



UCC - See What's Up!

Edgerton Congregational United Church
of Christ Official Newsletter

(608)884-6514

February 2020

officeeccucc@gmail.com

What's Happening This Month

February 2

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship

**Communion Sunday*

February 9

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship

February 10

6:00 p.m. Christian Education team

6:15 Trustees Meeting

7:00 p.m. Church Council

February 16

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship

February 17

7-9 p.m. Guitar League

February 23

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship

February 26

6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Ushers/Greeters: The Kim Family

Deacon Providing Elements: Krista Kim

Newsletter Deadline: Wednesday, February 26 at 12 p.m.

*A big "Thank You!" to Holly Gould, Krista Kim, Lynn Miller, and George Lynts
for being our January liturgists!*

Pastor's Notes – February 2020

"The core of our faith is the conviction that you and I are beloved daughters and sons of God. One of the enormous spiritual tasks we have," says Nouwen, "is to live a life based on that knowledge."

Henri Nouwen wrote this quote in his book, *Beloved: How to Live a Spiritual Life in a Secular Age*. He suggests that because we are blessed, are God's beloved, and are loved unconditionally we bring something special to every interaction we have with other people. If we know we are beloved then we bring love, compassion, patience and acceptance to each person we encounter. This is a difficult task and only possible if we know with certainty that we are loved by God. If we forget or doubt that we are loved by God, then we might bring fear, doubt, and confusion to each encounter. We wonder what the person wants from us rather than what we might offer them. During the month of February, when the theme is love, it is good to remember how God's love transforms relationships. The romantic part of Valentine's Day might be fun but remembering our call to

show others God's love is better yet. In February we begin with a new Church Council. Our initial focus will be on clarifying the roles of Boards and Committees and maybe even creating a task force or two. Attached is a survey due back in the church office by February 14th, Valentine's Day that is intended to help us define our direction.

At the end of February is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. This year we will study a book by Rachel Held Evans titled, *Searching for Sunday* in which she tries to reconcile a loving Jesus with the institutional church. How might we open up the windows of the church so the Spirit can blow through. This is a fitting metaphor as we celebrate the new windows in the fellowship hall.

"Faith, hope, and love abide but the greatest of these is love".
1 Corinthians 13:13.

Pastor Lori



Valentine Makers Wanted!

The Sunday school children will be preparing Valentines for people living at Swifthaven across the street to be delivered on Sunday, February 9th. This is an invitation for ALL members to join them in making Valentines on Sunday, February 2nd at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. Materials will be supplied.

Bedding Drive to Support Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is an organization of volunteers that builds and delivers beds and bedding to children sleeping on the floor. The Edgerton chapter of SHP is seeking donations of new pillows, mattress pads, sheets and comforters for twin-sized beds. **Please bring any donations to church between February 2 and March 1.** If shopping for bedding isn't your favorite thing, monetary contributions can be given to Krista Kim or Julie Norland and they will be happy to do the shopping for you.

Edgerton's SHP chapter built and delivered 14 beds to deserving children in 2019 and will help at least 50 kids in 2020. Why is sleep so important for kids? 1) Poor sleep can lead to hyperactivity issues as early as age five. 2) In teenagers, anxiety and depression are linked to poor sleeping habits 27% and 69% of the time, respectively. 3) Kids who don't sleep well won't grow as well as their peers. 4) Kids who get good sleep tend to get sick less frequently. 5) Plenty of sleep means better grades, better emotional health, and better home life. (Harvard University and the National Science Foundation)

If you're interested in volunteering with SHP, a public build is scheduled for February 29, 2020. You can sign-up to help by emailing Vicki Guertin at vicki.guertin@shpbeds.org.

If you know a family that may benefit from a bed, the application is easy. Please ask them to apply at: <https://www.shpbeds.org/request-free-twin-bed>

Ash Wednesday:

Mark your calendars! There will be a family-friendly evening worship service beginning at 6:30 p.m on Wednesday, February 26.



