



“I pray to God to give me perseverance
and to deign that I be a faithful witness
to Him to the end of my life for my
God.” — Saint Patrick

Soul, Human Souls, and Three Views

Soul is a recently released movie from Disney’s famous subsidiary animation company PIXAR. It tells the story of Joe Gardner (Jamie Foxx), an African American middle-school band teacher who dreams of making it as a jazz pianist. After an accident puts him into a near-death “holding pattern” coma, we’re taken on a journey with his soul as he explores life and death, where souls go (The Great Beyond), and where souls come from (The Great Before). A not-yet-born soul named 22 (Tina Fey)—who is avoiding an embodied life on Earth—joins Joe in this story. Though each of them begins from different starting points—Joe, not wanting to die and 22, not wanting to live—both discover that “all this living is worth dying for.”

We shouldn’t expect movies like this to affirm the teachings of biblical Christianity regarding the immortality of human souls, the afterlife, or quite frankly, much of anything related to these topics. There is, however, aspects of common grace in these products of culture. Not necessarily for what they are attempting to put forward, but more for the conversations they incite. Consider for example, when was the last time it was socially or culturally acceptable to have a conversation about human souls and their destiny? Thanks to this movie, there is an inroad to that very subject.

But, if we’re going to engage in these types of conversation as we should, we should do so with at least a basic background of knowledge on the topic. So, where do human souls come from? God created human life by breathing life into a body formed of the dust so that man was “a living soul” ([Gen 2:7](#)). The body had an earthly and material origin, but the life of Adam as a soul was the result of God’s unique creative work. Adam was made up of both body and soul, two parts which are distinct and separable only by death. That’s a bit of an easy answer because *that was Adam*. It’s a bit of a different question to ask: how do all of the other souls of those who descended from Adam come into existence? What about everybody else?

History has given three main answers to that question. One of them is biblically indefensible (meaning it’s not correct) and the other two are legitimate options.

The first is called the preexistent view which teaches that all rational people lived as spirits prior to being implanted into bodies. This view has some basis in Greek philosophy, but it is most notably the view held by the Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) Church. Essentially, they believe that souls are not created but have existed with God since the beginning, and as a result, claim that we are all gods. This would be the view that the movie *Soul* represents, but is not the teaching of Scripture, since as we have already indicated, Adam’s soul was not preexistent, it was created, which is exactly what David says of himself in [Psalm 139](#), that God formed him in his mother’s womb – body and soul. This view has been rejected throughout Christian history as being unbiblical.

The second view is called the traducian view and maintains that human parents generate the soul of a child just as they generate the child’s body. That is, procreation involves the conception of the whole being, both material and immaterial aspects, body and soul – meaning the soul is derived from the soul of


one of both parents. This is a popular view among Lutheran theology and some Reformed traditions, and when considered emotionally, has much force behind a parent's statement that a child literally "comes from me."

Third, the creationist view of the soul is that God makes each individual soul out of nothing at the beginning of each human life. This is the most popular view throughout Christian history, and is evidenced by biblical texts that teach that God made the spirits of all men ([Isa 42:5](#); [57:16](#); [Zech 12:1](#); [Heb 12:9](#)). However, these passages don't necessarily explain whether God creates souls in the manner of the traducian view or not, they simply affirm that God is actively involved in the creation of our immaterial substance. The basic conclusion of this view is that immaterial and immortal soul is not created by the physical and material act of two human parents, the original of the soul must be the divine work of God.

Truthfully, there are legitimate points in both of these second and third views, and orthodox theologians throughout the ages have allowed for uncertainty as to which view was more or less correct. The great American Reformed theologian and professor Charles Hodge said, "The production of a new individual of the human race is an inscrutable mystery." I think that's the right kind of humility to have on a subject like this and remain content in what God has chosen to reveal or conceal ([Deut 29:29](#)).

In whatever way God may form the soul, it is clear from Scripture that He makes every individual human being in both body and spirit. The exact means by which that happens might be uncertain, but the truth that we have both body and soul is not.

That was a long way of saying – isn't it fascinating that this is a part of our cultural conversation? It will do us well to be able to have that conversation, and hopefully, also have the opportunity to speak of the Lord Jesus, the Redeemer of our whole lives – body and eternal soul.



2021 VBS PLANNING MEETING

Sunday, March 7th at Noon


Things are still very tentative, but we are moving forward with the planning, at least, in hopes that we will be able to host VBS this year.

The theme this year is:
Rocky Railways, Where Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through!

Thank you for your continued support of the community outreach!

Session is requesting that you pray for them to have wisdom and discernment moving forward in a search for someone to lead our music ministry. Honoring the Lord through music is such an important part of our worship and we want to continue to grow, share, and delight in making music together to the Lord.

Please pray for us!



ALL submissions for the April Newsletter must be in by **NO LATER** than Wednesday, March 17th. Items received after that date may not make it into the newsletter.

Thank you for your cooperation!

~ Lisa Bowman, Office Manager

ELDERS

Keith Wilson - Clerk
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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2 - Lowell & Phyllis Titterington
 10 - Todd & Lauren Stegmiller

*thank
you*

I would like to thank my church family for the calls, cards and prayers since my surgery. It was all much appreciated.

With your help I am hopefully on the road to recovery.

Thank you so much!

Grace to everyone.

Mic Penry

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 - Augie Kerres	19 - Joshua Fuhr
5 - Michelle Franklin	19 - Keith Wilson
7 - Jordyn Stegmiller	21 - Evelyn Hessman
8 - Marilou Simpson	23 - John Fuhr
9 - Andy Gundling	23 - Rachel Johnson
10 - Nancy Cooksey	23 - Caroline Tiffany
10 - Steven Woeckener	24 - Rich Stillwell
14 - Tom Huntley	24 - Steven Wagamon
16 - Hunter Wistedt	25 - Donald Rursch
16 - Logan Wistedt	26 - Jonathan Gierlus
19 - Nita Darland	29 - Carol Kaiser

GREETERS FOR MARCH

Sunday, March 7th - Todd & Lauren Stegmiller Family
 Sunday, March 14th - Kevin & Cindy Oak
 Sunday, March 21st - Patrick & Peggy Shovar
 Sunday, March 28th - Jim & Carrie Reimers Family

*thank
you*

To all the members of EEP, C,

I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you who sent cards for my 60th birthday. It has been a joyful surprise, and I am so grateful to know that so many people care about me.

