



## **JANUARY 2023**

### **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF EDWARDSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

#### **Another Year is Dawning**

Another year is dawning,  
Dear Master, let it be,  
In working, or in waiting,  
Another year with Thee.  
Another year of mercies,  
Of faithfulness and grace;  
Another year of gladness  
In the shining of Thy face.  
Another year of progress,  
Another year of praise,  
Another year of proving  
Thy presence all the days.  
Another year of service,  
Of witness of Thy love,  
Another year of training  
For holier work above.  
Another year is dawning,  
Dear Master, let it be,  
On earth, or else in heaven,  
Another year for Thee.

- -Francis Ridley Havergal

#### **Church Events**

It's all inside!

- January 1st—New Year's Day—  
Church Office Closed
- January 4th—Stephens Ministry  
Class—6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
- January 5th—SPRC—7:00 p.m.—  
New Fellowship Hall
- January 8th—All Church Vote—  
immediately following 9 a.m.  
worship
- January 15th—Spotlight Deadline
- January 15th—Youth Sunday  
Group—following 9 a.m. worship
- January 18th—Stephens Ministry  
Class—6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

# Pastor's Corner:

Dear Friends: Another new year is just around the corner. I hope that you will have a wonderful time with your families over the next couple of weeks enjoying some down time to rest, relax, and have time with your children, grandchildren and some special friends during the Christmas and New Year's weekends.

On behalf of the staff, THANK YOU ONCE again for your generosity with your Love Gift and to Staff Parish for their food baskets that they provided in lieu of a staff Christmas Party. We enjoy the opportunity to serve you in our various ways of ministry in the life of the church. Thank you for thinking of us.

As we move into a new year, I want to share with you information about a very important event that will be coming up on Sunday, January 8. We will be having an all church vote to determine the church's desire to move toward disaffiliation from the UMC. This vote will occur following worship and will be by written ballot. There will be no proxy or absentee votes. We must have 67% or greater majority of those present and voting for us to move toward disaffiliation.

Why are we having this vote? EUMC has been engaged in conversation over the past eight months about actions that have been occurring and continue to occur in the United Methodist Church. The United Methodist Church has been engaged in a debate over the presence of a gay/lesbian pastor being appointed to our UMC churches and the possibility of a pastor performing a marriage in or outside the church of a same-sex couple. This has been an ongoing debate for many years in the UMC. In May 2022, the Global Methodist Church was launched in response to the General Conference of the UMC being postponed to May 2024. The Global Methodist Church is a new branch of Wesleyan Methodism that will be very conservative in its views especially around the issues of human sexuality. EUMC held a series of Town Hall Meetings in August and September with Straw Poll votes being taken to test the opinion of the church around this situation. The result of those votes was that 47 of the 65 people who attended voted to stay just as we are and wait until General Conference of 2024 before making any further decisions. Seven persons wished to move to disaffiliation and seven had no opinion or had more questions and did not vote.

The Finance Committee and Administrative Council have met and determined that there is a need for the congregation to have a church wide vote to determine the opinion of the entire congregation around this issue. This is a brief summary of much of the conversation that has taken place over the past eight months. There will be no time for discussion prior to the vote on Jan. 8. So if you have further questions, issues, or concerns around this matter, please speak with me prior to January 8 so that you can get your questions answered.

It is important that we come to a decision about all of this very soon. The Staff Parish Committee is in the process of preparing the profile for the new pastor who will be appointed to serve EUMC effective July 1, 2023. If the church chooses to move to disaffiliation, there will be no appointment from the conference and the church will have to make their own decisions about attaining a new pastor after my retirement. The conference will not provide us a pastor if we move to vote for disaffiliation. The process of disaffiliation must be done in a timely manner. There is a tremendous amount of paperwork associated with disaffiliation which I cannot as your pastor participate in. This preparation will need to be completed by the congregation. If EUMC moves to vote for disaffiliation, all paperwork will need to be completed by May 1, 2023, have a Church Conference with the Conference Superintendent and have all paperwork complete and approved by the Annual Conference in order for the disaffiliation to be approved by the Indiana Annual Conference Session on June 8-10, 2023. There is no plan for a later vote in Nov. 2023 as there was this year in November.

