



## Immanuel or Emmanuel?

Have you ever noticed that the same name is written two different ways? Is it with an “I” or an “E?” You’re not wrong whichever you choose. Immanul is a transliteration of the original Hebrew word composed of “Immanu” (with us) and “El” (God), while Emmanuel is a transliteration of the Greek word “Emmanouel.” The translation that we use at Edgington avoids this confusion by preferring the OT rendering in the NT as well. But just in case you’ve ever wondered, that’s why the carol is called “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” with an “E.”

### “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Well – now that I have that out of the way – let me offer some reflections on that wonderful hymn we know and love, to help us prepare our hearts for this beautiful time of year. It’s one that I think is able to capture the sensation of yearning and the longing that the season of Advent is all about - *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. The words were written in Germany during the year 1710, more than 200 years after the music which was originally composed in 15th century France. We owe gratitude to John Mason Neale (1864) who is responsible for the version most widely known and sung in modern times.

The lyrics are arranged around five petitions which are intended to communicate something very important, both about the season of Advent and the Christian life. In the present age of redemptive history, the Christian life oscillates between two realities: the overflowing joy of our redemption and membership in the Kingdom of God, which is **already** a reality (Eph 1:7), and the tearful yearning for the full consummation of the Kingdom of God, which is **not-yet** (Rom 8:18; Eph 4:30). The already and the not-yet. Christ has come and we rejoice! But in another sense, He is yet to come, and for that we express our longing. It’s that mingled sense of the Christian life that Paul speaks of when he says that we are “sorrowful, yet always rejoicing” (2 Cor 6:10).

This grand drama of Kingdom inauguration and consummation is revealed in *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* through the various titles ascribed to Jesus. Each one captures something of the “already, not yet” sense of our redemption.

- As **Emmanuel** (Isaiah 8:8), “God with us” — He will pay the ransom that only a God-man can pay.
- As the **Rod of Jesse** (Isaiah 11:1) springing from a dead stump, He will free His people, by death and resurrection, from Satan’s tyranny, and make them free forever.
- As the **Day-Spring** (Luke 1:78), the dawn of God’s kingdom, He will be the light of the world and banish the hopelessness of darkness.
- As the **Key of David** (Isaiah 22:22), He rescues us from hell, locks the door behind us, unlocks the door of heaven, and brings us home.
- And as the **Desire of Nations** (Haggai 2:7), He will draw the ransomed from every people and make them a kingdom of peace.

Cont. from p. 1

When we sing these words, and especially these titles of who Jesus is, we are declaring what He has already achieved, and also the great work that He is yet to do. With every refrain, our weak and mournful hearts are pulled up into faith and joy – Rejoice! Emmanuel has come. Emmanuel will come. Rejoice!

It absolutely thrills my soul to celebrate this with you all! So, I want to encourage you to join us as we worship the Lord together. Whether on the Lord's Day, where we will be tracing the story of God's redemption through the women of Jesus' genealogy, or on Christmas Eve-evening for our Lessons & Carols service [12/24 – 5pm]. Come and worship our Triune God!

Wishing you and all you love a wonderful season of Advent,

Your Pastor, and Friend,

Zach



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX UPDATE

MANY THANKS to all of you that donated, prayed, packed, and helped in ANY way!

We had a great time packing 202 shoeboxes to be shipped all over the world, spreading the love of Christ to children.



## 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  
 Cindy Oak

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 - Drew Hall	13 - Andrea Schafman	22 - Tara Johnson
1 - Dorothy Oak	15 - Jason Flickinger	24 - Chris Stark
5 - Kathleen Fuhr	15 - Gianna Johnson	25 - Hannah Oak
6 - Denise Rursch	16 - Jett Fuhr	25 - Elisabeth Tomlin
7 - Donnie Neece	16 - Dylan Peterson	26 - Karyl Parrish
8 - Kinley Fuhr	19 - Shay Lemon	26 - Mary Wagamon
8 - Kelly Moel	20 - Elsie Koresko	28 - Aaron Ehm
8 - Matt Tomlin	20 - Sharon Orr	30 - Caelen Fuhr
13 - Addi Maxwell	22 - Charlie Fuhr	

Dear Pastor  
 Zach and  
 Congregation,



Thank you so much for your warm and encouraging reception, special events to share God's work with each other, encouraging words and prayers, delicious foods and fun, and very generous honorarium. It was a very special time and knitted my heart with you all. I look forward to bringing Eliie with me next time.