I especially loved the card signed by all the kids! And, I want to remind everyone that 60 years goes by very quickly, so make the most of the time that you have.

Thank you again!

With love,

Linda Anderson



SESSION

January 26, 2021 at 7pm

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Attendees Present: Zach Hopkins, Mic Penry, Jim Mueller, Kevin Oak, Patrick Shovar, and Keith Wilson.
A quorum is present.

Pastor Zach acted as moderator of the meeting. Zach opened the meeting with prayer and reading Galatians Chapter 3:3.

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

Approval of Minutes: December 2, 2020 and December 16, 2020 meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion was made and seconded to approved the minutes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Deacons have scheduled the blood drive for March 6th, 2021 and have requested the use of the basement, if possible. Otherwise, the blood center would use their blood mobile in the church parking lot. After discussion a motion was made to allow the use of the old basement for this event. The motion was seconded and approved.
- Zach reminded the Session members of the January 30th Presbytery meeting. It is to be conducted virtually via Zoom. Zach, Mic, and Patrick will be attending. During the meeting Zach will be introducing Mic as the new Moderator of Rivers and Lakes Presbytery. Other Session members are welcome to attend.
- The Session reviewed the agenda and Session report for the upcoming 2020 Annual Meeting on January 31st, 2021. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda and Session report. The motion carried.
- The Session discussed the Nominating Committee situation. It was felt that due to the inability to meet and conduct business as usual, a pause in moving forward is necessary. We are hopeful that we will be able to finish this process in the next few months. A Congregational meeting will likely be necessary to be held after committee selections in order to vote on the nominations of new committee members.
- The Session discussed the near-term prospects for church life moving forward. There was consensus for the need to continue to carefully follow state guidelines. The recent loosening of restrictions is cause for some optimism.
- The Session reviewed plans for Communion to be held February 7th. We will continue to use the same protocols for distributing the elements.
- Zach discussed his vacation situation. He noted that he was only able to take one week in 2020. The Session approved his vacation request for March 15th – March 22nd. This will require pulpit coverage for March 21st. Zach will explore options for this.
- Zach reminded the Session that the new members have not had an opportunity to state their membership vows due to cancelling in-person services in November. Zach will try to schedule this in February.

Next called Session meeting will be: February 23rd, 2021.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Motion carried.

Zach closed the meeting with prayer.

**Edgington Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Annual Meeting**

January 2020 – December 2020

January 31st, 2021, 11:15am

Location: Church Sanctuary

Attendees: 24 members were in attendance which exceeds the requirements of 20 for a quorum.

Zach Hopkins served as moderator.

Zach opened the meeting with prayer.

Purpose: The annual congregational meeting is held to review the reports for the year 2020 and affirm the 2021 budget.

- **Approval of Docket:** Motion made and seconded to approve the docket. Motion carried.
- **Approval of minutes:** The January 19th, 2020 minutes were reviewed. Motion made, seconded, and approved. Motion carried.
- **OLD BUSINESS:** None
- **Committee Reports:** Appreciation was expressed to all committee members, teachers, and volunteers. Reviewed collectively with comments as noted, motion made to approve all reports, seconded, and approved.
 - **Session:** Zach reviewed the Session activities for the year. He highlighted that the Session has been studying and implementing a Shepherding-based ministry. Each church member is assigned to a Session member who keeps them in prayer and is available to the member. Mic Penry and Keith Wilson acknowledged the extraordinary work that Pastor Zach, the committees of the church, and the Sunday School teachers have done the past year. Zach was asked why there were no women on the Session. Zach responded that none have been nominated to serve in the office of Ruling Elder.
 - **Deacons:** Beth Flickinger reviewed the activities of the Deacons during 2020 and thanked the members of the committee. She noted the committee had to adapt to the pandemic and modify plans with guidance from the Session. She was very appreciative of the support and assistance of the church family.
 - **Trustees:** Mel Block reviewed the activities of the Trustees in 2020 and thanked the trustees and other volunteers for their efforts. Mel stated that there were many projects completed during 2020, some requiring hiring outside contractors due to the lack of time or expertise. He pointed out that among the many projects were the refinishing of the sanctuary pews and the caulking and sealing of the stained-glass windows on the south side of the church. Mel also noted that the church roof was in need of repair and that they had received two bids for the work, and they are waiting for a third bid. The two bids range from \$45,000 to \$75,000. The cost could be higher dependent on structural damage that may need to be addressed. The sale of the manse with the assistance of Janet Schmidt was also discussed.



- **Mission Committee:** Barb Freyermuth thanked the committee members and summarized their work. Barb said that the committee managed to continue to meet via Zoom meetings during the pandemic. She praised the church and its commitment to mission. She pointed out that the Angel Tree project was a big success in spite of having to conduct it through Facebook.
- **Treasurer's Report:** No comments
- **Investment Committee:** No comments
- **Youth Group:** No comments
- **Vacation Bible School:** Kathy Stegmiller is hopeful that VBS can be held this summer. She has spoken to a representative of the Boy Scout Camp, and they said a decision would be made in April whether or not to open the camp in 2021. She was hopeful that we would find out sooner.
- **Food Pantry:** Zach expressed appreciation for the tireless work of the volunteers.
- **Presbyterian Women:** Dorothy Rursch thanked the church and members of the organization for their support. She said the group would love to have more members to join. She mentioned the groups involvement in organizing funeral dinners, the rummage sale and projects such as recovering the choir chairs.
- **Memorial Fund:** Nancy Cooksey pointed out the use of funds for memorials for Everett Hessman and Janet Jack.
- **Auditor Report:** A thank you to Jon Darland was expressed.

