



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
Jaci Clayton ~ *Facilities Manager* ~ 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 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:30 AM

The numbered hymns are from
The New Century Hymnal

*All who are able may stand

YOUTH SUNDAY

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lucas Nguyen-Powell

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.

We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Creating God,

we are grateful for the hope that you offer to us and all creation.

Prune us so that we may have a cleansed heart.

Help us to grow your garden of love.

Water our despair so it can be transformed into your hope.

Feed our minds so that all may glean from your wisdom.

Nurture our spirits so that we can become more fruitful in our lives.

Give us new life, we pray. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

God Is Truly with Us

#68

**God is truly with us; sing we and adore now;
praise the One we come before now.
Here within this temple, here in sound and silence,
worship God in deepest reverence.
You alone, God, we own, you, our God and Savior;
praise to you forever.**

**God is truly with us; loud our praise resounding!
Echoes of the saints surrounding!
"Holy, holy, holy," hear the hymn ascending,
angels, saints, their voices blending!
Bow your ear to us here; hear, O Christ, the praises
that your Church now raises.**

**Source of every blessing, bless the ones who name you,
let our words and deeds proclaim you.
Like the saints and angels praising you in glory,
may your servants sing your story.
And in all, great and small, may we do most nearly
what you love most dearly.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Quynn Adkins

We come before you now, with our arms/branches outstretched to you as we depend on you as our Gardener and caregiver. Join me in the prayer of confession....

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We come before you knowing that we are branches that must remain connected to you as the vine in order to bear good fruit. Just as the waves in the ocean are guided by the moon, we are strengthened by you to guide our decisions. We know by being rooted in you we will continue to make good decisions and never stray far from you. So we lift our arms/branches up to you knowing that you are never far from reach.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

Junior Church for children ages 5 through 5th grade will resume on Sunday, May 12.

***HYMN**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

#547

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**My God has promised good to me,
whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

SHARING OUR STORIES

Peyton Bowen

THE SCRIPTURE

Quynn Adkins

John 15:1-8 NT page 109

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION *What the Church Means to Me*

Peyton Bowen

MORNING PRAYERS

Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

OFFERING OF TITHES, GIFTS AND LIVES TO CHRIST'S SERVICE

Isaac Pomeroy

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Isaac Pomeroy

O Holy One, Bless these gifts so that the world may know your love even when we are silent. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

#4

**Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the storms of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**

**All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sing around you,
center of unbroken praise.**

**Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
teach us what our praise should be.**

**You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blessed,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother,
all who love belong to you;
Teach us how to love each other,
by that love our joy renew.**

**Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
Boundless love is reigning o'er us,
reconciling race and clan.
Ever singing, move we forward,
faithful in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward
in the triumph song of life.**

***BENEDICTION**

Eli Baker

Now go forth with eyes in search of vision,
With hands for healing,
Arms for embracing
And lips for bearing words of hope and joy.
And may the love of Jesus Christ be with you,
Now and always.
Amen.

POSTLUDE *Please be seated.*



Worship Notes: The Call to Worship was written by Joanna Harader (2011). The Opening Prayer is from UCC's Worship Ways.

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 in loving memory of family members by Patti Patterson and family.

The yellow rose is in memory of Dorothy E. Martin by Larry and Sedonia Martin.

Attendance Last Sunday: 18 at 8:30 AM, 122 at 10:30 AM, and 48 online.



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

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

Serving Today: April 28

Scripture Reader: Youth
Deacons: Betsy Selby, Jim Brittain
Elder: Peter Brehm
Greeters: Niel and Kathleen Jefferson
Rob Smith
Welcome: Jeanellen Kallevang, Sue Pinner
Audio/Visual: Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin
Nursery:
Fellowship: Linda Coyle, Tommie Bradshaw
Shelley and Eric Weakly
Colleen and Chuck Baldree

Serving Next Week: May 5

Glenn Wallace Weitz
Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick
Eric Weakly
Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Baker
Jeff Schaeberle
Julie Clark, Joe Adkins, Quynn
Hollie Mercier, Kyle Miller
Pat Dorsz, Bobby Van Dyk

Next Sunday: May 5 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48 | John 15: 9–17

John 15:9–17 follows last week’s “I am the true vine” passage and continues to expand on the character of Christian love. This love is a joy (v. 11), not a burden. However, it is not “easy” or sentimental: it requires nothing less than a willingness to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. To become a friend of Jesus carries a commitment, obedience to the commandment to love one another sacrificially, as Jesus has loved us (see also John 13:34). In this friendship, we make ourselves vulnerable in making ourselves known to others, as did Jesus. This vulnerability brings risk, but it also brings the promise of abiding together, of deepening our relationships. Self-revelation, in this sense, can be a form of laying down one’s life for others.

This Sunday, we will share communion, recognize outgoing lay leaders, and commission our Transition Team. Following worship, we will have our annual congregational meeting to review church finances and activities for 2023.

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:

Bill Gourlie
Pat Hanberry
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 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 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

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 – 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.

