

# “In the Name of Love: U2Charist”

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One of the most powerful worship services I have ever experienced was a few years ago – at a U2Charist. A U what-artist, you ask? A U2Charist is also called a U2 Eucharist. It includes the music of one of my favorite bands, combined with creative worship, a celebration of the Eucharist (another name for Holy Communion), and a collective effort to alleviate poverty. The U2Charist has left a lasting impression on my soul.

The popular band, U2, has agreed to let churches use their music, without a license, on two conditions: First, a U2Charist must always be called what it is – a worship service and not a “concert”; Second, the offering collected, in its entirety, must go to a charitable organization that seeks to eradicate hunger and poverty.

On Sunday, April 29 at 6:30pm, First Reformed Church will hold its first U2Charist! We will use a live band (the same awesome band that was at the U2Charist I attended a few years ago), we will bake homemade bread for communion, incorporate lay leadership in the service, and give the offering collected to the Dorcas Ministries of Cary.

We want to involve a significant number of people in the planning and executing so that several people are involved in the success of this endeavor. In other words, there are many ways in which you can help! Please contact me if you would like to be involved, or if you are interested in being on the U2Charist Planning Team. Our first organizational/planning meeting will be at the time that works out best for those interested. As U2 singer, Bono said at the National Prayer Breakfast in 2006, “Get involved in what God is

doing—because it’s already blessed. Well, God is, as I’ve said, with the poor. That is what God is doing. And that is what he’s calling us to do.”