



MAY 2018

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

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

CONFIRMATION IN THE CHURCH

Confirmation is a rite of passage. Not all Christian churches “observe” this milestone, but here’s why we do. We baptize our children before they can profess the beliefs we promise on behalf of them, and we also commit to raising our children in a Christian community and by the tenets of faith we proclaim. Confirmation is the journey of young people that runs alongside other paths of discovery that they are on, which might include questions like: Who am I becoming; What do I like to do; What do I want to study? (To name a few.) This youthful time period seems the perfect opportunity to also ask: What do I believe? Confirmation has gone through many iterations since I’ve been here. An intense three-year program, a hybrid “youth group” with Mountain Dew inspired power point lessons (Thanks Torri Vande Zande!) and now, something somewhere in between. My hope is what it is becoming is a separate course of study that at once asks young people to complete their own memorization and reflection work, and also invites them to be integrated into the life of the church. On May 20, 2018, Edwards will welcome three confirmands into the community of faith as full members: Soli Augspurger, Carter Sullivan, and Makayla Revels. My hope is that we can welcome these dear ones and hold them in prayer as they continue to embark on their faith journeys among us.

~ Pastor Kendra Thompson



From Our Moderator

Pastor Becky David's office hours will be Sunday's and Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday. She has requested Friday off and the Church Council has agreed to go forward with this request for a three month trial period and then will re-evaluate. Please contact me with any questions.

~Barb Bleedorn, Moderator

Transition Team Follow-up

The Transition Team continues to meet and work with Pastor Becky to plan activities to discern who we are as a church family in order to identify our needs for the next called pastor. On Sunday, April 15, we had a congregational conversation after the monthly potluck. In that meeting, small group conversations were held after each person had had a chance to reflect and complete a survey regarding the expected activities of the pastor, and how much time the pastor should spend performing the duties of the role. (And we had participation from EVERYone – including Andi!). Look for more details about the survey in this newsletter. Our next congregational conversation will take place on **Sunday, May 6** immediately following worship. It is our hope to lay out the plan that will take us through the summer and into the Fall. We are excited about these next discussions that will help us begin to plan our future together. Please consider joining us on **May 6th** so you can hear what is going on!



The Transition Team has been together for several months, and while progress has been made to promote re-building relationships, trust, and faith in one other, greater progress towards the goal of a new team beginning the actual pastor search process is desired. To that end, the Transition Team will begin to meet on a more frequent basis and will then begin facilitating more comprehensive conversations with the congregation, possibly in small groups. Small groups can allow for safe, candid discussion, and your participation is critical. The Transition Team will work to plan meetings at varied times to make it easier for as many congregants to participate as want to do so.

~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. Six 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; **May 8 & 22**. Please join us!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR NEXT EDWARDS POTLUCK & CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION

Please join us immediately following worship for our Congregational Conversation on Sunday, **May 6**, 11:30 am-1:00 pm.

WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT - May 17

All ladies from Edwards are welcome for an evening of food, friendship and a laugh or two. Dinner in **April** will take place at **Red Lobster in Davenport**, at 6 pm. Please join us for dinner and fellowship.

BOARD & COUNCIL MEETINGS - May 8

Our next scheduled meetings will be on Tuesday, May 8.. All Edwards members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Board meetings are at 6:30 pm and Council meeting at 7:30 pm.

FIRST QUARTER FINANCIALS FOR EDWARDS

	Financial Summary - 1st Quarter 2018		
Receipts	Jan - Mar	Budget Jan - Mar	Annual Budget
Pledge Income	57,857.51	49,246.28	155,285.00
All Other Income	6,267.25	12,037.49	48,150.00
Total Receipts	64,124.76	61,283.77	203,435.00
Total Expenses	58,638.78	55,765.67	212,423.00

Strengthening The Church

June 3rd is "Strengthening the Church" Sunday, and the second of four special offerings Edwards participates in. The "Strengthen the Church" offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. Beginning May 20, envelopes for this special offering will be placed in the pews and collections will continue through June 3rd. Remember, Ephesians 4:11-12 states that "The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." Please join us in planting the seeds needed to grow and sustain our church by making a gift to the "Strengthen the Church" offering.

Thank You's

- I want to thank you for all those you help. Please accept this gift of donations (food pantry items) from our clients. We hope you can help some people in need. ~ *Ruth Ahnen, Financial Representative, Modern Woodmen.*
- On behalf of the women, men and families we serve at the Central Community Circle Food Pantry please accept our sincere appreciation for your generous gift of \$45. This gift will be used for the support of the food pantry to help ensure that the membes of our community in need will have a place they can count on for basic foods and bread. We appreciate your kindness and generosity in helping us fulfill our desire to assist our neighbors in need. ~ *CCC Food Pantry – Susan Seitz, Anna Osborne, Karen Shapley, Pat Bereskin*
- Thanks to all of you we had wonderful salads, desserts and rolls for the 72-73 folks who shared lunch with us last Wednesday. Dee took about 6-8 containers of left over salads, a few bars and not quite a dozen rolls to Cafe on Vine. We didn't run out and we didn't have too much left over. In spite of or, maybe because of the weather, most folks who came stayed to chat and seemed to enjoy being together with friends and making new acquaintances. Thanks to the many folks who helped with set-up and clean-up! Special thanks to Pastor Becky for greeting each table and clearing dishes. Also, thanks to Richard Jirus for his many trips with used tableware! And...if you haven't heard, with ticket sales and donations

the lunch made around \$1003 for Edwards general fund! Many thanks from the committee! ~ Anita, Annette, Ardis, Bev, Fran, Mandy, Sandy

