



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

MARCH 2021

114 N. HENRY ST.
EDGERTON, WI 53534
(608)884-6514

FACEBOOK.COM/EDGERTONCUC
PASTORECUC@GMAIL.COM
OFFICECUC@GMAIL.COM



Dear All,

Our feet are now solidly in March and the Lenten journey. Maybe you gave up something for Lent as a way of being in solidarity with Jesus who faced the temptations in the desert.

I did not. I thought too much has been given up this year as we have endured the Pandemic. Instead, I have asked for God's blessing on a number of issues. I have also given thanks for the turning of the seasons as a tangible sign of renewal and God's companionship. Emily Dickenson wrote this poem about March:

A Light exists in Spring
Not present on the Year
At any other period –
When March is scarcely here
A Color stands abroad
On Solitary Fields
That Science cannot overtake
But Human Nature feels...

Even before the glory of the Resurrection, seeds of new life are being sown. Lent is a time to sift through and make plans. In agrarian terms, what will be plant this year? What will our fields look like? In church terms, what is God calling us to? What are our hopes and dreams? What work needs to be done for us to share the Good News?

To open the building and resume in person worship we need cross ventilation in the Sanctuary. This will come when the other side windows are completed. There will be a Task Force to look at our policy and procedures – how do we want to go about doing the work God has called us too? And more staff changes, Kathleen who has been so helpful with our social media presence will be leaving at the end of March. Her husband is going back to his overseas job (two months on and a month off) and she will need to be home for their children. There are many questions about what our future holds. Sometimes it is overwhelming, but still spring comes. We walk slowly towards new life.

In the book of Proverbs, King Lemuel said this of his mother, “Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she fears not for the future. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue”. May we think of her as we go about the Lenten road.

Blessings,
Pastor Lori

MARCH LITURGIST SCHEDULE

3/7 - NORMA THOMPSON

3/14 - KRISTA KIM

3/21 - HOLLY GOULD

3/28 - LARRY BECK

**If you can't make your date, please find a substitute and let the office know.*

Thank you!



A Message from Our Moderator

Greetings,

We prayerfully hope that this pandemic is winding down and we can again safely be together in our sanctuary. This is a high priority for our Church leadership and we will continue to update you on this.

We are looking at not only our physical health, but also the health and strength of our Church.

As we are in the midst of Lent we continue to reflect on our personal faith journey and the life of our Church. The Council is continuing to look at the priorities that we identified just prior to the onset of the pandemic: worship; mission and outreach; and pastoral care in the context of our stated beliefs. The Council has currently been working with representatives from our Association to help us with this. Several Council members attended a meeting (via Zoom) of the Conflict Transformation Team who stressed the need to begin with our Core Values: those being our values, our priorities and our convictions. We will continue to explore this process throughout the coming weeks.

The life of the Church is continuing in many ways. Some examples of this are, that we continue to provide Church School materials to our children, we are holding a Wednesday night book study, our Church continues to help with the Meals on Wheels program, and our office has remained open. We have applied for a second PPP loan to help with expenses during this time. The PPP loan that we received last year has been forgiven and our hope is that if we receive a second loan, that too will eventually turn into a grant.

As we anticipate Easter, we will continue to provide meaningful worship via Facebook and hopefully be able to offer some in person options as the weather warms.

May God Bless You!
Connie Wiersma, Moderator

Children's Lenten packets are still available! Let us know if

you'd like to arrange a pick up or drop off. A huge "thank you" to Kirsten Almo for putting them together!



It's almost time for One Great Hour of Sharing! (OGHS)