Until then, God richly bless you as you serve Him. And, God bless our partnership in the gospel for His glory!

Thanks again,  
 Bruce

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

17 - Nathan & Lyndsey  
 22 - Keith & Debra Wilson  
 29 - Zach & Mackenzie Hopkins  
 29 - Andrew & Katie Pearson

### GREETERS FOR DECEMBER

Sunday, December 3rd, 10am - Matt & Jen Youck  
 Sunday, December 10th, 10am - Nathan & Amy Oak  
 Sunday, December 17th, 10am - Steve & Deb Wagamon  
 Sunday, December 24th, 10am - Jason & Beth Flickinger  
 Sunday, December 24th, 5pm - Bob & Kathy Stegmiller  
 Sunday, December 31st, 10am - Nathan & Lyndsey Flickinger

## 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.

# welcome



(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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Reynolds, IL 61279  
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Her cell: 309-798-6170  
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### **Sydney Maxwell**

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### **Shay Lemon**

16408 119th St. W.  
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daverandshayl@gmail.com

### **Pamela Ehm**

2828 149th Ave. W.  
Milan, IL 61264  
Pam's cell: 309-738-2037  
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### **Brett Johnson**

309-314-8153  
Bajohns319@gmail.com



November 1, 2023, 7pm

**Location:** Conference Room

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

Pastor Zach acted as moderator of the meeting. He opened the meeting with prayer and read from Genesis 25. 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 September 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, he conducted six office visits and three home visits. He participated in Women's Bible Study, Communicant's Class parent's meeting and conducted Communicant's Class. He also participated in the Harvest Party and Trunk or Treat events.

**Correspondence:** Zach read a letter from Rev. Dr. Bruce Anderson, Director of WO International Theological Education Network. Rev. Anderson was very appreciative of the hospitality that he had received in his recent visit with our congregation.

#### **Old Business:**

- The Session discussed the Church Officer Nominating Process. Zach shared a draft of the Committee and Process overview. After discussion it was moved to adopt the process for future Nominating Committees. The motion was seconded and carried. Zach will communicate the process to the congregation along with providing a process to receive nominations.
- The Session discussed the recent Harvest Party and Trunk or Treat events. It was felt that both events were well attended and provided members of the community an opportunity to get acquainted with our church family.
- The Session discussed the October 8<sup>th</sup> visit by Rev. Dr. Bruce Anderson. He taught the Adult Sunday School Class and gave the Message during worship. The Session was very appreciative of his visit.
- The Session discussed the joint Elder/ Deacon meeting held on October 15<sup>th</sup>. It was felt that it was productive and beneficial to reinforce our understanding of our respective roles.
- Zach let the Elders know that Nathan and Lindsey Flickinger, Colby Mueller, and Cade Reimers have been signed up to attend the Youth Leader Conference in Louisville January 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

#### **New Business:**

- Youth Leader Conference in Louisville, January 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- The Session reviewed a Facility Use Request from Brandee Neece. Brandee has requested the use of the church basement for a dinner for the Leadership Committee of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes from 5:00 to 8:30pm on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. A motion was made to approve and was seconded and carried.
- The Session reviewed a Scholarship request from Kira Nelson. A motion was made to approve, was seconded and carried.
- Zach suggested to the Elders that he would like have a Communion of Saints portion of the November 5<sup>th</sup> liturgy in order to celebrate all of the faithful followers of Jesus throughout history. There was agreement to this addition.