- Many thanks to the cooks who prepared 39 delicious meals which was shared at the Salvation Army meal site on Tuesday, April 17. And thanks to those who delivered the meal, served it, AND washed the pans afterwards! - Thanks to Ed Balli, Ardis Kasper, Evona Petherick, Fran Wolfe, Dee Hillyer, Mary Ostrum, Bev Bergert, Sandy Reinders, Jesse Knudson, Bob Larew, and Sara Verdick. (Deepest apologies if anyone was left off this list by mistake!) **Luke 6:31** - *And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.*
- Many thanks to the awesome Edwards team who cleaned up a 2-mile stretch of Utica Ridge Road on Saturday, April 21! What a great contribution to our community, and in honor of Earth Day, too! Thanks to Julie Henke, Sara and Gavin Verdick, Trisha and Noah Gehler, Judy Stoffer, Tom Kenneke, and Curly Curl. They worked really hard, too, since clean-up had been postponed multiple times over the past couple of years due to bad weather, so there was lots of trash to remove from the grounds. And after their hard work they had a great lunch prepared by Tom and Chris Kenneke. This group did such a great job on our stretch of Utica Ridge Road that it will make our fall clean-up of the road MUCH easier (fingers crossed!).
THANK YOU, ALL! ~ *The Mission Board (Carol Ogletree and Brian Foy)*



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.

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.

EDWARDS - Healthcare POA (Medical Power of Attorney Information)

Edwards' members are encouraged to review and keep a current copy of their Medical Power of Attorney in a safe, secure place. Members may also keep a copy of their POA on file at the Church. Often times, the Pastor may be the one to receive a call from the hospital when a member is in extremely ill health or, has passed. Keeping a POA on file at the Church can help. Please look at your existing form and if you would like, you may keep a copy here, in the Office, at Edwards.

Celebrating May Birthdays – Enjoy your day!

5/2-Evona Petherick; 5/3-Jason Gephart; 5/4-Shannon Crawford; 5/6-Kathy Lafrenz, John McDowell; 5/7-Sandy Doran; 5/8-Sean Glessner; 5/11-Geri Dulaney; 5/12-Tim Beck; 5/15- Emily Norwood; 5/17-Trenton Sorensen; 5/19-John Keraus; 5/26-Cathy Loughead; 5/27-Colton Glessner, Craig Lucas; 5/28-Dee Hillyer; 5/29-Kailan Neff, Ron Rebal.

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:

ARTSPACE SUNDAYS

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.

OUR CONFIRMANDS FOR 2018 –

Soli Augspurger

Soli lives in Davenport and is an 8th grader at Sudlow Intermediate and the Creative Arts Academy, where she studies communication and media arts and is a member of band and drama club. She enjoys baking, writing and directing plays, taking her dog for walks, and snow, but can most often be found reading anything from cereal boxes and *People* magazine to *Swiss Family Robinson* and *Anne of Green Gables*. She hopes one day to teach in the one-room school at Holden Village, Washington. She has been a member of Edwards for 10 years.



Makayla Revels

Makayla "Mak" B Revels is finishing her Freshman year at North High School. She is in dual enrollment and an honors student. Mak plays the clarinet for marching band and Contra Alto bass clarinet for concert band. She is in show choir, choir, yearbook, art club, and played in pit for drama and also plays softball. Mak is the oldest of three; her brother Jake is 13, and her sister Macy is 3. Mak likes to hang out with her friends, listen to music and loves to draw. She has had a fun and educational time the last three years of confirmation!



Carter Sullivan

Carter Michael Sullivan is the son of Joel Sullivan and Wendy Shaw, and older brother of Maddox and Joley Sullivan. He has been attending Edwards UCC since he was six years old. Since then, Carter has participated in Touchstones, Youth Group, numerous VBS and church performances. He was baptized at Edwards on May 29, 2011. Carter is an 8th grader at Sudlow Intermediate School. He is involved in many activities there such as band, choir, cross country, and track and field. Carter is also a member of the Davenport Metro Swim Team and the LeClaire Chapter of 4-H. He also enjoys spending time with his 3 dogs Alvin, Sully, and Peanut Butter and plans on attending Central High School in the Fall.





Congratulations to Torri Vande Zande!

5609 Douglas Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310
Phone: 515.277.6369
Web: www.ucciaconf.org

April 26th, 2018

Dear churches of the Iowa Conference,

Funding Future Leadership has completed its second year and we are pleased to announce the recipients for 2018. They are Torri Vande Zande, Lisa Griffith Tierney, Maxine Tone, and Karsten Snitker. The Funding Future Leadership Oversight Committee reviewed their applications and were impressed by their many gifts and talents they bring to ministry.

Our special offering this year received funds from 21 churches, 16 individuals/couples, and 1 association. We raised a total of \$8,783.82. 2017 saw a total of \$8,507.64. We did better this year than the year before, and we can do better in 2019.

For the next year I hope to see more churches participate and our total offering continue to grow. The more we join together the more we have to offer the future leaders of the church.

In Christ's Love,

The Rev. Charles D. Owens
Chairperson for Funding Future Leadership
Pastor of Osage United Church of Christ

Brigit Stevens, Executive Conference Minister
Jonna Jensen, Associate Conference Minister
Gordon Rankin, Transitional Associate Conference Minister