



1823 2023

Edinburg United Church  
Loving & Growing

# THE OPEN DOOR

Vol. 799 February 2024

## **Vision for Ministry in 2024 A Bold New Year!**

As EUCUCC enters the year 2024 with a restructured council, now having 8 members and having revived the Vice -Moderator position, both the council and your church family are set to begin the next steps of this time of transition to prepare for your next settled pastor.

### **Vision and Mission Statements**

In today 's culture it is vital for a church to develop both a Vision statement and Mission statement. Gathering a small circle of 3-5 people to begin crafting both statements will set t his process in motion to utilize the work done by the Transition Team throughout the Summer and Fall of 2023. The Vision and Mission Circle will continue to gather information from the congregation and hopefully the community seeking to answer the following three questions: "Who are we and Why are we here?" "What is our purpose?" This information will also be of great benefit to the Search and Call Committee.

### **Ministries not Committees**

It has been some time since EUC UCC has had committees in place for doing ministry. Recognizing how society and the living of our lives has changed, the old committee structure has shifted toward a culture of ministry. Over the next months and year, we will be restructuring the ministries of EUC UCC to reflect how you, the church, go about *being* the church. We will be following the Governance Structure that the Living Water Association has developed while supporting and exploring the unique ministries and gifts of each one of you who calls EUC home. See me for details or go on the Living Water Association website / Ministries/ SPIRE Center / "Restructuring Governance. " This ZOOM course is on February 21, 6:30-8:00.

### **Roles, Responsibilities and Gifts**

As I have observed and listened to folks over the last year, I have realized there is a lack of clarity

regarding the roles and responsibilities of many positions in the functioning of the church: this includes elected positions, staff, and volunteers. Clarifying the roles of each member of the Council: Moderator, Vice -Moderator, each officer and the coun cil as a whole will open up the possibilities of new ministries from the congregation. This clarification will allow opportunities for every member of the congregation to create and develop your unique ministries utilizing your individual gifts. Ultimately, the goal is to have a healthy balance in the working partnerships of the congregation, with the council and with the pastor guided by the Spirit of God in Christ.

### **Laughter**

Laughter is the lifeblood of this church. Whenever 2 or 3 are gathered, Christ may be present, but so is the laughter of spirit and Spirit. Share your joy, care, concern and love for one another with others in your community as you seek to become relevant in their lives. Share the light and love of God, Christ and Spirit with others. Listen to their stories as they seek to find a community of faith like EUCUCC. This time of transition is a time to explore, try new things and envision new ways of being the church in your community ~ be bold with the grace of God Risk being made new and relevant in an ever - changing world that needs your gifts.

### **Follow Me ~ Jesus said... Do not be afraid!**

This is a year of transition. It is a year of exploring what works and what doesn 't. It is a year to change the way you 've always done it! Try a new way. If you like the new way ~ great! If you don't then ask why. Every new thing you do is an opportunity to learn who you are and who you are not as a church which helps guide your Search and Call Committee.

In the Light and Love of God in Christ, and Spirit 's constant guiding and leading...

Blessings on your journey.

Rev. Susan, Interim Transitional Pastor

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## Youth Mentor Circle!

Not long ago one of you mentioned there used to be Mentors for our youth!! What a great ministry to bring back to life in 2024. Melissa and Trista are excited about the idea and you have 9 youth that come to EUC UCC pretty regularly between Sunday Fun Days and Youth Sunday with Cyndi. Let Melissa, Trista, or Pastor Susan know if you are interested: couples, singles, or friends ~ Sign up! We'll get everyone together Youth, Mentors and Educators to create the program!

*How Exciting ~ Thank you!*

## Prayer Power at EUCUCC

The Transition Team had a question about prayer and who do you call Moderator, Lisa or Pastor Susan ~ It's all of *you!*

Let's take a look at the many ways you pray at EUCUCC:

❖ You share your prayers in worship every Sunday during the Prayers of the People.

❖ Each Sunday, you fill in the Connect Cards with the names that you want to be sent out via email to the "Prayer Warriors." Lisa is the one who emails the prayer list.

❖ The emergency prayers that go out to everyone via One Call /On Call is another way you pray for one another. Lisa is the one who put those prayers out on One Call and notifies Pastor Susan.

❖ For your private prayers, you contact Pastor Susan to talk on the phone (or text), meet in your home or meet at church. Again, for your special or private prayers: Pastor Susan's cell 440-371-4864.

❖ You pray for one another all the time: in your morning prayers or evening prayers, maybe in person or on the phone.

**The MANY ways you pray!**

## The Season of Lent

Our Christmas decorations are packed away. We're wrapping ourselves into the cocoon of winter wishing we could hibernate until the first crocus begins to peak through the snow ~ time moves along, and the days are getting longer. We orient our time in many ways. Chronos time follows the clocks on our walls and our wrists, calendars on our walls and cell phones. Then there is Kairos time ~ ahh... God's time.