Youth Sunday School will not 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

FAMILY CAMP PLANNING MEETING

Sunday, April 28

Zoom

8:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/3vYGBbY

Meeting ID: 838 2720 7577

Passcode: 680876

Family camping is coming soon! June 7-9 we will be going to Gifford Pinchot State Park in Pennsylvania. Look for cost information and ways to sign up soon.

Interested in camping? Join the planning meeting on Zoom!

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

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.

To access the yoga classroom in Trinity Chapel, walk through the gate to the left of the building, down the walkway to the side door, and into the hallway leading to the classroom.



Upcoming at ERUCC

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, May 5

Community Room / Zoom

12:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/er2024mtg

Meeting ID: 846 0947 7035

Passcode: 064491

Our annual meeting will be on 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 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

Dan Ebersole

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



ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 5 | 12 PM

COMMUNITY ROOM / ZOOM: bit.ly/er2024mtg

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY

Sunday, March 5

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.

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 today so children can participate in Youth Sunday during worship. Junior Church will resume on Sunday, May 12.

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, May 5

Community Room

5:30 – 7:30 PM

Youth Group will gather with other local church youth groups for an evening of fun in the Community Room. Each group has been invited to bring a group game/icebreaker and a snack to share. We also look forward to hearing from each group some of their own youth group traditions and what is important to them about their church. RSVP to Pastor Kirstin.

GOD'S KIDS CLUB

Tuesday, May 14

ERUCC

2:00 PM

Pastor Kirstin is working to secure a field trip for us, but we can't know what that will be yet! If a field trip cannot be secured in time, we will be sure to have a hands on activity lined up to help us enjoy the day and if the weather is nice, we will also play at Baker Park, so wear running shoes and bring a water bottle as well as your packed lunch!

Sign up by emailing Pastor Kirstin or signing up on the clipboard in the upper lobby.

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, May 19

Tree Trekkers

2:00 PM

Youth group will meet at Tree Trekkers in Frederick for a challenging journey through the treetops! We have 10 spots, based on the RSVPs we had mid-April. If you want to go, reach out to Pastor Kirstin ASAP so she can see if she can add more! Cost is \$30 and a waiver must be signed online.

Other Announcements

CALLING ALL GRADUATES

We will be honoring our graduates on May 26. If you or a member of your family is graduating, please send their name to the church office: erucc@erucc.org.

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, 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

ERUCC SCHOLARSHIPS

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.

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 emailing 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.



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

RESOURCES FOR MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION

As a denomination, the United Church of Christ takes seriously our responsibility to be good citizens and well-informed voters. The Maryland Presidential Primary & State Primary is Tuesday, May 14. Make a plan to vote!

The League of Women Voters of Frederick County has completed work with the national and state Leagues to offer nonpartisan candidate information through the online Voters' Guide at VOTE411.org. The League has a long tradition of publishing candidates' verbatim responses to questions important to voters.

Other resources are available through the Maryland State Board of Elections:

<https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/vote2024>



EXPECT ROLLING ROAD CLOSURES NEXT SUNDAY

The Frederick Half Marathon is next Sunday, May 5. Rolling road closures will begin at 6:00 AM. Access through closures will not be possible until runners have passed and officers deem it safe to do so. Please be prepared and plan your travel accordingly. Roads immediately around the church should be open prior to the 8:30 AM service.

- East Patrick Street between East and Franklin Streets (5:45–7:30 AM)
- Market St from Monocacy Blvd to 6th Street (6:45 –8 AM)
- 6th St from Market to Bentz (7– 8:15 AM)
- Bentz St. from 6th to Carroll Pkwy (7–8:30 AM)
- Carroll Pkwy from Bentz to Kline, including Frederick HS (7:15–8:45 AM)
- Kline St from Carroll Parkway to Fairview Ave. (7:15–8:35 AM)
- Sharpe's Lane (7:30– 9:15 AM)

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024

John 15:1-8

“Abiding in Love”

“We are aware that there has been increased violence against indigenous women and transgender persons. Our increased awareness of these issues that disproportionately affect women will impact our response as global advocates.” –Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

On this Break the Silence Sunday, churches can raise their awareness of gender-based violence by participating in Thursdays in Black.

*Thursdays in Black grew out of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998), in which the stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, violence, and many tragedies that grow outward from such violence became all the more visible. But what also became visible was women’s resilience, agency, and personal efforts to resist such violations. Join Wider Church Ministries, and our partners, in the campaign by doing the following:

Pause

Pause for a moment of silence on Thursdays at noon your local time to remember and honor those who have died at the hand of sexualized or gender-based violence.

Pray

Pray with us:

We stand with invisible victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

We see you. We hear you. You are not forgotten.

Post

Post your prayers, photos, or inspirations on social media using the hashtags #ThursdaysinBlack, #UnitedChurchOfChrist, and tag us.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, please seek help immediately. You can call the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Hotline at **1-800-799-SAFE (7233)**.

*<https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/thursdays-in-black-campaign/>



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

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