



## A VERY NICENE CHRISTMAS

Every December we lift our voices to sing the familiar words, *“Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing... O come, let us adore Him.”* These simple lines are beloved because they are singable, memorable, and wrapped in the warmth of Christmas tradition. Yet beneath their simplicity lies the staggering depth of Christian confession - truths so profound that the Church gathered in A.D. 325 at the Council of Nicaea to articulate them with precision and clarity. The hymns we know by heart carry truths that deserve to be lingered over with mind and soul.

There is a reason we love to sing at Christmastime. Music helps truth settle more deeply into us. Melody and poetry carry doctrine into the heart in ways spoken words sometimes cannot. When we sing of Christ’s birth, we are not merely remembering a quaint scene from long ago; we are proclaiming the mystery that the eternal Son, *“Very God of Very God,”* entered our world in human flesh for our salvation. Christmas hymns connect our hearts to the beauty of the incarnation, drawing us into worship as we join our voices with countless believers across centuries who have adored the same Savior.

This Advent, our sermon series **“A Very Nicene Christmas”** will take us deeper into the wonder behind the words we sing. Using the historic outline of the **Nicene Creed**, we will reflect on the eternal deity of Christ, His true humanity, the purpose of His coming, and the glory of His return. These are not abstract doctrines; they are the very heartbeat of Christmas joy.

We invite you to engage fully this season - worship with us each Sunday in Advent, linger over these truths in your personal devotion, and allow the rich testimony of Scripture and the Church’s confession to renew your awe. Come and behold Him with depth, clarity, and affection as together we celebrate the glory of Christ revealed at Christmas.

I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Your Pastor & Friend,





## ELDERS

Kim Freyermuth  
 Jim Mueller  
 Kevin Oak  
 Mic Perry  
 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

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Drew Hall          | 15 - Gianna Johnson   |
| 1 - Dorothy Oak        | 16 - Jett Fuhr        |
| 2 - Brynzley Madison   | 16 - Dylan Peterson   |
| 5 - Kathleen Fuhr      | 19 - Shay Lemon       |
| 6 - Denise Rursch      | 20 - Sharon Orr       |
| 7 - Donnie Neece       | 22 - Charlie Fuhr     |
| 8 - Kinley Fuhr        | 22 - Tara Johnson     |
| 8 - Kelly Moel         | 24 - Chris Stark      |
| 8 - Matt Tomlin        | 25 - Hannah Oak       |
| 13 - Addi Maxwell      | 25 - Elisabeth Tomlin |
| 13 - Andrea Schafman   | 26 - Karyl Parrish    |
| 14 - Melody VanOteghem | 28 - Aaron Ehm        |
| 15 - Jason Flickinger  | 30 - Caelen Fuhr      |

I have received cards and notes from lots of friendly church family!



Thank you to all who attended the open house, which was so very special and fun!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!  
 Love you all - my very own church family!

Lots of love to all,  
 Phyllis Strafford

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 - Jason & Cami III
- 17 - Nathan & Lyndsey Flickinger
- 22 - Keith & Debra Wilson
- 29 - Zach & Mackenzie Hopkins
- 29 - Andrew & Katie Pearson

We thank you for your support for all of our family after the passing of our daughter, Lisa.

Bob & Alice Crawford



### GREETERS FOR DECEMBER

- Sunday, December 7th - Donnie and Brandee Neece
- Sunday, December 14th - Dan and Kim Zampogna Family
- Sunday, December 21st - Youth Group
- Wednesday, December 24th - Bob and Kathy Stegmiller
- Sunday, December 28th - Matt and Jennifer Youck



MERRY CHRISTMAS  
 & HAPPY NEW YEAR

## TO OUR NEWEST FAMILY MEMBERS!

We are so thankful to God for our newest members and look forward to seeing how God grows them and uses them for His glory here at Edgington EPC and in our community.

welcome



**Roger & Rachel Birkhead**

2881 State Hwy. 17  
Viola, IL 61486  
Roger - 309-337-9760  
Rachel - 309-337-9358  
rrbirkhead@yahoo.com



**Noah Fender**

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Sherrard, IL 61281  
309-428-3138  
Noahfender12@gmail.com



**Jon Laird**

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309-269-5407  
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**Donnie Neece**

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**Pat & Crystal Peterson**

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Andalusia, IL 61232  
Pat - 309-644-0790  
Crystal - 309-230-3383  
uboy55@yahoo.com



**Dillon & Kayla Weckerly**

9200 141st St. W.  
Taylor Ridge, IL 61284  
Kayla - 309-798-9825

Location: Church Conference Room

Present: TE Zach Hopkins and RE's 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.

Zach opened with prayer.

Scripture reading Psalm 130 with a focus on waiting, patience, and watchman

*The Whole Christ*, chapter 10, was reviewed and discussed.

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 September 30, 2025, Session Meeting.

