



EDWARDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

3420 Jersey Ridge Rd., Davenport, IA 52807

www.edwards-ucc.org

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April 2006

Spring Work Day

The Board of Trustees has scheduled Spring Clean-Up for Saturday, April 29th from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Mark your calendar now to help.

You can choose either outside (lawn work, etc.) or inside (cleaning, etc.) Jobs. Bring whatever tools, supplies you will need. See you there!

Milo Smith, Chair, Board of Trustees.

Palm Sunday! Join us on April 9th at 10:15 and 5:30 for a wonderful celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and the somber reminder of the events that follow during Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday! On April 13th, we will gather at 7:00 in the sanctuary for a quiet, reflective service remembering Jesus' betrayal, trial, and crucifixion. This year, we will remember the story as the Stations of the Cross are remembered in an updated format by members of our congregation. Come! Listen to the old story told in a new way! Share the memory of the Last Supper as we share bread and cup at the communion table.

Easter Morning! Join us on April 16th at 7:00 am for a quiet, reflective prayer service, remembering the women's visit to the empty tomb early in the morning. At 10:15 we will gather in the sanctuary for a grand celebration of Christ's resurrection and at 5:30 we will gather in the fellowship hall around tables, remembering the confusing aftermath of the discovery that Jesus had risen from the dead.

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Holy Week Worship

From Our Pastor's Desk....

One of my great joys this year has been meeting each week with our Confirmation Class. They are FULL of questions! Their small group leaders are kept on their toes answering their questions. They ask good ones, and they challenge us all to think through the meaning of faith in our own lives, as we seek to guide and challenge them as Christians.

Lent and Easter are a time for reflection and questions. It is a time to open our spirits to the Spirit of the One who came to show us the face of God - in the flesh. It is a season.

Lots of teachers and preachers and scholars have written books about what faith is and what it means - for our lives and for the world. My office is filled with a lot of them! But just because the "experts" have some ideas, doesn't mean that each of us don't have to wrestle with those questions about what faith really means for ourselves.

Several years ago, I saw a videotape series that was titled "Questions of Faith", in which a number of Christians reflected together on the meaning of their faith. A few of their thoughts include:

Faith is what I bet my life on.

Faith is a choice. The difference between a cynic and a saint is faith.

Faith is not something you have, it is something you do.

Whether you believe in God is not so important as whether God believes in you.

Faith is love of life - it is affirming life in spite of death and despair.

I have come to think about faith as not so much "believing in God" as "believing God". I think it is a journey with God - a relationship - stepping out on God's promises, growing in the trust that God's justice is sure (no matter what it looks like right now), believing that I am loved - and sharing that love with the world.

As we come to Holy Week and Easter, I invite you to spend some time reflecting on the meaning of faith - in your life and in the world. Easter is the reason we have faith. It is the reason that we gather each Sunday morning and it is the reason that we celebrate Christmas. Without Easter, we might have faith, but it would be a different kind of faith. So...what is YOUR "definition" of faith? How has your faith changed your life? Who taught you about faith in the first place? What difference does your faith make in the world? Happy Easter!

April Scriptures



April 2:

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5:5-10
Psalm 51:1-12:10
John 12:20-33

Palm Sunday, April 9:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47



Easter Sunday, April 16

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
I Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

April 23:

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31



April 30:

Acts 3:122-19

Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

~Acts 2:42

Have you been to the Sunday Evening Service at Edwards?

Worship will continue only through May 7th on a weekly basis. Don't miss this opportunity for reflection, friendship and music! Come at 5:30 for an hour or so and join the weekly community. Goodies each week!

Wednesdays in Lent

Worship continues on Wednesday evening April 5th, with reflection focused around the book Sabbath. Join us as we conclude this series.

5:30 Soup supper
6:15 Worship

Give Handbells a Try

Would you like to ring in the handbell choir during April and May? Are you willing to ring for church on May 14 and/or June 4? Contact Sandy, 332-2637, skreinders@mchsi.com for more info.