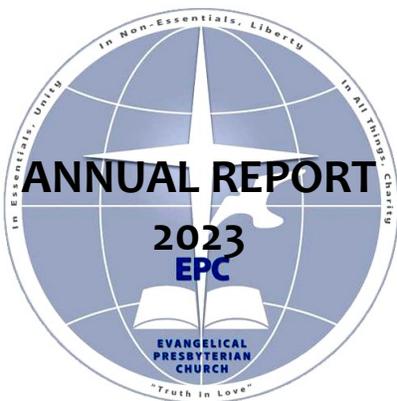
# SESSION

- Zach reviewed his plans for the upcoming Advent Season: Women in the Genealogy of Jesus (Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba). The Elders are looking forward to this.
- The plan for Christmas Eve Service is for a Lessons and Carols service at 5:00pm. Zach is recruiting involvement.
- Zach announced that the Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Communion will be held November 5<sup>th</sup>. The next stated Session meeting is November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

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



## 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.**

## 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.





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

First, I'd like to thank all the folks at EEPC who answered the call for chunky soups and canned meat. You responded so generously and we so appreciate that!

On Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, we had a successful distribution to 37 families consisting of 83 adults, 10 teens and 23 children. When we packed on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, there were 8 people who helped. On Saturday when we distributed, we had 12 helping, plus 4 Rockridge high school students and the Penry's granddaughter. What a blessing they were! Some folks were also fortunate to receive coats that the Deacons had collected. We had two families who were unable to pick up on Saturday and will make other arrangements.

We are looking forward to being the recipients of some of the food from the Rockridge School District's food drive which will be delivered on November 20<sup>th</sup>. We are blessed to have so many students who are willing to take time out of their busy lives to help in their community.

We would like to express our appreciation to all those who donated food, money, and/or time to help us with this mission outreach. Community support is so important to us, as we couldn't do this without you.

Donations of nonperishables are always welcome. Some of the things we always need are chunky soups, canned fruit, canned meats, canned pasta, soup, paper products, pasta sauce, ingredients for chili, Jello, pudding, cake mixes, saltine and graham crackers, and juice.

Wishing God's blessings to all.

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

## WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED THIS CHRISTMAS

### 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
- Children's and Teen's Adventure Bibles
- \$5 gift cards to McDonalds

Please deliver to YouthHope (3928 12th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265)  
9am-4pm Monday through Friday.  
Collection Deadline: December 7th by 4pm.

### Holiday Food Baskets

This year we are providing baskets for families in-need this Christmas. Items needed include:

- Boxed Stuffing (240 needed)
- Gravy (240 needed)
- Cake/Brownie/Cookie Mix (240 needed)
- Cranberry Sauce (100 needed)
- Canned Pumpkin (100 needed)
- Canned Corn (120 needed)
- Canned Green Beans (120 needed)
- Canned Sweet Potatoes/Yams (100 needed)
- Vegetable Oil (100 needed)

Christmas Items needed by December 13

### Winter Gear for Students

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



**YouthHope**  
We bring youth HOPE!

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!**



### **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!



**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

## DIFFERENT TIMES & COMPLICATED ISSUES

“We live in different times.” It’s something we hear a lot, and it’s true. The world is different than when Pregnancy Resources opened our doors in 1990. **As times have changed, the ministry has grown and adapted, while affirming life choices.** Three locations, limited ultrasound care, mobile medical care, abortion pill reversal, post-abortion care, and male mentorship are all examples of how Pregnancy Resources has adapted to the needs of our community. Our clients have changed, too. Today’s clients are older and face more complicated issues. They are stuck in the culture of “anything goes” and “live in the moment.” Sexual activity outside of marriage is typical, single pregnancy is normal, and abortion is seen as “acceptable.”