**Correspondence:** None

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

**Old Business:**

- Annie responded that confirming EPC to host Rivers and Lakes Presbytery on Jan. 22-23/2027.

**Committee Reports:**

- It was M/S/C to approve committee minutes submitted:
  - 10/25/25 Trustees
  - 10/22/25 Mission

**New Business:**

**Ministry**

- Women's Ministry concluded fall bible study
- Men's ministry was reviewed. Breakfast/ final discussion planned for 12/6/2025. A survey was proposed to receive feedback from members attending sessions.
- Adult Sunday School studying Galatians starting in November.

**ADMINISTRATION**

- Two weeks of pulpit supply were requested upon the expected birth of Baby Hopkins anticipated first week of November. The following elders were assigned to each area
  - Pulpit supply on November 9 and 16th -RE Mic Penry
  - Sunday school -RE Todd Stegmiller
  - Communicants' Class - Jimmy Johnson and RE Todd Stegmiller
- A devotion to a Thanksgiving message was discussed. The Sunday School class will assist with Psalm 100.
- Christmas Eve Service is proposed at 5:00pm.

- Prospective Elder Training was discussed with a goal to implement in 2026. TE Zach Hopkins to develop teaching material.
- RE Kevin Oak, and RE Steve Wagamon participate in the 2026 Budget review.

It was M/S/C to adjourn the meeting at 9:45pm.

TE Hopkins closed the meeting with prayer.

RE Todd Stegmiller, Clerk of Session

*Introducing....*



WELCOME TO THE WORLD  
*Sibyl Eloise Hopkins*  
November 7, 2025 • 2:27pm • 8 lbs - 7.6 oz • 19.5 in



Date: 11-19-25

Present: Aaron Ehm, Darren Hall, Jeff Fuhr, Colby Mueller, Cindy Oak, Larry Pithan, JR Thomas, Treasurer Barb Freyermuth, Elder Kim Freyermuth.

Kim opened the meeting with a prayer at 5:45pm.

Minutes for October meeting reviewed.

Treasurer's report for October reviewed and approved.

Proposed budget for 2026 reviewed – no comments.

### **Old Business**

- Parking lot extension request has been submitted to Superintendent Busch. Have not received a response yet.
- Flagpole has been fixed.
- Storage shed was painted by youth group. Nice job – thank you.
- Lawn fall fertilizer applied. Sidewalks sealed and box wood plants sealed.
- Doorknob to basement stairs repaired.

### **New Business:**

- Checked out beeping around basement upright freezer. Power and alarm reset. Will see if this resolves the problem.
- Toilet seat in old basement bathroom repaired.
- Thermostat for second floor SS rooms replaced.
- Sanctuary A/C turned off for winter.
- Ordered new part for SS bathroom toilet.
- New light on west side of building installed – neighbors concerned with the bright light. Covered a portion of the fixture to reduce light on adjacent properties.
- Installed new exit signs in SS building.
- Reviewed list of projects from October meeting. Following have been completed:
  - Added salt to water softener
  - Re-attached condensing unit disconnects
  - Checked furnace filters and purchased additional
  - Oiled bearings for heating pumps
  - Installed new floor drain cover in basement
  - Added surge protector on main panel
  - Added exterior lights at south door and west wall
- Following items remain to complete:
  - Resolve problem of excessive heat in attic during the summer
  - Install balcony ceiling fan
  - Install light for balcony stairs
  - Install additional shelf in communion storage cabinet

Trustees discussed the need for better seating in the balcony. Will look into possibly adding padded folding chairs or some other type of seating.

Kim closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Pithan

October 19, 2025

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

Deb opened with prayer.

**Old Business:**

- The Fall reception for new members was well attended, a special congratulations and welcome to Roger and Rachel Birkhead, Patrick and Crystal Peterson, Donnie Neece, Dan Zampogna, Jon Laird, Noah Fender, Dillon and Kayla Weckerly. Thanks to every who donated the refreshments.
- **Cards:** Connie gave us an update on the cards being sent.
- **Greeters:** November and December assigned to Kay.
- **Blood Drive:** We had a very good turnout for the Blood Drive, even with the change of place. There will be another blood drive in the spring.

**New Business:**

- **Meal Trains:** They are available for members needing support during various life events and challenging times. Deb was checking with Sue Miller on the expecting mothers.
- **Project Now:** There are some changes coming with Project Now. Connie said they were still coming out with meals.

Next meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 16, 2025, at 11:30am after church service.

Mic closed meeting with a prayer.

Respectively submitted,  
Dorothy B. Rursch

## 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.



# 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 THESE EVENTS!



**CRE8 STUDIOS**  
**SHOWCASE & CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**  
DECEMBER 12, 2025  
6:00PM - 7:30PM  
**MOLINE YOUTH CENTER**  
Join us for this joyful event with festive treats and fellowship! Meet the staff, students and families at YouthHope!