Please be in prayer about all of this. I am sorry that you are having to think or consider all of this at such a special time of year. Again, if you have questions, please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to have a conversation and answer any and all questions you may have. I will be out of the office on Dec. 26 -28 on a short time of celebration with my family but will be back in the office on Thursday, Dec. 29.

God's Grace and Peace

Pastor Cindy Osgood



# A SPECIAL MONTH OF SUNDAYS AND SERVICES

We will begin a series on Moses beginning in January—Moses is an important figure in our Biblical history

**January 1** – Person of Moses:

Deuteronomy 34:10-12; Exodus 1:1-14

**January 8** – Two Important Moments:

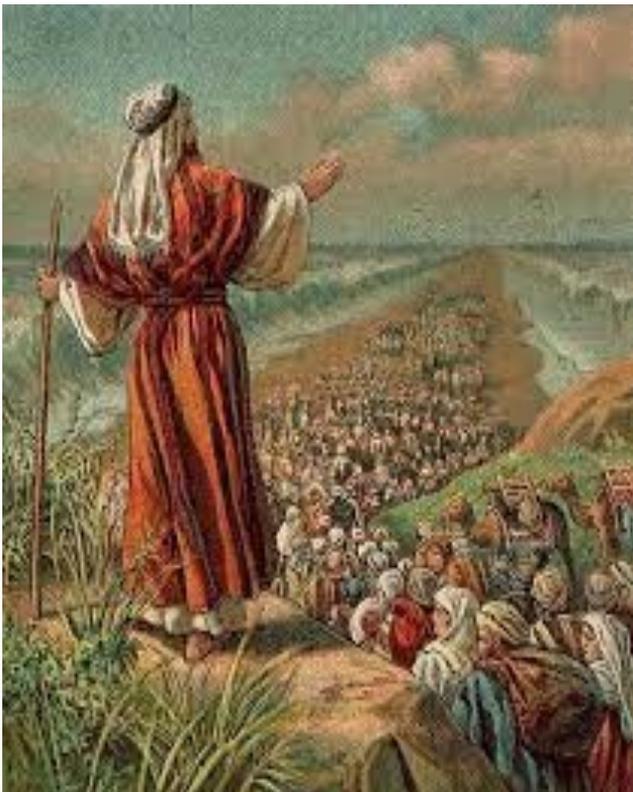
Acts 7:17-38; Exodus 3:1-20; 4:1-17

**January 15** – Exodus: The Departure from Egypt: Exodus 12:1-28; Exodus 13:17-14:31

**January 22** – Wilderness: Exodus 16, 18, 25, 36, 40 {selected verses}; Numbers 13 {selected verses};

Numbers 14:1-12

**January 29** - Moses Completes His Task – Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 20-25; 8:12-20; 34



## New Testament BIBLE STUDY

Our Monday and Tuesday Bible Study has been making it's way through the Book of Acts, the history of the new church in Jerusalem and beyond. We will move into Paul's writing after the first of the year. We will be studying Paul's letters in the order that they were written. Please feel free to join us for either the Monday night Zoom Study at 7:00 p.m. **Our Zoom address is 898 3520 8432 and the Passcode is 066540** The Tuesday Afternoon Group that meets from 2-3 in New Fellowship Hall.

The order will be as follows:

First/Second Thessalonians

First/Second Corinthians

Galatians

Romans

Colossians

Philemon

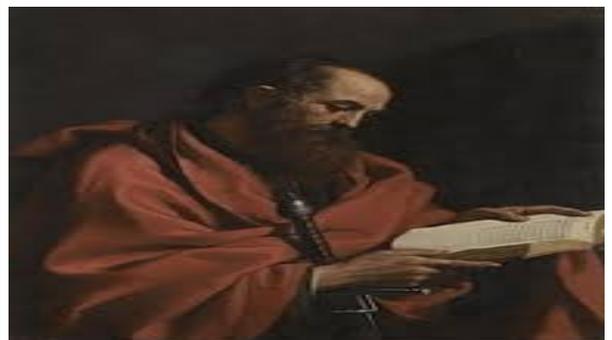
Ephesians

Philippians

First/Second Timothy

Titus

What a great way to begin a new year by studying God's word for us. Let Pastor know if you have questions about either group.



