



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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April 2014

Articles for next issue due by 9 am, Wed., 4/16/14
Submitted items are subject to editing.



7pm, Thursday,
April 17th
Maundy Thursday
Service

Maundy comes from Old French (*mandé*), spoken from 1000-1300 C.E. and from the Latin *mandatum novum* (a new commandment). Jesus commands the disciples "to love one another" (John 13:24) after he washes their feet and shares a meal the night before Passover. In this service, we will remember this last night that Jesus shared with his disciples.

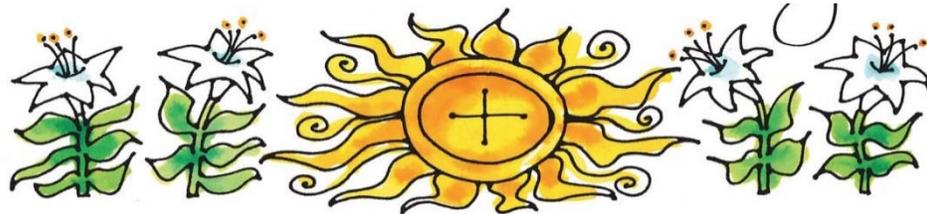
Easter Vigil Silent Retreat
1 - 5pm, Saturday, April 19

A vigil is a time for devotional watching or observance held on the eve of a major religious festival and may contain the reading of psalms, hymns, prayers and sometimes silent meditation.

We will begin with a short time of instruction and communal worship, then participants will be provided with space and materials for their own prayer and meditation.

We will meet in the Library at 1pm.

Easter Services Sunday, April 20



Sunrise Service at 8:30 am
Easter Worship at 10:15 am
with Children's Chapel

Come & Worship with Us!

You Are Welcome!

NO PROGRAMMING
on Wednesday, April 16th.

Last Simple Supper, Children's
Choir and TouchStones is
Wednesday, April 23rd

Ministerial Musings...

March has been a month full of listening for me. It began with listening to our youth as they led us in worship on Youth Sunday. Their excitement and joy was unmistakable and infectious. Most days I am with them they have an energy that threatens to overwhelm, but on that Sunday it was focused and intent in a wonderful way. All but one of the Confirmation students participated in the service (one was out of town) as well as one of our older youth. Most of the youth also wrote parts of the liturgy: prayers and responsive readings; and they picked the hymns for the day. They learned the mechanics of passing the offering plate and serving communion. And as these young people anticipate membership into the family of faith at Edwards UCC, I heard their excitement about continuing to participate in the life of the church.

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Later in the month, because our church is one of the major contributors in the Iowa Conference to Our Churches Wider Mission, I was invited to a Thank You Retreat, hosted by the Iowa Conference with Rev., Dr. Ben Guess, Executive Minister of the UCC's Local Church Ministries. At this gathering with myself, 12 other ministers from our Conference, Rich Pleva (Iowa Conference Minister) and Ben, we talked about what brought joy to us in our ministries and what drained us, changes in the structure and vision of the national church, where we

see change happening in our own ministry and where our Still Speaking God is leading us. Ben talked about changes in the structure of the national church like going from 290 staff to 140 staff in the last 4 years in response to declining giving as well as changes in the sharing ratios of OCWM and how that has forced national staff to move from being experts to being networkers. They have moved from having staff persons in specific areas to show its importance to the vision of the UCC to having a nimble staff that can move from project to project in a variety of areas. Ben recited for us the UCC core purpose: Drawn together by the Holy Spirit, we are a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church, joining faith and action. In covenant with the church in all of its settings, we serve God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world as made manifest in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It was good conversation, good connection with other ministers in Iowa, good worship and renewal. Thank you for your giving to OCWM through your pledges and offerings and through your participation in the annual garage sale. In this way we participate in the core purpose of the larger church of which we are a part.

Churches United offered yet another opportunity for listening. Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr. was the speaker at the 53rd Annual Delegate Assembly. On that evening I was joined by a host of Edwards members: Bob Benson, Martha Jirus, Jennifer Jordening, Van Lewis, Carol Ogletree, Kristin Van Heyningen. He spoke about Good religion and the common good and referred to 1 Corinthians 12:7, "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." Talking about the yoke of Christ that we are invited to take on, he reminded us that our own interests must always be yoked to the interest of the common good. A good question to always use when making a decision is: what is this action doing for the common

good? He went on to challenge Churches United to make a difference in the community in three areas: Violence, Tribalism and Materialism.

