



Edwards Editor

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Submitted items are subject to editing.

November 2013

A Woman Touched By Grace

*Interactive Presentation
By Rev. Dr. Christine Isham*

What do you get when you bring 19 clergywomen from a variety of protestant traditions together to a Benedictine monastery for spiritual renewal?

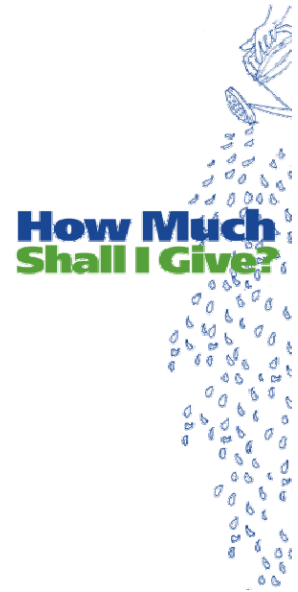
St. Benedict, spiritual direction, praying the Psalms, forgiveness as spiritual practice, walking the labyrinth together with 19 women, a silent retreat, holy leisure, lots of laughter, sustaining friendships and more. Come and hear about how this experience has changed my life!

*November 3 at 6pm
In Baxter Fellowship Hall*

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17th

Think of all the ways that God is at work in and through the wonderful programs and ministries of Edwards Congregational UCC! The inspiring music, the beautiful building, the community outreach, the compassionate caregivers, and the enlightening educational programs.

During worship for the weeks leading up to Stewardship Sunday, we are highlighting one of these areas with pictures on the screen in the sanctuary and with a personal story from one of our own members.



What you will also see on the screen in worship are some budget numbers associated with each ministry category being highlighted. While detailed budget discussions are not our focus now, awareness of our budget should inform our giving. So as you prepare to make your pledge this year, remember that it is based on your pledges that we are able to set the program budgets, staffing plans, and vision for ministry of our congregation. Please prayerfully consider the amount of your pledge for the coming year.

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STEWARDSHIP FAIR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17th

Following Worship

In Baxter Fellowship Hall

Each Board will present you with opportunities to be involved in the life and ministries of our church at their table display. Come sample treats and learn more about the work and ministry of each Board. Find a place where your skills and talents might be put to use!

Ministerial Musings...

Since my first conversation with the Search Committee I continue to hear from so many of you, stories of why Edwards UCC is your church home. From some I have heard about growing up in the United Church of Christ here or elsewhere. But it's true, that these days, you don't hear much about denominational loyalty. I include myself in that camp; I grew up in the American Baptist church –though still with congregational roots. My journey to the UCC was like that of so many that I have heard. “Who knew a church like this was even out there?” My passion for issues of social justice, while fueled by my religious convictions, often seemed politely side-stepped by the church.

Then there was a full-page ad in the New York Times by the UCC proudly proclaiming its ordination of openly gay ministers. I don't remember exactly when or what church or churches sponsored it, but I saw it at a time when I needed that kind of support in my own calling to ministry. As a woman, married to a woman, I knew I had found a church home where my faith and my passion for social justice would no longer be side-stepped.

“The UCC story is broad and diverse and a story that we celebrate. With all Christians, we rest in God's amazing grace and hear God's voice in the words of Scripture. Yet, the UCC is unique to some because we do not require uniformity of belief. We are a church of open ideas, extravagant welcome, and evangelical courage. Our passion for democracy extends to both government and church, where decision-making rests within each congregation. We support liberty in our pulpits, just as we affirm the individual conscience of our 1.2 million members to agree, disagree, and wrestle with life's biggest questions in a spirit of love. Our unity is not dependent upon uniform agreement, but in our shared allegiance to Jesus Christ. Ours is a risk-taking church, because ours is a risk-taking God.” (ucc.org)

In general, the stories I hear from you about why Edwards UCC is your church home, like mine, are not tame and ordinary, they are moving, thoughtful and even sometimes heartbreaking. Some of you came out of churches hurt and burdened by what you had experienced there. Others have come to Edwards with little or no church experience. Some of you have responded to the extravagant welcome of the UCC and have genuinely found that at Edwards. Let us *celebrate* together the wonderful faith community that we have all found here, the safe-haven, the place to bring our children to be taught about a loving God, where we can worship in many ways, hearing many voices and find a diversity of names for God.

