

I BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION – HERE'S WHY

In the Apostles' Creed we confess: I believe in Jesus Christ... who on the third day rose from the dead. Therein lies the keystone of the Gospel. Jesus, the son of God, died, was buried, and rose from the grave. The resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's what we celebrate, not only at Easter, but every Lord's Day. I think it is helpful to pause to consider the reasonableness of this assertion; because the resurrection of Jesus is to be believed by faith, to be sure, but that faith is also built upon reasonable conclusions to give confidence to that faith.

There are some who think that faith is what happens when we lack evidence, as if they were opposed to each other. But that isn't what Jesus teaches Thomas, who memorably struggles to embrace the truth of the resurrection. In John 20, Jesus told Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side." In other words, see and touch for yourself, Thomas; here is the evidence. But then comes the admonition, "Do not disbelieve," Jesus said, "but believe." Jesus instructs Thomas to exercise faith in response to the evidence. Faith is not just the response to the absence of evidence, but the souls clinging to what is eminently true because of the truthful claim.

One might respond wisely that the book of Hebrews says, "faith is the conviction of things not seen." Does that take evidence out of the equation? Not necessarily. The famous chapter on faith in <u>Hebrews 11</u> is talking about those who believed and exercised faith through obedience, not on the basis of blindness, but on the basis of God's promise revealed through His Word. Therefore, the only kind of faith that makes sense, is faith that is founded upon the revelation of Scripture. So, it makes sense to turn there as we consider the reasonableness of faith in Jesus' resurrection.

The New Testament provides sufficient historical evidence to support the belief in the resurrection of Jesus. These documents were, besides being authored by human hands through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, recorded by eyewitnesses and based upon direct eyewitness accounts. How do they help us? Consider a few:

- Jesus' Tomb was empty (<u>Mk 16:6</u>). Among all the potential reason for the vacant tomb (stolen body, moved body, robbed body, Jesus never really died, etc.) resurrection is actually the most sensible.
- Jesus was seen by diverse body of eye-witnesses (<u>Mt 28:1-10; Lk 24:13-35; 1 Cor 15:5-8</u>) who all had the same testimony concerning the resurrection.
- The disciples, who were given over to despair on Friday, were dramatically transformed by the power of the resurrected Christ. Peter is a wonderful example. Contrast his fear in <u>John 18</u>, and his boldness in <u>Acts 2</u>.
- The disciples immediately began to meet on the first day of the week, Sunday, in commemoration of Jesus' resurrection (Jn 20:26; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2) which John calls the Lord's Day (Rev 1:10).
- The existence of the Church, which is founded upon the confession of Jesus as Lord, grew through the Apostle's proclamation of the Gospel, which included the resurrection (<u>Acts 2:24-32; 3:15; 4:2</u>).

Along with the Apostle Paul and all the Church, let us hold fast the confession, "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead!" (<u>1 Cor 15:20</u>). He is risen - let us believe it with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength! I look forward to worshipping the resurrected Christ with you all this Easter, and every Lord's Day. Because - He is risen indeed!

ELDERS

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

DEACONS

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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Paul Hopkins
- <mark>2 -</mark> Pat Block
- 2 Shawn Docherty
- 2 Betty Murdock
- 4 Larry Hesch
- 4 Maggie Pape
- 6 Janice Armstrong
- 8 Mark Freyermuth
- 8 Kortney Gierlus
- 13 Angie Freyermuth
- 14 Lauren Stegmiller
- 15 Scott Nelson
- 17 Jon Darland
- 17 Carson Thomas

- 18 JoAnn Rursch
- 19 Brandee Neece
- 19 Michael Orr
- 20 Mackenzie Hop<mark>kins</mark>
- 21 Elizabeth Adams
- 23 Eric Moel
- 24 Rayce Tomlin
- 26 Addyson Tomlin
- 26 Nataleigh Tomlin
- 26 Amy Weiss
- 27 Luci Goodnight
- 27 Lisa Nelson
- 29 Beth Flickinger

TRUSTEES

Mel Block - Chair Larry Pithan - Secretary Ken Benningfield Kim Freyermuth Jeff Fuhr Phil Fuhr Darren Hall Colby Mueller Cindy Oak Bill Sloan JR Thomas

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Scott & Cindy Cullen
- 8 Scott & Lisa Nelson
- 12 Joshua & Lindsay Fuhr
- 14 Neal & Vicky Ruggles
- 25 Jake & Amanda Fuhr
- 29 Steve & Debra Wagamon

GREETERS FOR APRIL

Sunday, April 7th - Jeff & Kathleen Fuhr Sunday, April 14th - Jim & Bailey Johnson Sunday, April 21st - Jim & Teresa Balmer Sunday, April 28th - Steve & Amy Ryser





January 30, 2024, at 7pm

Location: Conference Room

Present: TE Zach Hopkins and RE's Jim Mueller, Kevin Oak, Mic Penry, Patrick Shovar, and Keith Wilson.

Absent: Todd Stegmiller – Excused. A quorum is present.

Pastor Zach acted as moderator of the meeting. He opened the meeting with prayer and read from II Peter 3:16. 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 January 15th, 2024, minutes from the Called Session meeting and the minutes from the January 28th, 2024, Annual Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve both sets of minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.

Zach's Report: Zach reported on members with health concerns and prayer needs. During January, he conducted three office visits. He conducted funeral services for church members Phyliss Titterington and Cora Schafman. He participated in the Budget Meeting, RLP CC, and RLP.