As if that wasn't enough, Kristin and I traveled to Ankeny to a two day conference titled Faithful and Generous. In the UCC church the typical contribution to the church is 2% of household income. Based on 2014 budget and pledge information, the typical contribution at Edwards UCC is 1.54%. I listened to a lot of numbers, but also a lot about cultivating generosity, enabling people to talk about how they feel and think about money in church, and that stewardship is more than just supporting our budget. The presenter commented, that "Giving is a window into a person's soul." And reminded us that Martin Luther said that there are three conversions necessary in each person's life: the conversion of the heart, the mind and of the purse. But he also talked about the need for the church to address the overall financial health of its members. In the same way you cannot ask someone who has a broken leg or a heart condition to run a marathon, the reality of our culture is that 40% of Americans are living on 110% of their annual income. In the US the average amount of income shared is 1.5%, 2.5% is shared and 102% is spent Even I know that's not the kind of math that works!

In our faith we learn that everything belongs to God, that God provides enough for the day, that gratitude is the proper response to God, that we are called to be generous. So give generously, save consistently, spend wisely and teach your children. Simple, eh? That's stewardship, in that order. We'll talk more about that later.

*After all this listening (though I will keep listening), I want to **thank you**, Edwards UCC, for being the generous people you are with your giving to Our Churches Wider Mission. If you aren't sure what that offering supports, please go to ucc.org and do a search on OCWM – there is great info there.*

*Our OCWM giving is part of our budget, so your annual pledge and giving to the general fund go to support that and participate in that mission. I want to **thank all of you** for the many ways that you continue to participate in the life and ministries of Edwards UCC, whether it is in a financial contribution, leading children's chapel, serving at the community kitchen, tutoring at Eisenhower school, going on a mission trip, donating items to the garage sale, purchasing flowers for Easter, hosting a coffee hour, participating in the moveable feasts, giving blood, and so much more. We are all a part of the body which is Edwards UCC, and if any part of the body thinks it is not important and decides not to participate, the entire body suffers. But when all the parts, do what they are created to do, the body is health and serves God, brings glory to God, and together we will change lives and fulfill our church's vision: "In Christ we celebrate a living faith, as we worship, care for one another, and reach out to all."*

Peace, Christine

Edwards Worships...

April 6, 2014: Communion

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

April 13, 2014: Palm Sunday and Potluck

Liturgy of the Palms: Matthew 21:1-11, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philemon 2:5-11,
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54



April 17, 2014: Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:00 pm

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 19, 2014: Easter Vigil and Silent Retreat at 1:00 pm

April 20, 2014: Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Colossians
3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10



April 27, 2014: Food Pantry Sunday

Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

Coming in May ...

Confirmation Sunday ~ May 11th

Missed last Sunday's worship service?

Want to hear the sermon, the children's story, or entire service again? Would you like to share any of them with a friend or distant relative? Well, recordings of the sermons, children's stories or the entire service are all available to listen to right now on our website. Just go to the Edwards website (www.edwards-ucc.org), click on the media downloads link in the left hand column and choose the worship service you want to hear.

Summer Music Request

We are starting to fill Sundays in June, July, and August with musical groups, solos, duets, etc. Right now, all Sundays are open except the last Sunday in June, July and August which will be "Summer Chancel Choir" for all past, present, or future members. This is a great opportunity for you to come and learn a simple anthem at 9:30 and sing at 10:15. Contact Paul Renaud (paulrenaud@aol.com or 563-349-0755) to schedule your talent or the talent of a friend(s) to participate in worship.

Weekly Music Rehearsals

Alleluia Ringers

Bell Choir Director, Sandy Reinders
Monday nights 6:30 pm

Children's Choir

Director, Elaine Lippert
Wednesday nights 5 pm

Chancel Choir

Choir Director, Paul Renaud
Wednesday nights 7:00 pm

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord!
Newcomers Always Welcome**

Faith Formation...

Touchstones

TouchStones is our midweek program for children preschool through fifth grade. Join us for dinner at 5:30 followed by music and Bible-based learning activities by age. (Two classes: Pre-K – Kindergarten & 1st – 5th grade)

4/2*

Jesus Teaches (Matthew 19:23-24)

Talk about the story Jesus told about rich people and heaven. Jesus says it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to inherit the kingdom of heaven.

4/9*

Jesus Raises the Dead (John 11)

Discuss the story of Lazarus' death and how Jesus was saddened but also raised him from the dead after he had been dead for four days.

4/16 **** NO TOUCHSTONES **** (Holy Week)

4/23*

Pizza Party & Dig Up Banners!

This will be the last TouchStones of the season. Enjoy a festive pizza party and take time to dig up the banners and plant some grass seed in the place where the soil was ruptured. Talk about the images you made for each of the letters/phrases of this year's banner.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2014

Vacation Bible School will be offered June 9-13
5:30 to 7:30pm ↪ Monday through Friday



"Hildegard's Farm" is coming soon!

