

Please Place Name Label Here

Edinburg United Church The Open Door July 2020

Pastor's Corner

Good July everyone,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying our summer weather.

This virus has caused more than a few disruptions to our daily lives. You can determine what needed to change and what is an annoying change for yourself. One thing that is harder to answer is the question of worship. We have joined together in the church parking lot since mid-March and we have joined together via Facebook Live since then too. Technology offers us a wonderful avenue for “gathering” though it might not feel quite the same. I’ve had some great reports of families gathering round the computer to watch the sermon. In the next 5 weeks we will have moved back inside our sanctuary for both services. (July 5th for 1030 and August 2nd for 830). The guidelines were published last newsletter but basically please wear a mask. Your temperature will be taken at the door. If you aren’t feeling well, please stay home or in your car. The transmitter does still work from the balcony and it will be used for a few weeks (or as long as someone wishes it on). I plan to stream the sermon from 8:30 still on Facebook Live but also hope to stream the entire 1030 service on Facebook Live too. I love that we have this ability to still “connect” with each other and also keep safe and healthy during this time. However, I’m also asking that you continue to send in your offering. Too many are in the habit of giving only when they attend worship. Your online gift can be set up very easily to be recurring and that helps the church in so many ways. Debit/Credit are the most expensive options for the church, but you can also give via ACH withdrawn from your checking account. You’ve heard it over and over and don’t need reminded- but the church is almost entirely dependent on the weekly tithes and offerings. “Attendance” at worship is a tricky thing to measure with folks watching via Facebook (or still in their car) but please don’t link attendance with giving. Please go to <https://edinburg.breezechms.com/give/online> to set up today. You have to change the last setting from once to recurring if you wish to do that. Thank you greatly in advance. I do hope to see each of you in worship (in the sanctuary or online) as we reopen.

Blessings,

Pastor Tim

July Lectionary

July 5th: Ephesians 4: 1-28

12th: Ephesians 4: 29-5:2

19th: Ephesians 6: 10-20

July 26th: Romans 8: 26-39 & Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

**Give Thanks to God for our blessings and
Please remember those that are need of your prayers.**

Our world, President, Veterans, and all those in the military. Also, Prayers for our country to come through this devastating COVID-19 and for the Frontline workers treating those that have the virus.

Additional prayers are requested for:

Please continue to pray for all offices/workspaces/re-opening business and those still closed. We have a long time until "normal" returns. Healing for those recently undergoing surgery

Valerie Kotler, Julie Byczek, Marvin & Susie Reid, Terry, Roseann's brother Bob, Veda Wright Family (she was the organist at my home church my entire life; she died Friday night from COVID). Kevin, he is the neighbor to Martha and Harold in FL.

Thank you for your prayers.

Appreciation and Gratitude

"Dear Edinburg United Church, Thank you for working so hard to make the Top Ten Awards Banquet happen. My family and I greatly appreciated it. You are truly a blessing to the community. Sincerely, Brooke Tessean"

"Thank you so very much for your generous donation. Our veterans will be able to treat themselves to a meal out and be able to purchase things for their new homes." Lisa Burton [Gift cards were purchased from donations to the Freedom Run]

Thank you to **Mark Pirri** for fixing the steeple lights (both times!). They are all working and look amazing!

Thank you to **Barb Rohn** for making the drive-way signs for our "Make me a Blessing" worship series. They certainly help set the mood for worship as we drive in each Sunday.

Thank you to **Lenny Reiter** for working so diligently on getting the church mortgage refinanced, paperwork signed and stamped and everything in order.

Thank you to all the "country mice" out there helping to keep the church flowerbeds weeded and looking sharp!

Other Announcements

Portage Learning Centers is currently enrolling children for the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs. These programs are free, comprehensive early childhood education instruction for children ages birth to five, as well as for pregnant women. Applicants must be Portage County residents, and income guidelines apply. To schedule an enrollment appointment, call 330-297-7795

The church has an old desktop computer with monitor and keyboard in addition to a used printer if anyone is interested. Please email Pastor Tim.

Mortgage Update:

We have made tremendous progress on the church mortgage. The June 2019 statement had an outstanding balance of \$124,010. The June 2020 statement has an outstanding balance of \$66,581. In a 12 month span we have paid \$57,429 on the mortgage!! That is an average payment of \$4786 PER MONTH. We have had the mortgage for almost 5 years, and it is a balloon payment. So, Council voted to refinance early (it was "due" in December of 2020). The paperwork is finishing up as this is written with signatures and such. Our new rate will be ever so slightly lower at 4.75 (currently it is 4.875%). Your offering makes a huge difference. The mortgage bill is \$1323 monthly. That is paid from our General Fund. Any contribution marked "Building Fund" goes directly to principle payments. (Please don't substitute your giving for Building however as our General Fund needs your support too). Thank you to all who financially support the ministry and outreach of our church.

Thought for the day:

Thank you Ruthann!

If Tomorrow Never Comes”

If I knew it would be the last time that I'd see you fall asleep, I would tuck you in more tightly, and pray the Lord your soul to keep. If I knew it would be the last time that I'd see you walk out the door, I would give you a hug and kiss, and call you back for just one more. If I knew it would be the last time, I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise, I would tape each word and action, and play them back throughout my days. If I knew it would be the last time, I would spare an extra minute or two, to stop and say, "I love you," instead of assuming you know I do. So just in case tomorrow never comes, and today is all I get, I'd like to say how much I love you, and I hope we never will forget.

Tomorrow is not promised to anyone, young or old alike, and today may be the last chance you get to hold your loved one tight.

So, if you're waiting for tomorrow, why not do it today? For if tomorrow never comes, you'll surely regret the day that you didn't take that extra time for a smile, a hug, or a kiss, and you were too busy to grant someone what turned out to be their one last wish. So, hold your loved ones close today, and whisper in their ear, that you love them very much, and you'll always hold them dear. Take time to say, "I'm sorry," "Please forgive me," "Thank you" or "It's okay." And if tomorrow never comes, you'll have no regrets about today. Written by Norma Cornett Marek



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Rev. Timothy P. Paroz, Pastor

Suggested Protocol for In Person Gatherings in Church Buildings during COVID-19

May 2020

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

- **Enter** the building through new addition doors only. Additional entrances will be locked. **Exit** through the front doors (unless you use the elevator)
- Temperature checks will be conducted at new addition door with infrared thermometer. Those with temperatures over 100 will be asked to return home or return to car for worship
- Every other pew in the sanctuary will be blocked off to keep physical distance from anyone outside of ones household
- Observe one-way traffic into the Sanctuary. Enter pew through side aisle, leave via center aisle one pew at a time (again, exit through the Front Doors of the church)
- The offering bowls will be positioned at the entrance to the Sanctuary and will not be passed during worship
- Ushers will not hand out bulletins
- If communion is served, elements will be displayed and individually self served
- To respect all and for the safety of all face masks must be worn
- Anyone unwilling to comply to help keep everyone safe will be asked not to enter the building

DURING THE WEEK:

- No groups will be permitted use of the building for meetings until school resumes
- No Sunday School will be held until school resumes
- Hand sanitizer will be available
- Facebook Live will continue for the foreseeable future

