



In the last several years one of the adult Sunday School classes I have taught was a survey of the New Testament course. The goal was to give an overview and summary of each of the 27 books of the New Testament. When we arrived at the conclusion and the book of Revelation, my resounding point of emphasis was this: if you're reading the book of Revelation and it doesn't give you confidence and hope - *you're reading it wrong*. I made that specific point because far too often the book of Revelation is presented as inaccessible and discouraging to the Christian believer when its original intent was to fill the Church with the confidence of Christ's victory both now and on into eternity. In other words, Jesus wins! That message is spelled out in great detail, with vivid imagery throughout the book.

The first main message of Revelation is that the way of the cross, though painful and costly, is in fact the path to eternal victory.

The cross was the foundation of Christ's victory over Satan. Christians are called to follow in Christ's footsteps. We follow the Lamb wherever He goes ([14:4](#)). The sufferings of believers in this present age, however, assure their victory over the powers of darkness. We suffer hardship now ([1:9](#)), but will share later in Christ's kingly rule ([1:6](#)). Our spirit will be kept safe in the midst of physical suffering ([11:1-7](#)). One of the main purposes of Revelation is to exhort believers to remain faithful in the face of adversity, in the assurance of final victory.

The second main message of Revelation is that God is sovereign over human history.

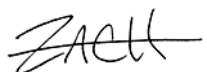
God is described as the Alpha and the Omega ([1:8](#)), and as the first and the last ([1:18](#)). These two phrases signify God's authority over the beginning of history, the end of history and everything in between. The visionary section of the book (chapters 4 through 22) is introduced by the vision of the throne room of God and the Lamb in chapters [4](#) and [5](#). In these chapters, the word "throne," signifying God's sovereignty, appears seventeen times. This vision demonstrates the authority of God and of the Lamb over all that is about to unfold in the remainder of the book.

The third main message of Revelation is that God has a purpose within human history.

The last two chapters of Revelation indicate that the new Jerusalem is the true fulfillment of God's plan to establish a garden-like paradise in which His temple would dwell. Adam failed in his commission to extend the boundaries of the original garden to the ends of the earth. Israel likewise failed in its commission to be a light to the nations. But Christ succeeded where Adam and Israel failed. The serpent, allowed into the first garden, is cast out of the last garden. All God's expressions of the covenant of grace are fulfilled as they worship Him in the final, perfect temple.

So why Revelation for Advent in 2020? Because the confidence and hope that the early church derived from the message of this incredible book is the same confidence and hope that the church is still in need of. You and I need to remember that ultimately and no matter what – the King who humbled Himself by taking on flesh, whom we celebrate at Christmas – is the sovereign King of eternity and our Savior. That is truth to linger upon during Advent. I hope you'll join us.

Your Pastor & Friend,



ELDERS

Keith Wilson - Clerk
Steve Morrison
Jim Mueller
Kevin Oak
Mic Penry
Patrick Shovar

DEACONS

Beth Flickinger
Cindy Cullen
Scott Cullen
Janet Dunlap
Norman Dunlap
Beth Easterla
Don Easterla
Cora Schafman
Peggy Shovar

TRUSTEES

Mel Block - Chair
Larry Pithan - Secretary
Ken Benningfield
Jeff Fuhr
Phil Fuhr
Scott Nelson
Jeff Schmidt
Chris Stark
Jeff Thomas

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

7 - James & Luella Doonan
21 - Donald & JoAnn Rursch
22 - Keith & Debra Wilson
29 - Zach & Mackenzie Hopkins
29 - Andrew & Katie Pearson

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 - Drew Hall	16 - Dylan Peterson
1 - Dorothy Oak	20 - Elsie Koresko
5 - Kathleen Fuhr	20 - Sharon Orr
6 - Denise Rursch	22 - Tara Johnson
7 - Donnie Neece	24 - Chris Stark
8 - Kinley Fuhr	25 - Hannah Oak
8 - Matt Tomlin	25 - Elisabeth Tomlin
14 - Maxine Fuhr	26 - Karyl Parrish
15 - Jason Flickinger	26 - Mary Wagamon
15 - Gianna Johnson	30 - Caelen Fuhr
16 - Jett Fuhr	

Thank you to all who
have prayed for me,
sent cards, and checked
on me.



I really appreciated all
the support you gave me. I am
recovering well from left hip
replacement. Dewey has taken very
good care of me and I was able to do
physical therapy at home so far and
that has been a bonus.

It is wonderful to be part of the caring
church family at EEPC.

Thank you!

Shirley Flemming

GREETERS FOR DECEMBER

Sunday, December 6th - Jim & Sharon Shaubroeck
Sunday, December 13th - Michael & Sharon Orr
Sunday, December 20th - Kim & Barb Freyermuth
Thursday, December 24th - Scott & Lisa Nelson
Sunday, December 27th - Eddie Bull



How true this is.

We want to thank everyone in our church family for all
the thoughts and prayers. October was a challenging
month, including both of us testing positive for Covid,
but thankfully we are feeling better. Now just praying
for our family and friends to stay strong and healthy.

~ Marlin & Darcy Krueger



SESSION

October 28, 2020 at 7pm

Location: Church Basement

Attendees Present: Zach Hopkins, Mic Penry, Jim Mueller, Kevin Oak, Steve Morrison, and Patrick Shovar.

Absent: Keith Wilson.

A quorum is present.

Pastor Zach acted as moderator of the meeting. Zach opened the meeting with prayer and a devotion from Matthew 7:13-14. The Elders discussed this passage in detail. The Elders prayed for individuals on the membership roll, followed by a study of the conclusion in the book *"The Shepherd Leader"*. Much discussion followed.

