



REACHING OUT; REACHING IN

There is a question that church leaders usually discuss among themselves when evaluating ministry effectiveness that goes something like this, “what are the pathways for involvement in our community?” The question is essentially asking, how it is that people are first exposed to the church, grow in familiarity with the church and the Gospel of Christ, and then set on pathways toward Christian discipleship that lead to places of service and perhaps leadership.

There are some [mostly very large] churches that intend a very specific roadmap of classes and events and programs and ministries for every individual need and every individual circumstance. While that kind of intentionality might be programmatically commendable it is also practically impossible for most churches. That doesn’t mean that churches shouldn’t be equally as intentional, but it does mean that efforts will have to pull double and even triple duty. Consider the following reflection on some of our upcoming events that have a purpose in reaching new folks and building up the ones that already call Edgington their spiritual home.

The Harvest Party – October 8th 4-7pm - This event is for the church family but is also just as much for those not yet part of the church family. That’s why we invite all the un-churched families from the summer VBS program to attend and why you are encouraged to invite friends and neighbors to join us. At the same time, we look forward to a time spent together with the families and friends that we already know. It’s not either/or – it’s both/and.

If our hope is to have an open hand to our community during the Harvest Party, it’s even more true of our Trunk-or-Treat – October 29th 4-6pm – Last year was a wonderful success, and I hope we see it expand this year. If you were not able to attend and reserve a spot last year, please consider it this year! This event is put on by all of us, and it engages all our members who are willing to share in blessing our community. Speaking of reaching out, Lisa works hard to get invitations out to all the elementary students in the district, so who knows how many we will see this year – I hope we will be prepared with LOTS of candy.

So, these events have value for the first-time visitor, the irregular visitor, the new member, the long-time member, the servant-member, and the leader-members. These events reach out and reach in at the same time. They are not events in and of themselves, just to have another thing on the calendar. We approach these opportunities with purpose to reach out and strengthen the existing ties that bind. Won’t you consider joining us and helping us to accomplish both of those purposes? I look forward to these, and every opportunity we have to gather as the body of Christ, and I especially look forward to seeing you there.

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

TRUSTEES

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

4 - Kai Docherty	23 - Dana Fuhr
6 - Nancy Engstrom	24 - Steve Morrison
6 - Janet Schmidt	25 - Carrie Reimers
8 - Rylee Miller	26 - Mitch Anderson
8 - Peggy Shovar	26 - Nancy Rursch
11 - Nick Johnson	27 - Jim Reimers
12 - Debbie Wilson	28 - Terry Johnson
16 - Reilley Fuller	30 - Kenzie Reimers
16 - Sue Penry	31 - Mel Block
17 - Neil Morrison	17 - Emmi Youck
20 - Phyllis Strafford	



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

2 - Robbyn & Jennifer Ransdell
4 - Marion & Dorothy Oak
6 - John & Pam Fuhr
6 - Mic & Sue Penry
10 - Darren & Tonya Hall
10 - Neil & Amy Morrison
10 - Patrick & Peggy Shovar
12 - Conte & Judy Bingman
13 - Don & Beth Easterla
17 - Richard & Deb Landi
18 - Isaac & Stacey Anderson
18 - Mitch & Sue Miller
23 - Jeff & Deb Thomas
31 - Jon & Nita Darland

Thank you all for the prayers, cards, and calls during my latest illness. Also, thanks to everyone who took the time to visit me while I was in the hospital. God has truly blessed me with a loving church family.



God bless you all,

Linda Anderson

GREETERS FOR OCTOBER

Sunday, October 1st - Dana Johnson Family
Sunday, October 8th - Tom & Connie Huntley
Sunday, October 15th - Allan & Jan Fuhr
Sunday, October 22nd - Brett Johnson Family
Sunday, October 29th - Shay Lemon & Denise Rursch



August 29, 2023, at 7pm

Location: Basement

Present: TE Zach Hopkins and REs Jim Mueller, Kevin Oak, Mic Penry, Patrick Shovar, Todd Stegmiller.

Absent: RE Keith Wilson. A quorum is present.

Pastor Zach will act as moderator of the meeting. Zach opened the meeting with prayer and read from Acts 6. The Elders prayed for individual members of the congregation, then studied and discussed Part IV of *A Praying Church*.

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

Approval of Minutes: June 27th, 2023, minutes were reviewed. Motion made, seconded, and approved.

Correspondence: None

Zach's Report: Zach reported on members with health concerns and prayer needs. Since our last meeting in June, he conducted 3 office visits, 6 home visits, 6 hospital visits, and participated in various church and community activities including: Youth Mission Trip, VBS, Countyline Ministers Association, Michelle Titterington's Funeral, Ice Cream Social, RLP MC, EPC GA Constitutional Process Meeting.