■ NEW BUSINESS:

- **New Ministry Opportunities:** Zach encouraged members that are healthy, well, and not at high risk of infection to return to church worship, acknowledging that there are members that feel safer staying at home and worshiping via livestream.
- **Review of the 2021 Budget:** The Session previously approved the budget. The congregation votes to affirm and support it. The motion was made, seconded and approved.

- **Nominating Committee:** Zach stated that due to present circumstances there is no slate of committee nominees at this time. The committee will begin work on this in the next few months and will have this filled out by spring. A congregational meeting will be necessary to elect the nominees.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting, seconded and approved.

Zach closed the meeting with prayer at 11:57am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Wilson, Clerk of Session

January 2021 Re-Opening Q&A



We are very glad to announce that we will worship in person again beginning January 17, 2021. We have missed being together, especially throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons, but we are thankful to have the chance to enjoy the fellowship of the church family again. As everyone likely anticipates, things will be different for now, as they were last summer and fall. The Session has reviewed the governor's guidelines, consulted with officials in the Rock Island County Health Department, and kept an eye on the metrics and data for both our state region and local community. With all this in mind, we want to make sure we are clearly communicating the plan for resuming our gatherings in our building. We've organized this information around some frequently asked questions, but if you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at the church office at 309-795-1713 or edgingtonepc@gmail.com.

Should I stay home?

That is a decision that we will not bind your conscience with. We want to assure anyone who, out of genuine health and safety concerns for themselves or their family, might feel safer staying home and worshipping via livestream that you should feel no guilt or shame in doing so.

Additionally, if you have any of the following symptoms, please do not attend: fever, chills, body aches, cough/congestion, recent loss of taste or smell, or if you are generally unwell. Based on current medical advice, we encourage those who are in categories of increased risk of hospitalization from COVID-19 due to underlying health issues, low immunity, or age, also to consider refraining from attending worship services right now.

What guidelines are in place?

- For those choosing to worship on site, the use of masks will be encouraged for entry and exit. Once you are seated in a pew, and appropriately distanced, the continued use of a mask will be up to the conscience of the individual worshipper. They will not be required during the service. If you would like a mask, one will be available to you while supplies last.
- We encourage you to maintain appropriate physical distance while on the church grounds. While we recognize a deep longing for fellowship, we encourage you to avoid shaking hands or other forms of physical contact for the present time.
- Seating will be available in various limited capacities (see map below):

- Sanctuary seating will be available and appropriately spaced to allow for social distancing between family units. Those pews containing stacked Bibles and hymnals will be off-limits. Limit: 65 worshippers.
- Additional limited seating will be available in the balcony.
- Once the attendance limit has been met in the sanctuary (65), worshippers will be directed to the basement where the service will be live-streamed (audio & video).
- Pews will be dismissed from the back to the front after the postlude has concluded.
- Offering plates will be placed just outside the sanctuary doors to collect tithes and offerings. Online giving is also available and encouraged using [Tithely](#). You may also mail your contributions directly to the church [Edgington EPC - 13228 140th Street West – Taylor Ridge, IL 61284].

What about Sunday School?

Sunday school classes will meet at 9am. Please enter through the main entrance and go directly to your classroom. Children's classes will meet in their normal rooms which allow for appropriate distance. The Adult Class will continue to meet in the sanctuary, in addition to providing a livestream of our Hebrews teaching series.

What if I have grown comfortable worshipping from home?

Notwithstanding the answer to the first question above, if you are healthy and well, we encourage you to heed the call to come and worship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. We have been worshipping from home out of necessity, not personal convenience. Come and enjoy the blessings of the Lord's Day as we worship together in our beautiful sanctuary and delight in the glories of Zion on this side of heaven. Furthermore, we have missed you – and we long to see you and your family again.

What if I have other questions or conscience objections to any of these plans?

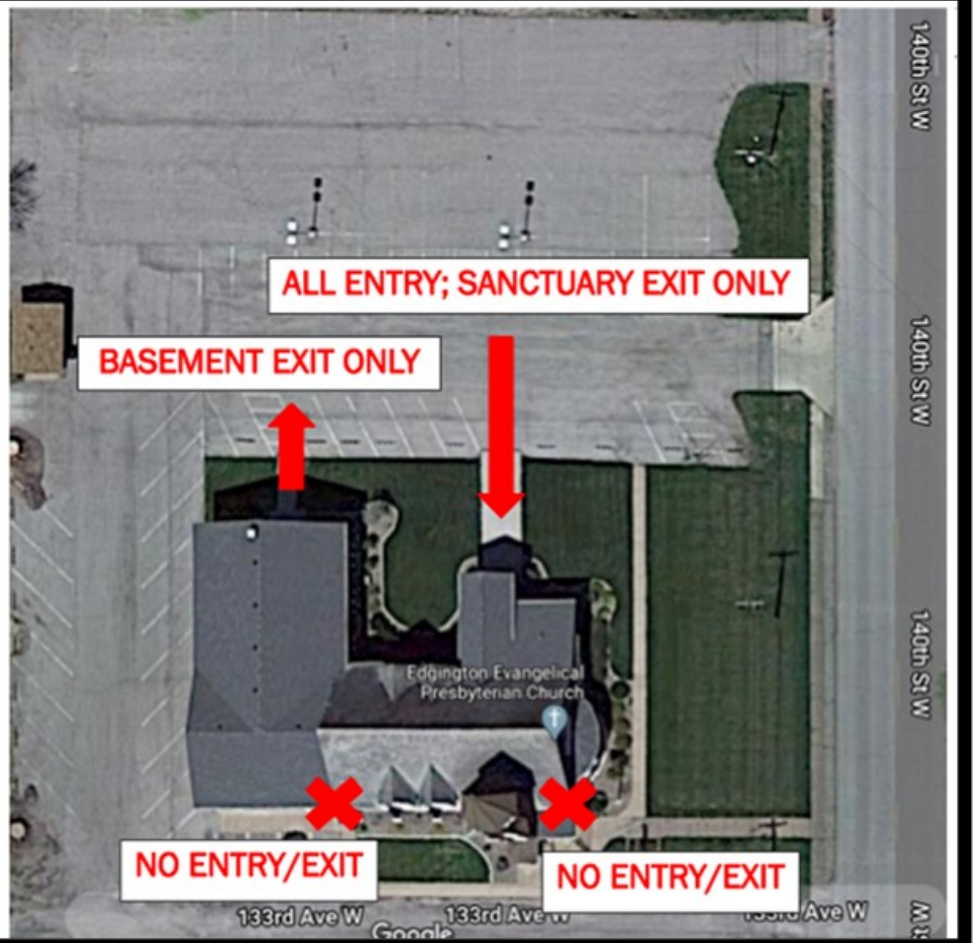
Please contact us. We would love to speak with you.