Approval/Amendment of Docket: Motion made and seconded to approve the docket. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: September 29th, 2020 minutes were reviewed. Motion made, seconded and approved.

Ministry Report: Visits/Calls: Zach reported on members and friends of the church that he is meeting with. He expressed appreciation to the Session for covering the service on October 18th when he was ill.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The 30th RLP meeting was held on Zoom on October 9th, 2020. RE Wilson, RE Penry, and TE Hopkins attended.
- The Fall New Member Class has been planned and there are four inquirers. The three classes will be conducted digitally with a follow-up Zoom meeting on November 15th with the inquirers and the Session. The new members will be received during worship on November 22nd. There will be no formal gathering after worship.
- Deacons: The fall coat drive was discussed in addition to the blood drive.
- Trustees: The sale of the manse is the most pressing item of business. Roofing bids are being received with a projected date of spring 2021.
- Personnel: Fall meetings have been conducted with each of the church's employees.

NEW BUSINESS:

- It was moved, seconded, and approved to recommend that the Trustees fulfill the obligations of our Per Member Asking both to the General Assembly and to the Presbytery. [GA: \$4,623; RLP: \$3,417]. Church members are encouraged to give to eliminate this expense from our budget.
- The Lessons & Carols service will be conducted at 5pm on December 13th. It will not be an in-person service but will be broadcasted live and made available to the congregation via Facebook Live.
- The Christmas Eve Worship Service will be held at 5pm. We are asking the membership to register their attendance in advance. Directions for this will be announced and published in the coming weeks. If there is a need for a second service, we will discuss adding an additional time.
- It was moved, seconded, and approved to send the 2021 General Fund budget draft to the Trustees for approval.
- RE Wilson and RE Shovar will lead the 2021 Nominating Committee.
- It was moved, seconded, and approved that the 2020 Annual Meeting will be held on January 31st, 2021. The exact timing and plans will be announced in the coming weeks.
- It was moved, seconded, and approved to schedule a special called *"Shepherding Meeting"* for the Session on Saturday, November 21st, 2020 at 9am. The implementation of our shepherding ministry is the only item for this meeting.
- TE Hopkins will extend an invitation to Rev. Darren Dietmeier - Trinity Presbyterian - Aledo, IL (PCA) to attend our stated November Session meeting for discussion on topics related to eldership and service in the church.
- Communion will be served on Sunday, November 1st.

Next called meeting: November 21st, 2020. Next stated meeting: November 24th, 2020.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40pm.

Zach closed the meeting with prayer.

10/14/2020

Present: Mel Block, Ken Benningfield, Scott Nelson, Chris Stark, Treasurer Cindy Oak, and Session Representative Jim Mueller

Mel opened the meeting with prayer.

Reviewed the Treasurer's report for September. Unable to approve due to lack of quorum.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Stained glass and trim: Stained glass covers are backordered.
- Review of roof bids: Talked about some fundraising ideas to help offset the cost.
- Review of Manse sale status: Waiting on legal documents to be resolved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Need to install acrylic sheets over stained glass windows when they arrive.
- Front yard work: mostly done. Will need to redo landscape and rock. Bushes will need to be trimmed. Need to decide what to do with the dirt on the west side of the church.
- Chair in Zach's office needs to be repaired.

Closed meeting with a prayer.

Changed furnace filters.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Nelson

IN-PERSON/COVID UPDATE

Our in-person services are currently suspended due to the recent directives from both government and health officials, in addition to our own observations about the increase of local cases, and the burdened nature of our healthcare system. Session will meet every two weeks to re-evaluate and we will keep you posted.



ALL submissions for the December Newsletter must be in by **NO LATER** than Wednesday, December 16th. Items received after that date may not make it into the newsletter.

Thank you for your cooperation!

~ Lisa Bowman, Office Manager



2020
Annual Report

ATTENTION COMMITTEE LEADERS OF EDGINGTON EPC

The end of the year is rapidly approaching!

If you lead/head/chair any committee or group you need to have a report in the Annual Report. Please start working on it as soon as possible. Reports are due by Monday, January 25th, 2021.

If you have any questions, or should need to see a copy of last year's report please contact Lisa in the office at 309-795-1713.

The Annual Congregational Meeting date is Sunday, January 31st.

October 20, 2020

The Mission Committee met on October 20th, 2020 at 6:30pm in the church basement. Those attending were: Deb Wagamon, Lisa Nelson, Nancy Engstrom, Todd Stegmiller, and Session Representative Kevin Oak.

Deb opened the meeting in prayer

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Minutes from Previous Meeting:** approved
- **Review of Church Mailings:** The committee reviewed all ministry newsletters, thank you notes, and flyers to ensure we are current on all requests, upcoming fundraisers, and ministry needs.
- **Youth Hope:** Generous donations from a local church and supporters have provided 1 new transit van and 2 buses. The main need at this time is the YH Creative Program leader position.
- **Pregnancy Resources:** (Jim) – No update at this time. The Baby Bottle fundraiser is still scheduled for January 2021. As the time draws near, we will promote this further.
- **Winnie's Place:** (Nancy) – There has been no further discussion on volunteers to assist with deck replacement. The 2nd and 3rd story decks need to be completely redone. Denise will check to see if supplies have been donated for these projects. They can function through the winter if they are unable to replace these decks at this time. They are still in need of supplies such as aluminum foil, canned foods, toiletry items, etc. Lastly, the store closing has brought with it additional needs. We may have more update by the November meeting.
- **Steve Woodworth & McCullum's:** (Todd) - They continue to move forward with training missionaries through Zoom; keeping up with normal ministry needs and spreading God's word to many. They would be willing to come speak to the congregation for an update.
- **Scott and Colleen Burdsall:** (Barb) – Update for next meeting
- **Saul & Jess Huber:** (Kevin) – Saul and his son tested positive for COVID. Current donations are down this year as they are unable to visit churches. Please keep them in prayer.
- **Jeff Lancaster:** (Lisa) – Lisa should have an update for us by the November meeting.
- **Christian Care:** (Jim R.) – Update in November
- **Current US Disaster Support:** (Barb) - None listed at this time on the website.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Quarterly Commitments:** Committee approved payment of our 4th Qtr. Commitments