"Hildegard's Farm" is the name of this year's Vacation Bible School, which will be **June 9 - 13**, from 5:30 to 7:30. It is a week of learning about faith and nature.

The children will learn Bible stories about God's good creation and how to be good stewards of that creation.

We will eat nutritious food from local farms and maybe even receive a visit from some of our barnyard friends!

Next month, a listing of needed items will be available. Please consider giving an item or two. Our budget is not big, so anything you can provide is greatly appreciated.

We are looking for a volunteer to handle registration, a creative person to help design a set for the skit, and someone with biology/ecology/conservation/naturalist experience to lead the outdoor ecology games.

Please contact **Lisa Hixon** if you can help or if you have any questions.
563-343-5618 or lghixon@gmail.com.

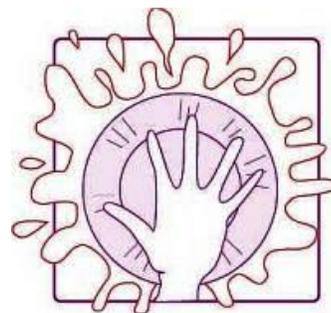
Confirmation News...

Confirmation

The Confirmation class continues to attend Wednesday evening Soup Suppers and Lenten programs learning about Global Ministries.

Youth Fundraiser: If the youth raise \$1000, Pastor Christine has agreed to take a pie in the face. The youth who raises the most will get the honors of throwing the pie. If they raise a second thousand dollars, there will be a second pie to be thrown! If one of our youth approaches you asking for money so that they can throw a pie in the pastor's face, it's not an April fool's joke!

They have until May 11 – Confirmation Sunday to achieve their goal. The pie throwing will take place at coffee hour that Sunday.



Something for Adults too...



LENTEN PROGRAM: GLOBAL MINISTRIES

April 2nd and 9th

5:30 Soup Supper

6:00 Global Ministries Program

April 2 – Middle East & Europe

April 9 – Southern Asia

TALK IT UP FOR APRIL

Join the Social Justice Board for a "Talk It Up" session on Economic Inequality. We will meet **Sunday, April 6th** after Church in the library. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 8:14, "but that as a matter of equality your abundance at the present time should supply their want, so that their abundance may supply your want, that there may be equality." Since 1980, the United States has come to have the most economic inequality of any advanced country in the world.

NEWCOMER'S INQUIRY CLASS ~ Sunday, April 27th. Are you looking for a church home? Would you like to learn more about Edwards UCC, our programs and ministries? You are invited to a **Newcomer's Inquiry Class on Sunday, April 27th at 11:30 a.m. in our Library.** A brunch will be provided during the gathering. Childcare is available.

The Newcomer's Inquiry Class is a gathering for those who may be interested in joining Edwards' family of faith or those who would just like to learn more about the United Church of Christ, Edwards UCC, and our church's mission, vision and ministry. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know our pastor, Rev. Dr. Christine Isham, in an informal setting. There are no exams or tests; just good food, good conversation, lots of great information, and wonderful fellowship. Please join us. Get to know us better. For more information or to sign up, please contact Geri Dulaney or the Church Office at 563-359-0331.

Fellowship Opportunities...

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP ~ All are welcome to join us at Riefe's Restaurant (1417 W. Locust St., Davenport) on **Monday, April 7th** at 10:00 am for brunch/lunch and fellowship. Join in and bring a friend!!

WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT: Thursday, April 17, 6pm The women of Edwards are all invited and encouraged to join in for great food and wonderful fellowship the third Thursday every month. On April 17th we will be going to Red Lantern, 4009 E 53rd St, Davenport. Please join us and bring a friend!!

POTLUCK LUNCH~ Sunday, April 13th. Join us for a potluck meal following worship. Bring a dish to share as you are able. Come for great food and fellowship! Beverages and table service provided.

CHURCH CLEANUP DAY ~ Saturday, April 12th is the Church Cleanup Day sponsored by the Trustees. We will meet at 9:00 am to clean up the yard and landscaping around the church. Bring yard tools and be ready to get some exercise and breathe some fresh air!



Annual Garage Sale ~ MAY 3, 2014

Start bringing things to church on April 21st. Which means you can start looking for things ...well, NOW! We need a large variety of items that have been *cleaned* and checked to see if they actually work. Furniture sells really well, old TVs – not so much. This is an amazing event and we need your help! **Please come and help sort and price during the week of April 27th.** **Come to shop on Friday, May 2nd for the Wine & Cheese Preview Event from 6 to 9 pm.** Proceeds from all Saturday sales will go to Our Churches Wider Mission special offering.

