



Dear Church Family,

There is a very special book that never sits on a bookshelf in my office because it gets far too much regular use; it's always on my desk. That book is the Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland. It is a treasured resource for me, not just because of its historic significance in the tradition of Presbyterianism, but also because I was able to bring the book home from its country of origin.

If you caught me in my study an hour before Sunday School begins you would be able to join me in one of the vestry prayers – that is, prayers by and for the minister in preparation for leading the worship service. They go something like this: O LORD my God, without whom I can do nothing as I ought; go with me, I beseech Thee, into Thy House, and so guide me by Thy Holy Spirit that I may devoutly lead the worship of Thy people, worthily proclaim Thy Gospel, and shew forth Thy truth and grace to all who wait upon Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The reason why I bring this resource to your attention is, first of all, to let you know that I need help praying – and it certainly helps me. Another reason is to share some of the prayers that I regularly use on the Lord's Day. Further, I want to offer encouragement to your family during this season of Thanksgiving, to offer heartfelt prayer to our Lord who graciously gives us all good things. Maybe this prayer of thanksgiving from the Book of Common Order will help you express your heart of gratitude to our Triune God:

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, the fountain of all goodness, who openest Thine hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing; we give Thee thanks and praise that in Thy mercy Thou hast brought us through the circuit of another season, and that, according to Thy promise, seed time and harvest have not ceased. We bless Thee that Thou hast crowned the year with Thy goodness, and hast bestowed upon us the kindly fruits of the earth. We pray Thee to grant us grace that we may receive them thankfully and use them carefully, for our own comfort, for the relief of those that are needy, and for the glory of Thy name. Teach us to remember that it is not by bread alone that man doth live, and grant us evermore to feed on Him who is the true bread from heaven, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God bless you and your family as we join in the chorus of Thanksgiving to our Great God and Redeemer.

Your Pastor and Friend,

ELDERS

Keith Wilson - Clerk
Jim Mueller
Kevin Oak
Mic Penry
Patrick Shovar
Todd Stegmiller

DEACONS

Dorothy Rursch - Chair Teresa Weber - Secretary Jim Balmer Teresa Balmer Beth Flickinger Marlin Krueger Darcy Krueger

TRUSTEES

Mel Block - Chair Larry Pithan - Secretary Ken Benningfield Kim Freyermuth Jeff Fuhr Phil Fuhr Darren Hall





2023 LOCAL BLOOD DRIVES

Nov. 11th - Midwest Bank in Andalusia, 1 - 4pm

GREETERS FOR NOVEMBER Sunday, November 5th - Don & Beth Easterla Sunday, November 12th - Kim & Barb Freyermuth Sunday, November 19th - Terri Kiddoo & Cheryl Lowe Sunday, November 26th - Andrew & Cassie Fuhr Family NOVEMBER

TO OUR NEWEST FAMILY MEMBERS!

We are so thankful to God for our newest members and look forward to seeing how God grows them



and uses them for His glory here at Edgington EPC and in our community.



(from left to right)

JR & Regina Thomas

509 Edgehill Ct.
Andalusia, IL 61232
JR's cell: 563-506-1595
jrt509edge@gmail.com
Regina's cell: 309-314-2836
jrgina83@gmail.com

Jan Fuhr

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Josh & Kristen Adams

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Sydney Maxwell

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Shay Lemon

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Reynolds, IL 61279
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daverandshayl@gmail.com

Pamela Ehm

2828 149th Ave. W. Milan, IL 61264 Pam's cell: 309-738-2037 ehmranger@outlook.com

Brett Johnson

309-314-8153 Bajohns319@gmail.com





September 26, 2023, at 7pm

Location: Church Basement

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

Pastor Zach will act as moderator of the meeting. Zach opened the meeting with prayer and read from Genesis 15:1. The Elders prayed for individual members of the congregation.

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

Approval of Minutes: The August 29th, 2023, Session minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.

Zach's Report: Zach reported on members with health concerns and prayer needs. Since our August 29th meeting, he conducted 3 office visits and met with Justin Beach. He participated in the 39th RLP Meeting and participated in RLP CC, EPC MCC/MVC meetings. He attended a Youth Group meeting and the funeral of Jan Harroun. Zack officiated the funeral for Reese Hudson Ransdell.

Old Business:

- The Session discussed the Church Officer Nominating Process. Zach will email a draft of the Committee and Process overview.
- The Fall 2023 Adult Membership Class has concluded for the following prospective members:

Josh and Kristen Adams

Jan Fuhr

Brett Johnson

Tom and Connie Huntley

Shay Lemon

Sydney Maxwell

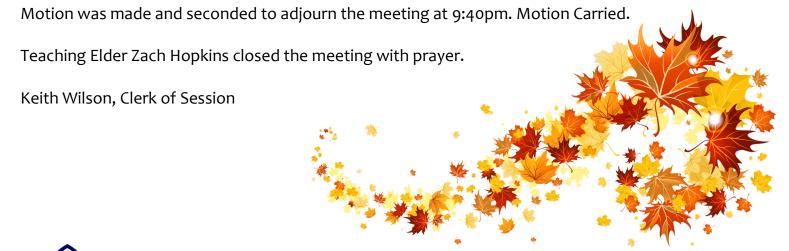
JR and Regina Thomas

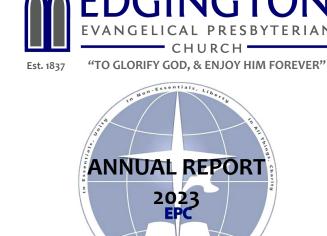
- It was moved, seconded and carried to accept these individuals into membership. They will be accepted into membership during the October 1st, 2023, worship service. The Elders assigned new members to shepherding groups.
- The 2023 2024 Youth Communicant's class will kick off on October 1st with a parents meeting. There are currently 8 potential members registered.
- The Session discussed the fall kickoff activities including Walk 4 Life, Blood Drive, Promotion Sunday and Fishing Derby.
- Zach, Kevin, Mic, and Todd provided an update on the 39th RLP Meeting that they attended in Sartell, MN, September 22nd 2rd3, 2023.