YouthHope  
**TRIVIA NIGHT**  
FEBRUARY 7, 2026  
CASH AWARDS | DOOR PRIZES | RAFFLE BASKETS  
LAUGHTER AND MORE!



## PIVOTAL CONVERSATIONS – THE TIME IS NOW!

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



Abortion... It is a hard topic that evokes big emotions. When mentioned, there can be instant division in our families, our workplaces, and even in our local church. **Yet, as followers of Christ, we must faithfully address complex topics like abortion.** Our church must be a safe place to unpack difficult things and bring the hope of the Gospel to the darkest corners of our lives.

We must face a heartbreaking truth. **Right now, over 95,000 abortions occur each month in the United States. Yet abortion is not an “other people” problem – 7 out of 10 women who have an abortion identify as “Christian.”** We can’t stay quiet! Life hangs in the balance. You can be pivotal in helping a mom or a dad see and choose life. In our sanctuaries and within our circles of influence, we must have tender yet truthful conversations, guided by Scripture and the Holy Spirit, about the sanctity of life. Scripture is straightforward: every life matters to God. With clear and consistent Biblical teaching, life in every stage of development can be seen, valued, and protected.

One conversation at a time, we can also help those among us who bear the emotional and spiritual wounds of a past abortion decision discover that healing is possible. As we teach God’s forgiveness, the path to healing can become clear, and a mom or dad can be free from shame, heartache, and the brokenness of sin.

**Today, I encourage you to speak the truth, offer hope, and encourage life choices whenever you have the opportunity.** You can extend compassion to those who are struggling with a previous abortion decision. Consider posting After-Abortion Care information at your church or bringing Making Life Disciples to your congregational studies to help start or continue these vital, compassionate conversations. **Together, we can have hard conversations that reflect the heart of our Lord with hope and point people to His everlasting truth.**

~ Liz Ryan



### 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.

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.

Happy November! Happy Thanksgiving!

At a recent fellowship group meal with our Asha teammates and congregation, we had a thanksgiving meal and a time to talk about what we are thankful for. It was really touching to feel a part of this community and family and be very grateful for all of them. At the same time, thanksgiving is always hard because we are aware that we are far away from our own families during this time. And much as we love it here, American Thanksgiving can't be beat! :)

**Pray** for us as we hold this balance of sadness and happiness. Sometimes I think we forget that it is ok to have both emotions at once! But also, **pray** that it reminds us not to get too comfortable here on earth, but that like Abraham, we would be looking forward to a city with foundations in Heaven. (Heb 11:10)

Also, at this time, we are reminded that God commands us to give thanks without ceasing. We are praying in our own hearts to be thankful in hard things and in good things, and to trust that God works in all the things! One of the biggest things we are thankful for is all of you! Your prayers and your support and your messages and love is so beautiful! Thank you!

#### **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.

Girl's club started well- there are 4 girls coming regularly. Some of the parents are pretty nervous about their daughters being away, so **pray** we can continue building trust with the girls and with their parents. And **pray** for these girls to feel comfortable bringing friends along.

On Sundays at Asha we are going through Genesis- mainly creation and the fall. **Pray** that those attending would understand the seriousness of sin, and would then be excited when we talk about how God has made a way for us. On Mondays at Arts and Crafts we have a Bible time where the Sunday scripture is discussed. When talking about Genesis 3 one lady's response was " if sin is this serious, then what can we do?" Please be **praying** for her and others as they think about what this means.

S.... has had very small numbers at men's ESOL, but one side benefit of this has been a chance to one on one talk with a man who has been coming to Asha most weeks with his family. **Pray** for this time and this man as he learns English, but also hears Bible stories (which he asks S.... to talk about!)

We live near to Queen M... University, which is a popular and well respected university and has many students of other faith backgrounds. We have had some good conversations with individual students recently, and one of our Asha teammates is working to do specific outreach at the university. **Pray** for opportunities for her to connect with students, and for ways to reach out to them in general.

C..... will be doing many assemblies in schools next month, along with teams of other local church volunteers, talking about the gospel and Jesus birth. **Pray** for the preparation for this time - for the practices to go well and for the schools and students and teachers that will hear the Christmas story from these assemblies (some maybe for the first time!).

#### **For our family:**

S.... will be away with the Asha elders next week for a three day conference. **Pray** for their time to be encouraging and fruitful, and pray for C..... at home as she single parents for a few days.

A..... will be going on her first overnight trip without family in two weeks. Her class at school will be away on a residential trip at a nature center for two nights. She is very excited, but also a little nervous. **Pray** for her time

(Cont. from p. 10)

with her class to be positive and encouraging.

We have turned in A.....'s application for secondary school for next year. Now we wait until March to find out where she will go! We all feel happy with the choices she made, and are praying God puts her in the right place for His purposes.

Praying for you all this Thanksgiving - for you to find thanksgiving in all things, and to know that you are loved by God - and us!