UPDATE ~ EDWARDS ARTS & CRAFTS FUNDRAISER

Remember, **Sunday, May 18th at 11:30 am** will be your chance to display your arts and crafts talents to the congregation, with sales benefitting Edwards' 2014 programs and ministries. Watch the weekly bulletin insert to reserve a table to display and sell your items, or you may call. **We'd also love donations of hand-made items for silent or live auction.** Be creative! Hand-made items come in many different forms! Some possibilities are knitted items, quilted items, photos, drawings, paintings, poems, handmade jewelry, baked goods or canned items. Not feeling that talented? We also need volunteers to help out during the sale, and of course we also need customers to browse and shop for these special gifts! If you would like more information, or would like to help at the event, please contact Joyce Paustian, either by phone (386-4689) or email: paustianj@aol.com



**ARTS & CRAFTS
FUNDRAISER**

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY ~ At the first meeting of the new Prayer Shawl group a good time was had by all. At this meeting it was decided to hold monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM. At these meetings we will craft our shawls while enjoying each others company and learning more about each other. EVERYONE is invited to attend and join in the fun. There will be free yarn for people who craft shawls and lap robes for the church. The next meeting will be held at Kay Stiles' home, 2541 51ST Street, Davenport, on April 1st. Come and join in the fun. If you have any questions, please contact Dorothy Hammond 309-797-2321. This is not an April Fools Joke. Hope to see you there.

Church Council

Edwards Congregational United Church of Christ ~ Church Council Meeting ~ March 11, 2014

PRESENT: Judy Collins, Shirley Johnson, Deena Miller, Kathy Bowerman, Woody Perkins, Elisabeth Norwood, Dave Reinders, Tom Kenneke, Pat Cresap, Joyce Paustian, Dr. Evangeline Lewis, Lyle Stratton, Steve Wildemuth, Caroline Evans, Dick Dulaney, Dick Jirus, Rev. Dr. Christine Isham

OPENING: Moderator Dr. Evangeline Lewis, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Christine read from Matthew 4:1-11 and offered a prayer.

MINUTES: The February Council minutes were approved by voice vote.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Reverend Christine Isham announced that Kendra Thompson gave birth to Joe Oliver Thompson earlier today. The pastor's written report is attached. Youth Sunday went well, and another Youth Sunday will be held this fall. Christine welcomed Kathy Bowerman back after a brief leave of absence. Members were encouraged to participate in upcoming events locally and in Ankeny, Iowa.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Elisabeth Norwood) Pledge income is on track at 99% of the budgeted amount. Warmer weather is anticipated, especially since snow removal costs were \$1500 over budget and energy costs are \$2600 over budget. There has been a \$7000 net gain in pledges. Considering the increased costs cited above, the current budget deficit is about \$15,000.

VISION REPORT: (Shirley Johnson) Pledge payments are \$20,000 behind estimates. We are paying our mortgage, including some pre-payments to reduce interest. To date, \$787,000 has been collected.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: (Lyle Stratton) There are some vacancies on the board. Lyle explained that our church has had a relationship with the Cheyenne River Dakota Association since 2003. This has included mission trips to Green Grass, S. D., in 2003 and 2009, and annual December toy drives since 2009. Of those persons from our church who have met with members of the Dakota Association, the only ones still here at Edwards are Lyle Stratton, Janie Stratton, and Dick Jirus. To improve our relationship with the Dakota Association, it is proposed that we arrange for a visit by Louis Blue Coat, a lay minister who attended the World Council of Churches, and possibly Pastor Leroy Bobtail Bear from Green Grass. Such a visit would involve transportation costs, but some of our members could host the visitors. It was suggested that Endowment could cover transportation costs as an education expense. Next year, another youth mission to Green Grass, S. D., is planned. If the visit to our church is planned, perhaps it could be in October. It was suggested that perhaps River Action or the Unitarian church might also be involved. Although possible inclusion of local Native American organizations was suggested, Lyle did not feel that it would be appropriate at this time, due to a difference in focus by the organizations. We might also try to involve other local UCC churches in connection with the suggested visit. Consensus of the Council was that Lyle should explore the possibilities regarding the proposed visit.

MEDIA: (Woody Perkins) More people are needed to operate the sound and video equipment on Sunday mornings. While those tasks do not require much technical knowledge, they do require close attention to the order of the service.

MEMBERSHIP: (Pat Cresap) A Newcomer's Brunch will be held on April 27. A Confirmation Breakfast will be held on May 11. Notes will be mailed to a number of friends and members who have not recently attended our church services. It was proposed that banners or signs be purchased to be placed on the front lawn prior to Easter and Christmas. One possibility would be signs that could be reused each year. The cost of banners or signs will be investigated.