We worship through God's time in the Lectionary which began with the Season of Advent back in November continuing through December. We prepared for the arrival of Jesus into our world as God broke into our lives on Christmas morning. The 12 days of Christmas end on Epiphany with the arrival of the Magi to proclaim the birth of Emmanuel ~ God with us!

We continue our journey with Transfiguration Sunday on February 11<sup>th</sup> with Jesus' unveiling as the Son of God . It is the last Sunday we will celebrate Communion until Easter morning.

February 11<sup>th</sup> will be a special Sunday for EUCUCC as we commission the Search and Call Committee for the dedicated work they will do and the commitment of the church to have faith in them, God and Spirit and you pray for them.

On February 14<sup>th</sup> we begin the Season of Lent with the imposition of ashes. This is the time when we reflect upon our faith and our dedication to the One who names us and claims us; Christ. It is a time when we deepen our faith by letting go of the desires of our egos for power and control to truly follow where Jesus leads us on his journey to the cross. We walk the walk of his life: as he reaches out to the poor, we reach out to the poor. As Jesus welcomed the weak and the outcast, we learn to welcome the ones society turns away. We see the power of his healing and come face to face with our calling to be vessels of healing in his name. This is a challenge when our culture promotes walking away from the intimacy of our humanity and healing. Allow yourself to repent, to turn toward life, toward healing, toward reconciliation, toward justice.

**Enter to Worship ... Depart to Serve**

## From Lisa , Church Moderator

God is love...In your lifetime when have you felt Gods Love? Do you stop and listen to what he is trying to tell you. I have many times, however, there have been times I have not listened, I have a stubborn streak, and have been led astray. Many times, I have made mistakes for not listening and probably will continue to make mistakes, we humans are not perfect. When that happens, I must regroup, take a deep breath, feel the quiet around me and listen to God to find my way back. Remember God is Love and you will always be led the right way when you listen.

### Colossians 3:14-17

[14](#) And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.[15](#) Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.[16](#) Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.[17](#) And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



Members of the Church Council were installed on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Left to right

Back row: Dianne, Jeneen (Vice Moderator), Lenny (Finance), Sabrina & Matt

Front row: Barb (Clerk), Lisa (Moderator) and Cindy



Waiting for everyone else, might as well get pictures!!!



# thank you

To everyone who graciously volunteered to help prepare, serve, clean up and/or brought salads and desserts for the funeral dinner. Thank you so very much!! I really appreciate all the help.

I wish a Happy 2024 to everyone!

Fran

A big thank you to those who gave all the goodies in my Christmas bag and to the youth who made the pretty ornaments and put the bags together.

Fran

Dear Edinburg Church,  
I would like to thank you for the Christmas bag.

It was appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sandra Nickles

Thank you to those who contributed food to the congregational meeting and special thanks to my clean up crew!!!

Dianne R.

Thank you, youth group for the Christmas goodies. We really enjoyed them.

Bless you all.

Jim & Lee Schmitz

Thank you to my church family for all the kindness you have shown last year during my surgeries, the cards, gifts, goodie foods and prayers.

Looking forward to a better year in 2024.

Love in Christ,

Jeneen Kubala

EUC Members

The family of Russell Shambach would like to thank everyone for all the cards sent. We appreciate your prayers, kindness and sharing memories of our Dad/Husband – these cards will help in the days to come to read and get our strength from, to carry on.

We are very Blessed to know All of You.

Arlene, Gail, Russ, Ronie, Linda & Beth



## EASTER FLOWERS



**6 INCH POT: \$10.00**

Lillies

Mums: Pink, Yellow, White

Tulips: Red, Pink, Bi-color & Orange

Hyacinths: Blue, Pink, White

Daffodils

**Orders are due  
no later than  
Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>.**

Cash or check made out to EUC.  
Due when order is placed.

*Pick up March 31<sup>st</sup>*

*After service*



Cost of tickets are \$64.00  
(this includes a meal)

Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

We would leave around 9:30 (eat and then show at 1:00) get back around 4:30. (Other dates available if Thursday is not a good day or if tickets are gone).

**If interested let Cyndi know or mark it on the connect card!!!! Need to know by Feb. 25 so we can get tickets and plan accordingly.**

THE OHIO STAR THEATER  
Ohio 39, Sugarcreek, OH, USA

## Did you know that . . .

Joann Wadsworth Hatcher, Brenda Hards, Jeneen Kubala, and sometimes Lenny Reiter and Roseann Brown count the offering EVERY week, prepare the deposit slip, and keep accurate records on the computer?

Pat Campbell picks up the deposits, takes them to the bank, signs all checks, and mails or delivers checks?

Jeneen Kubala was the person in charge of our church's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration? This was a big job! With the help of many others, they came up with ideas for ways to celebrate. Jeneen oversaw the budget for this memorable event.

Lenny Reiter is our Finance Director? He prepares reports for the Council and for congregational meetings and analyzes income vs. expenses so an annual budget can be prepared. He is also the adult Sunday School teacher.