Cont. from p. 8

In compliance with CDC guidelines, "one-way" routes will be established for entry and exit from the facility.

To promote the safe flow of entry and exit, please plan to visit in the parking lot before or after the service, rather than in the facility.

We appreciate your cooperation with these directions.



Date: February 2, 2021

In attendance were: Scott Cullen, Beth Flickinger, Peggy Shovar, Session Representative Patrick Shovar, Jan and Norm Dunlap, and Beth and Don Easterla.

Peggy opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the December Meeting: Approved as written.

December - January Activities: 102 visits and 25 cards (9 birthday, 5 Anniversary, 3 Get Well and 8 Notes) were sent.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Beth thanked the Cullens, Dunlaps and Cora for their continued service as Deacons.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Volunteers were taken for committees as follows:
 - Cards: Cora Schafman (continuing)
 - Blood drive: Scott & Cindy Cullen (continuing)
 - Shut-ins: Linda Anderson: Cindy & another Deacon (to be announced)
Donald and Clarice Docherty – Dunlaps & Beth Flickinger
Janice Armstrong – Cora will send cards only
Jim & Maxine Pettit – Cora and Peggy to send cards only
Maxine Fuhr – Beth Flickinger
Clarissa Jahn – Beth Flickinger
Phyllis and Lowell Titterington – Dunlaps & Beth
Evelyn Hesseman – Jan Dunlap
- Volunteers were assigned to schedule greeters.
- The spring blood drive will be held on March 6th in the church basement, 7am to noon.

Next Deacon meeting will be held April 11th.

Beth closed meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Cullen

NEED A HAND OR ENCOURAGEMENT? ASK A DEACON!



The Deacons' charge is to care for the church body. You may already know that we provide delicious treats to celebrate new members, collect coats for those in need, and organize blood drives. But did you now that we are ready to serve in other ways, too?

Here are some of the ways a Deacon can help out:

- Visit shut-ins (including those who are temporarily unable to make it to worship) to provide cheer and recordings of the sermon (**during this time, they will make calls to visit over the phone**)
- Deliver meals to those who are injured, ill, or have experienced a loss
- Visit widows(ers) to comfort and provide company (**again, during this time, calls will be made**)
- Send cards to recognize milestone birthdays and anniversaries, and express condolences
- Organize transportation to doctor's appointments (please give advance notice)

Please, if you or someone you know could benefit in one of these areas, please let a Deacon know right away. We try to anticipate needs, but we are only human, and need help with knowing needs! The 2020 Deacon team includes: Scott & Cindy Cullen, Norman & Janet Dunlap, Don & Beth Easterla, Beth Flickinger, Cora Shafman, & Peggy Shovar.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees met on Wednesday, February 10th. Their minutes from that meeting will be approved at their next meeting this month, so watch for the February minutes in April.



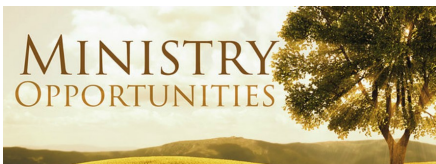
In the meantime, we are all so very thankful for their hard work during those bitterly cold, icy, snowy, winter days!!!

MANY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO PLOWED, SHOVELED, CLEARED, AND SALTED, SO WE COULD GET IN & OUT OF CHURCH SAFELY!



MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee did not meet in January, so there were no minutes to approve at their February meeting. Watch for the approved February minutes in next month's newsletter!



CHECK OUT THE NEXT SEVERAL PAGES FOR THE MINISTRIES WE SUPPORT, AND FOR WAYS THAT YOU CAN GET PLUGGED IN PERSONALLY!



**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.



Those who attend regularly come early to play cards and enjoy each other's company for a little longer than just meal time.

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

CREATIVE ARTS: A PATH TO HOPE!

Creative Arts has a powerful impact on our lives every day. The arts transform how we think, feel, move and enjoy our lives on this earth created by the Great Creator! Our new Creative Arts Center will introduce kids and teens to our Creator as they explore, experience and express their passions and God-given abilities through the arts!!

Our first programs in the Creative Arts Center will include: Culinary Arts, Dance, Music, Videography, Photography, and Fine Arts.

Youth will express passions, learn skills and develop confidence for life as they participate at YouthHope through the arts.

Our new Creative Arts area will be located at our Moline Center. It will have a commercial kitchen, a dance and performing arts area, and a fine arts room for creative expression.

We believe this new center will impact hundreds of youth as they express themselves through the arts!

Please pray for the new center, volunteers and staff as we finish construction and plan for the launch of many new programs!

~ Mark Drake, Executive Director



YouthHope
We bring youth HOPE!

To read the entire YouthHope
February 2021 Report click [HERE](#)

Praise & Thanksgiving:

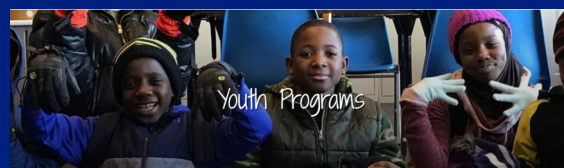
- 276 students continue to participate regularly with YouthHope programs!
- Changes are happening at YouthHope with our students and staff! God is doing a NEW thing!
- Construction is moving along with the Creative Arts Center at the Moline Youth Center!
- We have an awesome new intern from Augustana College this semester!