Annual Meeting Wrap-Up!

Thank you to all who submitted to the office Annual Reports in a timely matter. It was a great help. Thank you to Julie Norland for setting up and putting casseroles in the oven and all who brought delicious church food. There is something special about eating “church food” together.

Thank you for the Windows!

Last fall I was trying to figure out how to spruce up the Sunday school area. The clear windows have been a tremendous help in sprucing up the fellowship hall. It is such a joy to feel the sunshine come through. The days of standing by the window and feeling a draft are gone. Thank you to the anonymous donor who made the windows possible. They make our building look younger!

Blessing Box Update:

There has been some concern about putting canned soup in the blessing box when the temperatures are freezing. Ramen noodles and instant oatmeal are great alternatives. Dry donations such as these are greatly appreciated through the winter months. Thank you!

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

Happy Birthday

February 7 **Logan Campbell**

February 14 **Lynn St. John**

February 15 **Gracey Nimer**

February 21 **Lizzy Gould**

Happy Anniversary

February 3 **Dave and Jane Nelson**

February 10 **Eric and Krista Kim**

Church Council December 9, 2019

In attendance: Tracy Tronness, Lori, Bruce Morris, Lukas Jensen, Connie Wiersma, Holly Gould. Tracy Tronness led us in prayer.

Minutes amended to say Blue Christmas would be the 19th, not the 18th of December. Connie moved to approve minutes, Tracy Tronness seconded, approved

Pastor's Report

Calendar items for December Blue Christmas 7 pm on the 19th of December

Attendance good for Thanksgiving especially since it hasn't been done in a while.

Lucy Maves--Visitation is Wednesday night 4-7, December 11, 2019 and funeral Thursday at Apfel's 11 am

Kathleen goes on vacation the week of January 5th. January 16th is deadline for annual reports so that they can be printed and given to congregation when she is back. To be distributed January 21st.

New Business

Passing of the Peace should we stop shaking hands during cold and flu season? It will be put into the bulletin that waving can be seen as an alternative way to pass the peace.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Julie will be leading a bedding drive from Jan 19 to Feb 23 that will be asking for members to donate new twin sheets sets, comforters, a bed in a bag (Walmart \$30), and mattress pads. Donations will also be accepted in the same way we do for Tobacco Days. Review of Pastor Lori's first year

Should we have a review? UCC has resources we could pull from because using the model of business world doesn't fit a church leader.

Worship, Administrative, Pastoral is for the part-time pastor to be leader. Programming and Social Action/Mission is left for the church body to coordinate. Having goals and mission statements to align to is a place to begin the process. Lori has agreed to lead us in the 5 above topics for a joint review of how-to pastoral and church body process. Church Attendance and the impact on congregation Lori's thoughts are on renewal and church attendance taken from her Pastor's Report...ELCA predicts that in 30 years, they will not exist. In 2018, 85 UCC congregations have closed their doors. Over half of UCC churches have less than 50 members attending each week. She still believes smaller churches (like us) still have potential to grow. Lori believes we need courage to do something different, and the authenticity to say what we mean about inclusivity, and finally, to keep it simple. She asks us what we have to offer to revive attendance? If we are not DOING something, we are dying. Lori suggests that council makes a decision about where we need to be courageous and where we are being called to help. There are a number of initiatives that the UCC has we can "choose" from. Care of Creation churches are green churches, for example. Another question she poses is our intentions on the organist and what our mission or focus for music will be. Lori asks us to look back in order to know where to look in the future. As a congregational church, we need to get opinions from the congregation. How can we start the "right process" to begin a renewal? Considering an extra council meeting in February for new leadership to discuss how to address these items of renewal.

Old Business

Selected a date of February 2nd 2020 for the Peanut Fellowship congregation discussion. Bruce Morris will be asking Joan Granger to write up Peanut Notes to facilitate the conversation.

