

RESOLVED: TO GROW IN 2026

Whether you're looking for help with your New Years resolutions, or don't even bother to make them in the first place, the Apostle Peter has one in mind for you. With all of his apostolic authority, Peter gives this concluding word to his second letter, *"You therefore, beloved... take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability"* ([2 Peter 3:17](#)). In other words, keep steady in your Christian life - and how can we do that in 2026? Peter continues, *"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* ([2 Peter 3:18](#)).

Just like regular health physicals are good for the body, regular spiritual check-ups are needed for the soul. Am I content in my Christian walk? Am I growing in holy living? Do I know the Word of God as much as I desire to? Am I learning more of Christ, so that I might trust Him more? Am I quick to forgive others? Do I hold too closely to material possessions? If you're like me these questions reveal that there are many areas of my life that God is still at work in my heart. That is true for all of us. This side of heaven, every Christian believer is still a work in progress.

That work of God the Holy Spirit is called sanctification. It's the life-long process where God is growing, changing, and making us into more mature disciples of Christ. But that work of sanctification is also something that we are to give ourselves to with sincere efforts, which is why Peter can say "grow!" Against this backdrop is the glorious promise that God began a good work in us, and He will complete it ([Philippians 1:6](#)). Even for all of our sincere pursuits, the process of sanctification is laced together with God's grace that will never leave us or forsake us.

So, before you go about determining that you would like to read the Bible more in 2026 and formulating a plan (included in this newsletter!), or any other discipline to help you grow this year, remember that sanctification has three meanings in the Bible.

Past tense: You have been sanctified. God has made you His own in Christ. You have been saved. You are a saint in indissoluble union with Christ.

Present tense: You are being sanctified. That salvation is being worked out over days, months, years, decades – to make you into the likeness of Jesus.

Future tense: You will be sanctified. One glorious day, the work will be complete and you will be made perfectly holy to stand before His majesty and live forever. You will be saved.

With that in mind, we can have confidence that we put our hands to the plow of our spiritual growth, knowing first of all that God has empowered us by the Spirit to create the desire, supply the power, and produce the results of His work of sanctification.

I look forward to seeing how we will grow together in Christ in 2026, and I leave you with the words of the always beautiful Puritan prayer book, the "Valley of Vision": *"I launch my bark on the unknown*

waters of this year, with Thee, O Father, as my harbor, Thee, O Son, at my helm, Thee, O Holy Spirit, filling my sails.”

To Him be glory both now and to the day of eternity ([2 Peter 3:18](#))!

Your Pastor & Friend,

Zach



FOOT CLINIC

Next Clinic: Monday, January 19th,
beginning 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.

MONDAY MEDITATION

Each week on Monday morning (that's the goal,
anyway!), Pastor Zach is sending out an email with the
subject "Monday Meditation". In it, he summarizes the
sermon from Sunday, lists a few key takeaways, and
provides several practical applications.
We pray that you will find these to be a helpful tool in
your study of God's Word and for deeper study of the
sermon text.

LOCAL BLOOD DRIVES

St. Teresa of Calcutta (St. Ambrose, Milan)

1.3.26, 8 - 11am - Parish Center
You would still be eligible to donate at our
blood drive if you donate at St. Teresa's.

PUT GOOD INTO THE WORLD

BLOOD DRIVE

SAVE THE DATE:

Edgington Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Saturday, March 7th

7:00am - 10:30am

Last day to donate whole blood: 2/2/26

Last day to donate double red: 12/8/25



To book your appointment, call
Kay Amy at (309) 791-2296, email
Melody VanOteghem at
mjvano57@gmail.com, or scan the
QR code.

ELDERS

Kim Freyermuth
Jim Mueller
Kevin Oak
Mic Penry
Todd Stegmiller
Steve Wagamon

DEACONS

Angie Freyermuth - Chair
Dorothy Rursch - Secretary
Kay Amy
Mitch Anderson
Connie Huntley
Tom Huntley
Melody VanOteghem
Deb Wagamon

TRUSTEES

Mel Block - Chair
Larry Pithan - Secretary
Ken Benningfield
Aaron Ehm
Jeff Fuhr
Phil Fuhr
Colby Mueller
Cindy Oak
Bill Sloan
JR Thomas

Thank you to all for the text messages, phone calls, cards, food and the many, many prayers we have received over the last several months.



We are so grateful for all the love and support for everything.

Wishing you all the best New Year!

God Bless!

Marvin and Peggy Weiss

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1 - Jason & Sarah Mueller
7 - Eric & Kelly Moel
12 - Lane & Hadley Weinert
23 - Greg & Kortney Gierlus
24 - Ken & Sandy Benningfield

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 - Ginny Brockett	18 - Cheryl Lowe
2 - Mary Rose Kerres	18 - Mitch Miller
2 - Zachary Smith	21 - Cora Hopkins
4 - Lydia Terrill	22 - Isaac Anderson
7 - Jan Fuhr	22 - Brett Johnson
10 - Reid Schelker	22 - Kelly Ruggles
11 - Emma III	24 - Mary Johnson
11 - Everlee Oak	25 - Laina Nelson
12 - Drake Johnson	27 - Easton Weckerly
15 - Kaiver Fischer	28 - Landon Schelker
17 - Molly Cook	31 - Jake Fuhr
17 - Gloria Gierlus	31 - Doug Harper
17 - Tonya Hall	31 - Tatum Stegmiller
17 - Karla Pearson	



GREETERS FOR JANUARY

Sunday, January 4th – Tara Johnson
Sunday, January 11th – Jason and Beth Flickinger
Sunday, January 18th – Nikki Madison and Lori Meier
Sunday, January 25th – Keith and Debbie Wilson

November 25, 2025, at 7pm

Location: Church Conference Room

Present: TE Zach Hopkins and REs Jim Mueller, Mic Penry, Todd Stegmiller, Kim Freyermuth, Kevin Oak, and Steve Wagamon. A quorum is present.

Pastor Zach acted as moderator of the meeting and opened with prayer. Our scripture reading was Philippians 1:3, with a focus on Thankfulness. *The Whole Christ*, chapter 11 was reviewed and discussed. We have concluded our study of this book. The Elders prayed for individual members of the congregation.

Approval/Amendment of Docket: It was M/S/C to approve the docket. ,

Approval of Minutes: It was M/S/C to approve the minutes from October 28, 2025, Session Meeting.

Correspondence: None

Zach's Report: The Session reviewed and discussed activities over the previous month.

Old Business:

- Strategic Planning and Survey meeting will occur in January 2026
- Review of Paternity Time- how it went
- Conversation reviewing the Food Pantry - oversight and succession planning
- Advent planning "A Very Nicene Christmas", with 5pm Christmas Eve service consisting of traditional liturgy and carols.

New Business:

Ministry

- Men's ministry plan moving forward was reviewed. Breakfast/ final discussion planned for 12/6/2025. December will be taken off and then a bible study will commence 1st quarter of 2026.
- Choir will be assisting service through the month of December.
- Youth Group leadership was reviewed. RE Mic Penry will meet with volunteers and offer compensation to individuals that have been assisting paid leaders. We discussed what a blessing the high school youth have been to our church and would like to continue to support their efforts.

ADMINISTRATION

- 2026 Budget was reviewed. Barb Freyermuth will provide an update to the congregation in December.
- Office and leadership nominations were reviewed.
- Prospective Elder training courses are scheduled to begin on January 4th. TE Zach Hopkins will personally reach out to prospective candidates.
- 46th Rivers and Lakes Presbytery meeting for January will be in Moline.
- It was M/S/C to adjourn the meeting at 10:15pm. TE Hopkins closed the meeting with prayer.

RE Todd Stegmiller, Clerk of Session

Date: 12-17-25

Present: Mel Block, Aaron Ehm, Jeff Fuhr, Darren Hall, Cindy Oak, Larry Pithan, Bill Sloan, JR Thomas, Treasurer Barb Freyermuth, Elder Kim Freyermuth.

Jeff opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:01pm.

Minutes for November meeting reviewed.

Treasurer's report for November reviewed and approved.

Old Business:

- Parking lot extension request. School is currently investigating building a bus barn on their property. They will contact us when they have more definite plans.
- SS bathroom toilet repaired
- Shelf for communion closet. Trustees reviewed after the meeting and will install one or two shelves.
- Balcony stair light and ceiling fan pending.

New Business

- Discussed snow removal work. Seems to be going ok so far this winter.
- Checked furnace filters and replaced
- Signed up for 2026 church lockup.
- Fire extinguisher on second floor of SS building needs to be hung on wall.
- Door trim coming loose in lounge area.
- Trustees discussed balcony seating. Currently there are a couple old pews and several folding chairs. Would like to consider padded chairs to replace current seating. Trustees to investigate and will present some options at our January meeting.

Mel closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Pithan

Date: November 16, 2025

Present: Mitch Anderson, Angela Freyermuth, Connie and Tom Huntley, Dorothy Rursch, Deb Wagamon, Melody VanOteghem, and Session Rep. Mic Penry

Angie opened with prayer

Old Business:

- The Fall reception for the new members was well attended. A special congratulations and welcome to Roger & Rachel Birkhead, Patrick & Crystal Peterson, Donnie Neece, Dan Zampogna, Jon Laird, Noah Fender, and Dillon & Kayla Weckerly. Thanks to everyone who donated the refreshments.
- **Cards:** Connie gave us an update on the cards being sent
- **Greeters:** November and December assigned to Kay.
- **Meal Train:** It was voted on to take meals to the expecting Mothers in our congregation after they delivered. We decided on 3 days for 2 weeks (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) Angie will set it up for people to sign up for a meal.

New Business:

- Planning a Paint & Praise class in December for Age 13+

- **Greeters for 2026:**

Mitch	January/February	Connie	July/August
Melody	March/April	Dorothy	September/October
Deb	May/June	Angie	November/December

2027

Kay	Jan/Feb
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- **Project Now:** Connie reported that they were still coming with meals. They are interviewing someone to help come and serve from Project Now.

Deb closed with prayer

Next meeting, Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 11:30 after church.

Respectively submitted,

Dorothy B. Rursch

December 14, 2025

Present: Kay Amy, Angela Freyermuth, Dorothy Rursch, Melody VanOteghem, and Session Rep. Mic Penry

Angie opened with prayer.

Old Business:

- This month was a very short meeting /we had some discussion on how Project Now meals were going and where we were at on the Meal Train meals.