Take care,  
S.... and C..... and kids

## SHRIMP BOILS, VISION CASTING, DINNER STUDIES, CUBS AND GREENBACKS - JEFFREY LANCASTER UPDATE



Resurrection  
City Church  
Chicago

Hey Friends,

Well, between our church planting mission, Cathy's art gallery and Lily Pad Mahjong parlor, Cubs playoffs, and the death of Cathy's dear father (may he rest in peace and rise in glory in Christ) a couple of weeks ago (after 12 year battle with Parkinson's) we've had an eventful fall season. Life with God is a wild ride adventure. It's a blessing knowing that our God is Immanuel (God with us) and he's with us every step of the way no matter the season through which we're traveling.



Pictured above is our first annual shrimp boil which was a smashing success. Yes, yes, I brought a little of my New Orleans Cajun mojo to Chicago and put on a feast that few was a new experience for some of our Chicago friends and neighbors. We had a blast hosting this gathering.

It was also a special experience for me, Cathy, and our furry friend, George, to ride the Cubs playoff wave. So fun sharing this celebration with our Chicago neighbors. Hopefully the Cubbies can make a deeper run next year. Given our apartment and Cathy's gallery are only a few blocks from Wrigley Field, it's an electrifying time when the Cubs get on a roll.

For about a year-and-a-half now we've hosted Wednesday night dinner gatherings and bible study times in our home. We take them in 6-10 week chunks depending on the calendar - holiday breaks and what not. This is a LOT OF WORK and a WHOLE LOT OF FUN! The Lord seems to keep blessing this work. Some weeks are more well attended than others. The community chemistry is growing. People feel very free to invite their friends. We always have new people cycling through. The picture above is from one of our meetings in early part of this fall.

Thanks for praying!



(Cont. from p. 11)

Some of you might be aware that from late October until this past Sunday, I led a three week Sunday afternoon teaching series titled "Planting the Dream (Before the Church)" Every church begins long before the first Sunday worship service - it begins with a dream: naming what we long and asking if God might be calling us to build something new in the community God has called us to love and serve. These meetings seemed to go really well. I think we're beginning to see a slowly but surely budding interest in people who God might be calling to share the dream.



The picture above is from our last meeting this past Sunday afternoon. The blue light feel of this photo is a result of me, yes me, doing a power point overview presentation of our Chicago church planting vision. It felt cool to up my tech game a bit. In all seriousness, I've sensed the movement of the Holy Spirit in these vision casting gatherings - it's been a joyful time. Thanks for praying!



Cathy's Lily Pad Mahjong Parlor is really taking off. It's been such a delight to see the Lord bless her labors. The parlor is an accent to our community. Such a wonderfully warm place for people to gather and build community while playing a fun and challenging game. We're meeting lots of people. 3 news stations have done interviews with her. CBS Chicago, WGN, and then Northwestern University's news station.

Click on photo above or use this link to watch THE THIRD INTERVIEW about Cathy's Mahjong parlor: <https://youtu.be/znXiDdOTk4s?si=lrD8wCowobz1naDt>

"God's church is built on grace and greenbacks. I don't wanna hear no change."

Years ago, my friend was preaching his Alpha sermon for ordination at a Missionary Baptist church. The quote above was from the local church host pastor as a preface to a love offering that was being taken up to support my friend's launch into the gospel ministry. I got really tickled when I heard it - it seemed like a very clever way to introduce a time of giving. Every now and then it hits me out of nowhere and I have a moment of levity and laughter.



We know "all of life is all of grace." We know unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who seek to build it - The psalms and all of scripture make this abundantly clear and we actually take great comfort in this reality. Along these lines the Lord uses our prayers to help execute the work of His gospel mission in the world. I thank you for your prayers.

I hope you can tell from the newsletters I write that Cathy and I aren't letting the grass grow under our feet. We have thrown ourselves into this mission in Chicago and into our engagement with new friends and neighbors. Ultimately the Lord must strengthen the work of our hands and use the seeds we're planting to build His church and kingdom. We joyfully trust Him to do so even though at times the challenge can feel overwhelming.

God uses your greenbacks and ours to build this work also. From the bottom of our hearts, Cathy and I are filled with gratitude for all who have financially supported this church planting mission.

Once again, we're asking that you continue to give as the Lord leads. Like most ministries and non-profits, WE DEPEND ON A BIG YEAR END OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT to help us make it through the coming year. We're resolved to persevere in this work. Would you prayerfully consider making a year-end gift and/or continuing forward in your regular support of our ministry? Click **HERE** for the link to the full email and giving links.

## MCCALLUM FALL MUSE 2025 - Final Trip to SE Asia & Resetting our time commitments

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.