Let us celebrate together the wonderful faith community that we are all a part of here! Every member and friend of the church that joins us regularly for worship or any activity, plays a part in the life of this community. November is the month when we think about STEWARDSHIP – that is how we use the gifts that God has given us to glorify God and continue ministries of this church. Each one of us has been given gifts of TIME, SKILLS & TALENTS, and (yep, you guessed it) MONEY. Recall what it was about Edwards UCC that made it feel like your faith home when you came here, tell your story to someone else, recall what makes Edwards special to you. Then consider all that goes into making Edwards UCC the place that it is – ministers and other staff, buildings and grounds, paper and copiers, fabric and candles, banners and bibles.

Did you know that there are people in the Quad Cities that haven't heard about the EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME of EDWARDS UCC? Did you know that there are people longing for a place where they can bring their children to learn about a loving God, where they can experience vibrant worship and moving music? Where they can be a part of a faith community that engages both their heart and mind? In the same way that Edwards UCC welcomed you, let us now bring our gifts to serve one another, build up and sustain this faith community and spread the news that all are welcome here.

Peace, Christine

Edwards Worships...

November 3, 2013: All Saints Day & Communion Sunday

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

Sermon: An Object In Motion

November 10, 2013: Potluck Sunday

Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

Sermon:

November 17, 2013: Stewardship Sunday

Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

Sermon: Moved by Vision

November 24, 2013:

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

Sermon: The End

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ~ Acts 2:42

Media Opportunities ~ Edwards is blessed with a group of people who compete for the privilege of working the sound board during worship each week.

We always welcome new people becoming involved in the video side of our worship services. Do you have experience with PowerPoint and setting up video projectors? Do you have a strong desire to be involved? We can teach you the rest! If you have an interest in learning more, please contact the media committee at media@edwards-ucc.org.



Altar Flowers ~ Sign up on the weekly announcement sheet if you would like to provide Sunday altar flowers! You can also email kathy@edwards-ucc.org to reserve your date. Flowers are sometimes offered in memory of loved ones or in celebration of a special day or event. Providing flowers is also a nice way to surprise a member of the congregation by honoring them for their commitment to church work or for their outstanding volunteer work. Order flowers from the florist of your choice and have them delivered between 9am and Noon on the Friday before church.

Weekly Music Rehearsals ~ Newcomers Always Welcome

Alleluia Ringers - Monday nights 6:30 pm

Children's Choir - Wednesday nights 5 pm

Chancel Choir - Wednesday nights 7:00 pm



70th Annual Union Thanksgiving Celebration

Edwards Congregational UCC
Temple Emanuel
Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Braiding and Weaving: The Fabric of Diverse Traditions

Rev. Dr. Christine Isham

Sunday, November 24 at 6pm
At Temple Emanuel
1115 Mississippi Ave.

Offering will benefit QCAD
Service will include a Children's Time
Childcare provided

Faith Formation News...

Faith Formation at Edwards Congregational UCC includes Sunday morning chapel for children preschool through fifth grade as well as Wednesday night Confirmation for middle school youth and Children's Choir and TouchStones programming for preschool through fifth grade. For more information about these ministries, contact Kendra Thompson.

kendra@edwards-ucc.org or (563) 359-0331.

NEW CHAPEL CURRICULUM SERIES

During the Month of November we will be exploring themes of "Gratitude and Giving" to coincide with this year's stewardship drive. We will bring back the famous "Tip Jar" from Vacation Bible School and together, as children and adult volunteers, decide on a non-profit agency or charitable foundation that we would like to 'tip' with our spare change.

TOUCHSTONES

On Wednesday, November 6th we will begin rehearsing for this year's Christmas Pageant. This year's pageant is called "Jesus, Light of the World." Rehearsals will be Wednesdays November 6, 13, & 20; Wednesday, December 4th and our final dress rehearsal will be Friday, December 13th at 5:30pm.

If you don't already attend Wednesday night programming at Edwards, but would like to participate in the pageant, please contact Pastor Kendra at kendra@edwards-ucc.org

(Reminder, there is NO TOUCHSTONES Wednesday November 27th ~ Happy Thanksgiving!)

DO YOU HAVE....OLD SOCKS?

In Advent, the children will be making a special craft: the Advent Buzzard. I know, you must be intrigued. ☺ If you have any old (or odd) socks – preferably dark colored – that you would like to donate to the church, we will put them to use during Advent. And yes, they will be transformed into BUZZARDS.

Confirmation News...

Confirmation students will join up the Touchstones group on November 6th and December 13th for Christmas Pageant practice.

There will be no evening programming on Wednesday, November 27th.

Fellowship Opportunities...

Women's Night Out: Thursday, Nov. 21., 6pm at Family Restaurant (Spring Village) 902 W. Kimberly Rd., Davenport. All Women of the church are invited!

