



EDITOR

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

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

10 am – Noon

EDWARDS LEADERSHIP STAFF

Rev. Becky David

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Easter, Mark's Gospel Ending(s) & Choosing Your Own Adventure



As Christians, if all we had was the ending of Mark's gospel, we might wonder whether or not the Easter message was shared with the rest of Jesus' followers. In verse 8, the gospel writer says: "they fled from the tomb in terror and said nothing to anyone." If you read further, the "short ending" of Mark indicates that the disciples were sent out to preach the gospel and proclaim salvation in Christ. The "long ending" says they have the power to heal, cast out demons, drink poison, and even handle snakes. Say what? The beautiful thing about Mark's gospel is that you kind of get a sense of the spectrum of Christian faith, perhaps even stages of faith development. Everything from fear and trembling to so called "holy rolling." While this might be fascinating to the "armchair theologian," in us all, a *deeper* question is at stake here: what does it mean to *you*; what difference does it make in *your life*? As we step into April and the season, yes, *season* of Easter, may we think about the difference resurrection makes to us. When we behold the empty tomb, the risen Lord, are we changed? Or are we terrified? Maybe a bit of both? May we embrace this truth about our faith and proclaim with joy – halleluia! – anything is possible with our God.

~ Pastor Kendra Thompson

From Our Moderator

I am pleased to report to our Edwards members and friends that the Leadership Retreat in February was very successful. Our board chairs and members worked diligently on our church calendar. We vowed to work more closely, communicate more and strive to be more understanding of all of the boards' responsibilities. We will do our best to communicate all information coming from the Edwards Council/Leadership through our many modes of communication. We also welcome any member who wants to attend a council meeting or assist on a board or committee. Your help is needed and welcomed! Peace be with you all. ~ Barb Bleedorn, Moderator

Transition Team Follow-up

The Transition Team and Pastor Becky David have been hosting a number of "congregational conversations" to ruminate on these important questions:

Who Are We? Who Is Our Neighbor? What Are We Called to Do?

These conversations can get intense, so ground rules are important.

Here are the "top ten" we agreed on at our first conversation:

1. **"Sawubona"** (*Zulu greeting that means: "I See You" this is an invitation to have open eyes*).
2. **Operate from the most "generous assumption"** (*Brene Brown*) when we don't know where the other person is coming from
3. **Respect** (*listen & be in relationship with each other*)
4. **Be non-judgmental**
5. **Take turns/Don't interrupt**
6. **Stay positive**
7. **Stay on topic**
8. **Be Patient**
9. **Be Honest**
10. **Say it here, or don't say it at all**

At the second conversation we explored our **Key Values**. Here's a list we came up with as collaborative effort: ***Love, Faith, Hope, Spirituality, Service, Heritage, Fruit of the spirit, Teamwork, Mission, Courage, Caring, Compassion, Trust, and Children.*** This exercise helped not only reveal our core values but also allowed us to exercise our ability to compromise and communicate.

Attendance at these conversations is crucial to their success and is a great way for us to get to know ourselves as a congregation, and for us to be able to have a successful interim period.

As we go forward, here is a tentative schedule for these conversations, which will all take place after church. We will be in communication with the congregation as we go forward as to any changes we have made and what you should anticipate in the future.

- **April 15th (Potluck)**
- **May 6th**
- **June 10th**
- **July 15th (Potluck)**
- **August 12th**
- **September 16th (Potluck)**
- **October 21st (Potluck)**
- **November 11th (Potluck)**

~Your Transition Team;

Pastor Becky David, Mandy Harvey, Carol Ogletree, Geri Dulany, Paul Petherick and Brian Foy.

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.

FOURTH ANNUAL MISSION IN MOTION EASTER BREAKFAST! - APRIL 1

The Back Bay Mission crew and friends of the crew will be serving your choice of breakfast casserole, fruit, pastry, and juice or coffee in exchange for a free will offering that will go to support this year’s mission trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. You may come for breakfast before worship (9:00 am-10:00 am) or, enjoy some brunch treats during coffee hour after worship. If you'd like to help with the breakfast (donating a casserole or serve), please speak with Marilyn Riedesel about how you'd like to pitch in! We thank you for your continued support!

DONUTS & HAMMERS

Every other Tuesday, 8:30 am in Baxter Hall. Dates are; **April 10 & 24**. Please join us!

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS RELATED TO OUR INTERIM TIME

We are having another conversation! Please join us immediately following worship for our potluck and conversation on Sunday, **April 15**, 11:30 am-1:30 pm.

WOMEN’S NIGHT OUT – April 19

All ladies from Edwards are welcome for an evening of food, friendship and a laugh or two. Dinner in **April** will take place at **the new Olive Garden in Moline**, at 6 pm located at 4570-16th Street in Moline. Please join us for dinner and fellowship.

