



Loving & Growing

# Edinburg United Church

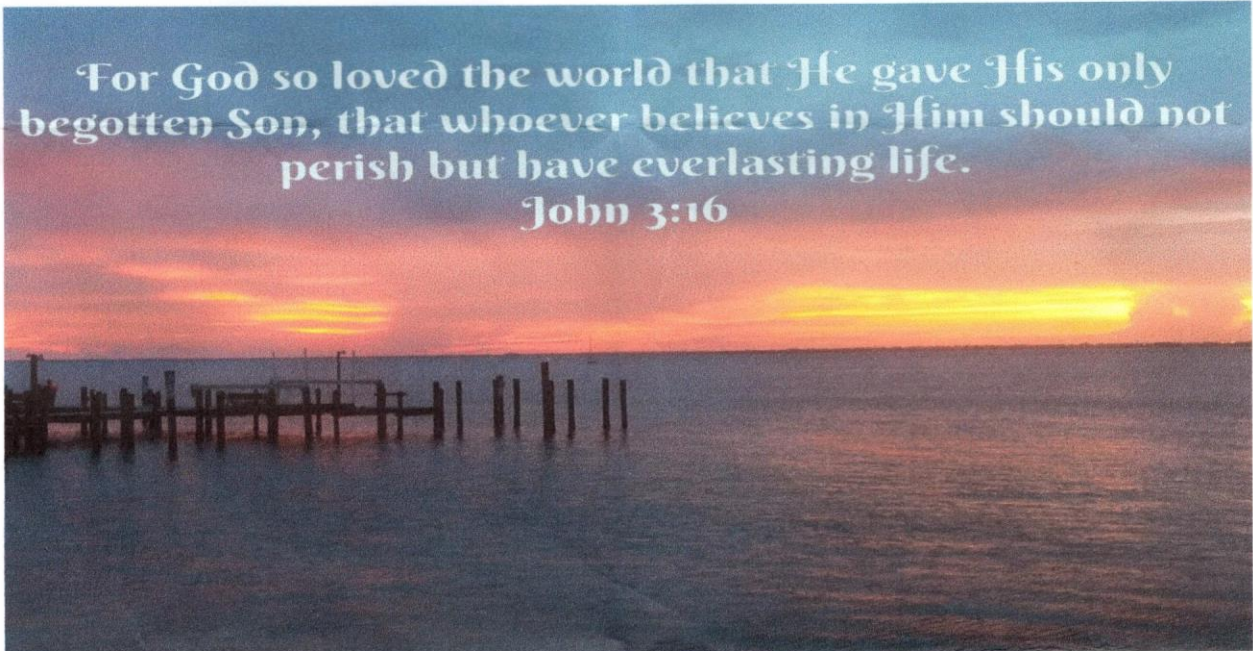
## THE OPEN DOOR

Vol. 789 April 2023

### From Lisa , Church Moderator

It's Easter Time... as an adult we read Luke 22 to the end of his book and as a child Easter through a 5 year-olds eyes it is different. Growing up in Texas, not really understanding the meaning, this is what I understood Easter to be at that age. I knew it was the Lentin season (no fish for us on Fridays), and we would see the Ten Commandments on TV. I knew I was getting an outfit and basket from the Easter Bunny, and we would be going with family to picnic in the desert. Our picnic was in a desert arroyo (dry riverbed), not too far from our home, we were sounded by desert mountains and desert flora. When we got to our destination first things first, we had to set up. We put up tarps for shade, gather big rocks for the campfire and mesquite wood for our fire.

We <sup>ate</sup> burgers and hotdogs over an open campfire and different salads and snacks. We had plenty of decorated eggs dozens of them. We all started in January eating lots of eggs for casacarones (eggshells we decorated and stuffed with confetti); we did have a few dozen boiled eggs as well. After eating my grandma would keep us by her with our backs turned so the adults could hide the eggs along the arroyo. When they were done, we all ran to find eggs, I didn't like boiled eggs so my goal was to get as may cascarones as possible those were the fun egg. We would crack them on each other heads with confetti going everywhere; we always had a good time. Now looking back at that time, I feel blessed to have had my family so close to be able to celebrate. That was the last time we went to the arroyo, since we were the youngest of the grandchildren on my dad's side. Easter was still fun years after since we got to hang out with 2<sup>nd</sup> cousins our age and went to the dry bed of the Rio Grande.



