



Edgerton Congregational UCC

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



Worship with us Sundays at 10 AM

114 N. HENRY ST.
EDGERTON, WI 53534

EVENTS

- 1/7 - Communion
Sunday**
- 1/8 - Council Meeting:
7 PM**
- 1/13 - Coffee and
Conversations: 9 AM -
11 AM**
- 1/21 - Visitor and New
Member Information
Meeting - 11 AM**
- 1/28 - Annual Meeting
& Potluck- 11 AM**

LITURGISTS

- 1/7 - Connie Wiersma**
- 1/14 - Julie Norland**
- 1/21 - Norma
Thompson**
- 1/28 - Tammy
Campbell**

BIRTHDAYS

- 1/6 - Tammy Campbell**
- 1/14 - Briggs Bynum**
- 1/18 - Bize Bynum**
- 1/19 - Rachel Rosenbaum**
- 1/21 - Mary Lou Behring**
- 1/24 - Krista Kim**
- 1/27 - Fareed Haque**

FROM THE DESK OF REVEREND TIFF

Epiphany Greetings

The season of Epiphany begins with these words from the Prophet Isaiah:
 "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
 For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples;
 but the Lord will rise upon you and his glory will appear over you.
 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn."

The Bible is full of images about darkness and light. And I believe that both darkness and light have played an important role in people's lives long ago and today. By the time February rolled around my mom and dad had enough of the gloom and doom of winter in Connecticut and off they went to an Island in the Caribbean. Despite my not so subtle hints about going along, I think they considered me part of the darkness they wanted to leave behind. The months of November through March are full of dreary dark days with little or no sunshine and lots of really blah days. Many people have that winter seasonal disorder and really have a tough time during the long cold and dark days. We are born people of the light and struggle during the gloomy days of winter.

Our spiritual life can be a time of darkness or light as well. Often during our lifetimes we can feel lost in darkness because of illness, loss of a loved one, economic hardship, or just a time when everything seems to be falling apart. I haven't found anything in the Bible that promotes the idea that we will live a life void of hardship and trouble. In fact often, especially in the Psalms, the author is reminding us how difficult everyday life can be. What is interesting to me is that the writers have no reservations to challenge God to bring about a change to make things better. At times the even complain to God about the situation they find themselves in. It would be like us yelling at our parents for the DNA that causes bad eyesight or certain hereditary illnesses.

My point is that during dark times we can speak truth to God about our situation and seek guidance and help. In the Christian tradition, we know that Jesus faced tremendous pain and anguish during his last week of his life. God has lived through human hardships. The light of Epiphany reminds us that although we struggle at times with hardships, our God is there beside us to offer hope and the blessings of new life. My daily prayer is to ask God to shine that light of grace in my soul and lead me to in the right paths. Psalm 23 is a good read in tough times.

-Pastor Tiff



What might shared ministry look like in Brodhead and Edgerton, WI?

Words from Rev. Shawn Stapleton

I think the short answer is, "Whatever helps us, and those we hope to reach, grow closer to God and one another as we serve the world in Jesus' name." I have some ideas on where to start, and even some concerns.

I pray you'll join me on Saturday, January 13, 2024, for a longer conversation about these very issues, and whether you feel such changes might be right or appropriate for Edgerton Congregational UCC.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who have assisted in December's events and offerings! The education team, worship life team, and council members and volunteers who helped with our holiday services.

To all of our families and children, who brought so much joy to our Christmas pageant.

To all singers and musicians who created beautiful music for us.

And to all of our wonderful Meals on Wheels volunteers: Krista and Eric Kim, Mary Lou and Gary Behring, Tiff Bates, Connie Wiersma, Tracy Tronnes, John and Julie Norland, and Doug and Linda Cutting. We are so grateful for your time and efforts fulfilling this vital community service.