### Training the untrained to reach the unreached

#### We head out Nov 11-22 for our last trip to V.....

The second "H" MLTI Class of 30+, fully trained in their mother-tongue by the Teaching Cohort, will finish their final two courses! We will be there for a joyous Completion Celebration. And the beat will go on! Leadership of the denomination and bible school want to see ongoing courses taught by an enlarged Teaching Cohort of nine additional men who stood out in the class. We are looking forward to meeting the wives of the Teaching Cohort and the class who will be coming for the Forgiveness/Reconciliation course.

The following week we will be joined by a dear friend, P B, pastor at Bethany EPC in Havertown, PA. Paul will join Ed to team teach the "D" men New Testament Survey. We greatly appreciate the congregation sending their pastor and further demonstrating their high commitment of providing theological training in V..... P T, a World Outreach colleague and pastor, will join us again to pray with and for the "D" class.

As we exit V..... we are making space for others to step into leadership. The foundation is solid. ITEN's B G will be the key player going forward... Ed will continue to help in an administrative role.

#### Our hearts

Our lives and hearts have been impacted in this place we never would have imagined traveling even one time let alone multiple times. We have been privileged to receive their prayers and fellowship. We have been privileged to get to know another part of the Body of Christ and to play a strategic role in equipping leaders take the gospel where it has not yet been. What an amazing opportunity it has been!

**We are not leaving ITEN.** Rather, we are listening to our bodies and ending the season of heavy international travel and teaching. Over the next couple of months, we will **push the reset button** to discern how the Lord wants us to invest our time and lives for the coming five years. Our original ITEN 5 year plan grew into 9 years. We are asking God for an actual 5 year plan. Life at 73 and 72 makes this seems wise.

Ed has been convinced that, **"We are a people, chosen by God, in spite of ourselves, for a compelling purpose"** (a summary of I Peter 2:9-12). We want to **"Keep the main thing the main thing,"** which for us has been to commit ourselves to **do those things we are uniquely able to do, in areas where there is a void, that will take the gospel where it isn't.**

We are asking the Lord what does that mean within our family, our neighborhood, internationals studying here at Arizona State University, the House Church we are part of, and with ITEN?

**Please pass along any wisdom that the Lord gives you.**

***"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." - Ephesians 3:20-21***

Happy Thanksgiving!  
Ed and Nan McCallum



## FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, we had a successful distribution to 33 families consisting of 67 Adults, 2 Teens, and 24 Children. When we packed on November 7<sup>th</sup>, there were 21 people who helped and 4 were from other churches. On Saturday, when we distributed, we had 17 adults helping plus 8 young people. What a blessing the young people were as they did most of the heavy lifting.



We would like to express our appreciation to all those who donated food, money, or time to help us with this mission outreach. Community support is so important to us as we couldn't do this without you! Donations of nonperishables are always welcome. Some of the things we always need are pasta, chunky soups, canned fruit, canned meats, canned pasta, soup, paper products, pasta sauce, ingredients for chili, Jello, pudding, cake mixes, pancake mixes, saltine and graham crackers, and juice. THANK YOU!!

We are looking forward to receiving food from the food drive at the high school. What a wonderful difference the young people in our community make!

As always, if you know of someone in need of food, you can contact the church office and Lisa will let us know so we can pack food for them. We don't just help folks at distribution time. We are on call whenever there is a need.

Wishing God's blessings to all,  
Wishing God's blessings to all, Dewey & Shirley Flemming, Don & Beth Easterla, Mic & Sue Penry,  
Jim Schaubroeck, Marlin & Darcy Krueger, & Jim & Teresa Balmer



## FALL COAT DRIVE UPDATE

James 2:15-17 "If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also, faith by itself if it does not have works, is dead"

The Mission Committee would like to thank the Congregation and Community for their support of the Coat Drive. We quickly lost count of the total number of Coats, Hats, Gloves, and Snowpants that were donated. It truly is amazing to see the works of God through this Congregation. This church embodies the Word and strengthens our faith through our works. The community was very grateful for the love and support of Edgington EPC. A total of 43 Coats and MANY hats/gloves were given out to about 16 families.

Moving forward, we will be reaching out to the Schools to make sure kids in the area, that were not aware of the coat drive, will be able to get a coat. As you go through this season, please keep the Coat Drive in mind before your get rid of your used coats that don't fit anymore. Reach out to me or anybody else on the committee with your coats, and we will make sure that they get put to good use.

The Committee prayed hard that the bodies of those in need would be warmed, and a hope that their hearts would be warmed by the love of our Savior this Christmas Season.