For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16



## TRANSITION TEAM BUILDING A FUTURE

Thank you to everyone who suggested names for the Transition Team. Council Moderator, Lisa Morehead and I met to discuss the gifts of each person. There were several folks that were lifted up by multiple people and we felt they had the gifts to serve EUC on the Transition Team. I spoke with each person explaining the tasks before them and they agreed to serve. The names were presented to the council for their thoughts and vote of support.

Your Transition Team members are: *Trista Hughes, Roger Mansfield, Diane Ringer, Barb Rohn and Rob Thomas.*

The Transition Team will help EUC build a bridge from your past to your future. Each member of EUC is a nail, or a board, or a nut and bolt in the building of the bridge.

Over the next months the members of the Transition Team will be having conversations with you, the members of EUC, and folks in the community to discover the needs of the community in which EUC lives and serves.

The first request of the Transition Team is for your prayers. Prayers to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit into the future God is already preparing.

Your next called Pastor is being prepared as well. The journey ahead is to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to find one another by God's Grace. *Pastor Susan*



A Special *"Thank You"* to everyone who brought soup, cookies, Italian delights, and salads to me after my surgery! I really appreciated it all so much!! *Pastor Susan*



**Tenebrae: A Service of Shadows**  
*Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m.*

The service of Tenebrae, meaning "darkness" or "shadows," has been practiced by the church since medieval times. Once a service for the monastic community, Tenebrae later became an important part of the worship of the common folk during Holy Week. We join Christians of many generations throughout the world in using the liturgy of Tenebrae.

We will need 7 readers for the service of reading scripture and extinguishing the candles as we move into the shadows.

Contact Pastor Susan or Cyndi if you would like to read. Pastor Susan will get a copy of the reading to you in advance of the service. *Thank you ~ Pastor Susan*

**HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY IS A SUNDAY OF CELEBRATION!**

*Celebrate* the great joke God played on sin and death by raising Jesus from the dead. Bright Sunday, Holy Humor/Hilarity Sunday are occasions for people to join in praise, laughter, and good humor in celebrating God's love for us, with the singing of silly songs, members dressing outlandishly, and the preacher serving as a stand-up comic.

PUT ON YOUR FUZZY BUNNY SLIPPERS, YOUR CRAZY HAT, DYE YOUR HAIR PURPLE, PINK & GREEN, WEAR YOUR CRAZIEST HAWAIIAN SHIRT! **COME & CELEBRATE!!!!**



## *Relections...*

Each year as we enter the Lenten season we are called to a time of repentance ~ a time to turn. Every year we examine how we have turned away from God. Sometimes, life's twisty roads can lead us farther and farther away from, not only the person we want to be but, the person God has created us to be. We can feel distant from God even while knowing in our minds that God is present; here and now. The mind knows God is here, but the heart feels distant and empty. We make choices which we know in our hearts are not what God desires, yet our minds rationalize our choices into the belief "I had no choice." Our choices can be driven by too many factors to even suggest or list.

Life gets complicated. Life is imperfect. We are imperfect. God, who created each one of us, You and Me and the Other, knows our imperfections. And always, still... God calls us beloved. In our belovedness we must look into the mirror and examine how we separate ourselves from God. In doing so, we begin to turn from our image that we see in the mirror to see the image of God within us. It is then that we see God's divine light and love.

Do you tell yourself: "this is just the way I am," or "I've been like this all my life, why change now," or "I've been this way all my life and I've done just fine." As followers of the Risen Christ, we are on a lifelong journey of being and becoming more Christ like.

Hopefully, this Lenten season, you have spent a little time these last 40 days looking for the divine nature of God within you or turned toward God seeking to find the beloved you.

The tough part of this journey is that each one of us must want to make the journey, otherwise we miss the infinite grace of God within us for the giving to others. The Psalmist cries out "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." (Ps 51:10).

We begin Holy Week with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and yet, we know it is the fateful entry into the last days of the life of Jesus, son of Man, on this earth.

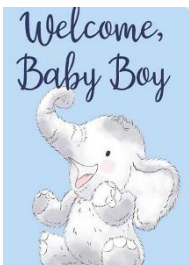
These are the days some Christians wish to avoid. I have had folks tell me that they "come to church on Palm Sunday and Easter and skip over those Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. It's too hard." They'll tell me it's too hard to look at: the intimacy of the last supper Jesus had with his beloved followers; the betrayal; and the horror of those last days in the life of Jesus at the hands of Roman rulers, the self-righteous religious leaders, and the fervor of the crowd. I now include the Liturgy of the Passion with the Liturgy of the Palms on the Sunday before Easter.