Old Business:

- Dunlap Cemetery – Paul Vroman
- Foot Clinic – Waiting on Insurance Policy
- Preaching Series: Hard Questions
- Summer Youth Mission Trip – July 8th -15th – Mission, SD
- VBS – July 24th – 28th
- Ice Cream Social – August 13th
- Food Pantry – August 26th

New Business:

- Motion, seconded, and carried to approve Jahn Scholarship's to Laina Nelson and Gianna Johnson.
- The 2024 Nominating Committee will be led by RE Kevin Oak, with the Session acting as nominating committee for itself, and retiring officers representing each committee serving as the broader Nominating Committee.
- The fall schedule of upcoming ministry events was reviewed.
- The fall adult membership class will be September 10th, 17th, and 24th ; and joining on October 1st.
- The youth communicants' class has eight students registered.
- Motion, seconded, and carried to approve RE Stegmiller, RE Penry, RE Oak, and TE Hopkins to represent Edgington EPC to the 39th meeting of Rivers & Lakes Presbytery September 22nd – 23rd (Sartell, MN).

Communion will be held on September 3rd. The next Stated Session meeting will be September 26th, 2023, at 7:00pm.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:35pm. Motion carried.

Teaching Elder Zach Hopkins closed the meeting with prayer.

Keith Wilson,
Clerk of Session

For the past 11 years now, we have been very blessed to have Pastor Zach leading, teaching, and preaching here at Edgington EPC. He assumes so many roles within the church beyond teaching the Adult Sunday School class and preaching every Sunday morning! He mentors. He tries to visit with people who are shut-in or struggling with one of life's issues weekly. He takes the youth on mission trips. He holds office within the EPC at regional (Presbytery) and national (General Assembly) levels. All that and much, much more, while his personal family is growing at home.



Would you please take time to pray for him - to thank God for Pastor Zach and his ministry here at Edgington EPC? Would you ask God to bless him, his family, and our church? Would you ask God to strengthen him as he daily tries to meet the challenges of serving our Lord, our church, the Presbytery, and his family? And then, might you also consider taking a moment this month to write a note, send a card, or make some other gesture of gratitude toward our Pastor, Zach? It is oftentimes the little kindnesses such as these that can make a world of difference... brightening the day, lifting and encouraging the spirit to keep on toward the upward call.

What a wonderful time to let Pastor Zach know how much we truly do appreciate him!

Your Edgington EPC Session,

Keith Wilson, Jim Mueller, Kevin Oak, Mic Penry, Patrick Shovar, and Todd Stegmiller



Date: 9-20-23

Present: Mel Block, Ken Benningfield, Jeff Fuhr, Kim Freyermuth, Cindy Oak, Larry Pithan, Treasurer Barb Freyermuth, Session Representative Jim Mueller.

Mel opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:00pm.

Treasurer's report for August reviewed and approved.

Minutes for July 19th meeting reviewed and approved.

Old Business:

- Siding work is progressing well.
- Need to add additional ceiling support for the second floor Sunday School rooms.
- Cindy will meet with salesman from carpet store to get quote on carpet for balcony.
- Chris Stark pay increase has been implemented.
- Church has been sprayed a couple times for ants and bugs.
- Barb has not yet received the ERC refund.

New Business:

- There was a water leak under one of the kitchen sinks. The trap had been bumped and pulled apart. Trustees will install a longer tailpiece.
- Will need to do a little fall trimming and cleanup on the outside plantings.
- Discussed need to get septic tank pumped – decided it is not needed at this time.
- Mel is working on the ground squirrel problem.
- Discussed potential to do additional siding replacement next year. Will work on getting quotes.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Pithan

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.



**SHARE
THE
WARMTH**

September 7, 2023

The Edgington Evangelical Women's Ministry (WM) met with 9 members present.

TO GROW: There was discussion on the fall Bible study with a study on Contentment. There were 9 attendees at the Tuesday morning study and 7 at the Wednesday evening study.

TO SERVE:

- Leftover candy bars from Father's Day will be used as prizes at the Fishing Derby. Any additional candy will go to Senior High group.
- Harvest Party– We will set up the food tables, provide drinks, help with cleanup and pay for part of the expense.
- Christmas Decorating will be scheduled for 9am on Saturday, November 25th.
- Christmas Candy will be purchased for shut-ins passed out at the meeting. We will take flowers to those shut-ins that can not have candy.
- Nominations for 2024 Officers - Sue Miller has agreed to be Chairperson and Shirley Flemming has agreed to continue with Missions. Sharon Orr heads the nominating committee and is looking for someone to take the Historian (Secretary) position. If anyone is interested, please contact Sharon. The Historian's responsibilities involve taking minutes for the 4 meetings held each year and is a 2 year position.
- Church Concerns - Shared concern for various people and prayed over them.