New Business:

- The Harvest party is scheduled for Sunday, October 8th from 4 7pm. Men will be cooking and women will help serve.
- The Session reviewed a request from Cade Reimers to hold a lock-in for the Youth Group following the Harvest Party. Appropriate supervision will be provided. A motion was made to allow the lock-in, the motion was seconded and carried.
- Zach informed the Session that the Rev. Dr. Bruce Anderson, ITEN Missionary will be visiting October 8th. He will be teaching the Adult Sunday School Class and preaching during the Worship Service.
- A joint Elder Deacon meeting has been scheduled on October 15th following Worship.
- Dan and Brett Johnson have requested that their children, Jemma, Drake and Livie, be baptized on October 29th. A motion to approve the request was made, seconded and carried.
- Trunk-or-Treat is scheduled for October 29th, from 4 6pm.
- Zach requested approval to fund sending Cade Reimers, Colby Mueller and Nathan and Lyndsey Flickinger to a Youth Leader Conference in Louisville, KY, January 3rd – 5th. A motion to approve the request was made, seconded and carried.
- Communion will be held October 1st, next stated Session meeting is October 24th, 2023.





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.

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 28th.



Date: 10-18-23

Present: Mel Block, Kim Freyermuth, Darren Hall, Cindy Oak, Larry Pithan, Treasurer Barb Freyermuth, Session Representative Jim Mueller.

Mel opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:59pm.

Treasurer's report for September reviewed and approved.

Minutes for September 20th meeting reviewed and approved.

Old Business:

- Siding work and painting are nearly complete.
- Need to add additional ceiling support for the second floor Sunday School rooms.
- Drain line under kitchen sink needs to be repaired.
- Barb has not yet received the ERC refund.
- Received a bid of \$6,223 for replacement of carpet in balcony, stairs, old entry, and coat room. Motion, second and approved.
- Fall trimming is not complete yet.

New Business

- Water heater (13 years old) for kitchen and toilets failed. New unit has been installed.
- Received a proposal to replace gutters and downspouts on east and south sides of church.
 Trustees did not think work on east side is needed. Will ask for a revised proposal to do only the south side.
- Received a bill for \$12,400 for painting of new and existing siding. A donation has been made to cover this cost.
- Trustees determined the soffit for the Sunday School wing needs to be replaced. Currently is solid material ventilated soffit is needed to help control the attic temperature in the summer. Will contact Mike Chillemi to see if he can do the work yet this fall.
- A section of concrete sidewalk on the south side of the building needs to be replaced. It was broken during the previous roofing work.
- Yellow safety painting on edge of steps should be renewed. Kim and Barb agreed to do the work.
- Discussed work needed for winter preparation (furnace filters, boiler startup, ice melt).
- Agreed to switch to winter schedule starting with November meeting. Move start time to 6:00pm.

Mel closed the meeting with a prayer at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Pithan



October 15, 2023

Attendees: Jim and Teresa Balmer, Beth Flickinger, Marlin and Darcy Krueger, Dorothy Rursch, Teresa Weber, and Session Representative Patrick Shovar.

Session members were in attendance for the first half of the meeting. The purpose of their attendance was to keep the Session and Deacons coordinated and to see how they can assist the Deacons.

Minutes from the August meeting were approved as written.

July – August Activities: 27 calls/visits/cards to shut-ins, 40 additional calls/visits/cards, 1 baby, 0 baptism, 10 birthday, 15 anniversary, 4 get well, 5 sympathy, 5 thinking of you, 0 meals

Note: Birthday cards are sent to those who are 70 years of age or more. Anniversary cards are sent to couples married 25 years, and then every 5 years. After 50 years of marriage cards will be sent annually.

Old Business:

- **Blood Drive:** The fall blood drive was successful and 93 people will be helped with the blood collected.
- **New Member Reception:** Successful new member reception was held October 1st and a good turnout was noted.

New Business:

- **Concerns:** Discussions were shared regarding several shut-ins.
- **Fall Coat Drive:** Will be held November 11th in conjunction with the fall food pantry distribution.
- Coat Drives: Future coat drives were discussed.
- **Greeters:** Responsibilities for obtaining greeters for November 2023 through February 2024 were discussed.
- Fall Care Packages for College Students: Will be distributed at Thanksgiving (November 19th). Deacons will reach out to the students and ask for their prayer concerns and also if they are willing to share their phone numbers.

Teresa W. made a motion to adjourn. Jim seconded the motion.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 3rd at 11:30am.