We are in the final days of preparation to receive the gift of God's forgiveness and salvation. God's gift. A gift that changes you, me and by the grace of God, one day, all of humanity. A gift that once received, is life itself ~ changing us, transforming us for the totality of our lives, earthly and eternally. A gift, that once received, moves us to share it and to give it away. Yet, we must receive it; to be it, to live it, to share it. We must pick up this gift of Light, forgiveness, mercy and love, not with our hands but with our hearts. We must choose ~ allow ourselves ~ to be that vulnerable.

God yearns for us, for you. *Will you yearn for God? Do you yearn for God? Do you yearn for goodness and mercy to follow you all the days of your life?* The Psalmist declares hopefully that it shall.

As followers of the Risen Christ, we remember the journey of Jesus and God's eternal love that we might choose light over darkness; to live in Light. For God so loved the world.

*A Blessed Easter & Easter Season  
Grace&Peace ~ Pastor Susan*



Congratulations to Andrew & Megan on the birth of their baby boy!! Also to Mary Ann and Rose on a new baby brother

Anthony Andrew Schiraldi. Born March 12, 2023 at 7:20 p.m. 8 lb 0 oz 20.5"



**Greeters needed:** open the church, turn on lights, coffee area, turn up heat/air as needed, handing out connect cards, etc.



### Senior Funday

**Wednesday, April 5, from 11:30 to 2:00, Come out and enjoy the fun!!!**  
**(1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month) Bring a dessert or something to share.**  
**All are welcome**



### 2023 Top Ten Banquet

We will be sponsoring the Top Ten Dinner for the last time on April 26 at 6:30 p.m. We will need people in the late afternoon and evening to get things set up, help serve, and clean up. We also will be asking for pie donations. If you are willing to help in any capacity, please call or text Cindy Jarrett at 330-697-2383 or home phone at 330-297-5825

## DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS & FRIENDS

It's finally available!!! Directories are on the table at the Church. Feel free to take one.

### Upcoming Concerts, if anyone is interested!!!

April 20<sup>th</sup>, Sidewalk Prophets; Stow, OH

May 5<sup>th</sup>, Casting Crowns; Toledo, OH

May 7<sup>th</sup>, Jo Dee Messina; Grace Baptist Church "Ladies Night Out"

Thurs. July 13<sup>th</sup> - Sat. July 15<sup>th</sup>, Alive Musical Festival ; Atwood Lake Park



# EASTER EGG HUNT

**Ages 2 to 12**  
**Wheelchair accessible egg hunt**

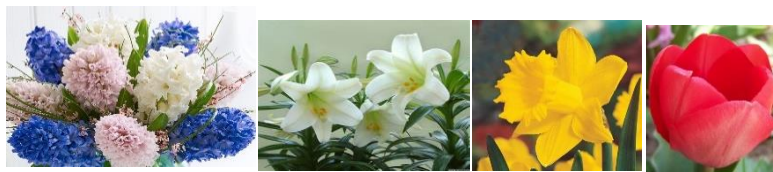
**DATE CHANGE:** The egg hunt will be on Sunday, April 2nd at 2:00 (set-up time is NOON).

Donations for baskets or other items for a Chinese raffle for the May 21<sup>st</sup> celebration are needed. Any company, group or person making a donation by May 1<sup>st</sup> will be mentioned in the 200 years celebration booklet. Please see Cyndi with any questions.



May 21<sup>st</sup>!!! Save the date to celebrate 200 years!!! Service is at 10:00 a.m. and the festivities begin at 2:00 p.m. We will be asking for volunteers to help set stuff up!!!

We are looking for outside games for May 21<sup>st</sup>. Do you have cornhole boards, or anything as far as games we can borrow that day?? Let Cyndi know if you do.



If you ordered flowers they will be here on April 9<sup>th</sup>!! Easter Sunday. Please plan on taking them that day (I can not promise to water them).



Church Clean-up (help get ready for our 200<sup>th</sup> celebration!!!!) Picking up sticks, weeding, etc. Bring gloves and any equipment you have to help out. April 29, at 9:00 a.m. May 6 we will be spreading Mulch!!!