New Business:

- Spring Blood Drive is set for March 7th, 2026.
- On Palm Sunday, March 29th, the communicants will be welcomed into the membership of our church.
- Deacons were assigned months for getting greeters
- Mitch Anderson has January / February 2026
- A list of monthly greeters should be sent to Lisa by the 15th of the previous month, so she has time to include them in the monthly newsletter and the weekly bulletins.
- Remind greeters they not only greet but also take a head count (adults and children) of all present and record this count in the book on the entry table and collect the offering. Greeters are responsible for asking others to help with the offering (4 total) the week they collect.

Mic closed with prayer.

Next meeting is February 8, 2026, at 11:30 after church service.

Respectively submitted,



Baby Shower
for
Bailey Johnson

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24TH
10AM,
BRUNCH IN CHURCH DINING ROOM

ALL CHURCH WOMEN INVITED
RSVP TO CINDY OAK (309) 236-7751
REGISTERED ON BABYLIST.COM

MISSION COMMITTEE

December 18, 2025

The Mission Committee met on December 16, 2025. Those attending were: Jim and Bailey Johnson, Eric Moel, Lori Meier, Cassie Fuhr, and Session Representative Steve Wagamon.

Jim opened the meeting in prayer.

Old Business:

- **Review ministry updates:** Newsletters and emails.
- **Coat Drive:** We will meet in early January to organize and decide what to keep and what to donate.

New Business:

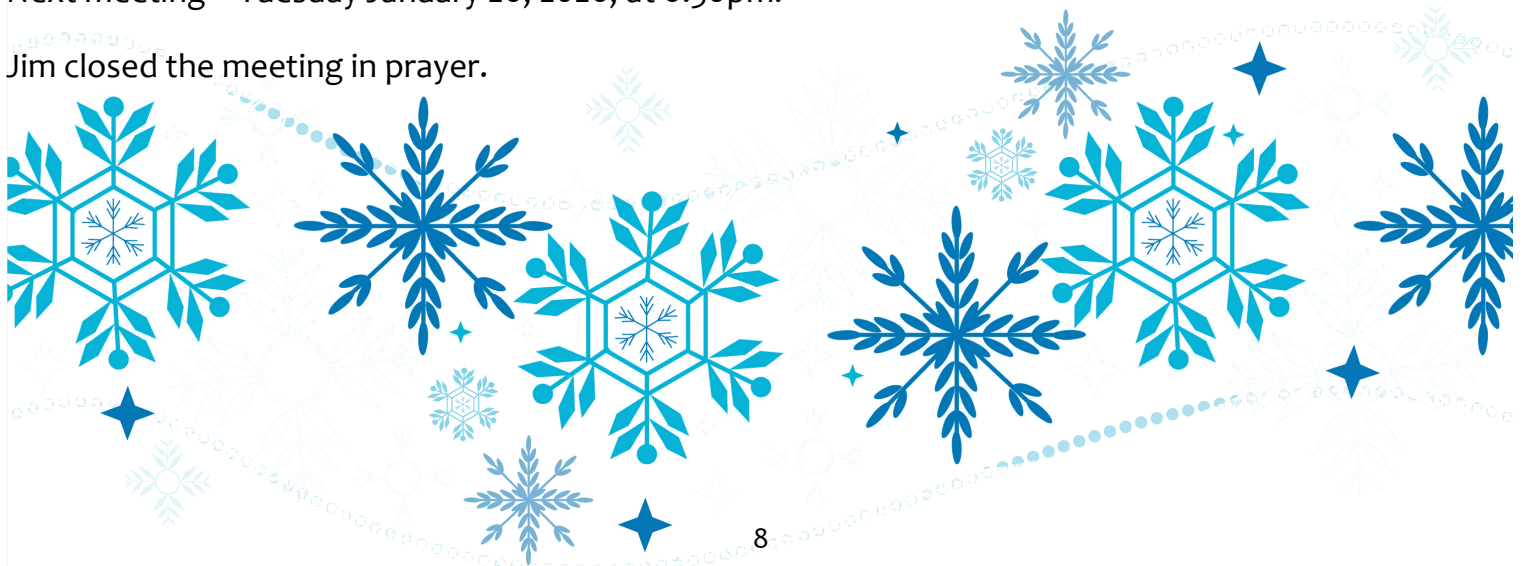
- **Quarterly Commitments:** The 1st quarter commitments were discussed, voted on and approved.

2026 Mission Commitments	Amount Committed
World Outreach (Burdsall)	\$2,125.00
World Outreach ITEN (Anderson)	\$2,125.00
World outreach ITEM (Kuhn)	\$2,125.00
World Outreach (Huber)	\$1,050.00
Youth Hope	\$2,312.00
Pregnancy Resources	\$812.00
	\$10,549.00

- **Individual Commitments:** Form has been sent to Barb, waiting for confirmation that they went out. Hubers \$600 / Burdsalls \$600 / Andersons \$300 = \$1,500
- **Christmas Eve Offering:** We will match the Christmas Eve offering and donate it to the Youth Group for an upcoming Mission trip.
- **Youth Hope Trivia Night:** There are three couples committed to participate already. We will sponsor that table and another if we get enough people to sign up.

Next meeting – Tuesday January 20, 2026, at 6:30pm.

Jim closed the meeting in prayer.



HUNDREDS OF KIDS & TEENS ARE FINDING HOPE BECAUSE OF YOU!

The need in our community is greater than ever. Kids and teens are facing food insecurity poverty related stress, uncertainty, and hopelessness as low-income families struggle to make ends meet.

Families like the Jones: single mom and four kids under the age of 10, who love coming to YouthHope and learning about Jesus! You help provide guaranteed meals for the kids, resources for mom, and a support network teaching them God has a plan and HOPE for their futures. You give the Jones kids a place to belong, to expand their horizons, and grow their faith.

Please help encourage, equip and empower at-risk and low-income kids and teens by partnering with YouthHope through a Year-end gift! You will provide safe, supervised, and positive programs for students K-12 through our Outreach Programs, Youth Centers, and Camp Summit! Through intentional and authentic relationships, together, we will shine the light of Jesus and give youth HOPE!

In 2025, more kids, neighborhoods, schools, and families are connected to YouthHope than ever before!

- 395 at-risk youth attended a week-long summer camp at Camp Summit
- 322 kids and teens regularly attend YouthHope programs each week!
- 10,853 individuals have received groceries and food assistance through YouthHope's Food Pantry.

Will you please prayerfully consider a generous year-end gift to continue reaching kids and teens through YouthHope?

Your support ensures YouthHope continues to pursue at-risk youth! YOU will help at-risk kids and teens find HOPE in Christ and learn they are valued important, capable, and loved!

We thank God for you and your commitment to support YouthHope programs for at-risk kids and teens. Thank you so much for helping bring youth Hope! God bless you!

Esther Joy King, Executive Director

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR TRIVIA NIGHT!



The Mission Committee is sponsoring tables for this event. If you would like to attend there is a signup sheet on the table in the sanctuary foyer.



HEARTS DO SOFTEN – LIVES ARE SAVED

(Click [HERE](#) for the full fourth quarter newsletter)



Macy* walked into the center clearly angry, and the pregnancy test appointment was tough. There were no smiles or even a lift in spirit as we talked with her. Her volunteer advocate came out of the room unsure of what to say that could possibly help Macy see her way out of an abortion. **Macy felt like abortion was her only option; she matter-of-factly stated that, “He don’t want it, and neither do I.”** What a testament to the impact of the father of the baby! Macy was abortion determined, but agreed to come back a few days later for an ultrasound. This was a glimmer of God beginning to work! On her exit survey that day, **Macy shared that at Pregnancy Resources, “They listen and respect you.”**

At the ultrasound Macy still seemed angry and spoke little. Her nurse noticed that Macy was “guarded” but seemed to soften a little as the appointment progressed. Macy showed no reaction to the baby on the screen. But then, **she calmly said that she didn’t need information about the abortion pill because she had “decided to keep it.”** Macy then asked for help getting connected with a local doctor! God is so good!

During a follow-up phone call a few days later, the nurse encouraged Macy and reminded her that she was strong enough to parent. After a pause, Macy said, “Thanks for that. That’s what my family has been telling me, too.”

Not every story at Pregnancy Resources has a happy ending. Sometimes we don’t get to know the ending – and all we can do is hope and pray. **But today, Macy reminded us that hearts do soften and lives are saved.** Macy’s story is a story of God’s faithfulness and it serves as an encouragement to us all. Thank you for making life-affirming care possible for Macy when her child’s life was hanging in the balance.

– Annetta Cooper

**not client’s real name or image*



HELP US BLESS FAMILIES BY PROVIDING MUCH NEEDED FALL/WINTER CLOTHING IN SIZES 3M - 3T

As we gear up for fall and winter, Bella's Boutique is in full swing and in need of a few items:

- ♥ 2T-3T outfits for boys and girls
- ♥ Infant and Toddler Pajamas!
- ♥ Baby lotion
- ♥ Bibs - Boy (smaller for newborn)
- ♥ Diapers - size newborn, 4, & 5
- ♥ Newborn girl long-sleeve onesies



(Scan the QR Code or click on the image above to go to PR’s Amazon wish list.)

OTHER MATERNITY & BABY ITEMS WE LOVE GETTING:

- ♥ Modern Pregnancy Clothes, all sizes (New or Gently used)
- ♥ Baby Wipes
- ♥ Cozy Baby Blankets (purchased or homemade)
- ♥ Receiving Blankets
- ♥ NEW Baby Bottles and Nipples, and NEW pacifiers
- ♥ Baby Swings and Strollers (New or Gently used)
- ♥ Pack ‘n Plays (New or Gently used)

Because of safety issues, we cannot accept: used car seats, used cribs, used bottles, used bottle nipples or pacifiers, or used breast pumps.

Happy December and Happy Christmas!

This term at Asha services we have been looking at Genesis 1-5. We have seen how sin has spoiled the perfect world and all the thoughts in man's heart are against God. (Gen 6:5) We have also seen the promise that there will be a rescuer, a serpent crusher. (Gen. 3:15) Now we enter this Christmas season knowing the joy of Jesus' birth and His saving sacrifice - that He is the serpent crusher!

In simpler terms, in the Christmas assembly for the schools, as we talk about why Christians get excited about Christmas, we talk about our sin as a "smelly old bin bag" that we can't get rid of. But then, we explain how Jesus is God, come to earth as a baby, to save us from our stinky sin (this comes with a prop of an actual bin bag :) and is the true King that we, as Christians, worship.

It is exciting to have this message of hope and grace to share. We are aware, though, that we are in an area that doesn't understand this hope, or really want to understand it. Please **pray** for those around us, for friends who come to Asha services, for ladies who come to ESOL classes, for school children and teachers, that they won't turn away from this message. And **pray** for us, that we won't be weary, and that we will have joy in our own hearts as we know this amazing grace that comes from Jesus birth and death.