TO REACH:

- Matter of Balance Class – The next class will be from September 25th thru October 18th from 1-3pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. If anyone is interested they should contact Kathy Stegmiller, Nita Darland, or Sharon Orr.
- Emergency Preparedness – A session will be offered on Saturday, September 9th at the Waterfront Convention Center in Bettendorf from 10-4.
- Creating Moments of Joy – Two sessions relating to how to talk with people who have dementia will be presented at Senior Star on Elmore on September 28th from 12-1 and 6-7. If you are interested contact Senior Star.
- Refrigerator Upkeep – Mold grows on the seals of the refrigerator. If you use the refrigerator just wipe down the seals so additional mold does not grow.
- There has also been a problem with ants getting into the Project Now cabinet which had containers which had not been properly cleaned. This problem will be discussed with Project Now.

QUILTING: The remaining quilting days for 2023 will be September 21st, October 19th, and November 16th from 9am – noon. **We need more women to participate.** If you cannot attend for every session or the whole time, please consider providing whatever help you can.

TODAY'S HOSTESS: Dorothy Rursch.

Next Meeting - December 7th at 1pm.

- Candy will be distributed
- Missions – we will discuss what organization we would like to support this year
- Next Bible study to be discussed
- When Christmas decorations will be taken down
- January Soup Luncheon

August 15, 2023

The Mission Committee met on August 15, 2023 at 6:3pm in 1st floor conference room. Those attending were: Deb Wagamon, Nancy Engstrom, Eric Moel, and Jim Johnson.

Deb opened the meeting in prayer

Old Business:

- **July Minutes:** July meeting were reviewed and approved
- Reviewed mailings and local ministry newsletters
- **Rockridge School District Teachers:** The committee voted and approved \$500 to provide school supplies for the Rockridge grade school, Jr. High, and High school teachers. Shopping was completed and all supplies given to Brandee Neece who distributed them to the teachers.
- **Tierney Fischer:** Tierney is currently in a rental home and they have decided to rebuild their home in Rock Island. They are doing much better now that they are in a rental home and they send a thank you to Edgington EPC for helping them when their home was destroyed.

New Business:

- **Youth Hope:** Deb is reaching out to Mark and Hannah at YH to get a listing of calendar events this winter and find areas where we may volunteer and support this ministry. The September meeting will discuss these items and determine where we will support so we may notify the congregation.
- **Pregnancy Resources:** EEPCC will be participating in the Walk for Life being sponsored on Sept. 9th. Lisa created a bulletin insert so we may give enough notice to the congregation to encourage participation in this event. A group for Edgington EPC has been created on the PR website for anyone wishing to join the event or sponsor a walker.
- **Chicago Church Planting:** The EPC is working with Jeff Lancaster to refocus his ministry in the Chicago area. This may change the focus of the ministry. We will continue to support this mission and re-evaluate in 2024.
- **Winnie's Place:** The committee voted and approved a \$1000 donation to Winnie's Place to cover the purchase of refrigerators for the apartments.
- **Rockridge School District Lunch Program Debt:** The committee is investigating the lunch program and the debt they are carrying to prayerfully discuss clearing this debt for the schools. A decision will be made at the September meeting.
- **Child Trafficking:** Several of the committee attended the new film "Sound of Freedom". Nancy located some local organizations focused on this issue. We are researching these organizations to see if there is any way we can assist in this endeavor.

Deb closed the meeting in prayer

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday September 19th, 2023 at 6:30pm.



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

{get involved}
be the church

PROUDLY SERVING
SENIORS SINCE 1968



Project NOW
Community Action Agency



For many years now Edgington EPC has been a host site for Senior Meals. The doors are now open here for meals **EVERY WEEKDAY!**

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



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. -Romans 15:13

Please join us and pray for YouthHope this school year. We praise God for all He has done this past year, the lives changed, new staff, and amazing provision! He is our HOPE, and we rejoice always and are so thankful!

Please join us in praying that EVERY kid and teen will hear the good news, receive salvation, and grow in faith. We know God has unbelievable plans for these amazing students! Lord, use us to teach, guide, and love according to your will. Please also pray for ALL past students, that the seeds planted during their time at programs and with staff from YouthHope/Christian Friendliness will grow and God will reconnect them!

Please also prayer for:

- God's grace, protection, provision, and will to be done through everything at YouthHope!
- Staff to have wisdom, strength, focus, peace, clarity, good health and times of rest!
- Board of Directors to have wisdom, discernment, and leadership now and for the future.
- Supporters to have good health, peace, and joy as they continue faithfully partnering to bring hope!
- Volunteers to be protected, committed, faithful, and wise.
- Deliverance, healing, and provision for our Food Pantry participants.
- God's presence, spirit and authority to infiltrate everything we do and everywhere we go!

