



UCC - See What's Up!

Edgerton Congregational United Church
of Christ Official Newsletter

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March 2020

What's Happening This Month

March 1 9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Ed.

10:30 a.m. Worship

**Communion Sunday*

March 8 9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Ed.

10:30 a.m. Worship

March 9 6:00 p.m. Christian Education team
6:15 p.m. Trustees Meeting
7:00 p.m. Church Council

March 15 9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Ed.
10:30 a.m. Worship

March 16 7-9 p.m. Guitar League

March 22 9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Ed.
10:30 a.m. Worship

March 29 9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Ed.
10:30 a.m. Worship

Ushers/Greeters: Connie and Calvin Wiersma

Deacon Providing Elements: Tammy Campbell

Newsletter Deadline: Wednesday, March 25, 3 p.m.



Dear Friends:

And Lent begins. But how should we recognize this liturgical season and how seriously should we participate in it. There are non-denomination and free church traditions that don't recognize Lent at all. Most mainline denominations including those that are evangelical in nature as well as the Roman Catholic Church celebrate Lent.

One of the early church fathers, Irenaus of Lyons (c.130-c200) wrote of a Lenten like season in the earliest days of the church. But back then Lent only lasted for two or three days. The purpose of Lent is self-examination and

penitence, demonstrated by self-denial in preparation for Easter. It is a yearly wake-up call to discover what is getting in our way of a deeper relationship with God.

Lent is a time of healing. For some people caring for others is a healing experience. It is a outward sign of one's devotion to God. For others, it is appropriate to spend time examining one's inner life and searching through memories and experiences that are in need of healing. You will know what is best for you when you sit in quiet discernment.

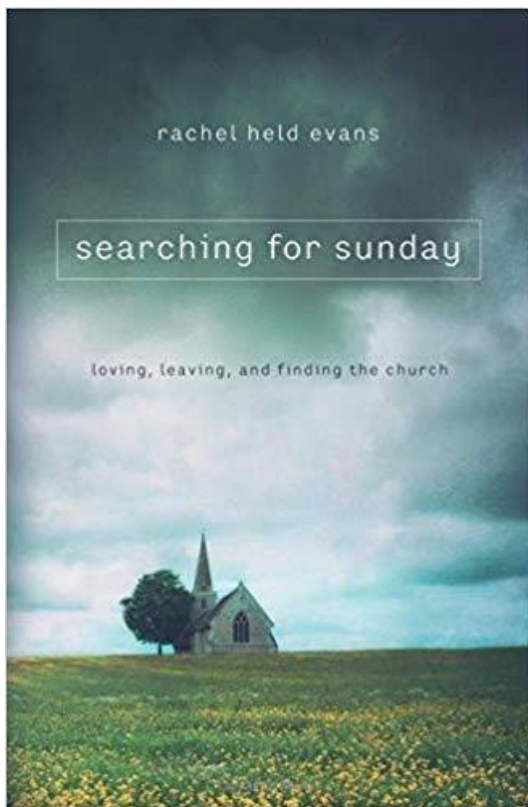
Instead of singing the Doxology through Lent, we will be singing a simple song called, "Be Still". We taught the whole song at our Ash Wednesday service so some members are familiar with it. The rest of us can become familiar singing the refrain each Sunday in Lent. The words are, "be still and know that I'm with you, be still and know that I am here. Be still and know that I'm with you, be still, be still, and know". It is reassurance that God is with us, waiting for us, and loving us through the process.

May new insights and a deeper love for God come to you through this season,
Blessings,

Pastor Lori

We want to recognize Krista Kim for all her help this month! Krista shared Greeter/Usher duties, provided Communion Elements and performed liturgist duties twice in February. We appreciate you and everything you do, Krista!

A big "Thank You!" also goes to Norma Thompson and Connie Wiersma for being our other two February Liturgists!



Adult Study Group News!

Beginning March 1, we will be reading and discussing the book “Searching for Sunday” by Rachel Held Evans.

(The library can reserve copies.)

About the book: Rachel Held Evans set out on a journey to understand Church and to find her place in it.

Centered around seven sacraments, Evans' quest takes readers through a liturgical year with stories about baptism, communion, confirmation, confession, marriage, vocation, and death that are funny, heartbreaking, and sharply honest. A memoir about making do and taking risks, about the messiness of community and the power of grace, "Searching for Sunday" is about overcoming cynicism to find hope and, somewhere in between, Church.

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

Happy Birthday

March 2 David Wells

March 5 Eric Kim

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March 9 Sophia Granger

March 12 Mary Hays

March 15 Drake Smerchek

March 16 Adley Tronnes

March 18 Skylar Luchsinger

March 19 Ruth Webb

March 22 Cammi Gould

March 29 Paige Ninner

A big "Thank You!" to our wonderful congregation members who donated to the Sleep in Heavenly Peace - Edgerton chapter bedding drive. One of our goals for the year was to increase our mission and outreach activities, and your generosity is helping us achieve that goal. Stay tuned for more giving opportunities throughout the year!

UCC EVENT: "Stories From the Border"

Thursday, March 12 at 6 p.m.

McFarland United Church of Christ: 5710 Anthony Street, McFarland

FREE admission

McFarland UCC & the "Not in Our Name" campaign present this event with special guest Linda Zuba, an activist and attorney working with asylum seekers at the United States/Mexico border. McFarland UCC Pastor Brian Sirchio reminds us that "Proverbs 31:8-9 calls us to be a 'voice for the voiceless,' and to 'speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.'" Zuba will share her first-hand account of what is actually going on right now and what we can attempt to do. This event is an opportunity for our hearts to be broken open, our mind informed with current first-hand updates on the crisis, and our lives called to a more just and compassionate response.

Mark your Calendars: Saturday, May 2nd will be the Southwest Association's meeting of the Wisconsin Conference UCC. Our presenter will be Jenni Catron, founder of the 4Sight Group. She will talk about reclaiming the church's mission.

Edgerton UCC 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 more broad 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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