Trista Hughes and Melissa Dills plan and follow through with snacks, helpers, theme materials, decorations, etc. for VERY successful Vacation Bible Schools and Sunday Fun Day for our children?

Fran Pruchenski has organized funeral dinners for 25 years? She plans the menu, shops for food, and gets helpers and people to donate desserts.

Dianne Raubacher has organized brunches after church, been a long-time greeter, and with help from Eva Rowley prepares and cleans up after communion services?

Patty Dillon has baked the bread for EVERY communion service for years?

Eva Rowley paid the church's bills for 17 years and is now handling payroll for the church and Kid Watch?

Roseann Brown was the head of the apple pie fundraiser for 25 years and helped again this year? She also helps Joann Wadsworth Hatcher count the money that comes in from the pies and helps Joann make sure the pies are all accounted for.

Rob and Cathy Thomas are our unofficial groundskeepers who weed and keep the parsonage and church looking great on the outside?

Soon the Search Committee will begin their task of finding a full-time pastor?

These are just a few of the people who use their time and talents to make our church run smoothly. I'm sure I've forgotten someone so please forgive me for not mentioning you.

My point is that too often we, as a congregation, just take these people for granted or don't even know who the people are who do these necessary tasks. They do these jobs not expecting anything in return, but it is always nice to be appreciated. So keep your eyes open. Look for people who are doing something special to help our church and say, "Thanks! I appreciate you!" It's a small gesture, but it goes a long way.

Cindy Jarrett



**GUESS WHO? From January**

Yes, this is EVA!! The people that answered correctly was: Romana Holloway, Lin Dennis, Brenda Hards, Joanne Darrow, Gail Rickey, Cindy Jarret, Dianne Raubacher, Cindy Stuart, Pat Campbell and EVA ROWLEY!!



**GUESS WHO?**

On the connect card, guess who this is!! Do you already know, don't tell anyone else. I will announce in the next newsletter who all knew!!!



**Senior Funday**

**Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 to 2:00, Come out and enjoy the fun!!!**

**Bring a dessert or something to share. All are welcome**



**Movie night at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 10th. All are welcome. The movie will be **Beethoven****

**Bring a chair (if you'd like) and a drink. We will have popcorn!!!**



***SAVE THE DATE***

*Solar Eclipse Viewing:* April 8, 2024. Meet up at the church. Bring your own lunch, chairs, games and anything else to enjoy the day. We will have games, fun and fellowship. We have solar viewing glasses!!!

**3:08 in the afternoon**

More details will be in the March newsletter.



Every month we will be showcasing two members from the Church to learn more about them.

## **Diane Bishop**

Birthday: **March 26, 1954**

Maiden Name: **Diane Mansfield**

EX- Spouse name: **Robert Bishop**

Where were you born? **Ravenna Hospital (lived in Edinburg Township)**

How many brothers or sisters? **2 brothers 1 sister**

High school/college? **Southeast High School**

How long lived in the area? **All my life**

Any jobs? **Worked at several banks & currently working for Quadra Group Development as a controller.**

How long have you attended this church? **Whole life**

How long have you been a member? **57 years (April 8, 1966)**

Where were you baptized? **Edinburg United Church**

Do you have any hobbies? **I am a 4-H advisor. Love working with the 4-Hers**

What do you do in your free time? **Enjoy spending time with my children & grandchildren- go to all their sports & activities**

Any children? **3**

Any grandchildren? **6 grandchildren: 5 grandsons & 1 granddaughter 1 more on the way (don't know the sex yet)**

## **Roger Mansfield**

Birthday: **Feb. 8, 1967**

Spouse name: **Melissa**

Where were you born? **Ravenna Hospital (lived in Edinburg Township)**

How many brothers or sisters? **1 brother 2 sisters**

High school/college? **Southeast Graduate 1985**

How long lived in the area? **56 years**

Any jobs? **Site manager, store manager, delivery driver**

How long have you attended this church? **56 years**

How long have you been a member? **43 years (May 25, 1980)**

Where were you baptized? **Edinburg United Church, May 3, 1967**

Do you have any hobbies? **Coaching, 4H Leader, Helping in the community**

What do you do in your free time? **Coaching, helping others**

Any children? **1 son**

Any grandchildren? **No**

## 2023 Apple Pie Fundraiser

980 Pies were made

12 Pies were donated - 5 to Center of Hope  
5 to Women's Shelter in Portage County  
2 to Stahl's Fruit Market

Total money in \$14860.00  
Expenses out 3214.01  
Profit \$ 11647.99

Many Thanks go out to Pat Campbell for picking up all the supplies, checking for the best prices etc. as did Beth Lange in all the years past!! A huge Thank you to Jeneen Kubala for keeping the faith and setting up the Kitchen Crew and my sounding board as well as Joann Wadsworth being my sounding board and inputting all the info into the computer! THANK YOU to ALL that helped in so many different capacities for without everyone's help, we could not accomplish this "fun" time!! We had those that could pick up the apples from Stahl's Market, crisco cutters, dough makers, peelers, corers, slicers, rollers, mixers, setting up the pies for the crimpers, clean up crew, those that took orders and prayer warriors!!! Giant Eagle donated \$75. gift card towards the flour, and others donated ingredients that were needed. Also, thank