We believe in the power of prayer and know God is gracious in answering our faith-filled prayers. We trust Him with ALL we do! Thank you so much for partnering with us in ministry! God bless you!

With Love,

All the YouthHope Staff

If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. -Matthew 21:22

BECAUSE OF YOU...

Jenny* came to Pregnancy Resources happy to be pregnant, interested in parenting classes, and excited to be starting this new chapter in her life.

Although she and her partner hadn't been together for long, they both laughed and smiled through the pregnancy test and ultrasound appointments and began attending classes together. Then came that horrible day.

The anger and the violence was not something Jenny had seen coming. The police were called, an order of protection was issued, and Jenny was relocated to a safe, undisclosed location. Now, the woman who had been happy, excited, and filled with joy was devastated, terrified, and overwhelmed with grief. This pregnancy was one more complication and abortion seemed to be the solution.

In the days after the event, Jenny reached back out to Pregnancy Resources and asked to meet with her nurse to fully discuss her options once again. As Jenny and her nurse met, Jenny was able to talk about her fears, her frustrations, and her heartache. She was heard and she was seen. Options education occurred once again, and there was a long discussion about adoption as a realistic option. At her request, another ultrasound was provided, and Jenny saw "her little human" on the screen. In the midst of turmoil and fear – this mother's love for her child prevailed and Jenny again chose life for her little one.

The days ahead will not be easy, but Jenny knows that she is not alone, and she has hope that there will be better days ahead. Thank you for making continuing support available for Jenny. Because of you, Jenny was able to find the hope and the help she needed when life hung in the balance.

Tomorrow another "Jenny" will walk through the doors – and because of you, another "Jenny" will find help too! Thank you for making a difference.

**Name changed for confidentiality*

– Trisha Wilson, Executive Director



PRC 101 VOJUNTEER TRAINING

Only 3 days, our volunteer training is required for volunteers who want to work directly with the women and men we help. Training covers helping skills, fetal development, adoption, abortion procedures and risks, ministry goals, and Biblical training on the sanctity of human life.

October 17th - 19th (Morning or Evening)

Morning Trainings are from 8:45am to 12:15pm & Evening Trainings are from 5:30pm to 9:00pm.

All trainings are held at our Moline Center (3825 16th St., Moline, IL 61265)

Want to register? Sign up online at <https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrysync/event/?e=24495>

Need more info? Contact Maia @ 563-386-3737 or Maia@qcpregnancy.org



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

Thank you for praying for our events of the summer - thought it might be good to report on those first, and then give some prayer requests for this next month.

Local church holiday club in July: It was a long and very full week with about 80 kids attending each day. There were a lot of local kids there that don't normally attend church and who heard about Jesus' love for them. A..... brought a school friend, which was a good opportunity for A..... to share. J..... was a good encourager to the age 10-11 lads in his group. Pray that the kids that came would continue wanting to know more about Jesus.

Camp for J.....: He had a good time with church friends and said he learned a lot too.

Girls club Residential: This was an encouraging time- the girls opened up a lot and shared about their beliefs and also asked us about ours. There were a lot of topics that we would like to follow up on this autumn - please pray for us to be intentional in those conversations and for continued openness from them.

Family vacation: We had a great time in Northern Ireland! It was very restful and a good chance to be together, and we stayed near a beach, which A..... loved! It is a beautiful place and very green!

There was an Asha beach day in July that we weren't able to attend, but it went well and had many good conversations about faith. S.... went with another teammate in early August on a trip with some Bengali men to tour Cambridge - as part of the history tour. There were many opportunities to talk about Jesus and what faith means. Pray that these guys will continue engaging with questions and interest.

Other events from the summer: We had a gathering on the green at local teammate's house - the weather was a bit rainy, but we did have good times, with a handful of kids and parents nearby.

Each Sunday we had picnics instead of Asha services - some more attended than others, but always with someone there along with our core team. A special happening at one picnic - we have been praying for the infant grandson, who has been hospitalized, of a regular Asha attendee for almost a year now, and have developed friendship with her daughter as part of this time - the lady and her family, including the baby, came to the picnic! It was a sweet time to see them and discuss how God has been answering healing prayers for this little boy.

As school starts up again next week, we will go back to a full schedule of events. Pray that we will be deliberate in how we talk about faith in these times, and for logistics of scheduling as well. Some specific things to pray for:

This Sunday we are having a last Asha picnic combined with a cricket match of the guys that have been playing on Thursday nights. Pray for good attendance and for good fellowship and connections to be made with our Asha group and with the cricket group. Pray that some will want to visit Asha or hear more!

Next week we will meet as an Asha core team to go over the year of planning - pray for that time and for us as we work together - pray we allow God to work in us.

