



Edgerton Congregational UCC

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

December



2023

EVENTS

- *12/3 - Hanging of the Greens
Communion
- 12/10 - Second Sunday of Advent - Peace
- 12/11 - Church Council Meeting, 7 PM
- 12/16 - Christmas Pageant Rehearsal: 12-2 PM
- 12/17 - Third Sunday of Advent - Christmas Pageant
- 12/21 - Blue Christmas: A Service of the Longest Night, 6:30 PM
- 12/24 - *NO morning worship* Christmas Eve Service, 4:30 PM
- 12/31 - Worship

LITURGISTS

- 12/3 - Norma Thompson
- 12/10 - Tammy Campbell
- 12/17 - Holly Gould
- 12/24 - Tracy Tronnes
- 12/31 - Krista Kim

BIRTHDAYS

- 12/9 - John Norland
- 12/10 - Doug Cutting
- 12/20 - Holly Gould

ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/3 - Joel and Erin Smerchek

FROM THE DESK OF REVEREND TIFF

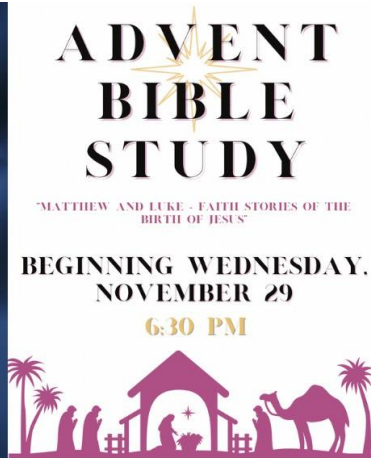
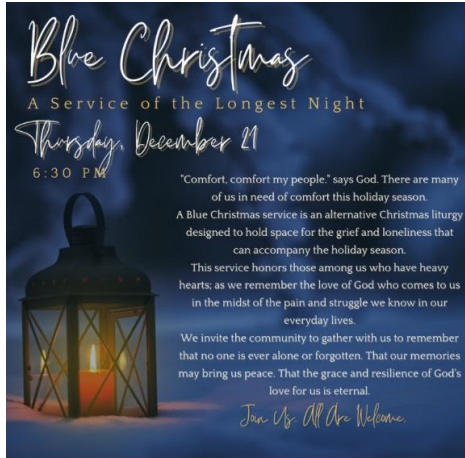
As a musician almost all my life and someone who has performed on stage and written Christian plays, I have always enjoyed the music and the songs from different plays. Who could say that they don't like "Somewhere, Over the Rainbow" or the music from West Side Story? I always walk out of a theater humming at least one tune from the show. Well, today while sitting in my office contemplating what to write a melody came to my mind. Soon the words arrived on my computer: "Getting to know you, getting to know all about you. Getting to know you, getting to hope you like me. Getting to know you, putting my way but nicely. You are precisely, my cup of tea." Does anyone want to guess what Rogers and Hammerstein musical this song is from? I will share the correct answer in church this coming Sunday.

The church is about getting to know you. As I begin my ministry here in Edgerton, one of my first goals is to meet and greet the members and friends of the congregation. Memorizing names has always been tough for me but I will keep working on it. More importantly, part of ministry is to listen to your stories and as the song says, getting to know you. Obviously, the best way to get to know someone is to have a conversation and learn about your family, your work if employed, past or present, and maybe most importantly your faith. The church is different than most institutions in that we are free to talk about some of the more important things in life in a safe and caring environment.

The Christian year is a faith class in getting to know more about God and Jesus. During Advent we learn about God coming into the world as a human child. Epiphany lifts up God's light coming into the world. Lent is a study on the ministry of Jesus and his journey to Jerusalem. Easter proclaims the Good News of Jesus rising from the dead and offering salvation to all humankind. Pentecost, the last season of the year, celebrates the Spirit of God alive in the church and the world. These seasons of faith offer us the opportunity to get to know God and how God interacts with people everywhere. We come to know Jesus by reading the Bible, through our prayers, and participating in the Christian rituals throughout the year. However, I believe that getting to know Jesus and God is a lifelong journey that can change from time to time.

As we write a new chapter in the history of the Edgerton Congregational UCC Church, may we strengthen our friendships, serve our community, and grow in our love for God and each other. And may God bless us with wisdom and joy as we travel this new road together.

-Pastor Tiff



THANK YOU

Thank you to all who have assisted in November's events and offerings! We also want to recognize each member of the search and call team, this year's stewardship committee, Tammy Campbell for her care in the church's custodial duties, the peanut processing group, Mary Lou and Gary Behring for all their support, all involved in choir and our music offerings, Jill Sanderson for shepherding our young ones, and Linda Cutting for always offering to help out wherever needed.