In God's LOVE,  
Roseann Brown

*you to ANDREW Schrialdi for making the cutter.*

### HAM BALL PACKAGES 2023

October 27, 2023	15 packages	
November 29, 2023	<u>48 packages</u>	
	63 packages total	\$1,260.00
		<u>\$20.00 donation</u>
		<b>\$1,280.00 total</b>
	Ham Ball Meat Mixture	-\$384.85
	Foil Pans and Lids	<u>-\$173.56</u>
	<b>PROFIT</b>	<b>\$721.59</b>

*Jeneen Kubala and Pat Campbell*

People have mentioned that they would like to have more fellowship time.

Found some wacky "holidays". If anyone or a group would like to pick one of the days (or something different) and plan something, just let Cyndi know so it can go on the calendar and the newsletter.

Depending on the event, council approval might be needed (more in the January newsletter).

**Sun., Feb. 4: Homemade soup day**

Wed., Feb. 7: Send a card to a friend

**Sun., Feb. 11: Get out a guitar day**

Sun., Feb. 11: Visit a shut-in day

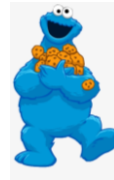
**Sun., Feb. 25: Chocolate covered nut day**

Liturgist for February are:



Feb. 4: Rob Thomas  
Feb. 11: Cindy Jarrett  
Feb. 18: Eva Rowley  
Feb. 25: Brenda Hards

Cookie queens for February are:



Feb 4 Julia Hayes  
Feb 11 Cindy Jarrett  
Feb 18 Brenda Hards  
Feb 25 Cindy Stuart

### **MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH**

If you would like to do any of the following:

**Liturgist:** see Cindy Jarrett

**Cookies:** Lisa Morehead

**Greeter:** Sabrina Finney

#### **FINANCE**

**Jan-Dec. 2023**

Tithes/Offerings: \$102,093

Income: \$133,879

Total spending YTD: \$157,452

### **Future Council Dates**

(2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month) 6:30 p.m.

Anyone is welcome to attend

Feb. 8	August 8
March 14	Sept. 12
April 11	Oct. 10
May 9	Nov. 14
June 13	Dec. 12
July 11	

Congregational meeting, Sept. 15, 2024

**Council members:** Lisa Morehead,  
Jeneen Kubula, Lenny Reiter, Barb Rohn,  
Matt Finney, Sabrina Finney, Dianne  
Raubacher & Cindy Jarrett

Send in something for the **GUESS WHO!** Email to [EUCNEWS1823@gmail.com](mailto:EUCNEWS1823@gmail.com) or give Cyndi baby pictures or something about yourself to let people guess who it is!!!



Have the kids, grandkids and adults **color a page** (or more) to **hang up at the Church!!** Pictures are available at the Church or bring your own.

Do you need to fill out a building use form?? Want to see the **Church calendar??** Go to our website at <https://www.edinburgunitedchurch.org>  
Click on resources and then forms or calendar. Click on the link and it will take you to the form.

Have you, your kids, grandkids or anyone else done something you would like to announce??? If you would like anything added to the newsletter, please let Cyndi know by March 27<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW EMAIL: EUCNEWS1823@gmail.com**



EDINBURG UNITED CHURCH

Unofficial Council Minutes

December 14, 2023

PRESENT: Pastor Susan, Sabrina and Matt Finney, Cyndi Oblisk, Audra Morehead, Lisa Morehead, Barb Rohn, Diane Rau. bacher, Diane Ringer, Lenny Reiter, Cindy Jarrett. ABSENT: Roger Mansfield, *Jeneen Kubala*

The Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Lisa and opened with Prayer.

The Minutes of the November Meeting were read and approved as corrected.

YOUTH BIBLES: Discussion ensued regarding the Bibles approved at November meeting. Pastor Susan proposed that she and the current Adults working with the Youth be consulted to determine what Bible and materials are utilized for Sunday School. It was stated that the church used to have a Mentorship Program with adult members partnering with individual youth and this might be revisited.

OUTSIDE TREE TRIMMING: Several trees on the Church property have been determined to need trimming or taken done by a professional. Cyndi motioned that the trees be attended to as advised for trimming and removal. Jeneen seconded the Motion. Motion passed unanimously.

SOUTHEAST SCHOOLS LUNCH PROGRAM: It was shared that cost of providing lunches at school for one student for a year is \$400.00. Jeneen motioned that the Church designate the month of January be designated for taking donations for this Program and that the Church donate a matching amount capped at \$500.00. Diane Ringer seconded the Motion. Motion passed unanimously.

