



UCC - See What's Up!

Edgerton Congregational United Church
of Christ Official Newsletter
(608)884-6514

officeeccucc@gmail.com

December 2019

What's Happening This Month

December 1

9:00 Hanging of the Greens

9:30 Sunday School

10:30 Worship

**Communion Sunday*

December 8

9:30 Sunday School

10:30 Worship

**Gifts for Kids and Giving Tree Tags Due*

December 9

6:00 Christian Education Team

6:15 Trustees and Deacons

7:00 Church Council

December 14

10:30 Christmas Program Practice and Party

December 15

9:00 Pancake Breakfast and Children's Pageant

10:30 Worship

December 19

7:00 "Blue Christmas" Worship Service

December 22

9:30 Sunday School

10:30 Worship

December 24

4:30 Christmas Eve Service

December 29

9:30 Sunday School

10:30 Worship Service

Ushers/Greeters: Mary Lou & Gary Behring

Deacon Providing Elements: Holly Gould

Newsletter Deadline: Thursday, December 19 2 p.m.

A big "Thank You!" to Holly Gould, Krista Kim, Evan/Becky Riley and Mary Lou Behring for being our November Liturgists!

Pastor's Notes

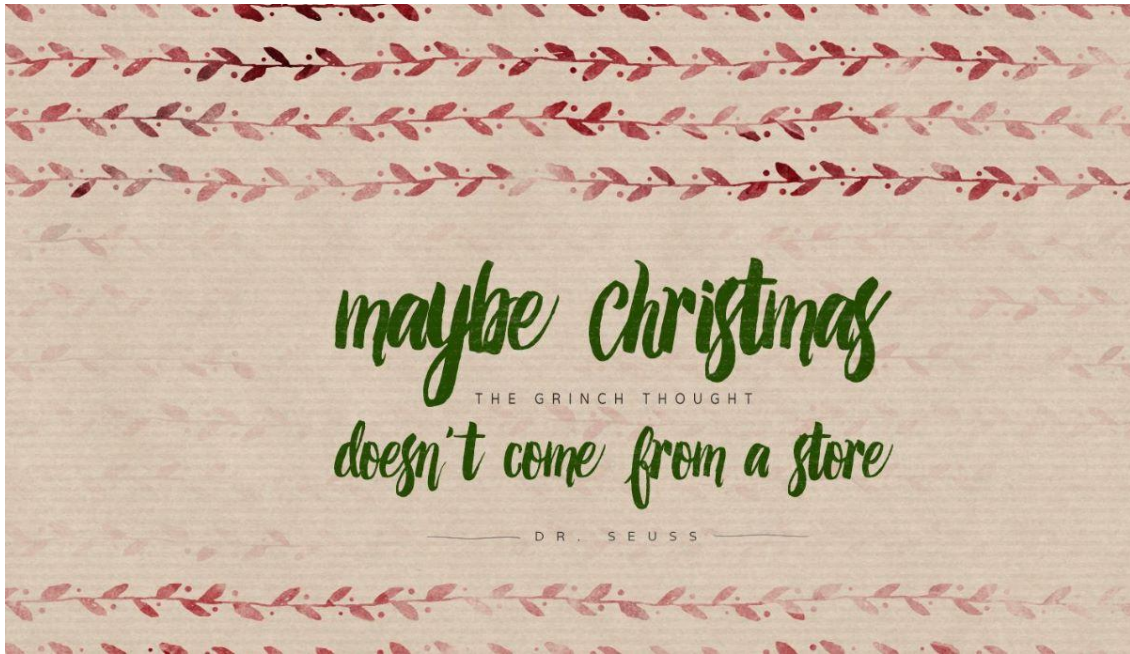
One of our UCC sister churches, Calvary Memorial United Church of Christ in Wauwatosa celebrated their final worship service on Sunday, November 24th. I've been thinking about the church and what it felt like for them to make this decision. As often happens with endings, it came earlier than expected. They had anticipated closing their doors sometime in 2020 but they unexpectedly received an offer on their building and had to move up the time of the final worship service.

I wonder if they hoped for a last minute reprieve of some kind – either grant money or a few new families to join and want to participate in the mission of the church. I wonder if it reminded them of other deaths they had experienced. I wonder how they determined where they would worship next and if this ending would offer depth to their spiritual lives.