We are so grateful for all of you - for your prayers and your encouragement and your support. And, we are grateful for your churches and knowing we are part of God's family together. Thank you for being part of what we do in London and know that we appreciate all of you!

Merry Christmas!

With love,

S....., C....., and kids

Prayer requests:

- Our specific **prayers** this year as an Asha church team are: That our regular attenders would make a faith decision, that we would have one new family start coming to Asha, and that more men would come to Asha. **Please be praying** for those things along with us this year.
- There are lots of extra things happening this month related to Christmas that we are involved in: wreath making event with a gospel message, many assemblies in primary schools, ESOL Christmas parties with a Bible story told to all, Christmas parties at youth clubs with messages about Jesus, an afterschool outreach event for community children, and a Christmas service event at Asha with a drama and meal afterward. Please **pray** for all these opportunities to share about who Jesus is and why he came to those in this community. **Pray** that these messages will fall on good soil.
- Winter in London means very short days and a lot of gloom and rain. The winter weather can impact attendance, and we have seen smaller numbers this month. **Pray** for those that do attend, for God to work in the sometimes one on one discussions, and that we can see the positives in more direct time with individuals, rather than feel discouraged.
- Book table this month has had many good discussions and has also led to contacts made at the table who ask for further conversation. **Pray** that this continues, and for those people that have wanted further info. **Praise** for a good thanksgiving celebration. We were grateful that our ... based kids could come for the holiday, and grateful to be able to share a meal (and American football) with friends here.
- **Praise** that A.....'s time away with her school class was everything she had hoped. She loved her time and got to take night walks, do archery, ride bikes, and roast (halal) marshmallows!

As we get closer to the end of the year, if you are thinking about a one time gift and have any questions, please do get in touch. One time gifts do help us alot with our overall monthly needs, so please do pray about giving if it is something you are feeling God leading you toward. Thank you so much!

Merry Christmas!!!

Thank you for your prayers and support this year and for all the previous years as well! This month we have spoken many times and to many people about the joy we have in Jesus our Savior, who rescues and restores. A few specific ways that has happened:

- Over 20 Christmas assemblies have taken place in schools in the borough - C involved directly in 7 of them. It involved a lot of running around in costume, pretending to ride a camel, throwing sheep.. One teammate was told by a little Bengali friend of her daughter that the girl went home and told her family the WHOLE story! We are **praying** that there are many more happenings like that, where the story is retold and spread and pondered.
- S went to a Christmas carol and outreach event in N....., the borough next to T.... H....., on a Saturday, in the square outside a huge shopping mall. Many local Christians came together to sing and to share about Jesus. At the event S was able to talk with a man who had many questions and wants to meet again and talk more.
- At the ESOL Christmas party, the whole class heard the story of Jesus birth and why He came. They were also all invited to the Asha Christmas service today. Some of the ladies were asking about it even before getting the invite, because they remembered it from last year and wanted to come again.
- Over 90 people were at our Asha Christmas service! They saw the children act out the Christmas story, heard the gospel message explained, sang and listened to Christmas songs in Sylheti, and ate a tasty meal together. Many times we get large numbers at Christmas, but then we don't see them again on a weekly basis. **Please pray that some will decide to come back next Sunday, and also pray that the message heard today would be something they go home and think about.** There were many people videoing the songs. **Pray they get shared widely!**

We want to wish you all a very joyful Christmas! Thank you for your love and support for us!

With love,

S, C, and kids

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!

Your 2025 Deacon team includes: Kay Amy, Mitch Anderson, Angie Freyermuth, Tom & Connie Huntley, Dorothy Rursch, Melody VanOteghem, & Deb Wagamon.



REMEMBER THOSE CONSOLATIONS??? - M & S UPDATE

Remember our last newsletters? where we were talking about the consolations within our disappointments?

In this season of "thanksgiving", we want to share yet another disappointment and consolation that fills us with MUCH gratitude at the present time.

As many of you will remember, M... was scheduled to be in E..... teaching a course on the History of Muslim-Christian relations. From there he was going to B..... where he and a colleague, Rev. S W, were to assess our partnership with B..... as a potential hub of ITEN ministry. Well, the Lord had other plans.

After M... taught his first full day of class at the E..... Theological College, he developed a violent bout of food poisoning. Somewhere around midnight, he had two hotel staff take him to an emergency room in A.... A.... for treatment. He was so dehydrated, that they could not get a needle in his collapsed veins (many pricks). He finally told them to give him a rehydration drink, and to wait before sticking him again. That did the trick and the IV was started.

But, 20 minutes into the IV drip, he began violently shaking - more like bouncing-off-his-bed shaking. He let the ER staff know that he feared hypothermia and had the presence of mind to ask if the saline had been refrigerated. They assured him it had not. Still, the hospital triage staff left the IV in for 2 hours, after which Mike fell asleep. He woke in the wee hours of the morning and the shivering had stopped. It wasn't until he got home and rested a few days, that he began to process the whole event. The "ER" was basically a garage with a metal roof awning, completely open to the outside air (see the photo). By the time he began triage, the outside temperature was 48-50 Fahrenheit. He was treated in a curtained off area near the open entrance with no heat (the nurses wore coats). They did have blankets for him, but the saline solution was stored at "room" temperature which was 50 or below--not good for dehydration from violent food poisoning. He's quite sure he was in hypothermia and he suspects that while he was out, they paused the saline drip or perhaps switched it out. They did eventually admit him to a room in the hospital, where they monitored him and ran all kinds of tests. He began to stabilize within 24 hours, and we got him on a return flight as soon as he was able to travel. I met him in Chicago, and we flew back to Seattle together.

He has been resting and regaining his equilibrium for a week now.

He was terribly disappointed not to complete his responsibilities and exploration trip to Ba....., but we are consoled that the Lord - through His people in E..... and through WO's leadership- cared for M... and that he is home safe and sound with us this holiday season. We do not take any of that for granted! M... will need to finish the E..... course (probably via Zoom) and we are exploring when M... and S.... can get to in 2026. Do **pray** with us for the Lord to guide the process.

As we close this bit of news, we are reminded that our days are numbered. We are so very thankful to be in relationship with our God and Father through the Lord Jesus and in counsel of the Holy Spirit, and we trust you will experience that same loving care in this Thanksgiving season. He loves us and leads us and holds us in all things- in community with family and friends, and when we're alone. To Him be praise! and to each of you- thank you for praying, for supporting, for loving us along the way!

We give thanks for:

- Kind and gracious E..... brothers and sisters who stayed with M... and never left his side: even the college president spent hours by his bedside and was in touch with S.... on his progress. God does have his people everywhere!
- Sufficient medical care to revive M... and re-hydrate him.
- A good mission agency (World Outreach) that worked hard to help get M... home.
- The assurance that though M... did not accomplish what he started out to do, God was neither alarmed nor disappointed. All things work together for good to those who love him and are called according to his purpose.

For safety & security reasons, we cannot post any links or pictures & need to obscure names & locations. If you would like the full report, please contact the church office.

Pray with us for:

- Good decisions for making up the courses in E..... and B.....
- Continued wisdom as we lead ITEN. Though M... was stopped, good training is taking place right now in Central and Southeast A... and Eastern E.....
- Preparations for 2026 ITEN training sessions. Two of our new ITEN team members are hoping to launch this year into full training mode. Please keep M..... and G..... in your prayers for necessary ministry partners and financial provision.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

B & E PRAYER ITR 26 NOV 2025

Dear friends, thank you for partnering with us!

Isaiah spoke of the coming Messiah Jesus, that he is anointed 'to bring good news to the poor... to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.' (Isaiah 61) Amen!

For safety & security reasons, we cannot post any links or pictures & need to obscure names & locations. If you would like the full report, please contact the church office. B includes so many pictures w/ comments in his updates!

Sharing the gospel during a war

I have a new friend, Prof. V B, at K D University in L....-F....., U..... He had invited me to give a lecture there last year and asked me to return. When I did, he was surprised. He said, 'Honestly, I did not expect that a foreigner with your experience and opportunities would want to return to us. But you did! We are so grateful.'

I think V.... is what I would call a nominal Orthodox man with traditional values. When I express my personal faith, convey Christian history in my lecture, and initiate a prayer over our lunch, he receives it well. He is thankful that an American is visiting them and teaching about their own history in an inspiring way, along with providing practical help to their students. He remarks about my enthusiasm and joy (which we know comes from the Lord!).

During my lectures, faculty and students hear about the sixth-century Christian statesman Cassiodorus, C. S. Lewis and Dorothy Sayers at Oxford, other Christians in history and big Christian ideas that shaped Europe. Their eyes open in a new way to the power of Christianity for both personal and national development. May they see the Lord!

U.....

Sept/Oct U..... trip

On this trip, J L and I traveled together in the EERF van across the border from P..... into U....., through several cities, and back to P..... It gave us the opportunity to talk for many hours, sharpen and inspire our vision and plans, enjoy great times of Scripture reading and prayer together while heading down the highway, as well as rich fellowship. I am so grateful for our 25-year relationship and ministry partnership! We always build each other up! In L..., U....., I preached twice from Isaiah 61 about our being 'oaks of righteousness'. People told me they were greatly encouraged by long-term vision and assurance of God's promises. They said they were inspired to go deeper into discipleship.

Also, in L..., I taught a full day at L... Theological Seminary on the topic 'Christian Service and Leadership in Society'. Afterward, I enjoyed a few hours in lively conversation with the seminary president. This was another of many installments of teaching throughout U..... to help the pastors and churches in post-Soviet territory come up from 'the basement' of the USSR and faithfully serve 'above ground' amid society, applying the gospel at a new level. They are not underground churches anymore—but active and serving! Thank the Lord!

As mentioned above, I was at K D University in I....-F....., where I gave lectures two days on the ‘History of the Universities and the Classical Christian Methodology of Education’, including practical study methods and skills. Prof. V B and one of the deans gave me a warm welcome. They surprised me by presenting me with a Visiting Professor certificate as they introduced me to the students, confirming my official appointment to this position. Over coffee and meals, we discussed ongoing forms of partnership. I was so glad they asked me, ‘Where is your friend, J?’ (He was in other meetings across town while I was at the university.) Because of the relationship I formed at the university, J was also welcomed and had the opportunity to explain to them about the Christian O A. They expressed their desire to collaborate with Jaroslaw in the future.

K D University was founded by a Greek Catholic priest whose vision was to pursue higher education based on Christianity. It is a private university and accredited by the U..... government. Based on common traditional values, there is an open atmosphere to me as an evangelical Protestant. Not much work has been done in the past by evangelicals to engage in this university. So, I thank God for this opportunity!

