



Edwards Editor

3420 Jersey Ridge Rd., Davenport, IA 52807-2222

www.edwards-ucc.org

Phone: (563) 359-0331 Fax: (563) 359-8221

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February 2013

Lent: Getting Ready... for New Life

Sunday Morning Communion Service Each Week

Wednesday Evenings:
Simple Supper at 5:30
Programs Begin at 6:00

Ash Wednesday Worship: February 13th at 6:15

Beginning February 20th at 6:15:
Adult Reflection & Worship – *Getting Ready... for New Life*
Lead by Rev. Jean Norton

**Don't miss this opportunity to get to know some new folks,
as well as find a deeper spiritual center for your week.**

Table of Contents

From Our Pastor	2
Edwards Worships	3
Music at Edwards	3
Youth & Education	4
Church Business	5
Library Look	5
With Our People	5
Birthdays	6
Fellowship	6
Social Justice	6
Thank Yous	7
Who, What, When	8
Calendar	9

EDWARDS CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Katherine A. Mulhern, Pastor	katherine@edwards-ucc.org
Rev. Jean Norton, Minister of Music	jean@edwards-ucc.org
Rev. Kendra Thompson, Minister of Faith Formation	kendra@edwards-ucc.org
Kathy Bowerman, Administrative Assistant	kathy@edwards-ucc.org
Geri Dulaney, Membership Coordinator	geri@edwards-ucc.org
Brian Dugan, Caregiver Coordinator	brian@edwards-ucc.org
Cathy Loughead, Bookkeeper	loughead@mchsi.com
Julie Henke, Financial Secretary	JulieHenke@aol.com
Richard Jirus, Moderator	jirus@aol.com

From Our Pastor's Desk...

As more and more “stuff” switches from snail mail to e-mail, I find myself left with mixed feelings. On the one hand, going through the mail every day has become MUCH simpler – both at home and at the office. On the other hand, managing my email inbox has turned into much more of a chore than it was a few years ago. In the end, I think that it is easier to hit the delete button on my email than it is to open the envelopes, peruse their contents and THEN throw it all in the recycling. I am deeply hopeful that an e-Editor will save lots of trees and ultimately simplify our lives.

But for now...it's one more change to get used to! That seems to be the story of our lives in these first years of the 21st Century. Just when we get used to one new technological advance, something new and improved comes along – claiming to be better and faster! The e-reader I bought a couple of years ago is hopelessly antiquated now. And yet, I hold on to it because I don't want to have to learn to use the “new and improved” model! I know how to use the one I have....and I like it! I realize that my attitude is hopelessly outdated, but there you have it!

In the midst of this galloping pace of change, I find comfort in the steady progression of the church year. This month, we enter the season of Lent – the time when we intentionally begin to prepare ourselves for the coming Easter celebrations. Traditionally, Lent is a time of “giving up” – things like chocolate and meat on Fridays and soda and booze (mostly things that aren't really very good for us anyway). This year, as we look ahead toward the new life in our congregation that will come with the arrival of a new pastor, our reflections might include the question *What do I need to “give up”, in order to be ready for new leadership here at Edwards?*

That's an important question for all of us. And the answers to that question will vary with each of us. Some of us need to “give up” expecting church to stay the same (even though we know it can't). Others will need to “give up” the idea that the way we have done things in recent years is the only right way to do them. Others will need to let go of the fear that no one will ever be “like Katherine”. Still others may need to give away the belief that anything would be better than what we have now! We all have some expectation, anxiety, anger, fear or disappointment to “give up” – and Lent is a good time to start!

As we come closer to that time when I will be departing, we all need to get ready to open our hearts and minds to make room for a new pastor. We need to clear away the old hurts and frustrations in order to be ready for new life in our church. That will take some intentional work. We will have to “say good-bye” to each other, before you can be ready to “say hello” to your wonderfully gifted next pastor. Those of you who have been through this before know that each new pastor brings different gifts, but that the church community continues to be itself. Of course things change – over time and with new leadership. But the Edwards community will continue to be the wonderful, caring, justice-oriented, mission-oriented, child-friendly, Open and Affirming, musical, vibrant, worshiping community that it has become over the past 174 years! Edwards will be all of that...AND it will grow in new and unexpected ways under the care of a new pastoral leader.