Mission	Qtrly Payment
World Outreach (Burdsall)	1,875.00
World Outreach ITEN (McCallum)	1,000.00
World Outreach ITEN (Woodworth)	2,125.00
World Outreach (Huber)	500.00
EPC Church Planting (Lancaster)	1,250.00
Youth Hope	1,500.00
Youth Hope - MAD Program	500.00
Pregnancy Resources	500.00
TOTAL	9,250.00

- **Minute for Mission:** There will be no minute for mission this Sunday

Kevin closed the meeting in prayer.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17th, 2020 at 6:30pm.



YouthHope

We Bring Youth Hope!



Year-End Matching Challenge!

Your giving brings Hope!

This year has been hard, especially hard for kids and teens in our low-income communities. When COVID-19 restrictions began, students were prohibited from attending their schools, told to stay home, and many teens missed significant events including prom, sports, and graduation ceremonies. Those moments are lost. Youth are struggling, lonely, and feeling unsure.

It's been a tough year for everyone. Kids and teens in low-income neighborhoods need help and hope more than any other time that I have seen in my 33 years of leading YouthHope. **But, YOU Bring Youth Hope...through YouthHope!**



Your gifts this year have had an incredible impact during this tough time! Because of you, we didn't stop; you sent us, and we went. During COVID-19's shutdown, our staff safely visited children and teens curbside at their homes. We delivered food, books, and Bible studies six feet apart. We stayed connected through virtual small groups, texting, calling, and video chats. During this pandemic, we created online Bible studies, devotions, and messages on YouTube. AND, because of your generosity, we held four weeks of Camp Summit in July!

This fall, our staff developed and is implementing a day-time education support program at both Centers. This initiative is assisting the most at-risk students with online education. Additionally, we are having safe clubs, small groups, and one-on-one discipleship.

A big-hearted supporter pledged \$20,000 as a Challenge Match!

Will you please give a generous year-end gift and help meet this Challenge Match? You can be the solution for young lives that are having a very tough year. Help us reach, teach, and bring hope to hundreds of kids, teens, and families during COVID-19 and this season of uncertainty.

You are making a difference one life at a time by bringing youth hope. Thank you for caring.




Mark Drake
Executive Director

Donate
online by
clicking
HERE



FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

God provided a beautiful day for the food pantry distribution. We handled everything different this year.

Three of the food pantry staff, with help from two others, did all the packing. Food was purchased in small lots over several months. All boxes were packed the same. On Saturday morning, October 31st, cars lined up and helpers loaded the boxes into the cars. The staffers wore masks – very appropriate for Halloween.



As carts were emptied, they went back to the basement where they were reloaded and taken up to the distribution area. Patrons and workers alike were very pleased with the way things were handled. Best of all, distribution was completed on time!

Since I (Shirley Flemming) was not able to help, I want to thank all who made this work run smoothly! We were fortunate to have great donations from the community. A special thanks to Jim Schaubroeck and Dewey Flemming, who did all the shopping!

We served 44 families consisting of 156 people – 102 adults, 21 teens, and 33 children. Again, thanks to all who donated food or money, prayed for us, and helped to pack and distribute!!

Shirley & Dewey Flemming, Sharon & Jim Schaubroeck, Sue Penry



BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

We have the opportunity to volunteer to ring the bell for the Salvation Army Kettle drive on Saturday, December 5th at the Milan HyVee. We need individuals to volunteer for one or two hours shifts that day between 10am and 9pm.

If you, with members of your family or with a friend, would like to serve in this capacity, please contact Barb Freyermuth at freyermuth@machlink.com or contact the church office at 309-795-1713 or edgingtonepc@gmail.com



Project NOW
Community Action Agency

PROUDLY SERVING
SENIORS SINCE 1968



For many years now Edgington EPC has been a host site for Senior Meals. The doors are open here for meals on Monday, Thursday, and Friday.

Meals are available for a suggested donation of \$3 to anyone 60+ years or with a disability. If you are new to the program, you need to call 309-788-6335 the day before to request your meal.



NOTE: All Meal Sites are cancelled until the restrictions concerning COVID-19 have been lifted and it is deemed safe to gather together again. **HOWEVER, meals are still being delivered to individual's homes!** Please contact Project Now if you or someone you know could benefit from this service!

Their number is 309-788-6335 or you can email the director, Michelle Dyer, at mdyer@projectnow.org

DID YOU KNOW YOU WERE A BRIDGE BUILDER?



You are the bridge builder to a new hope-filled reality for a mom or dad. You are making connections every day to help a mom or dad move from a poverty mindset towards better resources and grow resilient through education. This ability to be resilient happens over time, as support systems are built. Coping strategies can be developed, and a bit of distance from emotional, mental, and or financial limits can be established. As a builder, you help moms and dads make connections to other people, new resources, and established problem-solving techniques. Moms and dads, who come to Pregnancy Resources, leave empowered. Dads like Dan.*

Dan was deeply impacted by the one-on-one time spent with a Pregnancy Resources Dad Coach. As Dan and his mentor/coach were bonding over car talk, Dan shared, *"I was afraid before I came here and took this dad class."* BUT... This new father left with diapers and a new car seat. These resources met his immediate need to provide for his little one, but more importantly, he knew he was not alone. Dan knew he could call on his mentor if he had a question. These types of relationships give Dan the opportunity and help needed to grow his ability to be resilient.

