



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

Mon-Friday

10 am - Noon

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All of this rain. And hurricanes. It just seemed like a lot. If it wasn't for the blistering heat that came with it, one could easily guess this last month was April instead of September. Rain, like all precipitation is a funny thing. We need enough - for crops and gardens and green lawns - but not too much. Too much and we get blight, flooding, and wet basements, yet we cannot live without it. And when it is just the right amount we get beauty and lushness, naps and a good book with a cup of tea. All of it a necessary balance over which we have no control.

The interim time feels similar to me. At times there is a lot happening, a flood of information and conversation. At other times there seems to be a drought. It can easily feel like we are running at warp speed or standing still. Getting ready for the next pastor is the topic of conversation everywhere for a bit and then the topic turns to why we aren't doing anything to move the process. It can be frustrating like too much rain. Or too little.

Part of my job as your interim is to "make it rain". Through experience and training and not a little intuition, I try to steer your process in a way that will, in the end, bring you the most lush, beautiful garden possible. It's a metaphor I really like, partially because it is a metaphor that highlights your role in making the garden grow. I can "bring the rain" but you have to tend the soil, plant the seeds, and nurture the growth.

I am so very proud of how you have all done exactly that with our Appreciative Inquiry Interviews. These interviews are one way we prepare our collective soil to plant the seeds for our new pastorate. And the seeds we will plant? They are coming. On October 21st we will sit down together after worship and review together the information you shared through the interview process. In this discussion we will identify the seeds that we will plant together through more work in November. Please, please join us. I expect it to be a very enjoyable day.

cont'd.

And here's a little sunshine to help our garden grow... the Council will begin in October, a conversation about what (not yet who) the Search Committee should like. Also, data sections of the Church Profile are being parceled out to persons and committees best able to complete them. It would be helpful to have someone with a gift for the written word to assist in the completion of the narrative of the profile. If you have that gift and are interested in helping, please let your Moderator Barb Bleedorn or Vice-Moderator Brian Foy know. We may be able to use your help.

Mark your calendars for the October 21st Congregational Conversation. It's potluck Sunday too!

In Peace,
Pastor Becky

APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY UPDATE

The AI Core Team met September 16 to begin processing all the information gathered in the one-to-one congregational interviews. We began to look for the core values and themes which you shared during the interviews – values that are meaningful to you in your worship experience, whether those values were formed at Edwards or in some other setting. The AI Core team will meet again in October.

We appreciate everyone who has provided the interview team the time to collect your views and opinions! AI Core team members: Geri Dulaney, Brian Foy, Mandy Harvey, Shirley Johnson, Van Lewis, Carol Ogletree, Paul Petherick, Sandy Reinders, Dave Reinders, Marilyn Riedesel, Robert Riedesel, Lyle Stratton, and Pastor Becky.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Each month we will have a different mission focus shared with Sunday children's worship. Nursery care will be offered each night. As we get closer to Christmas the children up to 5th grade will begin practicing for the Christmas pageant on Dec. 16th. We will take a winter break after the pageant until Jan. 9, 2019.

SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Beginning this 2018 fall, children are invited to stay in church the first Sunday of the month that includes communion and Artspace. Children infant through 4 or 5 years old can still attend the nursery. What is Artspace? There is a designated low table off to the right in the front of the church that children of any age (yes even adults if you want to join), can go to before scripture is read. This time can be used to express worship by drawing, coloring or writing.

The rest of the month, children up to 5th grade can take part in stories from the Bible and activities. The theme for the fall is travelling with Jesus. As we get closer to Christmas we will learn more about Advent. Note that each month there will be a different mission focus that will be shared with the Wednesday evening fellowship program. The Wednesday and Sunday programs will culminate in the Christmas pageant on December 16. We will take a winter break after that until January 13, 2019.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS REVIEW

Earlier this year the Edwards Church Council recruited a small team of folks to review our Constitution and By-Laws. As we move towards the end of this interim period the Council wants to ensure that our Constitution and By-Laws meet our current and future needs. The team has nearly completed its work and will be bringing its recommendations to Council in the near future. If the Council decides changes are necessary, those changes will be brought before the congregation at our next annual meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Reinders.

