



EDITOR

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

www.edwards-ucc.org

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

Published Monthly, Vol. 65 No. 7

MARCH 2018

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

EDWARDS LEADERSHIP STAFF

Rev. Becky David

Interim Pastor

pastor@edwards-ucc.org

Rev. Kendra Thompson

Minister of Faith Formation

kendra@edwards-ucc.org

Barb Bleedorn

Moderator

mikebleedorn@hotmail.com

Lyle Stratton

Past-Moderator

moderator@edwards-ucc.org

Brian Foy

Moderator-Elect

brianjane78@gmail.com

Terry Duvall

Administrative Secretary

secretary@edwards-ucc.org

Brian Dugan

Caregiver Coordinator

brian@edwards-ucc.org

Tyson Danner

Music & Choir Director

tyson@edwards-ucc.org

Mary Coker

Organist

Julie Henke

Financial Secretary

juliehenke@aol.com

Ray Ball-Trevor

Bookkeeper

bookkeeper@edwards-ucc.org

Danielle King

Nursery Attendant

bettdanielle@aol.com

Looking Forward.... Holy Week

Even though Holy Week is considered well, the most holy week of the church year, its services are historically marked by low attendance. Perhaps four services in seven days time is just too much for us. Maybe. I wonder if the days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday seem just too far removed from our lives. Perhaps we fail to see the very thing they are intended to do - pull us deeper into the Paschal Mystery - the mystery of Jesus' own life, death and resurrection. Let's be honest, we don't really like death and an entire week to focus on it seems a bit much. And yet, we are a resurrection people. Or at least we want to be. But the truth of the matter is that we cannot truly experience, let alone understand, resurrection if we haven't first been to the tomb. Further, to understand the mystery of Jesus' death requires we also more deeply understand what brought Jesus there. The Maundy Thursday service helps us get there.

I encourage you to consider, perhaps for the first time, fully entering into the mystery of Holy Week. Together we will enter into Jesus' last week as a human being so that we can more fully understand how to ourselves, become more human. Stand next to your fellow worshipers on Palm Sunday and raise your palms in triumph as we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Sit with your fellow seekers on Thursday as we contemplate the mysteries of the Last Supper - what it means to become the Body of Christ through humble service and communion. Spend a few minutes in prayer in the Sanctuary on Friday, letting the silence of that space connect you with the silence of the tomb, of death, of what life without Christ could feel like. Keep vigil with us on Holy Saturday as we recount the story of our salvation history, we welcome new members in Baptism (not sure about this one but we're hoping!), and witness the bursting forth of new life from darkness, sin and death.

And come back in the morning to celebrate one more time the cornerstone of our faith. Jesus Christ is risen. Jesus Christ is risen indeed!

~ Pastor Becky David

Fellowship Opportunities

FOOD PANTRY – RIVER BEND AREA FOOD BANK

Riverbend Food Bank is reaching out to the schools in a wide area that assists in food distribution from the food bank. There are 2-3 new school starts each month and our church was invited to partner with North High School in Davenport. February 8th was the start at the school. Our partnership with them is to assist in dispensing food from a pantry that was created at the school with the Food Bank providing the shelving, refrigerator, freezer and food. The social worker at the school identifies the families in need. 6 families with 34 children and adults were served this first time. When I asked the Food bank representative why the schools are starting food pantries, the answer was “to strengthen the families”. When families don’t have to scarp for food they can be better parents, siblings, and students. We are blessed to have several volunteers who give 2-3 hours a month on the second and fourth Thursday each month. If you have any questions or desire to help, contact Kay Anthony or Marilyn Riedesel.

DONUTS & HAMMERS

Every other Tuesday, 8:30 am in Baxter Hall. Dates are; **March 13 & 27**. Please join us!

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS RELATED TO OUR INTERIM TIME

We are having more conversations! Please join us immediately following worship:

Sunday, **March 11**, 11:30 am-12:45 pm, and **April 15**, 11:30 am-1:30 pm.

WOMEN’S NIGHT OUT – March 15

All ladies from Edwards are welcome for an evening of food, friendship and a laugh or two. Dinner in March will take place at **Café Indigo**, at 6 pm located at 4925 Utica Ridge Rd, Davenport. Please join us for dinner and fellowship.

BOARD & COUNCIL MEETINGS – March 13

Our next scheduled meetings will be on Tuesday, March 13. All Edwards members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Board meetings are at 6:30 pm and Council meeting at 7:30 pm.