J and I then drove to K.... He was speaking at a conference, and I was doing a seminar for teachers, parents, and church leaders on ‘Family as an Atmosphere for Sharing Values and Fostering an Educational Lifestyle in Your Home’. This aims to respond to the disruption of education and family life caused by the war. In the past few years, Christians for U..... (led by J) launched supplemental schooling programs in the churches in nine cities. I did teacher training back then to help start it. The programs serve families already in the church as well as U..... refugee families displaced from eastern U..... The church I was speaking at in V..... has about **400 of these refugees in its care, most not yet followers of Jesus.**

When the seminar started, the pastor said enthusiastically, ‘Wow, so many of the parents of students here are not yet members of our church.’ We could see by their attentiveness, questions, and emotions that the seminar touched them in a strong way. There were some great personal conversations for an hour afterwards. **Please pray for those who saw God’s goodness when the church provided them education and a loving environment that they will see even more—that Jesus died for them to give them forgiveness and a whole new life.**

I preached in a large church in K... on Sunday. It was an inspiring time! Its leaders are very active in the reformation movement and many projects serving in society, including chaplaincy, support for soldiers and their families, and ministries in the city. They also have a strong online presence. Pastor V..... told me the message I brought gave **substantial support to his vision for deep discipleship** in the church and that he would go back over it carefully to apply it. In the church, I was greeted by many (including the pastors) who are studying at the Christian O A and know me from there, as well as preaching in this church regularly. I could see again how the network of Christian leadership grows!

In the background of all these travels and events is the **new ‘normal’ life for U.....**. For example, when we walked out of the church building, the air raid sirens blared. The pastor then called to see if the restaurant we were heading to would be closed because of the air alert. Some people huddled under the overpass for cover for a while. When we sat down a half hour later to eat lunch, we saw on our phones that a missile had indeed struck the S... region. In fact, during that Saturday/Sunday period, was attacked by 550 missiles and drones with numerous strikes. I also noticed when we had entered K... that soldiers were right next to busy rush-hour traffic in the city center setting up large 50-caliber anti-drone guns on tripods on the shoulder of the road for an evening of defending the country. All of this is ‘normal’ for U..... **Chronic stress. Disruption. Uncertainty. Deaths** of soldiers and civilians that they know. **Please pray for U.....**

Throughout the trip, J and I took advantage of the opportunity to distribute thousands of copies of prayer guides and other literature provided by EE Leadership Foundation to churches and Christian organizations for distribution in their cities. We did this at L..., I....-F....., K..., Z....., R..., and L..... It was encouraging to see firsthand the volunteer spirit of the churches.

U..... project work

In October, I recorded a lecture for the Christian O A. Its title is ‘A History of European Universities: Classical

Christian education methodology for U.....’s renewal.’ I am excited about this, because this talk imparts vision and action for producing self-educating, self-governed thinkers who have tools of learning and know how to study, research, and reason, think and read critically, and write and speak with eloquence and persuasion. All of this is necessary for evangelicals to advance in scholarship and engage at higher levels of service in society.

As I discussed the past few years of the Christian O A with J, he recalled that 3,000 students have taken the 7-month course, and 1,500 completed all the exams and received a certificate from the National University of O..... A..... Another 500+ students are enrolled right now, and include pastors, church workers, university students, public officials, social workers, professors, businessmen, and various professionals—and not just Protestants, but some Catholics and Orthodox, too. As with my other COA lectures, because it was recorded, this lecture will be used by future students, too.

Also in October, at the invitation of Prof. I B, I delivered a live online lecture for International University of E..... and H..... (abbreviated from Ukrainian as MEGU) in Rivne, Ukraine. It was the beginning of collaborations I am forming with them. My topic was family values and building multi-generationally strong families for the health of the nation. About 45 students and 8 faculty members from various departments attended. Thank the Lord, I had lots of positive feedback and questions.

The Dean of International Partnerships said:

‘I have never heard this before, but it is so powerful and influential for me personally and for U..... today. We need this! Thank you so much!’

After the meeting, I was approached by two students who are in the master’s program. Both are working in evangelical non-profit and humanitarian organizations and knew me from my Christian O A lectures. Again, we see the advancement of believers working in various spheres of society. The university requested that I come visit them in the future, give a lecture, and form a collaborative relationship.

B.....

Z D

Z is a strong Christian leader who was led to Christ by J and nurtured by my pastor friends in B..... who led the reformation movement. I have known him for about 20 years.

On 11 September, the day after Charlie Kirk was killed, my phone started lighting up with texts from B..... friends. They said it appeared that the release of our dear brother Z D from prison was imminent. Soon it was confirmed, and we were amazed and rejoicing! Upon his release, we can testify that Z was strong in spirit and deeply devoted to the Lord—just like before. He is, in J’s words, ‘an ironman’ by God’s grace.

For many years, Z led the largest pro-freedom movement organization for the younger generations in B..... Tens of thousands participated or were influenced by it, and it is a visibly Christian organization. As an out-front leader in ‘the last dictatorship in Europe’, Z paid the price of many unjust arrests. His several long-term imprisonments total about 8 years. Z was most recently in prison for 3.5 years (released 11 September 2025). During that time, his wife N (also a leader in this movement) was serving a house-arrest sentence of 3.5 years, while caring for her four children. In fact, she was pregnant when she and Z were imprisoned. As a result, Z has never seen in-person his now 3-year-old son, Daniel.

They need prayer! Z was, with complete surprise, taken from the prison and driven with 51 others to L....., where they were forcibly deported from their country. He had no documents and almost no possessions. Friends helped him. When N was released from her sentence about a month later, she was able to drive directly to L..... to see Z (after they were apart for 3.5 years!). They spent about two weeks together. But then she returned to B..... to prepare for her and their children to move—to collect whatever possessions they can, leave their house and B..... permanently, meet Z in L....., and eventually move their family to P..... So many things need to happen for them to make this family reunion and relocation move possible. **Please pray! May the Lord do amazing things**

to heal and strengthen this family and provide for their next season as a family and in the Lord's service.

One more thing. I realized that the day Z was released, I was working on a sermon on Isaiah 61, where we find the words (v.2) 'to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound'. Providence!

Mentoring

I continue to meet with Z F and A K from B..... I recently provided two mentoring consultations for a U..... pastor's son, V G, who is doing university studies and research on church history. He, and his older brother P G (who I also mentor) are next generation Christian U..... scholars. It is inspiring to watch them grow intellectually and as Christian leaders.

I was overjoyed to receive news a month ago from S T in M..., B..... In 2014-2019, I had provided some mentoring to S and a group of other university student ministries leaders working with IFES. S was a student of mine for a course at the seminary in M.....

S is now leading the IFES ministry in B..... It is wonderful to hear this report about their summer camp for university students:

'Some students who attended the camps by chance held a Bible in their hands for the first time. For instance, a student named A from M.... was simply seeking leisure activities and came across an advertisement for one of our camps on Instagram. This marked her first encounter with Christians, and she appeared genuinely surprised to learn that there are still people who believe in God. However, following the camp, she joined a Bible study group. A few weeks ago, a student named S was baptized in P..... She had been actively participating in a Bible study group for the past six months and has since joined a local church. Student D from B.... first attended a Bible study group approximately a year ago and is scheduled to be baptized this coming Sunday! Approximately 220 Christian students are currently participating in the RESTART student conference. We are doing our utmost to inspire and equip them to serve as missionaries in their universities during the upcoming academic year. Topics such as 'How to read the Bible with a non-believing friend?' 'How to organize an evangelistic project?' and 'How to respond to challenging questions about faith and God?' are among the many issues we are exploring at RESTART.'

It is important to remember that the seeds you and I have sown—even many years ago—grow and bear fruit over time, long after we have forgotten about the work we did to sow them.

I cannot safely enter B..... right now, so I am grateful for what I sowed there when I could. I also thank God for the ministry I continue to have with B..... who have had to flee to P..... and L.....

Other IFR and ITEN work

V.....

Back in July, I was online to do a final teacher training review of my MLTI course on community development. It involved two evenings online late night (because of the time zone difference) observing those I had taught previously as they now taught my course to other pastors. They didn't even ask me for help with a single question. I just watched for hours with a smile on my face. They got this! Yay!

It was a delight because it was part of finalizing the five-year process of our team's MLTI teacher training program in V....., under E McC's coordination. On 25 September, I received an encouraging message from our former in-country V..... coordinator of the MLTI program. He reported another story about how a church applied what was taught in my community development course and built a road for their community. That meant that children could go to school and adults could travel and work more efficiently. The road-building work was funded by and done by church volunteers. Their light shined through their good works. May their community see it and give glory to God.

P.....

I helped M K with fundraising for earthquake relief, after the terrible losses of life and property in P..... I was grateful that one of our supporting churches, River Oaks Community Church in Clemmons, NC, generously and helpfully provided funds to P Mission Society to meet this need. P Mission Society's work opens the doors to provide this help in some of the least-reach and least accessible parts of P..... in the name of Jesus.

M.....

River Oaks Community Church also helped with M..... earthquake relief. The Reformed Presbyterian Church in M..... applied the aid to help churches in B..., B....., D..., and M... All these churches are reaching hard-to-reach people groups. The aid included repairs to walls and other structural elements damaged by the earthquake, as well as rice and other food.

E and I also enjoyed a trip to Maryland in September to spend time with T and A T, our long-time friends and ministry partners from M..... They were in the US to visit their two sons who live in the US. They also necessarily refreshed their own green card status. What a joy to see them!

Their son J was in a horrible car accident and is recovering from a broken back (he can walk now and is in rehab). Their son D is a secret service officer protecting the president at the White House and on his trips (wow!).

Their report about M..... is that the civil war and military control remain heavy and difficult. I got an update on the M.. in R..... State. The M.. are a previously unreached people group reached with the gospel by T and their denomination. ITEN had the privilege to help with training the M.. and other pastors, and as part of that, I made over a dozen trips there over the years. Some sweet news is that the M.. started four new churches during the difficult civil war period, even though they had been forced from their homes and lost their church buildings in the civil war conflict. Many churches in C... State were burned, but now the People's Militia holds the area, and they have better ministry opportunities. The seminary is partially operational and relying more on online teaching these days, because Y..... is still held strongly by the military.

Cyprus

Since our last prayer letter, E and I enjoyed a fruitful time of team meetings for ITEN and EPC World Outreach in Cyprus for a week at our 'Family Gathering' of all the WO missionaries. This event happens every 3-4 years and is a special time of fellowship, spiritual renewal, care, and refreshment for our EPC missionaries. We enjoyed this time of renewing long-held relationships and bonding in new ones. We are so grateful to you and EPC for providing this!

