



EDITOR

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In Christ we celebrate a living faith, as we worship, care for one another, and reach out to all.

Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday
10 am – Noon

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Rumbling... Reckoning... and... Rising Strong

A Book Review by **Joyce Paustian**

If you were at Pastor Becky's meet and greet last fall, she gave us all a challenge, to try to give other people the most generous assumption about our encounters with them, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary. This challenge was partially based upon a concept described by well-known author Brene Brown, in her most recent book, Rising Strong. A group of us from church bought that book, and we initially thought we would read just the chapter on that particular concept. Surprisingly, we read the entire book instead, in a relatively short time! The book gives page-turning first-hand detailed descriptions about challenging times in life, in a plain English way. Ms. Brown describes some of her humbling moments in life as "face-down in the arena" moments. Those moments where a person is faced with a defining decision of who they are, and what to say or do next. If it's a big enough event, we likely will need to think on it for a while (what she calls "rumbling"). Eventually we may find there comes a moment where we are faced with the choice of retreating and staying inside ourselves, or moving ahead outwardly (a "reckoning"). She urges the reader to consider using these decision times as opportunities to move forward in a strong and purposeful way while maintaining one's values and boundaries ("rising strong"), rather than just simply moving ahead. I found parallels to my own life experiences in the book, but also many parallels to our church life. As we continue the process of figuring out where Edwards Congregational UCC will go in the future, my guess is that we'll go through a lot of rumbling and reckoning, or deciding who we are as a congregation and church. As we begin 2018, my hope is that these concepts can help us continue our church's "Rising Strong" journey. Perhaps you'd also find some of the concepts from this book helpful to your own individual "Rising Strong" journeys. If you'd like to learn more, several copies of the book available for you to borrow from the Church Library, thanks to our Edwards Memorial Fund. I encourage you to borrow the book, and see where the "rumbling and reckoning" can take you to "rising strong" places in your life!

Fellowship Opportunities

DONUTS & HAMMERS Every other Tuesday at 8:30 am in Baxter Hall at the church for donuts, coffee, and fellowship. Dates are; **January 16 & 30**. Please join us!

WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT

All ladies from Edwards are welcome for an evening of food, friendship and a laugh or two. This month we will meet on January 18, at the **Family Restaurant**, by the Village Shopping Center in Davenport, at 6 pm. Please join us!

Celebrating January Birthdays – Enjoy your day!

1/3-Sharon Hege; 1/06- Stephanie Kieffer; 1/7- Fay McCarrel; 1/8-Dao Molis; 1/9- Tim Reier; 1/11-Nolan Stratton; 1/13 – Britt McCoy; 1/22- Robert Dean; 1/22 – Ellie Van Howe; 1/23- Frank Hurtt; 1/23- Margie Jirus; 1/24- Gilly Miller; 1/25 Sue Fear Wiele; 1/27- Kira Beitzel; 1/28-Brady Weller; 1/29-Robert Norwood; 1/31-Sam Olson. **Happy Birthday!**

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thanks to all who participated in the Green Grass Cheyenne River Sioux Toy Drive! Many people took multiple names to make sure no child was left out. The program was also supported by many who thoughtfully contributed to the mailing expenses as well as box packing stocking stuffers of mittens and gloves which help protect the children from the frigid temps and winds on the reservation in South Dakota. The season was made brighter and the Lakota children will be warmer through our efforts!

Thanks to Marilyn Riedesel, Kathy Lafrenz, Dick Lafrenz and Brad Miller for an amazing Christmas pageant! Thanks to families for all for your help, support, and your children's amazing participation in A Charlie Brown Christmas. It was SOOO Fabulous. I really did have tears in my eyes.

- *Rev. Kendra Thompson*

MOVEABLE FEASTS –

There will be Feasts in January, February and March of this year. Movable feasts (potlucks) are monthly, informal social gatherings open to all friends and members of Edwards. The host family chooses the weekend and provides the main course. They contact the list of attendees with the date, time and a request for a dish to pass. These social gatherings are a great way to get to know other people from the church in a relaxing environment. All are welcome and you do not have to be a member or, you do not have to host to participate. If you are interested, please contact Chris Kenneke at 563-355-5273 or, Sandy Reinders at 563-940-1809.

Please Keep In Your Prayers:

Due to privacy issues we no long publish names on the website version. Please contact Brian Dugan with any questions or concerns. If you are hospitalized and would like a visit from an Edwards caregiver, please let Brian Dugan, our Caregiver Coordinator know, at 563-275-8520. Due to hospital privacy rules and hospital staffing shortages, we don't always hear from the hospitals in a timely manner. Thanks

If you are hospitalized and would like a visit from a Pastor or an Edwards UCC caregiver, please let Brian Dugan, our Caregiver Coordinator know, at 563-275-8520. Due to hospital privacy rules and hospital staffing shortages, we don't always hear from the hospitals in a timely manner. Thanks.

