



EDITOR

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AUGUST 2018

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

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

10 am – Noon

EDWARDS LEADERSHIP STAFF

Rev. Becky David

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THINGS ARE HEATING UP *Inside too!*

The question is always the same. “When are we going to hire a pastor?” This is always the burning question of the Interim time and some days it burns hotter than others. With the resignation of Pastor Kendra (there is more about that later in this newsletter) the question takes on even more heat. Nothing should burn that hot, so let’s cool it off with some answers.

First, it is important to remember that while it may seem to some of you that we haven’t been “doing anything” during the interim period, that is horribly untrue. The Council and its various Boards have been working hard behind the scenes to evaluate the leadership structures within the church. This is work that must be completed before you can invite a pastor into the system.

Second, the Transition Team worked tirelessly with me to evaluate where the congregation stood on some important issues and helped facilitate some initial dialogue about where the congregation might be headed. We have added more members to that group to create a Core Team of 12 folks who will be leading you all through the next phase of our Interim process. It is not the final stretch but it’s close!

The Core Team has one primary job over these summer months and that is to interview you. Now I know. I have heard it already. “We already did interviews.” “This is just stalling, let’s form a search team already.” Well, wrong and wrong. It has been years since this congregation did one-on-one interviews. And look around. There is little now that resembles who you were then. So any information you might have gleaned from those past interviews is now old news and mostly unhelpful. In addition, the focus of these interviews is different. They are designed to help us determine what to focus on in the near future and how a new pastor should fit into that design. The interviews are foundational to getting us to the next phase. Once the interviews are completed (hopefully by the end of August), we will come together as a large community and discuss the results, what we learned, and what we want to create now. This is the most fun part of the process and I hope you will stick with it. It works.

cont’d...

THINGS ARE HEATING UP - cont'd

Third, while the Core Team is conducting the interviews and compiling the data, they will also be pulling together the information we need for the Congregational Profile. This is the document the church distributes to potential pastors. Let me say that again. We are doing two things at once. We will be conducting interviews, compiling the data and presenting it to you AND we will begin putting together the Church Profile. Once the profile is complete the congregation is ready to gather a search committee and begin the search process.

September will be one year since we started this interim journey together. I realize it feels like much longer to some of you but this is not an unusual amount of time. 18-24 months is an average interim time frame. We are on target. We will stay on target if everyone goes "all in" on this process. Sign up to be interviewed. Join us in August when we gather to review the data. Design with us the dream on what Edwards will look like in the future. This process only works if everyone buys in. We need you. We are almost there. Let's join hands and finish this thing the right way. Peace, Pastor Becky

TO EDWARDS CONGREGANTS – from Pastor Kendra

Attention: Church Council
Edwards Congregational United Church of Christ
3420 Jersey Ridge Rd.
Davenport, IA 52807

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Dear Moderator Barb Bleedorn,

It is with a mixture of feelings that I resign as Minister of Faith Formation at Edwards Congregational United Church of Christ. For nearly six years I have been on your pastoral staff – and my, what a number of transitions we've weathered together. I know that I have grown as an ordained leader and much of that has to do with the love and grace you've shown me as I spread my wings in this role among you.

I write this letter to give ample notice of my professional departure as your minister. However, I will be back in worship, as planned, August 19th and my last Sunday with you all as your Minister of Faith Formation will be August 26th.

God bless you, Edwards Congregational UCC. We have been through a lot together, and we will always be united by our fellowship in Jesus Christ.

With peace and in prayer for our futures,



Rev. Kendra Thompson

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

By now you may have heard that our faith formation pastor has resigned after six years of work at Edwards. We have witnessed her growth as a spiritual leader and wish her well in her new position at St. Paul Lutheran church. We will honor her ministry **Sunday, August 26**, with a cake event after worship. We will be collecting cards and if you wish to give a monetary gift you can leave a donation in the office or write a check to Edwards and in the memo line write: Kendra's gift.

We'd also like to inform our community that the Faith Formation board, the leaders and Pastor Becky have been in conversation on how to move forward with family ministry at Edwards. We will not look for a new director at this time as we are still working on our church profile. Please hold this adjustment time in your prayers. The fall program will continue mostly on Wednesday evenings with consistent infant/toddler care on Sunday. There are new ideas for family worship on Sundays with art-space continuing on the 3rd Sunday of the month in worship. If you would like to participate in any way during this time, we would gratefully accept it. You can talk to Kathy Lafrenz or Marilyn Riedesel.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

ONCE MORE WITH FEELING

Join us after worship on Sunday, August 12, for our next Congregational Conversation. There will be an update on the search process, a final conversation (I think) on the QC Sanctuary Coalition and an update on our congregational interview process. Hope to see you there.