Visiting supporting churches

In the past few months, E and I have visited and preached in supporting churches in VA, NJ, IL, MI, and NY. These face-to-face visits with those who affirm us, believe in what we are doing, and support us are encouraging to us and a great opportunity to share all the Lord is doing through our partnership. Thank you, supporting churches! We have plans to visit several more of you in months ahead.

Family

E continues her fruitful work for the Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Tidewater. Some of her many stories are about sharing the gospel with their clients, including two Muslim couples recently. There are also sweet stories about mothers who decided to keep their babies.

We are so excited that our son D and his wife K have another baby on the way, due in March! It will be our 8th grandchild! Yay! In October, I enjoyed a special few days in Arizona with my parents and sisters and their families. All the kids and grandkids (except those in Reno, NV) will be with us at our home for Thanksgiving. Wonderful! E and I will travel to Reno for Christmas celebrations there. Again, wonderful!

Please pray for...

- Z and N D—reuniting their family post-prison; approved visas; relocation
- U..... suffering from war

- Prof. V B, Prof. I B, Prof. D S and their university students who heard my lectures
- J L and the U..... Christian O A and its students who heard my lectures
- B..... and U..... mentorees: Z F, An K, V G, P G, S T
- ITEN partners T and A T (M.....), M and R K (P.....), the Evangelical Church of V.....-North and H.... Bible College (V.....)
- 2 Dec Institute for Reformation annual board meeting
- 7 Dec Buck Hill Church, Newland, NC
- 11 Dec Law faculty roundtable with U...../US professors
- 11 Jan Kempsville Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, VA
- 13 Jan-20 Feb Publication and project work
- 30-31 Jan Presbytery of the Coastal Mid-Atlantic, Florence, SC
- 1 Mar Community Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Owosso, MI
- 7-8 Mar Goodwill Church, Montgomery, NY
- 12-22 Mar U...../P...../L.....

Thank you for supporting us!

B & E

HUBER VIDEO UPDATE

Merry Christmas! We can't even begin to tell Edgington EPC how much we appreciate your generosity, consistency, and wonderful care! We're praying peace and joy over your church family during this special Advent season.

We recently put together a video update for you to see and share with the mission committee, session, and even the church body if you feel compelled. Unfortunately, it's a bit long, but hopefully you'll get a feel for what kind of fruit your partnership is helping to produce. You're such an important part of this work!

Here's the link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/17Xlnd3dEahVnWl3G6EJew4C9CLdKLp6/view?usp=sharing>
In Christ,

Saul & Jesse Huber
EPC World Outreach
Coordinators of Field Mobilization



God's Tides

"Leave me alone with God as much as much as may be. As the tide draws the waters close up on the shore, make me an island, set apart, alone with you, God, Holy to You. Then with the turning of the tide, prepare me to carry your presence to the busy world beyond, the world that rushes in on me, till the waters come again and fold me back to you." - The Prayer of St. Aiden (by Andy Raine - written about Holy Island)

This is a prayer that was shared with us by our guide during the last day of my pilgrimage in Scotland back at the start of May. The reason the prayer was so vivid and powerful when I heard it was that our final destination, the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, is an island... only sometimes. When the tide comes in, it becomes an island, and when the tide goes out, the road is revealed from underwater and the quaint little town is reconnected to all the tourists/travelers.

I'm about to take a hard right here... but stick with me.

(Cont. from p. 19)

This Fall was busy, really, really busy. And we came home from Thanksgiving desperate for rest, for less, for room to breathe.... so we made a commitment to slow down for the month of December. Sounds great, right?! But wait, we still have five kids that we're homeschooling, we still have ministry responsibilities, it's still Christmas season (one of the busiest times of the year!), and that's without anything extra. You fill in the blanks. You know how crazy and exhausting this time can be.

The mercy we're experiencing from God over the past couple weeks though is that He's blessing our attempts to slow down, but just in waves. If I'm not careful, I can get angry that we haven't reached a space of total peace/rest, but what I'm realizing is that, like Holy Island of Lindisfarne, life isn't meant to be lived completely on the island OR in "the busy world beyond." The question is: how can we ready our hearts to receive the moments of solitude with God and intimacy of family, while also welcoming His call back to community and reconnection to the busy world? How can we be okay with the waves? I pray that our family and yours would release control this Christmas season and welcome the ebb and flow of God's tides.

Last notes here... part of our commitment to less is that we decided not to write up and send out our annual ministry mailing. We will probably send a mailing out in January or February, but that's to be decided :)

The challenge with the choice not to send you a letter is that we still need to communicate that our financial support has waned this year and our budget has increased quite a bit due to insurance, admin fees, and inflation. So, we are currently about \$1,000 a month short of our family/ministry needs for this next year. Would you please pray and consider partnering with us financially? Or if you're already giving, would you please consider raising your support at this time?

Our giving link is: <https://www.epcwo.org/sauljesse/>

Thank you so much! And Merry Christmas!

ADVENT IN CHICAGO: WAITING, WORKING, AND HOPING TOGETHER - JEFFREY LANCASTER UPDATE

Hi friends,

Every December I'm reminded that Advent begins in the dark. As Fleming Rutledge says, it's the season that dares to look honestly at the shadows within us and around us while refusing to believe that darkness has the final word. Advent trains our souls to wait—actively, expectantly—for God's arrival. *"Little Advent, little Christmas. Great Advent, great Christmas."*

This year, as Cathy and I continue our long-eyed, long-aimed work of planting a church in the most unchurched part of Chicago, Advent feels especially personal. Church planting is Advent. It is watching and waiting. It is working and hoping. It is—day after day—putting our small lives inside God's much larger story and trusting that Christ will show up and do what only He can do.

Tish Harrison Warren writes that Advent collapses time. Past, present, and future meet as we stand with ancient Israel longing for the Messiah, with the early church proclaiming, *"Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again"* and with the global church today waiting for His final renewal of all things. Advent reminds us that "help is on the way," even when life feels painfully slow or deeply uncertain.

And honestly, some days here in Chicago feel exactly like that kind of slow, sacred waiting.

Waiting for hearts to soften.

Waiting for conversations to open.

Waiting for seekers to say, "Maybe I'll come back next week."

Waiting for the right people to join the launch team.



**Resurrection
City Church
Chicago**



Waiting for God to breathe life into something new in this city we love.

But Advent also reminds me that we don't wait alone. In Christ, and through the prayers of friends like you, we "join our voices with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven" as we seek to carry the light of Jesus into a neighborhood full of beautiful people who desperately need Him—even if they don't yet know it.

We need your prayers now more than ever.

Would you **pray**—earnestly and specifically—for:

- A faithful core of missionally-minded believers to join us in Lakeview/Wrigleyville
- Open doors with seekers, skeptics, and neighbors
- Strength, courage, and joy as we keep sowing gospel seeds
- God's provision for our ministry and our family

Your prayers are not small things. They shield the fragile flame of hope, like AJ Sherrill's image of protecting a small fire from the winds. They steady us. They strengthen us. They help us keep going...

In the waiting, God is at work.

Advent teaches us to slow down, pay attention, and "practice watching for grace." Christmas assures us that the God we're waiting for is the God who comes. The God who puts on flesh. The God who moves into the neighborhood. The God who is still—right now—writing His story through ordinary people like us. Thank you for being part of this story with us. Thank you for praying. Thank you for giving. Thank you for believing with us that Jesus has much redemptive work he wants to pull off in Chicago—and that He will come again to make all things new.

With hope and active waiting,

Jeffrey

HELP A GRANDPA FINISH STRONG WITH YEAR-END GIVING!

Hey Gang,

A few weeks ago, during a Sunday morning worship service, Cathy and I joined our voices with a local congregation to sing a hymn I've sung more times than I can count: Holy God, We Praise Your Name.

I'm sure you've had this experience—sometimes you're singing a song (any song, really, but especially a worship song) and suddenly the lyrics land on you in a completely new way. Almost like you're hearing it for the very first time. That morning, it was the third verse that stopped me in my tracks:

*All the saints join in the strain
as your sacred name they hallow;
prophets swell the glad refrain,
faithful from all nations follow;
and from morn to set of sun,
through the church the song goes on.*

In that moment, it felt as though God was insisting—through these lyrics—that I slow down and be filled with awe. Awe that my life (our lives, as Christ-followers) actually plays a role in God's great musical enterprise—His ongoing work to keep the gospel's music alive and moving across the world and throughout the ages.

Every local expression of Christ's body keeps that song humming wherever God has planted His people—whether in a dense urban neighborhood, a small town, a suburb, a village, a prison, a college campus, a hospital ward, a senior living facility, etc.



(Cont. from p. 21)

God is using His people, in a very real sense, as his “recording artists,” filling the airwaves of the world with the liberating sounds and messages of his hope. And this gospel music symphony—both literally and figuratively—takes on every style imaginable: lofty and classical, earthy and blues-like, raw and soulful, funky and joyful, old-country honest (forgive me, lovers of modern country!), poetically real like good rap, driving like classic rock, and storytelling like a Dylan ballad.

It’s music that carries every theme of God’s Big Story: a glorious creation, a tragic fall, a rescuing gospel, a wilderness journey, a slow restoration, and a future promised-land world made whole again.

As I sang that third stanza, all of this came rushing through my soul. And I found myself whispering to our risen Christ:

“Lord Jesus, help me be a part of keeping your music alive in Chicago.

Let me sing your story—in all its fullness, with all its notes, in a way that speaks both honestly and hopefully into Your world.”

This is Advent—the season in the life of the church when we join our voices with believers across the centuries, singing in anticipation of Christ’s arrival. His first coming in Bethlehem, his continual comings into our world and our lives even now, and his final coming when all things are made new. We worship a God who keeps showing up—faithfully, graciously, surprisingly—in his world and in our stories.

And one of the primary ways God plays His music into the ears of the world is through regular, ordinary, broken-yet-redeemed followers of Jesus. People like us. People being renewed, praying, showing up, pouring our lives into others, embodying the gospel melody of King Jesus—the One who “comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found.”

Through your prayers and financial support, you help us keep that music humming—over the airwaves of Chicago’s neighborhoods, in conversations around dinner tables, in offices and coffee shops, in small gatherings where seekers are gently finding their way toward hope.