Many thanks again to everybody! God Bless! ~ Jim Johnson



# EDGINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | TREASURER'S REPORT OCTOBER 2025



	Beg. Balance	Receipts	Disbursement	End. Balance
<b>General Fund</b>	\$ 86,750.26	\$ 21,503.79	\$ 26,924.88	\$ 81,329.17
<b>Education Fund</b>	15,899.93	220.54	-	\$ 16,120.47
<b>Building Fund (see below)</b>	126,310.63	2,530.52	18,377.22	110,463.93
<i>Checking</i>	20,224.97	1,476.99	18,377.22	3,324.74
<i>Money Market</i>	106,085.66	1,053.53	-	107,139.19
<b>Youth Group</b>	16,570.73	-	746.78	15,823.95
	\$ 245,531.55	\$ 24,254.85	\$ 46,048.88	\$ 223,737.52

## October 2025 MONTHLY REVIEW - General Fund

### **Receipts - October 2025**

Pledges	20,947.70		
Interest Income - General Fund	11.09		
Per Member Asking	520.00		
Basement Rent	25.00		
		<b>\$ 21,503.79</b>	\$ -

### **Expenditures - October 2025**

#### **Administrative**

ABS (copier rental)	173.76	24.6%	
AT&T - Phone for elevator	244.55		
Cemetery Upkeep	300.00		
Computers: Hdw, Sftw and Apps	350.41		
Insurance	-		
Jeanne Hayes (Custodian)	530.87		
Lisa Bowman (Office Manager)	1,167.27		
Kone (elevator)			
MidAmerican Energy	564.00		
Millenium Waste	83.30		
Office Supplies	272.82		
Repairs & Maintenance - general	495.34		
Reytel - Internet	121.04		
Shipping/Postage	152.81		
Taxes / FICA / Penalty	2,161.24		
		<b>\$ 8,258.47</b>	

#### **Discipleship (Internal)**

Children's Director	393.25	30.7%	
Continuing Education			
Deacon Expense			
EPC General Assembly	-		
EPC (health)	24.27		
Events	-		
Fidelity (pension)	1,084.98		
Housing Allowance	4,000.00		
Meals	33.89		
Mileage			
Pastor Salary	2,782.08		
Presbytery Expense	40.00		
Pulpit Supply			
Resource Materials	(50.00)		
Sunday School			
Worship Supplies, Music, Flowers	(50.00)		
		<b>\$ 12,049.00</b>	

#### **Mission (external)**

Mission - International	\$ 7,375.00	44.8%	
Mission - US	3,624.00		
Mission - Local	1,050.00		

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 26,924.88</b>	\$ -
		100.0%	
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>		<b>\$ (5,421.09)</b>	

### **INCLUDED IN GENERAL FUND TOTAL**

Mission monies committed within general fund as of end of month is \$12,355 and Assistance Fund of \$4,483

**EDGINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT OCTOBER 2025**

**October 2025 - Building Fund Detail**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 126,310.63</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	
Investment Income	1,475.52
Checking Interest	1.47
Money Market Interest	1,053.53
	2,530.52
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Crawford Company	18,227.22
Ayer's Electric	150.00
	18,377.22
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 110,463.93</b>

**CHAIR EXERCISES  
ON HOLD UNTIL SPRING**



Deanna Parchert plans to start the chair exercise class back up again in the Spring.

Until then, keep moving and remember the things she had you doing in class!



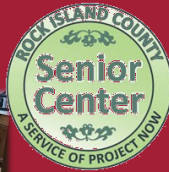
**ATTENTION COMMITTEE LEADERS OF  
EDGINGTON EPC**

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. 20)

**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.

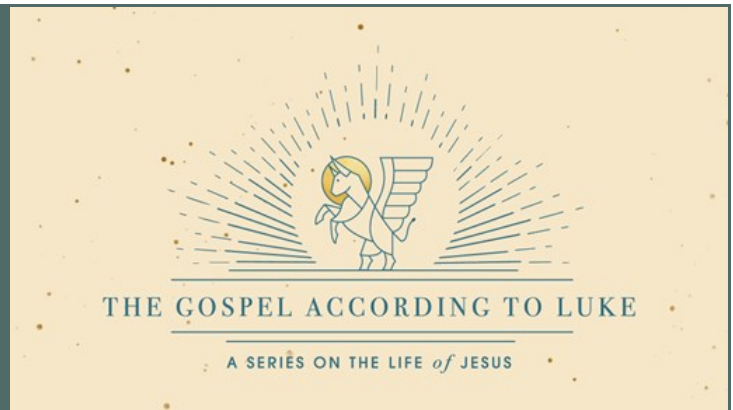
Those who attend regularly come early to play cards and enjoy each other's company for a little longer than just meal time.

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 pause this series until after the first of the year to preach an Advent series on the wonder of the incarnation. Please see page 23 for more information & join us for this special series, then return to pick back up in the Book of Luke again in January 2026!

We look forward to seeing you and diving deep into God's Word together!



## SCRIPTURE LINKS - Download the apps!



ESV.org is an online Bible reading tool created to help you read and engage with God's Word. While many features of the site are available without signing in, we invite you to **create a free account**, which makes it easy to save personal notes, highlight favorite verses, and start interactive reading plans.