Two recent examples come to mind. Sami\* has been coming to Pregnancy Resources since she was in high school. Now in her 20’s, Sami has several children with the same man. Tragically, domestic violence, infidelity, and drugs played a role in destroying this family. Now Sami is dating a woman and pregnant with another baby who will grow up without a father. Sadly, **this young woman’s dreams of an “intact family” have been shattered. She’s given up on the traditional family roles. While not considering abortion, this woman expresses a different kind of hopelessness. Pray the gospel shared with her will take root.**

Another client, Lola\*, has several children, all by different men. Each guy stayed a while then left when things got tough. Lola decided she’s better off without a man. She’s shut out the world and is focused on raising her children and working to support them. Lola believes in God, but believes that she can only rely on herself. **Lola, and others like her have “given up” on knowing a man who will support and love them in the way God intended.** Many believe that men simply will not stay to be involved or provide support for the family. **Pray that these women will come to know how much God loves them. Pray that these children will find healthy male role models to emulate.** Pray that our male volunteers will have opportunities to mentor some of these young men despite great opposition. **We know that God designed a different way for families. Daily we testify to God’s better way.**

– Annetta Cooper, Client Services Director & Davenport Center Director

The examples above are not uncommon in our society today. 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 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)

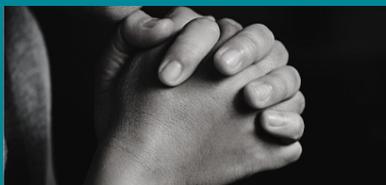
### To date, (10/2023) you have been able to help:

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

## 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](mailto: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

## THE HUBER FAMILY - OUR NEPHEW SIMEON

Dearest Family & Friends,

In our annual paper mailing around Christmastime, we shared about our 3-year-old nephew, Simeon ("Simmy"), who has a rare form of leukemia... however, we realized haven't shared anything here. Just wanted to share an update with you all, as this has been a place of pain, suffering, and growth for Saul's entire family. Though there hasn't been much good news regarding Simmy's future, I believe each member of our family (including Simmy's) has seen their heart being formed even more to Christ's as we press into prayer, vulnerability, encouragement, and sharing of hope with those around us.



Here's a brief outline of events over the past year:

- August 2022 - Simmy diagnosed with Leukemia (one week after Seth and Jessie had their fifth child) and starts chemotherapy within a week
- September 2022 - They find out he has hypodiploidy, which makes his condition extremely rare
- October 2022 - Simmy is flown from Springfield to Children's Hospital in St. Louis due to complications and bleeding in one of his arteries and he undergoes two 7-hour plus surgeries in a week
- November 2022 to February 2023 - Continues chemotherapy. He's in and out of the hospital with various complications.
- March/April 2023 - Leukemia shows back up in his blood, so he starts an experimental treatment called Car T cell Therapy
- May/June 2023 - Goes through full body radiation treatments and bone marrow transplant.
- July 2023 - Doctors find extremely small amount of leukemia cells (2 in a million) left in blood.
- August 2023 - Biopsy shows that Simmy's leukemia grew significantly (3 in every 100 cells).

The aggressiveness of the cancer has been surprising and heartbreaking. My brother and his wife (Seth & Jessie) were given several medical options moving forward, but each one had next to zero chances of succeeding and would result in Simmy being in the hospital for the remainder of his young life, rather than at home with his family. After much prayer and tears and heartache, they made the difficult decision to take a maintenance and quality of life route. Here's a quote from one of my brother's recent Facebook posts:

*"This is dark, and hard, there's no real way to have complete peace in a situation that ultimately ends in the death of your child. Recently I read through the book of Job. It reads differently after you've experienced affliction and loss. In the beginning of the book, right after he loses everything he says two things... "the Lord gives and the Lord takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord," and "why should we accept only good from God and not also adversity." I feel like those things were easier to say a year ago when Simmy first got his diagnosis. I also know and believe the end of the book, where Job's fortunes are restored- it's a beautiful picture of Heaven and God fully and generously restoring us. But in between the beginning and end of the book, there's a long section filled with Job's questions and doubts. And honestly, that's where Jess and I are right now. I still believe God's promises and believe there's victory in the end, but the middle is hard. Please be praying for us as we process this together, and still have a full family to take care of, cherish, teach and prepare. Please pray for wisdom as we make decisions and prioritize what's truly important during this tough season."*

Tears come as I sit here writing. It's been over a year now, but it's still hard to soak in the reality of what the next 4-6 months will possibly bring. One of our missions co-workers said to me the other day, "Saul, your family is walking on holy ground. Don't leave us out." I've had to sit with that phrase "holy ground." This place isn't good, but it isn't ultimately bad either because of our hope and trust in Jesus. The word "Holy" means "set apart." We can trust that no matter how much (or how little) we understand, this season is set apart for God's glory and Simmy's ultimate good.