THANK YOU'S

- To my Edwards family, many, many “**thank yous**” to the Caregivers, the choir, and all of you who have sent cards and made phone calls of well wishes during and after my hospitalization. Your caring meant a great deal to me, and I truly appreciate your support. You’re the best! Blessings to all. ~ *Mary Hein*
- Just a note to say “**many thanks**” to everyone that helped us with Sue Chapman’s **funeral luncheon** on Friday, September 14. Those of you who brought food, helped setup, served and cleaned up. Also, thanks to Donuts & Hammers for putting the tables up for us. We couldn’t have done it without the joint effort of the wonderful Edwards Church family. Thank you again! ~ *Anita & Annette*
- A big ‘Thank You’ to all the folks that donated underwear for **Undie Sunday**. As of Wednesday, September 19 we have collected 475 pieces of underwear! What an amazing show of support. We are still are collecting for the remaining two weeks in September so it is not too late to donate. If you are so inclined, we are short on men’s and boy’s underpants and undershirts. ~ *The Mission Board, Brian Foy, Jane Foy, Carol Ogletree*
- Many **thanks** to the hands that prepared and served at the August **Salvation Army** meal site organized by Churches United. Thanks to the team of chefs (Ardis Kasper, Adrianna Balli, Bev Bergert, Dee Hillyer, Ed Balli, Evona Petherick, Fran Wolfe, Martha Jirus, Mary Ostrom, Anita Dietz, Annette Dietz, and Sandy Reinders) and the team of servers (Louis Reicks, Jesse Knudson, Joyce Paustian, Terry Schlabach, Marty Schlabach, and Bob Larew)! A delish meal of Sloppy Joes, potato salad, bean salad, bananas, milk, and juice was prepared for, and enjoyed by, 70 grateful guests of the Salvation Army!

The Edwards team will next prepare a meal on **October 16** and to be served at Churches United's new meal site – Zion Lutheran Church at 1216 West 8th. If you would like to join the Edwards team for October, welcome! Food preparation begins in the Edwards kitchen at **1:30 pm**. If you would rather be part of the ‘delivery/serving’ team, please arrive at Edwards by **5:10 pm** to transport the food from Edwards and be ready to serve the meal by 5:30 pm. After serving and clean-up, that team then returns to Edwards to wash and put away the few pots/pans used for transporting the meal. If you're available for any part of this effort, just let one of the regular team members know how you would like to help (such as Sandy Reinders – of ‘team chefs!’ or Bob Larew of ‘team deliverer/server/clean-upper’s!') or someone on the Mission Board (i.e., Carol Ogletree, Brian Foy, or Jane Foy)! ~ *Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.” Proverbs 11:25*

Thank you to EVERYONE who contributed to the "underwear because we care" drive here at Edwards. Your contributions netted over 674 pieces of underwear for those in need in the Quad City area. While this is a bit less than last year, it is still a sizeable amount. The Mission Board very much appreciates the support you have displayed. ~ *Carol Ogletree, Jane & Brian Foy*

CELEBRATING OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS – Enjoy your day!

10/21-Barb Bleedorn, Tim Huey; 10/ 23-John Thompson; 10/24-Chloe Van Blair;
10/25-Martha Jirus, Shirley Johnson; 10/30-Brian Foy, Noah Gehler

Happy Birthday to all!



Please Keep In Your Prayers:

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

If you are hospitalized and would like a visit from a Pastor or Edwards UCC Caregiver, please let Lyle Stratton know, at 563-570-7556. Due to hospital privacy rules and hospital staffing shortages, we don't always hear from the hospitals in a timely manner. Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MUTUAL MINISTRY REVIEW UPDATE

The MMR Team is preparing guidelines and tools for a pastor and congregation to use together to evaluate the ministry within the life of the congregation. The tools we are working with are 1) Pastor Ministry Review Tool, 2) Pastor Ministry Self Reflection Tool, and 3) Congregation Self Reflection Tool. Our next meeting is October 4. Team members include Barb Bleedorn, Brian Foy, Sandy Reinders, Robert Riedesel and Pastor Becky.

MOVEABLE FEASTS ARE STARTING AGAIN - in October, 2018.

Movable feasts (potlucks) are monthly, informal social gatherings open to all friends and members of Edwards. The host family chooses the weekend and provides the main course. They contact the list of attendees with the date, time and a request for a dish to pass. These social gatherings are a great way to get to know other people from the church in a relaxing environment. All are welcome to participate. You do not have to be a member and you do not have to host to participate in this Social Event. A desire for fun and fellowship is the only requirement.

If you are interested in hosting, attending or both please sign up on the tear-off sheet in the Sunday bulletin or contact Chris Kenneke at kenneke2003@yahoo.com or call 563-355-5273. Again, please **sign up by Oct. 7th** to be included in the October Feasts. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Kenneke or, Sandy Reinders 563-940-1809.

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY CLASS – Sunday October 14th - 11:30 am-1:30 pm

Are you a visitor or friend who has been thinking about uniting in membership with Edwards UCC? Perhaps you would like to learn more about Edwards UCC and the United Church of Christ faith and beliefs!

If so, Pastor Becky and the Edwards Membership Board would love to have the opportunity to get to know you better, and help answer any questions you may have. We are currently planning to hold our next Inquiry Class after church on Sunday October 14th, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, including a light lunch. Please let the Church Office know if you are interested in attending by either calling 563-359-0331, or emailing secretary@edwards-ucc.org. **RSVP's are requested no later than October 7th.** After the class, if you would then like to unite in membership with Edwards UCC, we plan to welcome new members during the service on either Sunday October 21st or Sunday November 4th. We hope you are eager to learn more and deepen your faith journey at Edwards! As we say each Sunday, "Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, You Are Welcome Here!" If you have any questions, please

contact Sandy Reinders, Membership Chair, email skreinders@gmail.com, or Joyce Paustian, Membership Clerk, email paustianj@aol.com.