Correspondence: None

Old Business:

- The Session discussed the Baptism of Grace Gierlus, Daughter of Greg and Kortney Gierlus, that was held on December 10th, 2023.
- The Session discussed the recent Lessons and Carols service held on Christmas Eve. It was felt that there was very good involvement in the service and the early evening time was well received. The Session desires to continue this Christmas Eve tradition.
- The Session discussed the January 28th Annual Meeting. Various formats such as a 'banquet style' were discussed in order to improve involvement in future Annual Meetings.
- Zach updated the Session on the Hearing-Impaired Integration for the sound system.
- The Session discussed plans for Rachael Johnson, the newly hired Children's Ministry Director.
- Mic, Kevin, and Zach gave a report on the January 26th-27th, 2024, RLP that they attended. Jim Johnson from our congregation also attended.

New Business:

- The Session discussed the payments due to the General Assembly and Presbytery. These payments were formerly defined as Per Member Asking (PMA). Last year the calculations of these payments were changed to percentage of church income (POI). The Session had decided to phase in the change in payment amount to soften the effect on these bodies. A motion was made to send payments for 2024 totaling \$5,500 in February 2024. The motion was seconded and carried.
- The Session discussed the desire for our church to hold a remembrance service for church member Eddy Bull. It was decided to hold a short service immediately following worship on February 11th, 2024.

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- The Session reassigned Kevin's shepherding group due to his upcoming Sabbath year.
- The Session reviewed a request for a Food Pantry Emergency benevolence for a local family in need. After review, a motion was made to approve the payment of \$700 to catch up the prior month's rent. The motion was seconded and carried.
- The Session reviewed a Facility Use Request from Josh and Kristen Adams for a reception for baptism on March 17th, 2024. A motion was made to approve the request. The motion was seconded and carried.
- Zach reviewed the schedule for the 2024 Communicant's class. Zach highlighted the classes on February 18th and 25th and encouraged Session members to attend. The Elder's Examination is scheduled for March 17th at 5:50pm.
- The Session discussed the upcoming Easter schedule. It was decided to conduct a Good Friday evening service with Communion. Easter Sunday will have a breakfast followed by a 10:00am Worship Service.
- Zach reviewed the schedule for a spring Membership Matters class. The class will meet April 14th, 21st, and 28th. The class would join the church on May 5th.
- The Session discussed their appreciation for Kevin Oak as he begins his Sabbath year.
- Next Communion will be held February 4th, 2024. Next stated Session meeting is February 27th, 2024.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm. Motion Carried.

Teaching Elder Zach Hopkins closed the meeting with prayer.

Keith Wilson, Clerk of Session

March 5th, 2024, at 7pm

SESSION

(Due to scheduling conflicts meeting was postponed from February 27th, 2024)

Location: Conference Room

Present: TE Zach Hopkins and RE's Jim Mueller, Todd Stegmiller and Keith Wilson. Absent (Excused): Mic Penry and Patrick Shovar. A quorum is present.

Pastor Zach acted as moderator of the meeting. Zach opened the meeting with prayer and read from John 18: 33-38. The Elders prayed for individual members of the congregation. The Session reviewed and discussed Chapter 4 of Strange New World by Carl R. Trueman.

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the January 30th, 2024, Session Meeting 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. During February, he conducted five office visits. He attended the Women's Bible Study, Deacon's meeting, and conducted Communicant's Classes. He also served on EPC Ad-Interim and RLP CHC Search committees and made a recording to air on WRMJ.



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Correspondence: Keith received the report from Carol Kelsey from the Presbytery's Session Records Review Committee based on her review of our 2023 Session Minutes. Our minutes have been approved with minor omissions and/or errors.

Old Business:

- The Session reviewed the membership rolls and revised the shepherding groups. The following members were moved to Affiliate Status: Scott and Cindy Cullen, Taylor Cullen and Madison Payne. The following members were moved to Inactive Status: Gene and Renee Meredith, Chris Elliott, Jen Elliott, CJ Elliott, and Zach Krueger.
- Zach gave a report on the outcome of the recent Food Pantry Emergency Benevolence Request. The church made payment of the prior month's unpaid rent. There has been no response from the family.
- Zach gave an update on the 2024 Communicant's Class and reminded the Ruling Elders that the Elder's Examination will occur at 5:30 March 17th. The eight class members are expected to join on March 24th with the Elders participating.
- Zach reminded the Session of the Easter schedule: Good Friday Worship with Communion at 6:00pm, Easter Sunday 8:30am breakfast and 10:00am worship. There will be a choir on Easter Sunday.
- Zach has scheduled dates for a Spring Adult Member Class: April 14th, 21st, and 28th, and is hopeful to have interest in attending.

New Business:

- Zach informed the Session that the baptism of John Adams, son of Josh and Kristen Adams will occur on March 17th, with Mic Penry assisting.
- Next Communion will be held March 29th, 2024, on Good Friday. Next stated Session meeting is March 24th, 2024. The Session will discuss Chapter 5 of Strange New World by Carl R. Trueman at that time.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm. Motion Carried.

Teaching Elder Zach Hopkins closed the meeting with prayer.

Keith Wilson, Clerk of Session

DEACONS

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

We had a very successful day for blood donation and surpassed our goal! We had 31 donors, including one first-time donor. We collected 33 units, which will go on to help save the lives of up to 99 people! This shows the importance of mobile blood drives and the impact EEPC can make in our community.

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

Blessings,

Teresa Balmer





Date: 3-20-24

Present: Mel Block, Jeff Fuhr, Colby Mueller, Cindy Oak, Larry Pithan, Bill Sloan, and Session Representative Jim Mueller.

Mel opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:03pm.

Treasurer's report for February reviewed and approved.

Minutes for January meeting reviewed and approved.

Old Business:

- Gutter replacement on south side of church has been completed.
- Ceiling support work for second floor Sunday School rooms has been completed.

