie Hibbard of Dancing Spirit Equine Facilitated Learning and Coaching and associate pastor at community UCC Boulder works extensively with animals and their connections to humans. She checked in about her work with horses. “Horses have helped me learn so much about myself and my leadership style. I could talk about this for paragraphs, but two simple learnings are: they help me know when I’m not being clear and when I’m not fully present. I am a better minister and listener, because of what horses have taught me.”

Think about the relationships you have had with animals. How have those relationships deepened your relationship with God and with your sense of calling and vocation?



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

Bulletin artwork and backpage stories copyright © 2024 United Church of Christ