Theology Discussion Group: Friday, Nov. 15 @ 7pm. Meeting at the home of John & Kendra Thompson, 2512 Tremont Ave, Davenport. We are discussing Martin Buber's work, Land Thou. It can be a challenging text, but all levels of interest are welcome, even if you just want to listen! Some copies of the book are available in the church library.

Potluck Lunch~ SUNDAY, NOV. 10. 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.

Moveable Feasts will be starting in the new year... be on the lookout for more information and sign-up opportunities!

Church Council Highlights...

Highlights of the October Church Council Meeting

This is a new feature in the Editor to inform the congregation about what is discussed in the Council meeting. Members of the congregation are always welcome to attend the council meeting or request a complete copy of the minutes from Kathy Bowerman.

PASTOR'S REPORT: There were weddings in the Chapel on October 4 and 7. The Confirmation class received an award for the design of their cardboard yurt at "Night at the Shelter" on October 4. Christine met with Rabbi Karp and Rev. Jay Wolin regarding the Thanksgiving Service to be held at Temple Emanuel. *Christine plans to have two presentations about her involvement in the *Women Touched by Grace* workshops.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Elisabeth Norwood) In addition to the original budget deficit of \$8,085, non-pledge income is about \$8,000 below the anticipated level and pledges are \$4,000 below. We should avoid additional spending when possible. As examples, members will bring desserts in lieu of purchasing a large cake for Christine's installation and Edwards will not place a newspaper ad for the Christmas Eve services this year.

Council approved the following to help reduce the budget deficit:

\$2,621 from the Trustees Reserve Fund to the General Fund

\$2,700 from the Building Maintenance Reserve Fund to the General Fund

\$1,000 by not contributing to the Sabbatical Fund in 2013

\$1,000 (anticipated) from the proceeds of the Cookie Walk

This total of \$7,321 would be applied to reduce the deficit.

If all pledges were increased by only 8.33%, our budget would be balanced.

SHARING THE VISION: Of the \$708,000 anticipated to date, \$701,000 has been received.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: (Marilyn Riedesel) The Cookie Walk will be December 1, with no chili lunch because Christine's installation is the same day. SERRV items will be available beginning on December 1.

MEDIA: (Woody Perkins) There is a blog on our home page, which will be available during the Biloxi Trip. Volunteers are needed to operate the video equipment during Sunday services.

MEMBERSHIP: (Tim Huey) On October 27 a membership class will be held for 8 - 12 people.

MISSION: The sign honoring Clyde Durrah was carried by the Crop Walk group.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: (Shirley Johnson) On November 17 a Stewardship Fair will be held in Baxter Hall with tables for each of the boards.

SEARCH COMMITTEE: (Shirley Johnson) Interactive meetings with Christine will be held November 3 and December 15.

TRUSTEES: (Vince Holdridge) The west entry canopy supports have structural issues and will be rebuilt.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: (Judy Collins) Nominations are being sought by December 1 for the All My Relatives Award.

WORSHIP: (John Keraus) Christmas Eve services will be at 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.



With Our People...

Please remember... the front parking lot is for proximity parking on Sundays and Wednesday evenings.

We have labeled two spaces “officially” handicapped, but we have left the others “unofficial.” This is so that folks who need “proximity parking” but who are not “officially” handicapped can also use the lot. That might include families with small children or folks who are temporarily experiencing difficulty walking. **Please use the front parking lot during weekday office hours though, as we keep all the doors locked except the front for building security!**

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.

O Source of Vibrant Life, prepare my heart to live luminously in any kind of weather. In dark and stormy times show me the way to remain calm so that I may find the love in me that is always saying its prayers. Bring into my vision the strength I thought was lost. And just when I think I have no word of comfort to offer, reveal to me the words you have already given me. May I live in such a way that I am always ready to die and always ready to live. May I live in such a way that in all things you may be glorified. Amen.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

November Birthdays

2	Merlin Bachellor	12	Addison Steinich	23	Milo Smith
5	Jesse Knudson	12	Dave Wilbricht	24	Keith Thess
6	Max Gehler	14	Amelia Reier	24	Rich Weyman
6	Woody Perkins	15	Rhonda Eckhart	25	Maddie Schony
8	Mike Augsperger	15	Michelle Hukvari	26	Jeremy Scales
8	Alexandra Holdridge	17	Jim Van Howe	27	Ryley Zippe
9	Gavin Verdick	17	Fran Wolfe	28	Bob Williams
9	Kade Verdick	18	Becky David	29	Joel Sullivan
10	Chuck Collins	18	Chris Medina	30	Pat Hixon
11	Julie Henke	19	Ray Ball-Trevor	30	Vince Holdridge
12	Dick Pavlak	20	Karter Holdridge	30	Keegan Smith
12	Elizabeth Penn	22	Lisa Crawford		
		23	Penny Hubbard		

This and That...