As we look toward 2026, I’m praying boldly for a strong year-end—specifically, **\$100,000 above and beyond our regular monthly support**. That’s not a random number. It directly fuels real ministry with real people:

- the unchurched young adult who shows up to dinner carrying big questions,
- the burned-out professional who needs a pastor to sit across from them with a cup of coffee and a listening heart,
- the neighbor walking through grief,
- the artist wandering their way toward faith,
- the person who quietly whispers, “Can we talk?”

Every dollar helps us stay present in Chicago—hosting our Wednesday dinners and Bible studies, gathering friends and neighbors for community-building events, shepherding seekers, cultivating my chaplaincy ministry at WeWork, extending mercy in our city, and continuing to gather the launch team we’ve been praying for.

WE NEED A STRONG DECEMBER.

If God has blessed you this year, would you consider making a generous year-end gift to our Chicago church-planting work? Your support truly makes ministry possible. No gift is too small—and for some, this may be the year to make an especially meaningful investment in the gospel’s work here.

And on a mucho joyful personal note—in case you haven’t heard—Cathy and I are about to step into a brand-new season. Jeffrey Jr. and his wife, Anne Russell, are expecting a baby on April 30th. There’s a new kind of song in our hearts these days, as we wait with wonder for this little one’s arrival.

So yes—it seems I’m slowly becoming a “grandpa-ing church planter.” And my prayer is that the church God raises up here in Chicago will be the kind of church that our grandchild—and his/her contemporaries yet unborn—would want to be part of. A church helping to keep God’s music alive in the world.

Wishing you a meaningful Advent and a Merry Christmas Season,

Jeffrey



EDGINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | TREASURER'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2025



	Beg. Balance	Receipts	Disbursement	End. Balance
General Fund	\$ 81,329.17	\$ 18,937.60	\$ 11,887.41	\$ 88,379.36
Education Fund	16,120.47	156.15	-	\$ 16,276.62
Building Fund (see below)	110,463.93	1,045.60	1,668.96	109,840.57
<i>Checking</i>	3,324.74	1,045.60	1,668.96	2,701.38
<i>Money Market</i>	107,139.19			107,139.19
Youth Group	15,823.95	20.00	272.01	15,571.94
	<u>\$ 223,737.52</u>	<u>\$ 20,159.35</u>	<u>\$ 13,828.38</u>	<u>\$ 230,068.49</u>

November 2025 MONTHLY REVIEW - General Fund

Receipts - November 2025

Pledges	18,327.48		
Interest Income - General Fund	10.12		
Per Member Asking	600.00		
Basement Rent	-		
		\$ 18,937.60	\$ -

Expenditures - November 2025

Administrative

		\$ 3,280.30	
ABS (copier rental)	196.87	27.6%	
AT&T - Phone for elevator	249.09		
Cemetery Upkeep			
Computers: Hdw, Sftw and Apps	101.99		
Insurance			
Jeanne Hayes (Custodian)	471.89		
Lisa Bowman (Office Manager)	899.07		
Kone (elevator)			
MidAmerican Energy	564.00		
Millenium Waste	83.30		
Office Supplies	192.39		
Repairs & Maintenance - general	270.53		
Reytel - Internet	121.04		
Shipping/Postage			
Taxes / FICA / Penalty	130.13		

Discipleship (Internal)

		\$ 8,607.11	
Children's Director	393.25	72.4%	
Continuing Education	96.81		
Deacon Expense			
EPC General Assembly			
EPC (health)	24.27		
Events			
Fidelity (pension)	1,084.98		
Flowers	(35.00)		
Housing Allowance	4,000.00		
Meals			
Mileage			
Music			
Pastor Salary	2,782.08		
Presbytery Expense			
Pulpit Supply			
Resource Materials	260.72		
Sunday School			
Worship Supplies			

Mission (external)

		\$ -	
Mission - International		0.0%	
Mission - US			
Mission - Local			

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 11,887.41	\$ -
	100.0%	
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ 7,050.19	

INCLUDED IN GENERAL FUND TOTAL

Mission monies committed within general fund as of end of month is \$16,904 and Assistance Fund of \$4,483.46



EDGINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2025

November 2025 - Building Fund Detail

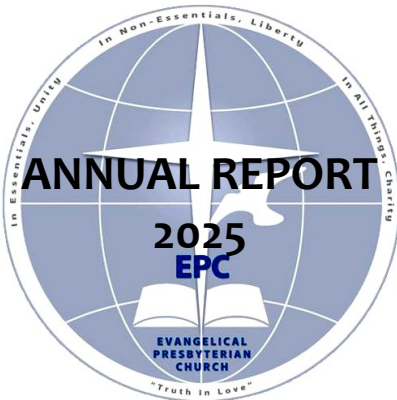
Beginning Balance	\$	110,463.93
Receipts		
Investment Income		1,044.73
Checking Interest		0.87
Money Market Interest		-
		<u>1,045.60</u>
Expenditures		
Tri City Electric		914.78
Johnson Controls		754.18
		<u>1,668.96</u>
Ending Balance	\$	109,840.57



EDGINGTON
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Est. 1837

"TO GLORIFY GOD, & ENJOY HIM FOREVER"



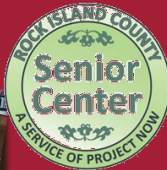
ATTENTION COMMITTEE LEADERS OF EDGINGTON EPC

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 is Sunday, January 25th immediately following the Women's Fundraiser Luncheon. (See info on p. 34)

**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 \$4 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.

CURRENT SERMON SERIES

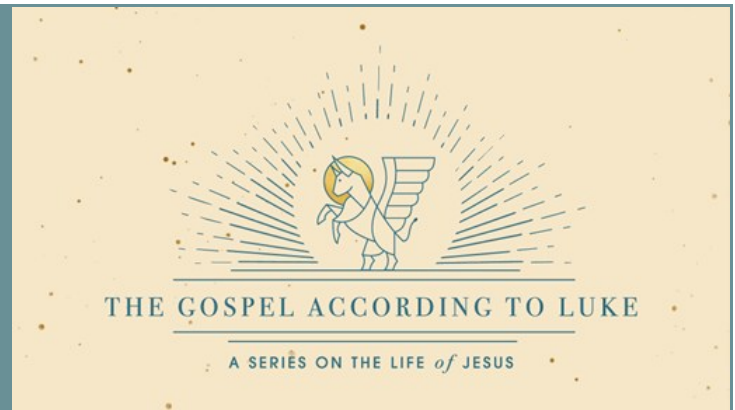
Pastor Zach will the Book of Luke again in January. We look forward to picking up where we left off and diving deep into God's Word together! We hope you will join us each week!

Sunday, January 4th - [Psalm 90](#)

Sunday, January 11th - [Luke 16:19-31](#)

Sunday, January 18th - [Luke 17:1-6](#)

Sunday, January 25th - Rev. Dr. Aaron White, guest pastor



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.

REDEMPTIVE-HISTORICAL BIBLE READING PLAN

© Greg Lanier (glanier.wordpress.com)

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 redemptive-historical reading plan from Greg Lanier, who is an associate professor of New Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando (full-time) and as associate pastor at River Oaks Church (PCA) (part-time).



Daily Bible Reading
MAKE IT A HABIT THIS YEAR

Annual Bible reading plans are great. But there are tradeoffs. They can be oppressive for some, and they require a heavy load of reading spread equally across all chapters and books with little time to reflect, pause, connect dots, etc. One may not, at the end of reading the Bible through in a year, emerge with a much better understanding of the 1,189 chapters you just read. The plan provided on the next few pages and linked to the image takes a different approach meant to complement (not replace) the normal one. It curates the key chapters of the OT that help frame the flow of redemptive history (how God has worked in history to bring about his plan of salvation). Most sections of OT readings include NT chapters that shed light on fulfillment in Christ. You can go at your own pace and pause however often you want to dig deeper and reflect on what you are reading. At the end, you will have a solid grounding in the entire message of the Bible, which can then help you revisit those 1,189 chapters afresh.

In the year ahead, ask God each day to speak directly to you from the Scripture passages 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.

Hard copies are located on the table in the sanctuary foyer.

Redemptive-Historical Bible Reading Plan

© Greg Lanier (glanier.wordpress.com)

Annual Bible reading plans are great. But there are tradeoffs. They can be oppressive for some, and they require a heavy load of reading spread equally across all chapters and books with little time to reflect, pause, connect dots, etc. One may not, at the end of reading the Bible through in a year, emerge with a much better understanding of the 1,189 chapters you just read. The plan provided below takes a different approach meant to complement (not replace) the normal one. It curates the key chapters of the OT that help frame the flow of redemptive history (how God has worked *in history* to bring about his plan of salvation). Most sections of OT readings include NT chapters that shed light on fulfillment in Christ. You can go at your own pace and pause however often you want to dig deeper and reflect on what you are reading. At the end, you will have a solid grounding in the entire message of the Bible, which can then help you revisit those 1,189 chapters afresh.

1. Creation

Few things are more foundational to Christianity than the doctrine of the special creation of all things by the Triune God, with the Father, Son, and Spirit all at work in the unified act of creation.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 1 ("In the beginning, God") | <input type="checkbox"/> John 1 ("In the beginning, Word") |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 2 (Adam and Eve) | <input type="checkbox"/> Colossians 1 (Agency of Christ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 19 ("Heavens declare...") | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 4 (Light of Christ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job 38 ("Where were you when I...") | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 1 (Agency of Christ) |

2. Fall, Original Sin, and Judgment

What distinguishes the Judeo-Christian worldview is the doctrine of the original fall of Adam into sin. It is the 'problem' for which the rest of Scripture provides the 'solution.'

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 3 (Eating the fruit..."Offspring") | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 1 (Downward spiral of sin) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 6-9 (Judgment of the flood) | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 5 (Sin/death through Adam) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 51 (Sinfulness from birth) | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8 (Unwinding the curse) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Peter 3 (Reflections on the flood) |

3. God's Covenant Promise to Abraham

The central promise that drives OT history is that of God to Abraham: a nation coming from his offspring, a land in which to dwell, and the blessing of all nations through him—all by *faith*.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 12 (Abram's call) | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 11-17 (Abraham's lineage to Christ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 14 (Abram and Melchizedek) | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 4 (Abraham the heir of the world) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 15 ("Abram believed God...") | <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 3 (Justification by faith) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 17 (Circumcision) | <input type="checkbox"/> James 2 (Reflecting on Abraham's testing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 22 (Testing of Abraham) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 7 (Jesus, Abraham, Melchizedek) |

4. Promise Continued through the Patriarchs

God fulfills his promise to Abraham by giving him twelve descendants from which the tribes of Israel emerge.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 26-27 (Promise to Isaac; Jacob-Esau) | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 7 (Stephen's 'OT History' 101) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 32 (Jacob renamed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 9 ("Jacob have I loved, but Esau...") |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 49 (Blessings on the twelve sons) | <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 4 ("We are like Isaac") |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 105 (Remembering the patriarchs) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 11 (Commending the patriarchs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chronicles 2 (Genealogy) | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 22 (God of Abraham/Isaac/Jacob) |

5. Exodus from Egypt

The exodus from captivity in Egypt is *the* central redemptive work in the OT—the thing to which and from which all OT theology flows.