Together as bridge builders, you and I help Moms and Dads in a crisis to overcome fear, gain a new perspective, and discover the needed internal motivation to change. Bridge-building touches the hearts and lives of moms too. Moms like Danielle*.

Danielle came to Pregnancy Resources and participated in EVERY parenting class offered. When Danielle came to get her car seat and new baby bag for her little one, she said, *"I am so glad Pregnancy Resources exists! I learned so much from the parenting classes and saved all the brochures and notes."* Danielle learned new skills and received resources to help with her precious baby.

You helped make this type of purpose-filled parenting possible. Your investment of prayer, time, and finances allows her to move towards being resilient. More people than ever need the strength and comfort you continue to provide. Because of your generosity, parents can find authentic hope as they move forward one small step at a time.

Liz Ryan, Outreach and Events

*Name changed for privacy

To read the entire
Fourth Quarter
Heartlines Edition
click [HERE](#)

PRAISES & PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for a Pregnancy Resources Client who is currently undecided about her pregnancy and is struggling with some challenging family dynamics and an unsupportive father of the baby. Pray that she would find the support that she needs to choose life for her child.
- Praise God for the moms and dads who are seeking help every day! A mom learned this week that she is expecting twins! Pray for her, and all our clients who are choosing life and preparing for big changes ahead.
- Continue to pray for the Pregnancy Resources Team, several of whom are facing serious health issues.
- Praise God that a client who we have been ministering to for several weeks did not go through with her scheduled abortion. She is choosing life for her child!
- Pray for a client who is dealing with profound mental health issues. Pray that she would seek the professional help that she needs.
- Praise God that some of the Pregnancy Resources Team Members who were out with health issues have returned to serve in our Centers.
- Pray for a client who is in a physically dangerous situation. Pray that she would find the strength and the resources to get to a safe place.
- Pray for our clients who are in domestic violence situations. Pray that they would have the courage to get help for themselves and for their children.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Pregnancy Resources! Your faithfulness is such a blessing to us!

~ Marissa J. Foss, Admin. Assistant



Many of you are already planning your 2021 calendars. Our theme for the year is "The Journey." Please keep these dates in mind so you can join us for the Journey through 2021:

Gathering for the Journey - **Banquet**, March 2021

Joining the Journey - **PRC 101 Volunteer Training Dates**:

March 2nd-4th, June 1st-3rd, or October 5th-7th, 2021

Walking the Journey - **Walk for Life** - Saturday, September 11th, 2021

LOCAL MINISTRY PARTNERS' NEEDS

All the items we give out are donated by people just like you. If you'd like to donate new or gently used items, we would greatly appreciate your help.

Maternity & baby items we love getting:

Baby clothes Sizes: preemie – 3T (New or Gently used)
Modern Pregnancy Clothes, all sizes (New or Gently used)

NEW Baby Bottles and Nipples pacifiers
Diapers (Sizes: Newborn – size 5)
Baby Wipes
Cozy Baby Blankets (purchased or homemade)
Receiving Blankets
Baby Swings, Strollers, & Pack 'n Plays

PLEASE NOTE: Because of safety issues, we cannot accept: used car seats, used cribs, used bottles, used bottle nipples, or used breast pumps.
Questions about clothing room donations? Just call us at (563)386-3737 or (309)797-3636.



By providing safe shelter, support, and resources, Christian Care empowers the homeless to make positive changes in every aspect of their lives.

Christian Care is also in need of a variety of items:

Men's Clothing:

- Coats
- Gloves
- Sweatshirts/pants
- Hoodies
- Hats
- Jeans
- Shoes (size 6-10)
- Underwear/Socks
- Belts

Pantry/Cleaning Items:

- Mayonnaise
- Pasta
- Coffee/Creamer
- Sugar
- Ranch/BBQ Sauce
- Napkins
- Toothpaste

- Body Wash/Bar Soap
- Deodorant
- Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Laundry Soap
- Bleach
- Toilet Cleaner



Our New Education Program has a variety of needs. Your donations are very much appreciated!

- Headphones
- Hard case pencil boxes
- Pencils
- Electric pencil sharpeners
- Plastic Milk Crates
- Yoga Mats
- Glue Sticks
- Kid scissors
- Crayola Markers
- Crayola Crayons

WINNIE'S PLACE

Women In Need - Nurtured Into Excellence

Sadly, due to economic conditions, Winnie's Wishes Resale Shop has closed.

We are still in need of donations now more than ever!

Needs:

- Gift cards for grocery stores and Walmart/Target
- Garbage Bags - 33 gal. & Tall kitchen (13 gal.)
- Toilet Paper
- Clorox Wipes
- Masks for adults & Children
- Monthly Bus Cards
- Cleaning Supplies
- Postage Stamps
- Paper Towels

Make a Donation
HERE

During the time that we are not having in-person worship services you may drop off donations in the church office during regular office hours. The

Mission Committee has a large storage bin under the table in the sanctuary foyer that has the offering plates on it.

If you are able to donate any of the items needed by the ministries listed above, please leave them in the storage bin, and one of our committee members will deliver them.

Thank you in advance for all your generous donations!



THE SHOW MUST GO ON, SO WINTERIZE THE PORCH!

