

March 2022

Edgerton UCC
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Pastor's Notes

It Seems to Me

Have you ever seen the movie, Lassie Come Home? To refresh your memory, it is about a boy on a small, poor farm in the highlands of Scotland, who rescues a beautiful Collie dog from a cruel owner. With patience and love, he overcomes her fear of humans and they form a close bond. Later, a rich family offers to buy Lassie, and because they are so poor, the father agrees. Lassie is taken away, but soon escapes and starts on her journey back to her real home. The trek is a perilous one. There were deep rivers that had to be crossed, dangerous animals that had to be fought, bitter weather that had to be endured and hunger to overcome. There were also moments of grace as when Lassie is taken in by an old couple who care for her until her health returns and she is ready to resume her journey. The last scene—one that still makes me tear up—is Lassie limping over a hill. In the valley she sees the familiar buildings, and standing in the yard looking up at the hill, her beloved friend and companion. They race towards each other. The last scene is the boy, holding his dog in his arms and crying, "Lassie, you've come home!"

(continued)

Liturgist Schedule

3/6 - TBD
3/13 - George Lynts
3/20 - Norma Thompson
3/27 - Tammy Campbell

Event Calendar

3/6 - Worship

3/11 - Council Meeting 7 p.m.

3/13 - Worship
Sunday School
Music Meeting after Worship

3/20 - Worship
Sunday School

3/27 - Worship
Sunday School

*All worship and Sunday School times 10:30 a.m.

I thought of that movie when I was reading the prophet Joel in preparation for Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. In verses 12 and 13 of chapter 2 he says, "Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart," and "Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful."

It seems to me, that is what Lent is all about; it is our returning to our true home, to that place where we are loved, to the embrace of the one who comforts and heals. The journey home is not an easy one. There are perils on the way, temptations and distractions. There are times when we will be lost and wondering if we will ever again glimpse our place of belonging. But, by the grace of Jesus' cross, the power of the Spirit and the guidance of the One who led the Israelites from the desert to the Promised Land, we will at last come home to Easter.

See you in church.

-Kendell

ECUCC Lenten Study

Spring 2022



"The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity" by William P. Young is a NYT-bestselling novel that asks the question, "Where is God in a world filled with so much unspeakable pain?"

We will be exploring this and many other questions during this 5-week Lenten study facilitated by Reverend Kendell. All participants will have access to a study guide prior to each week's meeting.

You can find the book available for checkout at the Edgerton Public Library or anywhere you buy books. For a Zoom link, e-mail the office or find it in your weekly announcements!

Join us Tuesday evenings:

March 9, 6:30 P.M.

March 16, 6:30 P.M.

March 23, 6:30 P.M.

March 30, 6:30 P.M.

April 5, 6:30 P.M.

Please refer any questions to the office at office@ecuucc.org



From all of us at ECUCC,

Happy Birthday!

3/2 - David Wells

3/5 - Eric Kim

3/5 - David Kim

3/9 - Sophia Granger

3/15 - Drake Smerchek

3/16 - Adley Tronnes

3/19 - Ruth Webb

3/22 - Cammi Gould

3/29 - Paige Ninmer

ECUCC Lenten Calendar 2022

Lenten Worship

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 6:30 PM

First Sunday in Lent

March 6, 10:30 AM with Communion

(A pre-recorded service is posted on YouTube at 10:30 AM every Sunday.)

Second Sunday in Lent

March 13, 10:30 AM

Third Sunday in Lent

March 20, 10:30 AM

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 10:30 AM

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 3, 10:30 AM

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 10, 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday

April 14, 6:30 PM

EASTER SUNDAY!

April 17, 10:30 AM with Communion

What is Lent?

Lent is a penitential season of self-examination, prayer and fasting that precedes the observance of Easter. In Western churches, the season opens on Ash Wednesday and consists of forty days excluding Sundays. The term Lent is derived from roots that mean to lengthen. The Lenten season points to the spring of the year and to the increasing daylight hours which spring brings. (Book of Worship, United Church of Christ, adapted.)

This year our church challenges you to a Lenten discipline that includes a renewed emphasis on corporate worship, study and giving.

Lenten Study

"The Shack", Zoom Study
March 9, 6:30 PM

"The Shack", Zoom Study
March 16, 6:30 PM

"The Shack", Zoom Study
March 23, 6:30 PM

"The Shack", Zoom Study
March 30, 6:30 PM

"The Shack", Zoom Study
April 5, 6:30 PM

Lenten Giving

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ.

Sunday, March 27

One Room Church School for All Ages

Starting Sunday March 13, at 10:30 AM

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

We invite children of all ages to learn about the love of God with ECUCC starting Sunday, March 13th and every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

SeasonsENCORE Sunday school programs are based on the semi-continuous readings of the Revised Common Lectionary and include art, music, and outreach activities.

Any questions can be referred to the office at
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GENERAL STATUS OF THE CHURCH

Things are moving in the right direction these days at Edgerton Congregational Church. We have a very engaging pastor leading us in service as well as energetic individuals in our organist and office/communications positions. Sunday School is scheduled and anticipated. The peanut processing season was a success. The day-to-day impact of Covid seems to be lessening.

With all this good news there is of course some that isn't so good. During Covid, we were able to apply for and receive some much-needed PPP loans/money from the government that we didn't have to repay. This is no longer an option and yet we need to meet our obligations. Our financial position is not as strong as we would like it to be as we have been pulling money from our investment account to pay our monthly bills.