To those of you who already know Simmy's story, thanks a million times over for all the prayers and encouragements. To those of you hearing this for the first time, I'll resist the urge to apologize for bringing such a difficult story into your day, and instead ask you to pray for Simmy, his family and our extended family. We know that you all have your own stories of suffering and have found solace in the prayers and tears of fellow believers. Thank you. We love you all so much.

If you want to read occasional updates, and/or find a way to support Simmy's family, you can head to my brother's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/sethjhuber>

In Christ,

-Saul, Jesse & the kids

## THE HUBER FAMILY - IT WAS A COHORT KIND OF SUMMER

In June of this summer, we loaded our five kids into our trusty (and very packed) mini-van, Rhoda Toyota, and drove out to Denver, Colorado for the EPC's annual general assembly conference. We've actually attended this event every year since 2017... in different locations and with varying numbers of children as we've added more each year. EPC General Assembly (GA) is easily our biggest World Outreach mobilization event and we work hard for months leading up to the week, planning events, making promotional materials, networking, leading events, preparing missionaries to be commissioned and helping them tell their stories to the church leaders there. This year though... it was EXTRA special... we brought some of our Cohort students for the first time!



Back in the beginning of 2020, we helped start EPC WO Mission Cohorts, a year long discipleship program for young adults (mostly college students) that are interested in missions. Since then we've had roughly 40-45 young adults participate in this program, and can't even begin to tell you how humbled and blessed we've been to walk alongside these passionate and mature Christ followers! When the program began, we thought that these college students would be at least 5-10 years (or more) from going overseas if God so called them, but in the Lord's providence and timing, five have already landed on the field or started the missionary application process with WO!

Okay, now back to this summer... Two of the five students just mentioned were commissioned at GA as World Outreach global workers and have already begun their service on the mission field... one in the Middle East and one in Central Asia, both working amongst unreached people groups!

Something else that made this GA so special is that World Outreach leadership gave us the green light to bring a group of cohort students/alumni to the conference to host a cohort lunch event and help out with mobilization. These eight students infused the week with excitement and passion as they shared stories of how God has worked in their hearts and lives as they seek to be faithful senders, mobilizers, and goers. Some told testimonies of Muslims coming to Christ during our Cohort trip to Jordan, others told of how deep/lifelong friendships have developed from the cohort community, and one young woman even shared about how God used her time in the cohort to bring her out of a deep depression. Glory to God!

Thank you for partnering with us in equipping and sending out these passionate young Christ followers! Please be praying for our newest cohort that kicked off in August. Mission Cohort Five (or MC5 as we call it) has 10 college students in the group participating from seven different states, and one country (a missionary kid in Scotland)! You can pray specifically for MC5 students as many of them are currently support raising/shifting winter schedules to join us this January at Cross Con, a missions conference in Louisville, KY that focuses on reaching frontier people groups around the world.



For safety reasons we are not linking the full report. If you would like to receive their regular updates via email, please contact the church office and Lisa will connect you with S & C to be added to their email list.

Feels like October flew by! We had visitors for a big part of the month, so we took some time off, played tourist, and had some good family times... We enjoyed hosting my cousin and cousin in law for a couple days - they are our first overnight family visitors! It was wonderful to show them the city and also reconnect and laugh and be together. Then we had C... here for 10 days! It's been almost a year since seeing him last, and was wonderful to have the time with him. Were even able to take a weekend trip north and have the whole family together for a few days.

Work wise - S.... has had a busy schedule with tutoring ESOL, the bookshop and long talks there, and book tables (which have had a few more heated arguers lately). Colleen has been spending time with teens - at school lunch and afterschool clubs, and also doing art - at both a drop in and as a connecting point with those we know.

