



## UCC - See What's Up!

Edgerton Congregational United Church  
of Christ Official Newsletter  
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May 2020

### What's Happening This Month

5/3/2020 Worship on Facebook Live – 10:30 a.m.

5/10/2020 Worship on Facebook Live – 10:30 a.m.

05/11/2020 Church Council Meeting

5/17/2020 Worship on Facebook Live – 10:30 a.m.

5/24/2020 Worship on Facebook Live – 10:30 a.m.

05/31/2020 Worship on Facebook Live – 10:30 a.m.

*Newsletter Deadline: May 27, 12 p.m.*

Dear Church,

It sounds a little awkward to address a letter to a church but as you know, the church is not a building but a people. We may be worshipping virtually or through shared devotionals but we are still held together by God's love and our desire to be Christ's presence to each other and the community. For those who have joined us on Facebook Live, have watched the church service on Youtube, or are using the devotional materials, thank you! It is always good to see "Good Morning" pop up on the Facebook comments section.

As you are probably aware, there is a plan to slowly re-introduce in person worship. Each congregation needs to provide a re-entry plan for the congregation. Church Council will address this issue at their May 11th meeting. Some congregations are already using painting tape (since it peels off fairly easy) and marking six feet apart seating arrangements. I imagine masks will be required for those in attendance. More information is coming both from WDHS as well as the Wisconsin Conference UCC and the Wisconsin Council of Churches.

The Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ raised \$35,000 for a separate Emergency Response Fund for congregations struggling during this time. So far 20 grants have been awarded with most of the money going to new technologies such as Zoom subscriptions for video conferencing meetings, Bible studies, and prayer circles.

One of the most important mission priorities is making sure local food pantries have enough food. We are doing well when we keep Edgerton Outreach in

This coming Saturday, May 2nd was supposed to be the Spring Meeting of the Southwest Association Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ. There will be a Zoom meeting for the purpose of electing delegates and it is hoped in the fall a longer meeting can take place to address the budget as well as programming ideas.

This Sunday in worship we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday. It has not always been called that though it is traditional to read John 10 which tells of Jesus talking about being the Good Shepherd. It is a comforting image for our theological reflection. The world around us may be fearful and anxious but as always we trust the Good Shepherd is present for us.

I continue with office hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Kathleen continues to work on Wednesday. We are learning to do the business of church in a new way but we are still here. I try to call a certain number of members each week. I know the Deacons have been faithful in reaching out to members. I am grateful for the partnership in ministry. Trust that the church is still here, don't hesitate to call or reach out.

Stay Safe, Be Well,

-Pastor Lori

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Greetings,

My hopes and prayers are that you are well and managing to find peace and contentment during this time of staying safely at home or in your work place if you are working. I am so looking forward to when we can meet again in our sanctuary. Until then, we will continue to use Facebook and YouTube for our worship services. We are delighted that using this media has allowed our members and friends from afar to join us in worship. I have been very thankful to Pastor Lori, Karen, Krista, Lynn and Isaac for the quality worship time that they have provided and the weekly Sunday School materials.

The UCC is developing guidelines and suggestions on how to move forward as restrictions are eased. We are carefully considering how to resume worship safely when the time comes.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the Church office or me if you have needs that we can help you meet. This includes grocery shopping.

Peace to you,  
Connie Wiersma

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day and the UCC Commitment for Care of Creation each month we will be posting an poem/article/essay that helps us think about God's great creation. e.e. Cummings was the son of a Congregational pastor.

i thank You God for most this amazing  
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
and a blue true dream of sky;and for everything  
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

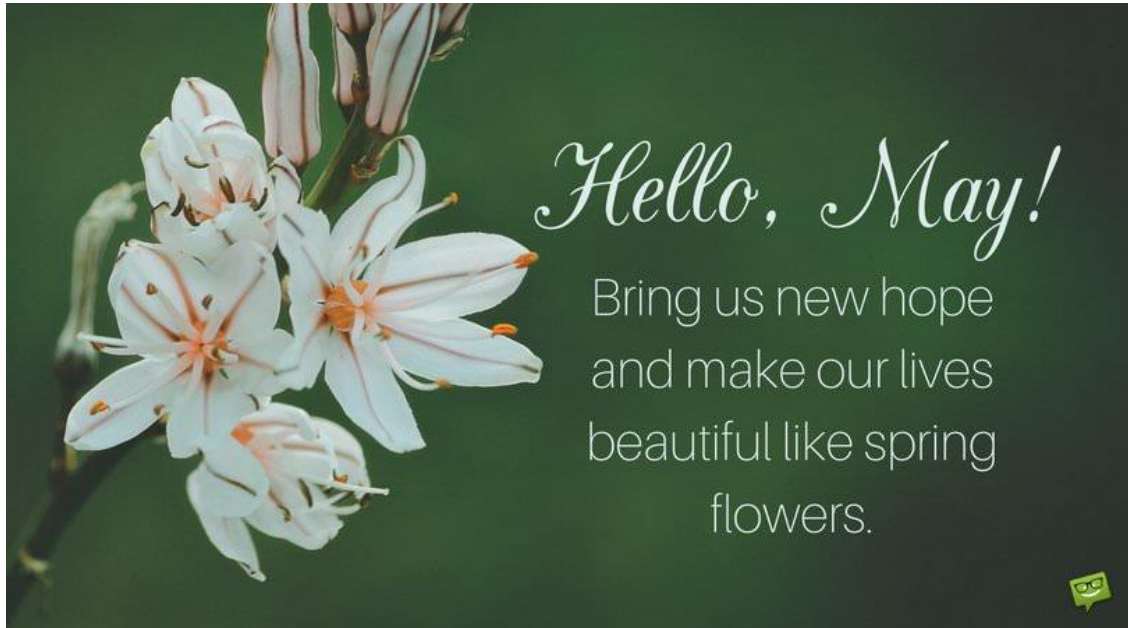
(i who have died am alive again today  
and this is the sun's birthday;this is the birth  
day of life and of love and wings;and of the gay  
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing  
breathing any—lifted from the no

doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

+e e cummings



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

## Happy Birthday

May 6 Luke Smerchek

May 7 Tracy Tronnes

May 12 Stephanie Wilson

May 15 Eastlyn Lanham

May 15 Joan Granger

May 17 Zoe Riley

May 22 Leyla Nimmer

May 23 Seth Wiersma

## Happy Anniversary

May 6 – Dedra & Gerry Loos

### CHURCH COUNCIL

March 9, 2020

Present: Pastor Lori, Tracy Tronnes, Connie Wiersma, Bruce Morris, Brenda Roberts and Mary Lou Behring.

Connie Wiersma called the meeting to order and Pastor Lori led us in prayer. The minutes from the February meeting were read, adjusted and approved. A motion made by Bruce Morris to accept Eric Kim as a new member of the trustees seconded by Tracy Tronnes was approved.

Minister's report: On April 5<sup>th</sup>, Phil Haslinger will be our fill in Pastor. Good Friday worship on April 10<sup>th</sup> will be held at 6:30 p.m. There will be an Easter breakfast planned for 9:00 a.m. We will ask Larry Beck if he is interested in hosting. If not we will do a pot luck type breakfast. The diaconate will set up and pick up needed items if Larry isn't able to host. An egg hunt will be at 9:45 hosted by CE. Easter worship will be at 10:30. May 2<sup>nd</sup> the Annual meeting of the Southwest Wisconsin Association United Church of Christ will be held in Dodgeville at Plymouth Congregational UCC from 9:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m. If anyone is interested in attending please contact Pastor Lori for details before April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Old Business: A discussion was held about the surveys that were turned in after the annual meeting. Connie compiled comments. Our mission and communication were a high priority. The idea of having a spiritual gifts workshop for visioning was discussed. Due to the precautions being taken about the COVID-19 virus, the thoughts about a progressive dinner have been put aside. The thoughts of an all church picnic after Sunday school ends are a possibility. Brenda Roberts has taken on the new role as President of the Peanut fellowship.

New Business: Pastor Lori had a call from the Rock County Foster parent recruitment organization asking if they may host a Recruitment event at our church to be held on March 25 in the evening. Everyone agreed this would be a great outreach event for the community. The trustees will be working on putting together a master set of keys for the church. A review of the church constitution took place in 2017. A five year review was agreed upon. Mary Lou mentioned that Tammy Campbell needs to have a better calendar of events so she can come and clean at appropriate times.

Diaconate: Krista Kim will provide elements for April. A discussion was had about using wine for communion but was turned down at this time. Reaching out to members was discussed to try to get more people to come to church. Pastor Lori suggested the office send out a post card to everyone letting them know about our Lenten and Easter schedule. Our communications person will take care of it.

Christian Education: Connie stated the Sunday school is planning on doing a mission project on trees as the community as a whole is working on this also. An Easter egg hunt will be held at 9:45 on Easter Sunday.

Trustees: Bruce stated the trustees are getting bids on a new batch of windows that need replacing. This will include the nursery area as well as both offices. Window treatments were discussed for the new

windows that have been installed in the fellowship hall. Mary Lou's family was approved for use of the fellowship hall on Saturday April 11, from 12:00-4:00. Bruce and Tracy both brought in posters for appropriate hand washing and guidelines during the COVID-19 virus scare. They will be put up in designated areas.

Treasures Report: Tracy explained that all of the pastor's pension costs for 2019 have been paid in full in 2020. One round of windows has been paid in full. Expenses are on par with the budget. Tracy asked anyone charging or needing reimbursement from the church to please fill out the appropriate form located on the church mailboxes so she is able to take care of this in a timely manner. Tracy mentioned that there is money budgeted for the choir director and to please let her know if she needs to do this for the pickup choir over Easter.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted

Mary Lou Behring

*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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