The Great Boundary Waters Adventure of 2006

Come join your friends from Edwards for a week in the Boundary Waters. No experience needed. Novice and first-time canoeists have every bit as much fun as those that have been there before. If you are interested, or just want to find out more, contact Dave or Sandy Reinders at DLReinders@mchsi.com or SKReinders@mchsi.com; or call us at 332-2637.

When? Leave the QC early Saturday, August 5, 2006, and return on Sunday, August 13, 2006 OR leave early Saturday, August 12 and return late Sunday, August 20.

Where? The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is located in the upper Northeast corner of Minnesota just below the Canadian border. It is a million acres of virgin forest with more than 1,000 lakes.

Two Ways to enjoy the wilderness....

Paddle & Portage: No speedboats, no cars, no roads, no electricity - just a canoe and what you can carry on your back.

Day Tripping from a Cabin: Every bit as enjoyable as option 1, but you stay in a cabin with electricity, running water and beds. You don't even need to canoe if you don't want to.

If you've never been to the Boundary Waters, you owe it to yourself to try it at least once.

Adult Mission Trip!!!

Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi is a UCC mission to a neighborhood with many chronic needs. Hurricane Katrina hit the area hard - much of Biloxi was flattened. Edwards has reserved 13 spaces for adults to go and help with the rebuilding efforts from October 29 through November 4. If you haven't already signed up, and are interested in participating in this mission project, please call or email the church office, or call Dick Werner at 441-9730.

Youth Mission Trip!!!

Once again, our youth are giving one week of their summer vacation to worship God by serving God's people in some place other than home! This year, our group is heading for Marthasville, Missouri where they will work at Emmaus Homes from July 23-29. Emmaus Homes is a ministry of the United Church of Christ which provides residential care for developmentally disabled adults. Our youth will assist in recreational activities with the residents, helping to serve a forgotten population in our world.

June 4th, we will gather after church for a potato bar lunch, an auction and some entertainment to raise money for this important mission. Be thinking about what you can donate to the auction or how you can help in this effort!

Keep in Your Prayers

- Helene Bereskin, recovering from surgery
- Rose Maire Edgerton, home from the hospital
- Pabitra Kandel and Mahendra Basnet on the birth of their baby girl, March 24
- Melissa King, undergoing tests
- Lois Larew, recovering from surgery
- Roger Robinson, home from the hospital
- Sharon Wildemuth, recovering from surgery
- Our homebound members and friends: Gen Bainter, Nancy Bolyard, Leona Davis, Lynn Warren and Laurel Ogden.

Newcomer Inquiry Sessions

Sunday, April 9, at 11:30 a.m. in the church parlor. A light lunch will be served and childcare will be available. Contact Geri Dulaney (359-0331 or 323-2145).

Wanted: Rocking Chairs

Do you have a rocking chair that you aren't using? The Membership Board is looking for 3 or 4 used rocking chairs and/or gliders that are in good condition. If you have one you could donate to the church, please contact Geri Dulaney (323-2145) or the Church Office (359-0331). Thank you!

April Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Robert Ripple | 15 - Rich Wellman |
| 1 - Travis Balli | 15 - Angie Opsal |
| 2 - Mary Farmer | 18 - Susan Chesley |
| 3 - Jessica Balli | 19 - Edith Egli |
| 5 - Mila Smith | 23 - Jenny Wilbricht |
| 6 - Peggy Olsen | 23 - Emily Springer |
| 6 - Todd Fox | 23 - Ethan Vordtriede |
| 7 - Rick Tinkle | 24 - Bob King |
| 7 - Rich Fuller | 25 - Audrey Dugan |
| 7 - Mitchell Doll | 26 - Jody Bailey |
| 7 - Parker Sedgwick | 28 - Sue Curl |
| 7 - Madelyn Dye | 28 - Sandy Reinders |
| 8 - Ethan Springer | 29 - Meredith Tubbs |
| 9 - Ruth Hefferman | 30 - Cameron |
| 9 - Bob Hamilton | Ohlweiler |
| 9 - Dawn Johnson | |
| 9 - Nicholas Fioriti-Butts | |
| 11 - Tom Kenneke | |
| 11 - Ben Nabb | |
| 11 - Jonah Adkisson | |



If your birthday was inadvertently omitted or incorrect, please notify the church office with the correct information. Thank you.