MISSION: (Carolyn Evans) Kendra was contacted by someone from Café on Vine with a request that we provide lunch for 120 – 150 people on a Saturday every other month. The lunch would include an entrée, beverage, vegetable and fruit or dessert. It was suggested that this might be an expense that we cannot afford at this time due to our budget deficit. However, it was noted that serving food to others in need can be part of one's spiritual development. It was also noted that programs, such as the one proposed, can attract people. It was suggested that we could "spread ourselves too thin" with programs and activities. Perhaps we should focus on the things that we do well rather than expanding into other areas. It was noted that a Saturday activity, such as the Café on Vine lunch, could draw volunteers who are not available on weekdays. The possibility of obtaining food for the project

from the Food Bank was suggested, but that is not a viable option. The lunch funding could possibly come from Endowment as seed money. It was suggested that, if Terry Schlabach can find the volunteers needed, we might try the lunch for one Saturday to see how it goes. We would not need to provide dishes, utensils, or equipment at Café on Vine. The importance of trying to balance our budget was also stressed.

PASTOR PARISH: A meeting with Christine was recently held.

PERSONNEL: No report.

SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP: (Deena Miller) The soup suppers are going well. 30 people attended the soup supper last Wednesday.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: (Judy Collins) Gun Violence Sunday will be March 16, and a documentary will be shown after church.

TRUSTEES: (Steve Wildemuth) Ten new light fixtures were installed, and the cost, after rebates from the power company, will be about \$22. More light fixtures might be replaced. Mike Ball-Trevor has agreed to serve as our auditor. People are urged to not tamper with thermostats, as there has been a problem with maintaining proper temperatures in the building. The possibility that the thermostats are not functioning properly will be investigated.

WORSHIP: (Dick Dulaney) We held a brief meeting, which was not well attended. Two or more persons will be asked to join our board. The By-Laws call for 9 or more members on the board, and there are now only 8. Next year, five members will be leaving the board. By adding two members now, we would then need only four new members next January. Eventually, we should return to a proper rotation with three new members per year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Reports of Task Forces

Alternative Funding: No meetings have been held.

Arts & Crafts: (Joyce Paustian) Articles in the *Editor* will inform members of the opportunity to donate items for the sale. About \$3000 or more is anticipated.

By-Laws: (Dick Jirus) Chairs are asked to have their boards review sections of the By-Laws to propose amendments before October 1, 2014.

175th Anniversary Celebration: (Pat Cresap) Plans are for a month-long event prior to Homecoming Sunday in September. Photos are being collected of special events, mission trips, the buildings, and history of Edwards church. Norma Wren is compiling a pipe organ history. Plans include a box lunch, tent, and games.

Back-up Financial Secretary: A sub is needed to assist Julie Henke with financial duties. Kathy Lafrenz has volunteered to help. The position requires bonding.

NEW BUSINESS: Tom Kenneke brought up the issue of revenue from the Pre-Sale Wine and Cheese Party on May 2. It was decided by consensus that the proceeds from this event, including any sales made, will be used to help reduce the budget deficit.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Dulaney, Clerk

With Our People...

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.



April Birthdays

1	Robert Ripple	11	Eric Crawford	19	Sue Harrington
1	Paul Renaud	11	Tom Kenneke	19	Herbert Moore
2	Josie Nabhan-Warren	13	Bob Larew	21	Trisha Gehler
4	Bobbie Dodd	14	Mindy Brown	22	Cec Chapman
5	Mila Smith	14	Don Miller	23	Emily Springer
6	Beth Hakanson	14	Beverly Simpson	23	Kristia Tinsley-LeShoure
6	Peggy Olsen	15	Leeta Stuhler	23	Jennifer Wilbricht
7	Raven Ball-Trevor	15	Rich Wellman	24	Stephen Warren
7	Madelyn Dye	16	Carol Ogletree	25	Audrey Dugan
7	Parker Sedgwick	17	Eric Knudson	28	Bill Anderson
9	Ruth Hefferman	18	Bob Steinich	28	Susan Curl
9	Bob Hamilton	19	Edith Egli	28	Sandy Reinders

Scholarship Applications Due May 16th

Strohbehn Scholarship applications are due in the pastor's office by May 17th. This \$1,000 scholarship is available to any student who is a member of Edwards AND who is or will be attending an accredited two or four-year college. Application packets will include:

- 1) Official transcripts of all academic work.
- 2) An essay answering the following questions:
 - How have you been involved in the church over your life?
 - What events have shaped your life most profoundly?
 - What book or books have been most important in your life?
 - What are your educational goals?
- 3) A written statement outlining the family's financial need in general terms.
- 4) Three written references.



The Church Council will interview finalists and make the decision about who will receive the scholarship. Don't miss this opportunity! Call the church office for more information.

This and That...

