



The Open Door

Vol. 758 December 2020

Pastor's Letter:

This is not the Advent/Christmas season we all wish to have. Currently, rates of COVID are increasing in Ohio (more than anywhere in the country according to one Cincinnati newspaper). Council just decided that we would move back outside to the parking lot. I found the transmitter and all the parts and pieces we used just a short while ago. I'm racking my brain to make sure I remember how to conduct the worship service in the format we previously used. Quite honestly, it's sad, depressing, isolating and lonely. I text with a colleague recently about my current state of grief. He replied that God worked to save humanity through the death of Jesus, alone, on the cross. Then came the resurrection of Christ. As Christians, we draw hope from the new life found in the resurrected body of Christ. Edinburg United Church and other local churches might come out of this vastly different. But God's church will continue. COVID doesn't end God. Now more than ever in our history, we need community, love, warmth. This Advent season we will work on kindness. We will gather in the parking lot to praise the Abundance of Jesus. We will collect food for those who hunger, we will collect socks for those who are cold. These are our mission projects from Nov 29th until Christmas. We will begin a Saturday evening worship service (that will be the same as Sunday morning) at 6:00 on Saturdays in December. We will gather at 9:00 on Sundays to be together in the safe, social distance of our vehicles. I encourage you to please regularly attend at one of these service times. I'll continue to stream on Facebook Live- but your physical presence gives me energy and fills me up. We all need the community of believers surrounding us. We can't hug or shake hands but we can still smile, honk our horns and wave. Thank you for remaining flexible as things change around here very quickly. We will still host 2 Christmas Eve services at 4:00 and 7:00. Those will also be in the parking lot and I'm figuring out how to make that not just unique but worshipful. Our Advent will be filled with blessings and abundance from God, it may look and feel different- but maybe that's a good thing. May our season be filled with the gift of Jesus. Amen.

- **Pastor Tim**



Financial Update

I hope this finds you well. A few verses from scripture:

Psalms 23:4 – Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

Mathew 6:25-27.....paraphrasing.....Jesus talks about not worrying for tomorrow for food and clothing.... for doesn't God provide for the wild animals? and how much more valuable we are then animals to God. All your worries can not add a single day to your life.

Both of these verses point ultimately to God is in control of everything and we must trust him. And God never said things would be easy but we would have many burdens here on earth.

Attendance has decreased since moving back indoors (and for good reason). With Covid on the increase we will move back outdoors. Financially this year I'd like to thank everyone as our expenses are well below budget (thank you leadership) and just about even with our income (thank you congregation) through October. As a reminder from the sept congregational meeting that without kidwatch/preschool/fundraising income the church needs more tithes to be self-sustaining. Needless to say fundraising and Kidwatch income are down and expected to continue in the current environment.

So I would encourage all of us to get your Bible out, read, pray and grow closer to God and when that happens you'll find it easier to sacrifice and give to the Lord. As ultimately we don't "own" anything but God just temporarily allows us to be stewards of what is His. So as we approach the Christmas season I encourage you to give to God first which includes your time, your abilities and your resources. Take a leap of faith and push yourself to do something for spiritual growth to draw closer to your Lord and Savior.

As always if you have any questions related to church finances please feel free to text, email or call me. 330-620-7220. Lenny.reiter@gmail.com

LECTIONARY:

December 6: Isaiah 42: 10-11, Luke 10: 21,23-24

December 13: Isaiah 65: 17, Psalm 25: 1-5

December 20: Malachi 4: 5-6, Luke 2: 8-11

December 24: Isaiah 43: 18-19, Matthew 1:20

December 27: Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3

Edinburg United Church

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Office Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 9-5

Newsletter submissions should be sent to [julieroahl@gmail.com](mailto:julierohal@gmail.com)



Kinslee Mae Wyss was born on August 5, 2020

She is the newest daughter of Chris and Stephanie Wyss of Edinburg.
 Zoey Dawn Wyss, 2.5 years old is her big sister.
 Edinburg grandparents are Kirk and Lisa Lange &
 great-grandparents, Bill and Donna Kibler.

DECEMBER 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
* denotes birthday		1 *Katelin Dillion *Andrew Schiraldi	2 *Romona Holloway	3 *Evan Andrasak *Sabrina Finney *Vera Grace	4 *Vernice Deuring	5 6:00 Service _____ *Raymond Deuring *Avery Giuffre *Charlotte Thompson
6 9:00 Service	7 6:30p Cub Scouts *Jodi Canale	8 6:30p Boy Scouts *Kati Dysert	9	10 6:30p Council Meeting *Martha Bradfield	11	12 Cub Scouts 9-5 _____ 6:00 Service
13 9:00 Service	14 6:30p Cub Scouts	15 6:30p Boy Scouts	16 9:20a Preschool Yoga	17 6:30p Scout Council Meeting *Debbie Dillon *Danielle Reynolds	18 *Lily Dysert *Jerry Lange	19 6:00 Service
20 9:00 Service	21 6:30p Cub Scouts	22 6:30p Boy Scouts	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 4:00 & 7:00 _____ *NicoleHunter * Jeneen Kubala	25 Christmas Day _____ *Russ Shambach	26 6:00 Service _____ *Audie Dills
27 9:00 Service _____ *Shawn Hunter	28 6:30p Cub Scouts	29 6:30p Boy Scouts _____ *Joann Wadsworth *Sue Wells	30 *Pat Massar	31 New Years Eve	1	2