FLAGPOLE: This project remains in progress.

SEPTIC: The cost of updating and fixing this system has been half paid for. Matt says they are awaiting parts.

WATER TESTING: This is done yearly in compliance with Ohio EPA. KidWatch has paid \$674.00 this year for that. Matt will continue to follow up with this.

SCOUT OVERNIGHT: The girls' Boy Scout Troop 7355 has requested to have an overnight stay at the Church on Friday, January 19, 2024. Jeneen motioned that Troop 7355 be allowed to have a sleepover at the Church on Friday, January 19, 2024. Cyndi seconded the Motion. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCES: These were reviewed by Lenny with a provided hand out.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: This will take place on Sunday, January 21, 2024 after Church Service and Brunch.

PASTOR SUSAN: Pastor Susan announced that a Choir of Church members will be singing with a pianist on both Sundays, December 24th and 31<sup>st</sup>. Communion will be Sunday, January 7th and the newly elected Church Council's Installation will be January 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM by Lisa and closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Barbara Rohn Council Secretary

EDINBURG UNITED CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

September 24, 2023

The Congregational Meeting was called to Order by Lisa Morehead, Moderator, at 10:45 AM and opened with prayer by Pastor Susan. A Quorum of Members was present being over 25 members present.

The Minutes of the January 22, 2023 Congregational Meeting and the February 26, 2023 Congregational Meeting were read and approved as read.

BY LAWS: Lisa announced that the current By Laws need to be further suspended. It was explained by Pastor Susan that there will need to be a By Laws Committee of two to three people to address revisions of By Laws to be aligned with Living Water ONE Guidelines. Linn Dennis motioned that the By Laws be suspended pending necessary revisions. Kathy Galloway seconded the Motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2024 COUNCIL VOTE: The Slate of six current Council Members was read with the announcement that nominations from the floor were needed to fill two additional member positions. Cindy Jarrett and Diane Raubacher were nominated for two year terms and accepted, having no additional nominations. Linn Dennis motioned that the Slate of Council Members be accepted as presented. Eva Rowley seconded the Motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Slate is as follows: Lisa Morehead, Moderator, Jeneen Kubala, Vice Moderator, Barbara Rohn, Secretary, Lenny Reiter Treasurer, Sabrina Finney, Matt Finney, Cindy Jarrett, Diane Raubacher.

BUDGET: Lenny Reiter shared that we have an unofficial Budget but requested that the approval of an Official Budget be moved to the January 2024 Congregational Meeting. Joanne <sup>Wadsworth</sup> ~~Woodward~~ motioned that the approval of the Official Budget for the year 2024 be moved to the Church's January Congregational Meeting. Jean McMaster seconded the Motion. Motion passed unanimously. Jeneen Kubala motioned that a date of January 21, 2024 be set for the January Congregational Meeting. Roseann Brown seconded the Motion. Motion passed unanimously.

THANK YOU'S: The Transition Team was thanked for their work of interviewing Congregants and presenting the information to help move the Church closer to securing a settled minister. Others were thanked collectively for serving with the activities of Loaves and Fishes, Food Bank Collections, and Southeast School Lunch Money Collection.

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES: Financials will now be published monthly in the Open Door. Flag pole to be placed in the yard outside is still in progress. It was mentioned that if any congregant is interested in starting a Group such as Choir, Womens Group, Book Study, to notify Council and have it placed on the calendar. Input related to Sunday Bulletin is welcome- see Pastor Susan or Cyndi Oblisk. Connect Cards are being revamped. A new Youth Group and revisioning of Sunday School for tweens <sup>and</sup> Adult Studies are in the works; Melissa Dills, Trista Hughes, Cyndi Oblisk, and Lenny Reiter are collaborating with Pastor Susan to nurture our Church Family.

NEW BUSINESS: Roseann Brown announced that 971 pies have been ordered and that weekly help will be needed to fill the orders.