The discipline of Lent is partly about expecting that the best is yet to come, and then living as though we really believed that. Resurrection and new life lie ahead of us – not behind us. This Lent, let's work toward that new life – in our personal lives and in our church life!

Edwards Worships...

February Scriptures

February 3: Jeremiah 1:4–10 Psalm 71:1–6 1 Corinthians 13:1–13 Luke 4:21–30

February 10: Exodus 34:29–35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2 Luke 9:28–36, (37–43)

February 17: Deuteronomy 26:1–11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9–16 Romans 10:8b–13 Luke 4:1–13

February 24: Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17–4:1 Luke 13:31–35

***They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ~ Acts 2:42***

An Edwards' Lenten Journey: Getting Ready... for New Life

February 13: **Ash Wednesday Services will begin at 6:15**, with the traditional imposition of ashes. Join us for a meaningful service that lifts up the hope in a future we cannot yet see and the realities of a past we cannot change. Forgiveness and new life mingle with repentance and remembrance, in this special worship service. This begins the series of Lenten Reflections lead by Rev. Jean Norton on Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:00, which will last until the end of March. Join us!

February 20: **Where are We Going?** Our reflections will center around that favorite text from the Gospel of John.... "In my father's house are many rooms...."

February 27: **Are We There Yet?** Conversations will focus on Psalm 130 – "My soul waits for God...."

March 6: **Are You Sure We Aren't Lost?** Our text will come from Matthew 7 – "search and you will find...."

March 13: **Getting Close to New Life!** We will look at a very non-Lenten scripture text – Luke 2 – and focus on the admonition "Fear not!"

March 20: **New Life!** Using Psalm 31 as a beginning point, we will remember the peace that comes when we have arrived where we are going. "You have set my feet in a broad place", writes the psalmist.

Music at Edwards...

Special Musicians in February

February 3rd ~Promised Land

February 10th ~ Alleluia Ringers, Sandy Reinders, Director

February 17th ~ The Liturgical Dancers, Kathy Lafrenz, Director

February 23th ~ Emmaus Road, Becky David, Director



Weekly Music Rehearsals ~ Newcomers Always Welcome

Alleluia Ringers - Monday nights 6:30 pm

Children's Choir – Wednesday nights 5 pm

Chancel Choir - Wednesday nights 7:15 pm (Feb. 13th – Mar. 20th)

Emmaus Road – Thursday night 6:30 pm

Youth and Christian Education...

“On a Journey”

Children’s Chapel during Lent

For the 5 Sundays between Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday we will take a journey with Jesus and some of the characters he dined with, healed, performed miracles for and befriended.

Prior to Lent, I am looking for individuals interested in “walking and talking” these stories around the Quad Cities. Our journeys and discussions will be filmed and shared as a part of Children’s Chapel. If you are interested in walking with Pastor Kendra and discussing one of the Gospel narratives, please contact me!

**NO Children’s Choir Rehearsal or
TouchStones on Ash Wednesday!
(Wednesday, February 13th)**

Easter Pageant

The Christmas pageant was such a success, we are going to do another one! On April 7th, the Sunday after Easter, our children will perform “*What is It? An Easter Pageant*,” written by Pastor Kendra, as a part of worship. We will use Wednesday nights from February 20th – March 13th and April 3rd to rehearse. Dress rehearsal will be on Friday, April 5th.

Calling All Acolytes...

On Wednesday nights, I usually pick who will acolyte for the following Sunday morning. It occurred to me that some of the children of Edwards might not know about this! If you are seven or older and interested in serving as an acolyte in Sunday worship, please let Pastor Kendra know!

TECT Team

TECT Team is the high school youth group at Edwards. We will be meeting this spring from 6-8pm in the TECT Team room for snacks, fellowship, games and discussion. On January 27th we started an in-depth Bible study on the Gospel of John.

Ecumenical Book Study

Michelle Alexander’s “*The New Jim Crow*” is an eye-opening look into the criminal justice system. Her historical sketch shows the ways that our justice system affects people of color, even when it claims to be “colorblind.”

This is an interesting book to study in our own urban context. The Social Justice board and Pastor Kendra would love to have you join in the discussion of this book with our neighbors over at the Unitarian Church at 3707 Eastern Ave.