New Business:

- Top surface of baptismal font needs to be sanded and re-finished. Mel will complete.
- Trustees will measure proposed parking lot area and prepare a letter to the school with this request.
- Need to check the office intercom. Lisa has reported it not working.
- Discussed possible projects that could be funded by memorial money.
- Contractor is preparing a proposal to replace the remainder of the shake siding. Hope to do work this summer.
- Discussed possible work needed at Dunlap Cemetery. Possibly need some fence repair. Need to determine if a fence is really needed.
- Discussed the need to modify the bell tower access. Currently it is very difficult to get up to the bell for maintenance.
- Set a landscape cleanup date for Saturday, April 6th at 9:00am.
- Jeff Fuhr to lock up church for the next month.

Mel closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Pithan



FOOT CLINIC

Next Clinic: Monday, April 15th

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.







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



PROUDLY SERVING SENIORS SINCE 1968







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 - MARCH UPDATE

On March 16th, we had a successful distribution to 32 families consisting of 72 Adults, 4 teens, and 22 children. When we packed on March 15th, there were 12 people who helped. On Saturday, when we distributed, we had 10 adults helping plus 7 Rockridge high school students and 1 other young adult. What a blessing they were as they did the heavy lifting.

We are looking forward to being the recipients of some of the food from the Rockridge School District's second food drive, which will be delivered in April. 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, or time to help us with this mission outreach. Community support is so important to us, as we could not 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 & Teresa Balmer, Don & Beth Easterla, Marlin & Darcy Krueger, Mic & Sue Penry, and Jim Schaubroeck

BOARD PRESIDENT SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In recent months, the Board of Directors of YouthHope has developed a succession plan for the Executive Director position. After making his intent known to the Board of Directors some time ago, Mark Drake, who has served as the Executive Director for the past 36 years, will retire at the end of 2024.

It is clear that God has been at work throughout the succession process. Our Human Resources Committee interviewed three outstanding candidates for the Executive Director position.

We are pleased to announce Esther Joy King has accepted the Board's offer to become Executive Director of YouthHope effective full-time in November 2024.

Esther Joy grew up the daughter of Christian missionaries in Juarez, Mexico where she worked with her parents in ministering to children until leaving for college. She has worked as an international aid director with high-risk women in Afghanistan.

Esther Joy holds degrees from Oral Roberts University and the Northwestern School of Law. She currently serves in the United States Army Reserve as an International Law Officer.. Esther Joy's broad experience growing up in ministry, being an attorney, and multiple

business, political and fundraising enterprises gives her the robust professional experience and Christoriented heart YouthHope needs to continue serving kids and teens.

When asked what attracted her to YouthHope, Esther Joy noted her love for the mission of YouthHope, a way to love people with the love of God. Esther Joy will begin working part-time in May alongside Mark

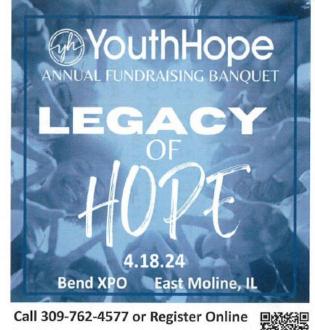
Drake to ensure a great "passing of the baton" as Executive Director changes over in November.

After leaving the Executive Director position, Mark Drake will continue to be involved at Youth Hope in a part-time capacity meeting with supporters to continue building the legacy of YouthHope.

We praise God for how He has worked all this out for HIS GOOD! Please continue praying for the YouthHope staff, volunteers, and the youth we serve as we make this transition. Thank you for your continued and faithful partnership to bring youth HOPE!

Darryl Cain, YouthHope Board President (Click <u>HERE</u> to read the full March Report)

The Mission Committee is sponsoring a couple tables at YouthHope's Banquet. Please contact Deb Wagamon if you are interested & join us to learn more about the work of this ministry partner.

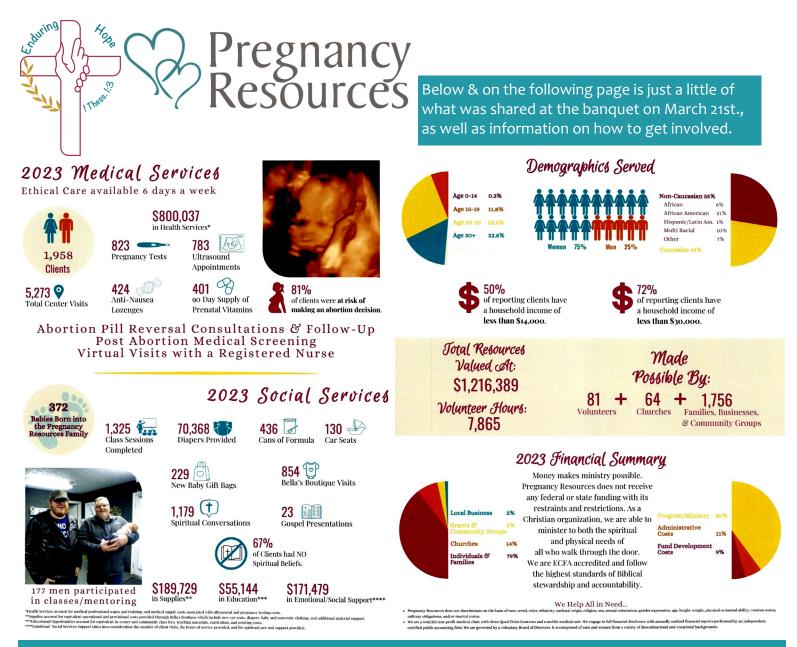


\$300 per Table | \$35 per Person









ENDURING HOPE IN 2024

"As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ." - 1 Thess. 1:3 (NLT)

While laws have changed over the last 18 months, a darkened condition of the heart remains for many in our community and society. It will take time, prayer, faithful work, loving deeds, and enduring hope for heart change to happen and for abortion to become an unthinkable and unacceptable act. **With your support, Pregnancy Resources commits to the following in 2024:**

Faithful Work

Trained client advocates and licensed nurses will be available to every location, every hour that the centers are open - 6 days (101 hours) per week - to provide life-affirming, ethical medical care to women and men who are facing a pregnancy decision.