As the saying goes, “Necessity is the mother of invention.” My good-ole-boy Mississippi roots have helped provide a little necessary ingenuity. As you can see in the picture above, I’ve taken a stab at winterizing our front porch. This is a partial winterizing... gotta leave some open space given the virus factor. Basically, I’ve put tarps on both sides and half of the front of our porch – securing them with cinder blocks and zip ties (Impressive, huh?). Plus, in our tight porch space, I’ve strategically placed two outdoor propane patio heaters. This configuration makes for a pretty cozy yet breathable entertainment cocoon. We can seat up to six with there still being some safe distancing. The icing on the cake is that Cathy purchased 2 Brookstone Heated Sherpa blankets to add just the right hospitality touch. Ha!. The photo above was taken during the maiden voyage of Porch-Lancaster last week. A fun time was had by all! ...the winterizing of our porch is what we hope will provide us chances at gathering in-person with our slowly-but-surely growing list of Chicago friends and neighbors.



When you do the limbo, the crowd chants, “How low can you go? How low can you go?” Well, when we do our front porch dinner hangouts, it’s a fair question to ask, “How low can you go? How low can you go?” Not sure how cozy and warm we can keep it when the severe cold weather blows in, but we’ll push the edges of the envelope for sure.

Last week I was pondering this chapter in the story of our church plant and how limiting it feels. It feels so terribly minimalistic, small, and definitely SLOW. The Spirit brought to mind Zechariah 4. In the context of this passage, the Israelites were returning to the Promised Land after a long painful season in exile. The governor, Zerubbabel, and the high priest, Joshua, had been commissioned to rebuild the temple. Without going into great detail, they were instructed to do so in the face of enormous obstacles. The task seemed insurmountable, and the process was an arduous one dragging out over a couple of decades. The people of God grew cynical in their imaginations. However, the Lord’s word TO and THROUGH the prophet Zechariah stood firm. God would have his temple rebuilt. The show (i.e., God’s mission) would go on! God would display his strength even through the weak and snail’s-pace effort of his people. I love these words from Bryan Gregory’s commentary on Zechariah where he writes:

There is **MUCH** more to this update from top to bottom! To read the whole November report click [HERE](#).

Prayer Requests:

- For the Spirit of our Risen Christ to empower us to joyfully persevere in Pandemic Church Planting. For Christ to fill us full of Faith, Hope, and Love as we do so. For God to strengthen our private lives of communion with Christ.
- For God to bless the gatherings on our winterized porch.
- For God to help us pace ourselves.
- For the Lord to deepen our love for one another as we continue the work of church planting and the work of Cathy's art gallery.
- For our missionary Christ to keep opening up doors of opportunity to grow our relationship network. For Jesus to help us share His love and the good news of the gospel (in word and action) with our new friends.
- For the Lord to give city leaders wisdom to guide Chicagoans through the CoVid-19 crisis.
- For God to use the church, non-profit, for-profit, and government leaders to teach and model civility and racial healing.
- For the Holy Spirit to use this harrowing season to awaken in Chicagoans a greater hunger for God, a greater sense of need for Christ, and a greater vision of the beauty of Christ.
- For God to raise up missional Christians who feel called to help serve in this church planting endeavor. We need bringers, gatherers, leaders, and worker-bees.
- For the Spirit to give me wisdom and creativity as I dream of how to move forward with this mission during the pandemic. And, to help me begin anticipating how I might move forward once our city is more fully opened.
- For Cathy's art career - Pray that the Lord would give her joy as she uses her gifts to reflect God's beauty in the world through art, that the Lord would help us get the word out about her gallery, that the Lord would bless the work of her hands, and that her gallery would continue to be a warm accent to our neighborhood.
- For our children (Lucy, Jeffrey Jr., and Bedon) who are all now living in Nashville. It’s been tough not seeing them for quite some time due to CoVid-19 restrictions.

Sending much love your way from Chicago,

Jeffrey

Please consider hanging in there with us through continued prayer and financial support. Would you please prayerfully consider a year-end gift? To donate click [HERE](#)

GRATITUDE

There have been plenty of things in the last year to complain about. A devastating pandemic

“Our prayers for the evangelization of the world are but a bitter irony so long as we only give of our superfluity and draw back before the sacrifice of ourselves.” -Amy Carmichael

that has claimed thousands of lives, millions of jobs, and deprived the entire world of a sense of community and relationships. Racial tensions that erupted into our city streets. And a contentious election season that exposed our deeply polarized country. I have arrived at the end of 2020 exhausted, anxious, and numb. Moving through each day with a mixture of mechanical grind, and simple obedience. I have spoken to enough of you to know that I am not alone. For many of us, 2021 simply cannot come quick enough.

And yet, I have been constantly reminded that God does his most important work in the *wilderness* — the barren land where our dependance on God alone is tested and refined. It is the place where temptation and rescue, brokenness and healing meet, to shape each of us more into the image of Christ. For these reasons, I am learning to be thankful. Thankful for the body of Christ that has learned to support one another in new and creative ways. Thankful for the benefits of technology that have enabled us to continue ministering abroad. Thankful for supporters like you that undergird this work with your prayers and finances. Thankful for our national partners that have found creative ways to overcome obstacles and persevere in the work of Kingdom. And thankful for the unwavering love and faithfulness of God whose gift of his Son to the world sustains us all. And so I encourage you to read on with a heart of gratitude, to see the work happening in places like Vietnam, Albania and around the world through the support of partners like you. **Thank You!**

VIETNAM

Last month ITEN successfully completed the first round of courses for our program in Vietnam. Ed McCallum taught for the first week on *Understanding and Applying the Bible*, while I taught the second week on *Spiritual Formation*. As I mentioned in my previous newsletter, our program will prepare a select group of students to share the course content in the rural villages of Northern Vietnam with hundreds of other pastors without access to theological education. It is an incredible example of the exponential impact of training nationals to reach and teach their own.