We are so grateful for everyone who worships with us, works behind the scenes, and gives their time and talent to our church. Thank you!



NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

- The 2024 liturgist calendar will be created within this month. If you would like to offer to be a liturgist, please let the office know!
- We will be delivering Meals on Wheels this month. Please see the sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary to sign up to volunteer.
- As we begin a new year, our Nominating Committee will be searching for individuals to step into leadership roles, and we will be looking for folks to fulfill usher, liturgist, education and worship life roles. Please prayerfully consider your ability to donate your time and talents to our church!
- We will have poinsettias adorning our worship space for sale this year. Please let the office know if you would like to order one, or fill out an order form in the sanctuary. They may be dedicated in honor or memory of a loved one.
- In lieu of participating in Edgerton Outreach's Giving Tree, we will be collecting a special offering to benefit ECO. Please place your offering in the donation plate on Sunday, December 10 or send your contribution to the office with "ECO Offering" in the memo line.
- Beginning December 19, the office will be open on Tuesdays from 11-1 PM. Other hours may be available by appointment. Congregants are encouraged to reach out to ecuccpastor@gmail.com or officeecucc@gmail.com to get in touch with the pastor or administration.

YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Interim Pastor Rev. Tiff Bates - revtiffbates@gmail.com
 Moderator - Connie Wiersma - cawiersma713@gmail.com
 Treasurer - Tracy Tronnes - tntronnes@nylumber.com
 Finance - Bruce Morris - brucem929@gmail.com
 Trustees - Todd Campbell - toddcampbell68@gmail.com
 Diaconate - Mary Lou Behring - hairchair@yahoo.com
 Education - Jill Sanderson - jillesanderson@gmail.com

CONTACT

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 (608)884-6514

EDGERTON CONGREGATIONAL UCC



Sunday School News



DECEMBER



THIS MONTH'S THEME

Advent



12/3 - Hope

12/10 - Peace

- We will be reading "The Peace Book by Todd Parr and making a peace-themed craft.

12/17 - Joy and Love

- We will celebrate with a Cookie Party and a special gift from the Sunday School Team for each child.

12/24 - No Sunday School - Sunday Service will be in the Evening

- If Children would like to perform a song (voice or instrument) the Christmas Service will have a half hour of time before the Service for offering of music by members of the congregation (including kids!)

EVENTS

**12/16 - Rehearsal for
the Children's
Christmas Pageant
12-2. Pizza will be
provided!**

**12/17 - Christmas
Pageant during
Worship and a
celebration of Advent
Themes Joy and Love**

CONTACT

**Education Coordinator - Jill
Sanderson**

jillesanderson@gmail.com

(815) 761-7464

To volunteer your time, offer feedback or help shape our curriculum, please contact Jill or the church office.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Monday Oct. 9, 2023

PRESENT: Connie Wiersma, Tracy Tronnes, Jill Sanderson, Todd Campbell, Mary Lou Behring and Linda and Douglas Cutting from the congregation. Connie called the meeting to order and read a devotion followed by prayer. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Tracy made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Todd seconded it. Motion approved.

COOMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR/ KATHLEEN: Kahleen has been asking every week in the announcement for volunteers for liturgists, ushers and stewardship team. All peanut related questions are being forwarded to Gary Behring. A decision needs to be made about the interviewing and hiring process for a new office staff. Kathleen is trying to put together a job description but until we know who our pastor will be its difficult to do. Connie will try to meet up with Kathleen to figure some things out.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Connie, Tracy, Jill and Mary Lou will meet to plan our teams for next year.

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE: Krista is putting together information to bring to the congregation about "shared ministry" and what is involved and how it works. Congregants will have an opportunity for questions. As we await the arrival of a settled pastor, leadership interviewed Robert Tiff Bates for an interim position. Tracy made a motion to hire Rev. Bates as our new interim pastor. The motion was carried. Our hopes are to have "Tiff" here by the first week in Nov.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE: An iPad has been purchased with funds from the peanut fellowship for our streaming services. A tripod to hold the iPad has been donated. Kathleen will assist in getting it set up for streaming.

DONATED PIANO: A concert will be held on Sunday Oct. 15 following worship at 12:30 featuring Josephine on the piano donated by Margret Hawkins and The Gould family. A small reception will follow.

DIACONATE: Communion will take place the first Sunday of every month. We have been working on filling the pulpit with pastors during our interim period.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Jill has been working on preparing age-appropriate spaces for the children. The hope of three different areas is the plan. If you have not visited the nursery lately, please do!

TRUSTEES: No meeting due to lack of a quorum. The dumpster in our driveway is being addressed.

TREASURES REPORT: Some monies were moved/ as budgeted. We are ahead of budget as of present.

Meeting adjourned. respectfully, Mary Lou Behring