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

- As we begin a new season at ECUCC, we are looking for a few new faces to help us fulfill usher and liturgist duties. Each role has flexible scheduling, and can only require one Sunday every few weeks or more if desired. Please reach out to the office or a member of council if you'd like to volunteer!
- Pastor Tiff and the Church Council would like to invite anyone interested in learning more about ECUCC to a Visitor and New Member Class on Sunday morning, January 21, after the 10:00 worship service. This session is for both people interested in joining the congregation and those who just want to learn more about our fellowship. Please contact the church office or Pastor Tiff if you plan on attending the class. You can find our contact information in this newsletter. Since our office hours are limited and can vary, please leave a message if you reach out by phone. If you are interested in this class but can't attend on January 21st please let us know and we would be happy to schedule another time.
- We hope to see all of our members and friends at the Annual Meeting that will take place after worship on 1/28. There will be a potluck and fellowship to follow.

LET US LOOK FOR CHRIST WHEREVER WE GO
 LET US NEVER STOP SEEKING
 BELIEVING THAT THERE IS A LIGHT THAT
 SHINES IN THE DARKNESS
 WHICH THE DARKNESS SHALL NOT OVERCOME
 AND MAY THE LOVE OF THE CREATOR
 THE JOY OF THE SPIRIT
 AND THE PEACE OF THE CHRIST-CHILD
 BE WITH YOU THIS NEW YEAR, AND EVERMORE.

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

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CHURCH COUNCIL

Monday Nov. 13, 2023

Present: Rev. Tiff Bates, Connie Wiersma, Bruce Morris, Tracy Tronnes, Todd Campbell and Mary Lou Behring.

Connie called the meeting to order and Rev. Tiff read a scripture followed by a Thanksgiving grace that he wrote. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Tracy made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Bruce seconded it. Minutes were approved as written.

MINISTERS REPORT: Rev. Tiff said he has met with Kathleen a couple times and that is working out well. He expressed that he is not usually in the building alone, but if someone needs to meet with him, we can figure out a way to have someone at the church or go to another meeting place. He thought that communion went well.

KATHLEEN/ OFFICE COORDINATOR: Kathleen has put up the job profile on Indeed. She is hoping to do interviews by the end of the month for our new Office Administrator/Coordinator. She is working on current membership lists. Our CCI license renews in March. She is also working on and updating our council binders that will have all our information at our fingertips as needed.

SPECIAL SERVICES: Rev. Tiff has spoken with the pastor from Central Lutheran and they made a decision to eliminate the ecumenical service this year. After a conversation it was decided we will have a special Thanksgiving service the Sunday following Thanksgiving, Sunday Nov. 26. Christmas eve. is a Sunday this year. Mary Lou made a motion to have one service on Christmas eve at 4:30 in the afternoon. Tracy seconded it. The motion was passed. There will also be a special service for hanging of the green on Sunday Dec. 3 during worship. An Advent study sign up sheet will be in the sanctuary that will start on Wednesday Dec. 6th.

Tracy made a motion to accept the contract for our new interim, "Tiff Bates". Mary Lou seconded it. Motion was carried. Our compensation package is a total monthly amount to be allocated as the minister wishes. Tiff has requested an allocation of \$1,000 monthly to his housing allowance.

The search and call team would like to announce calling Shawn Stapleton and would like the council to accept our recommendation as a shared ministry. Tracy made a motion and Todd seconded it to accept the recommendation. Motion carried.

Bruce shared a letter that we received from Don Taft, father of Jessica Taft who was one of our guest pastors. He expressed that we were such a friendly church and he was touched by the fact that we support the "Jam's ministry, and therefore sent a donation to the cause!

Sunday January 28th will be our annual meeting, followed by a potluck lunch.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The team will meet to fill the open positions for next year.

DIACONATE: Communion will remain the first Sunday of each month. Mary Lou will work with Tiff on special services and visiting shut-ins.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Jill and her team will meet to get a December newsletter out. A reminder that the Christmas pageant will be Dec. 17 during worship.

TRUSTEES: More windows have been installed. Doors will be ordered next.

TREASURES REPORT: Tracy stated we are doing good. We are on budget.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Behring