As Asha services, ESOL classes, and clubs start up again, and as book table and regular outreach at the bookshop continues, please be praying for those that attend and for new people to come too.

Family prayer requests:

L..... returns to C..... on Sept 9- pray for her move in time and for her second year at university to go well.

J..... is in his last year of 6th Form here and working on applications for universities. Pray for wisdom for him as he studies and as he chooses universities.

A..... returns to school next week - year 4! Pray for her to continue loving school and for good friendships.

With love, C..... (for S.... and kids)

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

As always, there is more to this update than there is room. If you would like to read more and see pictures, please contact the church office.

MCCALLUM MUSE - AUGUST 2023

Why gray hair doesn't mean the end ...

Recently we visited a non-traditional church, Downtown Phoenix Church who focus on being salt and light near ASU's campus. We have met with them off and on over the past 7 years. Looking for ways to connect, this group of church planters found bringing well-behaved, friendly dogs who opened natural magnetic connections. Now in parks & coffee shops they have causal chats that lead to intentional spiritual conversations.

They have grown to four house groups meeting weekly and a monthly Sunday afternoon worship that is authentic fellowship with one another and the King of Kings.

We were asked, why, at our ages did we sign up with ITEN, to which Nan replied, "Why not? We enjoy good health, have information that is needed to equip leaders to take the gospel where it isn't. As Westerners we are barred from the northern region of V....., where 30-40 unreached people groups live. A place where there are not believers or churches. And our age gives us credibility. So why not!"

The next day we received this text from Pastor Jim: *"We thoroughly enjoyed hearing how you say "why not?!" when asked to continue in mission. I find it amazing how God uses us, not because we are anything so talented -but because we make ourselves available. My prayer is that more and more of our folks will recognize being the church doesn't require as much "spectacular" as it does being relational and available. After all, ultimately it is God's presence that changes everything, and we are merely brought along in the process!"*

"Why not?" is a great question to ask when discerning God's path for your life. Life isn't static; sometimes God's shuffles the deck and moves us. How has God led you to take steps to be salt and light, to change your location, to adjust your lifestyle? You seasoned adults, how have your lives been led over the years? We'd enjoy hearing your stories.

What's been on our desks and what's ahead...

Ed has updated materials for two MLTI classes and is working on a third. Isn't it true that what is good can always be edited to be even better after field testing?! "Theological Foundations" was taught by team leader, M. K. in S..... L.... in August for the EPC of S..... L....'s pastors and leaders. Well received. (Folk Islam /animists) "Understanding, Applying, and Teaching the Bible" is being translated for use in Bangladesh.

Nan has been wearing her Child Safety hat updating WO workers in Child Safety and vetting 2 candidates for World Outreach and a mission trip of 8 headed to unreached Muslim settings through WO's B... B....., the director of Strategic Short-Term Mission Trips....

Nan, as a co-leader with D..... V.V., is doing leg work for a vision/work trip for churches in the Presbytery of the West to a Business for Transformation (B4T) project in SE Asia. This site's platform does mariculture Community Development via raising sea cucumbers (a delicacy in Asia) while living & working side by side with unreached Muslim people. We've been asked to help with Community Health Outreach (think Evangelism) ...

In November ITEN teammates, M. K., P./E. B. and we will attend GPro, Congress II a conference in P..... to network and learn about trends & trials in informal theological education. Informal means that courses don't lead to an accredited degree but provide accessible training for pastors and leaders. This is the type of program we have been providing in V.....

After a quick repack of our bags, we'll head to V..... to coach the 8 men who will teach the new cohort of 30 leaders for Ministry Leadership Training Institute (MLTI). During the summer we have been plotting how best to schedule reviewing content and considering best possible teaching methods. We want to encourage these men who are like sons. May we be apt teachers/mentors and be a blessing to them. May we continue to build fellowship as the body of Christ. While there we hope to have conversations about other ways we can serve local ministries to make better use of the cost/stress of travel. While on that side of the globe we'll take time to visit some new locations.

The end of 2023 marks the end of full time work with ITEN.....but we don't plan a full stop retirement. We aren't ready for rocking chair lives yet - less work load pressure is desired to make time for new ways of being salt and light. We have been blessed by many people and churches who have faithfully supported us financially, praying, and encouraging! Our hearts are full of gratitude! Thank you! Thank you! THANK YOU! Blessings, Ed & Nan McCallum

There is more to this report than will fit! Please contact the church office if you would like the full report.



INTRODUCTION TO NEW MINISTRY PARTNERS - MIKE & STEPHANIE KUHN

GRATEFUL FOR YOU

Dear Deb and Missions Committee,

Greetings in Christ. I hope this finds all of you well.