HOW TO OFFER PRAYER AS A CAREGIVER – MARCH 20

On Tuesday, March 20th from noon – 1:30pm, “How to Offer Prayer as a Caregiver” in the Edwards UCC Library. Brian Dugan and Pastor Kendra Thompson will use this month’s caregiver meeting to offer a brief training and workshop on prayer. Please come as we talk about prayer, give examples of prayers for caregiving situations, and practice praying for one another’s needs.

SALAD FUNDRAISER – April 18

Please invite family and friends to our fundraising luncheon on Wednesday, April 18, from 11am-1pm. Cost is \$10 per person and benefits Edwards. After lunch there will be groups who stay to play cards. Mark your calendar. Please join us!

BLOOD DRIVE – April 28

The next Edwards’ blood drive will be Saturday, April 28 in Baxter Fellowship Hall. Please consider donating to save a life, and ‘first time’ donors are always welcome and needed. Watch for more information.

Thank You's We Have Received

- We received this from Elinor shortly before her death. "Thanks so much Edwards for the care you gave me while I was in the hospital for five weeks. Your prayers and visits, plus cards meant a lot to me. The Lord was with me or I could not have made it. Thanks again – love to all." ~*Elinor Moore*
- "A big 'Thank You' to all my friends at Edwards for helping make my 90th birthday extra special". ~*Ardis Kasper*
- A big 'Thank You' from the Mission board to Marilyn Riedesel and Kathy Lafrenz as well as all the children who created Valentines for those Edwards members who are home bound or, in a facility. Your time and creativity was very much appreciated by more than 30 Edwards members and helped display that "love" does exist here at Edwards. ~*Carol Ogletree & Brian Foy*
- Raising Funds while Having a Great Time! Thanks to ALL who were able to join us for a night of pizza, fried chicken, and fellowship at Pizza Ranch on February 19! We raised approximately **\$802** (with donations still being found in our shirts and pants pockets!) That amount represents 10% of the night's sales (i.e., \$225) and the rest was tips! WOW! Your generosity will support our scholarship fund for Edwards folks travelling to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. And a HUGE thanks to the team of folks who came to bus tables, serve pizza, wipe-down high chairs, sweep, vacuum, sing 'happy birthday' (for 3 different people!), laugh, and visit with each other and with YOU -- we had such a great time! Much appreciation to Dick Jirus, Chuck Collins, Cathy Loughead, Chris Kenneke, Marilyn and Robert Riedesel, Julie Henke, and Judy Stouffer for being volunteer workers that night! ~*Tom Kenneke and Carol Ogletree*

COMMUNITY KITCHEN REPORT

At the Salvation Army meal site on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 70 guests enjoyed a wonderful meal of stew, bread, bananas, homemade cookies, (made by Anita and Annette Dietz), and milk or punch. The Edwards team of cooks made enough stew to provide for seconds and thirds, and the guests were so appreciative! And more than enough Edwards family members came out to serve the meal, pour the beverages, and provide smiles and words of encouragement. Thanks to the team of cooks (Ed Balli, Dee Hillyer, Ardis Kasper, Mary Ostrom, Sandy Reinders, and Fran Wolfe) and the team who delivered and served the meal, and then returned to Edwards to wash and put the pots and pans away (Bob Larew, Soli, Nat, Toby, and Mike Augspurger; Joyce Paustian and Woody Perkins; Judy Pavlak; Lisa and Lee Gaston; Terry and Marty Schlabach; Jesse and Elliot Knudson; Cathie Miller; and Carol Ogletree).

Edwards provides a meal at the Salvation Army meal site (301 W 6th St) six times each year with the next meal scheduled for **Tuesday, April 17**.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

For approximately eight years, Edwards has provided Blessings in a Backpack to Eisenhower school students each week while school is in session. These backpacks provide some food, drink and snacks to families designated by the school counselors. We have been able to fund 36 families this year by donations and also the by the Promised Land concert proceeds last fall. Food is purchased weekly, packed into bags each Wednesday, and usually delivered by volunteers each Friday. Thanks to all who donate and volunteer to this mission. If you have questions or want to volunteer contact Julie Henke or Marilyn Riedesel.

Celebrating March Birthdays – Enjoy your day!

3/1-Ruth Bowers, Pat Baxter-Rebal; 3/5-Janie Stratton; 3/6-Lars Meske-Wren; 3/7-Lori Routh; 3/8-Rhonda Curl; 3/9-Jacob Revels; 3/11-Dorothy Hammond, Emily Kenneke, Joe Thompson, Steve Wildemuth; 3/14-Kaidence Ball-Trevor, Charlie Miller; 3/19-Courtney Smith; 3/20-Christine Wren; 3/22-Kay Anthony; 3/25-Farah Marklevits, Nora Van Howe; 3/30-Terry Schlabach; 3/31-Viv Boyer, Miriam Prichard.

