



## UCC - See What's Up!

Edgerton Congregational United Church

of Christ Official Newsletter  
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## July 2020

### What's Happening This Month

July 5 - Facebook LIVE Worship: 10:30 a.m.

July 12 - Facebook LIVE Worship: 10:30 a.m.

July 19 - Facebook LIVE Worship: 10:30 a.m.

July 20 - Church Council: 7:00 p.m.

**July 26 - Facebook LIVE Worship: 10:30 a.m.**

*Newsletter Deadline: Thursday, July 30, 2 p.m.*

*A big "Thank You!" to Lynn Miller, Isaac Powell Miller, and Krista Kim for their musical contributions to our streaming worship services!*

## Pastor's Notes

Dear All:

I hope you and your family are doing well during this continued time of physical distancing. It is always good to see names pop up on the computer screen during Facebook Live worship. It is a reminder that though we are apart, we are still together. Though I have the honor of standing in the church, you the people of Edgerton Congregational UCC are the church.

It was a privilege to have the Behring and Rosenbaum family join us last Sunday for the baptism of Briggs Kai Bynum. As we consider how to worship in person, there may be other Sundays when people are invited for a special occasion to be in the building for worship. We are working on the logistics but are also hoping for an outside worship service later this month or into August. In the meantime, I always find mid-summer to be a time of spiritual renewal. There are flowers and gardens to appreciate. In the nest outside our kitchen window the young robins are getting ready to spread their wings. Summer is the season of Psalm 23; we rest in green pastures and are led beside still waters.

This summer is also a time of social unrest. We are being asked to listen to stories of disenfranchisement and to find new ways in creating a just society for all. The cornerstone of our faith in this time and place is compassionate listening as Jesus did, when he saw the crowds around him that also came from a place of exclusion and injustice.

My summer prayer for all of us is that we find time to sit quietly upon the earth. To feel God's loving presence in the beauty that surrounds us and too have some time for personal renewal. But also may we be challenged by the voices we hear asking for justice. May we appreciate how long the struggle has been and how deep the wounds are in the work for racial justice.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

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This Sunday is "Open and Affirming Sunday"! Edgerton Congregational is proudly designated as an Open and Affirming church that welcomes persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

Whoever you are, wherever you may be on life's journey - you belong here.



**Help Wanted! Our friend Julie Norland is looking for people to help deliver meals the weeks of July 20th and 27th. Please contact her if you are able to assist.**

Greetings,

As we welcome summer please know that our Church is here for us. The Conference is still saying that we are not yet ready to resume worship in our sanctuary; we are continuing to plan for that time and seeking opportunities for us to gather in safe ways. We enjoyed parking lot Bingo in June and are considering some future activities to bring us together while still maintaining safe distancing. Hopefully we can try outdoor worship and additional "parking lot" activities throughout the summer. We will continue to provide worship using Facebook and YouTube as well.

My hopes and prayers remain that you are well and keeping safe as our area is reopening. I look forward to when we can meet again in our sanctuary. Thank you very much to Pastor Lori, Karen, Krista, Lynn and Isaac for the quality worship time that they are providing and to Kathleen who is managing the technical aspects of FaceTime and YouTube.

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, Moderator*



It's time for scrip orders. If you order gift cards from [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) the church receives money back. Purchase some for when you go to Piggly Wiggly or Kwik Trip. Purchase some for presents. Go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) to create an account. Our enrollment code is 9CA8985339399.