Stephanie and I have noticed two gifts from your church in April and in July. Thank-you so much! It's even more special because we've never met you. I wanted to understand how such a wonderful thing happened so I called your church number and spoke to Lisa. She explained that you had supported the Woodworth's and the McCallums. Thank-you for that long-term support and for continuing as the Woodworth's and McCallum's transition into new ministries and callings.

Could I briefly introduce you to myself and Stephanie?

We have three daughters...all are married. We also have 7 grandkids and an 8th on the way. I'll attach a family photo below.

Our ministry history is divided into four periods. First, we were in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East for 21 years (1984-2005). Most of that time was in Cairo, Egypt. We were discipling former Muslims and also connecting them with local churches in and around Cairo. In 2005, I was deported from Cairo and that brought that phase of our ministry to an end.

The second phase was from 2006-2012. After our abrupt departure from Cairo, I was hired as an assistant pastor at Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church (Knoxville, TN). It was a great place for me to learn about the church in the US, to stay involved in international mission and to get our girls established in US schools and universities. In 2012, CSPC helped send us back to the Middle East...this time to Beirut, Lebanon.

We both taught at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary from 2012-2018. I helped launch an online program. Steph taught English to the seminary students. Later I became the professor of Biblical Theology and Discipleship. During this period we were with ITEN, seconded to ABTS.

2018-present. We departed Beirut in 2018, feeling the time had come for us to give our teaching roles to locals. We continued with ITEN (International Theological Education Network), working in the Middle East. This year, I became the director of ITEN taking over for Bruce Anderson, ITEN's founder. I'm very excited about the possibility of non-formal theological training as a means to further church planting among unreached people. I could tell you a lot about that, but this email would get super long, but I will forward to you our most recent newsletter.

Please let me know if you would like me to add your email address to our newsletter distribution list. Thanks.

My purpose in writing is to thank you and assure you of our prayers for Edgington. We appreciate your support of ITEN and we hope it will continue to be a fruitful partnership for many years.

Grace and Peace to you all,
Mike and Stephanie Kuhn



Left to Right: (the Giles family) Jonas, Matthis, Judah, Beth, Shiloh, Jake, Cason; Stephanie, Mike, (the Farkas family) Six, Hannah, Nick, Hannah; (the Tautua family): Emily, Christian.

MIKE & STEPHANIE KUHN - AUGUST 2023

– And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. John 10:16a

This was my third trip to S..... L..... I'm getting to know these young men. With each trip my respect and love for them grows deeper. All of them are training to plant new churches and/or pastor the churches they currently serve. In our training, we attempt to hear His voice through His word. Like their master, they are bringing other sheep into His fold. Here are a few aspects of the trip that made an impression on me.

- Though the training is in English, it is usually the third language for these trainees. For that reason, we need to go slow and make sure everyone understands.
- Our topic was "Theological Foundations." We dove into topics like creation, the church, God, man, sin, salvation, etc. There was a broad awareness that they needed to grasp these doctrines in order to serve their churches. These men aspire to lead their communities.
- I estimate that about 80% of the questions they face arise from their Muslim majority background. It felt familiar to me to be responding to questions I've been asked for many years in the Middle East.
- Worship was passionate; Prayers were intense and usually voiced all together at the same time
- Poverty is an ever present reality. Meals are very simple--rice and something on top. Sardines are the "go to" meal.
- Each of these trainees works in the interior villages of S..... L..... None are based in the larger towns and cities. the EPC of S..... L..... aspires to plant churches in the Muslim majority villages. It is an honor for ITEN to play a role in their ministry.
- In addition to six churches, many churches are being planted through village outreaches led by the trainees.

Pictured above was an evening session of 2+ hours where a S..... L..... colleague and I were sharing with the village people. Because the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of S..... L..... is deeply committed to education as a means of serving their country, there is great respect for the EPC pastor, his family and the church. About 100 were present. We estimated that 85% were Muslims. The questions were explicit, often concerning the things they had been taught about Christianity by their Muslim leaders (e.g. Isn't Islam the final religion taking the place of what preceded it? Jesus foretold a prophet who would come after him. Wasn't that Muhammad?). It was a chance to clarify and correct misconceptions and ensure, as best we could, that the gospel was understood.

After this session, we were asked to pray for a young woman (about 14 years old) who was afflicted by an evil presence, a demon. After a long season of prayer and some demonic manifestations, the young woman appeared well and was given instructions for further discipleship from the local pastor. I was grateful to have been a part of that prayer time. It gave me a sense of the challenges these brothers and sisters regularly face.

We give praise for the following:

- The summer was full and wonderfully blessed.
- Our first ITEN retreat where we enjoyed great unity of heart and purpose. PLEASE check out our updated ITEN website! We are excited to see where God takes the ITEN team in the coming years.
- Safe and blessed travel to S..... and S..... L.....
- Mike's finger wound healed wonderfully while he was in Africa. We were shocked at how quickly the wound closed up and new skin formed! THANK you so much for praying with us! There is still some nerve damage but we trust that will dissipate with time.
- We've enjoyed several good visits with our kids including one family photo session (see below)
- Our garden has produced a bumper crop of tomatoes, zucchini, apples, arugula and kale.