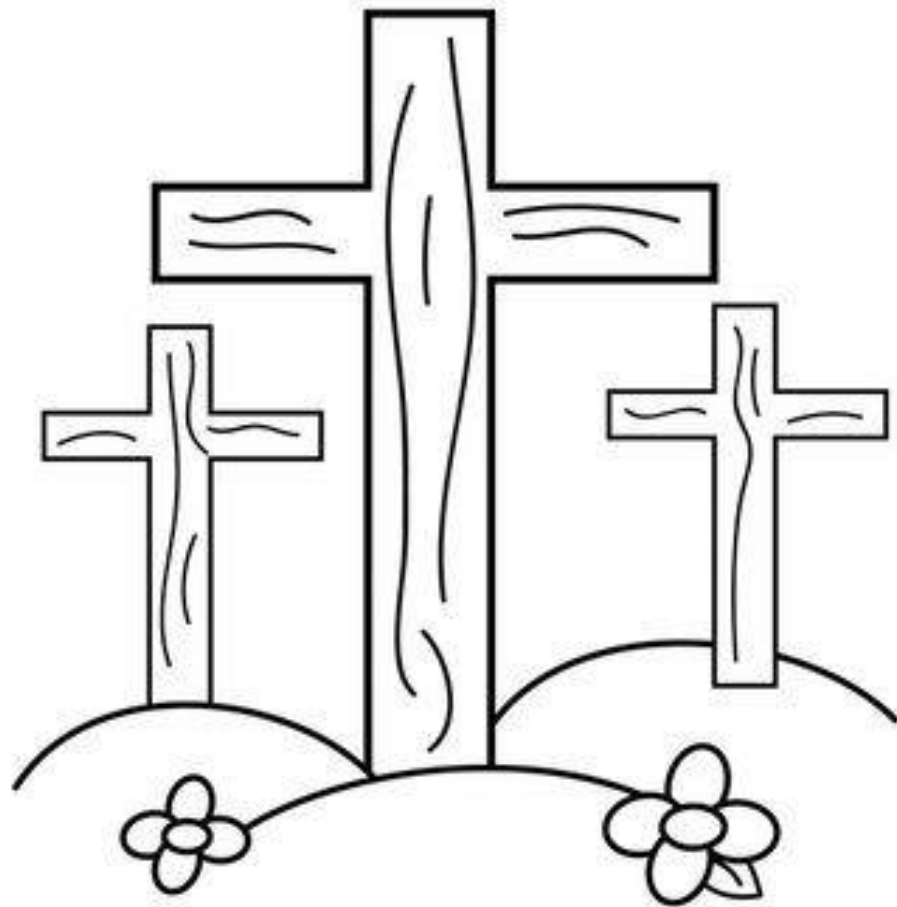
The Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM and closed with prayer by Pastor Susan.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Barbara Rohn*

*Council Secretary*

# Jesus Loves Me!







This is the

**DAY**

that the **LORD**

has made.

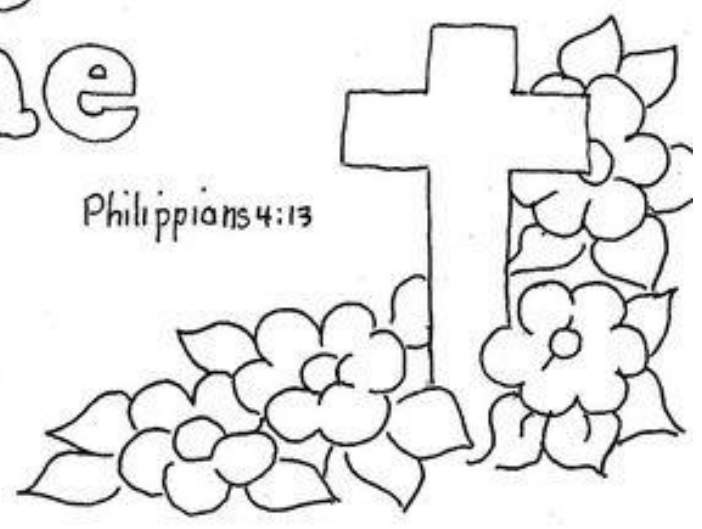
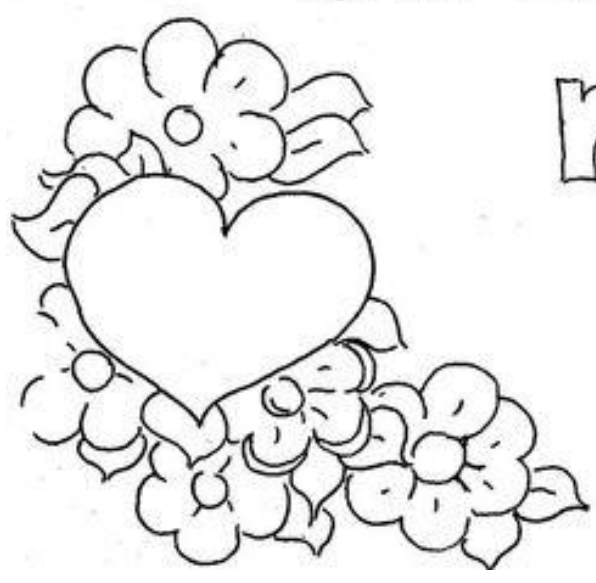
Psalm 118:24