Thermostats – The Trustees have found thermostats set to “hold” several hours after an event is over. The extra cost of the wasted heat can be significant. A better solution is to use the “up arrow” or “down arrow” buttons to adjust the temperature. Then the thermostat can automatically correct the temperature after an event is over.

Stewardship Message

STEWARDS OF HOLY GROUND

And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Matthew 17:1-2

Transfiguration?

It takes me back to a time when I was lured to Ledges State Park by a beautiful autumn day. There I hiked under a canopy of reds and golds, up and up a hill. After about two hours I came out along the edge of the hillside. There, stretched out before me, was the broad Des Moines River valley, full of sunlight and crisp fresh air. I stood and drank it in.

Then I followed the trail around a corner and there, right on the edge of the drop-off, was a baby oak tree. It was about 12” tall, merrily waving its 6 or 7 adult-sized leaves in the breeze. The sunshine caught the leaves and turned them blazing red... the burning bush! I’m standing on holy ground.

Really, all God’s precious earth is holy ground.

God has a way of providing transfiguration moments... a mountain top experience (*Matt 17:1-2*), a burning bush experience (*Exodus 3:2-3*). Perhaps we might celebrate Earth Day (April 22) this year with a prayer of profound thanks for all of God’s creation and an act of caring for the earth which sustains us.

A message by Doris Powell, author of Stewards in the Household of God: a Resource for Holistic Year-round Stewardship.

April 2014



This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

Temple Emanuel
invites our non-Jewish friends
to experience an authentic

Passover Seder

Thursday, April 24th
Read from the Haggadah!
Partake of the symbolic foods!
Enjoy the festive meal!

Time: 6:00 p.m.
Cost: \$36.00 per person
Where: Temple Emanuel
1115 Mississippi Avenue, Davenport, Iowa
Limited Seating so Reserve Your Seat Soon!

To Make your reservation, call Temple Emanuel, 326-4419

God is still speaking,

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You !!

Dear Edwards, I cannot thank you enough for the love and support you have given me these past few months while caring for my parents. Having my mom in the hospital while my dad was sick and diagnosed with terminal cancer was overwhelming. When I could no longer “do it all,” the staff and volunteers graciously filled in for me so that I could remain at home to care for my parents. My dad passed away on March 19th and I am grateful for the time I had with him and for being able to keep him home until his final day. Your prayers and cards, kind words, calls and visits, were so greatly appreciated by me and my family. It is an honor and privilege to work here at Edwards and I am truly blessed. Peace,

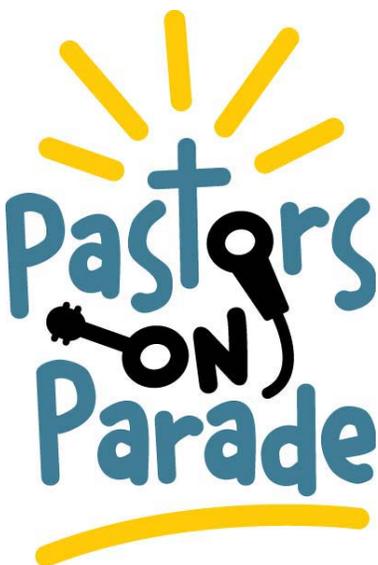
Kathy Bowerman

Dear Friends at Edwards UCC, Partnerships have always been the way humans get the most for their efforts. I'm grateful for your partnership with the churches of the Iowa Conference. Your generous gift of \$15,362 during 2013 has assisted UCC churches across the state to follow Jesus more faithfully. Thank you and God bless you! **Rich Pleva**, Conference Minister, UCC in Iowa

Dear Friends in Christ, Thank you for your generous gift of \$1000 on February 18, 2014. Your donation will be used to support the WCM International Emergency Fund for Typhoon Haiyan Relief as per your request. Your gift is enabling all UCC partners to provide urgently needed water and food to Typhoon Haiyan survivors in hard to reach areas of Leyte, Samar and northern Cebu and to plan for longer term recovery and rehabilitation. Grace and Peace, **Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss**, Global Sharing of Resources Team Leader

Dear Rev. Dr. Isham and the congregation of Edwards UCC, It is with great joy and gratitude that I write to you. I am currently in my last year at Chicago Theological Seminary and have been a recipient of a Merit Scholarship since arriving in 2008 as an M Div student. At the time, as a newly divorced adult returning to school after many years, one of my biggest concerns was how to financially support my family and elderly mother as I surrendered to God's call in to a lifetime of ordained ministry as a chaplain. Learning that I would receive this scholarship removed a tremendous burden from me and my family. I truly thank God for your caring and support and will keep each of you close to my heart. May God bless you and keep you. Sincerely, **Debra L. Hawkins**

Dear Members of Edwards UCC, Thank you for your donation of gloves, hats, and shoes. They were especially helpful during the rough winter we experienced this year. Your continued support means a lot, and we thank you for it. Many young people were warmer and more comfortable, due to your generosity. God Bless You. Sincerely, **Marcia Walsh**, The Place2B



Sunday, April 27th at 2:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church

1702 Iowa Street, Davenport

Area pastors are joining together to entertain you for a fun afternoon of music, comedy, art & poetry all to benefit the 25 food pantries, 3 meal sites, Winnie's Place and the other ministries of Churches United Quad City Area.