Women's Day & Night Out

Women's Night Out - Thursday, April 20, 6:00 p.m. at the new Applebee's on West Kimberly Rd., Davenport.

Women's Day Out - Thursday, April 27, 8:30 a.m., Pella, IA to see the tulips.

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

| | April 2 | April 9 | April 16 | April 23 | April 30 |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|
| Preacher | Katherine Mulhern | Katherine Mulhern | Katherine Mulhern | Katherine Mulhern | Katherine Mulhern |
| Guest Guides | Pat Cresap | Membership Board | | | |
| Greeters | Tim Mandell Tracy Miller Clyde Durrah | Kay Stiles Pat Cresap Bev Bergert Anne-Marie Gephart | Evona & Paul Petherick Bonnie & Ned Walling | Chris Medina Deanna Thomas Nancy Stenger Kay Stiles | Ruth Bowers Dennise Weyman Dee Hillyer Kathy Vance |
| Ushers | Dave Wymore Anne-Marie Gephart Mike Fleener Mary Hein | Ned & Bonnie Walling Sally Egly Clyde Durrah | Tim Mandell Olive Gallaher Barb bleedorn Dave Wymore | Joe Hall Curly Curl Eric Crawford Mary Hein | Olive Gallaher Steve Hukvari Steve Wildemuth Judy Collins |
| Nursery 10:15 a.m. | Chris Zippe | Mary Hein | Temple Emanuel | | |
| Caregivers on Call | Rhoda Molleston Jean Neavor | Barb Fleener Lyle Stratton | Ruth Bowers Chris Fessler | Martha Jirus | |
| Coffee Hour Hosts | Norwoods | | | | |
| Scripture Reader | Suzanne Benson | Bill Coker | Tracy Miller | Dick Dulaney | Anne-Marie Gephart |
| Chancel Set-Up | Sarah Kenneke Dick Dulaney | Chris Zippe | Tracy Miller | Chris Zippe | Sarah Kenneke |
| Sound System | Woody Perkins | Dave VanDerKamp | | | |
| Lock-Up Trustee | Brad Miller | Mike Fessler | Milo Smith | Steve Hukvari | Steve Hukvari |

Where blanks appear, we need your HELP!!! Please call the church office, 359-0331 to sign-up. Thank you!! If you are not able to fulfill your assignment, please call a replacement or call the church office, 359-0331, ext. 10. Thank you.

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Sat.</i> |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| April 2006 Edwards UCC | | | | | 1 Baxter Hall Reserved | |
| 2 5th Sunday of Lent 9 am Church School (All Ages) 10:15 am Worship (Communion) *** 5:30 p.m. Contemporary Worship | 3 7 pm Bells Pastor's Day Off | 4 | 5 5:30 pm Supper 6:15 pm Worship 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir | 6 6:30 p.m. Friends In Faith (FIF) | 7 1 pm Women's Bible Study | 8 9 am Relationship Workshop |
| 9 PALM SUNDAY 9 am Church School (All Ages) 10:15 am Worship POTLUCK 11:30 am Inquiry Class 5:30 Worship | 10 7 pm Bells Pastor's Day Off | 11 6:30 pm All Boards 7:30 pm Council | 12 7:15 pm Choir | 13 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship | 14 | 15 10 am Organ Lesson |
| 16 EASTER SUNDAY NO CHURCH SCHOOL 10:15 am Worship 5:30 p.m. Contemporary Worship | 17 7 pm Bells Pastor's Day Off Begin Garage Sale Collecting | 18 1 pm Community Kitchen Prep | 19 5:30 pm Light Supper 6:15 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir | 20 6 pm Women's Night Out Applebees 6:30 FIF | 21 1 pm Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm TGIF | 22 |
| 23 2ND Sunday of Easter 9 am Church School (All Ages) 10:15 am Worship 5:30 p.m. Contemporary Worship | 24 7 pm Bells Pastor's Day Off | 25 7 pm Caregivers | 26 5:30 pm Light Supper 6:15 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir | 27 8:30 Women's Day Out-Pella | 28 | 29 8am Spring Clean-up Day |
| 30 3^d Sunday of Easter 9 am Church School (All Ages) 10:15 am Worship Baptism 5:30 p.m. Contemporary Worship | *** 11:30 a.m. Easter Ensemble Rehearsal May1-5, Garage Sale Set-Up - 9 a.m. All Week in Baxter Hall | | | | | May6 - 17 th Annual Garage |

