

THE SANCTUARY

MAY 2025

MAY: ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

This month, we remember a powerful truth: that we are not alone. We belong to each other. And we are All in This Together.

In times of uncertainty, we are reminded that God never meant for us to walk alone. Let this month's theme encourage us to reach out to one another, build deeper connections, and live out the unity Christ prayed for.

May we be a church that reflects the love of Jesus - not just within our walls, but in every place he sends us.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Office hours continue to be Thursdays from 10 AM to 12 PM. If the office is planning a closure, the congregation will be notified ahead of time via email.

We are looking forward to welcoming back Reverend Barbara Wells to lead our worship services in Pastor Tiff's upcoming absence. For any pastoral needs, please contact the office or a member of church leadership.

During the summer months, fellowship treats will only be expected two Sundays per month. Please find the signup sheet in the sanctuary to contribute!

CALENDAR

5/4- Communion Sunday

5/11 - Confirmation Class
11 AM

5/12-Church Council
7 PM

5/18-Guest Pastor
Reverend Barbara Wells

5/25-Guest Pastor
Reverend Barbara Wells

LITURGISTS

5/4 - Hillary Kirking-
Reilly

5/11 - Connie Wiersma

5/18 - Tracy Tronnes

5/25 - Julie Norland

SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the month of April, our Sunday School programming focused on the themes of Lent and Easter. Children engaged in hands-on storytelling, discussions about Jesus' teachings, and creative crafts to help them explore the meaning of Holy Week and the Resurrection.

A special thank you to Leia Maves for organizing our Easter Egg Hunt following the Easter Sunday service. The event was a joyful success and brought great energy to our celebration.

We also hosted a family outing to the Lambing and Kidding Day at Eugster's Farm. It was a meaningful way to connect with the themes of new life and renewal in the Easter season!

This month in Sunday School, our theme is "All in This Together / Church Family." We're exploring how, even in our differences, we're united by love, community, and God's vision for a just and caring world. Each week, children will engage with Scripture, crafts, games, and service projects highlighting the importance of belonging, teamwork, and kindness. From building a "body of Christ" puzzle to packing kindness bags and creating a church family tree, our activities will help the kids see the beauty in diversity and the strength in unity. As always, children of all ages are welcome to join.



BACCALAUREATE/RECOGNITION SUNDAY

June 1st we will be recognizing Baccalaureate Sunday, as well as celebrating the last day of Sunday School for the year. If you have a graduate you would like to celebrate, please contact the office with details.

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR TIFF

Under the headline of Old News is a review of Lent and Easter. Our theme for Lent was “Traveling with Jesus” and included stories about places where Jesus visited during his ministry. He put on hundreds of miles over tough terrain where Jesus interacted with the local people. His ministry touched hundreds of people with his teachings, healings and sharing of the Good News. Holy Week began with the Palm Sunday Service, we hosted the Maundy Thursday Service, and ended with the Easter Celebration with wonderful music presented by the choir. My goal was to paint a picture of the life and times of Jesus Christ.

Moving on to New News, I want to thank the congregation and church leaders who planned the blessing the day before my second surgery. As I was heading down the hallway at the hospital I was feeling all the good vibes that were both the prayer of blessing and being surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. The new news I will have one more surgery on Tuesday, May 13th, at the Monroe Hospital. Hopefully, that will be it for a while. I will be away from church from May 13th to May 28th. Church Council members and Kathleen Matson will be available for any concerns or emergencies that might arise in my absence.

The Good News is the announcement that our Savior Jesus Christ rose from the dead and lives in the hearts and minds of Christian folk everywhere. I sense the presence of Christ in our faith community as we gather for worship, our children attend Sunday School, and we share in the bread and cup of Holy Communion. We share with our neighbors through our mission projects and our offerings to the larger church. I pray that we continue to grow as faithful stewards of the many blessings we have received. This is how we live out the gospel in our time and place.

Finally, I want to thank our dedicated staff for their extra effort especially during Lent and Easter. We are blessed with a talented and a hard working staff that keeps our church on track and provides the resources we need to be a healthy congregation. I for one appreciate all that they do especially with me occasionally out to lunch. Praise the Lord for a caring and talented group that serves our congregation. Can I have an AMEN!!!

• *Pastor Tiff*

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Education Committee for their assistance with Easter services, all who helped sing and play wonderful music, and everyone who sent prayers of healing to Pastor Tiff.



BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Luke Smerchek
- 7 Tracy Tronnes
- 12 Stephanie Wilson
- 15 Eastlyn Lanham
- 15 Joan Granger
- 22 Leyla Ninmer
- 23 Seth Wiersma

FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

TODD AND TAMMY CAMPBELL

Todd and Tammy Campbell are Edgerton area residents who have been married for 27 years. Between them, they have four kids: Logan, Kaley, Nick and Zach. They have been blessed with 4 granddaughters: Rhea, Morgen, Maci and Addison. The Campbell's take pride in who their children have grown up to be, as they are hardworking, driven, and as Tammy notes "most importantly, they're kind".

Tammy works as a pharmacy technician and Todd works as a journeyman carpenter. Tammy also generously works as the church custodian, and Todd serves as a trustee. When not working, they enjoy playing games as a family and hosting their grandchildren on their property, which has been in Todd's family for generations. They enjoy spending time outdoors, and their property is a sanctuary for their whole family.

Tammy recalls attending church services with lots of different people growing up, exposing her to different ways of worshipping and serving. While there was no formal religion at home, she notes "I felt connected to the idea that God put his word on our hearts. I can't exactly explain it, but I always felt connected. I always believed."

Todd grew up in a nondenominational church with fond memories of lots of children and families, and great pastors. He notes how he looks for his own personal values in a house of worship: honesty and a sincere sense of caring.

When Todd and Tammy decided to get married; they remember having trouble finding a church that would marry them, as they were both divorced. When Todd and Tammy decided to get married; they report having trouble finding a church that would marry them, as they were both divorced.

Tammy remembers that it was a “bizarre experience - learning that houses of God would be so judgemental or discriminatory. I couldn’t believe how many exclude people.”

Once pregnant with their son Logan, they decided to look for a home church without much luck. After he was born, driven by their desire to raise him in a church community with church experiences, fellow member Holly Gould led them to ECUCC. Both Tammy and Todd agree that ECUCC has been blessed with good pastors who care, and believe it’s the congregation’s job to “show our appreciation, that we notice and appreciate them.” And while there have been ups and downs, they still enjoy coming to church; seeing the families, and watching the church grow and evolve. Tammy says “We overenjoy the children. It touches our hearts to see them every Sunday.”

They say that God has been working in their lives in many ways lately. As Todd notes, “God provides. That has really come forward for me lately. When I’m dealing with health issues due to my job I ask him for help, and he does.” Todd and Tammy ask that the congregation add them and their whole family to their fellow members’ prayers; for their health and continued well-being now and in the future. Finally, Todd says “We pray that this church never dies - there is far too much history here.”

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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