Tickets \$10/person or \$25/family – available at the door and at

Churches United, 2535 Tech Drive, Suite 205, Bettendorf
(332-5002 – Call first!)

Winnie's Wishes Resale Shop & More, 902 E. River Dr., Davenport
(323-5007)

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

	April 6	April 13 Palm Sunday	April 20 Easter Sunday	April 27
Preaching	Christine Isham	Christine Isham	Christine Isham	Christine Isham
Chancel Set-up	Dick Dulaney	Sandy Doran	Dick Lafrenz	John Thompson
Altar Flowers			Easter Flowers	
Scripture Reader	Herb Moore	Kristin VanHeyningen	Dick Dulaney Becky David	Tim Huey
Communion Servers	Brad Hixon, Lisa Hixon, Pat Sterk, Steve Wildemuth			
Music	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir Children's Choir	Alleluia Ringers Chancel Choir Children's Choir Promised Land	Chancel Choir
Ushers	Brad Hixon Lisa Hixon Pat Sterk Sharon Wildemuth	Angela Reier Tim Reier Sandy Reinders Erica Schroeder	Dick Dulaney Vince Holdridge Tom Kenneke Fran Wolfe	Bob Anderson John McDowell Sara Verdick Margaret Wilber
Greeters	Sandy Reinders Mila Smith Milo Smith Katy Strzepek	Ardis Kasper Chris Medina Sandy Sohr Kay Stiles	Angela Elliott Jack King Vonnie King Dick Vallandingham	Carol Bachellor Bev Bergert Ruth Bowers Edith Egli
Coffee Hour	Hixons	Potluck	Dietz/Ball-Trevors	Hillyers
Lock-up	Vince Holdridge	Vince Holdridge	Robert Riedesel	Milo Smith
Mower- Trimmer	Richard Jirus	Milo Smith	Dave Reinders	Robert Riedesel
CareGivers On Call	Suzanne Benson	Carol Hart Sandy Reinders	Martha Jirus	Dee Hillyer Elaine Lippert

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

Calendar...

**For the most current up-to-date calendar information
go to www.edwards-ucc.org and click on the calendar link.**

APRIL 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:30 AM Taize Worship 10:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Children's Chapel 11:30 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Liturgical Dancers 11:30 AM Promised Land Rehearsal	31 6:00 PM Diversity AA Meeting 6:30 PM Alleluia Ringers	1 8:30 AM Donuts & Hammers 12:00 PM Pre-Council Meeting 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Meeting	2 5:00 PM Children's Choir 5:30 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Lenten Program 6:00 PM TouchStones 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	3 6:30 PM 12-Step Meeting 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting 6:30 PM Diversity AA Meeting	4	5
6 8:30 AM Taize Worship 10:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Children's Chapel 11:30 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Liturgical Dancers 11:30 AM Promised Land Rehearsal 11:30 AM TALK IT UP	7 10:00 AM Women's Breakfast Group 6:00 PM Diversity AA Meeting 6:30 PM Alleluia Ringers	8 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting 6:30 PM Board Meetings 7:30 PM Council Meeting	9 5:00 PM Children's Choir 5:30 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Lenten Program 6:00 PM TouchStones 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	10 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM 12-Step Meeting 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting 6:30 PM Diversity AA Meeting	11 5:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal in Sanctuary	12 2:00 PM Wedding
13 Palm Sunday 8:30 AM Taize Worship 10:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Children's Chapel 11:30 AM Liturgical Dancers 11:30 AM Potluck 11:30 AM Promised Land Rehearsal	14 6:00 PM Diversity AA Meeting 6:30 PM Alleluia Ringers	15 8:30 AM Donuts & Hammers 12:00 PM CareGivers Meeting 1:30 PM Community Kitchen food prep 5:20 PM Serve at Salvation Army 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	16 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	17  6:00 PM Women's Night Out 6:30 PM 12-Step Meeting 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting 6:30 PM Diversity AA Meeting 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	18 Decorate Sanctuary	19 8:00 AM Sanctuary Reserved 12:00 PM Fellowship Hall Prep for Easter Sunday 1:00 PM Easter Vigil Silent Retreat
20  Easter Sunday 8:30 AM Sunrise Service 10:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Children's Chapel 11:30 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Fair Trade Coffee Sale	21 9:00 AM Garage Sale Drop-off 9:00 AM Newsletter Deadline!! 6:00 PM Diversity AA Meeting 6:30 PM Alleluia Ringers	22 9:00 AM Garage Sale Drop-off 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	23 9:00 AM Garage Sale Drop-off 5:00 PM Children's Choir 5:30 PM Simple Supper 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM TouchStones 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	24 9:00 AM Garage Sale Drop-off 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM Pastor Parish Meeting 6:00 PM Passover Seder at Temple Emanuel 6:30 PM 12-Step Meeting 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting 6:30 PM Diversity AA Meeting	25 9:00 AM Garage Sale Drop-off 4:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal in Sanctuary	26 10:00 AM Sanctuary Reserved 3:00 PM Wedding
27 Food Pantry Sunday 10:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Children's Chapel 11:30 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Liturgical Dancers 11:30 AM Newcomers Class 11:30 AM Promised Land Rehearsal 2:00 PM Pastors on Parade 3:00 PM Promised Land Concert	28 9:00 AM Garage Sale Set-up 6:00 PM Diversity AA Meeting 6:30 PM Alleluia Ringers	29 8:30 AM Donuts & Hammers 9:00 AM Garage Sale Set-up 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	30 9:00 AM Garage Sale Set-up 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	1 9:00 AM Garage Sale Set-up 6:30 PM 12-Step Meeting 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting 6:30 PM Diversity AA Meeting	2 9:00 AM Garage Sale Set-up 6:00 PM Wine & Cheese Event	3 8:00 AM Garage Sale