Dorothy closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Weber



September 19, 2023

The Mission Committee met on September 19th, 2023, at 6:3pm in the conference room. Those attending were: Deb Wagamon, Nancy Engstrom, Eric Moel, Kelly Moel, and Kevin Oak.

Deb opened the meeting in prayer.

Old Business:

- **Minutes:** August minutes were reviewed and approved.
- Mailings: Reviewed mailings and local ministry newsletters.
- **Church Planting:** We will continue to support the Chicago church planting ministry to end of year and then re-evaluate their needs in January 2024.

New Business:

• Ministry Commitments: 3rd Quarter Commitments for 2023 were approved.

2023 Mission Commitments	Amount Committed
World Outreach (Burdsall)	\$ 2,125.00
World Outreach ITEN (Anderson)	\$ 1,875.00
World outreach ITEM (Kuhn)	\$ 1,000.00
World Outreach (Huber)	\$ 1,050.00
EPC Church Planting (Lancaster)	\$ 1,500.00
Youth Hope	\$ 1,500.00
Youth Hope – Cre8 Studios	\$ 750.00
Pregnancy Resources	\$ 750.00
	\$10,550.00

- Youth Hope: Deb provided a listing of fall/winter programs and volunteer needs for this
 ministry. They have completely funded the new Camp Summit building. Deb will be
 working with YouthHope this winter to assist the children's program and to keep EEPC
 current on the needs of this ministry.
- **Pregnancy Resources:** EEPC participated in the Walk for Life sponsored on Sept. 9th. The fundraiser fell about \$30,000 short of their goal. We will continue to watch for ways we can support this ministry.
- Rockridge School District Lunch Program Debt: Kelly contacted several schools to determine if there was an outstanding debt for the school lunch program and none was found. She did uncover an Andalusia family who is needing support. They have four children attending the Rockridge school system and they are needing support for school lunches, as well as other needs. We tentatively voted to set aside \$1000 to allow these children to eat school lunches while we investigate their other needs.

Kevin closed the meeting in prayer

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday October 17th, 2023, at 6:30pm.



Check out the next several pages for the ministries we support and for ways that you can get personally INVOLVED!



PROUDLY SERVING SENIORS SINCE 1968









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.

If you would like more information or want to check out the menu for the month click the Project Now logo above for the link to their website or call 309-788-6335.



FOOD PANTRY UPDATE & NEXT DISTRIBUTION

On Thursday, August 24th five of us set up tables and boxes for the distribution and loaded some carts to be ready for packing on Friday. God sent us good help on both Friday and Saturday - 10 people packed the boxes on Friday. On Saturday, we had wonderful help from 6 high school students who did the heavy lifting & helped to pack meat and produce &helped with the patrons. In addition to the high school students we had 9 adults help on Saturday.

Two families had to reschedule their pickups. By Monday morning all the boxes were picked up. We served 30 families comprising 88 adults, 7 teens, and 13 children. We were surprised that numbers were down from previous distributions. However, two people had passed away and two families had moved out of the district, so that accounted for 4 families.

We purchased some extra non-perishable items, as we had thought there would be approximately 40 families, so we have a good start for the fall distribution. Now we are ready to add to the shelves with more non-perishable items. Thank you to all who helped us with prayers and donations of time, money, and food. We certainly appreciate the support from area churches and the community.

Our next distribution for the food pantry will be on November 11th.

Dewey & Shirley Flemming, Jim Schaubroeck, Mic & Sue Penry, Don & Beth Easterla

THE CHANGE OF SEASON (To read the entire October Report, click HERE)

Fall is my favorite season. Every year I look forward to the cooler weather, the beauty of watching the fall leaves turn from green to hues of yellow, orange, red and gold, the fall sports, and the anticipation of the holiday season. The fall season brings a sense of hope.

Hope is rooted in our relationship with Christ. That is the foundation of YouthHope, and the kids and teens in our community need YouthHope. We are seeing a new season of life as our culture attacks God's absolutes, attempts to redefine truth and encourages people to follow

YouthHope
We bring youth HOPE!

their emotions. Kids and teens are confused, unsure and lost in this culture's season of embracing things opposed by God and call it "good".

Yet, there is HOPE. YouthHope's fall children and teen programs are underway! Our Youth Centers and Community Outreach continue to be a place of refuge and clarity, providing direction that is backed in the truth of the inerrant Word of God. In this season of confusion, there is a great opportunity for HOPE.

The young people in our community have the opportunity to attend Bible Studies, learn life skills, attend after school tutoring, find mentors, learn or enhance an artistic ability, head to Camp Summit for retreats, build lifelong friendships and relationships, and so much more at our facilities.

Thank you for being a partner and bringing hope. This season is providing one of the greatest opportunities to fulfill our mission to bring hope to our Quad City youth that I have experienced in my 36 ears at YouthHope. With your support, we are making a difference one life at a time.

Mark Drake, Executive Director

Christmas Blessing Boxes

You can help provide a Christmas Gift for a YouthHope student with a \$50 sponsorship!

- We are currently collecting these items:
- Takis or Spicy Cheetos
- Carmex Lip Balm for Chapped Lips (Original Tube)
- Snack-sized Sour Candy
- Pop-It or Fidget toys
- Children's and Teen's Adventure Bibles
- \$5 gift cards to McDonalds

We also need wrapping paper, tape, and gift tags!

Please deliver to YouthHope (3928 12th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265) 9am-4pm Monday through Friday.

Collection Deadline: December 7th by 4pm.