We changed our clocks this weekend and are suddenly aware of the darkness of winter here - but also the joy of Christmas coming and of Thanksgiving this month. We have lots to be thankful for - the joy of knowing Jesus, and being able to share that, and also the blessing and gift of being part of a global church body. One of the joys of being supported by all of you is the feeling of connection and family - and knowing that you all are part of what we do here as well. Know that we are grateful for all of you and that we thank God for you!

...We finished the mural at girl's club, and had a great time talking with a couple older girls doing the last touchup bits. Continue to pray for opportunities to have deeper conversations about faith with the club girls - and also pray for more girls to join. Along with this - pray for the lunch clubs in schools and ways to be a loving presence to those girls, and also that some of those girls would want to come along to the afterschool club.

Asha services have had great conversations in the women's groups especially lately- it is encouraging that they are understanding the Matthew passages and wanting to engage with it. Pray for changed hearts as they understand more and more.

We still pray for more children and families to come to Asha regularly- please pray for that with us. And pray for the kids of the plant team as they grow in faith. These kids all attend schools with few, if any, other Christians- pray for them to grow in confidence of what they believe and knowledge of God's presence with them.

The art drop in has started and has had just a couple ladies come, but they have enjoyed the time. Pray that this would be a comfortable space for women to come and be together, and for continued good conversations about life and faith as we are there.

Continue to pray for S.... as he leads as an elder in Asha - for wisdom in that for him and the other elders.

Pray for the relationships S.... is developing through ESOL and at the bookshop - that these would deepen and grow in convos about faith. Pray especially for A and H.

### Family prayer requests:

It was really great being together with all the kids, but has now been hard in the goodbyes as well. Pray for our hearts as parents as we see our kids grow and go out on their own- we love to see it, but also miss them!

S.... was able to spend a few days in Newcastle at a Presbyterian conference this past weekend- he enjoyed connecting with other Presbyterians and also getting some great teaching and refreshing time. Pray for him to continue to grow in awareness of God's presence and work in his heart and in our work here. (can actually pray that for all of us- S.... just wrote it out so well :)

J..... is finishing up university applications with a lot of tests this week, and turning in the application this month- please continue to pray for him and his future plans.

A..... has a ballet exam this month- she's been working hard on learning the dances and steps, but is concerned about what if she fails. We really don't think she will, but pray for her and learning where to put her trust and identity, and knowing God loves her no matter what!

As we see the violence in this fallen world, we pray for peace and pray for healing. With the situation in Israel and Palestine, we see a lot of emotions in our area. Pray that we can respond with wisdom and with love when asked about the issue, in a way that honors and points to God. And pray especially for J..... at school, where there is a lot of debate often.

## MCCALLUM MUSE NOVEMBER & BEYOND

### *A Season Ending and another Redeployment*

**We are being released and redeployed with reduced pressure January 1, 2024.** Many of you are saying...."Yup, McCallum's aren't ready to retire" -- and you are correct. We are ready to ease up on the accelerator. Our World Outreach relationship will be as Mission Associates....a newly created option within World Outreach. **ITEN will still be a major focus.**

The general plan is to **reduce yearly travel to two** global trips to... working as **coaches for the next team of teachers.** Ed won't be creating new curriculum, but updating formatting to aid reading comprehension. These materials are being offered to other countries to increase the training of leaders who will train others -- ITEN's goal! In April, Nan is co-leading a trip to a... island setting's Business as Mission project through the Presbytery of the West (EPC regional area of the US we're in). Spots are waiting for 5 people...**could that be you?**

Nan is in process of being **released** from ten years in World Outreach's **Child Safety Office.** Her replacement, Martha Halbedl, takes over November 11th. Thank you for your prayers for this gifted woman. Please **pray for Martha's transition. Pray that the transfer goes smoothly.** Nan steps away from a meaningful experience in leading the effort of safeguarding minors and protecting adults from false charges of abuse. This frees Nan for new things.

Together we are **adding a redeployment to the city around us,** primarily to people from global areas where the good news of new life in Jesus hasn't gotten to their ears. Perhaps international students and refugees. We've been connecting with people and groups we've met over the years and we are asking the Lord to connect the dots. We will keep you updated.

