



# The Open Door



A while back in one of my sermons I stated some stark statistics about dying churches. Namely, that churches over 40 years old and main-lines are the ones fading the quickest. The studies show that churches that meet in schools and those churches that are planting new churches seem to be growing. Somewhere in that article, I

questioned why we at EUC couldn't also be a home-church for a new plant somewhere. The logical question for me wasn't where to plant a church but what we would export and what creative resources we had at hand to plant a church. That led to further thoughts of how we do church here at EUC and how we grow disciples. If I were to poll you about how we grow disciples of Christ at Edinburg, what might your answer be? Through worship? Through Sunday school? Through mission giving? A book

inspired me with the answer or the formula which is: Disciples at Edinburg United Church are loving and growing. This gives us a description of what discipleship looks like (someone who is loving and growing) as well as a formula for creation of disciples (how those folks are loving and growing). By the way, the longer sentence is actually "Disciples at Edinburg United Church are loving God and world and growing in Christ and in service." The shorter one will suffice for our discipleship "mantra."

While this sentence defines discipleship here, it alone doesn't make a disciple. So your Church Council will wrestle with this sentence and brainstorm ideas. They will pinpoint how those elements are present in worship and in our environment so that we will be intentional in our creation of disciples. Then we will have an exportable product for our future church plant(s). Ready to join this adventure? Exciting opportunities ahead!

Pastor Tim

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## Military Truisms

"If the enemy is in range, so are you."  
—*Infantry Journal*

"It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed."  
—*U.S. Air Force Manual*

"Any ship can be a minesweeper....Once."

"Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do."  
— *Marine Recruit*

"If you see a bomb technician running, keep up with him."

—*USAF Ammo Troop*

"The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire."

"When one engine fails on a twin-engine airplane, you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash."

"Airspeed, altitude, and brains. Two out of three are needed to successfully complete the flight."

There comes a time in your life when you walk away from all the drama and people who create it. You surround yourself with people who make you laugh. Forget the bad, and focus on the good. Love the people who treat you right, and pray for the ones who don't. Life is too short to be anything but happy. Falling down is a part of life. Getting back up is living.

## Workers in February

### Ushers @ 8:30 Service

Feb. 5  
Pam & Matt Pribanick

Feb. 12  
Harold Mansfield/Sue Wells

Feb. 19  
Pam & Matt Pribanick

Feb. 26  
Lee & Jim Schmitz

### Ushers @ 10:30 Service

Feb. 5  
Beth Lange/Fran Pruchenski

Feb. 12  
Ann Kester/Fran Pruchenski

Feb. 19  
Dan Mix/Beth Lange

Feb. 26  
Pat Campbell/Holly DeLaney



### Homebound Friends

**Roy & Helen Kuhn**  
7824 Tallmadge Rd.  
Rootstown, OH 44272

**Jim McConnell**  
7550 Tallmadge Rd.  
Rootstown, OH 44272

### Open Door Deadline

The deadline for newsletter submissions is **always** the **15th** of the month. If you want to submit something for the **March** newsletter, the deadline is **February 15**.

### Members in Nursing Homes

**Donna Byers**  
Longmeadow  
565 Bryn Mawr St.  
Ravenna, OH 44266

**Mary Lou Johnson**  
The Gables at Kent Ridge  
5241 Sunnybrook Rd., Room D23  
Kent, OH 44240  
330-677-3261

**Katie Bauman**  
Brookdale of Ravenna  
141 Chestnut Hill  
Ravenna, OH 44266

### Liturgists

Feb. 5  
Eva Rowley

Feb. 12  
Cindy Jarrett

Feb. 19  
Cindy Jarrett

Feb. 26  
Ann Kester

### Feb. Lectionary

Feb. 5  
Proverbs 13:20  
Hebrews 10:19-27

Feb. 12  
1 John 1

Feb. 19  
Acts 2:43-47

Feb. 26  
Psalm 133:1  
Matthew 18:15-20



“The groundhog is like most other prophets; it delivers its prediction and then disappears.”

—Bill Vaughan

“The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself.”