Prayer Requests:

- Lord, please watch over all our students, volunteers, and supporters! Keep them warm, safe, healthy, and focused on YOU!
- Please pray for the YouthHope staff! Lord please give all the staff wisdom, protection, health, connection, and anointing to continue this amazing ministry.
- Dear Great Creator, please give us wisdom, discernment, and clear vision for the changes that are happening at YouthHope. May all we do bring God glory and align with His purposes and plans.
- Please pray for our Trivia Night fundraiser this Saturday to be a success, and we will meet and exceed the matching challenge.
- Please pray for our summer preparations and school year planning! Father, we ask for the staff who are needed to fill the position to make a difference in your Kingdom.
- Lord, we need your help and provision to complete the Creative Arts Center! We trust you to complete this project, keep the workers safe, and use this new space to touch the hearts of everyone who enters!

Thank you so much for your prayers! We appreciate you and praise God for all He has, is, and continues to do through YouthHope!

Many blessings, Hannah



YouthHope Program Needs:

Youth Centers:

- Commercial Carpet Sweeper
- Commercial Carpet Cleaner

Educational Support Program

- Disposable Masks
- Sanitizing Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer

Winter Gear for Students

- NEW Coats (size 6-14)
- NEW Snow Pants (Size 6-14)
- NEW Snow Boots
- NEW Gloves, Hats, Scarves

YouthHope has a **NEW** website! Visit it to find ways that you can plug in and serve!
Questions? Want to help? Contact Hannah at (309) 762-4577 or email: hcarr@cfyouthhope.org

EMBRACING THE JOURNEY IN 2021... Trisha Wilson, Executive Director

It's true that 2020 was not what any of us expected. Yet, in the midst of shifting realities – the steadfastness of God remained, and your faithful support made life-saving ministry possible. In our two Centers and on the Mobile Medical Unit, **over 4,000 unique center visits** occurred, **772 pregnancy tests** were performed, **501 life-affirming ultrasounds** were provided, and more than **1,002 parenting class sessions** were facilitated. The number of Dads who were mentored and/or ministered to at Pregnancy Resources increased by almost 100% in 2020 – even with COVID restrictions and protocols in place!

The next 12 months are sure to bring change, challenge, and opportunity, and your urban missionaries here at Pregnancy Resources are ready and prepared to meet the needs of those who walk through our doors. After 30 years of ministry, we know this: *An unplanned pregnancy can make a mom or dad's journey seem uncertain.* Their steps may falter as life can hang in the balance. With your help, **Pregnancy Resources is blessed to journey with parents facing uncertainty** by offering life-honoring and medically accurate information regarding their pregnancy and the life of their unborn child. Moms and Dads find hope at Pregnancy Resources every day, and as a Pregnancy Resources Partner, **you are a part of this journey too.** Here are four ways that you can **Embrace this Journey**:

Empower the Journey – Participate in the 2021 Baby Bottle Boomerang Campaign and raise money one quarter, one dollar, and one check at a time. These funds empower Pregnancy Resources to join moms and dads in their moment of crisis with compassion, hope, and help.

Rejoice in the Journey – Gather together with us in-person or virtually for Pregnancy Resources 2021 Spring Fundraising Banquet. We will hear current testimonies, honor victories, and lean into what God is calling us to next.

Walk the Journey – Lace up your shoes and meet us at the park on September 11, 2021, for the Pregnancy Resources Walk for Life.

Join the Journey – consider attending PRC 101 Training to learn more about becoming a part of the PRC volunteer team. This three-day informational course will be offered in March, June, and October. It will cover topics that include: honoring the value of life womb to tomb, bridging generational and cultural divides for more impactful communication and ministry, navigating trauma and grief, and ministering to a post-abortion culture.

Together we can journey with the most abortion-vulnerable among us and offer hope and help in the name of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for a highly abortion-minded client who visited our Center last week and has an abortion scheduled. Pray that God would soften her heart and that she would choose Life for her child.
- Pray for the banquet preparations. Pray that all would go smoothly and that God would continue to provide as He always has.
- Pray for the health of the Pregnancy Resources Team. Pray that they would remain healthy.

PRAISES:

- Praise God that the Moline Center is officially paid off (as of 2/5/2021)!
- Praise God for His continued provision and faithfulness for this ministry.
- Praise God for the faithfulness of the Pregnancy Resources partners.

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

~ Marissa J. Foss, Admin. Assistant



Our theme for the year is "The Journey." Please, prayerfully, join us for the Journey through 2021:

Gathering for the Journey: **In-Person Banquet** - Thursday, March 25, 2021.

Virtual Banquet - Sunday, March 28th, 2021

Contact Liz Ryan by calling 309-797-3636 or email: liz@qcpregnancy.org to register to attend.

Joining the Journey - **PRC 101 2021 Volunteer Training Dates**: March 2-4, June 1-3, or October 5-7

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



Pregnancy Resources

2020 A YEAR IN REVIEW

365 DAYS OF GOSPEL-CENTRIC MINISTRY

- 46 Gospel Presentations
- 989 spiritual discussions planting seeds of hope
- 1,415 Unique Clients Served
- 503 Men Served
- 1,546 Packages of Diapers to Families in Need
- 729 Clothing visits for Babies and Parents
- 220 New Baby Bags – for little ones joining the PRC Family

HUBER-VENTURES – "JUST TAKE THE NEXT STEP"

God doesn't usually give people his long-term plan. He gives the next step and simply wants obedience.

This is one of the takeaways from our very first Missions Cohort Winter Retreat, which was held in the Detroit area for a week after Christmas. The retreat was better than we could have ever planned, executed, or imagined, revealing God's incredible hand in orchestrating the week's events, experiences, and weather.



