



January 2021 Newsletter

U-C-C WHAT'S UP: THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
EDGERTON CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 2021

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*No matter who you are or where you are on
your journey, you belong here.*

Dear All,

There has been much joking around as we look towards 2021 with hope that it will be better than 2020. The jokes suggest, it can't be worse. I am very hopeful for 2021 for a number of reasons. First is the hope that we will soon reach a turning point in the pandemic with numbers dropping, fewer new cases, and with the assistance of the vaccine, some opening of restrictions. Now that we are more than ever aware of disparities in our current medical system, we can work to overcome them so that people can get appropriate care specific to their needs.

A "one size fits all" system does not work.

I am hopeful for the nation. Health care disparities are only one example of inequality in our nation. Another example is internet access. Disparities in the educational resources increase when families do not have access to the internet. There should be an easy solution to this.

I am hopeful for the church. The church universal has been transforming for a number of years. The pandemic has motivated us to think differently and try new ways of being the church. Let's keep the creativity alive as we learn to be together again. In our specific congregation we are going to begin a process to help us be better together. We don't always follow our written processes. As in many small churches, we have found shortcuts to getting work done but sometimes at the exclusion of others. If our written processes need to be revised, we can do that. I found a New Year's blessing from 1513 that I have been carrying around with me. I hope to share all of it at some point but for now, "No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present instant. Take peace.

The gloom of the world is but a shadow. Behind it, yet within our reach, is joy. Take joy".

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Lori

JANUARY LITURGIST SCHEDULE

1/3 - LARRY BECK AND KIRSTEN ALMO

**Rest of schedule to be announced. Look for it in the next weekly bulletin!*

A Message From Our Moderator

Greetings,

As we approach the end of 2020, we eagerly are looking forward to the New Year and the hope that it brings. We are anxious for the return of a sense of normalcy to our lives. We have learned to worship in a new way, brought together through the blessings of technology. Our Christmas Eve Service, decidedly different from the past, will be one of our most memorable.

While this time has been difficult for us as a society and a Church body, it also presents us with opportunity. Our Church leadership has been considering how we as a Church can best emerge from the pandemic with a new vibrancy. Our Church leaders have been meeting with our Association minister on how best to accomplish this and we will be working with a team from the Association as we prepare to come together and move forward with new vigor.

And so I wish you a Blessed Holiday Season as together we look to the New Year with great expectations. May God richly Bless You!

Connie Wiersma, Moderator

DEADLINE: ANNUAL REPORTS

DUE JANUARY 12

If you are a board chair or the lead member of a committee we need a report for the Annual Meeting. Board reports are due in the office by January 12th. If you want to look at last year's report for your Board or committee, contact the church office and we can send it out. Thank you!

Annual Meeting: January 31st

The Annual Meeting this year will be on January 31st after worship. At this time we are planning a hybrid meeting with some members on Zoom and *up to ten people* in the Fellowship Hall. The Annual Report will be delivered before the meeting with instructions on how to vote. As we go along we will continue to pay attention to capacity guidelines from the health department but right now ten people can sign up to attend the meeting in person. To do so simply contact the church office.

What is a Green Team?

Last winter, Lynn Miller led an adult study for Christian Education on the environment and ways we can make an impact as individuals and congregations. Since then at Christian Education and during leadership meetings we have had more conversations wondering how we can become a "green" congregation. The Wisconsin Conference UCC has a webinar for that! **On Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM.** More details from the Wisconsin Conference UCC below:



"In this webinar you'll hear from members of St. Stephens UCC, Merrill, and First Congregational UCC, River Falls, who are at different stages of forming Green or Kairos Action Teams in their communities. We

hope this presentation will provide inspiration for congregations and help them connect with others working toward the same goals.

Guided by the Kairos Call to Action, the Conference has established goals of having 100 congregations engaged in the Kairos Call to Action by the end of 2021, and 150 congregations forming a “Kairos Action Team” by the end of 2022."

Register for the "Forming A Green Team - Kairos Creation Care Webinar" webinar [here](#).



THANK YOU!

Your staff (Lori, Kathleen and Karen) are very grateful for the Christmas love gift. Thank you church! We have also enjoyed and posted Christmas cards around the office. While this has not been a "traditional" Christmas we have appreciated the special music, the bonfire on Christmas Eve (though it was really cold) and all who participated to make the season bright. Thank you and Happy New Year!

From all of us at ECUCC...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January 2 Willow Mae Hatfield

January 3 Sarah Lanham

January 6 Tammy Campbell

January 6 Isaac Powell Miller

January 7 Jennifer Webb

January 8 Mimi Thompson

January 15 Zoe Thompson

January 19 Rachel Rosenbaum

January 20 Derek Nimmer

January 21 Mary Lou Behring

January 24 Krista Kim





CHURCH COUNCIL

Nov. 9, 2020

Present: Rev. Lori, Lynn Miller, Connie Wiersma, Bruce Morris and Mary Lou Behring. Connie called the meeting to order. Rev. Lori read a devotion from Mathew and closed with a prayer. Minutes from the Oct. 12th council meeting were read. A few minor changes were made.

1. The leadership meeting on Oct. 28 was held without Lorraine from the Conference. Instead we will include her on the 11th of Nov.
2. The "statement of faith" is not what we will work on, rather we will work on values that are important to us.
3. Rev. Lori will download Stewardship packets from the UCC website. Minutes were approved.

Ministers' report: Rev. Lori attended an Edgerton meeting on social justice.

Old Business: Connie reported that all paper work has been filed for the forgiveness of our PPP loan. She stated that she already got word from the state and the bank that everything looks good towards forgiveness. Nominating committee: Mary Lou made a proposal that due to the circumstances of this past 9 months we would like to ask all leaders and team members remain in their positions for one more year. Right now it is really hard to reach out to people and get commitment when we are so unsure of what is to come in these next months. We will be on a search to fill the Moderator position. Mary Lou will send out letters with the proposal to all this would affect.

Stewardship: Pledge cards have been sent out. They can be mailed back to the church.

Diaconate: A virtual Thanksgiving eve Vesper service is planned for 7:00 p.m. on Nov. 25. A list of shut-ins was formed and team members will be reaching out. A Christmas nativity is being planned on Dec.

20th. We are looking for participants.

Christian Ed: Sunday school packets have been put together for pick up. Kirsten Almo helped Rev. Lori with this. There has been a conversation about a virtual Advent adult Study.

Trustees: The winter plowing is all set up with Burns gas station. The trustee members will share the task of shoveling. Todd will do some winterizing around the church. We will be waiting on our next group of window replacements until more donations come in.

Treasurers report. Tracy sent word that we are holding our own with finances.

Mary Lou made a motion to adjourn, Bruce seconded it. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lou Behring