SPECIAL MUSIC NEEDED!

Summer is the perfect time to showcase your gifts. Every Sunday offers opportunities for Special Music and we would be blessed if you would share your musical gift with us. Just contact Tyson at 563-650-2396 or call the Church office.

BOARD & COUNCIL MEETINGS – August 14

Our next scheduled meetings will be on **Tuesday, August 14**. Board meetings are 6:30 pm and the Council meets at 7:30 pm. All Edwards members are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

You may read the last Council minutes on our Edwards website- www.edwards-ucc.org

WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT – August 16

All ladies from Edwards are welcome for an evening of food, friendship and a laugh or two.

Dinner is **6 pm at Barb Bleedorn's home, 2507 E. 40th Street in Davenport.**

POTLUCK – August 19

Our next Potluck will be after worship on Sunday, August 19, during the coffee hour. Please join us!

SAVE THE DATE - AUGUST 25 – EDWARDS DAY AT THE PARK!

Instead of VBS this year, the Board of Faith Formation will sponsor an "Edwards Day in the Park". Save Saturday, August 25, for Scott County Park at **Cody Lake Shelter, 9 am–9 pm**. This will be a church-wide event outdoors in God's beautiful world. We have reserved a shelter to celebrate the end of summer and the start of a new church season. Come join us for part or all of the day. We will have lunch, dinner, snacks, wiener roast and of course s'mores! You can camp out at Scott County Park Friday or Saturday for a fee of \$15-20, depending on the type of tent or camper. We'll offer nature crafts, games, hiking, swimming and maybe a scavenger hunt. The swimming fee is \$4-5 per person. You may sign up on the insert sheet in the bulletin, by phone or by email to the Church secretary. We need to know how many will attend so please let us know. **Happy Summer!**



CHOIR REHEARSAL - Choir is back!

The Choir group will begin rehearsals on **August 29**. They will also sing for "Homecoming Sunday," **September 9**. If you have thought about possibly joining, now would be the perfect time.

ALLELUIA RINGERS - The Alleluia Ringers will start their rehearsals on Monday, September 10, in the evening. Contact Sandy Reinders at skreinders@gmail.com for more information or, if you would like to join this group.

HABITAT APPLICATION WORKSHOP

Habitat for Humanity is hosting a 'New Partner Family' application workshop on Saturday, September 8 at 1:30 pm. If you are interested in attending, the workshop will be held at 3625 Mississippi Avenue in Davenport. Please call 563-359-9066 or email Jan Trimble at jan.trimble@habitatqc.org for more information.

EDWARDS 3RD ANNUAL VENDOR/CRAFT SHOW

This event is Saturday, **November 3, 8:30 am –2:00 pm** in Baxter Hall. Applications are available in the Church office and on the hallway bulletin board. You may direct questions to Rhonda Curl at 798-3033 for more information on this upcoming event. **Deadline for signing up is Oct. 20, 2018.**

THANK YOU'S

- We received the following 'Thank You' from Lynne Chapman & Beth Meyer; My sister and I wanted to say a HUGE thank you to the entire congregation at Edwards Church for all you have done for our parents, Cecil and Sue Chapman! All the prayers and meals for them have meant to world to them and us! Thank you and God Bless each and every one of you!
- From the Diversity Group which meets in one of the rooms here; 'Edwards Church, Thank you for the use of your fellowship hall for our meetings. We appreciate it very much!' (They also enclosed a donation to Edwards!)
- Received from Quad Cities Interfaith; We appreciate your additional payment of \$125 toward you FY2018 membership dues. Your support enables the work of QCI in creating "a more just society." We are very grateful for your continued partnership. – *Joe Heinrichs, Treasurer*

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 August Birthdays – Enjoy your day!