Two more sessions of this study will be taking place in February. We will rotate back and forth between the Unitarian Universalist Church and Edwards.

Here’s are the last two meeting dates:

2/7 UU 6-7:30pm
2/14 Edwards 6-7:30pm

Church Business...

New and Current Board Members and Chairpersons ~ Please Plan to Attend the **Leadership Coffee on Saturday, February 9th (9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)** in Baxter Fellowship Hall. The Task Force for Membership and Leadership Growth, in consultation with the Membership Coordinator, is facilitating this gathering to introduce the new and current board members and board chairpersons to the church vision and mission statements, by-laws, church organizational structure, points-of-contact, and effective meeting planning techniques. The leadership coffee/workshop will be lead by Pastor Katherine Mulhern, Elisabeth Norwood and Richard Jirus. A reminder to current board chairs, please bring your Leadership Notebooks with you to this meeting.

Library Window Look...

“Walk a mile in their shoes” by reading an autobiography like JUST AS I AM by Billy Graham; or SOJOURNER TRUTH (one in the series of biographies, PEOPLE WHO HAVE HELPED THE WORLD); or a memoir by C.S. Lewis, SURPRISED BY JOY. There are other great people whose journeys you can walk in as well by choosing from the top, far left shelf in Edwards Library.

With Our People...

Keep In Our Prayers

Because of privacy concerns related to information available on the internet, Edwards has chosen to remove the names of those for whom we are praying from our on-line newsletter.

We lift in joy those moments of celebration in our lives – anniversaries, births, and marriages. We continue to pray for those in the hospital, those who are home-bound, and those who battle illness. We lift up those who grieve the loss of a loved one and remember those who carry heavy burdens. We trust that as we lift one another in prayer, God’s presence brings strength, hope and wholeness to us all. Amen.



Please remember... the front parking lot is for proximity parking on Sundays and Wednesday evenings.

We have labeled two spaces “officially” handicapped, but we have left the others “unofficial.” This is so that folks who need “proximity parking” but who are not “officially” handicapped can also use the lot. That might include families with small children or folks who are temporarily experiencing difficulty walking.

Please use the front parking lot during weekday office hours though, as we keep all the doors locked except the front for building security!

February Birthdays

1	Judy Collins	16	Maddox Sullivan	23	Judy Van Blaricome
2	Pat Sterk	17	Blaine Chesley	24	Glenn Baggerly
3	Ardis Kasper	17	Carol Mahan	24	Jana Hukvari
9	Lisa Glessner	19	Jeannine Miller	25	Carole Woods
10	Ron Walters	21	Mark Huntoon	26	Crystal McCormick
12	Alex Sedgwick	21	Jacque Lohmann	26	Marilyn Riedesel
13	Judy Stouffer	22	Elliot Knudson	27	Sally Egy
16	Amber Beitzel	22	Adam McCormick	27	Rick Sedgwick

Fellowship Opportunities at Edwards...

Women's Night Out

We will meet on Thursday, February 21st at 6:00 pm at The Fortune Garden (2211 Kimberly Road in Bettendorf). Please join us for great food and fellowship.



World Day of Prayer ~ March 1st

Church Women United of the Iowa Quad Cities invites you to **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** on March 1st at Edwards United Church of Christ at 1:00 PM. For more information or to volunteer on the hospitality team, contact Lisa Hixon at 563-343-5618 or lghixon@gmail.com.

Social Justice at Edwards...

Earthkeepers invites you to their next ecumenical meeting of people of faith striving to be good stewards of God's creation. For date and location, contact Lisa Hixon at 563-343-5618 or lghixon@gmail.com.

Social Justice Questions...

How is caring for "the least among us" connected to environmental issues?

Can we identify societal systems that cause poverty, injustice, and environmental damage in the first place?

If so, how can we change those systems so that the needs of all are met?

Did You Know...

The U.S. has more guns per capita—about nine guns for every ten people—than any other country. It has nearly twice as many guns per capita as Yemen, which ranks second. (Washington Post, December 15, 2012)

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You !!