**What's on the immediate ITEN horizon?** We have 3 trips rolled into one. Leaving the evening of November 11 and returning December 10 in time to set up for Christmas. A dear young couple will be staying at the house and our son John's, McCallum's Pool Service and Repair will take care of the pool. He has grown his business to 17 employees! **Pray for productive days** of checking tasks off our lists before we leave.

- First to Panama for GPro Congress -- *Multiplying the Quality and Quantity of Trainers of Pastors.* We'll join 800+ global leaders in theological education in discussions of how to expand training to pastors who don't have access to traditional seminary degrees. ITEN's M. K. and P. B. and some other EPC pastors involved in global theological education will attend. **Pray that we'll be in the places for the right conversations to learn & to share.**
- We'll be home to quickly repack and head to V..... to work with our group of 9 men who completed the 12 Ministry Leadership Training Institute Program courses and were approved by their denomination to be the lecturers for the new group of 30 church leaders. As coaches we'll guide the men through the first two courses: Understanding, Applying, and Communicating the Bible, and Introduction to Spiritual Formation. This gives them opportunity to deepen their grasp of content and process together how to teach well. The materials have been newly translated into mother tongue of this people group which takes away a barrier of understanding. **Thanks for your financial giving which makes this possible.** While in H....., leaders of the Bible College also want to brainstorm ideas of training broadly across their churches with us. **Pray for us to listen well and point to possible resources.** Our goal has been and is to see II Timothy 2:2 applied: "What you have heard from me, impart to faithful others who can teach others also." **We are working ourselves out of a job!**
- Taking advantage of being on the other side of the world and our current good health and mobility, we'll take 2 weeks of our allotted vacation time to see sights and refresh.

Together as partners is a blessing in many ways,

Ed & Nan McCallum

Taking action to ease global theological famine through the International Theological Education Network.

Happy Thanksgiving!





GET YOUR DECEMBER COPY OF  
THE TABLETALK DEVOTIONAL

# TABLETALK

DECEMBER 2023 | \$5



LOCATED ON A TABLE IN THE SANCTUARY FOYER

EVERY SUNDAY (UNLESS NOTED)

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

## EEPC YOUTH GROUP

- 12.3 - GARGONS
- 12.10 - GINGERBREAD CONTEST
- 12.17 - SECRET SANTA
- 12.24 - CHRISTMAS BREAK
- 12.30 - CHRISTMAS BREAK

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 January 2024 Newsletter must be in by **NO LATER**

than Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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](http://edgingtonepc.org).

*Thank you so much for your help!*



### FOOT CLINIC

Next Clinic: Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 9am

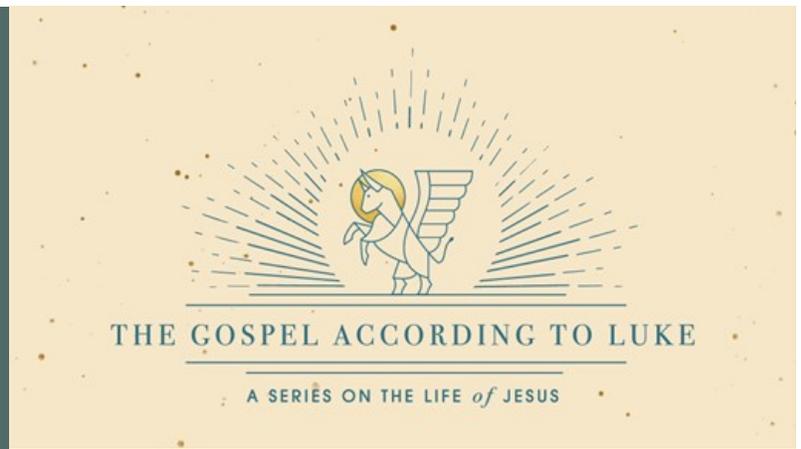
If you would like to receive a pedicure done by a medical professional, please call the church office at 309-795-1713 to schedule an appointment.