Winter Gear for Students

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

Supplies and volunteers needed to wrap gifts, decorate, and distribute gifts. You can also serve by volunteering at our Kids Club or Teen Night Christmas parties or CRE8 Christmas program!

Please call 309-762-4577 to sign-up!

YouthHope

Student Showcase Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 6th | 6 - 7pm

Moline Youth Center

3928 12th Ave., Moline, IL 61265

Come support YouthHope students, enjoy festive treats, meet the new staff, and cheer with their families. Join us to celebrate the Reason for the Season: Jesus!

DANGEROUS NEW ABORTION TRENDS

We must always be on the lookout for new ways the enemy attempts to steal,

kill, and destroy. In the ongoing attack against the pre-born, today more than half of all abortions occur with abortion pill drugs. This type of at home, do-it-yourself, abortion has typically utilized two unique drugs to induce an abortion. The first drug, Mifepristone, cuts off blood supply to the womb and causes death to the fetus. The second drug, Misoprostol, makes the uterus contract and expel the fetus. In the midst of this type of abortion, sometimes a woman will want a second chance to choose life. It is possible to stop this process and re-stabilize the pregnancy with Abortion Pill Reversal protocol. The abortion industry knows this – and hates it.

As a result, the latest disturbing new abortion trend is an aggressive, high dose, Misoprostol Only multi-pill protocol. This drug regimen eliminates the use of Mifepristone and removes the chance to stop the abortion process. Women are now being instructed to consume high doses of Misoprostol (starting at 3 to 4 pills every 3 to 4 hours) until she sees the baby pass. It has been reported that the abortion industry is mailing out 12 to 20 pills at a time!

This is dangerous and increases the risk of significant complications and fatalities. For the woman, if she has experienced a prior Cesarean Section then she is at higher risk for a uterine rupture. Her other complications can include bronchospasm, heart arrhythmias, blood clots, maternal heart attack, and the possibility of an early live birth delivery. For the child, if this new abortion method doesn't work there is the increased risk that the child will be born with birth defects. Moreover, many states, like Illinois, do not legally require infants born alive after an attempted abortion to be offered medical care – and thus the child can be left to die even after surviving an abortion attempt.

You, dear friend, are providing hope in these difficult times. With your support, Pregnancy Resources' team is trained and ready to provide factual and compassionate information and empower moms to choose life and avoid the devastation of an abortion decision.

- Carey Eberhart RN, Nurse Director

You have just read about the scary new trends. Many in early pregnancy struggle to find hope in what they see as chaos. Expanding access to abortion through mail-order pills means more women perform self-managed abortions at home. These abortions often occur without contact with the health care

To date, you have been able to help:

- 3,926 Total Center Visits
- 1,055 Parenting Classes Attended
- More than 721 interactions with dads
- AND 166 New Baby Gift Bags for newborns

system, and moms are at significant risk for complications or even death. Yet moms are finding hope in a hopeless world... because of YOU through the Pregnancy Resources Enduring Hope campaign for 2024!

- Baby Bottles (January, Mother's to Father's Day, or any time that works for your church)
- Banquet (Thursday, March 21st) Or
- Walk for Life (Saturday, September 7th)

PLEASE PRAY!

Intercession is an integral component of our ministry. Every



week we email our prayer request and praise reports regarding the needs of each center, and the lives in need of a touch of grace.

To join our prayer team, please email Angel@qcpregnancy.org

BELLA'S BOUTIQUE NEEDS:

- Baby clothes Sizes: preemie 3T (New or Gently used)
- Modern Pregnancy Clothes, all sizes (New or Gently used)
- Diapers (Sizes: Newborn size 5)
- Baby Wipes
- Cozy Baby Blankets (purchased or homemade)
- Receiving Blankets
- NEW Baby Bottles and Nipples pacifiers
- Baby Swings and Strollers
- Pack 'n Plays

JEFFREY LANCASTER

When I think of the elongated church planting process in which Cathy and I are engaged, there's something about the upbeat vision of Cash's tune that registers in my interior. "One Piece at a Time" and over many years he's got himself a fascinating and funky ride. Well, we're laboring away trying to build this ministry one relationship at a time over the course of years... by God's grace, we're hoping that one day we'll end up with a funky and fascinating worship community in Chicago.

Just to give witness to a couple of recent personal ministry snapshot moments in which we trust God is using our feeble and flawed efforts to continue building, one piece at a time, this little branch of his church's global mission here in our beloved city.



Over dinner two weeks ago one of our dear young friends, who is quite a stranger to the historic Christian faith, let it slip out that she was surprisingly finding herself more open to considering the message of Jesus. To feel the weight of this, this is someone we've known for almost 4 years. FOUR YEARS! She said, "Uncle Jeffrey, when you started talking to me about God almost 3 years ago, I would listen just out of respect for you, but I was actually not open at all to hearing about God. I now consider myself open to hearing more about Christianity." Hallelujah! Though to see at times, it does seem like God is slowly, in brick-on-top-of-brick fashion, working to build something.....