Thank You, Thank You.....

- Incoming Board Members - Vonnie King, Board of Christian Education (Inadvertently omitted last month).
- Laurel Ogden for her generous donation of knitting supplies to the newly formed Knitting Club (correction from last month)
- Michelle Hukvari for her beautiful solo during the anthem on March 26
- Kailan Lafrenz, Kaela Swarts, Elizabeth Knoche, Emily Doll, Taylor Schroeder, Michelle Hukvari, Taizé Service
- Lyle Stratton and Brian Dugan, Guitars, for morning worship
- Harry Swarts, for conducting the chancel choir and Cathy Wetzel and Becky David for leading the Friends in Faith Band and contemporary service in Jean's absence
- Bell Choir members, Sandy Reinders, conductor; Brass Ensemble members, Chris Zippe, conductor.
- Chancel choir members, especially Dick Werner and Bob Riedesel for re-arranging the chancel after the Wednesday evening services
- The "Faithful Fifty" who set up the chancel for Wednesday evening services on Sunday after worship during Lent
- **Chuck Slack**, for taking new members pictures, John Raap, for making new member name tags, and Dick Dulaney, calligraphy for the new member certificates
- New member sponsors: Kay Anthony (Pam Swanson); Dennise Weyman (Katie and Jay Kyte); Ryan Dye and Katy Strzepek (Paul & Sarah Vordtriede); Barb & Mike Fleener (Robert and Linda Ripple), Edwards Caregivers, represented by Ruth Bowers and Jean Neavor (Laurel Ogden)
- Geri Dulaney, Mila Smith, Ruth Hefferman, Jean Neavor, Dorothy Hammond & Barb Fleener - February and March Newsletters workers
- Carol Stratton, Sarah Kenneke and Melissa Randall for their help in our Holy Week Rotation.
- Emily Kenneke, John Chesley, Alex Sedgwick, and Jennifer Jordening for stepping into the role of Biblical characters to give our kids eye witness accounts of events during the last week of Jesus' life.
- Elise and Ryan Dye, Carol Stratton, Charlie and Crystal Miller, Dennise and Abby Weyman, and Milo Smith for preparing supper and serving at the East Moline Meal Site in March.



Blood Drive

Edwards will sponsor a blood drive in Baxter Hall on Saturday, June 3, with the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center. The Blood Center is the sole provider of blood to patients in 42 hospitals in Eastern Iowa, Western Illinois and the southern tip of Wisconsin. To be eligible for this blood drive, you should not donate blood after April 8.

Fair Trade Coffee

Like the coffee being served on Sunday morning, for Potluck, and other church occasions? It's BENEFICIO COFFEE, and it comes both in regular and decaffeinated. We also have the decaffeinated in whole bean or ground. 20% of the profits are returned to the farmers to help improve education, healthcare, and for other community programs. Best yet, an additional 10% goes to the UCC's Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM). The coffee is available at the table in the narthex for \$7/bag. Serve yourself. Leave a check marked "coffee".