- ❑ Exodus 3 (Moses encounters God)
- ❑ Exodus 12–14 (Passover and exodus)
- ❑ Exodus 15 (Moses' song of praise)
- ❑ Psalm 78 (Remembering the exodus)
- ❑ Psalm 136 (Praise for God's deliverance)
- ❑ Hosea 11 ("Out of Egypt I called my son")
- ❑ *Matthew 2* (Jesus' flight to Egypt)
- ❑ *Matthew 26* (Jesus keeps the Passover)
- ❑ *1 Corinthians 5* (Christ is our Passover)
- ❑ *Jude* (Jesus saved the Israelites from Egypt)

6. God's Covenant Law Given through Moses

Having redeemed his people, God immediately extends and concretizes the Abrahamic covenant for the new nation of Israel. God gives the law that declares his righteous standards as well as a sacrificial system (based on substitutionary atonement) that provides a means to deal with sin.

- ❑ Exodus 19–20 (Decalogue)
- ❑ Exodus 24 (Blood of the old covenant)
- ❑ Exodus 34 (Moses' shining face)
- ❑ Exodus 40 (God's glory fills the tabernacle)
- ❑ Leviticus 16 (Day of Atonement)
- ❑ Deuteronomy 5–6 (Covenant re-confirmed)
- ❑ Deuteronomy 28–30 (Blessings and curses)
- ❑ Psalm 119 (Goodness of God's law)
- ❑ *Matthew 5* (Fulfilling the law)
- ❑ *Mark 10* (Reflecting on the Decalogue)
- ❑ *Luke 22* (Blood of the new covenant)
- ❑ *Romans 10* (Righteousness and law)
- ❑ *2 Corinthians 3* (Moses' shining face)
- ❑ *Galatians 3* (Reassessing law)
- ❑ *Hebrews 9* (Christ's atonement)

7. Rebellion in the Wilderness

Israel immediately falls into a pattern of sin and hardness against their redeeming God, resulting in their judgment in the wilderness prior to entering the land promised to Abraham.

- ❑ Numbers 11 (Manna and quail)
- ❑ Numbers 14 (Rebellion)
- ❑ Numbers 20 (Water from the rock)
- ❑ Numbers 21 (Bronze serpent lifted up)
- ❑ Psalm 95 ("Do not harden your hearts")
- ❑ *John 3* ("Son of Man lifted up")
- ❑ *John 6* (True manna)
- ❑ *1 Corinthians 10* ("Rock was Christ")
- ❑ *Hebrews 3* ("Do not harden your hearts")

8. Conquest of the Land and Early Leadership

Joshua leads the nation into the land promised to Abraham, and the initial period of leadership by the judges is one of ups and downs.

- ❑ Deuteronomy 1–3 (Preparing to enter)
- ❑ Joshua 1 (Commissioning of Joshua)
- ❑ Joshua 6 (Jericho)
- ❑ Joshua 24 (Covenant renewal)
- ❑ Judges 2 (Summary of the period of judges)
- ❑ Judges 13–16 (Account of Samson)
- ❑ *Acts 13* (Recap of Israel's history)
- ❑ *Hebrews 4* (Promise of rest still stands)

9. Establishing the Monarchy

God installs a king over Israel as his vice-regent to bring security to the nation and build a temple where his manifest presence would be made known.

- ❑ 1 Samuel 1–2 (Samuel as interim leader)
- ❑ 1 Samuel 8–10 (Saul anointed king)
- ❑ 1 Samuel 16 (David is anointed)
- ❑ 2 Samuel 5 (David rules a united kingdom)
- ❑ 2 Samuel 11–12 (David, Bathsheba, Solomon)
- ❑ 1 Chronicles 17 (Covenant with David)
- ❑ 2 Chronicles 5 (Solomon completes temple)
- ❑ Psalm 2 (God's royal son)
- ❑ Psalm 18 (David's song of God's deliverance)
- ❑ Psalm 89 (Covenant with David)
- ❑ Psalm 110 ("Sit at my right hand")
- ❑ *Matthew 12* (Jesus > temple, > Solomon)
- ❑ *Luke 1–2* (Jesus, the Davidic King)
- ❑ *Luke 20* (Jesus and Psalm 110)
- ❑ *Romans 1* (Jesus, of David in the flesh)
- ❑ *Philippians 2* (Jesus exalted as king)
- ❑ *Hebrews 12* (Jesus on the throne)
- ❑ *Revelation 7* (Worship the enthroned Lamb)

10. Religious Life of the Nation

During the early monarchy, Israel's devotional life flourishes in psalms and wisdom writings.

- ❑ Psalm 1 (Two ways to live)
- ❑ Psalm 22 (David's lament)
- ❑ Psalm 51 (Repentance for sin)
- ❑ Psalm 72 (Prayer for the king)
- ❑ Psalm 118 ("Blessed is he who comes")
- ❑ Proverbs 1–2 (Wisdom and fear of the Lord)
- ❑ Proverbs 8 (Praise of Wisdom)
- ❑ Ecclesiastes 1 ("Vanity of vanities...")
- ❑ Ecclesiastes 12 (Fear God)
- ❑ Song of Songs 1 (Goodness of marital love)

11. Degradation of the Monarchy

After Solomon, the monarchy splits into the Northern Kingdom (10 tribes, 'Israel'/'Ephraim,' based in Samaria) and the Southern Kingdom (2 tribes, 'Judah,' based in Jerusalem) and spirals into sin.

- ❑ 1 Kings 11–13 (Kingdom divided)
- ❑ 1 Kings 17–22 (Example: Elijah and Ahab)
- ❑ 2 Chronicles 33 (Example: Evil under Manasseh)
- ❑ *Luke 4* (Remembering Elijah's ministry)

12. Israel and Judah in Exile

Due to repeated cycles of sin, the covenant curse of exile is poured out. Assyria defeats the Northern Kingdom/Israel (722BC) while Babylonia defeats the Southern Kingdom/Judah (605–586BC).

- ❑ 2 Kings 17 (Fall of Israel to Assyria)
- ❑ Isaiah 7 (Assyria assails Judah, Immanuel)
- ❑ 2 Kings 24–25 (Fall of Judah to Babylonia)
- ❑ Micah 1 (Pronouncing judgment of exile)
- ❑ Hosea 1–2 (Warnings to "Not-my-people")
- ❑ Zephaniah 1 (Punishment from the Lord)
- ❑ Ezekiel 11 (God's glory leaves the temple)
- ❑ *Matthew 1:18–25* (Immanuel fulfilled)
- ❑ *1 Peter 2* (Grace to "Not-my-people")

13. Grief and Consolation during Exile

Judah grieves during exile but is comforted by the prophets, who reiterate God's promise of restoration.

- ❑ Lamentations 1 (Mourning over Jerusalem)
- ❑ Psalm 44 (Plea for God to rescue them)
- ❑ Psalm 69 (Zeal for the temple)
- ❑ Jeremiah 25 (Promise of 70 year exile)
- ❑ Habakkuk 2 (Faith to endure judgment)
- ❑ Daniel 1–2 (Babylon to be judged)
- ❑ Daniel 9 (Revisiting Jeremiah's promise)
- ❑ John 2 (Zeal for the temple)
- ❑ Hebrews 10 (Faith to endure judgment)

14. (Partial) Restoration from Exile

Though the N. Kingdom is never fully restored (rather, repopulated with Samaritans), the S. Kingdom is released under Persian rule to rebuild the temple. But things are never quite the same.

- ❑ Ezra 1–6 (Return under Cyrus, rebuilding)
- ❑ Nehemiah 8–9 (Covenant renewal)
- ❑ Haggai 1 (Encouragement to rebuild)
- ❑ John 4 (Jesus and the Samaritan woman)

15. Anticipating an Eschatological Deliverer

Throughout the period of the prophets, we get glimpses of an eschatological savior-figure (a "Messiah," though not always using that term) who will bring deliverance to God's people.

- ❑ Isaiah 9 ("A child is born")
- ❑ Isaiah 11 ("Root of Jesse")
- ❑ Isaiah 52:11–53:12 (Suffering servant)
- ❑ Jeremiah 23 (Righteous "Branch")
- ❑ Ezekiel 1 ("Likeness of the glory of God")
- ❑ Ezekiel 34 (Shepherd of Israel)
- ❑ Zechariah 9 (King on a donkey)
- ❑ Daniel 7 ("One like a son of man")
- ❑ Matthew 21 (Jesus as king on a donkey)
- ❑ Mark 13 (Returning Son of Man)
- ❑ Romans 15 ("Root of Jesse")
- ❑ John 10 (Jesus the good Shepherd)
- ❑ Acts 8 (Who is the suffering servant?)
- ❑ Revelation 4 (Throneroom glory)
- ❑ Revelation 5 ("Root of David")

16. Anticipating the Day of the Lord

In conjunction with the coming of a deliverer, the OT prophets also envision a new covenant, the return of God's presence, the outpouring of the Spirit, the engrafting of the Gentiles (fulfilling the Abrahamic promise), cosmic renewal, and resurrection in the Day of the Lord

- ❑ Jeremiah 33 (New covenant)
- ❑ Isaiah 42 (Justice and a light to the nations)
- ❑ Isaiah 65–66 (New heavens / new earth)
- ❑ Joel 2 (Spirit outpouring)
- ❑ Ezekiel 36 (Spirit and a new heart)
- ❑ Ezekiel 43 (Return of the Glory of the Lord)
- ❑ Malachi 3–4 (Messenger before the Day)
- ❑ Daniel 12 (Eschatological resurrection)
- ❑ Mark 1 (John the Baptist as messenger)
- ❑ Acts 2 (Pentecost and Spirit outpouring)
- ❑ Romans 11 (Jews and Gentiles)
- ❑ 1 Corinthians 15 (Eschatological resurrection)
- ❑ Ephesians 2 (Ingrafting of Gentiles)
- ❑ Hebrews 8 (New covenant)
- ❑ Revelation 21–22 (New heavens / new earth)

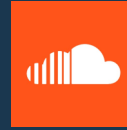
OUR SOCIAL ACCOUNTS



FOLLOW US ON ALL OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS!