Recently I met a man my age at a gathering of business and non-profit leaders in Chicago. This is kind of a Christian fellowship and outreach group I've plugged into. This guy was in my breakout group. During our sharing time he bore his heart and expressed how he's in a difficult place. His marriage is kind of a going-through-the-motions marriage, and he's been unemployed for over a year, so times are tough financially. He said that he showed up that day because he's always skirted around the rim of Christianity, but he's not sure he's ever really understood the faith... just kind of been a part of formal religious affiliation but never sure about Christ. I asked if he would allow me to come alongside and help him in his search for Christ. We're meeting weekly to get to know each other and to work through a wonderful book about how Christ heals our wounded-soul-shame-struggle. This guy's opening up to me. In our first meeting he shared that he's one of 5 children and his father died in a tragic accident when he was four years old. He's always been successful academically, athletically, relationally, and professionally, so he's been able to stuff the pain of the big blow of growing up without a dad. He said that his deep wounds are now starting to bubble to the surface and that's a part of what he wants to process as he considers faith in Christ....

God is at work. It's a very slow "one piece (substitute "personal relationship") at a time" type of ministry approach. I think this is the way forward in missional church planting in our country's big, increasingly post-Christian, urban centers.

Our attempted ministry modus operandi is summed up well in the words of the late Tim Keller (May he rest in peace and rise in glory) in an article he wrote entitled Evangelism in the Early Church. In this article he insists that for the modern church in America to be faithful in gospel ministry (particularly in large urban areas though also increasingly in small town America) followers of Christ absolutely must start to practice the ministry approach of the early church. He suggests that we aren't very equipped to do so, but we better put ourselves on some Holy Spirit steroids (my words) and start maturing in this direction post haste. Here's how Keller weighs in on how we should minister in our cultural moment: "It is informal but sustained relationships and conversation that will become more important in our increasingly secular world, as many Christian beliefs are highly offensive to people, as was the case in the first century. Now, as then, most people won't show up to hear Christian public speakers. Movement toward Christian belief will have to be personal, organic, and incremental."

Johnny Cash, Tim Keller, and frankly the model of Christ's life emboldens me to take it "one piece (person) at a time" and then give the Holy Spirit space and time to work. I humbly ask you to consider continuing to share in this mission over the long haul and pray for God to provide his sustaining and preserving grace....

Please consider giving financially if you are able.

Sending much love your way from Chicago,

Jeffrey

As always, there is MUCH more to this update than there is room. If you would like to read more, please click <u>HERE</u> for the full report.

B & E OCTOBER UPDATE

Dear friends, thank you for your partnership!

'Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.' (Jesus in Matthew 5:16)

My 18-29 September trip to Ukraine and Poland was very fruitful. I taught, preached, and ministered to both Belarusians and Ukrainians in Warsaw and Lublin (Poland) and in various cities of Ukraine—Kyiv, Kharkiv, Tsarychanka, Cherkasy, and several villages near the front lines. I conducted 5 seminars, had 12 leadership/

For safety reasons we are not linking the full report, which is 7 pages long! If you would like to receive their regular updates via email, please contact the church office and Lisa will connect you with B & E to be added to their email list.

mentoring meetings, preached in 4 churches, was interviewed for 2 media productions, had 4 special witnessing opportunities (some during 31 hours in Ukrainian trains). I saw the Lord doing these five things:

UKRAINE

1) New believers and new churches in least-reached areas

- One Kharkiv region denomination I work with grew from 29 to 44 churches since the full-scale invasion! Many new believers and new members are being added. This is happening through hardship of war and supported through humanitarian aid from the EPC International Disaster Relief Fund. I am facilitating these funds (about \$300K to date) with my long-time ministry partner, J, through our reformation network in cities throughout Ukraine.
- Visiting and preaching in village churches near the front lines southeast of Kharkiv was a special experience. First, the devastation became very real to me. I met and prayed for people who told me things like, 'my son was hit with a missile right there in the yard and killed' and 'the missile entered our house right here' and 'my husband is paralyzed from battle, I have four young children, our house was hit with a missile, and we have almost nothing'. In these cases, EPC funds provided for the repair of their houses and led to regular visits with care. Also, a church is now being planted in their community. Wonderful! Some village churches are newly opened, and all report growth in new believers. Newcomers say they found more at the church than food and supplies; they found a place of peace and a family. They have turned to the Lord!
- Pastor A, his wife, and six young children decided to stay in his deoccupied town (Russians had occupied it until
 about a year ago). He explained how his children saw a Russian helicopter hover above their house and shoot
 Ukrainian soldiers across the field. He also showed me the cartridge of the missile that hit his house. The EPC has
 funded the repairing of his house. Pastor A's church is growing so much, he is expanding the building.
- The Lord is also drawing influence-makers in the cities to himself. When I taught a seminar in Cherkasy for our reformation movement there, I learned that the deputy mayor and university vice president I had met with in past years—who were at that time seeking, but not yet believers—had come to salvation in Christ. In fact, the deputy mayor attended my seminar. Such good news!

2) The reformation movement increasing the church's capacity and impact in society

New research in a Ukrainian poll shows a change in Ukrainians' opinions about the church. Ten years ago, Ukrainians said the church was in 2nd place as a trusted institution. Unfortunately, today it is down to 10th, because of Western secularism. However, 'volunteers' are now in 2nd place, and the evangelical church (only 2-6% of the population) provides around 50% of all volunteers who provide humanitarian and other public services. This shows why our mobilization of the church in public service has been and remains a leading edge of reaching Ukrainians with the gospel. While the traditional, inward-focused church has lost favor under the press of Western secularism, the churches serving in society (especially through our country-wide reformation movement) are capturing the appreciation and hearts of Ukrainians. Jesus said, 'You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.' (Mt 5:14-16)

3) Reformation movement training and its organizations are growing rapidly

Most of my seminar teaching this time was focused on building the family in society and having an educational lifestyle in the home. Sparked from these seminars, reformation teams in several cities now reach hundreds of families (many not previously churched) by providing supplemental education during the war to counteract the disruptions of schooling. They are empowering parents and churches to step in. In this way, the churches are meeting real needs of Ukrainian families. Some of these families then seek Bible study and come to faith....

