



U-C-C SEE WHAT'S UP

Edgerton Congregational

United Church of Christ

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January 2018

What's Inside

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A Messy Christmas

Yesterday I saw the most immaculately decorated home. It was altogether perfect! Three Christmas trees, each uniquely adorned with ornaments. A crèche, a Santa, a train, a charming old sled—it was all so beautiful. A fire crackling, carols jingling, cookies displayed on Holly & Ivy platters . . . even a red Christmas bow on the dog! No signs of messiness or sadness or struggle. Immediately, I mused over the irony that this setting stood in stark contrast to my imagining of a chilly stable night in that obscure little Palestinian village, where Mary and Joseph huddled around a trough surrounded by smelly beasts and curious onlookers.

For several moments I marveled in this exquisite display of festive cheer. I even felt nostalgic, remembering my own childhood traditions, recalling in particular my father's insistence on a "Charlie Brown" spruce tree rather than a statelier Fraser fir. For years I thought such a dud of a tree reflected our family's necessity to "live within our means" (no doubt partially true), but I've since come to realize it also reflected the reality of celebrating Christmas amidst the imperfections and hardships of life. We used to joke that our tree was the least wanted, most overlooked misfit on the lot! In ministry, our most important Christmas preparations come in remembering and reaching out to those too easily overlooked. Every year, in the pastorate, I would make a list of those who were suffering—the grieving, the broken, the unemployed, the sick, the depressed and despairing. In crafting my Christmas messages I kept them close to my mind and centered in my heart. This year, some of you have suffered. My prayer is that the love of God, made known to us in the Spirit of the Christ child, will bring a measure of comfort and some moments of peace despite it all.



Friendly Reminders:

Greeter/Ushers – Gould Family

Deacon Providing Elements – Norma
Thompson

Newsletter Deadline – Jan. 25, 12 p.m.


Monday, Jan. 8 – meetings

Trustee 6:30 p.m.

Council 7 p.m.

One of the most precious Christmas pageant memories I carry happened in the late 1970's. We decided to hold the annual Children's Program in a real barn, on a working dairy farm just a few miles out of town. In addition to the usual imperfections and stumbles, it was all so raw. The smells of manure and silage filled the cold wintry air. The sound of a bellowing expectant cow provided a backdrop as the children sang *Away in the Manger*. My fellow shepherds and I huddled for warmth and laughed while stepping in cow pies. It was so imperfect, so very messy, yet wondrously sacred and unforgettably beautiful. Somehow, this is true Christmas—the place where our lingering sadness meets deep joy, where our troubled and disheveled lives find calm and order, and where all our fears and failures are “met in Thee” with a holy reassurance and grace beyond our imagination.

Wishing you a blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas! *Rev. Franz Rigert, Conference Pastor*



Attendance Reports

Nov 26 – 48
 Dec. 3 – 56
 Dec. 10 – 42
 Dec. 17 – 53
 Dec. 24 – 87

Worship Service Schedule

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 7 | 9:30 AM Sunday School &
Adult C & C |
| | 10:30 Worship Service |
| Jan. 14 | 9:30 AM Sunday School &
Adult C & C |
| | 10:30 Worship Service |
| Jan. 21 | 9:30 AM Sunday School &
Adult C & C |
| | 10:30 Worship Service |
| Jan. 28 | 9:30 AM Sunday School &
Adult C & C |
| | 10:30 Worship Service |
| | 11:30 a.m. Pot Luck Lunch |
| | 12:15 p.m. ANNUAL MEETING |



Thank you for all the good wishes, wonderful food and the charming snow globe you presented me on my final day as church organist, which also happened to be my birthday. What a great party and memory.

There are no words that can express my gratitude for the friendships and memories I have due to my good fortune of working and worshiping with people who belong to the Edgerton Congregational United Church of Christ.

This card says it all: *“No matter where I travel, or just how far I roam, there is just no other place quite as nice as home.”* You'll always be my church home. Thanks again.

Love Connie Tronnes





Thank you church family for all of your cards and phone calls of care at the death of my daughter, Millie Berns. Your gestures of love are very appreciated. Sincerely, Anna Willie



Thank you to Nelson-Young Lumber for clearing the snow from the church parking lot prior to the Christmas Eve worship. Your love and care of this congregation is greatly appreciated.



Thank you to Cal Wiersma for clearing the snow from the church sidewalks prior to the Christmas Eve worship service. Your love and dedication are very much appreciated.



To my friends at Edgerton UCC
A sincere note of thanks for the Christmas gift that came to my house via Holly Gould. It was nice to be remembered, and I thank you for thinking of me.

Sincerely, Carolyn B. Allen.



I wish to thank the choir members for their hard work and dedication. Also to Gracey Ninmer and JohnMark Hatfield for the musical talents and to Rebecca for hanging out with the kids during rehearsal's. I am immensely thankful for all the above. I am also grateful to Diane for putting together the bulletin and being a wonderful, organized presence in my life.

Laura Young



JANUARY

- 3rd Sarah Lanham
- 6th Tammy Campbell
- 7th Jennifer Webb
- 8th Mimi Thompson
- 15th Zoe Thompson
- 19th Rachel Rosenbaum
- 20th Derek Ninmer
- 21st Mary Lou Behring
- 24th Krista Kim



NONE



ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday January 28, we will have our Annual Meeting. We begin with our normal Sunday school/adult coffee and conversation classes, followed by the service of worship. Upon conclusion of the service, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m. for the Pot Luck Lunch. The Annual Meeting will begin at 12:15 p.m. Please join us as we review 2017.