Thank you, Secret Angel, for the beautiful flower arrangement that you sent to us. The brilliant red and white arrangement lasted almost two weeks. It added so much cheer to our holiday. It is another confirmation to how great and caring the people at Edwards are. Truly this place is awesome. Thank you for the comfort, good feelings and friendship. Thank you, Secret Angel, I hope you have a wonderful, and healthy new year. **John and Dorothy Hammond**

Dear Edwards UCC – On behalf of the Newtown Congregational Church, UCC, the community of Newtown, and all those affected by the Sandy Hook Tragedy in any way, we would like to thank you for your expression of concern and your gift to our church staff. We feel deeply every prayer and concern that the entire world is offering for us as we continue to grieve and to care for one another. We are grateful that you have reached out to us in our time of need and praise God for your compassion and caring. We offer prayers of thanksgiving to all who stand with us. Please continue to pray for our church and our entire Newtown Community. Sincerely, **The Newtown Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**

SECRET ANGELS ~ A big “thank you” goes out to all of you who became Secret Angels. Your random acts of kindness were deeply appreciated by all of those who were recipients. I’ve received phone calls, notes, and personal contacts from some of the recipients who told me that the thoughtfulness that was shown to them “made their day.” Many were having difficult days and the surprise meant so much just to know someone was thinking of them. I delivered some of the secret gifts and saw the tears, the surprised looks, their eyes light up, and “Oh, this is for me? Who is giving me this?”

One lady summed it up, “The Edwards Angels truly know the reason for the Christmas season. Thank them and may God bless them all for their kindness.” ~ **Geri Dulaney**, Membership Coordinator

Dear Edwards Elf, How nice you were to send the Christmas fruit basket – two of everything including candy and nuts and it was presented beautifully. I shared with my neighbor. Thank you so much Edwards Elf. My neighbor said hi and thanks. Thanks so much again, you are appreciated. **Frances Sanders**

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for your recent donation of clothing, baby food, personal care items and diapers. We appreciate all donations given for the women and children in our shelter. Again, thank you for remembering us. **Jean for Winnie’s Place**

Special Thanks to those led Children’s Chapel when I was out of town. **Cathy Wetzel, Kathy Lafrenz, Rob Tubbs, Emily Kenneke, and Jesse Knudson**. It gave me peace of mind while I was away that the children were in good hands. ~ **Kendra Thompson**

Thanks to **Elyse Dye, Brad Miller, Mary Beth, Katie and Susan Dircks, and Promised Land (Michelle Hukvari, Dick Lafrenz, Robert Riedesel, and Cec Chapman, Director/Arranger)** for special post-Christmas music. Thanks to **Elaine Lippert** for being the Epiphany organist and **Merlyn Lippert**, for conducting the chancel choir, the Alleluia Ringers at the last minute, for extra tuning of pianos as needed, and coordinating the new piano arrival in the fall. Thanks to the **Alleluia Ringers, Sandy Reinders**, director and to **Cec Chapman** for a quick and wonderful arrangement for the Chancel Choir – all gifts that enliven our worship.

This and That...

Recycle and pull for the Ronald McDonald House in Iowa City: beverage, soup, cat food, etc. tabs help support a temporary “home-away-from-home” for the families of ill children being treated at the University of Iowa Hospitals. There is a large cardboard house on top of the pop machine in the Community Room where you can put all your tabs, including all those you save from home/work.

Who... What... When... Where...

	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
Preacher	Katherine Mulhern	Katherine Mulhern	Katherine Mulhern	Katherine Mulhern
Chancel Set-up	Sandy Doran Judy Stouffer	John Keraus	Dick Lafrenz	--
Scripture Reader	Nikki Keraus	Kathy Lafrenz	Herb Moore	Rob Tubbs
Communion Servers	Russ Dircks, Kathy Lafrenz, Joyce Paustian, Margaret Wilber, Steve Wildemuth			
Special Music	Promised Land	Alleluia Ringers	Liturgical Dancers	Emmaus Road
Nursery	Cathy Wetzel	Anne-Marie Gephart	Heather Hubbard	Jane Simonsen
Ushers	Russ Dircks Joyce Paustian Margaret Wilber Steve Wildemuth	Beth Penn John Harnung Mila Smith Milo Smith	Rhonda Eckhart Vince Holdridge Tom Kenneke Renee Sinksen	Curly Curl Pam Edmond Brad Hixon Pat Sterk
Greeters	Carol Bachellor Robert Bond Ruth Bowers Bill Coker	Edith Egli Chris Fessler Dorothy Hammond John Hammond	John Harnung Susan Harnung Jack King Vonnie King	Gail McPike Chris Medina Jeannine Miller Julia Natvig
Coffee Hour		Set-up: Membership Clean-up: CE		
Lock-up	John Harnung	Dick Werner	David Reinders	Milo Smith
Mower / Trimmer	John Harnung Milo Smith	Dick Werner Steve Wildemuth	John Harnung Richard Jirus	John Harnung Milo Smith
CareGivers On Call	Martha Jirus Elaine Lippert	Chuck Collins	Ruth Bowers Fran Wolfe	Lois Larew Sandy Reinders