## CURRENT SERMON SERIES

Pastor Zach will pause this series until after the first of the year to preach an Advent series on 4 special women in Jesus's family tree.

Please see page 20 for more information & join us for this special series, then return to pick back up in the Book of Luke again in January 2024!

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 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!*



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

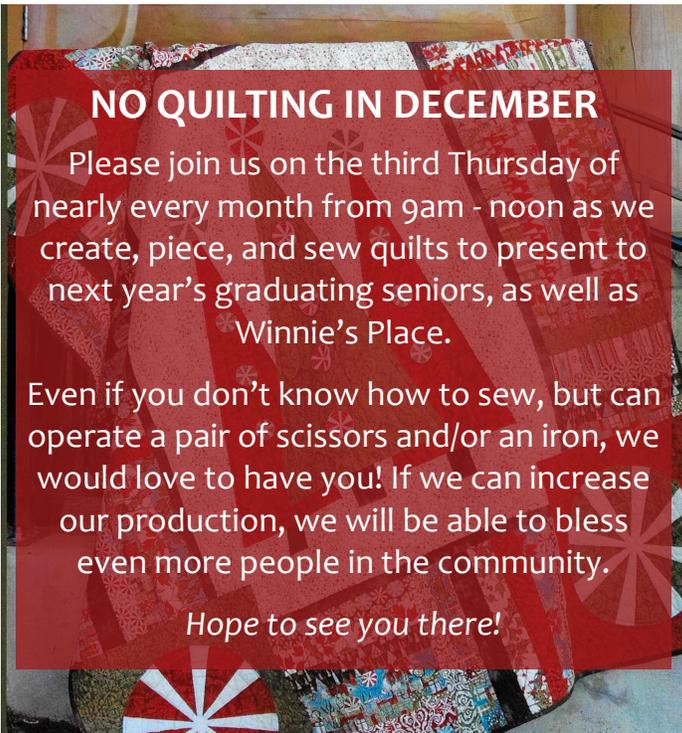
The next Women's Ministry meeting will be **Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**.

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**.



### NO QUILTING IN DECEMBER

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 (After holidays - MEN TOO!)

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 UPDATE THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED!!!

We matched 33 coats to Rockridge students & food pantry clients, and about another 20 were shopped or sent to local schools.



Due to several generous donations, only 5 coats had to be purchased.

\* Next step is to find places that could use the leftover coats, especially elementary ages and women's coats. The infant sizes are headed to Pregnancy Resources via Dana (thank you!) and the men's are being taken to Christian Care by Patrick (Thank you!).





## 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.

### 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 1

Tamar | Rahab | Ruth | Bathsheba



**"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.



# DECEMBER 2023



**EEPC**

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

Sunday School 9am  
 Worship Service

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 B/P Checks	27 Meal Site	28 Meal Site Session Mtg., 7pm	29 Meal Site	30 Meal Site	1 Meal Site	2
3 Food Pantry Sun. Deacon's Mtg., 11:30am Youth Group, 5:30pm Comm. Class, 6pm	4 Meal Site	5 Meal Site	6 Meal Site	7 Meal Site Women's Ministry Mtg., 1pm	8 Meal Site	9
10 B/P Checks Youth Group, 5:30 Comm. Class, 6pm	11 Meal Site	12 Meal Site	13 Meal Site	14 Meal Site	15 Meal Site	16
17 Youth Group, 5:30 Comm. Class, 6pm	18 Foot Clinic Meal Site Newsletter Items Due	19 Meal Site Mission Comm. Mtg., 6:30pm	20 Meal Site Trustee Mtg., 6pm	21 Meal Site	22 Meal Site	23
24 Christmas Eve 10am Worship Candlelight Service, 5pm	25 Christmas  MERRY Christmas	26 NO Meal Site Session Mtg., 7pm	27 Meal Site	28 Meal Site	29 Meal Site	30
31 New Year's Eve 	1 happy New Year	2 Meal Site	3 Meal Site	4 Meal Site	5 Meal Site	6