To read the rest of the November Report click [HERE](#).

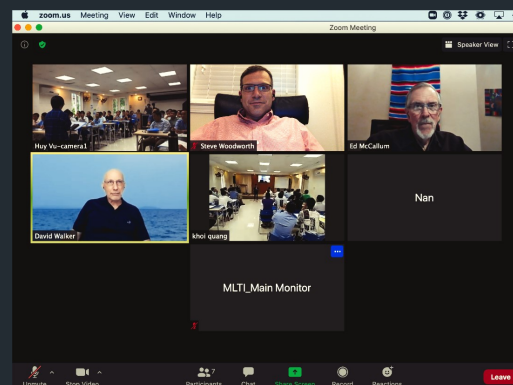
Prayer Requests

- Our oldest son Luke will be leaving for Navy bootcamp in January. Pray for his transition and a community of friends that can continue to bolster his faith.
- The healing of the world and the ability to meet with our partners face-to-face again.
- God's continued provision for our needs as a family, as well as the needs of our partners.
- Creative ways to connect with friends and family over the holidays
- A particularly reflective season of hope during Advent
- Wisdom and discernment as we begin making ITEN plans for the Spring.

Financial Update

As you might have imagined, our support levels have experienced a shortfall due to the effect of COVID on employment and church budgets. In response, I have begun planning for a dedicated time of support raising during the Spring 2021 season. With domestic travel and churches slowly reopening, we are eager to come and share about our work if you have an available time. Please let me know if you foresee a potential opening in the calendar.

[CLICK HERE to become a partner](#), and support our calling to serve those with least access to the gospel. **Thank You!**



THE BURDSALL'S

Serge

Grace at the Fray

Greetings!

We wanted to take a moment to as the holidays approach to thank you for your continued support for our call to ministry here in London. We could not have made it through this past year without people like you willing to care for us through financial support, verbal encouragements and, most importantly, your prayers. We continue to feel the effects of such support even through all the ups and downs of 2020.

Though it has been crazy here in ministry at times during this year, we are also very aware that life in the U.S. hasn't been simple either. The pandemic has been global, racial tensions have been high and the election continues to garner news time everywhere. Amidst these larger situations, we assume the trials of life have also been a part of 2020 for you on a more personal level as well. All of this is to say, we do not take your support for granted and you are much appreciated. We lift you up in prayer as our partners in ministry, thanking God for you individually for how much you mean to us and His call to join in furthering His kingdom on the East End.

We will be sending out our final monthly prayer and update letter soon. (If, for some reason, you have not been receiving these, please don't hesitate to let us know.) Hopefully, it will keep you up to date on how we are doing and what is happening with life and ministry. This message is just to let you know that this Thanksgiving we will be taking time to give our thanks for you and our other supporters. We pray that God's richest blessings come to you in the highs and lows of this life and that you forever feel His love surrounding you.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Grace and peace,

Scott and Colleen (and family)



Prayer Requests:

- We were able to have a bit strange and socially distant, but successful, run through of Asha church last Sunday. Pray for Nov. 15 when we have an actual service. Pray that people we invite would come, that God would be glorified, and that covid rules would be maintained in a way that still enables community.
- Our team started ESOL classes this month, and will continue with classes for women and men on Tuesday and Wednesday. Pray for Scott, who is leading the men's class on Wednesday, and Colleen, who is helping in the women's conversation class on Tuesday with the potential to lead after a bit.
- Colleen has the opportunity to help our local church here with their outreach to local Muslim teen girls through craft clubs in the schools, and a Friday afterschool club. Feeling excited about this, and praying for wisdom in how best to help, and for connections with these girls.
- Scott has been trying to meet with the college guys again, but Covid restrictions make that hard. (new rule is no mixing inside, but outside we can meet with up to 6-this is tricky in British rainy dark winter) Pray for a way to get together with them again and for them to be open to continued conversation.
- Covid rules make normal interactions seem strange. Pray for God to bring people that we know, or are getting to know, across our paths. Chances to meet people outside in the market, or to stand in school pick up line near other parents we know- and that we would make the most of those opportunities.
- Caleb should be finished with his semester at Iowa State right before Thanksgiving, and will fly to stay with us on Nov. 27. Pray that he will be able to get here safely, that restrictions would not change, flights wouldn't be cancelled, and that he finishes the semester well.
- Josiah had two weeks home from school when he had to quarantine from a covid case in his year group. He handled it well, and is back in-person again. He just recently became a house leader (think Harry Potter) and is on the debate team for his school. We are proud of him and grateful that God directed him to that school.
- Lillian is working pretty intensely on college applications this month. Pray for wisdom in her planning, as so many things are uncertain right now.

Thank you for catching that vision with us and for your support, which is part of God's working in East London. We love and appreciate you all!

Colleen, for Scott and the kids

For safety reasons it has been decided not to include a link to their full update. If you would like to receive their regular updates via email, please contact the church office and Lisa will connect you with the Burdsall's to be added to their email list.