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION

The next A I conversation will be **October 21, after worship**. We will discuss the common themes that ran through the 100+ interviews. These themes/core values will help us move towards completing a church profile and the search for our next pastor.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:

Preparing for Back Bay Mission!

▪ Share Your Collection of Toiletries! As you travel, you may take a trip and bring back more of those little soaps, bottles of shampoo, and lotion than you know what to do with! When this year's crew to Back Bay Mission heads to Biloxi in October, 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!!!

▪ Tape measures! Back Bay Mission 'goes through' more tape measures than any other tool, so if you have an extra one that you don't need, we'd be happy to donate it to the mission on your behalf! Just add it to the container of toiletries.

▪ Dates and Info: This year's trip is **Saturday, October 13 – Sunday, October 21**. If you have any questions about the trip, please check with the three musketeers (Carol Ogletree, Tom Kenneke, and Julie Henke) or any of the many others who have served at Back Bay Mission!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE:

CROP Hunger Walk - Sunday, October 7

The 47th annual CROP Hunger Walk will take place on **Sunday, October 7**, and the walk will begin at the Freight House Farmers' Market. The walk steps off at 2pm, onsite registration begins at 1pm, and there will be 2, 4, and 6 mile routes mapped out for walk participants.



Monies collected from the walk are used to help area programs including food pantries, food banks, meals on wheels, and shelters. If you would like to make a donation, you can submit it online using the following link: www.crophungerwalk.org/quadcities. You can even make a donation in support of a specific walker, if you would like. Using the online form is a convenient, 'paperless' way to support programs in our community. **Thank you.**

It's Highway Clean-Up Time!

Please join other Edwards family to Clear our Assigned Section of the Roadway!

When: Saturday, October 6, 10 am

Where: Meet in Baxter Hall to carpool

After: Enjoy lunch in Baxter Hall!

The more people that sign up, the easier the work can be. It's a 2-mile stretch of road, and it will go faster the more volunteers that we have. All volunteers must be at least 10 years old.



Attire: Light-colored clothing, close-toed shoes, hat and long sleeves to protect you against the sun (and sunscreen), orange safety vest (provided), gloves (provided). Trash bags will be provided.



If you have questions, please check with Sara Verdick

CAREGIVER COORDINATOR:

On the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon so many believers, the emerging Christian church was called upon to continue the same work of healing and wholeness that Jesus practiced in the Gospels. Over the years since then, churches have sometimes overlooked this important aspect of ministry.

As Interim Care Giver Coordinator, I would invite us to open ourselves up to the power of the Holy Spirit, and as we do so, the fruits of God's spirit will become more and more evident in our lives, as individual believers and as a faith community. Our church members and friends can be touched emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually through the power of our prayers! May we not only learn how to pray as Jesus did, but also minister as he taught. I invite anyone to join me in prayer on Wednesdays at noon in Edwards' chapel as we lift up together the joys and concerns of the church! As we move through the fall season, as interim caregiver coordinator I hope to be developing additional opportunities for our prayers to lead us to healing and wholeness!

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE:

We are collecting the pull tabs off of cans to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. There is a collection basket in the small kitchen by the Caregiver's office. Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

OCT 1 - WOMEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

OCT 2 - CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS MEETING - 6:00 PM

OCT 5 - MEMORIAL FUNDS MEETING - 11:45 AM - Community Rm

OCT 6 - HIGHWAY CLEANUP IN THE MORNING

OCT 7 - SPECIAL OFFERING FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

OCT 7 - CROP HUNGER WALK - 2 PM/FREIGHT HOUSE FARMERS MARKET

OCT 8 - COUNCIL WORK DAY - 8:30 AM-12 PM

OCT 9 - DONUTS & HAMMERS - 8:30 AM

OCT 9 - BOARD MEETINGS - 6:30 PM/COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30 PM

OCT 10 - AI CORE TEAM MEETING - 6 PM

OCT 13-21 - BILOXI TRIP

OCT 14 - NEW MEMBER INQUIRY CLASS - 11:30 AM

OCT 16 - CAREGIVERS MEETING - 12:00 PM

OCT 16 - COMMUNITY KITCHEN IN BAXTER HALL - 1:30 PM

OCT 17 - ENDOWMENT BOARD MEETING - 6:00 PM

OCT 18 - WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT - 6:00 PM AT APPLEBEE'S

OCT 21 - POTLUCK & CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION

OCT 22 - COUNCIL WORK DAY - 8:30 AM-12 PM

OCT 23 - DONUTS & HAMMERS - 8:30 AM

OCT 28 - FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

OCT 28 - THANKSGIVING BASKET KICK-OFF

MARK YOUR NOVEMBER CALENDARS:

NOV 3 - EDWARDS 3RD ANNUAL VENDOR/CRAFT SHOW - Sign-up deadline is Oct. 20.

NOV 5 - COUNCIL WORK DAY - 8:30 AM-12 PM

NOV 10 - EDWARDS FALL BLOOD DRIVE. The last day to donate elsewhere was **September 4.**