

JULY 2022

Edgerton Congregational UCC

114 N. Henry St.

(608)884-6514

officeecucc@gmail.com

Administrative Office Hours: Thursdays 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Calendar of Events

July 3 Worship

July 10 Worship

July 17 Worship

July 22 "Pieces of Peace" Art and Faith - 6:00 p.m.
during the Edgerton Night Market

July 24 Worship

July 31 - Worship

*All worship times 9:30 a.m. There will be no Sunday School until after Labor Day.

*There is no Council meeting this month

Liturgist Schedule

7/3 - Julie Norland

7/10 - George Lynts

7/17 - Norma Thompson

7/24 - Tammy Campbell

7/31 - Holly Gould

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



"Good Samaritan" by Domenico Fetti

It Seems To Me

from the desk of Reverend Kendell Nordstrom

Like most preachers, I keep a file of potential sermon illustrations and ideas. While thinking about what to share with you this month, it came to me that there was something under the heading "Church" that would be appropriate. I looked, and sure enough, there it was; a short article entitled, "How to Keep Your Church Attendance Up This Summer." Perfect. Here are the best suggestions:

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- Have your preacher preach from a Dunk Tank!
 - Offer free samples of "Hellfire and Brimstone" BBQ sauce to every new visitor!
 - Offer a free tank of gas for every five sermons heard!
 - Convert your parking lot into an RV Campground!
 - Replace your church sign with one that reads: "Tourist Information"!
 - Have your Church Council dress up in animal costumes and open a petting zoo on the front lawn!

There were other ideas, but they were just ridiculous and impractical. The piece did, however, end with this eminently sound piece of advice:

- And finally, the number one way to boost church attendance during the summer is: Be there yourself!

There you have it. God bless you all. Be safe. Apply sunscreen generously. Invite your preacher to the lake. If you are not at your cabin, I'll see you in church, but even more importantly, no matter where you are, be the church.

Kendell

Notes from the Office

THANK YOU to all who contributed their time and resources to our June events! **We are so proud to have been able to raise \$500 for Edgerton Outreach's "Lunch in the Park" program.** What a blessing to have such a big-hearted and giving congregation.

Another note of gratitude to Jill Sanderson for taking such good care of our Sunday School kids over the last few months! We had a wonderful time celebrating the end of the school year as well as our graduates on Baccalaureate Sunday.

We will be having another event during this month's Edgerton Night Market on July 22. We will be creating "Pieces of Peace" artwork. Please check your weekly messages for more information on that as well as our participation in this year's Tobacco Days event.

Lastly, I will be out of the country August 13-August 27. I will be working remotely, but please arrange any in-office needs with me ahead of my departure.

Blessings,
Kathleen

Have you seen our Kindness Rocks? We invite you to take one for inspiration, share one for motivation, or leave one to help our garden grow.

"One message at just the right time can change someone's entire life."



Through Our Fears

by [Kaji Douša](#) | published on Jul 6, 2022



“I won’t believe this is true unless I can see the nail marks in his hands and I can put my hand in his side!” – John 20:25 (adapted)

Thomas set up an impossible condition for his belief.

Jesus wasn’t into people touching him without his consent. He was clear about his bodily autonomy. But Thomas said, “I will not believe, unless...”

I think this impossible condition—the least likely scenario, given how Jesus wasn’t into people touching him like that—was Thomas’ way of avoiding the pain of failure. Of being wrong. The idea of God not having followed through. That was just too much.

And what makes me think this? The text doesn’t spell this out. But I’m confident of this because our wiring hasn’t changed. We’ve been like this since the caves & the woolly mammoths. We live by our fears because we are wired to believe this is the best way to protect ourselves.

Thomas thought by setting up something so clearly impossible he could outmaneuver his fears. But that which is impossible in our imaginations is very much possible for God. Jesus showed up for Thomas in precisely the way Thomas needed in order to overcome his fears.

We talk so much about living in faith. As if it’s the opposite of fear.

But faith is a companion of fear. I think faith is God’s act of grace to overcome our fears—again and again—so that we can live more closely aligned with God’s promises and priorities.

Living as God intends us is very much in our best interests.

Then why do so many of us struggle to pull that off?

Because everything in here—in this brain of ours—tells us that change is terrifying. The familiar is to us is like a pig in slop. We just roll in it, even though we know it’s ... well ... let’s call it slop. And we’d rather roll in slop because it’s more familiar than be cleansed by the waters.

