

# December 2021



## Calendar of Events

**12/5 Sunday Worship**

**12/12 Sunday Worship**

**12/13 Church Council - 7 p.m.**

**12/19 Sunday Worship  
Traveling Nativity - 4 p.m.**

**12/21 Blue Christmas**

**12/24 Christmas Eve  
Service**

**12/26 Sunday Worship**

*\*All worship times 10:30 a.m.*

## Liturgist Schedule

**12/5 - Mary Lou Behring**

**12/12 - Tracy Tronnes**

**12/19 - Connie Wiersma**

**12/26 - Evan/Becky Riley**

## Pastor's Notes

### IT SEEMS TO ME

Before long, people will be asking, “Do you have the Christmas spirit, yet?” While it is easy enough to answer yes or no, the harder question is, “What is the Christmas spirit?”

It seems to me, the Christmas spirit is a joyful anticipation of receiving longed for gifts. While it is true that Christmas is about more than receiving presents, certainly gift giving and receiving is an important part of the season. The Christmas spirit is also about the willingness—or even necessity—for us to believe in stories that are miraculous and filled with wonder. A bright star, angels singing in the heavens, shepherds and kings kneeling is a story that has captured our imagination because it has told us truth in an inspired way. The Christmas spirit is a yearning for all that Christ has promised in the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

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I believe this church can be your one stop shop for all your Christmas spirit needs.

Here you will find joyful anticipation, wonder-filled stories and deep longings for the Kingdom. Like many of the presents you received (or have given), some assembly on your part may be. It would be nice to have a gentle snow fall on Christmas Eve, to finally have the perfect Christmas tree and to save all the receipts for the presents you bought that will have to be returned, but it's not necessary. The Christmas spirit is, indeed, here.

See you in church,

Kendell

**A big "Thank You" to all who supported the church during Stewardship and Advent seasons. Mary Lou and Gary Behring, Todd and Tammy Campbell, Holly Gould, Tracy Tronnes, and Connie and Cal Wiersma. We are so grateful for you!**

Edgerton Congregational United Church of Christ

## **COVID-19 GUIDELINES**

Updated November 2021



1. Please self-assess your health before coming to worship or otherwise into the building. If you or any members of your household are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home and participate in our online worship services.
2. Masks are recommended at all times for everyone 3 years and up regardless of vaccination status. Masks should fully cover your mouth and nose.
3. Masks are available for your use.
4. Hand sanitizer is available at all entrances.
5. Please practice social distancing, maintaining at least 6 feet between non-family members.
6. There will be no social hour after worship.
7. Doors and windows will be open to allow for cross-ventilation as possible.
8. Bulletins will be available for pickup at the double door entrance to Henry Street.
9. An offering plate has been placed at the back of the sanctuary.
10. The nursery is not open.
11. We will continue to offer Facebook Live and YouTube worship.

From all of us at ECUCC,

**Happy Birthday!**

12/4 – Evan Riley

12/7 – Dan Granger

12/9 – John Norland

12/11 – Devin Crumbliss

12/20 – Holly Gould

**Happy Anniversary!**

12/3 – Joel and Erin Smerchek



## A Note from Stewardship Chair, Mary Lou Behring

"I would like to thank the following people for helping with the Stewardship drive: Tammy Campbell, Tracy Tronnes, and Holly Gould. Your motivational words and caring thoughts were very encouraging as we move forward and strengthen our church family and growth. Several people shared their thoughts on what Stewardship means to them - we thank them and everyone for their contributions to our church community. "

**Stewardship 2021:  
Rooted in Love**

**What Does Stewardship Mean to You?**

"Stewardship is like family: Respect, love, accountability and acceptance."


"Taking care of each other, and our space." **"Providing Hope"**

"Putting others first, treating all with respect, and helping out in all ways possible." "Stewardship is the giving of the best."

**"Spreading little moments of joy to those who need it."**

"Faithfully tending to the needs of the church and each other."

"Supporting the church with talents, service, and working together to serve our community and see justice, equality and love prevail."

 **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
a just world for all

### Announcements from the Office

Don't forget to order your holiday poinsettia in honor or remembrance of a loved one! Contact the office for ordering and payment before 12/19.

Sunday School will begin the second Sunday of January and will be using Seasons of the Spirit – One Room Schoolhouse curriculum.

The Annual Meeting will take place after worship Sunday, January 30.