Windows

Tracy reports that Trustees have been updated on other options for windows (400 series Anderson). Dan Dillman quoted \$13,900 which could be broken up based on what windows are replaced as needed. Trustees voted to replace the worst windows for \$6600. Operational cash from budget last year will cover them. Windows require 3-4 weeks to order.

Budget Update

Bruce updates that the budget committee has been meeting electronically with the exception of adding the windows (see above) will be put into the 2020 budget. Council questions the role of financial secretary as to whether the money we have invested is Bruce's role.

Water quality clarification

Lori wants to be clear that the water at the church from the faucet meets federal legal guidelines to drink, but the water

quality person reading the lab report advised *against* drinking it. There was the idea to make sure bottled water would be available for all who want to drink from the tap until we look into the levels further.

Team Reports

Trustees: Joel has resigned from Trustees, Todd is working on many items around the premises.

Treasurer: good news-we are ahead of budget at the moment, final number to be seen.

Christian Ed: pizza and Christmas is on for kids

Connie moved to adjourn, Tracy Tronnes seconded, approved at 8:30

Church Council Minutes from January 13, 2020

In attendance: Julie Norland, Pastor Lori, Connie Wiersma, Holly Gould, Bruce Morris, Krista Kim, Connie Tronnes (spelled correctly *this* month) Pastor Lori led us in prayer. Minutes were amended... Or people can donate bedding

Old business:

instead of last year, please change to in 2019

Budget update: last sentence should be: Council discussion arose about the monitoring and managing of the investment account. Financial secretary, at current has this responsibility.

Water quality: "we" is Trustees

Motion by Connie Wiersma to approve as amended, seconded by Tracy Tronnes, approved.

Pastor's Report

VISITS: Would like an accurate list of people to visit. She wonders if deacons are the people to ask.

WORSHIP: Thanksgiving Eve service feedback Well-attended, but greater church community was not involved in making it an event where all contribute. Lori is open to continuing it. Blue Christmas feedback - Very low-attended.

Is still looking into having a conversation about worship music and worship style especially in light of needing to hire someone for the role of musical director.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Stresses the need to put together a Pastoral Relations Committee. Reminds us that if one is not put together it will fall to council to do the work of reviewing the pastor, as one example of their role.

Also, says that reminding congregation of admin job descriptions is a good idea.

Old Business

Bruce says he needs time to get together an educational conversation he'd like to have during a Sunday morning. Joan Granger seems the likely point person to talk to about the future of Peanuts Mission based on the current needs of peanut processing.

Windows update: they are in and being installed on January 17 and 18 per Tracy Tronnes.

Pastor Lori's review process brought up a lengthy discussion about a survey that could be given to the congregation getting feedback about our church moving forward. Topics would include pastoral feedback, music director desires, church life, communication, etc. Bruce suggests we conduct a survey at the annual meeting assuming this will be the best-attended service hoping for the most genuine opinions.

Still open to discuss training in February Church renewal discussion ongoing as well

New Business

Lori is working 30 hours per week and half-time should be more around 24 hours instead. Moving forward, council needs to find a way to pull down hours.

Church logos: Tracy would like to propose that we look at a broader logo to move to, thinking to step away from rainbow. Revisit in two months' time?

Team Reports:

Nominating—Christian Education has openings, Trustees will have an opening and Lukas will be stepping down as chair of Trustees, but plans to remain on the Trustees. There is no moderator for 2020 either. Connie is throwing around the idea of making Deacons and Christian Education be one group. Lori says Board of Congregational Life is a possible idea.

Budget—Bruce shared latest budget for 2020.

Trustees—nothing to report. Discussions around the water issues.

Treasurer—Tracy says we have ended the year in the black. This is great news since this is the first time in a long time this has occurred.

Christian Ed—Lenten season coming. Talking about what church will look like in the future. Looking to host a simple supper. Valentines are being made February 2nd...all are welcome to help with writing with the kids.

Deacons—Ushers needed in August and November. Meeting in February.

Tracy Tronnes moves to adjourn, Bruce Morris seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

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

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