Enjoy a musical revue featuring one of Edward's own!

Quad City Theatre Workshop Presents: ***LAST CALL: The Songs of Stephen Sondheim***

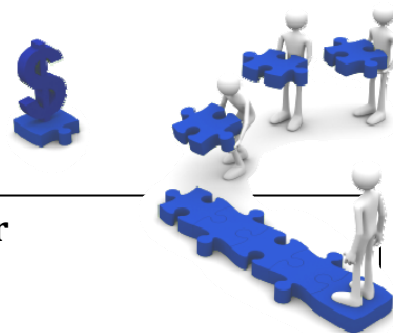
November 1st – 17th, Showtimes:~ Thurs. & Fri. at 7:30 p.m.;Sun. at 3:00 p.m.

Cost: Pay what it's worth at the end of the show! Or, what you are able to pay!

To make reservations and for directions, visit the Quad City Theatre Workshop website:
www.qctheatreworkshop.com or email info@quadcitytheatreworkshop.org

Angela Elliott from Edwards is one of the cast members of the production. She urges all those who love theatre and music to attend this show in a most unique setting. The Workshop is located at **1730 Wilkes Avenue in Davenport, next door to the Institute of Therapeutic Massage and Wellness.**

And, if you need a referral – speak to Suzanne or Bob Benson who've seen almost every show there!



Financial Statistics through September

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	191,572	208,891
Expense	<u>194,637</u>	<u>210,434</u>
Net	(3,065)	(1,543)

In January, the congregation approved a budget with a full-year deficit of \$8,085. Through September, non-pledge income is running \$8,300 below the budget, bringing the base deficit to \$16,385. There have been a number of other changes in income and expenses, including savings from not having a full-time Music Director and Organist over the summer. In addition, Council has authorized the use of the Trustees Reserve Fund and some of the Building Maintenance Fund to help cover current expenses. However, the current forecast is still for a full-year deficit.

Please be as generous as you can in fulfilling pledges and making other donations.

Save the DATE ...

Edwards Congregational United Church of Christ

Davenport, IA

On behalf of the

Eastern Association of the Iowa Conference

Invites you to celebrate with us

The Installation of our New Pastor

The Reverend Doctor Christine Isham

Sunday, December 1, 2013

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon



A Reception will follow in Baxter Fellowship Hall after the Service.
Clergy are invited to participate in the Processional and Robe (red stoles).

Thanksgiving Baskets...



THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Sharing Our Blessings... An Edwards' Tradition

To fill 50 baskets we will need:

Fifty

Cans Crispy Onions
Cans Cream of Mushroom Soup
Cranberry sauce
Large can sweet potatoes
Canned Corn
Napkins

One Hundred

Canned or bottled juice
Canned green beans
Gravy (packs or jars)
Stuffing (bags or boxes)
Boxes of Mashed Potatoes

Or...Can you write a check?

Stuff a Turkey \$25.00
Fill a Cornucopia \$15.00
Adopt a Ham \$10.00



Bring non-perishable items to church now through Wednesday, Nov. 20th.
For information, contact Mike Ball-Trevor at theballtrevors@gmail.com or 563-322-0048.

Stewardship Message

Stewards of Surprising Gifts

May God... who reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence, put a fresh heart in you, invigorate your work, enliven your speech.
– 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 from *The Message*

My brother always said he didn't want to have children, so I was a bit anxious when his son, Christopher, was born. Happily, I was surprised, relieved and thankful to see how much he loved that little baby. He was too! He marveled, "When I look at that innocent face, I realize I would give my life to keep him safe."

God surprises us with such amazing, transforming gifts!

Scripture assures us that first God gives to us: "God reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence." We can take heart; God knows our needs and hopes and wants only the best for us.

God's gifts enliven our capacity to respond with our gifts. In the next few weeks, many UCC churches will be inviting their congregations to remember how good God has been to them and pray about making their pledges of support for the ministry of their churches on Consecration Sunday, November 10. No matter when or how your church invites your support, with a confident and hope-filled heart let your response flow naturally. When we open our hearts to God, our response may surprise even us.

A message from Stewards in the Household of God: a Resource for Holistic Year-round Stewardship available from United Church of Christ Resources.

November 2013

God is still speaking,



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

Social Justice...