Edgington Presbyterian Church

Treasurer's Report October 2020

	Balance	Receipts	Disbursement	Balance
General	\$ 71,207.43	\$ 12,944.41	\$ 22,077.82	\$ 62,074.02
Jahn	\$ 10,019.62	\$ 186.77	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 9,206.39
Edgington	\$ 5,591.02	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 5,691.02
Boughton	\$ 16,717.61	\$ 948.67		\$ 17,666.28
Lauby	\$ 20,326.13	\$ 303.26	\$ -	\$ 20,629.39

Ending Gen. checking balar	89,249.05
Uncleared Transactions	\$ 12,277.62
General checking Balance	\$ 76,971.43

Reconciled Bank Accounts	
Gen. checking	\$ 76,971.43

October 2020 GENERAL FUND EXPENSES

Zach Hopkins salary	4,308.32		
Housing Allowance	1,800.00		
EPC (health)	25.23		
EPC (pension)	875.81		
Mileage	-		
Lisa Bowman	973.29		
Robin Preston	265.44		
Eddy Bull (mowing manse & gas)	97.92		
AT&T	174.18	General	\$ 62,074.02
MidAmerican Energy church	494.00	Edgington	\$ 5,691.02
MidAmerican Energy manse	101.00	Jahn	\$ 9,206.39
Millenium Waste	34.00	TOTAL	\$ 76,971.43
Ministry Designs (website)	30.00		
ABS (copier)	131.45		
Mediacom	304.79		
Harland Clarke (checks)	44.50		
IL Dept of Revenue (payroll tax)	206.24		
Dept Of Treasury (payroll tax)	980.98		
Westminster Books (cont ed)	258.22		
Best Buy (modem)	69.99		
Amazon (cont ed)	158.05		
Banner of Truth (cont ed)	88.00		
Ligonier Ministries (Table Talk)	325.00		
Microsoft (office supply)	106.24		
Amazon (office supplies)	74.36		
The Confessional Journal (cont ed)	80.00		
Zoll (AED battery)	92.11		
Reytel (internet)	228.70		
C Stark (cemetery mowing)	500.00		
Burdsall (mission)	1,875.00		
McCallum (mission)	1,000.00		
Woodworth (mission)	2,125.00		
Huber (mission)	500.00		
Lancaster (mission)	1,250.00		
Youth Hope MAD Program	500.00		
Youth Hope (mission)	1,500.00		
Pregnancy Resources (mission)	500.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$22,077.82	

INCLUDED IN GENERAL FUND TOTAL

Mission monies included in general fund	\$7,554.18
Assistance Fund	\$5,153.46

JAHN FUND

Jimmy Johnson	\$500.00
Reilly Fuller	\$500.00

TOTAL EXPENSES

1000

**Edgington Presbyterian Church
General Fund Profit & Loss
October 2020**

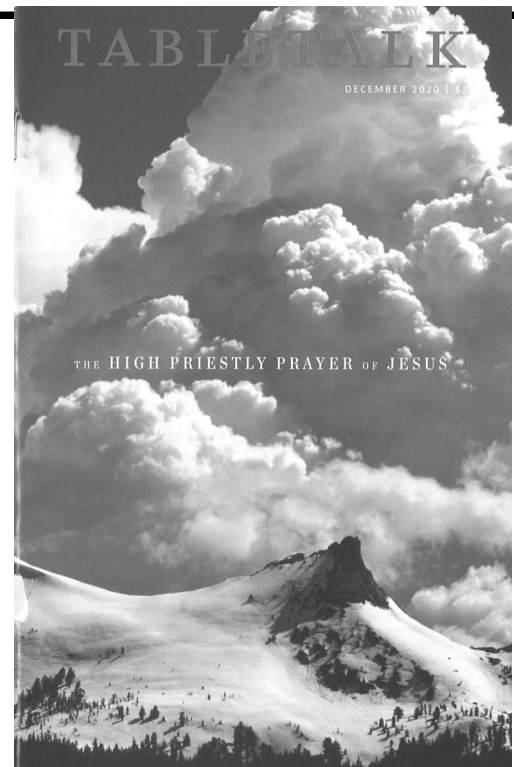
**Edgington Presbyterian Church
Jahn Fund Profit & Loss
October 2020**

	Oct 20
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Per Capita Contributions	240.00
Interest Income - General Fnd	7.34
Loose Offering	189.00
Other Income	100.00
Pledges	12,508.07
Total Income	13,044.41
Expense	
Pastors housing allowance	1,800.00
Operating Maintenance - General	952.73
Resource materials	325.00
Continuing Education	584.27
Mission	
U.S. Mission - Presbyterian	1,250.00
International Mission - Presbyt	5,500.00
Local Mission	2,500.00
Total Mission	9,250.00
Office Supplies	
Copier	131.45
Office Supplies - Other	325.09
Total Office Supplies	456.54
Payroll Expenses	
Custodian Payroll	265.44
Pastor Salary	4,308.32
Payroll Taxes	1,187.22
Secretary Services	973.29
Total Payroll Expenses	6,734.27
Pension & Health Care	901.04
Utilities	
Gas & Electric - Church	494.00
Gas & Electric - Manse	101.00
Internet Service	304.79
Telephone	174.18
Total Utilities	1,073.97
Total Expense	22,077.82
Net Ordinary Income	-9,033.41
Net Income	-9,033.41

	Oct 20
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Interest Income - Jahn	186.77
Total Income	186.77
Expense	
Disbursements - Jahn	1,000.00
Total Expense	1,000.00
Net Ordinary Income	-813.23
Net Income	-813.23



**GET YOUR DECEMBER COPY OF
THE TABLETALK DEVOTIONAL**



LOCATED ON A TABLE IN THE SANCTUARY FOYER

CURRENT SERMON SERIES

Pastor Zach will be preaching a series for Advent called, “Christmas Revealed” - the Christmas Story according to the Book of Revelation. Please join us each week as we enter into God’s presence and worship him corporately through the preaching and teaching of His Word.



Sunday, December 6th - [Revelation 4:1-5:14](#)
Sunday, December 13th - [Revelation 7:1-17](#)
Sunday, December 20th - [Revelation 12:1-17](#)
Thursday, December 24th - [Revelation 19:1-10](#)
Sunday, December 27th - [Revelation 19:11-21](#)

SCRIPTURE LINKS - Download the apps!