Just scan the QR codes to go directly to each one of our accounts on the various platforms or search for us on the ones you use. Text & icons below are linked.

[Facebook link](#)
[Soundcloud link](#)
[Instagram link](#)
[YouTube link](#)



Join us for a deep-dive into Paul's letter to the Galatians - one of his most powerful and foundational writings on the gospel of grace and Christian freedom.

As Pastor Zach unpacks the text verse by verse, you'll not only grasp Galatians more deeply, but also gain tools for reading and understanding all of Scripture.

GALATIANS

NO OTHER GOSPEL

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



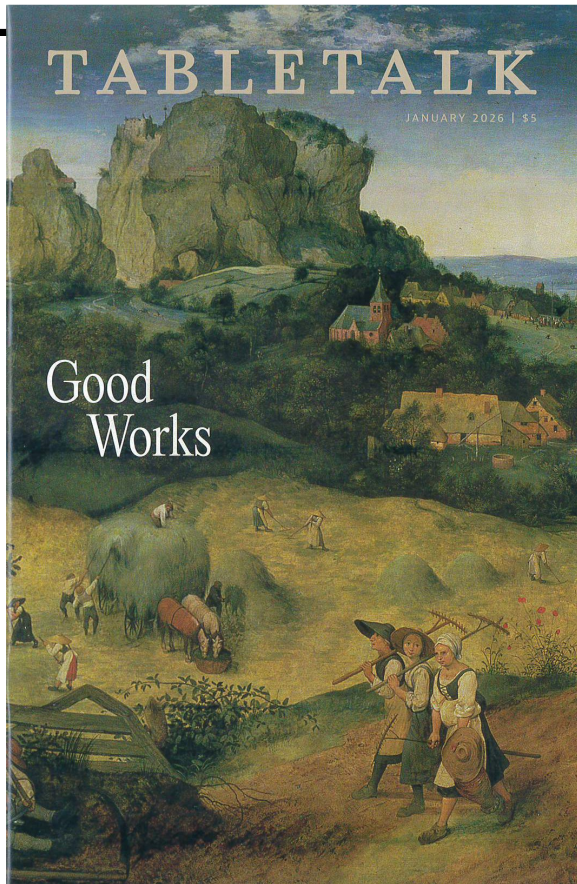
Toddler	- Hillary Terrill & Kortney Gierlus
Pre-K	- Beth Flickinger
1st-2nd	- Katie Pearson & Sue Miller
3rd-5th	- Kathy Stegmiller
Junior High	- Tara Johnson
Senior High	- Nathan & Lyndsey Flickinger



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!

GET YOUR JANUARY COPY OF
THE TABLETALK DEVOTIONAL



LOCATED ON A TABLE IN THE SANCTUARY FOYER

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

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

ALL submissions for the February 2026 Newsletter must be in by **NO LATER than Wednesday, January 21st** or they may not be included in the newsletter.

Thank you for your cooperation!

~ Lisa Bowman, Office Manager

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

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

Thank you so much for your help!

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

EEPC YOUTH GROUP

1.4 - GARGONS

1.11 - TRIVIA

1.18 - GAME NIGHT

1.25 - PIZZA COOK-OFF

FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS
CADE REIMERS FOR MORE INFO
309.373.2488



MEN'S MINISTRY

EDGINGTON MEN

CHILI COOK-OFF

2.1.2026 **BRING THE HEAT!** 3-5:00 PM

ballot taste testing to crown the "Chili Champ"

enter your chili to win! come and eat!



FREE!

For ALL generations of EEPc Men

"Come, Follow Me" Mark 1:17


MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP

Prayer & Fellowship Meetings
January '26


-  Wednesdays - 6:30pm
-  Beginning Jan 7th
-  Meet at the Church
Bring: Bible, "Monday Meditation"

Upcoming:

- Chili Cook-off - Sun. Feb. 1st
- Bible Studies - Feb 4th (Wed) / 7th (Sat)



MEN'S MINISTRY




BIBLE

study

EPHESIANS

A 12-WEEK STUDY

Wednesdays - 6:30 pm - Starting 2/4
Saturdays - 7:00 am - Starting 2/7



EEPC MEN

Commit to getting sharper in 2026 and join us in prayer, fellowship, and study.

*Iron sharpens iron,
and one man sharpens another.*
- Proverbs 27:17

WOMEN'S MINISTRY UPDATES & EVENTS

WM will be providing a soup/sandwich/dessert/relish luncheon for the cost of whatever you would like to donate after the worship service and just before the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25th. We will have pulled pork sandwiches and 7 different soups to warm you in January! Let us feed your stomach as the Lord feeds our souls during our fellowship with our church family.

Women's Ministry **NEEDS your help!** On January 3rd at 9 am, please come help take our Christmas decorations down AND/OR help us spruce up the kitchen/dining area. Bring your favorite cleaning supplies (buckets or spray cleaners and rags, etc.) We are going to go over the cabinets in the kitchen (including purging a few items) and wipe down the chairs and tables in the dining area. There won't be any heavy lifting involved in the cleaning.

Come young. Come old. Bless you for considering this, as many hands make light work.

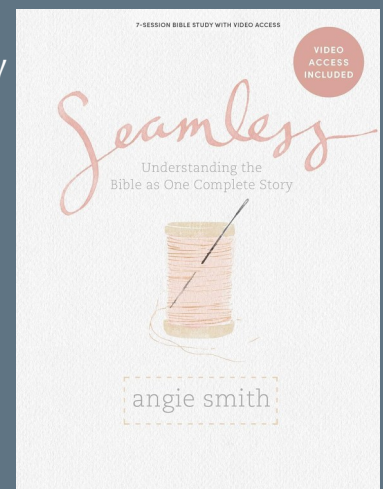
Our next Women's Ministry meeting is March 4th, 2026, a WEDNESDAY at 1pm. In December, we had 14 ladies present, including a couple of new faces, and we got a lot accomplished in this fellowship! Come join us as we seek to serve our Lord!

Women's Spring Bible Study will kick off Tuesday, February 3rd at 10 am & Wednesday, February 4th, at 6:30pm (a repeat of Tuesday). We offer two different times each week to allow flexibility for your schedules. Our goal is to finish each session in an hour and a half, but ladies come and leave according to what works for them. We will wrap up our study before Easter.

We will be using the Bible study *Seamless: Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story*, by Angie Smith. It is a 7 week study that covers the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture. You'll gain an overarching understanding of the fundamental layout and meaning of God's Word.

Seamless will help replace the insecurity that holds you back with clarity and helping you move forward with confidence in their understanding of Scripture. Each week of study features key information that ties all of Scripture together into the seamless truth of the gospel message and is accompanied by videos (approx. 20 minutes each week), maps, general Bible facts, and word studies. The videos are accessible online, so they can be watched at home anytime, if someone is wanting to watch them in advance of the class or maybe again at a later date.

Books are \$17 each. Please let Kathy Stegmiller - (309) 791-1162 or Beth Flickinger (309) 648-1219 if you would like a book. We hope you can join us!





WOMEN'S PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP

Wednesdays at 6:30pm

All women are welcome to attend every week or when they feel a need to be closer. We are using the "Monday Meditations" that Pastor Zach is sending out as a guide.

We meet every Wednesday night for fellowship, devotion, and prayer and we hope you will join us!

We are continuing to meet but have changed the time to 5:30pm, one hour prior to the Women's Bible Study. We hope you will join us!



PAINT & PRAISE

The ladies all had such a wonderful time creating these beautiful boards at our Paint & Praise night, that we will be considering doing something similar again in the future!

QUILTING

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 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!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY SOUP LUNCHEON/ FUNDRAISER

Sun. January 25th, immediately following the worship service, prior to Congregational Meeting

The Women's Ministry will provide soup luncheon before congregational meeting. There will be a variety of homemade soups to choose from and all available for a freewill donation.

The Women's Ministry does much work and support behind the scenes for the church, so please stay and support them while filling your bellies with some warm, comfort food!





Women's Prayer & Fellowship

Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm

We hope you will join us!

WOMEN'S PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP

Wednesdays at 6:30pm

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Happy New Year



ACOLYTE SIGN-UP

Please scan the QR Code & enter your name on the Google Sheet for the date you would like to serve as an acolyte.



Click on this QR Code to view the Acolyte's Basic Guidebook.



ACOLYTE TRAINING & SIGNUP

We love having our 2nd grade and older students take part in the weekly lighting of the candles!

To try to make it easier to fit into everyone's schedule we have a new way to sign up.

We now have a QR code for registering your child or children to participate in lighting the candles in the sanctuary. We also have a QR code for you to scan if you and your child want to review the steps to lighting the candles.

We want to again encourage all 2nd grade students and older to sign up.

In our opening before Sunday School on November 30th, we will review how to properly light the candles and go over how we will light the Advent candles during the Advent Season.

If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Johnson or Tara Johnson.

... OFFICER NOMINATION



MORE INFO



NOMINATION FORM

QUESTIONS:
RE JIM MUELLER | NOMINATING CHAIR
TE ZACH HOPKINS | SESSION MODERATOR



EDGINGTON
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



JANUARY 2026



Sunday School 9am
Worship Service 10am

EEPC

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 B/P Checks	29 Meal Site	30 Meal Site Session Mtg., 7pm	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> NO Meal Site	1 	2 Meal Site	3
4 Food Pantry Sunday Youth Group, 5:30pm	5 Meal Site	6 Meal Site	7 Meal Site Men's & Women's Prayer & Fellowship, 6:30	8 Meal Site	9 Meal Site	10 Basement Reserved
11 B/P Checks Comm. Class, 5:30pm Youth Group, 5:30pm	12 Meal Site	13 Meal Site	14 Meal Site Men's & Women's Prayer & Fellowship, 6:30	15 Quilting, 9am Meal Site	16 Meal Site	17
18  Basement Reserved Comm. Class, 5:30pm Youth Group, 5:30pm	19 <i>MLK Jr. Day</i> Foot Clinic NO Meal Site	20 Meal Site Mission Comm. Mtg., 6:30pm	21 Meal Site Men's & Women's Prayer & Fellowship, 6:30pm Trustees Mtg., 6pm	22 Meal Site	23 Meal Site RLP Mtg., Moline, IL	24 RLP Mtg., Moline, IL Bailey Johnson Beby Shower, 10am
25 B/P Checks WM Luncheon, 11:15am Annual Mtg., 12:30pm Comm. Class, 5:30pm Youth Group, 5:30pm	26 Meal Site	27 Meal Site Session Mtg., 7pm	28 Meal Site Men's & Women's Prayer & Fellowship, 6:30	29 Meal Site	30 Meal Site	31