BOARD & COUNCIL MEETINGS – April 10

Our next scheduled meetings will be on Tuesday, April 10. All Edwards members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Board meetings are at 6:30 pm and Council meeting at 7:30 pm.

SEEKING SALADS FOR OUR FUNDRAISER – April 18

Please consider making a donation of one or two salads in nice serving bowls (12-15 servings each). If you can't bring the salads on April 18 by 10 AM, please deliver to Baxter Hall Kitchen on **Tuesday, April 17, between 1-6 PM**. Call or email Sandy to donate and tell her the type of salad you will donate. (skreinders@gmail.com)

HELP PROMOTE the Salad Lunch at Edwards UCC Wednesday, April 18, 11-1:00 p.m.

Invite your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to lunch. If you'd like a packet of **tickets** (\$10 per person) to sell ahead of time please contact Fran Wolfe, 563-323-7473. Tickets are available now and will be available at the door. We will serve a variety of fruit, veggie and lettuce salads, baked rolls, dessert, coffee and lemonade. Card tables and a few decks of cards will be available in the narthex for groups that would like to stay after the lunch.

BLOOD DRIVE – April 28

The next Edwards' blood drive will be Saturday, April 28, 8-11 am in Baxter Fellowship Hall. Please consider donating to save a life, and 'first time' donors are always welcome and needed. Watch for more information.

SAVE THE DATE – May 5

The annual Edwards UCC Garage Sale is happening Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5 from 8am - 3pm in Baxter Hall. We will begin accepting donations Friday, April 27.

Thank You's

- Thank you, thank you, thank you, Steve Wildemuth for designing and constructing the wooden candle holder for our Easter Candle. You can see Steve's handiwork all Easter season as the candle adorns the sanctuary next to the font. ~*Pastor Becky David*
- Thank you to Tom Kenneke for building the collection boxes for the food pantry and Winnie's Place. They look great! ~*Pastor Becky David*
- A special thank you to everyone who helped make Holy Week and Easter an incredible, sacred experience. I hesitate to mention names for fear I will forget someone, but I would be remiss to not make a shout out to the Worship Board who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to create the environment for such a meaningful experience: Bob Riedesel, Cathie Miller, Cathy Loughead, Sue Curl, Rhonda Curl, Bev Bergert, and Marilyn Riedesel, Please share with them your gratitude for their hard work. ~ *Pastor Becky David*
- Sue and I would like to thank all of our Edwards family for their support during this difficulty time as Sue continues to battle cancer. Your prayers, expressions of concern, and gifts of food have been extremely helpful. A special thank you to Tom Kenneke and the Edwards caregivers; your kindness is truly appreciated. Our journey continues, and you make the way a little easier. Thank you! ~*Cec & Sue Chapman*
- Thank you to all the members of Edwards congregation for all the love, prayers, cards, and kind words you have given me after Elinor passed away. I can't really tell you how much you have meant to me. Edward's members are the kindest, most loving, helpful group of people I have ever met. ~ *Herb Moore*

STROHBEHN EDUCATIONAL FUND

The Strohbehn Educational Fund college scholarships will be available for prospective students for the fall semester of 2018. A committee is in place to review applications starting May 1, 2018. These scholarships are open to all ages of potential college students (or adults pursuing higher education) who are members of Edwards Congregation. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN REPORT

Our next meal is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 17**, at the Salvation Army meal site (301 W 6th St).

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 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 April Birthdays – Enjoy your day!

4/6-Beth Hakason, Peggy Olsen; 4/7-Raven Ball-Trevor, Madelyn Dye, Angela Snyder; 4/9-Bob Hamilton, Ruth Hefferman; 4/11-Eric Crawford, Tom Kenneke; 4/13-Bob Larew; 4/14-Beverly Simpson; 4/15-Leeta Stuhler, Rich Wellman; 4/16-Carol Ogletree; 4/18- Bob Steinich; 4/19-Edith Egli, Sue Harrington, Herb Moore; 4/21-Trisha Gehler; 4/22-Cec Chapman; 4/23-Kristia Tinsley-LeShoure, Jennifer Wilbricht; 4/25-Audrey Dugan; 4/28-Sue Curl, Sandy Reinders. ***Happy Birthday to all!***

Please Keep In Your Prayers:

Due to privacy issues we no longer publish names on the website version of the Edwards Editor.

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.

Mission & Learning Opportunities:

VIA DE CRISTO WEEKENDS OPPORTUNITY

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 lunch at



3420 Jersey Ridge Rd. Davenport

Wednesday, April 18th

11:00 - 1:00

Fruit, veggie and lettuce salads

Fresh baked rolls, desserts

Coffee and lemonade--all for \$10/person

Tables available for cards after meal

Questions? Call 563/359-0331