I can do  
all things  
through  
Christ who  
strengthens  
me

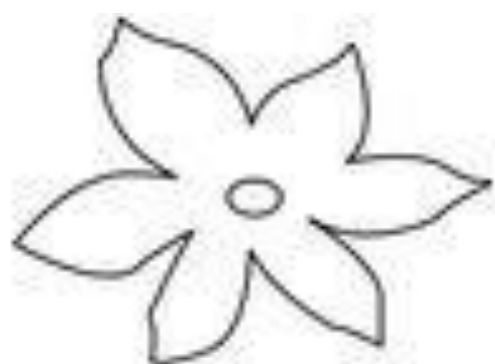
Philippians 4:13



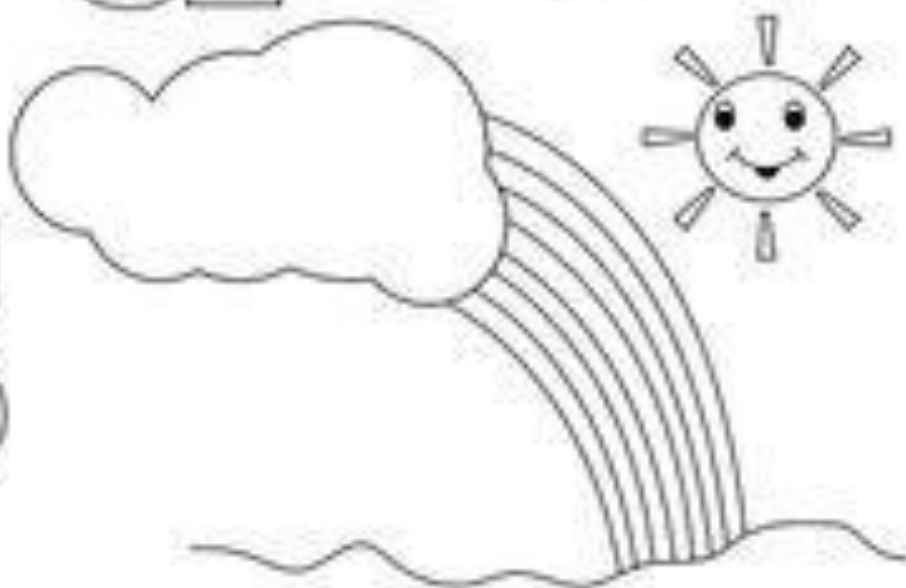


I Believe In  
The Old Rugged Cross

