

# THE SANCTUARY

APRIL 2025

## APRIL: STEWARDS OF THIS WORLD

This month, we recognize that the Earth and its resources are gifts from God. What the UCC calls “Creation Care” values are rooted in the belief that humans have a responsibility to care for the Earth as part of their spiritual and moral duty.

At ECUCC we value nurturing a sense of awe and respect for the natural world, seeing it as a reflection of God’s creativity and love. We will be exploring what it means to be a steward of the world in all its interconnectedness on Creation Care Sunday, April 27 and throughout the coming year.

## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Pastor Tiff will be taking some vacation time at the end of April and early May. In an emergency you may Contact Rev Bates at 608-684-0012 or at [revtiffbates@gmail.com](mailto:revtiffbates@gmail.com).

For general questions please contact any member on the Church Council.

Easter blooms may be ordered through an order form located in the sanctuary, or by contacting the office.

Office hours are Thursdays from 10 AM to 12 PM. If unforeseen circumstances arise, an email will be sent to the congregation with notice of closure.

## CALENDAR

4/6 - Communion Sunday

4/13 - Palm Sunday

4/14 - Church Council Meeting, 7 PM

4/17 - Maundy Thursday Service & Supper - 6 PM

4/20 - Easter Sunday

4/27 - Creation Care Sunday

## LITURGISTS

4/6 - Lynn Bates

4/13 - Krista Kim

4/20 - Leia Maves

4/27 - Bavery/Thies Family

# MAUNDY THURSDAY: SERVICE & SUPPER

APRIL 17

Maundy Thursday Service is based on the last meal Jesus had with his disciples in the Upper Room. This year we will be hosting the Maundy Thursday Service beginning with a light supper of soup and bread at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Tiff will be preaching and we will share communion during the service. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary for those planning to attend the dinner. We will close the service remembering the events of Good Friday.

## EASTER SERVICES

4/6 - Fifth Sunday of Lent: “The First Last Place to See Jesus”  
*Communion will be served*

4/13 - Palm/Passion Sunday: “Walk With Jesus, Yesterday, Today,  
Tomorrow”

4/17 - Maundy Thursday at UCC “I Am the Bread of Life”  
*Fellowship meal prior to service*

\*No Good Friday Service\*

4/20 - Easter Sunday: “The First Last Stop on The Road”

## FROM AROUND THE UCC

The United Church of Christ Board is proposing amendments to the United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws to be considered by the Thirty-fifth General Synod this July in Kansas City. Pursuant to United Church of Christ Constitution Paragraph 80, General Minister/President Reverend Dr. Georgia A. Thompson has transmitted the amendments to Local Churches and Conferences. These documents will also be posted on the General Synod website. In the near future, UC News will publish an article describing the amendments and announcing the first of several webinars it is holding to discuss the amendments with the wider church.

To view the amendments, visit [generalsynod.org](https://generalsynod.org) and find “Proposed Constitution and Bylaws Amendments” under the “Business” tab.

Registration for the 2025 General Synod is now open. Visit [generalsynod.org](https://generalsynod.org) for details.

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

Pastor Tiff and Jill Sanderson will be leading a Confirmation Class beginning Sunday, April 13th. Youth in grades 7 and older are invited to attend. Class will be held monthly on Sundays following church service.

The class is open to both church members' families and other youth who would like to attend. We will cover a variety of topics including: the Bible, faith, UCC History and polity, the Trinity, and a few trips outside of our church walls. Interested families should contact Director of Ministry Jill Sanderson or Pastor Tiff. We hope to provide a meaningful and fun program that will assist our youth in their spiritual journeys.

“But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.’”

Matthew 28:5-6  
JOHN 4:16



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School children will be learning about the Easter season through stories and crafts.

A special Easter Sunday event is being planned by the education committee with an egg hunt, food and games with special prizes.

If you would like to volunteer with the education committee this month or in the future, please contact Director of Ministry Education Jill Sanderson.

BRIGHAM YOUNG  
•NOW ACCEPTING ORDERS•

## Easter Flowers

by K&W Greenery

6" LILY ♦ \$22

6" TULIP ♦ \$12

6" DAFFODIL ♦ \$12

Celebrate the season or honor the memory of a loved one by purchasing an Easter plant to adorn the sanctuary! You will be able to take home your plant to enjoy following Easter Sunday. Find an order form in the sanctuary or contact [officeucc@gmail.com](mailto:officeucc@gmail.com) to order.

•CASH, CHECK, OR DIGITAL PAYMENT ACCEPTED. •



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

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR TIFF



We thank you, good and gracious God; for the glorious message that you bring new hope out of despair, resurrection out of defeat, and new life out of death. You call dry bones to dance and give living water so that new life blossoms. We bring before you today the dead and dried out places in our lives, that through your grace we may discover newness of life.

Sometimes we feel like we have hit a dead end or our pathway has been blocked. We feel lost and separated from the ones we love and the communities from where we grew up. Faith is in short supply and we have become entangled in webs of self-concern and selfishness. We often put aside the needs of our neighbors so we can take care of ourselves first. We have forgotten the lessons that bring life and hope into our lives. The time has come for us to be shaken from our apathy and jolted with a spark of renewed faith.

The good news of Easter morning is just what we need to shake us out of our doldrums. We need to visit the empty tomb, we need to see and hear the risen Christ, we need to receive a spirit that awakens our hearts and calls us back to faithful discipleship. Through the resurrection of Jesus you bring new possibilities out of hopeless situations. Through the resurrection you have opened the gates of eternal life. Through the resurrection you build a spiritual body that has become the church of all ages. We are Easter people living with renewed hope and joy. Praise be to God.

Today we pray for our brothers and sisters who struggle for the basic necessities of life and for those who live in the darkness of oppression and evil.