We decided to gather our college students for this winter retreat because they've been meeting together monthly over Zoom since May 2020, but never actually hung out in-person AND because they are from all over the US—Wisconsin, Ohio, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kansas, Oklahoma, Florida and North Carolina. We were originally planning to gather for the Cross Conference (a missions conference that focuses on 18-25 year olds) in Louisville the last week of 2020, but it got moved to a virtual platform. We ended up having to get creative and plan an event that mixed virtual and in-person. What resulted was a week of fun, bonding and deep spiritual growth which ended with Saul taking a Polar Plunge into an icy Lake Erie!

We stayed at a fantastic Airbnb on Lake Erie, and kicked off our week with a tour of Dearborn which was led by our coworker, Mark, who is passionate about ministering to Muslims. He even brought one of his friends along, a MBB (Muslim Background Believer) that came to be a Christ-follower in part through Mark's friendship! We are so thankful that members of the cohort were able to SEE that Muslims/non-believers are ACTUALLY coming to know Christ and being transformed by His grace and freedom!

We spent the middle of the week watching the Cross Conference and playing board games in between. Thursday afforded us the opportunity to go to Hamtramck and meet up with Shakil, who is also an MBB, and a World Outreach missionary. Not only did he give us a tour of the area and introduce our students to some delicious Bangladeshi food, but he also got us into a local mosque where they were able to talk to the Imam and see some of the differences between Christianity and Islam.

Our last full day together was spent discussing "calling", praying over each other and allowing the students to unpack what had impacted them from the week. In addition to "just take the next step," the Cross Conference and our conversations encouraged our students that big decisions (or determining your calling) are not made on an island. God has surrounded us with family, friends and a community of believers to share our passions, ideas, questions, and confusion about the future. And more importantly, have them pray over us and mentor us in these big decisions. They reflected that, "it's powerful to have a community (small or big) of peers walking alongside us that are serious about ministry/missions."

Thank you for your prayers and support that make this Missions Cohort possible! Please continue to pray for our nine college students. And if you have young people in your circles who are interested in missions, don't be afraid to come alongside them as they figure out, and take, the next step!

PLEASE PRAY:

- * World Outreach is currently searching for a new director, who will take the lead in June of this year. Please pray with us for the transition for everyone in our organization!
- * Despite the uncertainties of 2021 and travel pertaining to Covid19, we're currently planning two summer trips that we will be leading. The first is Summer Mission Jam 2021, a week-long youth mission trip to Hamtramck, MI from July 11-17. Please pray for the logistics of travel, lodging, and food. Pray for the right outreach opportunities. Pray for health and protection. Pray that we would truly be the fragrance of Christ to that community. And pray for patience and wisdom as we plan a trip that is still pretty tentative.
- * The second trip is taking our college cohort to two countries in the Middle East for a two-week EnVision Trek from July 18 to August 4. Please pray for each country's borders to open. Pray for the students' summer schedules to work out. Pray for their support raising process. Pray for vaccines for students and leaders, as we probably can't travel internationally without them. Pray for the global workers and missions organizations that we will visit and serve alongside.

Click [HERE](#) to see all the pics, read the family update, and the rest of the Huber-Ventures.

We'd love your help! 2020 was a challenging year for many, and we have seen our support drop. We need \$100/month to make up our shortfall. If you or anyone you know would be interested in partnering with us, please call Saul at 217-851-4670 or click the "JOIN OUR SUPPORT TEAM" button at the bottom of this email. Thank you!



HUBER BOOK CLUB! *Across the Street and Around the World*, by Jeannie Marie

We will be reading one chapter per month and having a Zoom discussion about it at 8pm CST on the third Thursday of that month. We will be discussing chapter 3 in March. If you don't have the book, here's a link for a free download of the first chapter (<https://www.jeannie-marie.com/first-chapter-free>). If you would like to join the discussion and need the Zoom link just call or email the church office, and Lisa will send it to you.

Cont. on p. 15

THE B.....'S

Serge

Grace at the Fray

For safety reasons it has been decided not to include photos full names, location, or 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 them to be added to their email list.

Couple snapshots of what we are doing here during lockdown. I have been helping with a teen girl's after school club on Fridays, which is attended by up to 10 Muslim girls when in person. Right now though, this means that we meet on zoom for a couple of hours. Four girls come consistently every week and we play quiz games or charades, or sometimes everyone bakes in their respective kitchens while zooming. We also get to chat with the girls- they are very willing to talk and discuss the events of their lives and we are able to support and also share our perspective (which includes our faith). Over the next few weeks we want to talk with them about mental health and are also planning a half term event around Disney movies. Please be praying that our conversations can point to Jesus, and for them to continue to listen and be willing to see God's love for them.

S.... has had the chance to continue his relationship building with the Sylheti shop owners in the market near us. Restaurants are still open for takeaway, and we pass these places almost every day on the way to get groceries or walk in the park. Both shop owners that he has been intentional about talking with over the past year have called out to him as he walks by. One even walked with him a bit and opened up about some of the struggles he is having during lockdown. It is encouraging to see this happening even at this time, and we are praying S.... can have continued opportunities to talk and to share who he is and how God works.

Other things that we are doing in our time of lockdown: prayer and Bible study as a team and as a church plant team, online English classes, S.... studying to finish ESOL training, Facebook outreach, S.... preached (online) at our local church, prayer walks around the neighborhood, lots of homeschooling help for the kids.

• PRAYERS AND PRAISES:

- Pray for healing in the world. From Covid and from anger and division. Pray that we can be the love of Jesus to the world and our neighbors at this time.
- Pray for the outreach that we can do right now, mainly via zoom, that God would work in these areas.
- Overall we are doing ok mentally, but this lockdown has been draining and tiring and we do have some discouraging days. Pray for perseverance and for trust to wait on God in this time.
- J..... and A..... are doing alright with online school and live virtual lessons, but they miss in-person interactions. Pray for their mental health and for us to be able to teach helpfully and with patience.
- L..... is finishing up her high school career- should be done in a couple weeks. Huge accomplishment on her part and we are really proud of her for pushing school during this past year. She is still undecided on college decisions- waiting on results and also on the COVID situation. Pray that God would guide her as she looks at options.