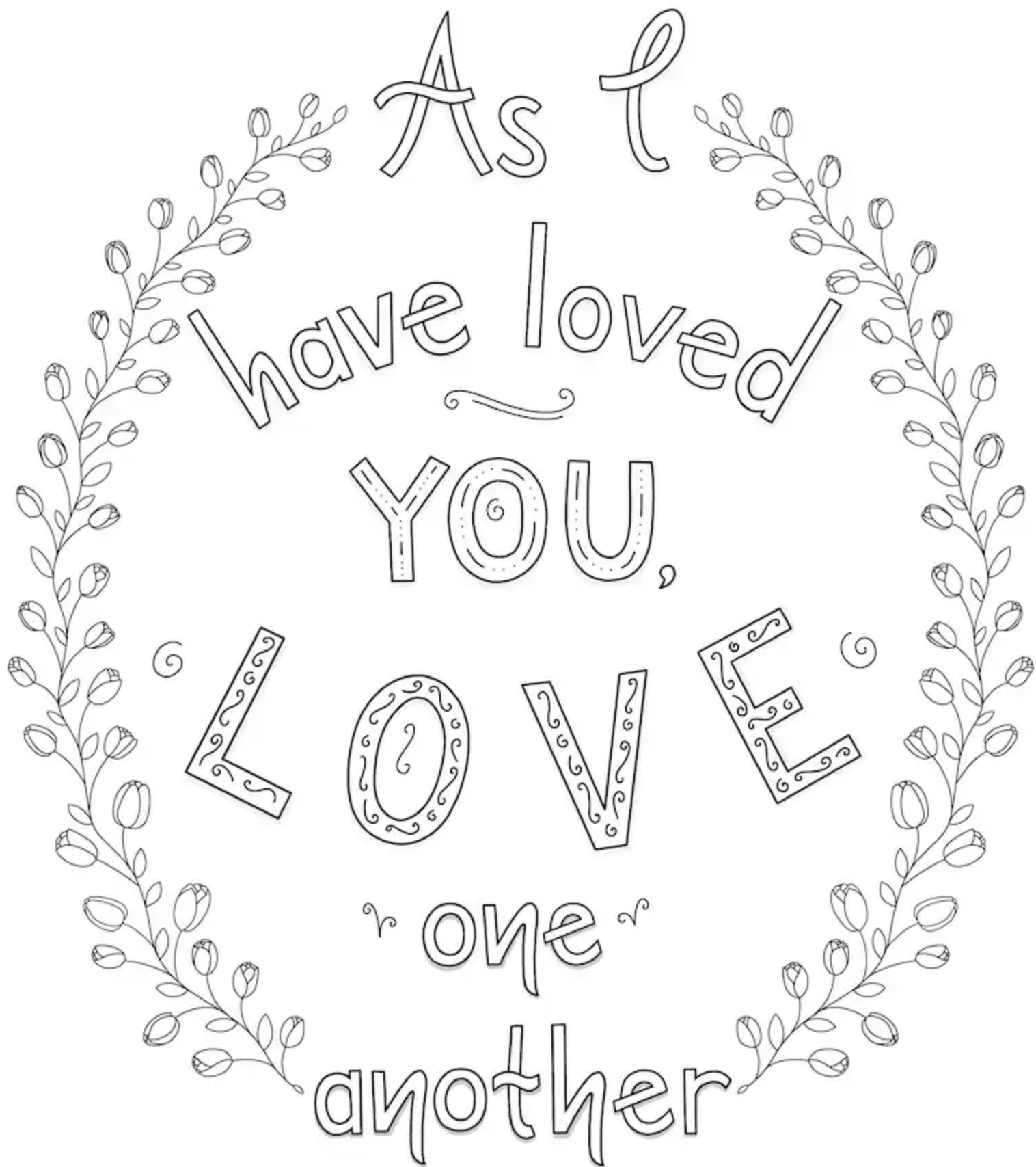
God



Is



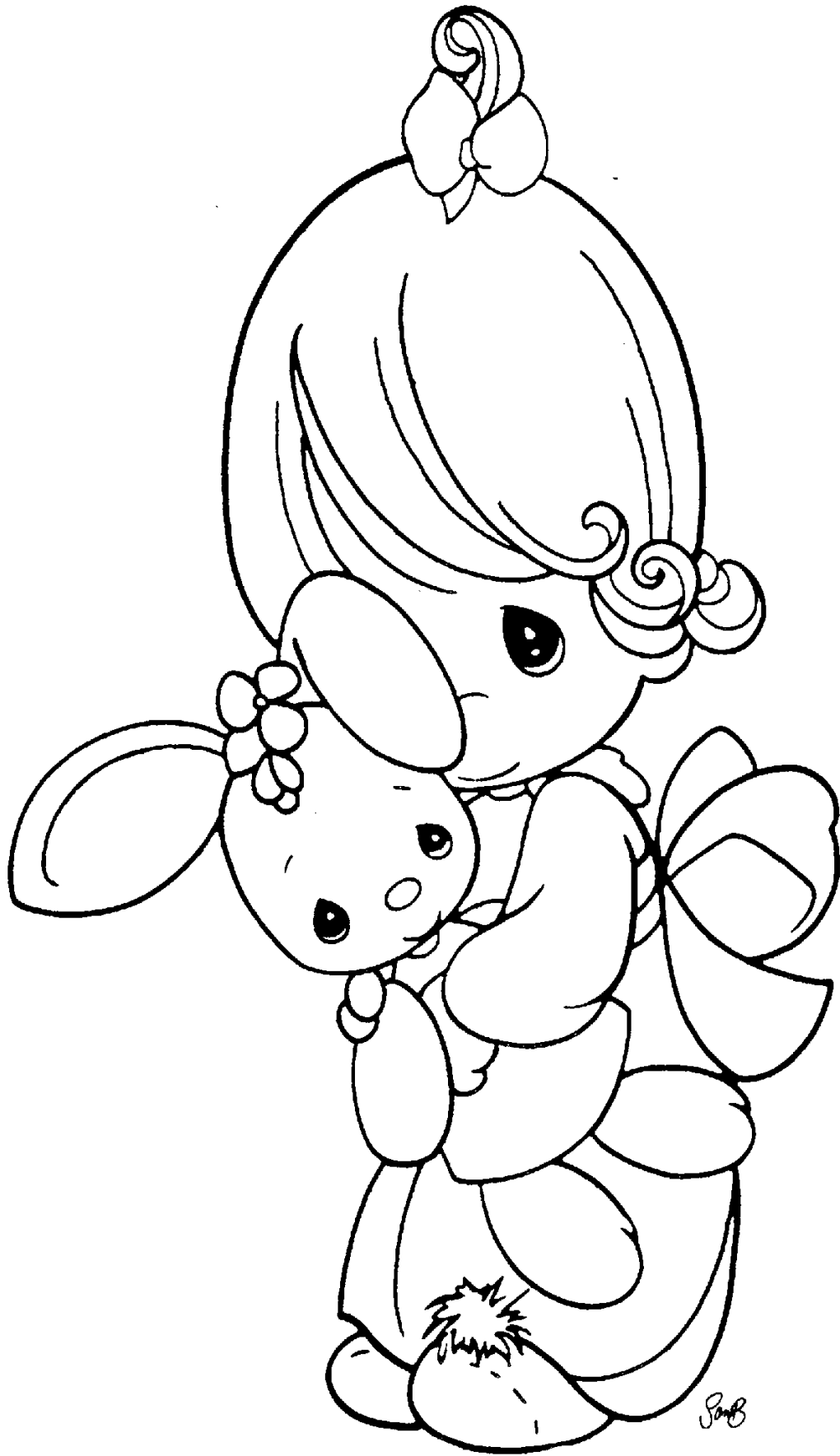
Love



As I  
have loved  
YOU,  
LOVE  
"one"  
another



Jesus Loves Me



Jesus Loves Me