



Edinburg  
United  
Church

# THE OPEN DOOR

Volume 783 January 2023

From Lisa

As we start the new year, there are many sayings and superstitions that people use and do. Out with the old in with the new; the new year brings a new chapter; let's move forward not back; forget about the past let's look to the future. Many cultures eat black eyed peas and pork dishes, sweets that are round, fish lentils and of course champagne to name a few, for luck and prosperity throughout the year.

New beginnings remind us of the importance of giving thanks to God. As our church looks forward to our 200 year anniversary with joy in our hearts and excited anticipation of what is to come. Let us rejoice in what the new year will bring, as we follow our traditions of the past. Happy New Year to all.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!      Corinthians 5:17*

## Square Breathing and Breath Prayer

*Paz, Susan*

You can do this breathing exercise anywhere to ground yourself and destress. Make sure your abdomen rises not your chest ~ breathe deeply and slowly.

1. Simply inhale through your nose for a count of four.
2. Hold the air in your lungs for a count of four.
3. Exhale through your mouth for a count of four (push all the air out).
4. Pause for a count of four before taking your next breath in.

“Do this for 3-4 minutes and you’ll lower your stress level, both mental & physical... This further increases the level of oxygen in your lungs and therefore in your blood stream.” If you can’t do 3-4 minutes, breathe this way for as long as you can.

## Adding a Breath Prayer

As you breathe in, breathe in God’s peace. Feel God’s peace permeate every fiber of your being as you hold the breath. As you release the breath, release your worries; release whatever is concerning you; release whatever is weighing you down. Let go and give it to God as you exhale.

The beauty of Square Breathing and the Breath Prayer is that both are only a breath away. God is as near as your breath. When you need to connect to the Spirit.... breathe....

*Yes! I live here in Edinburg ~ in the parsonage!*

I recently had conversations with several folks who asked me where I was living. As the conversation continued, I realized that they thought I lived in Louisville, right down the road from here, and was commuting to Edinburg! I had to laugh a little because whenever I went to Living Water Association meetings I always had to say "I'm at Trinity in Louisville ~ L-E-W-I-S, not Louisville ~ L-O-U-I-S!" Just so everyone knows, my dog Baxter and I live in the parsonage next to the church. Thank you for such a lovely house to call home for a little while. Hopefully, that clears up any confusion if you were wondering where I'm living. Now you know where to find me! Paz, Susan

*Thank You!*

We've been together for five Sunday services and three special services! I want to thank you all for such a warm welcome and the generosity you have shown. Thank you to those of you who have shared Thanksgiving dinners and Christmas cookies and meals. Thank you to Cynði ~ I can't begin to express my gratitude for all your assistance. Thank you to the members of Council for your patience and support these past two months while settling in. A gracious thank you to our youth, our choir and our readers for making our Advent and Christmas services extra special. I continue to look forward to working with you all on your journey as the Edinburg United Church family and discerning God's call through Spirit upon your ministry in your community and beyond. Paz, Susan

I always look forward to the first Sunday in Advent, so I was disappointed to have gotten sick this past Advent. I always look forward to saying "Happy New Year!" The first Sunday in Advent is the beginning of the Christian calendar year. It is when we prepare for our journey with God who will come to us, Immanuel, in Jesus: God incarnate. Throughout Advent and the Sundays of Christmas we hear the stories of the events leading to the birth of Jesus from Matthew, Luke and John. We all know the stories. We retell the story of Jesus' birth every year. We retell the story of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection. The stories of our faith matter: all the uncertainties and joys, surprises and disappointments, the celebrations and the sorrows, the challenges and upheaval and the moments of grace, oneness and love.

Now, on January 1, 2023 I get to say "Happy New Year" and "Happy 200<sup>th</sup> Year of Ministry!" In the celebration of that birthday, you will discover stories about your past that will enrich your present. As you share your stories of the present you will discover things you never knew about one another. The stories of today will reveal the path for the stories of tomorrow. As all your stories unfold and weave together the leading, and guidance of the Holy Spirit will be made visible.

There are many folks who are part of your present story. There may be folks who have drifted away because life just happened or there was a necessity to leave. There may be folks who wandered away during COVID ~ it is very much a part of your present story. I've met folks in the community who shared that they were married in your church. So many folks in the community and you all in the pews; all with stories to share that are a part of the story of Edinburg United Church.

As this year of celebration unfolds invite those folks you know in the community or those who have wandered away, to come and join with you and share their stories and be a part of this special year.

There are those of you who have shared your stories with me and I look forward to hearing from so many more of you! Have you been attending here all your life? Were you married here? Did you raise your family in EUC? What is your dream for EUC and how are you a part of writing the story of the next 200 years?