Cont. from p. 13

4) Courageous faith and exemplary service

- M, a Christian soldier who was shot and seriously wounded but heading back into service
- G. M., who leads chaplain teams to the front lines regularly risking his life, and who through adoption has 36 children, 1 daughter killed by a Russian missile, 11 children on front lines, 5 injured (1 lost his hand and eye), his house in Mariupol taken and destroyed by Russians, then rebuilt by Russians who fly a Russian flag on it now and sleep in what used to be his children's rooms...
- 150+ Cherkasy believers, gathered with me for a seminar after a hotel was bombed the previous week and missiles hit the city in the wee hours of the morning on the day of our seminar; then we heard a loud air raid siren in the middle of my second teaching session, yet kept going and paid almost no attention to it, staying focused on the teaching...
- A church in Kharkiv which saw 5 of its members killed by a missile while walking out of church and whose homes have been destroyed by missiles
- Village churches who minister where you must watch your step because of land mines, where members cannot harvest crops because fields are strewn with mines, where people have seen atrocities with their own eyes (I spent time in these villages, hearing their stories.) ...

5) Effective organizations of the reformation movement with which I am serving...

BELARUS

Working with Belarusian refugees in Poland—Though it is not secure for me to travel in Belarus these days, I continue ministry with Belarusians, especially those who are refugees to Poland.

Sad attack on the church in Belarus—The Minsk City Executive Committee filed a lawsuit for the liquidation of the N. Z. (Church) on September 15, attributing to it extremist activity and, accordingly, a violation of the law "On Freedom of Religion and Religious Organizations." This false accusation and form of persecution resulted in the disbanding of the church by the government. Pastor V. H. was arrested. The church building (seated 800) was bulldozed to the ground. I am a friend of Pastor S. and have preached in this church building many times over past years. Our hearts are broken by this heavy-handed persecution.

Just one example of the pressure our Belarusian friends suffer every week—An email from our dear ministry partner and friend, O., in Mi., reads...

Thank you for your email! It's always good to hear from you!

It's just a short note to ask for some more prayer support. My brother was arrested yesterday. Right now I don't know where he is and can't get any information. I don't know the reason for his arrest/ detention either.

Please pray for his safety, and for us, too. Especially for our mom. She doesn't know it yet, and I don't want to tell her. She's very sensitive, her blood pressure can get very high.

Thank you, O.

Later, we found out her brother was serving a 12-day sentence in jail (unjustly) with uncertainty about his long-term future. Thank the Lord, he has since been released.

MENTORING

I was told years ago by an American missions agency leader in Kyiv that 'Eastern Europeans don't do mentoring—it doesn't work here.' I understand from my own experience some realities behind what he said. But I tried anyway. And I am so glad I did! I am now mentoring several young and dynamic leaders in the reformation movement, including A. V. (Ukrainian), A. K. (Belarusian), P. G. (Ukrainian), Z. F. (Belarusian), and A. B. (Belarusian). This group of guys is very gifted and active, influencing a lot of people for God's purposes, thank the Lord!

PAKISTAN

On 9 August, there was an unprecedented attack on Christians in the Faisalabad region. A mob of several thousand people attacked, looted, desecrated, burned, and destroyed 29 churches and 86 homes of Christians. I am grateful to the EPC for contributions from its International Disaster Relief Fund of \$10K to help those attacked, as well as \$50K previously to help flood victims. I have helped facilitate these funds through Dr. M. K. and Pak Mission Society in Islamabad. I plan to teach and encourage those involved with Pak Mission Society during a trip to Pakistan in Nov.

Cont. from p. 14

MYANMAR

The military coup continues to harshly suppress citizens and churches (though it seeks to portray normalcy and relative calm to international guests and governments). There are destroyed churches, disbanded political opposition, and strict monitoring and intimidation of all citizens. Our long-time ministry partner, Dr. T. T. and his wife A., are temporarily in the US. E. and I made a trip to see them in M. What a wonderful time of fellowship! They keep faith and vision for the future despite all the opposition, continue the ministry of the churches and seminary, as able, and recently trained in trauma counseling to take that back when they return.

GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS

I often report on large group events and projects. But, Jesus taught us by example the significance of our one-on-one, face-to-face conversations. I had three special faith conversations on trains in Ukraine and on a flight that are especially memorable: V., a young Ukrainian professional and agnostic in a 1.5 hour conversation about faith and real Christianity, very open to the Lord; O., semi-retired and living in Kyiv, who started reading the Ukrainian website for our Ukraine Christian Open Academy, impressed that believers did such good work; D., a German NATO officer who was surprised that such a wide and effective network of Christian leaders were serving Ukraine so well. Who will you and I have an opportunity to talk with this week about the Lord?