New in 2024 - Pregnancy Resources will be partnering with local churches in a new way, utilizing Care Net's Making Life disciples training. Making Life Disciples equips the local church to lead with credibility and love while offering compassion, hope, help, and discipleship to women and men facing pregnancy decisions.



Loving Deeds

Educational classes, Bible studies, pregnancy support, adoption referral and support, fatherhood mentoring/ coaching, and extensive material services support will continue to be available to all who walk through the doors of Pregnancy Resources.

New in 2024... Enhanced Trauma Informed Care

- The development and implementation of a Reproductive Loss Support Program providing loving and timely
 ministry to parents who have unexpectedly empty arms and broken hearts as a result of a perinatal loss due
 to miscarriage, stillbirth, and neonatal death.
- Compassionate care will be available to the post abortive in the days after an abortion decision with the continuation of Post Abortion Medical Screenings.
- After Abortion Care healing support groups for women and men will continue to be available for all those who are ready to find spiritual and emotional healing and restoration after an abortion decision.

Enduring Hope

Finally, we will cling with Enduring Hope to the possibility that each person who walks through the doors of Pregnancy Resources will have their **hearts softened by the Spirit of the Lord and choose life** for their child.

The Mission and Vision of Pregnancy Resources

Unplanned pregnancies and abortions will decrease as Pregnancy Resources provides holistic, life-affirming, Biblically based resources and education that promote informed decisions regarding pregnancy, parenting, and Biblical sexual integrity.



PRC 101 Volunteer Training

June 18-20, 2024 (Morning ONLY – TENTATIVE) October 15-17, 2024 (Morning or Evening) *Morning Trainings are from 8:45am to 12:15pm & Evening Trainings are from 5:30pm to 9pm.*

Now 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.

Want to register? Sign up online, **Register Here**! Need more info? Contact Maia @ 563-386-3737 or Maia@qcpregnancy.org There are many different types of volunteer positions at the centers. Call 563-386-3737 to find out more. *Spanish-speaking volunteers are needed*!



Open House Pregnancy Resources East Moline Location 2015 2 W Ave. East Moline, IL 61244 Entrance in Rear

Tuesday, April 16th

Come anytime between 6pm - 7:30pm

for a quick tour.

When

ail

Come see and experience the new Pregnancy Resources East Moline Location that you have

helped make possible!

10

S & C UPDATE Serge Grace at the Fray

Greetings! Hope spring is coming to at least some of your areas! Every year I am always amazed by ... beautiful ... springtime!

We're also in the middle of Lent and the lead up to Easter and considering what Jesus death and sacrifice for us means. This year I've been reminded again just how in control Jesus was during his arrest and crucifixion - this had been planned, 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.

prophesied and was being fulfilled. That's incredible. Then, as we look at Jesus' call to serve as He served, and that Jesus' love looked like sacrifice, it is also a challenge to us to live loving and serving as He did. We're praying for that focus and that desire to be like Jesus as we work and live here in, and for the Spirit's help in that.

An update and prayer requests about some of the happenings of the past month:

We said goodbye to our apprentice at the beginning of the month - please be praying for us here as we fill in ministry areas she helped in and pray for her as she moves forward in the US.

Our half term movie event went well. We had less numbers than hoped, but were excited by those that came and by the good interactions had. It was also a fun event with less planning stress, which could be good to do again!

Also during half term, girl's club did a swimming trip to an inflatable course set up in the old Olympic swimming building. C..... was able to have a good chat with one of the Muslim girls not swimming - while also being pretty impressed and awed with the venue. Never imagined in while watching win a bunch of gold medals, that one day I'd just be hanging out in the same space asking questions about school work experience and Arabic calligraphy!

S.... has been doing some handover work this month - making sure book table and Asha responsibilities are covered while he is gone, and also communicating with his contacts about his time away.

Asha services and ESOL classes continue to go well and feel like warm and inviting times. Pray that those who come and those that are learning about the Bible and studying it with us during Asha would see the truth it holds for them.

We have also been holding an art drop-in time on Monday mornings - mainly for ladies to attend for a couple hours. This week there were 7 who attended. Be praying that this isn't just a time to hang-out, but also a time for faith discussions and sharing, and for ladies to continue to feel this is a welcome space.

This past Sunday morning J..... shared his testimony publicly. He did a great job sharing his faith journey and also truths he has learned - with a little apologetics in there too! We were very proud of him and his witness.

S.... leaves ... on Feb 29 - please pray for his time this month while he does some prayer and resting and studying, mainly in He will then be back for a few days at Easter in before spending the next two months in America. Pray for Colleen and the kids here in London, both for the everyday things of missing S.... and logistics, but also for C..... managing ministry things and how to spend time well. And pray for our church plant team as they fill in where S.... was working.

C..... is helping with a bunch of primary school assemblies this month that talk about the evidence for Jesus death and resurrection (I get to be a detective!) Pray that as the kids have fun that they also are touched by the truths being told.

Pray also for C..... and connecting with a couple university age girls - for the time to do that this month and for wisdom in sharing truths about God into their situations.

Ramadan starts around March 10 - pray for our neighbors and contacts in this time, that they will see truth in Jesus. And pray for us as we do ministry during this time. Also, if you are interested in guided prayer - <u>HERE</u> is the link to the 30 days of prayer for Muslim world publication.

As always - we are also praying for you all and grateful to you for your support and prayers and love for us!

Take care.

Colleen, for Scott and the kids

B & E

March 12th, 2024

Dear friends, thank you for your partnership! Jesus said, 'You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.' (Mt 5:14-16)

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 B & E to be added to their email list.

S..... L....