CHURCH COUNCIL

November 13, 2017

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Lukas Jensen, Julie Norland, Rev. Lora Whitten, Tracy Tronnes, Norma Thompson, Mary Lou Behring (rep. Diaconate), and Erin Smerchek (rep. Christian Education).

ABSENT: Bruce Morris

CALL TO ORDER: Julie Norland called the meeting to order and Norma Thompson led us in prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Julie Norland entertained a motion to approve the October 9, 2017 Council minutes. Erin Smerchek made the motion to approve the minutes and Tracy Tronnes seconded the motion. Motion voted on and passed.

MINISTER'S REPORT:

- Laura Young has been hired as the church's new organist/choir director. She will start playing the organ November 19, 2017.
- Julie Norland raised a question regarding a background check being conducted on new hires to the church, especially if there will be contact with children of the church. Rev. Lora will call the Conference Office to see if they have a policy on background checks and if they would do a background check on Laura Young and bill the church for services rendered. A policy regarding background checks should probably be established. Julie Norland indicated she would list the above subject on December's Council agenda for further discussion.
- The church's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 28, 2018. The Annual Meeting will be held after church service and a pot luck meal (starting @ 12:15 p.m.). Annual Reports are due to the Church Office by the end of December (12/31/17).
- "Hanging of the Greens" will be held at church on Saturday, December 2 starting at 4:00 p.m. A walk to "Two Brothers" for dinner will follow.
- Christmas eve service will be held on Sunday, December 24, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. There will be no service held during the morning of Sunday, December 24, 2017.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A Pastoral Relations Team had been created and met a long time ago. The Team was created to help out the Pastor. Rev. Lora will speak to Rev. Joanne Thomson of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ to get more information regarding Team and its responsibilities.
- Rev. Lora purchased a snow globe and had it engraved for Connie Tronnes. The snow globe was given to Connie on behalf of the church honoring her for the years she contributed as the church's organist, etc. Mary Lou Behring made a motion to pay Rev. Lora for the purchase of the snow globe. The motion was carried and approved. Any money donated for Connie's gift not used to purchase the snow globe will be used to purchase a meal for Connie and her husband next year when Tracy and her husband go visit Connie in Florida.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The Budget Committee is comprised of the following individuals: Bruce Morris, Financial Secretary; Tracy Tronnes, Treasurer; Joel Smerchek, Trustee Committee; Holly Gould, Diaconate Committee; and Eric Kim, a church member at-large. The Budget document for 2018 is submitted during the December, 2017 Trustees and Council meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEES:

- Per Lukas Jensen, the new boiler has been installed. New thermostats still need to be installed.
- A discussion regarding church security ensued at the Council Meeting. Nothing was decided at this time.

TREASURER:

- Operating Budget - \$6,800 loss year-to-date as reported by Tracy Tronnes.
- Fund raising for new boiler amounts to \$5,600 at this time. It was hoped that we would raise approximately \$8,200 in donations by November 12.

DIACONATE:

- Next Communion will be held on Sunday, December 3, 2017. A Diaconate meeting will be held on Monday, December 11, 2017.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

- The trip scheduled on Sunday, October 22, 2017 to Skelly's in Janesville was cancelled because of the weather.
- The kids continue to raise money for the Heifer Project.
- The kids Christmas party and practice will be held on Saturday, December 16, 2017 and the Christmas program will be presented on Sunday, December 17, 2017.

STEWARDSHIP: Tracy Tronnes will provide Diane Goodger with completed Stewardship Volunteer forms so she can compile one list of all volunteers and their desired duties.

OTHER COMMITTEES (e.g. Memorial, Fellowship, Floral): N/A

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Norma Thompson



The Sunday School children continue to collect coins in their piggy bank to support the Heifer Fund. On "Cyber Monday" their order was doubled by the Heifer Fund Project. With your help our children collected \$90.00 which purchased the following items: Stove \$50.00 Gardner Basket \$20.00 Includes seeds; rabbits; chickens; and a hive of bees. Animal Health Kit \$20.00 Includes thermometers; stethoscope; hoof trimmers; gloves; disinfectants; medicine; and training.

The kids count the change in the piggy bank and then vote on what they would like to buy to support the mission of the Heifer Fund. If you would like to donate to our children's ministry for Heifer then look for the piggy bank in the sanctuary and drop in your change.

Next up is the request of Emma Davis to buy GEESE! One flock of geese is \$20. Geese usually go to Cambodia.

Changing the world one coin; one animal; one child at a time.

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Adult C&C 9:30am Children's Sunday School-9:30am Worship Service- 10:30am Liturgist-Julie Norland	8	9	10	11 Rev. Lora IMNT Class 9:00a – 4:00 p	12	13
14 Adult C&C 9:30am Children's Sunday School-9:30am Worship Service- 10:30am Liturgist- Norma Thompson Confirmation Class 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.	15 6:30 pm –Trustees 6:30 pm-Diaconate 7:00 pm-Council	16	17	18	19	20 Church Children's' Party
21 Adult C&C 9:30am Children's Sunday School-9:30am Children's Program - 10:30am Liturgist- George Lynts	22	23	24	25 Clergy Group.E-ville 9:30-11:30 a.m. Newsletter Deadline – 12 p.m.	26	27
28 Adult C&C 9:30am Children's Sunday School-9:30am Worship Service- 10:30am Liturgist- Gerry Loos Pot Luck Lunch 11:30 a.m. Annual Mtg. 12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.	29	30	31	NOTES: Greeter/Usher – Gould Family Elements provided by – Norma Thompson		