We are looking for congregants to fill the role of usher/greeter in the upcoming year. Please let the office know if this act of stewardship resonates with you.

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## CHURCH COUNCIL

Oct. 11, 2021

PRESENT: via zoom: Rev Kendell Nordstrom, Connie Wiersma, Bruce Morris, Tracy Tronnes, Kathleen Matson and Mary Lou Behring.

Connie called the meeting to order. Rev. Kendell led us in prayer. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed.

Tracy made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Bruce seconded it. Motion approved.

MINISTERS REPORT: Rev. Kendell shared that a goal of the church is to make disciples of the people. Church is a gift of God. He stated that there are 5 gifts he likes to apply.

1. The gift of Worship. 2. The gift of Education: Sharing stories of Jesus and of our faith. 3. The gift of caring, the pastoral work of the church. 4. The gift of mission and outreach. 5. The gift of order. Doing things in a respectful and democratic way. Working on worship is the first priority.

NEW BUSINESS: Peanut processing has been a recent discussion. Bruce stated that

our license from the state has lapsed due to lack of use during our covid year. After a lengthy discussion on whether or not a license will be needed. Bruce commented that Joan Granger has been researching our best options and will get together with the group and decide how to move forward. When there is a decision made Bruce will email council members. Once this has been declared there will be a decision made on if and when to begin processing. Stewardship was brought up. Mary Lou volunteered to reach out to some people about helping with Stewardship. Tracy brought up our meeting with the CTT team. She will check and see what we need to do to prepare.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Connie mentioned there is really not much going on yet with CE. She suggested we put out an announcement asking for people that would be interested in helping to coordinate and teach. Adult education options were also discussed.

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ADMINISTRATIVE  
COMMUNICATIONS  
COORDINATER:

Kathleen shared that she would like to upgrade all of our standard operating procedures for better communication. She would like to start with a new updated membership list. The council decided we would try to go through all lists and next council meeting. A discussion was had about weekly emails. She stated a lot of people don't even open the email. We talked about keeping it as is for now. Kathleen stated that her husband would work on the new banner frame and put it up. Priorities were discussed. Tracy feels a top priority is cleaning up the church. We have a janitor that has started but we still need to go in and just put away and organize things. Kathleen volunteered to change signage on the doors to make it CDC approved for covid precautions. Connie and Kathleen will touch base once a week for better communication.

DIACONATE: Mary Lou was wondering about the need for ushers/and or Greeters. So far people

have been managing but will look again closer to the holidays. Rev. Kendell will talk to Mary Lou about his wishes for moving forward with communion.

TRUSTEES: Bruce stated that Kathleen Matson is now back in the office as our administrative communications coordinator. Tammy Campbell is back as our new custodian. Our organist Karen would like to be finished by the end of the year so we are searching if anyone knows of someone. Connie Tronnes mentioned that the organ is having some issues so will need to be looked at.

TREASURES REPORT: Tracy stated that the second PPP loan has been forgiven. Funds have been transferred to meet our bills.

Meeting adjourned  
Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Lou Behring

# Blue Christmas

*A Service of the Longest Night:  
Meditations, Music and Prayer*

**The holiday season is hard for those  
whose hearts are hurting. You are  
not alone.**

\*All offering plate collections to benefit NAMI Rock County\*

**December 21  
6:30 PM**

114 N. Henry Street  
Edgerton, WI

Edgerton Congregational United Church of Christ: No matter who  
you are or where you are on your journey, you belong here.



**Edgerton  
Congregational  
UCC Holiday  
Event Calendar  
2021**

11/28 - Advent Sunday Worship - *Hope*  
"Finding Our Place at the Manger"  
Adult Education - 9:30 a.m.  
Hanging of the Greens - 11:15 a.m.

12/5 - Advent Sunday Worship - *Peace*  
Adult Education - 9:30 a.m.

12/12 - Advent Sunday Worship - *Joy*  
Adult Education - 9:30 a.m.

12/19 - Advent Sunday Worship - *Love*  
Adult Education - 9:30 a.m.  
Traveling Nativity - 4 p.m.

12/21 - *Blue Christmas: A Service of the Longest Night* -  
6:30 p.m.

12/24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 4:30 p.m.

\*All Sunday worship times 10:30

Edgerton Congregational UCC  
114 N. Henry St.  
Edgerton, WI 53534

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



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