Habitat for Humanity

The Habitat building season is gearing up! There are many ways to volunteer: committees, construction, lunch providers, site hosts, and office assistance. If you would like to be involved in construction with a group from Edwards please give Sandy Reinders a call at 332-2637 or send her an e-mail skreinders@mchsi.com. An orientation is required

17th Annual Garage Sale

Starting on April 17, you may bring items to the church for the seventeenth annual, All Church Garage Sale scheduled for May 6. To the newer members of our church, this is a project to financially supplement Edwards' Wide World Missions outside of the normal budget. It is not a mission project in the normal sense as some of the people organizing it are not current members of the Mission Board. But it is an excellent way to recycle your "stuff" that is no longer needed, but is too good to throw away.

The set-up will be the week of May 1 through May 5 from 9:00 AM to about 6:00 PM. Helpers are always needed, and what a lovely time for fellowship with a good cause at the end. Come see what all the fun is about.

The following is a list of things that have sold well in the past.

Good clean children's clothes, furniture, linens, dishes, pots and pans; toys (no broken or missing parts); bicycles; good clean wearable clothes (no underwear); car items; misc. household items, books and sports equipment. But please, no tires or appliances, or obsolete computer components. So this spring as you clean out your closets, basement, garage and attic, recycle those items at the Church Garage Sale.



News of the Tribal Gatherings Church School

Our Last Rotation of the School

Year! Beginning April 23rd, our children will be thinking about their manners and respectful ways of treating each other and walking in the world. We will use the scripture from Micah 6:8 as our guide: What does God require of you? To do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. We will need at least two parents each Sunday in addition to our regular teacher. Check your calendars and see which Sundays would work best with your family's schedule.

Palm Sunday, April 9th - Our children will be participating in the worship service. We will be practicing during Sunday School on April 2nd and 9th.

TGIF Earth Day Celebration: April 21st 5:30-7:00 This month's TGIF is all about the earth and how to care for creation. Children and youth, parents and adults can learn about conservation, create habitats, play games, eat supper, have fun!

Summer Planning!

Preschool VBS: June 12-16, 10:00-11:30 for kids 2-4 years old.

Regular VBS: June 26-30, 5:00-7:30 for kids 5-12 years old. Supper will be served.

Surviving Relationships: Changes and Stresses in the Life Cycle of Togetherness

Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in Baxter Hall. Cost: \$15/person or \$25/couple
Childcare provided. Light lunch provided.

The workshop will be led by William Hiebert, Executive Director of Marriage and Family Counseling Service and Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Counseling at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. He is the author of Premarital and Remarital Counseling and is the Secretary General of the International Family Therapy Association. Contact the Church Office for reservations, 359-0331.

Youth In Action

This year's Confirmation Class continues each Wednesday evening, with classroom time, small groups, service projects and fun. Confirmation will be May 7th this year - don't miss this Special Service.

The youth are also preparing for this summer's mission trip to Emmaus Homes in Marthasville, Missouri. Emmaus Homes is a residential home for developmentally disabled adults, run by the UCC. Look for a fundraiser in June to support this special trip.

Welcome New Members.....

JAY & KATIE KYTE come to Edwards from the United Church of Monticello. Jay is employed for the Davenport Community School District as a juvenile court liaison. He is also on the advisory board for SAFER Foundation. Katie works for the Friendly House in the marketing department; also involved with the Junior League. Jay and Katie are the proud parents of 11 week old Aidan. They reside at 3411 Kenwood Ave., Davenport, IA 52807 (# 355-8793).

Sponsors: Dennise Weyman

LAUREL OGDEN was born in Minneapolis, MN. The family moved to Moline in 1958 where she graduated from Moline High in 1961. She worked at the Rock Island Arsenal for 10 years before marrying Clarence Ogden. He passed away in 1980. She has 1 son and 3 grandchildren in the area.

Laurel enjoys reading, meeting new people, and watching TV. She loved to cook until she became homebound. She is very grateful to the people Edwards who have welcomed her into the life of the church.

Laurel resides at 2516 - 32nd Ave., Rock Island, IL 61201-6327 (#309/788-1727)

Sponsors: Edwards CareGivers

ROBERT & LINDA RIPPLE were born and raised in the Quad-Cities. Robert is a self-employed auto dealer and Linda is employed by the State of Iowa Employment Department. They are the parents of 4 adult children.