*(Click on the images to go to their websites)*



Blue Letter Bible provides powerful tools for an in-depth study of God's Word through our free online reference library, with study tools that are grounded in the historical, conservative Christian faith. We view the Bible as central to our study resources. We intentionally designed the website to include study tools that are linked directly to Bible passages. Dig deep into the Word using commentaries, encyclopedias, maps/images and much more. One of our most used tools is the Lexicon search, which gives users immediate access to the original Hebrew and Greek words.

## DAILY BIBLE READING FROM AN HISTORICAL APPROACH

Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to read the Old Testament in ancient Israel? Or, the New Testament as the books were written? In this plan, the order of the Old Testament readings is very similar to Israel's Hebrew Bible, progressing from Law to Prophets to Writings. The New Testament ordering is based upon research regarding the order in which the books were authored. Although this research is not conclusive, it may offer helpful insights to your Bible reading.



Click on the image for the digital link

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 an historical reading plan from Blue Letter Bible. It is a 1-year reading plan and you can start at any time. The new year is always a great time to start fresh!

If reading through the entire Bible in one year seems like an insurmountable challenge, just mark off each reading as you complete it and then move to the next. Each day progresses you through the books in the order they are believed to be written in and once you reach number 365, you will have done it!

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

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

## OUR SOCIAL ACCOUNTS


[FACEBOOK](#) 


[SOUNDCLOUD](#)


[YOUTUBE](#) 

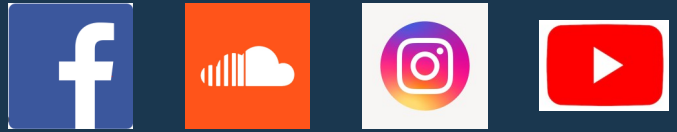

[INSTAGRAM](#)


  
[edgingtonepc.org](http://edgingtonepc.org)

## 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.



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

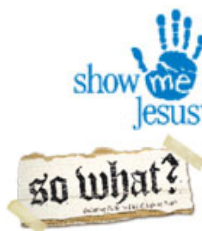


## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

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.

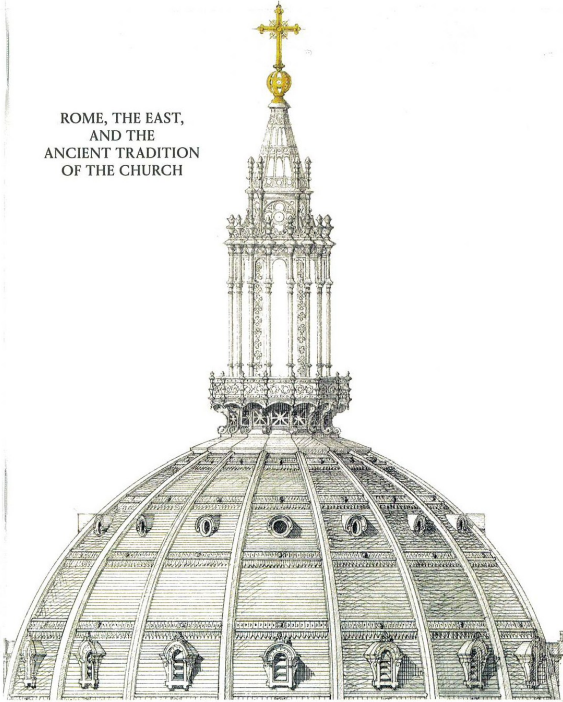
*We look forward to the privilege of caring for and teaching your children about Jesus each Sunday!*

GET YOUR DECEMBER COPY OF  
THE TABLETALK DEVOTIONAL

# TABLETALK

DECEMBER 2025 | \$5

ROME, THE EAST,  
AND THE  
ANCIENT TRADITION  
OF THE CHURCH



LOCATED ON A TABLE IN THE SANCTUARY FOYER

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

## EEPC YOUTH GROUP

12.7 - GARGONS  
12.14 - WHITE ELEPHANT  
12.21 - CHRISTMAS BREAK  
12.28 - CHRISTMAS BREAK

FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS

CADE REIMERS FOR MORE INFO  
309.373.2488



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 January 2026 Newsletter must be in by **NO LATER than Monday, December 15th** 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](mailto:edgingtonepc@gmail.com) and let me know. I will be happy to make arrangements for it to be received by whatever means works best.

The newsletter is distributed via email and postal service. It is also posted to our Facebook page and website: [edgingtonepc.org](http://edgingtonepc.org).

Thank you so much for your help!

and  
suddenly  
there was with  
the angel  
a multitude of  
the heavenly host  
praising God  
and saying  
Glory to God  
in the highest, and on earth  
peace, goodwill towards

men  
Luke 2  
13-14

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY MEETING & OTHER INFO

Wednesday, December 3rd, 1pm



Our last quarterly meeting for the year is approaching and we hope that you will be able to join us and share your thoughts! Pam Pithan will be our hostess.

We still have cookbooks for sale at only \$1 each or 6 for \$5. They would make great little gifts!

Our Fall Bible Study was well attended and a tremendous blessing to all who participated! We are working on new Women's Ministry Booklets and will have them sometime in January 2026.