FAMILY

I enjoyed a wonderful trip to New Hampshire and Maine trip with our youngest son, S., in August. He graduates from Virginia Tech in December. E. and I will enjoy a visit in October from son D. and K. and grandkids from Reno, NV, and our other sons, D. and S.. We also look forward to seeing daughter M. and W. and grandkids from Memphis in Dec.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- All of our partners in Ukraine, Poland, Belarus, Pakistan, Myanmar, and elsewhere, and those they reach
- 20 Oct Institute for Reformation (IFR) board meeting
- Another trip to work with T., possibly in November
- Churches and believers attacked in Pakistan
- 4 November visit and preaching at Bellevue EPC, Gap, PA
- Mid-November production of two COA lectures and also publications
- 29 November to 9 December trip to Pakistan to work with P. Mission Society
- January trip (tentative) to teach the Community Development course in S. L.

Thank you for supporting us! B & E

For safety reasons we are not linking the full report, which is 7 pages long! It is packed w/info & pics (as are most of the missionary updates). We wish we could include all of it. If you would like to receive their regular updates via email, or any of the other missionary updates, please contact the church office and Lisa will connect you with them so you can be added to their email list.

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.
- Deliver meals to those who are injured, ill, or have experienced a loss
- Visit widows(ers) to comfort and provide company.
- 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 2023 Deacon team includes: Jim & Teresa Balmer, Beth Flickinger, Marlin & Darcy Krueger, Dorothy Rursch, & Teresa Weber.

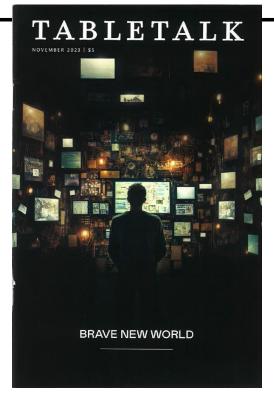


EDGINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Treasurer's Report September 2023

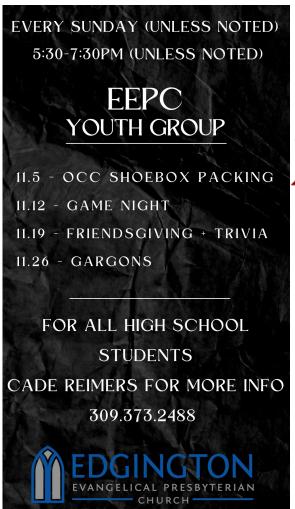
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INCLUDED IN GENERAL FUND TOTAL

GET YOUR NOVEMBER COPY OF THE TABLETALK DEVOTIONAL



LOCATED ON A TABLE IN THE SANCTUARY FOYER





If you would like to submit something for the newsletter, please be sure to have it in by the deadline.

ALL submissions for the December 2023 Newsletter must be in by **NO LATER**



than Monday, November 13th. Items received after that date may not make it into the newsletter.

Thank you for your cooperation!

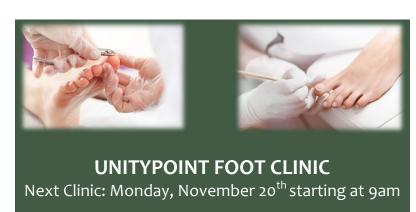
~ Lisa Bowman, Office Manager

Do you know anyone that is not 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 our Facebook page and website: edgingtonepc.org.

Thank you so much for your help!



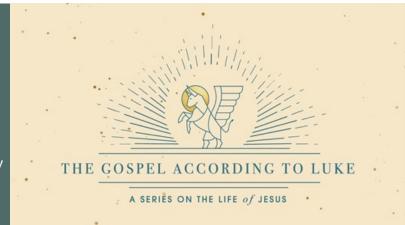


If you would like to receive a pedicure done by a medical professional, please call the church office at 309-795-1713 to schedule an appointment.

CURRENT SERMON SERIES

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" – Luke 19:10

We hope you will join us each week as Pastor Zach preaches through the Gospel of Luke. Luke brings a unique perspective to the life of Christ as he view things through the lens of a physician caring for the conditions of the people.



We look forward to seeing you and diving deep into God's Word together!

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.

MAKE A PLAN TO BE IN GOD'S WORD

We hope you have a plan to be in God's Word for 2023! To help you with that, Pastor Zach has a chronological Bible reading plan on the table in the sanctuary foyer.

ESV.org has a number of Bible reading plans and if you are reading this in a digital copy you will find the link to those **HERE** and on the top of the reading plan on the two next pages.



You will also find a link to **BacktotheBible.org** at the bottom of the reading plan. It has too many opportunities to list to help you grow in your walk with the Lord, including a link to goTandem, which is basically a spiritual fitness app designed to assess your spiritual fitness and help you set goals, get strengthened, and be spiritually healthy. Check it out!

We encourage you to explore these plans designed to help you prioritize abiding in God's Word. Each plan differs slightly, so find one that fits your unique learning style and study goals for the year. We hope these options will serve you as you grow as a disciple of Christ and share the truths you are learning with those in your life.

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 week in advance of the service.



The Adult Sunday School Class is studying "The Attributes of God". This class will examine what the Church has referred to as God's attributes or characteristics according to Scripture.

Knowing who God is, is a key part in trusting Him.

Join us!

We meet every Lord's Day morning at 9am in the church basement. Please join us!



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Every Sunday morning at 9am



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!



On Saturday November 25th at 9am, we will put up the Christmas decorations and would **LOVE** to have your help!