These words of Jesus in Matthew 5 capture quite well what has happened through the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of S..... An EPC-inspired ministry called E..N..... planted schools in rural villages of S..... L.... that resulted in new churches, and then new pastors needing training. ITEN was asked to train them. So, about eight years ago, I made my first trip to S..... L...., followed by another, and then followed several years of work led by S.... W...... Eventually, we started for them what we call our Pastors Training Program (PTP).

In January, I had a fruitful and inspiring trip to S..... L.... where I taught, as part of our PTP, my Community Development Ministries course to the EPC SL pastors gathered for a week in the village of R...... R..... is very poor, with no electricity or running water (except three hand-pumped wells). It is remote enough that when the children see me walking in the village, they frequently yell 'opoto', which is Temne language for 'white man'. They come up to me with smiles and handshakes.

I trained about 30-35 pastors and ministry leaders, and their response was enthusiastic. As I taught the theology of community development, I pointed them toward applications. By the middle of the week, they had filled in a large whiteboard with detailed plans for community development projects in their villages. I loved seeing that!

They told me how important this teaching is to them. They said it motivated them to action, opened their eyes to new ministry opportunities, and produced practical action plans for projects they believe will bless a lot of people and lead to more gospel sharing and church planting. Wonderful!

I was blessed to have colleague M... K... (our new ITEN Director) join me on this trip. As we sat one evening with a group of the village elders (mostly Muslims), I was so delighted we had an opportunity to share the gospel, and I was especially delighted by the way M... could so effectively speak with them using his specialized knowledge and experience from serving in the Muslim world. It was a rare opportunity and powerful time!

M... and I continue to work with these dear pastors, providing follow-up steps and online meetings. P..... T..... recently told us his new church plant (which he launched while we were there) is doing very well. Such great news! This is just one of the pastors' 20+ 'preaching points' (church planting efforts). These guys are so inspiring by their devotion, sacrifice, and fruitful service. What a privilege it is for you and me to be their ministry partners!

V.....

I just want to add another encouraging report here. Our three-year ITEN MLTI course in V....., coordinated by our colleagues E and N, was completed in 2023. I had the privilege of teaching my Community Development Ministries course for MLTI in V..... last year. E and N continue to help the nationals there transition to doing all the teaching for the next MTLI program themselves—2 Timothy 2:2 in action! This is a dream come true! Hats off to E and N for their amazing work!

P.....

I plan to travel to I...... in May to work with Dr. M K, the P. M..... S....., and the A.... training program. He asked me to teach my Community Development Ministries course (again!) for a week in a secluded mountain place to some outstanding, young, rising Christian leaders. They are part of two new six-month training/internship programs of P... M...... S...... and will return to their cities, jobs, and ministries to strengthen the missional efforts of the P...... church and help it engage society in helpful and winsome ways through community service and gospel witness.

U.....

On February 29th, I presented by Zoom another lecture for the U..... C...... O... Academy (COA), which trains Christian leaders for service in society. COA, founded by J L, currently has 1100 students enrolled from throughout U.....! Most of these are active Christian leaders—pastors, professionals, businessmen, educators, university students, or public officials. 12

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Despite the horrors of war and the exhaustion I see in U....., there is a breakthrough of new believers and new churches, especially in eastern U...... The COA has proven very helpful to that breakthrough by inspiring and preparing the church for its wartime action in the country. In addition to my own teaching for COA, I recruit US university professors to provide lectures in their areas of specialization and give advisement to the COA program.

In April, I will make my sixth trip to U..... since the full-scale invasion about two years ago. I will teach, preach, consult, and encourage leaders in several cities and regions. I will also facilitate more aid from the EPC's International Disaster Relief Fund. J and I are working now on the process of our fifth distribution to U..... from this fund.

I am so glad we have a strong word and deed effort. We distributed not only food and medicine, but also the gospel and prayer booklets. We not only rebuilt families' houses, but also prayed for them and invited them to gather in a newly forming church in their village. In fact, last week our partners in the reformation movement helped produce a national-level forum on evangelism in wartime. So, I see deeds of light and words of light—just what I believe Jesus was calling us to in Matthew 5.

One day recently, I was uplifted when P G., a young, emerging U...... pastor/scholar whom I have been mentoring, wrote this to me:

Dear Dr. A,

P...., inspired in part by my COA lectures, earned two master's degrees and is now teaching others.

A. V. in K....., U....., whom I mentor and helped place in a ministry leadership role, rejoiced about his new ministry work in our reformation movement and its spiritual impact:

During the project, more people turned to us, than we can help. Therefore, we are ready to continue to serve people in the restoration project, because we see effectiveness not only in the material sphere, but also in the spiritual. People open their hearts with gratitude to the Lord because they see miracles in their lives...

A..... texted me that the Park Hotel in K..... (where I stayed during my 2023 trips) was destroyed by a missile strike on Jan. 10, 2024.

It is very tough for U..... right now. Please pray!

B.....

The authoritarian crackdown in B..... is so bad, that I am not safely able to travel there right now. However, I do have opportunities to minister to B...... who have fled to P...., as well as a bit of collaboration online with those remaining in B.....

Translation and publication work

I am very excited that I am sufficiently caught up on a number of projects and have backed off of my travels enough to allow time, over the next few weeks, to work on the publication and translation of my book on Andrzej Wolan and the Protestant Reformation in Eastern Europe. That is something I have tried to complete for years, only getting parts of it done each year, then having to move on to travel, teaching, and projects. So, please join me in prayer (once again!) for this. I think I can get it done this time. My friends in Ukraine keep pushing me in their request for this; and the missional value of it and their hunger for it is a great encouragement and motivation to me.

Family

E and I visited our kids and grandkids in NV and my parents in AZ. We also helped our youngest son, S...., make his move to TX to start his new career there, having graduated from V Tech in December. We look forward to seeing our son D.... in R..... for Easter.