Thanks for praying with us!

C....., for S.... and the kids

Thank you again for your support of us, especially this past year of uncertainty! We appreciate you all more than we can express.

One of the side effects of this lockdown month has been the lack of time (and maybe low energy too) to get to things we normally would...so we don't quite have all our thank yous out to those of you that gave over Christmas. We also need to look at our support situation a bit more closely and let you all know where we are at specifically. I am guessing it is still around 90%, which means more monthly support is definitely a prayer need.

Please know that we are grateful for all of you- and we love hearing from you, even if our replies are slower! And if you or someone you know is feeling led to offer support, or at least wants to hear more, please do get in touch by replying to this email, or whatsapp us. Or you can donate (contact the church office at edgingtonepc@gmail.com or 309-795-1713 to find out how).

Thank you so much.

Edgington Presbyterian Church

Treasurer's Report January 2021

	Balance	Receipts	Disbursement	Balance
General	\$ 232,164.69	\$ 26,887.67	\$ 17,483.15	\$ 241,569.21
Jahn	\$ 9,484.55	\$165.01		\$ 9,649.56
Edgington	\$ 5,691.02		\$ -	\$ 5,691.02
Boughton	\$ 20,079.76	\$ 838.33		\$ 20,918.09
Lauby	\$ 21,082.11	\$ 268.13	\$ -	\$ 21,350.24

Ending Gen. checking balan	259,102.22
Uncleared Transactions	\$ 2,192.43
General checking Balance	\$ 256,909.79

Reconciled Bank Accounts	
Gen. checking	\$ 256,909.79

January 2021 GENERAL FUND EXPENSES

Zach Hopkins salary	4,308.32		
Housing Allowance	1,800.00		
EPC (health)	25.23		
Fidelity (pension)	919.81		
Mileage	-		
Lisa Bowman	923.47		
Robin Preston	185.80		
IL Dept. Revenue (payroll tax)	191.81		
IRS (payroll tax)	924.95		
Reytel	117.23		
AT&T	159.28	General	\$ 241,569.21
MidAmerican Energy church	494.00	Edgington	\$ 5,691.02
Millenium Waste	34.00	Jahn	\$ 9,649.56
Ministry Designs (website)	50.00	TOTAL	\$ 256,909.79
ABS (copier)	90.02		
Kone (maint. Contract)	1,527.96		
Westminster Books (cont. Ed)	81.27		
CCLI (music copyright license)	235.00		
Edg. Water Dist.	365.00		
Youth Hope (mission)	4,000.00		
WalMart (mission)	200.00		
Lancaster (mission)	500.00		
Burdsall (mission)	350.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$17,483.15	

INCLUDED IN GENERAL FUND TOTAL

Mission monies included in general fund	\$18,435.83
Assistance Fund	\$5,153.46
Sale of Manse	\$159,133.00

Edgington Presbyterian Church

General Fund Profit & Loss

January 2021

Jan 21

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Per Capita Contributions	80.00
Interest Income - General Fnd	20.12
Loose Offering	120.00
Pledges	26,517.55
Special Offerings	150.00
Total Income	26,887.67
Expense	
Pastors housing allowance	1,800.00
Operating Maintenance - General	1,679.19
Continuing Education	81.27
Mission	
U.S. Mission - Presbyterian	500.00
International Mission - Presbyt	350.00
Local Mission	4,200.00
Total Mission	5,050.00
Music	235.00
Office Supplies	
Copier	90.02
Office Supplies - Other	50.00
Total Office Supplies	140.02
Payroll Expenses	
Custodian Payroll	185.80
Pastor Salary	4,308.32
Payroll Taxes	1,116.76
Secretary Services	923.47
Total Payroll Expenses	6,534.35
Pension & Health Care	945.04
Utilities	
Gas & Electric - Church	494.00
Telephone	159.28
Water	365.00
Total Utilities	1,018.28
Total Expense	17,483.15
Net Ordinary Income	9,404.52
Net Income	9,404.52



Do you know of anyone that is missing out on receiving the Edgington EPC Newsletter each month? If so, please contact the church office at 309-795-1713 or edgingtonepc@gmail.com and let me know. I will be happy to make arrangements for it to be received by whatever means works best.

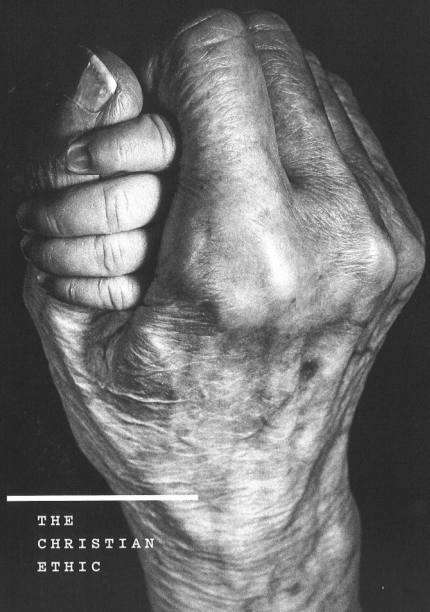
The newsletter is distributed via email and postal service. It is also posted to Facebook page each month and our website: edgingtonepc.org. Thank you so much!

~ Lisa Bowman

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

TABLETALK

MARCH 2021 | 53



THE
CHRISTIAN
ETHIC

LOCATED ON A TABLE IN THE SANCTUARY

CURRENT SERMON SERIES



Searching Satisfaction

The Book of Ecclesiastes
Winter 2021 | Edginton EPC

Pastor Zach is currently preaching a series titled “Searching for Satisfaction” on the book of Ecclesiastes. 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, March 7th – [Ecclesiastes 3:16-22](#)

Sunday, March 14th – [Ecclesiastes 4:1-16](#)

Sunday, March 21st – Rev. Jeffrey Lancaster, Guest Preacher

Sunday, March 28th – Palm Sunday - [Ecclesiastes 5:1-7](#)

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.