We ask that you bring the nations of the world together to work for justice and protect the basic freedoms that you endowed on all your children. The joy of Easter is not only for some. Together we celebrate when the hungry are fed and the sick healed and we are partners with those who have been affected by senseless violence and inhuman situations. May this be the beginning of a new season of peace through your victory on the cross and the ministry and mission of your Easter people. Amen.

• *Pastor Tiff*

## THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our members and friends who assisted with delivering Meals on Wheels last month, and coordinator Jill Sanderson. We are grateful to be able to continue to serve those in need.

## ONLINE GIVING

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## BIRTHDAYS

- 4/3 - Bruce Morris
- 4/4 - Brecken Smerchek
- 4/12 - Kathleen Matson
- 4/21 - Joyce Morris
- 4/21 - Eliza Tronnes

'CALL TO ME AND I  
WILL ANSWER YOU  
AND TELL YOU  
GREAT AND  
UNSEARCHABLE  
THINGS YOU DO  
NOT KNOW.'

*Jeremiah 33:3*

## FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

### ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, KATHLEEN MATSON

I was born and raised in Janesville, and grew up going to First Lutheran Church. I graduated from UW - Whitewater with a BA in Communications and a minor in Psychology. It was my



dream to work for organizations that made a difference in the world. I moved to Seattle in 2010 and met my husband, Tyler, a few years later. Shortly after our daughter Delaney was born in 2015, we decided that we would move back to my hometown so our child (soon to be children) would grow up close to my parents, and our family could enjoy a slower pace of life. (We really miss the coffee and the mountains, though!)

After a few years of being a stay at home mom (we welcomed Max in 2017) I decided it was time to dip my toe back into looking for nonprofit marketing work. I saw a posting for an office assistant at ECUCC, and in late 2019 I began my role here at the church. It was exciting to think about working at a place that spreads love, hope and welcoming arms to \*all\* people. So many people use the word of God to exclude, other, and oppress - this church is a living, breathing beacon of light in that darkness.

Since then, I have worn many hats here - and while my tasks are administrative, my passion lies in working to cultivate a culture of care and compassion.

Our family has grown in faith during our time here - my kids love to see the familiar faces and I cherish the intergenerational aspect of our congregation. We are the embodiment of "it takes a village".

Our village showed up for me on a Baccalaureate Sunday a few years ago when my kids were younger. Seeing my frustration at their unruliness, Holly Gould (who was in church to celebrate her daughters graduation) dropped a grounding piece of seasoned mom wisdom on me: “In this stage of life you’re so busy looking at them hoping they behave; you don’t get see how much joy they are bringing to everyone else.” Her words were the balm that my tired mom heart needed; and that is why our church is so special.

When I think about God working through ECUCC, Im reminded of a late spring day in 2022. The tragic school shooting in Uvalde, TX had just occurred. The next day, a few of us worked furiously to offer a last-minute vigil so our collective grief would have somewhere to go. We had put a sign out that morning, and as I greeted a woman I had never seen before, she told me that she was a former Edgerton resident now living in Parkland, FL. She was visiting and saw our sign while she was on a walk, and given the tragedy that happened in her community a few years before, she came to our little church on Henry St. to pray with us.

I will never forget the hug that she gave me; and how in that single moment of connection, it was affirmed - what we do here matters. Even when our attendance is low, or crisis occurs, or things slip through the cracks. Even when we don’t want to show up. That hug has sustained me, and is a constant reminder that one small thing we do can bring immeasurable comfort or hope to somebody else. So we continue the work.

I pray our church continues to be a beacon of light in our community. I pray our members continue to grow in their faith and their relationships with each other, and I pray our welcoming arms continue to reach who needs them most. When I think about God and my work here, I think about this quote from Glennon Doyle-Wambach, referencing Mother Teresa:

“And when she wanted to see the face of God, she didn't look up and away; she looked into the eyes of the person sitting next to her. Which is harder. Better.”

May we keep looking towards each other.

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Moderator: Krista Kim - [rigertkim@gmail.com](mailto:rigertkim@gmail.com)

Interim Pastor: Tiff Bates - [revtiffbates@gmail.com](mailto:revtiffbates@gmail.com)

Ministry/Education: Jill Sanderson - [jillesanderson@gmail.com](mailto:jillesanderson@gmail.com)

Vice-Moderator/Treasurer: Tracty Tronnes - [tntronnes@nylumber.com](mailto:tntronnes@nylumber.com)

Worship Life: Mary Lou Behring - [hairchair@yahoo.com](mailto:hairchair@yahoo.com)

Trustees: Bruce Morris - [brucem929@gmail.com](mailto:brucem929@gmail.com)

## CONTACT

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✉ [officeecucc@gmail.com](mailto:officeecucc@gmail.com)

🌐 [edgertonucc.org](http://edgertonucc.org)

👍 [facebook.com/edgertonucc](https://facebook.com/edgertonucc)



# CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

## JANUARY 13, 2025

1. Tiff opened up the meeting in prayer. We were reminded to keep our focus on children in church!
2. Via Jill/Bruce motion, minutes from the December meeting were approved.
3. Pastoral report provided. Tiff will identify Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday plans in conjunction with the Methodists Church. Jill discussed some of the new ideas she is trying (to keep families engaged). Discussion regarding confirmation occurred - Tiff and Jill will find a date to meet with potential families.
4. Trustees reported that lapel mics will be ordered. Eric will provide some informal training about the use of the mics. Safety trainings for our church were mentioned as an important piece of congregational/leadership endeavors. Trustees will continue to explore those ideas. Church security was also discussed in general terms.
5. Treasurer reports that we did not lose as much as we had expected the past year and we are moving in a positive direction.
6. The meeting was adjourned via Jill/Bruce motion.