ESV.org is an online Bible reading tool created to help you read and engage with God's Word. While many features of the site are available without signing in, we invite you to **create a free account**, which makes it easy to save personal notes, highlight favorite verses, and start interactive reading plans.

(Click on the images to go to their websites)



Blue Letter Bible provides powerful tools for an in-depth study of God’s Word through our free online reference library, with study tools that are grounded in the historical, conservative Christian faith. We view the Bible as central to our study resources. We intentionally designed the website to include study tools that are linked directly to Bible passages. Dig deep into the Word using commentaries, encyclopedias, maps/images and much more. One of our most used tools is the Lexicon search, which gives users immediate access to the original Hebrew and Greek words.

Pastor Zach will continue to be Facebook Live every Sunday morning at 10am for our Lord’s Day Worship Service .

If you are not already a member of our Facebook group, please click on the image for the link. “Like” our page and request to join. We are pretty quick to respond. Make sure you are “following” our page and turn your notifications setting on if you would like to receive a notification when Pastor Zach begins to stream. We will post a worship guide each Sunday morning at 8am that includes our Children’s Sunday School lessons and a curriculum video link.



Find us on
Facebook



Adult Sunday School is Back!

"CHRIST IS ALL: The Book of Hebrews"

Starting 9/13 ~ 9am-9:40am ~ Meeting in the Sanctuary ~ Livestream Available

IN-PERSON SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED

Please watch for updates in your email, on our Facebook page, and on our website.

The Children's Sunday School lessons are being posted on Facebook each week.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Every Sunday morning at 9am

We use Great Commission Publications various curriculum based on each grade level.



Toddler	- Hillary Terrill & Kortney Geirlus
Pre-K	- Beth Flickinger
1st-2nd	- Katie Pearson
3rd-5th	- Kathy Stegmiller
Junior High	- Tara Johnson & Deanna Parchert
Senior High	- Brandee Neece



All of Scripture is the unfolding story of salvation and Jesus is its focus. We show how Jesus, revealed throughout the Bible, came to seek and save the lost.

We look forward to the privilege of caring for and teaching your children about Jesus each Sunday!

Christmas REVEALED

The Christmas Story According to the **Book of Revelation**

11/29 - Revelation 1:9-20		12/20 - Revelation 12:1-7
12/6 - Revelation 4:1-5:14		12/24 - Revelation 19:1-10
12/13 - Revelation 7:1-17		12/27 - Revelation 19:11-21



A SERVICE OF

LESSONS & CAROLS

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DEC. 13TH - 5:00PM

 **EDGINGTON**
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH





The Lessons & Carols Service will be an online only service this year. We encourage you to gather with your families to watch, sing, and worship!



Christmas Eve Service, December 24th, at 5pm. Registration required. The link below is where you will need to go to register. It will be activated on November 24th.

[Christmas Eve Worship](#)





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Meeting Cancelled

Due to the increase of cases and current burden on our local healthcare system we are cancelling our December meeting.



Throughout the year, the PW hosts various events, which includes refreshments for special services, luncheons for special meetings and funerals. We hold a rummage and bake sale as a fundraiser every year, and sometimes a soup luncheon as well. We help financially support many projects throughout the church, as well as mission work locally, nationally, and abroad.

NO QUILTING DAY THIS MONTH

Third Thursday of each month, 9am - Noon

Please come and join us as we create, piece, and sew quilts to present to next year's graduating seniors, as well as Winnie's Place.

Even if you don't know how to sew, but can operate a pair of scissors and/or an iron, we would love to have you! If we can increase our production, we will be able to bless even more people in the community.

Please consider joining us! Hope to see you there!



Thank you so much for the paper products and Clorox wipes donated to us here at Winnie's Place. You are all so

very thoughtful!

Thank you!

Winnie's Place Staff



FOOT CLINIC UPDATE

The Foot Clinic is starting back up on Mon., Dec. 21st!
If you would like a medically profession pedicure appointment, please call the church office at 309-795-1713.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX UPDATE

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your unselfish contributions to Operation Christmas Child this year. Your donations are very important in helping spread the word of God to children around the world.

We were able to fill 93 boxes and send an additional 5 boxes full of school supplies and toys which will be used to help fill additional boxes at the distribution center. Through your participation you have brought joy to a child in need by sending a gift filled shoebox to be delivered along with the good news of Jesus Christ. This would not have been successful without your act of generosity and support. I am very blessed to belong to such a humble congregation.

Thank you again for your willingness to donate and play a part in Operation Christmas Child.

Kortney Gierlus

DECEMBER 2020



Sunday School 9am
Worship Service 10am

EEPC
Phone: 309-795-1713 / 309-795-1714
Email: edgingtonepc@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.edgingtonepc.org

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29 ALL IN-PERSON EVENTS ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID, BUT SESSION IS MEETING EVERY 2 WEEKS TO RE-EVALUATE THE SITUATION. PLEASE WATCH FOR EMAIL, FACEBOOK, AND WEB-SITE UPDATES.				3 PW Mtg. 1pm	4	5
6 Food Pantry Sunday	7	8	9 Trustees Mtg. 7pm	10	11	12
13 B/P Checks Lessons & Carols Service, 5pm FB Live only	14	15 Mission Comm. Mtg., 6:30pm	16 Newsletter Items Due	17 Quilting, 9am	18	19
20	21 Foot Clinic	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service, 5pm	25 Christmas <i>for unto us a child is born</i>	26
27 B/P Checks	28	29 Session Mtg. 7pm	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2