1 - Amanda Hearn, 2 – Crystal Miller, 6 – Evangeline Lewis, Darrell Hillyer, Kassidy Holdridge, 7 – Bill Molis, Jane Simonsen, 8 – Elyse Dye, 11 – Cindy Eaton, Scott Gehler, 12 – Abby Weyman, Solon Augspurger, 13 – Don Dorrance, 15 – Sandy Sohr, 16 – Ann Kovacs, 18 – Sam Norwood, 20 – Dave Wymore, 22 – Lois Larew, Sarah Kenneke, 24 – Norma Wren, Sara Verdick, 25 – Richard Jirus, 26 – Louis Reicks, 28 – Christopher Molis, Joley Sullivan. ***Happy Birthday to all!***



Please Keep In Your Prayers:

Due to privacy issues we no longer publish names on the website version. Please contact Brian Dugan with any questions or concerns. If you are hospitalized and would like a visit from an Edwards caregiver, please let Brian Dugan, our Caregiver Coordinator know, at 563-275-8520. Due to hospital privacy rules and hospital staffing shortages, we don't always hear from the hospitals in a timely manner. Thanks

If you are hospitalized and would like a visit from a Pastor or an Edwards UCC caregiver, please let Brian Dugan, our Caregiver Coordinator know, at 563-275-8520. Due to hospital privacy rules and hospital staffing shortages, we don't always hear from the hospitals in a timely manner. Thanks.

STROHBEHN SCHOLARSHIP

The Edwards Church Council has voted to award the Strohbehn Scholarship this year to Elyse Dye. Upon the recommendation of the Scholarship Review Committee (Lou Wren, John Thomspson and Tim Reier), the scholarship is in the amount of \$2,000. Elyse will be entering Drake University in Des Moines this fall. Congratulations Elyse!

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:

BACK BAY MISSION - The Time is Right for You to Represent Edwards and Serve at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi!

Have you been hesitant about going to Back Bay Mission? Well, our week of service on behalf of the UCC Mission in Biloxi is not all about "nails and paint" to build/rehab houses! Volunteers to Back Bay Mission also help prepare and serve meals at the Loaves and Fishes meal site and work in the mission's Micah Center, a day shelter for homeless guests.

This year's trip takes place **October 13 - October 21, 2018**. You can indicate your interest in being a part of this year's team by signing up on the clipboard in the narthex. But if traveling to Mississippi isn't for you, remember that your prayers, cookies/kringles, and financial support of our scholarship fund are also key to the success of this mission! ALL members and friends of Edwards have a way to SERVE Back Bay Mission!

Share Your Collection of Toiletries! When this year's crew to Back Bay Mission heads to Biloxi we'd be happy to take as many of these items with us as we can squeeze into our cars so we can donate these items to BBM's Micah Day Center. There is a container for these items in the narthex. Thank you in advance!!!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

The Edwards Media Group is looking for someone to assist in preparing the weekly PowerPoint videos. No experience needed - we'll teach you the ropes! If you are interested in learning more please contact the secretary or any member of the media team; Woody Perkins, Lyle Stratton, Joyce Paustian, Cathy Wetzell or Terry Schlabach. Thank you!

EDWARDS BUDGET & FINANCIAL INFORMATION

We've been blessed that so many people are paying their pledges early and that expenses have been kept below budget.

Financial Summary - 2nd Quarter 2018				
		Budget	Over/Under	Annual
Receipts	Jan - Jun	Jan - Jun	to date	Budget
Pledge Income	92,735.01	84,592.52	8,142.49	155,285.00
All Other Income	27,542.76	29,074.98	-1,532.22	48,150.00
Total Receipts	120,277.77	113,667.50	6,610.27	203,435.00
Total Expenses	107,625.92	106,196.63	1,429.29	212,423.00
Net Income	12,651.85	7,470.87	5,180.98	-8,988.00



July 2, 2018

The People of Edwards Congregational UCC
3420 Jersey Ridge Road
Davenport, IA 52807

Dear Member Church Members:

Churches United of the Quad City Area gratefully acknowledges and accepts your most generous contributions to our ministries.

Your gifts support Winnie's Place, the only emergency shelter in the Illinois Quad Cities for women, with or without children, who may be survivors of domestic violence; the City Center Ministry Food Pantry, CareLINK and the general needs of people in need.

In our 57th year, Churches United continues to reach out to our community. Our 136 member churches represent over 50,000 people in the Quad City Area.

Thank you for the continued commitment to help us nurture and strengthen those most in need through the grace and blessing of God's love.

In peace,

Rev. Dr. Melvin Grimes
Executive Director

Betsy Vanausdeln
Associate Director