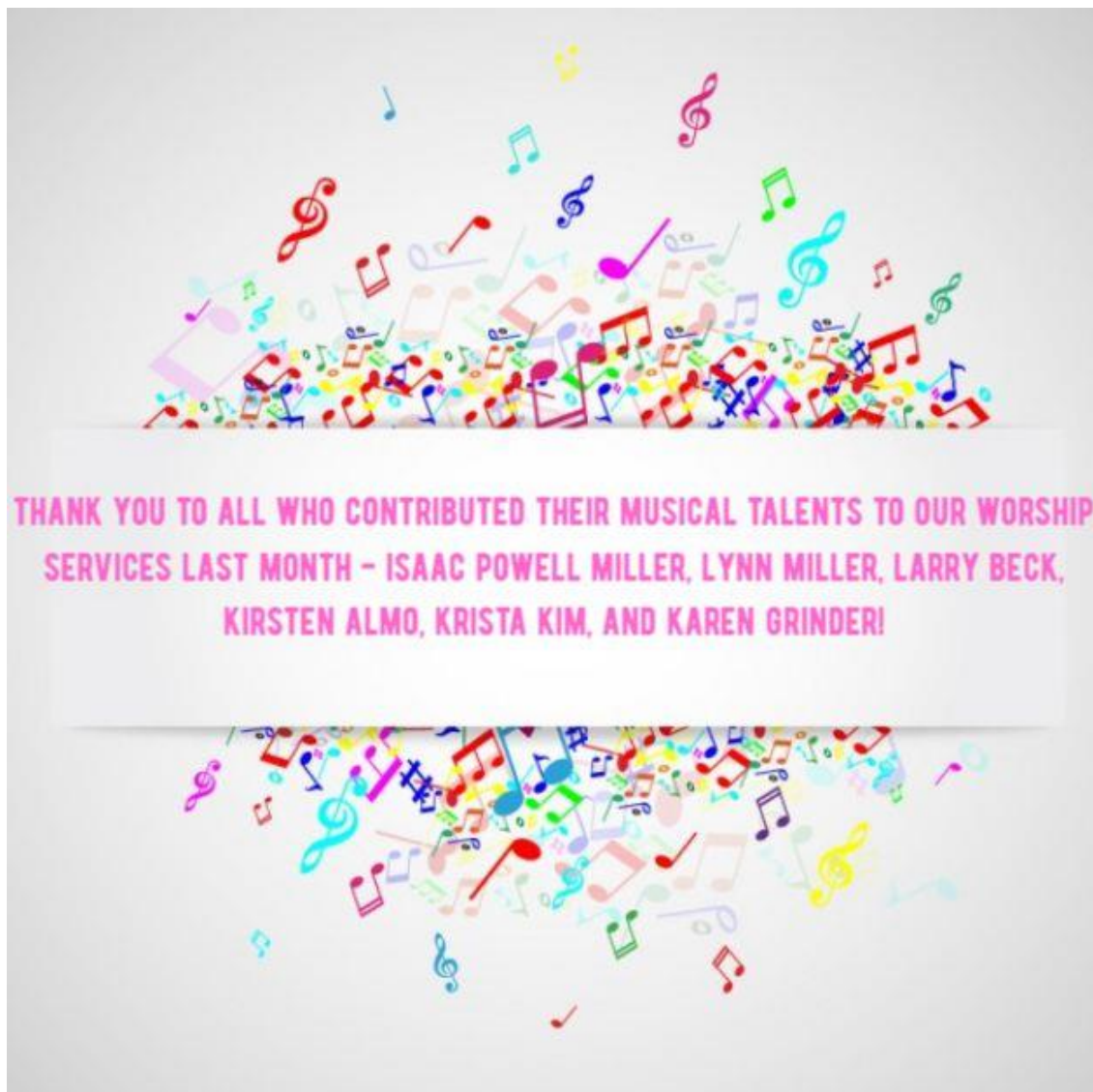
OGHS is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. We will be accepting offerings through March 14 - you can send yours to the church office with "OGHS" in the memo line. Please consider contributing if you are able - by doing so, you meet immediate needs and help to address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

Green Team Tip for March

What is one thing you can do for the environment? Carry your own water bottle and coffee cup! We have a higher than desired level of lead in the water at the church. We are at a level 10 and water is not recommended for drinking at level 15. Therefore it is always good to bring your own reusable water bottle when coming to the church.

Starbucks goes through 8,000 paper cups a minute which adds up to 4 billion cups a year! Take a travel mug into Starbucks and they (as well as other coffee retailers) will give you a discount.



From all of us at ECUC...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

3/2 - DAVID WELLS

3/5 - ERIC KIM

3/5 - DAVID KIM

3/9 - SOPHIA GRANGER

3/12 - MARY HAYS

3/15 - DRAKE SMERCHEK

3/16 - ADLEY TRONNES

3/18 - SKYLAR LUCHSINGER

3/19 - RUTH WEBB

3/22 - CAMMI GOULD

3/29 - PAIGE NINMER



GOD HAS MADE
EVERYTHING
beautiful
IN ITS TIME.
ECCLESIASTES 3:11

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday Jan. 11, 2021

PRESENT: Connie Wiersma, Tracy Tronnes, Bruce Morris, Lynn Miller, Pastor Lori Powell and Mary Lou Behring.

Connie Wiersma called the meeting to order and Pastor Lori led us in devotion and prayer.

Minutes from the Dec. 14th meeting were reviewed. Tracy made a motion to approve the minutes and Mary Lou seconded it. Motion passed.

PASTORS REPORT: Lori handed out a print out of a pie chart showing the responsibilities of pastor/ congregation and the changes that have happened during the pandemic. Ash Wednesday and Lent were discussed. Lori will touch base with the Diaconate in regard to the Ash Wednesday service. A zoom book study was decided upon for our Lenten study. It will be on Wednesday night during lent. Starting on 2/24-3/31 at 6:30 p.m. The Book is Titled Love Is the Way, by Michael Curry. Lori will check with Kirsten Almo about the availability of the reading from the library.

OLD BUSINESS: The council went through the current membership list and figured out who would deliver the annual reports to members. Some will also be picked up and some will be mailed. There will be options available for the voting process to approve the minutes from last year, the committee reports and the annual budget. There is a possibility of another forgivable PPP loan, but Tracy has to check the specs to see if we will qualify.

DIACONATE: There will be a zoom meeting on Monday Feb. 8th at 6:30 to discuss Ash Wednesday service.

TRUSTEES: The motion light at the fellowship entrance has been repaired. The boiler has been repaired and checked at little or no expense due to warranty. Bruce has been elected to head the trustees and Lynn as secretary again.

TREASUERS REPORT: Tracy reported a budget negative of \$16,000, but there was a donation the year before for windows of \$5000.

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

-Mary Lou Behring