READ THE BIBLE WITH YOUR PASTOR

This Bible reading plan follows a five-day structure. I like this structure because the weekends can be used for catching up if necessary, but also because it fits well with my schedule. I invite you to read the Bible with me! The full plan is accessible [HERE](#). I would love to hear that you’re reading along and would certainly welcome any of your questions, comments, and observations.

Here is February’s Reading Schedule:

Week 9 – 2/28 - 3/6

- [Leviticus 24-25](#); [Psalm 81](#);
[Hebrews 9](#)
- [Lev 26-27](#); [Psalm 112](#); [Heb 10](#)
- [Numbers 1-2](#); [Psalm 64](#); [Heb 11](#)
- [Num 3-5](#); [Heb 12](#)
- [Num 6-7](#); [Heb 13](#)

Week 11 – 3/14-20

- [Numbers 26-29](#); [Luke 2](#)
- [Num 30-33](#); [Psalm 35](#); [Luke 3](#)
- [Num 34-36](#); [Luke 4](#)
- [Deuteronomy 1-3](#); [Psalm 36](#);
[Luke 5](#)
- [Deut 4-5](#); [Luke 6](#)

Week 13 – 3/28-4/3

- [Deut 27-31](#); [Luke 12](#)
- [Deut 32-34](#); [Psalm 13](#); [Luke 13](#)
- [Joshua 1-4](#); [Psalm 143](#); [Luke 14](#)
- [Joshua 5-8](#); [Psalm 14](#); [Luke 15](#)
- [Joshua 9-13](#); [Luke 16](#)

Week 10 – 3/7-13

- [Numbers 8-11](#); [Colossians 1](#)
- [Num 12-14](#); [Psalm 28](#); [Col 2](#)
- [Num 15-18](#); [Psalm 113](#); [Col 3](#)
- [Num 19-21](#); [Col 4](#)
- [Num 22-25](#); [Luke 1](#)

Week 12 – 3/21-27

- [Deuteronomy 6-9](#); [Luke 7](#)
- [Deut 10-14](#); [Psalm 5](#); [Luke 8](#)
- [Deut 15-18](#); [Psalm 115](#); [Luke 9](#)
- [Deut 19-22](#); [Psalm 6](#); [Luke 10](#)
- [Deut 23-26](#); [Luke 11](#)



Pastor Zach is on 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.



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

Please join us at 9am every Lord's day!

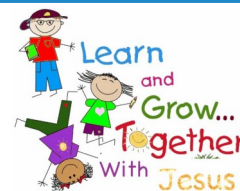
If you have children, but are unable to attend, the children's lessons are posted on FB each week.



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!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Thursday, March 4th, 1pm

All women of the church are welcome!
Pastor Zach will lead us in a Bible Study on a chapter of Psalms out of our book, "Sing a New Song" and our business meeting will follow.



We will meet in the basement of the church and observe the current social distancing guidelines.
We will not have refreshments as we usually do to help comply with the recommendations.

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.

QUILTING WILL RESUME IN APRIL

No quilting this month, but join us in April!

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!



UNITY POINT FOOT CLINIC

The next foot clinic will be on Monday, April 19!
If you would like a medically professional pedicure appointment, please call the church office at 309-795-1713.



SPRING FORWARD

Sunday, March 14th

SPRING 2021 FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION

Saturday, March 20th, 2021, 8:30 - 11am

We will be handling this distribution in the same manner that we did the Fall Distribution last October. The Food Pantry Committee members will take care of the shopping and packing, but we will need some assistance from EEP members during the distribution with loading carts and cars.



We can still use any nonperishable items that you want to donate.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATES AND/OR KEEPS US IN PRAYER!
Shirley & Dewey Flemming, Sharon & Jim Schaubroeck, Sue Penry

BLOOD DRIVE

Edgington Presbyterian Church & Rockridge High School

Friday, March 6th
7:00am - 12:00pm

Fellowship Hall in Basement



Click on the picture to
hear a story of how
blood donations saved
two lives!

**All donors need to schedule
an appointment time and
arrive as scheduled.**

To schedule your
time, please
contact Scott
Cullen at
309-236-7549.



Change
THE WORLD
One
PINT
— at a time —

GIVE BLOOD, SAVE LIVES!

www.bloodcenter.org

EASTER LILIES

If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily for the sanctuary this year, please take one of the giving envelopes from the pew card holder located on the back of the pews, and write your name(s) on it. Mark the “Other” box on the front and designate “Easter Lily(ies)” on the line next to it. If the lily(ies) is to be listed in memory of a someone, please list the loved one’s full name(s) on the back of the envelope. Lilies are \$10 each. Place the proper monetary amount in the envelope, and put the envelope in the offering plate.



PLEASE NOTE:

*We will still have
Sunday School
classes on Easter
Sunday and our
worship time will
remain at 10:00am.*



MARCH 2021

MAY THE STRENGTH OF GOD
PILOT US,
MAY THE WISDOM OF GOD
INSTRUCT US,
MAY THE HAND OF GOD
PROTECT US,
MAY THE WORD OF GOD
DIRECT US.
- SAINT PATRICK

EEPC

Sunday School 9am
Worship Service 10am
Phone: 309-795-1713
Email: edgingtonepc@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.edgingtonepc.org

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 B/P Checks	1	2	3 Lisa on vacation	4 PW Mtg., 1pm	5	6 Spring Blood Drive 7am-Noon
7 Food Pantry Sunday Student Bible Presentation VBS Mtg., Noon Lisa on vacation	8	9	10 Trustees Mtg. 7pm	11	12	13
14 Daylight Saving Time Begins New Member Reception B/P Checks	15	16 Mission Comm. Mtg. 6:30pm	17 Newsletter Items Due	18 NO Quilting (resuming in April)	19	20 Spring Begins Food Pantry Distribution 8:30-11am
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday B/P Checks	29	30 Session Mtg. 7pm	31	1	2 Good Friday	3