As we move into the Fall, please join us in prayer for the following:

- A new ITEN couple beginning their ministry in C..... A... (K.....).
- Fruitful travel and ministry for several of our ITEN team to C..... A..., E..... E....., P....., V.....
- Over the next 2-3 months, we will share with several supporting churches: Cordata Presbyterian (Bellingham, WA), Uptown Church (Charlotte, NC), First Presbyterian (Jacksonville, OR) and Great Valley Presbyterian (Malvern, PA). Please pray for God-given connections and relationships of trust.
- Plans for ITEN training in B..... in early 2024. Pray for the right collaborative team to form for training in B.....
- Unity, focus and excellence among our ITEN colleagues in the various sites we serve globally.

If you would like to read the full report & see the pictures, please email the church office.

Many, many thanks to each and every one of you for reading, for praying, for participating with us in this part of God's kingdom in the world!

EDGINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report August 2023

		Receipts	Disbursement	Balance
General Fund	\$ 100,326.08	\$ 21,995.22	\$ 12,127.11	\$ 110,194.19
Education Fund (Jahn)	\$ 10,282.25	\$ 109.23	\$ -	\$ 10,391.48
Building Fund	\$ 153,078.00	\$ 743.83		\$ 153,821.83

August 2023 MONTHLY REVIEW - General Fund

Receipts - August 2023

Pledges	21,901.45
Interest Income - General Fund	13.77
Per Member Asking	80.00

\$ 21,995.22

Expenditures - August 2023

Administrative

\$ 4,048.58

ABS (copier rental)	566.40	33.4%
AT&T - Phone for elevator	129.21	
Cemetery Upkeep	450.00	
Computers: Software and Apps	79.99	
Jeanne Hayes (Custodian)	566.27	
Johnson Controls	-	
Lisa Bowman (Office Manager)	1,621.38	
MidAmerican Energy	615.00	
Millenium Waste	58.71	
Office Supplies	28.25	
Repairs & Maintenance - general	(286.11)	Includes reimbursement from YG
Reytel - Internet	118.96	
Shipping/Postage	-	
Taxes / FICA / Penalty	100.52	

Discipleship (Internal)

\$ 7,548.75

Continuing Education	-	62.2%
Deacon Expense	-	
EPC General Assembly	-	
EPC (health)	26.48	
Fidelity (pension)	960.89	
Housing Allowance	3,701.61	
Meals	27.25	
Mileage	132.31	
Pastor Salary	2,650.72	
Presbytery Expense	-	
Pulpit Supply	-	
Resource Materials	49.49	

Mission (external)

\$ 529.78

Mission - International	-	4.4%
Mission - US	-	
Mission - Local	529.78	

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$ 12,127.11

100.0%

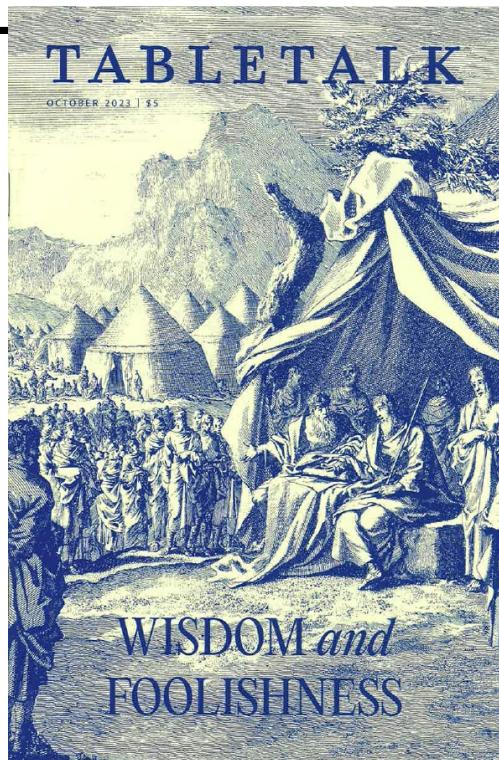
NET OPERATING INCOME

\$ 9,868.11

INCLUDED IN GENERAL FUND TOTAL

Mission monies included in general fund of \$14,588.17 and Assistance Fund of \$5,153.46

GET YOUR OCTOBER COPY OF
THE TABLETALK DEVOTIONAL



LOCATED ON A TABLE IN THE SANCTUARY FOYER

EVERY SUNDAY (UNLESS NOTED)
5:30-7:30PM (UNLESS NOTED)

EEPC YOUTH GROUP

10.1 - FOOD OLYMPICS
10.8 - HARVEST PARTY/LOCK-IN
10.15 - VOLLEYBALL
10.22 - PUMPKIN CARVING
10.29 - TRUNK OR TREAT

FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS

CADE REIMERS FOR MORE INFO
309.373.2488



Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

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

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

than Wednesday, October 18th. Items received after that date may not make it into the newsletter.