But you know what? God knows how to meet us in our fears and carry us through them.

Prayer

God, thank you for meeting me right here, right now. Let’s get through this, together.

ECUCC Church Council Meeting Monday May 9, 2022

PRESENT: Connie Wiersma, Kathleen Matson, Tracy Tronnes and Mary Lou Behring.

Connie called the meeting to order and shared the UCC devotion of the day followed by a prayer. The minutes from the April meeting were reviewed and approved.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: Kathleen: Kathleen is planning a vacation in July and wants to plan ahead for her absence. There was mention of an open house maybe in Sept. A June 5th bake sale before and after church to benefit Outreach Summer lunch program is being planned. Many other activities were brought up for ideas to bring in people from the community. Sept. 11th will be the start of Sunday school for next fall. Kathleen brought mulch and donated it to spruce up the landscaping.

CTT: The workshops are this coming Sunday and Thursday. We are hoping for around 20 people. The lunch will be from The Campbell Boys. Mary Lou will pick up chips and a case of water. Bake goods will be provided by Mary Lou and Kathleen. We will arrive at the church at 9:30 to arrange tables and chairs. Ice cream will be served on Thursday eve. A discussion of topics and ideas for the meeting were discussed.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: A Baccalaureate service is in the planning.

TRUSTEES: We are working on lists of areas in the church that need cleaning up.

TREASURES REOPRT: Tracy reported that we are managing to pay bills. There was talk of having an offering plate in the back of the church after service was held. We feel people are forgetting about it.

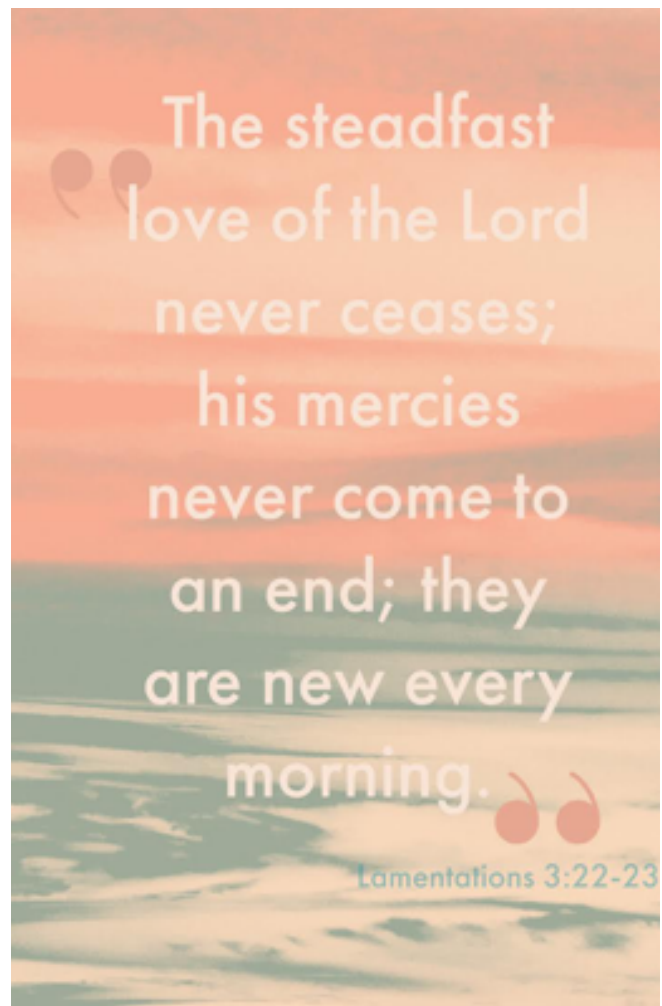
Meeting adjourned,
Respectfully submitted, Mary Lou Behring

Happy Birthday!

7/6 - Erin Smerchek
7/13- Connie Wiersma
7/17 - Todd Campbell
7/19 - Joel Smerchek
7/26 - George Lynts
7/26 - Jonathan Webb
7/26 - Cindy Moreno
7/29 - Olyvia Crumbliss
7/29 - Adam Morris

Happy Anniversary!

7/28 - Gary and Mary Lou Behring



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Administrative and Communications: Kathleen Matson *officeecucc@gmail.com*
Music by Josephine Navarro *musicecucc@gmail.com*

ECUCC: Where no matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here.