Matthew 1: 18 ~ "Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way." Now the life of Edinburg

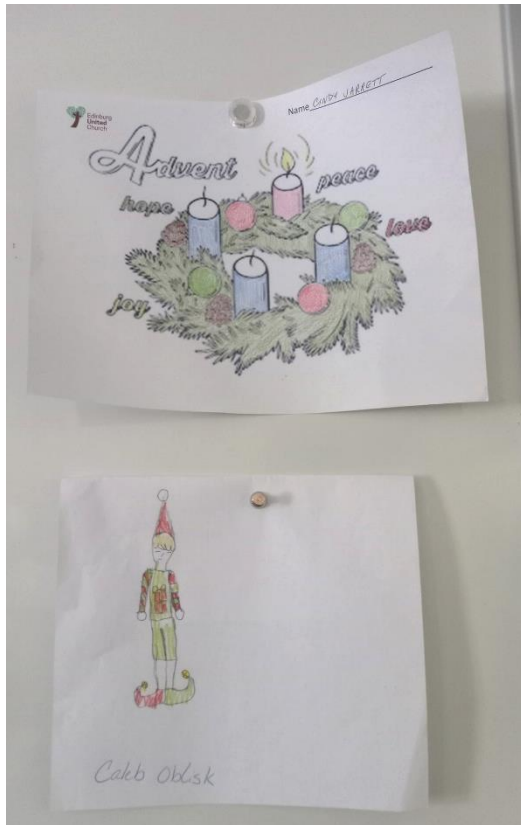
United Church took place in this way...

We love to tell the stories!



We received a thank you from safer futures for the donation of pies to the battered women's shelter.

Dear Church Friends, Thank you so very much for the fun Christmas goodie bags! You are so thoughtful!  
Love Donna & Bill Kibler



Thank you to  
Cindy Jarrett and  
Caleb Oblisk for  
adding some color  
to the board this  
season!!

























There are 2023 personal calendars in the entrance of the church, feel free to take one. Thank you to Jean LeMasters for providing them.



We need people to ring the Church bell at the beginning of services on Sunday, if you are interested see Cyndi



# JANUARY 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
New Year's Day 1 Scott Galloway 	2 Michael Simmons 	3 Dawn Booher 	4	5 Jim Schmitz 	6 Don Hunter  Margie & Derek Hatcher 	7 Diane Ringer Savannah Finney Pamela & Mathew Pribanick 
8 Nikki Dech 	9	10	11 Ross Shaw 	12	13 Melissa & Steven Mortach 	14 Joanne Darrow Miranda Hughes 
15 Ayla Gealy 	MLK Day 16 Bill Rowley Linda Wagner Beth & Jerry Lange 	17 Audra Morehead 	18	19 Amanda Baldasare 	20 Wesley Shaw 	21 Agnes Andrasak Heather Mix 
22 Seth Dillon Jackson Gealy 	23	24 Marcia Kibler 	25 Meghan Schiraldi Linda & Don Hunter 	26 Alice McConnell Cyndi Oblisk 	27	28 Michelle Besaw 
29	30 Caleb Oblisk 	31 Erick Craft 				

Cookie queens for January are:



- Jan. 1 Julia Hayes
- Jan 8 Eva Rowley
- Jan 15 Cyndi Oblisk
- Jan 22 Lisa Morehead
- Jan 29 Maureen Locher

Cookie Queens and Kings are needed to bring cookies on Sundays. To sign up get ahold of Lisa Morehead. [marialisamorehead@gmail.com](mailto:marialisamorehead@gmail.com)

(330-247-8171)

NEW Email for Lisa

## Future Council Dates

(2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month)

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

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.

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

EDINBURG UNITED CHURCH

Unofficial Council Minutes

November 10, 2022

PRESENT: Audie Morehead, Diane Ringer, Cyndi Oblisk, Lisa Morehead, Pastor Susan, Lenny Reiter, Barb Rohn

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

Minutes of the October Meeting were read and approved as read.

FINANCES: Lenny reported on Income and Expenses for past month.

INSURANCE: Lisa and Lenny met with Mr. Bradley regarding the Church's coverage. Possible needed changes were discussed. It was suggested Medical Coverage be increased from \$5000 to \$10,000 for \$6 more per year. A Liability Umbrella for \$1 million could be added at a cost of \$557 per year. Our Policy is scheduled for renewal in April 2023 and changes will be discussed at that time and decided on.

PAPER TOWEL DISPENSERS: Cyndi reported that dispensers with sensors that have batteries with long life are available for \$65 each. It was agreed to purchase them at this time.

OUTSIDE LIGHTING : Parsonage is in need of replacements and upgrades. Lisa said she and her husband, Mike will attend to this. Other outside lighting for the church building was discussed. It was noted that Mike Oaks has been the electrician that serviced the steeple in the past.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: This will be scheduled for January 22, 2023 after Service.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Pastor Susan raised the issue that Christmas is on Sunday this year and asked for input as to holding a Service. It was decided that a Service would be held but the time will be 10 AM. Christmas Eve Services will be at 4 and 7 PM as usual and a Blue Christmas Service will be added on Wednesday evening, December 21 at 7 PM.

SENIOR GIFT BAGS: Cyndi will contact Fran Purcheski for directions on continuing this tradition.

SANCTUARY CARPETING: The carpeting is in need of cleaning . Diane offered to contact Stanley Steemer and get pricing for this.

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS: It was reported that Southeast Schools are in need of funds for free lunches since funding related to pandemic have ceased. Cyndi will contact Mr. Dunn for further information . MISCELLANEOUS: Questionable lighting issue with Exit sign on third floor. Cyndi will contact Mike Oak about lighting issues. Diane shared that she is working on Thank You's for members that are helping with church activities.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8 PM and closed with prayer by Pastor Susan.