This Sunday we enter the Advent season, a time of waiting and preparation. During the darkest time of the year, we prepare and wait. Bernard of Clairvaux (d. 1153) said that we wait for the physical presence of Jesus to come again. We wait for Christ to be born in our hearts daily, and we wait for Jesus' glory at the end of time. Whichever perspective speaks most clearly to us, it is a time of waiting for Christ to bring light to the darkness. Our faith teaches us that the congregants of Calvary Memorial United Church of Christ will have light to brighten their respective journeys even as we pray for them in this time of loss.

As we share Advent devotions together, I trust that the light of Christmas will also lead us forward. I have appreciated the enthusiasm, creativity and joy of this congregation as we have walked together this fall. I have now been here a year and understand the church better, but it feels good to be on solid ground. May we be good stewards of the mission we have been given.

Blessings,
Pastor Lori



Christian Education

A busy Fall schedule of Sunday School and Adult Education has brought us to Thanksgiving week and the soon to be Advent Season. Preparations for the Children's Christmas program are underway. The program will take place during the Sunday worship service on December 15. We would like to invite any children and youth to share their musical talents this day, in addition to the program celebrating the nativity. All children of the church are invited to participate. There will be a practice followed by a party for all involved in the program at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 14. We will be making the props for the program at the next Christian Education Committee meeting on Monday, December 9 at 6:15 pm.

We are also looking forward to delving into our new Seasons of the Spirit curriculum during the Advent Season. On Sunday, December 1, we will participate in the Hanging of the Greens beginning at 9 am.

Anyone interested in providing music for the program on December 15 please see Pastor Lori or Connie Wiersma.

Happy and Blessed Holidays to our Church family!

Join us on December 1st at 9:00 a.m. for the Hanging of the Greens!

December 1st is the first Sunday of Advent and the day we make the sanctuary beautiful for the Advent season ending on Christmas Eve (and then the Christmas season begins). There is a TALL tree to put up, many beautiful decorations and of course by 10:30 the Advent wreath needs to be ready to go. There is no adult Sunday school this day to conflict with this event. Come and be festive, we will have the coffee on and Christmas treats!



Gifts for Kids

There is still time to participate in Gifts for Kids (ages birth to 5th grade) and The Giving Tree (ages 6th grade through 12th) benefiting Edgerton Outreach. Tags for The Giving Tree are here and can be picked up in the sanctuary. **Items are due back by December 8!**



Pancake Breakfast and Children's Pageant

December 15, 9 a.m.

Pancakes will be ready by 9:00 and then parents can linger over a cup of coffee while the children go upstairs and get ready to share the nativity story with us. This year's story focuses on The Friendly Beasts a lovely Christmas carol from the 13th

century France. The animals will tell us of the special night when the Christ child was born.



Many churches recognize the longest night of the year. It is a day with the shortest amount of daylight, naturally draws us inward. It can be a difficult day for people who hold grief, struggle with depression or are spending the season without loved ones. This is a service to recognize that not all is good or right in this festive season. This is a service in which participants open themselves to God's compassion and healing. It can have great meaning for someone who isn't depressed or mourning but simply want a reminder of God's "with-ness".



In the Christian tradition, on high holy days we simply tell the story with music, candles, and joy. The choir will sing, we will light candles and rejoice that Christ is born into our hearts and lives once more. This is a family friendly worship service.

Please take a moment to send our friends and fellow congregation members your best wishes!

Happy Birthday!

- December 4 Evan Riley
- December 7 Dan Granger
- December 9 John Norland
- December 11 Devin Crumbliss
- December 20 Holly Gould
- December 21 Jane Nelson

Minutes from UCC Church Council November 11, 2019

1. People in attendance: Holly Gould, Connie Wiersma, Bruce Morris, Mary Lou Behring, Lukas Jensen, Julie Norland, Tracy Tronnes
2. Prayer by Mary Lou
3. Amendment of the minutes:

Julie changed implication that money was set aside to make decisions about new windows, carpet, pews, etc. It should have only been discussed as what the options were based on the quotes that Tracy received.

Tracy moved to approve minutes as amended, Connie Wiersma seconded, passed

4. Pastor's report: (as submitted by Lori by paper)
 - a. Pastoral care (15 visits)
 - b. Worship
 - i. Celebrated Gordan Morris
 - ii. Advertisement starting for Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship
 - c. Administrative:
 - i. Larry Beck would like to put on pancake breakfast at 9:00 am morning of children's Christmas program
 - ii. Stewardship thanked for their efforts in 2019. We should reflect on whether or not materials are necessary for this endeavor next year.