EDWARDS UCC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Christine Isham
Senior Pastor, christine@edwards-ucc.org

Rev. Kendra Thompson
Minister of Faith Formation, kendra@edwards-ucc.org

Kathy Bowerman
Administrative Secretary, kathy@edwards-ucc.org

Geri Dulaney
Membership Coordinator, geri@edwards-ucc.org

Brian Dugan
Caregiver Coordinator, brian@edwards-ucc.org

Paul Renaud
Music Director, paul@edwards-ucc.org

Bret Van Nuland
Organist, bretvannuland@gmail.com

Cathy Loughead
Bookkeeper, loughead@mchsi.com

Julie Henke
Financial Secretary, JulieHenke@aol.com

Dr. Evangeline Lewis
Church Moderator, elewis5354@aol.com

Easter Flower Order Form

If you would like to purchase lilies, tulips or daffodils to be used in decorating our sanctuary for Easter, please complete this form and turn it in to the office or leave it in the collection plate.

We will receive orders until 9 am ~ Mon., April 7th

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
Lily	_____	\$11.00	\$_____
Tulips	_____	\$14.00	\$_____
Daffodils	_____	\$14.00	\$_____
Total Amount Due			\$_____

Your Name: _____

Please make your check payable to “**Edwards Church**” and write “**Flowers**” on the memo line.

Please PRINT clearly

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of _____



Iowa Conference UCC 2014 Recharge
Iowa State University Ames, Iowa
Scheman Building
June 6-7, 2014
COST: \$175

Soul Searching Sessions:

finding your faith in a fast changing world

In a spiraling world, it is hard to know where to focus our attention - but by slowing down and taking time to seek out a more spiritual way of living and finding our faith as individuals we can be reminded that God is at the center of who we are. These 4 soul searching sessions will do just that. Geared toward youth and young adults aged 15-30, our goal is to encourage participants to ask questions that help find purpose, direction, boldness, and wisdom in this crucial stage of life.

God's Vision is Personal

Laura Arnold

It's hard to pick out God's voice from the noise of everyday life. Set aside this time to connect your story to God's story while getting to know other Iowa youth and young adults as well!

Friday, June 6th 1:30 – 2:30pm

God's Vision is Playful

Greg Holt

What better way to have fun than to challenge yourself and to cheer on others as we face a rock wall climb and other adventure games.

Friday, June 6th 3:00 – 4:00pm Extra charge of \$15.00 for this event

God's Vision is Purposeful

Dixie Laube

Sometimes we forget why we do the things that we are doing...we just do them because we are told to. But God asks us to do everything with purpose. Come and find some ways to be reminded of that in your everyday living.

Saturday, June 7th 9:00-10:00am

God's Vision is Prayerful

Evie Waack

Do you pray? "Yes, I pray, but it's feeling a little dry." "No, I don't. What's the use? Besides, who has time?" Whatever your answer, this workshop is for you. It will expand our understanding of prayer and include time for entering into prayer.

Saturday, June 7th 10:30-11:30am

Visit www.ucciaconf.org for more info and to register. ??? – call 515.277.6369 or email diane@ucciaconf.org