They reside at 3854 Prairie Lane, Bettendorf, IA 52722 (332-8143)

Sponsors: Mike and Barb Fleener

PAM SWANSON lives in Moline with her partner of 13 years, Maria Escarza, and their 4 dogs. She has a son, daughter-in-law, and a 15-month old granddaughter, Emily, *the light of her life*. Pam is employed as the Office Administrator at the Plumbers & Pipefitters Training Center in Rock Island. In her spare time, she enjoys bicycling, walking, reading, movies, and spending time with her granddaughter. Pam resides at 3216 - 45th St., Moline, IL 61265. (# 309/ 269-8538)

Sponsor: Kay Anthony

SARAH VORDTRIEDE spent her early adulthood in UCC congregations in Edwardsville and Hamel, Il. She is currently teaching entomology, parasitology, forensic biology, and writing in biology at St. Ambrose.

Sarah has served 7 yrs in a preventive medicine unit in the U.S. Army Reserves, commanding the unit for 2 yrs and attaining the rank of Captain. She married her high school sweetheart, Paul, in Highland, IL. Paul is also a biologist. They are the proud parents of 11-month old Ethan. The family resides at 403 - 6th St. W., Andalusia, IL 61232 (309/340-9469 cell)

Sponsors: Ryan Dye and Katy Strzepek

We are blessed to have these wonderful people join our church family. Take a moment to meet them. Jay, Katie, Laurel, Robert, Linda, Pam, and Sarah . . . WELCOME HOME!

Fellowship...Inside and Outside the Church...

Mardi Gras at Edwards

Madame Sophie greeted revelers of all ages with beads and hats while jazz music filled "Bourbon Street" (a.k.a. Baxter Hall), on Shrove Tuesday at Edwards UCC. Leading a parade to the (In)famous pancake supper were King & Queen John & Dorothy Hammond, elegant in crowns and carrying scepters.

How high can a pancake flip? Iron Chef Mike Fessler, prepared with his own tools, led the kitchen crew in making stacks and stacks of pancakes and grilling mountains of sausage and bacon. Sous chefs were Dick Dulaney, Dave Reinders, Milo Smith, Steve Wildemuth and Clyde Durrah. Lines of hungry guests made short order of a good meal.

As the evening went on, Elysse and Molly Dye were crowned "princesses" and Alice Aronson and Roger Robinson were deemed "royalty." Entertainment was provided by guest host Bob Riedesel, and photographer- extra-ordinaire Woody Perkins captured all the action. Susan Chesley led the children in games, crafts and creating amazing face masks.

But the highlight of the evening was the Pancake Toss! Eager teams lined up and used all methods of techniques for keeping hubcap-sized pancakes in motion.

The evening passed all too quickly...and the Membership Board wants to thank all those who made it all such a success. From the set up crew (thanks to Pat Rosburg for stepping in) to the kitchen to the entertainers to the workers and most of all, to all of you who came.

See you next year....

River Cities Reader

A little wide-spread community newspaper, the River Cities Reader, has become a valuable evangelism tool for Edwards church. Several of our visitors have indicated they discovered us through this ad.

A young wife and mother was reading the Reader and began to scan the horoscopes. She noticed her horoscope told her "it was time to get back in touch with her faith." On the opposite page was our "God Is Still Speaking" ad. When she saw it, she knew God was telling her and her family to return to church. Family health problems were becoming overwhelming. She realized they needed to reconnect with God to help them through this difficult time. Happily, the family will be joining Edwards soon.

However, we need your help to keep the ad running so we can reach out to those who need to be part of a "family." Due to budget constraints, we are unable to cover the cost of the ad. Currently, the ad fund is operating "in the red." We invite you to make a donation in any amount to the RCR Fund so we can invite everyone to begin or continue their faith journey with Edwards. Thank you for your support.