**UCC masks are in! They are \$8 a piece. Please let the office know if you would like to purchase a "Love" or "Be a Blessing" design.**





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

## **Happy Birthday**

**July 6 Erin Smerchek**  
**July 12 Lori Shaw**  
**July 13 Connie Wiersma**  
**July 16 Lukas Jensen**  
**July 17 Todd Campbell**  
**July 19 Joel Smerchek**  
**July 21 Julie Lyerla**  
**July 22 Jessica Lyerla**  
**July 26 George Lynts**  
**July 26 Jonathan Webb**  
**July 26 Cindy Moreno**  
**July 29 Olyvia Crumbliss**  
**July 29 Adam Morris**  
**July 31 Nick Spors**

## **Happy Anniversary**

**July 21 - Robbie and Sarah Lanham**  
**July 28 - Gary and Mary Lou Behring**  
**July 31 - Derek and Michele Nimmer**

### **ECUCC Church Council Meeting April 13, 2020**

1. Meeting (via Zoom) called to order by Connie Wiersma at 7:03 pm. In attendance: Tracy Tronnes, Bruce Morris, Connie Wiersma, Mary Lou Behring, Holly Gould
  2. Pastor Lori led us in prayer.
  3. Minutes were approved from last month. Tracy Tronness made the motion, Holly seconded.
    4. Pastor Lori gave Pastoral Report
      - a. She made 6 pastoral visits (I believe these were virtual or by telephone)
    - b. Addressed struggles with Facebook as the exclusive mode of transmitting service. She knows at least one member doesn't have facebook and is sad they he/she cannot participate in Sunday services. Pastor Lori will look (deeper) into publishing her services to youtube after they are put on fb.
      - c. Holy Humor Sunday is planned for April 19<sup>th</sup>.
      - d. Kathleen is working only on Wednesdays now due to current low workload.
  5. Old Business
    - a. Vision surveys: Reminder that worship, mission/outreach and pastoral care were the top 3 concerns in responses to the church survey. The question is what to do with the data? When do we start to form a mission for our church community?  
Connie asked us to bring our ideas for moving forward towards a goal for our vision next month.
    - b. Bruce added that continuing to use facebook live as a delivery method for services provides great outreach to those members who are at home, possibly due to other reasons than a shelter in home order.
    - c. With the discussion of low attendance (prior to Covid-19 closure) where this leads to money problems, Holly proposed the idea of having Venmo for accepting church pledges and donations. It was agreed that advertising auto-debit withdrawals\*\* maybe well-timed. We agreed reminding people that contributions can be also sent to the church attn: financial secretary

might help people be reminded that the church still has to pay their bills. (\*\*Tracy Tronness added that she can provide the forms people need to apply for auto-withdrawal.)

6. New Business

a. Defining officers' roles

- b. Outreach: Mary Lou was asked to send out the share groups again to Deacons as well as the updated directory with addresses and phone numbers. Mary Lou informed us that some care facilities do not allow people to receive letters due to infection concerns.

7. Committee Reports

a. Deacons

- i. Deacons will start reaching out to their share groups.

b. Christian Ed

- i. Coloring pages were sent to kids and the feedback has been positive.

c. Trustees

- i. Windows will be replaced along the west side including the pastor's office and nursery. If congregation wants to contribute directly to the window project (which is estimated to cost approximately \$8000) they can write "windows" in the memo portion of their check it will be marked for this undertaking. There has been a generous anonymous donation of cheap labor for this project.
- ii. Labor/Cleaning of the church—people who are assisting in church services are aware of their responsibility to wipe down surfaces upon their exit. Bruce will be reaching out to Tammy to see if she will feel comfortable coming to church to clean in between times to continue to keep up with the mitigation of germs.
- d. Treasurer
- i. Tracy shared the news that many people in our congregation are likely struggling with—the news that the value our investments have decreased.
- ii. Tracy also explained the process of applying for an SBA loan/grant as proposed by Connie. Vicki Morris would need to assist in filling out specifics about employees to get assistance (by the church getting assistance, not the employee directly) in continuing to pay them. Lori said she would investigate what our Conference is offering or suggesting to get churches through this difficult time.
- iii. Bruce received \$5200 check from the Peanut Fellowship which was roughly what was budgeted for but is very appreciated at this time of low contributions. It was repeated that people need to be aware of all the different ways people can still get their money to the church. Lori committed to putting these gentle reminders of giving into the newsletter each month.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm. Mary Lou made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Tracy.

\*Note\* May's minutes will be included in next month's newsletter.

*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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**Our mailing address is:**

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