—George Bernard Shaw

## February Birthdays and Anniversaries



- Feb. 2** Sandy Pettigrew  
**Feb. 3** Trista Hughes  
**Feb. 4** Kim Dillon  
**Feb. 6** Kathy Galloway  
**Feb. 7** Holly Kibler  
**Feb. 8** Roger Mansfield  
**Feb. 9** Glenn Strouse  
 Sarah Kibler  
**Feb. 10** Ryan Fisher  
 Mitchell Giuffre  
**Feb. 11** Steve Dillon  
 Alex Lange  
 Lenny Reiter  
**Feb. 12** Nora Kinter  
**Feb. 13** Eva Rowley  
**Feb. 14** Mr. & Mrs. James  
 McConnell  
**Feb. 15** Trevor Lange  
**Feb. 17** Kathy Harness  
 Mike Canale  
 Josh Gray  
**Feb. 19** Ryan Phile  
**Feb. 21** JoAnn Phile  
 Cindy Jarrett  
**Feb. 23** Gabrielle Giuffre  
**Feb. 24** Ethan Bishop  
**Feb. 26** Steve Whitaker  
**Feb. 28** Dick Gintert  
**Feb. 29** George Pavlick

“Aging seems to be the only available way to live a long life.”

—Daniel Auber



A huge thank you to Beth Lange for collecting the ingredients for the apple pies. Thank you to Linnea & Frank Romocean for donating the pie tins, bags, and ties. Thank you to all who helped in any capacity to make this fundraiser a success. The total profit was \$8,417.68.

*Pastor Tim,*

*Thank you so much for allowing our 4-H Club to use the wonderful facilities at the church for our sewing meetings. We truly appreciate being able to meet there! Thank you and the church for your kind generosity.*

*Bobbie Gallagher  
 Edinburg Seambusters  
 4-H Club*

Dear EUC Friends and Members:

Thank you for the bag of food and other little things. It is nice to be remembered. I don't let you forget me, because I'm there almost every Sunday, just not active like I used to be. Best wishes to all of you for 2017. Love to all.

Betty Campbell

*Dear EUC Friends and Members:*

*Thank you so much for the gift certificate you presented to me on December 19. I continue to love working here, even after 15 years, and I value all of the friends I have made here. You are wonder-*

*ful people and great friends!*

*Cindy Jarrett*

To Our Church Family, Kim, Vera, Alena, and I would like to thank you for the Christmas gift. Your generosity towards us continues to amaze. We thank you for being such a blessing in our lives, for providing a beautiful place to live, and for striving with us to do ministry in our area. We certainly love being here with you and pray for many more years of fruitful ministry together. Thank you again.

Paroz Family

*Dear EUC Family,*

*Thank you so much for our Christmas gift and for the church newsletter. Dick has had a bad Nov. & Dec. in hospital for 23 days, but doing much better now. Thanks again.*

*Dick & Ruth Gintert*

Dear Jeneen,

Thank you for the cake. It was really good and appreciated.

Harold Mansfield

*Dear Lee,*

*Thank you for the wonderful cookies. They were really good.*

*Harold Mansfield*

Dear EUC,

Thank you for the goodie bag. It was really appreciated.

Harold Mansfield

## Thank You's Continued

I would like to thank everyone who brought in items for the Senior Bags or donated money for them or helped to deliver them. Thirty-five people were recipients of the Christmas gifts. We have a very caring congregation!

Thank you also to those who helped with the dinner after the Cantata, whether it was bringing food or helping serve and clean up. Your servitude is one of your gifts to God that is appreciated by all!

Fran Pruchenski

*Thank you, Middle School Sunday school class for making me the "Thank You" cards. What a wonderful gift!*

*Fran Pruchenski*

Thank you to all who brought food for Goldie's and/or Edwin Dorsey's funeral dinner and also for all the help I had! Even with the busy holidays, you always come through!

Fran Pruchenski

*Thank you to Tim & Cheryl O'Connor and Rick & Dan Myers for decorating the church for Christmas. The church looked beautiful! (Thanks for taking it all down, too. We know it is all a big job, and we appreciate you!)*

Dear Fran Pruchenski:

Thank you and your team of people who donated items for the goody bags. It's a gift not just for one day but for a whole month! Your hard work is appreciated, as is the bag of goodies!

Jim & Alice McConnell

*Dear Church Family,*

*Thank you so much for remembering us at Christmas. The gift card will be put to good use. It is nice to be remembered while we are gone for the winter. Thanks again.*

*Harold & Martha Bradfield*

Thank you so much for the gift card at Christmas time. We love working at the church. God bless.