This is a REQUEST FOR YOUR SUPPORT. We are asking everyone to think about the following to improve our current position: 1) Is there someone you can invite to church (the more the merrier)? 2) Are you able to help us out with some additional financial support this year?

Thank you,
Bruce Morris
Trustee and Financial Secretary

A Note from the Peanut Committee

Peanut processing wrapped up on February 9. Thank you to those members whose assistance made the important fund-raiser again possible: Barbara Pierce, Brenda Roberts, Joyce Morris, Joan Granger, Cal Wiersma, George Lynts and Bruce Morris.

A special thanks to recently retired Gary Behring who joined the crew. His enthusiasm and energy was of great help to the overall project.

Also, thanks to Nelson-Young Lumber for again receiving the peanut shipments and transferring them to the church.

-Joan Granger

Notes from the Office

I want to begin by sending out a deep, resounding thank you to all of our Meals on Wheels volunteers! Connie and Cal Wiersma, John and Julie Norland, Barbara Brown, Joan Granger, Reverend Kendell and Eric Kim. I truly believe that nothing is more precious than our time, and I am so grateful for you all who donated yours to help our community members in need.

We are looking ahead to planning some special things in the music department, starting with an informal meeting following worship on March 13. If you sing, play an instrument, or would like to give feedback on the kind of music offerings we share we would love to hear from you. We are also coordinating a congregational survey that we would appreciate your participation in either online or in church. Keep an eye on your inboxes for more!

There have been quite a few changes to our liturgical calendar and we are working on completing the remainder of the calendar year. We truly appreciate all the folks who read during worship, and would love to see a few new faces volunteer. If this is something you'd be willing to do, please let me know!

Blessings,
Kathleen

"You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance ... and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people."

- Isaiah 58:5-6 excerpts (NLT)



March Featured UCC Daily Devotional

Seed Salvation

by Mary Luti

Jesus put before them another parable: *"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."* - Matthew 13:31-32 (NRSV)

When I came home from college Christmas break my freshman year, I was smarter and wiser than when I'd left home three months earlier. It was amazing how much more sophisticated I'd become.

My parents weren't as impressed when I launched into a passionate speech at dinner about the system and the culpable complicity of bourgeois people like us in All Bad Things Everywhere. I said "us," but I meant them. They felt it.

My father argued heatedly, point by point. That was his way. I got it from him. My mother was quiet, but I could tell she wanted it to stop. Which proved my point. They'd never get the big picture. They had their heads in the sand.

When it was over, I could feel my face burning. Part righteous indignation. Part ... I don't know, shame?

My father left for the backyard. A kid he'd coached in cross-country years earlier was coming to see him. He'd show up at our house whenever he was in trouble. Bad family situation, struggles with school and purpose. He wasn't the only one. Dad gave them time.

My mother made up a plate for the old lady next door, for whom she was unofficial caretaker, doing her shopping, schlepping her to the doctor's, the library, the bank. This was the third old lady on our block she'd seen through their later lives, especially the hardest years at the end.

I went back to school to keep reading about how to save the world.



ECUCC Church Council Meeting

Monday Jan. 11, 2022

PRESENT: Rev. Kendell, Connie Wiersma, Tracy Tronnes, Bruce Morris and Mary Lou Behring.

Connie called the meeting to order and Kendell led us in prayer. The minutes from the last meeting were read. Bruce made a motion to approve the minutes. Tracy seconded it. Motion passed.

MINISTERS REPORT: Kendell reported that the conference is now requiring a quarterly report from Interim pastors. He shared some items with us that will be included in that report. Edgerton Reporter called and is inquiring about our interest in the remembrance of the Holocaust. Kendell will write something up for them. Kendell was approached by a member to include cares and concerns during the service. Everyone agreed this would be OK now that we are not live streaming.

BUSINESS: The annual meeting will be Sunday Jan. 30, 2022 in the sanctuary following worship. We will need 15% of members to be present for voting purposes. Annual reports should be turned in by Jan 12/13 to give Kathleen apple time to process. The church listened to Josephine Navarro on Sunday Jan. 10 for our new Organist/pianist position. Tracy proposed a motion to make Josephine Navarro an offer for the position, following a background check. The offer will be \$90/Sunday beginning Jan. 16, 2022. Bruce seconded it. Motion carried.

Rev. Kendell will be the supervisor for our employees. There was a discussion as to how our hiring process will happen.

Kathleen/Office and media coordinator: The yearbook from the conference must be filled out soon. The info is in Connie's mailbox. We are in search of a new coordinator for Meals on Wheels. After some discussion the council agreed to up Kathleen's hours to 12 hours a week in order to get all tasks accomplished.

Connie will check with the CTT team to see if a zoom option would be a good idea for the Jan. 24th meeting. A discussion of taking down the tree was had. This will take place on Sunday Jan. 16. Bruce suggested adding Josephine's new employee status on our website and newsletter as people like to hear the organ played. The blessing box out front will switch to strictly dry goods during our freezing weather.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Due to covid restrictions we will re-visit Sunday school for the kids in 6 weeks. An adult book study is being planned.

DIACONATE: Communion is being served the first Sunday of each month on individual trays that people can come forward and take.

TRUSTEES: The non Henry St. windows will be the next to be replaced in the sanctuary.

TREASURES REPORT: Tracy stated that the year ended ok with only about \$3000.00 having to be transferred from funds. The PPP loans really helped a lot. Funds a little short but hope to navigate through January.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Mary Lou Behring

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