E is working hard at the T...... Crisis Pregnancy Center. Its recent annual report was greatly encouraging—beautiful babies were born, and dozens of women became new followers of Christ. So good to hear!

Please pray for...

- Publication and translation work in March
- 11-23 April trip to U..... and P.....
- Humanitarian aid projects with Christians for U.....
- Fruitful implementation of community development projects by partners in S..... L....
- New believers and multiplication of leaders in U..... and all ITEN sites
- Mobilization of professors for U..... Christian Open Academy and efforts of the Institute for Reformation
- Planning and visas for May and June travel to/from P...... for me and Dr. M. K.

Thank you for supporting us!

MCCALLUM'S MARCH MUSE

ITEN moves to Phase 2 with Indigenous instructors using their heart language to train the next group of thirty pastors!

Our motivation for ongoing redeployment:

Of all the conversions that take place in the world, 90% happen in the majority world - this means outside of U.S. & Europe. Most are happening in Africa & Asia. 85% of

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, so you can be added to their email list.

pastors in the majority world lack any form of theology training & leadership development. That leaves countless churches vulnerable to heresy, divisions, & spiritual apathy. There is nothing wrong with formal seminary training, but those formal structures cannot keep pace with the need. Organizations like ours, International Theological Education Network (ITEN – part of mission arm of the EPC), are targeting this need.

In November, you may remember, we traveled to V...... and met with the teaching cohort who will be teaching the Ministry Leadership Training Institute (MLTI) courses. We reviewed Classes 1 &2: "Understanding, Applying & Communicating Scripture" (based on Jonah) & "Spiritual Formation" & built their teaching skills.

Beginning this Tuesday 6:00 pm, the 5th, through the following Tuesday, the 12th, MLTI: Phase 2 instruction will take place. The men in the front row of the photo above (not posted here for safety reasons) will be the instructors. We have moved from Western teachers to Indigenous using their heart language! In May we'll return to process how things went & review the next 2 courses.

Please pray for:

- Safety getting down from rural mountain areas to the city.
- Peace & lack of sickness/injury at home while husbands are away. Also good health for the men while in the city different climate & foods.
- Excitement at the chance to train or to be trained to the glory of God.
- Strong community bonds developed involved in the class.
- Reliance on the Holy Spirit to go home & train at least 30. (2 Timothy 2:2)

Our global work is based on 2 Timothy 2:2 "What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to faithful others who will be able to teach others also." January 2020, right before Covid shut down travel, we met with leadership of the H Bible College. Discussions had already begun with co-worker D.... W....., serving with World Outreach and One Challenge, about the huge task of training about 1000 pastors in a non-formal program (training without a degree). The College's formal education has room for approximately 30 students yearly. To be a trained pastor takes 4 years of instruction + a 2 year internship. Working together with the Bible College and David we created an outcome-based option, Ministry Leadership Training Institute (MLTI), with twelve interactive courses focusing on Biblical studies, Spiritual growth, & Leadership Development. Ed wrote the seven theology and Bible courses & has been the editor of the remaining five.

For the pilot the Bible College chose thirty pastors/leaders. All agreed to take what they learned & teach other leaders in their geographic area. In the second to the last class in February 2023 we learned the challenges many of our men had faced who aren't pastors. Those who were not pastors didn't have the social standing to call people to training sessions on their own nor did they have access to hosting locations for courses. This was also impacted by lack of sufficient training and experience teaching alone. We pray that the multiplication hurdles have been corrected.

We will tune into classes at the start of the day in V....., which is 6 to 10pm our time via Zoom. Why?

- To encourage the Training Cohort and be available to answer any questions they might have.
- To help the new participants get to "meet" us and to give them encouragement and charge them to take advantage of this opportunity to receive training to take their place in the Great Commission.

New opportunities

This week we'll talk with Mrs. H who, along with her pastor husband Mr J, have begun training people for cross cultural ministry. She would like Ed to teach in her program.

ITEN has received invitations from two other countries on that side of the globe that we praying about. Invitations usually come with needs for money to fund the courses. We have a list of questions that we'll use to determine if the needs fit what ITEN can provide. More specifics to come. If you are looking for new horizons... Places where 50% of the population doesn't yet have access to the gospel... Your body can be comfortable in non-western settings. You are the types we'd love to talk with! Blessings, Ed & Nan

EDGINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Treasurer's Report February 2024

		Re	eceipts	Disb	ursement	Balance	
General Fund	\$ 94,683.87	\$	18,438.86	\$	15,959.43	\$	97,163.30
Education Fund (Jahn)	\$ 9,608.72	\$	130.06	\$	-	\$	9,738.78
Building Fund (1)	\$ 97,336.20	\$	877.90	\$	(367.80)	\$	98,581.90
				(1) Refun	d from carpet.		

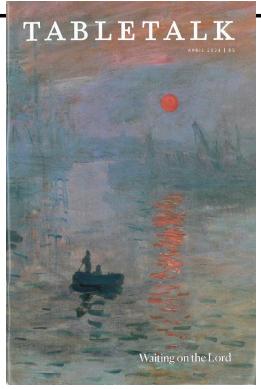
February 2024 MONTHLY REVIEW - General Fund