The next Women's Ministry meeting will be **Thursday**, **December 7**th.

We will discuss:

- 1. Which Missions we would like to support for 2024.
- 2. When to take down the Christmas decorations.
- 3. What bible study to have in the spring and when.
- 4. Make plans for the soup luncheon.

Our hostess for the December meeting is Shirley Flemming.

Please plan to join us for our **Outreach** to the community, our **Service** to the church and our **Fellowship**.

QUILTING

Thursday, November 16th, 9am

Please join us on the third Thursday of nearly every month from 9am - noon 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.

Hope to see you there!





HELP NEEDED!!!

The small storage room located between the janitor's closet and lounge, just behind the kitchen, has become a general "catch all" area and is in need of cleaning and organizing.

Darcy Krueger and Pam Pithan would like to get a small group of people together to work on emptying the shelves, wiping them down, and then organizing what should go back on the shelves, and getting rid of what shouldn't - either by finding its owner or throwing it out.

If you have anything stored in that room and/or if you would be willing to help clean it, please reach out to one of them. They need at least one person that is willing to get on a ladder or taller stepstool for the top shelves.

Darcy - 300-798-2198 or Pam - 309-798-2926

FALL COAT DRIVE

Saturday, November 11th, 9 - 11am

The deacons are collecting gently used coats, hats, mittens, and scarves to help those in need in our community.





Coats can be dropped off at the Edgington EPC during office or worship hours up through Friday, November 3rd. All sizes are needed, but especially children's sizes.

If you have questions, or would like to recommend someone to receive a coat, please contact the church office at 309-795-1713.



YOUTH GROUP

A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' Name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child.

This is such a wonderful ministry with such great impact and allows everyone to get the chance to do a little hands on mission work!

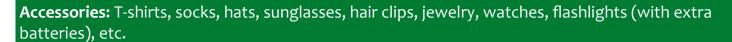
Thank you in advance for your help and donations.

IDEAS FOR ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN THE BOX:

Toys: Dolls, toy cars, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), etc.

School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.





Crafts: Make your own items. Go to website for ideas: https://www.pinterest.com/occshoeboxes/

Ideas for Older Children: Hammer, nails, small tools, and sewing kits.

A Personal Note: You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. If you include your name and address, the child may be able to write back.



DO NOT INCLUDE: Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

For more info and a direct link to Samaritan's Purse OCC website, please click HERE

ITEMS DUE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

The pizza & packing party will be at 6pm on Sunday, November 5th.

We are taking orders for poinsettias now through Sunday, November 25th.

If you wish to have a poinsettia in the sanctuary, please take an envelope from the pew holder, mark the "Other" box and write "Poinsettia" on the line. Write your name where indicated. On the amount line indicate how much money you are placing in the envelope. They are \$10 each. If it is in memory of someone, please write that person's name(s) on the back of the envelope.

If you have any questions, please contact Cindy
Oak or the church office.

ADVENT 2023

These four women — Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba — have something in common. They are all grandmothers in Jesus's family tree. Affairs, prostitution, lies — these women had plenty of mess in their lives. But God chose them — four broken women — to be named in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1. This Advent season, we will explore how each of these women are trophies of God's amazing grace in the unfolding story of redemption, leading us to the celebration of the birth of Christ.

Christmas Eve A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

Advent Scripture Passages

12/3 - Tamar - Gen 38

12/10 - Rahab - Joshua 2

12/17 - Ruth - Ruth 1-4

12/24 - Bathsheba - 2 Sam 11; 1 Kings ⁻



"The Women in the Genealogy of Jesus"
Advent 2023

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held at King's College Chapel on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who had just been appointed Dean after experience as an army chaplain; this experience convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship....

The 1918 service was adapted from an order drawn up by E. W. Benson.... Since then the spoken parts, which provide the backbone of the service, have only occasionally been changed. The service was first broadcast in 1928 and, with the exception of 1930, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War... (source document)

Please join us for this special Christmas Eve Service at 5pm on Sunday, December 24th.

NOVEMBER 2023



Sunday School gam Worship Service

Phone: 309-795-1713

Email: edgingtonepc@gmail.com
Website: www.edgingtonepc.org

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29 Trunk or Treat 4 - 6pm	30 Meal Site	31 Reformation Day Meal Site	1 Meal Site	2 Meal Site	3 Meal Site	4
5 Daylight Savings Time ends Food Pantry Sunday OCC Packing Party, 6pm Comm. Class, 6pm	6 Meal Site	7 Meal Site	8 Meal Site	9 Meal Site	10 NO Meal Site Food Pantry Packing, 9am	Food THANK Pantry Distr. & ROGGING ALL WAS SERVED Coat Drive, 9-11am
B/P Checks Youth Group, 5:30pm Comm. Class, 6pm	13 Meal Site	14 Meal Site Newsletter Items Due	15 Meal Site Trustee Mtg., 6pm	16 Quilting, 9am Meal Site	17 Meal Site	81
19 Youth Group, 5:30pm Comm. Class, 6pm	20 Foot Clinic Meal Site	21 Meal Site Mission Comm. Mtg., 6:30pm	22 Meal Site	HAPPY Chausesguing!	24 NO Meal Site	25
26 B/P Checks	27 Meal Site	28 Meal Site Session Mtg., 7pm	29 Meal Site	30 Meal Site	1 Meal Site	2