Please call Sue Miller if you would like a cookbook or if you have any questions. 309-781-8231.

*God bless!*



### 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!

### 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 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!

Women's Prayer  
& Fellowship

Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm

We hope you will join us!



# Paint & Praise

*Unleash your creativity and connect with your sisters in Christ.*

**December 15th** ..... **6-8 PM**  
**Edgington Evangelical Church**

## What's Included

- **Guided Painting:** No experience necessary! We'll guide you step-by-step as you create a beautiful, custom wooden nativity scene board to take home. Example showcased below.
- **Fellowship:** This is a perfect chance to catch up, make new friends, and share some laughs with the wonderful women.
- **Praise & Worship:** We'll be filling the room with uplifting Christian music and taking moments to pause, reflect, and praise God for His goodness!



**\$25**

## RVSP TODAY

*RSVP is required so we can have enough painting supplies for everyone!*

Age 13+

*Please sign up by **December 12th** with Angie at [freymutha@gmail.com](mailto:freymutha@gmail.com).*



## 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.

Join us for  
Sunday School  
every Sunday at  
9:00am

## CHILDREN'S EDUCATION



EDGINGTON  
EPC

**BREAKFAST**  
MEN'S

**QUESTIONS?**

Rick VanOteghem  
309-206-8433

Join us for a  
Men's Breakfast  
on Sat., Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at  
7am.



## FOOT CLINIC

Next Clinic: Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>,  
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.

## YOUTH GROUP OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

On Sunday, November 16th we had a huge turnout and so many things donated that we were able to pack 255 shoeboxes! Thank you to everyone for their donations and help packing the boxes! The children who receive these gifts will be so excited, but more importantly, they will have an opportunity to come to know Jesus as their LORD and Savior! Merry Christmas!!!

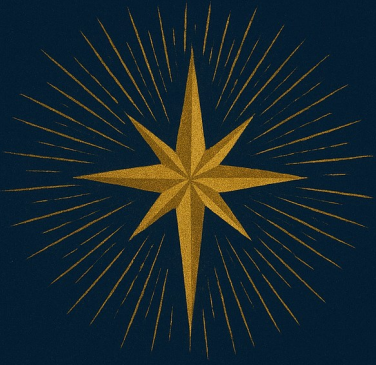


## Advent Scripture Passages

11.30 - John 1:1-5 - "Begotten Not Made"  
12.7 - Colossians 1:15-20 - "By Whom All Things Were Made"  
12.14 - Philippians 2:5-11 - "For Us and for Our Salvation Came Down"  
12.21 - Hebrews 2:10-18 - "Was Made Man"  
12.24 - Luke 2/John 1 - "Light from Light"  
12.28 - Luke 2:25-32; Revelation 22 - "He Shall Come Again"



# A VERY NICENE CHRISTMAS



## ADVENT 2025

### ADVENT 2025 - A Very Nicene Christmas

We sing it every year — “Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing... O come, let us adore Him.” But this Advent, we’ll pause and go deeper to ponder the glorious mystery behind those familiar words.

Join us for “A Very Nicene Christmas,” a sermon series exploring the wonder of the incarnation through the historic confession of the Nicene Creed — rejoicing in the eternal Son who became man for our salvation.

We hope you will join us for our special Christmas Eve Worship Service filled with the joy, wonder, and music that celebrates Christ’s first coming.



*Christmas Eve Worship - 5pm*

# TRUNK *or* TREAT





...

# OFFICER NOMINATION



MORE INFO



NOMINATION FORM

**QUESTIONS:**

**RE JIM MUELLER | NOMINATING CHAIR  
TE ZACH HOPKINS | SESSION MODERATOR**



**EDGINGTON**  
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH


# DECEMBER 2025



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
30 Youth Group, 5:30pm	1 Meal Site	2 Meal Site	3 Meal Site Women's Ministry, 1pm	4 Meal Site Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	5 Meal Site	6 Men's Discipleship Breakfast, 7am
7 Food Pantry Sunday Comm. Class, 5:30pm Youth Group, 5:30pm	8 Meal Site	9 Meal Site	10 Meal Site	11 Meal Site Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	12 Meal Site	13
14 B/P Checks Deacons' Mtg, 11:30 Comm. Class, 5:30pm Youth Group, 5:30pm	15 Foot Clinic Meal Site Paint & Praise, 6pm Newsletter Items Due	16 Meal Site Mission Comm. Mtg., 6:30pm	17 Meal Site Trustees Mtg., 6pm	18 Meal Site NO Quilting Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	19 Meal Site	20
21  Comm. Class, 5:30pm	22 Meal Site	23 Meal Site	24 NO Meal Site Christmas Eve Service, 5pm	25 	26 Meal Site	27
28 B/P Checks	29 Meal Site	30 Meal Site Session Mtg., 7pm	31 No Meal Site	1 	2	3