Receipts - February 2024 Pledges	15,216.74		
Interest Income - General Fund	12.12		
Per Member Asking	300.00		
Benevolence/Assistance (2)		"(2) Fi	unds received from Cora Schafman's
Benevolence/Assistance (2)	2,910.00	•	memorial.
		\$	18,438.86
Expenditures - February 2024			
Administrative		\$	8,154.21
ABS (copier rental)	2,340.29		51.1%
AT&T - Phone for elevator	131.82		
Cemetery Upkeep	-		
Computers: Hdw, Sftw and Apps	524.37		
Jeanne Hayes (Custodian)	471.87		
Johnson Controls	916.24		
Lisa Bowman (Office Manager)	1,319.65		
Kone (elevator)	1,780.20		
MidAmerican Energy	508.00		
Millenium Waste	64.08		
Office Supplies	10.00		
Repairs & Maintenance - general	10.00		
Reytel - Internet			
Shipping/Postage	2.11		
Taxes / FICA / Penalty	85.58		
	03.30	•	7 005 00
Discipleship (Internal)	464.75	\$	7,805.22
Children's Director	461.75 208.11		48.9%
Continuing Education	200.11		
Deacon Expense	-		
EPC General Assembly	-		
EPC (health)	26.48		
Events	-		
Fidelity (pension)	1,038.28		
Flowers	(474.00)		
Housing Allowance	3,762.52		
Meals			
Mileage			
Pastor Salary	2,782.08		
Presbytery Expense			
Pulpit Supply			
Resource Materials			
Sunday School			
Worship Supplies			
Mission (external)		\$	
Mission - International	-		0.0%
Mission - US	-		
Mission - Local			
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$	15,959.43 \$ -
			100.0%
		¢	
NET OPERATING INCOME		\$	2,479.43

INCLUDED IN GENERAL FUND TOTAL

Mission monies included in general fund of \$2,350.21 and Benevolence/Assistance Fund(2) of \$7,363.46 (2) Now includes Cora Schafman's memorial noted above in revenue.

GET YOUR APRIL COPY OF THE TABLETALK DEVOTIONAL



LOCATED ON A TABLE IN THE SANCTUARY FOYER

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



4.7 - COOKIE BAKE-OFF
4.14 - GAME NIGHT
4.21 - TRIVIA NIGHT
4.28 - WHIFFLE BALL

FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CADE REIMERS FOR MORE INFO 309.373.2488

NEWSLETTER

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



ALL submissions for the May 2024 Newsletter must be in by **NO LATER** than Wednesday, April 17th. Items received after that date may not make it into the newsletter.

Thank you for your cooperation!

~ Lisa Bowman, Office Manager

Do you know anyone that is not receiving the Edgington EPC Newsletter each month? If so, please contact the church office at 309-795-1713 or edgingtonepc@gmail.com and let me know. I will be happy to make arrangements for it to be received by whatever means works best.

The newsletter is distributed via email and postal service. It is also posted to our Facebook page and website: <u>edgingtonepc.org</u>.

Thank you so much for your help!

QUILTING Thursday, April 18th, 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 donate to various ministries.

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!

CURRENT SERMON SERIES

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

Sunday, April 7th - <u>Luke 6:12-19</u> Sunday, April 14th - <u>Luke 6:20-26</u> Sunday, April 21st - Rev. Burdsall preaching Sunday, April 28th - <u>Luke 6:27-36</u> (Scripture passages are subject to change.)

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 <u>create a free account</u>, which makes it easy to save personal notes, highlight favorite verses, and start interactive reading plans.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

A SERIES ON THE LIFE of JESUS

(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.

2024 IS A GREAT TIME TO START FRESH IN GOD'S WORD!

Each year Pastor Zach provides a new reading plan to help equip you to spend time reading through God's Word. This year he has chosen a plan with Navigators.

The Navigators Book-at-a-Time Bible Reading Plan takes you through the entire Bible in one year, providing two reading for each day.

The first reading alternates between Old and New Testament books with the Gospels spread throughout the year. The second reading takes you through a chapter of the wisdom literature and Isaiah.

You can begin at any point of the year!

Each month consists of twenty-five readings. You'll have a few extra days each month to meditate more deeply on something that was significant to you in the past week, to catch up on messed readings, or to revisit favorite passages.



Click on the image for the digital link or see the next 2 pages .

If reading through the entire Bible in one year looms as too large a task, you can alter the plan to meet your needs. For example, you could read the first reading this year and the second reading next year.

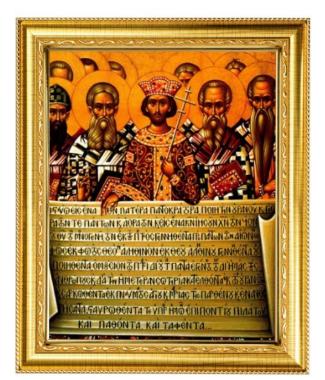
In the year ahead, ask God each day to speak directly to you from the Scripture portions you read. Be expectant, and let your continual exposure to God's Word reshape your attitudes and behavior as you gain a better understanding of every part of His written testimony to us.

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.







A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES:

influential figures from Church History that still matter today

Adult Sunday School Winter 2024

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



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

WOMEN'S MINISTRY WELCOMES ALL EEPC WOMEN JUNE 6TH AT 1 PM



The timeless purpose:

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, And empowered by the Holy Spirit, We commit ourselves To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study; To support the mission of the church worldwide; To work for justice and peace; and To build an inclusive, caring community of women That strengthens the Edgington Evangelical Presbyterian Church and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

Currently, we meet once a **quarter** in the church basement to pray together, have a nice treat brought by a willing hostess, and discuss how to serve our Lord in our church and community. We work together to choose Bible study materials, Mother's Day/Father's Day treats, Christmas treats for some of our members who are unable to attend church, decorate the church for Christmas, make and share precious quilts, coordinate luncheons, support the food pantry, keep the busy bags stocked for our little ones, set up and help finance the fall harvest party, make decisions together on how to serve in the greater community, and when necessary, we will hold a fundraiser, ETC.

You know how great it feels after church when you have just surrounded yourself by other believers to hear and feel God's word? Well, we end each WM meeting with the MIZPAH: (Genesis 31:49):

"The Lord watch between me and Thee, when we are absent, one from another."

Join us for the June meeting, won't you? Pick and choose if you are willing and how you are able to contribute, even if it is just by joining us for the meeting and helping with ideas. It's truly a fellowship that offers you another chance to surround yourself by other believing women and serve our Lord Jesus Christ! Come feel the blessing!

