

U-C-C See What's Up

Edgerton Congregational United Church of Christ January – 2016



10:30 AM
Sunday Worship Service
9:30 AM Sunday School

January 3	10:30 AM Worship Service Communion
January 10	10:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School
January 17	10:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School
January 24	10:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School Annual Meeting
January 31	10:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School



*December 6-64
December 13-78
December 20-41
December 24-72
December 27-31*




*No Anniversaries listed this month.
Best Wishes!*

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!



**Sarah Lanham-January 3
Matt Luchsinger-January 6
Tammy Campbell-January 6
Jennifer Webb-January 7
Rachel Rosenbaum-January 19
Derek Ninmer-January 20
Mary Lou Behring-January 21
Krista Kim-January 24**

January 2016						
◀ December 2016						February 2016 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3 Worship 10:30am Sarah Lanham	4	5	6 Peanut Processing 8:30am Tammy Campbell Matt Luchsinger	7 Jennifer Webb	8	9
10 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Confirmation Class 6pm-8pm	11 Trustees 6:15pm Diaconate 6:30pm Council 7:00pm	12	13	14	15 Memorial Committee Meeting 12:15pm	16
17 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Committee Chairmans Annual Reports Due	18	19 Rachel Rosenbaum	20 Peanut Processing 8:30am Derek Ninmer	21 Mary Lou Behring	22	23
24 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Annual Meeting Confirmation Class 6pm-8pm Krista Kim	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am	Notes: Committee Chairman annual reports due no later than January 17th. Please mark your calendar for the UCC Annual Meeting on January 24th, 2016 following worship. Vote to proceed with bathroom or not. Confirmation Evening Classes are January 10th and 24th 6pm-8pm					

I have to admit that during these winter months with longer nights and cooler temperatures the natural animal instinct of hibernation is appealing to me. The season of Thanksgiving ushered in the opportunity of filling my belly with all sorts of good food while reflecting on the realization that I am a blessed person. The Christmas season renewed my Spirit of hope with the miraculous gift of love among us in the most vulnerable form of life, that of a baby. The holidays point us to expressions of life in function and form such as a child crying out when it is hungry for a caretaker to fill its belly and then watching that child relax into a time of rest, renewal, and eventual growth. It is a repetitive cycle of new life; anticipated needs; and rest.

I wonder if our relationship with God was born out of that same repetitive cycle? It seems that we are happy to live life on our own until a need arises and then we find ourselves turning to God for help. Our reaching out to God reminds us that at our core we are in need of something that is more powerful than our human capabilities. We awaken the divine within us from hibernation and realize that our spiritual belly is empty. In hibernation our God-stores have not been replenished and therefore we find ourselves in need of stability; peace; and reassurance that we are not alone.

So we begin to pray, or we attend worship services and the word of God feeds our spirit until we are once again filled with love and assurance and we can relax enough to fall asleep. Asleep until our next need wakes us up again to the notion that we need God in our life. So I wonder, "what if?" Could that normative human-spirit cycle be improved, the one that has convinced us that we don't need God on a daily basis which leads to us feeling void of God until we seek God's presence through prayers or worship attendance until we are comfortable enough to hibernate again?

I think the cycle can be changed but it will take practice on our part. What if daily acknowledging God's importance in our lives were as routine as brushing our teeth; or watching T.V.; or reading a book? What if God could be such an active partner in our day that we never hibernate from God's presence? What if we began a daily prayer practice; or a daily devotional time with God? What if, just like any new practice, we started with 5 minutes a day and then increased our daily time with God over a week then a month then maybe even the whole year? By recognizing that God never leaves us could we stabilize our stores of God's love in such a way that any "out-of-the-Blue" crisis could be met with a personal assurance that God is present with us in

that very moment, so present with us that we don't feel like we have to come out of hibernation to petition God for help?

During our worship time in the month of January we will be exploring and learning about different prayer practices and how we can make them an important part of our daily routine. I invite you during these long nights and cold days at the beginning of a new year to carve out time for a deeply personal relationship with the Almighty who never hibernates from our daily lives. Can you make it a daily practice in 2016 to intentionally spend quality time with God? Now is a perfect time to try.

Happy New Year!

Rev. Lora A. Whitten

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UCC ACTIVITIES

LITURGIST SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY-2016

January 3rd - - - - - Connie Wiersma

January 10th - - - - - Kirsten Almo

January 17th - - - - - Tracy Tronnes

January 24th - - - - - Tammy Campbell

January 31st - - - - - Zoe Thompson

Thank you!

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Tracy Tronnes has graciously taken over the job of receiving the Scrip Cards from Fed Ex and delivering the cards to church so there will be no more delays.

Very easy to do and help the church while shopping for your daily needs and/or gifts. Go on the website and check it out.

Enrollment Code:

9CA8985339399

Go to shopwithscrip.com

Click on Family Sign Up

Enter account info

Review and Accept

SHOP!

UCC COMMITTEE CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORTS

It is that time of year again to start thinking about the annual reports that need completion no later than January 17th. If you need a copy of last year's committee report to help create this year's report just e-mail

Linda in the church office and one will be copied for you.

The UCC annual meeting is scheduled for January 24th, 2016.

Thank you.

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### **WANTED-BOOKKEEPER**

**UCC is currently looking for a bookkeeper.**

**The position pays \$100.00 a month.**

**Receives and deposits all monies, keeps financial records and pays all bills.**

**If you are interested or have any questions regarding this position please contact Connie Wiersma.**

### **OTHER UCC NEEDS**

**Church Secretary, Trustee, Deacon, Financial Secretary, Christian Education and Human Resources.**

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UCC ANNUAL MEETING IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 24TH, 2016 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

There will be a discussion and vote on whether to proceed with the bathroom or not. Your voice and vote is important.

Please mark your calendar.

WE HAVE MORE PEANUTS TO PROCESS!



Scheduled dates for processing:

Wednesday, January 6th 8:30am

Wednesday, January 20th 8:30am

Wednesday, February 3rd 8:30am

THANK YOU

THANK YOU! - We are very thankful for those who helped deliver Meals on Wheels recently. Much appreciation goes out to: Gordy and Joyce Morris, Holly Fox, John and Julie Norland, Jane Nelson, Joan Granger, Chris Foreman, Dino Ante, Michelle Nimmer, Erin Smerchek, Krista Kim, Calvin and Connie Wiersma, Kirsten Almo, Zoe Thompson and Mimi Thompson.

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Dear Edgerton Congregational UCC:

Thank you for your prayers, support and thoughtfulness at this difficult time. It meant so much.

Also thank you for the beautiful Peace Lily plant sent in memory of Dad, Grandpa, Wesley Skaar.

My Dad would have loved the plant. Being a farmer he definitely had a green thumb. On behalf of my entire family, I offer you our sincere gratitude.

God bless you.

Linda Everson

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From My Heart:

Each year I am blessed by your generous expressions of love shared with me. Those moments of love happen in many forms, such as: affirmations after a sermon; hugs at the church door; volunteering to be the liturgist at the last minute; and your attendance at worship services. Another way that you have generously expressed your love with me is through a special monetary gift after the Christmas Eve worship service. I wanted to take this opportunity to extend my deep and sincere gratitude to you for loving me in such a special way each year. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

Peace,

Rev. Lora

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*Wishing you and yours a very blessed and happy new year!*