All My Relatives Award Nominations

The Social Justice Board invites your nomination for our annual “All My Relatives Award”. This award recognizes members who have made an outstanding contribution to the missions of Edwards throughout their membership. Please forward your nomination to Judy Collins of the Social Justice Board on or before December 1. The name of the honored person will be announced at the Annual Meeting in January.



GreenFaith Announces 2014 Fellowship Program Class National Initiative Trains Religious Leaders for Environmental Leadership

Over the past decade, the religious-environmental movement has grown dramatically, with more and more religious institutions addressing environmental concerns. One of the engines of that growth has been the GreenFaith Fellowship Program, the world’s only comprehensive education and training program to prepare lay and ordained leaders from diverse religious traditions for environmental leadership. Since 2008, GreenFaith has trained over 115 Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Unitarian leaders for environmental leadership.

GreenFaith has announced that **Lisa Hixon, a member of Edwards Congregational United Church of Christ in Davenport**, has been accepted into the Fellowship Class of 2014. Lisa Hixon will join 22 classmates from religious traditions including Muslim, Hindu, Evangelical, Roman Catholic, mainline Protestant, and Unitarian Universalist. Members of this class of Fellows work in a wide variety of settings, including congregations, universities, environmental and religious NGO’s, denominational organizations, and businesses. ***“I’m looking forward to joining the Fellowship community,” said Lisa Hixon. “I’m deeply concerned about the threats facing the planet, and believe that religious communities can make an important impact. I want to contribute to that movement.”***

“We’re thrilled to welcome these new Fellows into the Program,” said Rev. Fletcher Harper, GreenFaith’s Executive Director. “We look forward to working with them to support their growth as religious-environmental leaders.”

Through three residential retreats, monthly webinars, and extensive reading, the Fellows will receive education and training in eco-theology, “greening” the operation of religious institutions, environmental advocacy, and environmental justice. Each Fellow writes their own eco-theological statement and carries out a leadership project in their community, mobilizing religious leaders in relation to an environmental issue. Upon graduating, they will join the Fellowship’s alumni network and mentor other emerging leaders in this field.

Harper directs the Program, with support from a multi-faith and multi-disciplinary faculty. “This program will offer these leaders the opportunity to become well-trained leaders in religious environmentalism.” said Harper. “They will help create an environmentally just and sustainable world.”

GreenFaith is an interfaith environmental coalition whose mission is to educate and mobilize diverse religious communities for environmental leadership. Founded in 1992, GreenFaith is a leader in the fast-growing religious-environmental movement and has won national and international recognition for its work. For more information, see www.greenfaith.org.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You !!

Thanks to **Kathy Lafrenz**, Liturgical Dance Director, **Elaine Lippert**, Children's Choir Director, **Emily Norwood**, Worship Board Member, Poet, & Artist and all the children and youth who helped make Children's Sabbath a successful worship experience for all ages. You truly let your light shine and made me very proud to have you assisting me in worship. Thank you, **Kendra**

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

	November 3	November 10	November 17	November 24
Preaching	Christine Isham	Kendra Thompson	Christine Isham	Christine Isham
Chancel Set-up	Dick Dulaney Judy Stouffer	Judy Stouffer	Sandy Doran	John Keraus
Altar Flowers	Kay Anthony	Thomas J. & Vallie S. Lewis Fund		
Scripture Reader	Jennifer Jordening	Dick Dulaney	Tim Huey	Becky David
Communion Servers	Dick Dulaney, Mila Smith, Milo Smith; Barb Bleedorn, (Ch) Dick Lafrenz			
Music	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir	Alleluia Ringers	Chancel Choir
Ushers	Dick Dulaney Mila Smith Milo Smith Barb Bleedorn	Sandy Reinders Brad Hixon Tom Kenneke Dee Hillyer	Joyce Paustain Terry Schlabach Dick Vallandingham Angela Eliot	Pat Sterk Dick Dulaney Steve Wildemuth Ann-Marie Gephart
Greeters	Bev Bergert Pat Sterk Kay Stiles Fran Wolfe	Ruth Bowers Ardis Kasper Dorothy Hammond Evona Patherick	Sue & curly Curl Jeannine Miller Sandy Sohr	Carol Bachellor Julia Natvig Sandy Reinders
Coffee Hour	Norwood	Potluck	Hillyer	Reier
Lock-up	Darrell Hillyer	Steve Wildemuth	Craig Lucas	
Mower- Trimmer				
CareGivers On Call	Evona Petherick Fran Wolfe	Sandy Reinders Dee Hillyer	Suzanne Benson Carol Hart	Martha Jirus Carol Bachellor

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.

EDWARDS CHURCH STAFF

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