There were only 3 people attending the March meeting. We are struggling to get more active members involved. Our fear is that we may have to disband the WM if we cannot get more ladies participating. As a group, we need to discuss where we want to go. What is our future???

These are the projects we need assistance with for the 2nd quarter:

- 1. **Secretary:** This would involve taking minutes for 4 meetings. The minutes could be handwritten or typed. Whichever is easiest.
- 2. Hostess: December meeting
- 3. **2024 Graduates:** One Sunday in May, our graduates are honored (Jr High, High School and College). Quilts are given to the High School graduates. Someone honors them by name. We need someone who is willing to do the honoring.
- 4. **Women's Ministry Booklet** please look at the women listed and let me know if any changes need to be made OR if anyone is missing.

Thanking you in advance for any help you can give. Please call me if you have questions, concerns or suggestions. God Bless!

Sue Miller, Chairperson 309-781-8231

Contracting with god

2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark 10:14 - Jesus said to them, "Let the children come to Me & do not hinder them, for to such belongs the Kingdom of heaven."

Plans are underway for our summer VBS Camp at Loud Thunder. Many of our leaders have been procured. NOW we are ready to open the gates (so to speak) and "let the children come."

Registration opens at 6am on Monday, April 1st for both campers and counselors. It will stay open until June or it fills up. In the past, it has filled quickly, so don't wait and risk not getting to be a part of VBS this year. Sign-up is online. Click <u>HERE</u> or on the image for the link or scan the QR Code.



If it is full when you go to register:

• For Campers - call the church office (309-795-1713) and leave your name, phone number, name & ages of the children you want to register.

• For Counselors - there will be a waitlist option with the online registration, so sign-up for that. Things come up for families between the time they register & camp, so there are often cancellations. In the event of a cancellation, we take names off the waitlist in the order they came in. If you know of someone interested in being a part of VBS, please share the link and pass this info along.

Our next VBS Planning Meeting is Sunday, April 14th at 12:15pm at our church. Anyone interested in being a part of this ministry is welcome & encouraged to attend.



ADULT NEW MEMBER CLASSES - MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

Sundays, April 14th, 21st, & 28th at 11:30am

Here is a wonderful opportunity to learn more of what Edgington EPC is all about!

The class is offered to anyone seeking more information about Edgington EPC; what it means to be a church member, our denomination, what we stand for, and much more. If you have

"Membership Matters"



Adult New Member Registration

been attending for awhile, but not yet committed to membership, you're encouraged to check this out! If you are looking to join, you definitely want to mark your calendar!

There will be a reception for new members on Sunday, May 5th, hosted by our deacons.

Register by scanning the QR Code or clicking on the image.





2024 Youth Mission Trip July 6th – 13th

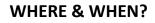
WHO: High School Students / Ages 14+

WHAT: You and your group will provide home repairs at no cost for elderly, disabled, and disadvantaged people who need your help. Project crews typically serve the same resident for the entire trip, creating an environment where meaningful relationships develop. Projects typically include painting houses, repairing porches, and general home repairs.

WHY: Because you want to have a meaningful summer experience of service and Christian growth while making new friends from all over the country.



7/7-13 Worksite projects in Winchester, KY – Staying at Local School



- I think I want to go! What do I need to do?
 - Get this trip on your calendar! Make sure you don't have any schedule conflicts. Spots are limited so we need to be sure that those students who sign up can go.



- How much is this going to cost?
 - A deposit of \$100 will secure your spot. Turn this into the office ASAP.
 - A second payment of \$150 is due before the trip.
 - The total of \$250 covers **everything**
 - Except whatever random snacks or weird things you might want to buy – that's on you!
 - Please don't let finances be a factor, there are support opportunities available to help you cover your costs. Just ask!

• What's next?

- Register online talk to Cade Reimers or Nathan Flickinger
- When we have our spots filled, there will be more info including: lodging details, tool lists, estimated schedule, and more!

APRII 202			Sunday School gam Worship Service 10am		ЕЕРС Phone: 309-795-1713 Email: edgingtonepc@gmail.com WEBSITE: www.edgingtonepc.org	>C 9-795-1713 epc@gmail.com dgingtonepc.org
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 No S.S. Classes Easter Breakfast, 8:30 Worship, 10am	1 VBS Registration Opens, 6am Meal Site	 Meal Site Women's Bible Study, 10am Matter of Balance, 12:30pm 	3 Meal Site Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm	4 Meal Site Matter of Balance, 12:30pm	5 Meal Site	6 Trustee Clean-up Day, 9am
7 Food Pantry Sunday Youth Group, 5:30pm	8 Meal Site	 Meal Site Women's Bible Study, 10am Matter of Balance, 12:30pm 	10 Meal Site Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm	11 Meal Site Matter of Balance, 12:30pm	12 Meal Site	13
14 B/P Checks Adult Membership Class, 11:30am VBS Mtg., 12:15pm Mission Trip Parent Mtg., 5pm	15 Foot Clinic Meal Site	16 Meal Site Matter of Balance, 12:30pm Mission Comm. Mtg., 6:30pm	17 Meal Site Trustee's Mtg., 7pm DEADLine	18 Quilting, 9am Meal Site Matter of Balance, 12:30pm	19 Meal Site	20
21 Adult Membership Class, 11:30am Youth Group, 5:30	22 Meal Site	23 Meal Site	24 Meal Site	25 Meal Site	26 Meal Site 41 st RLP Mtg., Aplington, IA	27 41 st RLP Mtg., Aplington, IA
28 B/P Checks Adult Membership Class, 11:30am Sun. School Mtg., 11:30 Youth Group, 5:30pm	29 Meal Site	30 Meal Site Session Mtg., 7pm	1 Meal Site	2 Meal Site	3 Meal Site	4