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!



UNITYPOINT FOOT CLINIC

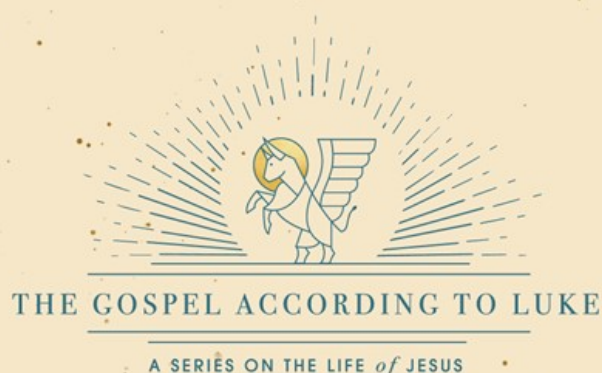
Next Clinic: Monday, October 16th starting at 9am

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 .



Find us on
Facebook

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 ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

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.

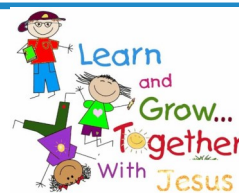
Join us!

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!



fall together
autumn
foliage blessings
harvest
thankful
traditions
leaves memories
pumpkin crisp

Harvest Party

OCTOBER 8TH 4-7 PM @ EEPC

FUN FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH FAMILY!

PICNIC GAMES 'SMORES HAYRACK RIDES



TRUNK *or* TREAT



OCT
29
4-6PM



CANDY | APPLE CIDER | PRIZE DRAWINGS

Open to the entire Rockridge Community!

If you would like to have a space in the parking lot
please reserve your spot TODAY!

Church Office: 309.795.1713

Happy Fall





HARVEST PARTY HELP PLEASE!

The Women's Ministry will be helping with the food set-up and take-down for the Harvest Party.

Many hands make light the work and we would love to have as many of you as can chip in help to get it done quickly.



Any questions, please reach out to Karyl Parrish at 309-236-1062.

QUILTING

Thursday, October 21st, 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!

2023 FALL BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you to everyone who took the time to donate at our Fall Blood Drive!



We surpassed our goal! We had 29 people present, including one first-time donor. We collected 31 units, which will go on to help save the lives of up to 93 people.

This shows the importance of mobile blood drives and the impact it can make in our community.

Thank you for making a difference by donating blood and giving the gift of life.

Blessings,

Teresa Balmer

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?

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.

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)



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.

Non-Liquid Hygiene Items: Toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths, etc.

Accessories: T-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.

Crafts: Make your own items. Go to website for ideas: <https://www.pinterest.com/occs shoeboxes/>

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.

OCTOBER 2023



Sunday School 9am
Worship Service

EEPC

Phone: 309-795-1713

Email: edgingtonepc@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.edgingtonepc.org

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Food Pantry Sunday New Member Reception Comm. Class - Parent Mtg., 6pm Youth Group, 5:30pm	2 Meal Site Matter of Balance, 1pm	3 Meal Site WM Bible Study, 10am	4 Meal Site Matter of Balance, 1pm WM Bible Study, 6:30pm	5 Meal Site	6 Meal Site	7
8 B/P Checks Harvest Party, 4 - 7pm	9 <i>Columbus Day</i> NO Meal Site Matter of Balance, 1pm	10 Meal Site WM Bible Study, 10am	11 Meal Site Matter of Balance, 1pm WM Bible Study, 6:30pm	12 Meal Site	13 Meal Site	14
15 Deacon/Elder Mtg., 11:30am Youth Group, 5:30pm Communicant's Class, 6pm	16 Foot Clinic Meal Site Matter of Balance, 1pm	17 Meal Site Mission Comm. Mtg., 6:30pm WM Bible Study, 10am	18 Meal Site Matter of Balance, 1pm WM Bible Study, 6:30 Trustee Mtg., 7pm Newsletter Items Due	19 Quilting, 9am Meal Site	20 Meal Site	21
22 B/P Checks Youth Group, 5:30pm Comm. Class, 6pm	23 Meal Site	24 Meal Site WM Bible Study, 10am Session Mtg., 7pm	25 Meal Site WM Bible Study, 6:30pm	26 Meal Site	27 Meal Site	28
29 Trunk or Treat, 4 - 6pm	30 Meal Site	31 <i>Reformation Day</i> Meal Site	1 Meal Site	2 Meal Site	3 Meal Site	4