**Where there are blanks, we may need your help!!
Please call the church office to sign up.**

Edwards Calendar-

FEBRUARY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Food Pantry Sunday 10:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Children's Chapel 11:30 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Liturgical Dance Rehearsal 11:30 AM Promised Land Rehearsal 4:00 PM TECT Team 6:00 PM Search Committee Meeting	28 6:00 PM Diversity AA Meeting 6:30 PM Alleluia Ringers Rehearsal	29 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	30 All Evening Programming Cancelled due to Weather	31 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Chili Supper followed by Annual Meeting 6:00 PM Ecumenical Book Study 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting 6:30 PM Diversity AA Meeting 7:00 PM Annual Meeting	1	2 Groundhog Day 10:00 AM Rehearsal in Sanctuary 11:00 AM Pastor Parish Meeting
3 10:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Children's Chapel 11:30 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Liturgical Dance Rehearsal 11:30 AM Promised Land Rehearsal 4:00 PM TECT Team	4 10:00 AM Women's Breakfast Group 6:00 PM Diversity AA Meeting 6:30 PM Alleluia Ringers Rehearsal	5 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	6 5:00 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM Simple Supper 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM TouchStones 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 9:00 AM Clergy-SAG 10:00 AM World Day of Prayer rehearsal 6:00 PM Ecumenical Book Study 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting 6:30 PM Diversity AA Meeting	8	9 9:00 AM Leadership Retreat 10:00 AM Rehearsal in Sanctuary
10 Potluck after Worship Transfiguration Sunday 10:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Children's Chapel 11:30 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Liturgical Dance Rehearsal 11:30 AM Promised Land Rehearsal 4:00 PM TECT Team 6:00 PM Search Committee Meeting	11 6:00 PM Diversity AA Meeting 6:30 PM Alleluia Ringers Rehearsal	12 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting 6:30 PM Board Meetings 7:30 PM Council Meeting	13 Ash Wednesday 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:15 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	14 Valentine's Day 6:00 PM Ecumenical Book Study 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting 6:30 PM Diversity AA Meeting 6:30 PM Emmaus Road Rehearsal	15 Office Hours are 9 to Noon	16 10:00 AM Rehearsal in Sanctuary
17 10:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Children's Chapel 11:30 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Fair Trade Coffee Sale 11:30 AM Promised Land Rehearsal 4:00 PM TECT Team 6:00 PM Search Committee Meeting	18 Office Closed Presidents' Day 6:00 PM Diversity AA Meeting 6:30 PM Alleluia Ringers Rehearsal	19 12:00 PM CareGivers Meeting 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	20 5:00 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM Simple Supper 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM TouchStones 6:15 PM Adult Reflection & Worship 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	21 6:00 PM Women's Night Out 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting 6:30 PM Diversity AA Meeting 6:30 PM Emmaus Road Rehearsal	22	23 10:00 AM Rehearsal in Sanctuary 5:00 PM Baxter Fellowship Hall Reserved
24 Food Pantry Sunday 10:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Children's Chapel 11:30 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Liturgical Dance Rehearsal 11:30 AM Promised Land Rehearsal 4:00 PM TECT Team 6:00 PM Search Committee Meeting	25 6:00 PM Diversity AA Meeting 6:30 PM Alleluia Ringers Rehearsal	26 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	27 Office Hours are 9 to Noon 5:00 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM Simple Supper 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM TouchStones 6:15 PM Adult Reflection & Worship 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting 6:30 PM Diversity AA Meeting	1 World Day of Prayer 1:00 PM World Day of Prayer hosted by Edwards UCC	2 10:00 AM Rehearsal in Sanctuary