- iii. MailChimp for weekly announcements? (Lukas likes it, more secure and colored)
 - iv. For this Thanksgiving, Kathleen will be working Tuesday and Wednesday only
 - v. Blue advent candles ordered
5. New Business:
- a. Nominating committee
 - i. Connie Wiersma and Julie Norland will be on the committee
 - ii. Proposal: January 26th 2020 be Annual Meeting date
 - 1. Moved by Tracy Tronnes and seconded by Connie Wiersma, passed.
 - 2. Nothing decided about whether there would be a potluck or not.
6. Old Business
- a. Budget team is set: Bruce, Holly Tracy, Todd Campbell and Eric Kim
 - i. Bruce says most pledge forms and Time and Talent sheets are in
 - b. Flooring vs. Windows...
 - i. Information was gathered by carpet, window treatments and pew cushions. It was in this gathering of information that the windows were exposed as being in need of replacement. Tracy got quotes for just the lower level (a priority over the upper level). She got a quote for 21 Anderson window units totaling \$17,700 for materials only. This represents the best quality of windows we could get which offers the longest life with a 20-25 year warranty. People discussed that the windows (originally Anderson windows) are either from 1954 or 1979. Tracy will get two other quotes for lines that aren't as top of the line.
 - ii. We will need to get quotes from an installer. Tracy thought about asking Dan Dillman for his thoughts on what installation might entail. Would it be possible to have it completed by January?
 - iii. Any quote will be only an estimate due to some of the things that would come up when true measurements are known. Inserts would be less expensive if there isn't a need for custom measuring and would be "job-determined."
 - iv. Tracy suggests getting a contractor to be in charge of decisions before placing any order.
 - v. Julie reminds us that any expenditure over \$10,000 needs to be up for a congregation vote.
 - vi. The four worst windows (East side Henry) could be done for as low as \$2633. This would be the cheaper inserts that are more readily available and may be a good way to start the process. Again, a contractor could be helpful in making decision with us to make sure they are right for the space.
 - c. Julie thanks the Stewardship Committee for their work and hosting the breakfast on Sunday

7. Team Reports

- a. Trustees:

- i. Todd fixed the downspout by re-routing the water out of the way of walkway.
 - ii. Plastic has been put on most windows for energy efficiency.
- iii. Lukas called for an energy audit, but the call he received was not helpful in getting action on it.
- iv. The drinking water is considered safe, but still smells like chemicals or iron. Bottled water is an option if people are worried about using water from the tap.
 - v. Motion lights are being fixed and breaking in equal measure.
 - vi. Update on Memorial Fund
 - 1. It was brought up that our Newsletter found its way to facebook. This brings up issues about confidentiality. Sometimes the minutes are attached to our newsletter and this maybe something to discuss further someday.
 - vii. Kim Jensen's keys were turned in by Lukas.
 - b. Treasurer:
 - i. Plate contributions are up
 - ii. Pledges and operational budget are on target for 2019
- iii. Questions arose about what we will need to do with a commitment we made to Lori regarding contributing to her pension. This will require that Tracy follow up on a very slow-moving application process with the company in charge of clergy pensions. She is on it and it is in the budget to provide to Lori.
 - c. Christian Ed:
 - i. Seasons of the Spirit will be used for the remainder of the Winter and through the Spring of 2020 assuming this can be purchased with the funds that remain in her budget.
 - ii. Christmas children's service is December 15th with practice on the 14th at 10:30
 - d. Deacons:
 - i. Communion and Hanging of the Greens is Dec 1st (9:00 am)
 - ii. Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve services...where to give ecumenical offerings?
 - 1. Tracy makes motion that Thanksgiving Eve offering be given to Outreach to help with their meals they provide the community the next day. Connie seconded the above, passes.
 - 2. Christmas Eve offering will be as usual.
 - 3. Blue Christmas is scheduled for the 18th of December. More discussion needed on specifics of the service.

8. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 after a motion by Connie Wiersma and seconded by Tracy Tronnes.

Edgerton Congregational United Church of Christ: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey - you belong here.