# APRIL 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						<b>1</b>  Cyndi & Rick Oblisk
<b>2</b>  Emily Reeves	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	Passover <b>6</b>  Rob Thomas	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Judy French
Easter <b>9</b>  Nathan Giuffre	<b>10</b>  Rick Myers Rose Schiraldi	<b>11</b>  Scott Simmons   Barb & John Waldsmith	<b>12</b>   Jeneen & Paul Kubala	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  Linda Dillon   Kim & Tim Dillon	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Linda Hunter Mary Ann Schiraldi	<b>20</b>  Ann Marie Evans Jacob Mix Kaitlyn Pennington	<b>21</b>  Krista Cordier Terry Dillon Tim Dillon   Pat & Kurt Massar	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Kyle Booher Mike Thames   Dawn & Shannan Booher Tina & Dwight Finney Melissa & Roger Mansfield	<b>25</b>  Jenna Canale Barb Waldsmith	<b>26</b>  Lisa Morehead	<b>27</b>  Kelli Simmons	<b>28</b>  Doug Kibler	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>						

Cookie queens for March are:



April 2 Julia Hayes  
 April 9 Lisa (EASTER)  
 April 16 Lin  
 April 23 Genny  
 April 30 Cindy Stuart

## Future Council Dates

(2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month)  
 April 13  
 May 11  
 June 8  
 July 13  
 August 10  
 Sept. 14  
 Oct. 12  
 Nov. 9  
 Dec. 14

**Council members:** Lisa Morehead, Lenny Reiter, Barb Rohn, Audie Morehead, Cyndi Oblisk, Diane Ringer, Jeneen Kubula, Matt Finney & Sabrina Finney

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 the last Friday of the month. Please also put your name on it in case I have any questions.

**NEW EMAIL:** [EUCNEWS1823@gmail.com](mailto:EUCNEWS1823@gmail.com)

As always, any typos or mistakes are mine!

EDINBURG UNITED CHURCH

Unofficial Council Minutes

February 9, 2023

PRESENT: Lisa Morehead, Jeneen Kubala, Roger Mansfield, Audie Morehead, Cyndi Oblisk, Pastor Susan, Barb Rohn, Matt and Sabrina Finney, Lenny Reiter, Diane Ringer.

The Meeting was called to order by Lisa at 6:30 PM and opened with prayer by Roger.

Minutes read and approved as read.

NEW BUSINESS: The passing of Dan Kibler was discussed. Roger suggested that as per the family the church could make a donation in his memory. Cyndi motioned that a \$100 gift be made to 4H in memory of Daniel Kibler. Matt seconded the Motion. Motioned passed.

Service Time Voting: It was decided to have a Congregational Meeting on February 26 after Church Service to have congregation vote on Service times. Three options will be available: Service at 9:00 AM and Sunday School at 10:00 AM; 9:30 AM Service and 8:30 Sunday School; 10:00 AM Service and 9:00 AM Sunday School. Ballots will be passed out to members and members will be required to be present to vote. Cindy Jarrett and Kathy Galloway will be present to count ballots. It was also suggested that Announcements be moved to beginning of Service. Lisa will announce the Meeting February 12 to provide two week notice as per By Laws.

OLD BUSINESS: Matt and Sabrina shared that the installation of the flagpole as an Eagle Scout project will be delayed. Nevaeh Barringer is the Scout planning this undertaking.

Signage out front of the church was discussed. Barb will clarify with current person doing the sign if she wishes to continue and , if not, make arrangements to return letters and church key. Lisa will make announcement for volunteers to replace her.

Jeneen reported on updates for the 200<sup>th</sup> Celebration: The Memorial Bench and Plaque are completed. She went to Edinburg council meeting to discuss placement with them. They will have a base poured for it and forward bill to our church. Matt will follow up with them. Jeneen also shared progress on preserving and displaying pictures and articles.

April Easter Egg Hunt planning is progressing with filling eggs, finding an Easter Bunny. May's events are our Service Sunday, May 21 and Memorial Day Community Breakfast prior to our Float in the Parade. June 11 is an Ice Cream Social, July is VBS, August will be for Fair Display, remaining months continue to be in progress. Dr. Seuss Birthday Breakfast will be March 4 from 10 to 12.

FINANCES: Lenny shared and reviewed report.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM by Lisa and closed with prayer by Lenny.