Mission & Learning Opportunities:

TRANSITION TEAM TIDBITS

The TEAM has met twice and during these meetings, we have been getting to know each other and discerning our purpose. We've learned that we must LISTEN and COMMUNICATE! With Pastor Becky's help we, and the congregation will be using various tools to look at three very important transition questions: "Who are we?", "Who is our neighbor?", and "What is God calling us to do?" But, to begin this New Adventure we need your help. You are invited to a potluck on **Sunday, Feb.18**, to enjoy food, fellowship, and to begin looking at these questions. The Adventure won't be the same without you so please plan to attend. We will be keeping in touch with you by placing updates in the worship bulletin and/or the Edwards EDITOR monthly. Feel free to contact the Team at any time.

Your Transition Team: Paul Petherick, Brian Foy, Carol Ogletree, Mandy Harvey, Geri Dulaney, Pastor Becky David

CONFIRMATION UPDATE

It's been a year of transitions, no doubt. And one of the ministries that has been in flux is confirmation. We were very fortunate to have Torri Vande Zande and Mike Augspurger running our middle school youth group for almost three years together, but Torri has moved on to pastoral leadership at The Table, a new UCC church start here in Davenport. Mike continues to volunteer with the youth, and even launched a new mission project. Once a month we make bulk meals for Winnie's Place and then Mike delivers them. This is a great opportunity for the kids to participate in acts of service – and learn how to cook! Mike and I work as a team to provide quality youth programming and a safe and fun environment for our kids to grow in their faith. Sometimes we meet all together, (6-9th grade) and sometimes the confirmands meet separately with me. The goal of confirmation, in my mind, is for young people to have the tools they need to practice their faith: prayer, Bible study, memorization, acts of service. So those are the aspects of Christian life that I am stressing. In May, three young people will be confirmed: **Soli Augspurger, Carter Sullivan, and Makayla Revels**. Please pray for youth group and our 2018 Confirmands. This is important ministry in the life of the church and I am thankful that there is space within our walls to attend to their faith journeys.

~Pastor Kendra

{Do you have a middle school youth in your household? Would they like to participate in youth group/confirmation? Join us Wednesday nights from 6-7pm starting back up on January 17.}

WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." ~ Galatians 6:2
When we say to one another, "I'm praying for you," it's important to be true to our word! This month, a prayer group is forming at church. The primary goal will be to lift up the prayers that are received every Sunday in worship. But it will also be a time to share our lives with one another and hold each other in prayer.

While the prayer group will meet weekly, only a bi-monthly commitment is needed. Starting Wednesday, January 24th, we will meet in the morning (9am), on Wednesday, January 31, we will meet in the evening (5pm). After that, it will alternate between morning and evening. Talk to Brian Dugan, Lyle Stratton or Pastor Kendra Thompson if you are interested. Otherwise, just come to church on one of those dates! We will plan to meet in the sanctuary to pray.

SAVE THE DATE – ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 28th

Please save the date for the Annual Meeting of Edwards Congregational United Church of Christ. We will have a potluck right after the Sunday morning worship, and the annual meeting will start right after the potluck at 12:15p.m. All are welcome and we hope to see you there!

THANK YOU'S WE HAVE RECEIVED AND WANT TO SHARE

Edwards Congregational

Thank you for partnering with the 2017 Quad Cities CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk, sponsored by Church World Service. This community-wide event organized by religious groups, businesses, schools and organizations raised funds to end hunger here in the Midwest and around the world. Our CROP Hunger Walks are the largest funding source for CWS's hunger-fighting programs, so your Walk really counts! Please know that your generosity is reflected in the lives you are impacting. You are helping to provide a brighter future for neighbors nearby in Iowa and Illinois and far away throughout the world; your support provides access to: food, water, and a safe place to call home for today, tomorrow, and days to come.

The 2017 QC CROP Hunger Walk Planning Team values your partnership, and invites you to join the team for 2018!

We wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and in the coming months, we hope to visit more about how we can continue to partner.

Chantel Boyd

Community and Congregational Engagement Specialist
Church World Service

Dear Rev. Becky David + Friends at the Edwards Congregational UCC,

I want to extend my deepest thanks for your generosity in giving to Chicago Theological Seminary. In answering God's call, to helping CTS, you've helped me and many others do the same. I wouldn't have been able to attend seminary without aid.

And I chose CTS for a reason. They just started a new Chaplaincy Concentration, and CTS has had a long standing commitment to social justice + inter-religious understanding.

Now that I've been attending, I'm deeply grateful for the amazing community.

Once I finish my degree, I'll enter the ministry as a chaplain, and I'll do work with churches around trauma healing. At least that's the plan!

Thank you, again. I hope we can both continue heeding God's call together.

Best,

Trevor Johnson

1st year M. Div. Student.