Tim & Cheryl O'Connor  
Dan & Rick Myers

*Thank you for your gift. Your kindness means so much. We have been blessed from family and friends with a warm and generous touch. Thank you for the gift bags and for thinking of us.*

*Roy & Helen Kuhn*

*To My Friends at EUC:*

*Greetings to all of you and a big thank you for the goodie bag for Christmas. I miss all of you so much, and I hope I will be able to drive up and attend church as soon as the weather breaks.*

*Love & prayers,*

*Frances Beckett*

Thank you so much for all the cards, food, and prayers for the loss of my dad. My family that came in could not believe the luncheon that was given at our church and the wonderful hospitality. Richard and I are very lucky to have such a wonderful church family. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart. We love you, and we hope God blesses each and every one of you.

Sherry & Richard Blasens

*Thank you for all the cards, prayers, and love I felt from all of you when my dad passed. A special thank you to those of you who came to his Memorial Service. It was a difficult time, but it was made better by all your thoughts and prayers. I, too, am lucky to have such a caring church family.*

*Cindy Jarrett*

To EUC:

Thank you so much for remembering Mom at Christmas. The goodie bag was so nice. We enjoyed going through it and seeing all the yummy treats. She enjoyed the surprises as we took them out of the bag one by one. Thanks again.

Peggy Bauman & Family  
Mary Lou Johnson



A 2017 Church Directory was handed out at the Congregational Meeting on January 29. If you did not get one, please see an usher at church.

If you would like a copy of the Annual Report, please see Pastor Tim or Cindy.

## Prayer List

1. Kyle Bailey
2. Mike Bailey, Sr.
3. Tim Barrett
4. Grace Beers
5. Kristen Braunreitter
6. Tish Brett
7. Martha Budd
8. Esther Burton
9. Jeff Ciuk
10. Carolyn Collidge
11. Fred Craft
12. Doug Cronk
13. Joe Delley, Jr.
14. Robin Deters
15. Nathan Gilliland
16. Rhoda Godfrey
17. Karen Harris
18. Chuck Harton
19. Todd Hinkle
20. John Horning
21. Lucy Hughes
22. Jake & Family
23. Courtney Janko
24. Jeffie & Family
25. Arnie Klibert
26. Roy Kuhn
27. Kim Lane
28. Bill Lange
29. Rick Lewis
30. Erin Loschetter
31. Pru Love
32. Jenny McCambridge
33. Penny Moretz
34. Bill Nickles
35. Jeff Phile
36. Jennie Prentice
37. Cheri Repasky
38. Gilbert Rowley
39. Fred & Debbie Sanders
40. Don Schlather
41. Bill Sholler
42. Tom Steurer & Family
43. Adam Sweeney
44. Ryan Vrudney
45. Jane Wayman

## Basic Rules for Clothesline Users

If you don't know what clotheslines are, then you had better skip over this section.

- You had to wash the clothes line before hanging any clothes. Walk the entire length of each line with a damp cloth around the lines.
- You had to hang the clothes in a certain order, and always hang "whites" with "whites," and hang them first.
- Wash day is on Monday! Never hang clothes on the weekend, or Sunday, for Heaven's sake!
- Hang the sheets and towels on the outside lines so you could hide your "unmentionables" in the middle (perverts & busybodies, y'know!)
- Always gather the clothes pins when taking down dry clothes! Pins left on the lines were "tacky!"
- If you were efficient, you would line the clothes up so that each item did not need two clothes pins, but shared one of the clothes pins with the next washed item.
- Clothes should be off the line before dinner time, neatly folded in the clothes basket and ready to be ironed.
- It didn't matter if it was sub zero weather, clothes would "freeze-dry."

## Pastor Tim's Top Ten List for EUC

1. We welcome everyone (period).
2. We help transform hearts to become authentic disciples of Christ.
3. We invite all to join in a community of faithful disciples.
4. We collectively work to end oppression and establish justice.
5. Worship is dynamic and meaningful.
6. Guests immediately feel cared for.
7. God is working in us, on us, and through us.
8. The atmosphere at EUC attends to whatever may be stirring in your soul.
9. Folks come face to face with Jesus each week.
10. Each person is recognized as a Child of God.

## Church Finances

From Dec. 18 - Jan. 22 7 weeks

Amount Given to General Fund:

**\$11,841.18**

which includes \$100 from pie sales and \$29.16 from paper recycling .

**As of December 29, 2016, our mortgage total is: \$206,677.70.**

**Thank you for your support of EUC.**