Happy Birthday!

Please Keep In Your Prayers:

Due to privacy issues we no longer 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:

DIGGING INTO LENT WORKSHOPS

MARCH 7 – Congregational Banner Making: Marilyn Riedesel

Ever wondered what the banners were all about in worship? What about the colors, seasons, symbols? Come to this workshop for a brief discussion about worship parameters and their meaning, stay for a collaborative textile-making experience!

MARCH 14 – Church-wide Service Night: Bulk Meals for Winnie's Place: Mike

Augsburger – Join us for a night of bulk cooking to benefit Winnie's Place shelter. We will meet in the church kitchen and get right to work! When you register, let us know if you can bring an ingredient to contribute to this collaborative meal. Please contact Mike at michaelaugspurger@gmail.com if you know you are attending.

MARCH 21 – Movement and Prayer: Kathy Lafrenz

Prayer doesn't have to just happen with words and in our heads. Experience prayer as something that takes our whole bodies, our very selves. Our lives are busy and our God is also in motion. Why not learn how to talk to God...while moving around?

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! So at Edwards we are taking it seriously, gathering every Wednesday to pray. Dates and times for prayer are;

3/7-5 pm; 3/14 - 9 am; 3/21-5 pm and 3/28-9 am. The primary goal will be to lift up the prayers that are received every Sunday in worship. It is a time to share our lives and hold each other in prayer. Contact Pastor Kendra Thompson at Kendra@edwards-ucc.org, or just come! We meet in the sanctuary.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

It is easy to feel overwhelmed when we look at all the areas of need in God's world today. However, as the apostle Paul wrote, "by the power at work within us" God is able to "Accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or imagine"- Ephesians 3:20. Wishing and dreaming of a better world means nothing if we don't realize that God gives us community to practice love and compassion. We must care about those around us, both near and far. Sunday, March 11th is the first special offering, here at Edwards, which is "One Great Hour of Sharing". We ask that you give to this cause, so that your gifts become blessings in ways no one can expect. You **CAN** make a difference.

EASTER BREAKFAST - MISSION IN MOTION

Mark your calendar – Mission in Motion is providing a breakfast on **Easter Sunday, April 1**, from 8:30 am until 10 am, and breakfast will continue after the service. There will be egg casseroles, pastries, fruit, juice and coffee. A free-will offering will go to Mission in Motion scholarships used for those going to Back Bay Mission this coming October.

VIA DE CRISTO WEEKENDS COMING TO EDWARDS

Have you ever thought about going on a spiritual retreat? Four years ago I went to my first Living Water Via de Cristo three-day retreat. It was spiritually uplifting, fulfilling and fun; it filled me with a renewed love of our Lord and a desire to grow more here at Edwards. Via de Cristo is an inspiring three-day spiritual renewal experience that is designed to awaken Christian faith. The weekend is a review of basic principles of Christianity presented in such a special way that even those who have had many years of active participation in church work find it inspiring and learn to live more effective Christian lives. The weekend is filled with singing, praying, listening, reflecting, discussion, laughing, delicious food and sharing love in the context of the Christian tradition. The Men's weekend is April 12–15, and the Women's is April 19-22. I would love to share more information with you. Please contact me Chris Medina at 563-508-5064 or e-mail cawm54@yahoo.com.

ARTSPACE SUNDAYS – April 3

What's new? Starting in April, on the 3rd Sunday of the month, children will stay in worship for a time to creatively reflect on the lessons and sermon. (Infants and toddlers can still go to nursery.)

What will this look like? Instead of being dismissed after the children's sermon, kids will stay in worship space up close to the chancel. This way they can see and hear and respond creatively to what is happening. Kendra will facilitate – there will be paper, markers, pastels, and other creative/not too messy supplies - and children can stay as long as they like – for scriptures and sermon or the duration of the service.

Want to help? Pastor Kendra will lead this “space,” but it might be nice to have a youth or adult helper in case any younger kids want to stay up (pre-K/Kindergartners) and not go to nursery. Contact Kendra at Kendra@edwards-ucc.org, if you are interested.



JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

March 25, 10:15 AM

Maundy Thursday

March 29, 7:00 PM

Good Friday

Church open for private reflection

March 30, 3:00-7:00 PM

Easter Vigil

Saturday March 31 8:00 PM

Edwards Congregational United Church of Christ

3420 Jersey Ridge Road

Davenport, IA 52807