## Church News and Announcements



Many thanks for all the prayers for my niece. She needed a miracle for her health issues. After 2 weeks in a hospital in Indy, she is now home. The diagnosis is serious, but being treated. It definitely was a miracle. Sandra Beckett

### 2023 Giving Envelopes:

2023 Giving Envelopes are on a table in the Narthex. Please find yours and read the enclosed note. Reminder: the envelopes are not dated and numbered so it is important that you read the **note**. If you have any questions, please call the office or notify Cheryl Thompson.” Thank you.

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Hello! Enclosed are your 2023 Giving Envelopes for use **beginning January 1, 2023**. Since they are not numbered or dated, it is important that you fill out your envelopes completely. Your giving number for 2023 is \_\_\_\_\_ . Please put that number next to your name.

Also, please fill in which fund you want your gift to be applied to. If you give to a fund other than General Fund (Tithes and Offerings), Mortgage Payment Fund, or Missions Fund, you must write the fund/cause on the blank line along with the amount.

As always, thank you for supporting the ministries at Edwardsville United Methodist Church.

### Online Givers:

“If you give online and will be giving a different amount for 2023, please go online at [eumc.me](http://eumc.me), click on Give, sign in to your Vanco account and edit your giving by January 1, 2023”. Thank you.

## Church News and Announcements (continued):

### **Notice of Change of Meeting Place for Earnie's Covenant Keepers:**

During the month of January 2023, Earnie's Covenant Keepers will be meeting at the Georgetown Bakery located at 1116 Copperfield Drive in Georgetown, IN. If you have any further questions, please contact Urbie Keithley at 502-381-6555. Thank you.

### **Youth Sunday Group:**

"All youth from 12 years of age to 18 years of age are invited to join a group on Sunday mornings beginning January 15th, 2023. The group will meet after 9:00 a.m. Worship Service. We will get to know each other and delve into Bible study.

Joann Frederick will gather the group. The group will decide what study they want to do.

The goal is for the young people to get together, get to know each other and get to know Jesus better.

Join the group, invite youth friends and share."

Thank you, Joann Frederick

Dear church family,

I just wanted to take time and thank you all for your generous gifts, prayers and concerns when I lost my home earlier this year. I finally have a basement!!

I know many of you said no thanks needed but as you continue to hold me and my family in your prayers, I want you to know how very much needed and appreciated you are.

May God bless you at Christmas and always.

Cheryl Thompson

### **Trustees News:**

The construction of the sanitary sewer lift station in the lower parking lot near door 4 is expected to begin on January 2. Construction is expected to be completed by mid March. The contractor will be storing equipment and materials in the parking lot adjacent to the burning bushes at the northwest corner of the parking lot. 5 parking spaces will be impacted to accommodate the contractors storage. The actual lift station construction will eliminate the grass island between the two entrances and 4 parking spaces adjacent to that island between the driveway entrances. At least one driveway at the lower parking lot will be open at all times for access to the church. Thank you, Bill Dorsch



**Mission Corner**     Bob Youell

*Love God, Love Others, Serve the World*

### Mark Your Calendar for March 18, 2023 Rice Meal Kits

Once again, we will be putting together Rice Meal Kits for *Midwest Mission Distribution Center* on Saturday, March 18 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Everyone is welcome to participate in this event, so ask your friends, families, and neighbors to join us.

The Food Kits consist of dehydrated vegetables, protein powder, soy, and rice. This has become an annual EUMC mission's event where we will assemble **2000** meal kits. Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, IL will distribute the kits for emergency relief efforts around the corner and around the world.

This is a wonderful opportunity to work on a Mission Project that doesn't require a Mission Trip. Midwest Mission brings all the materials to us.

If you would like to sponsor this event, for example, \$20.00 will cover the cost of 10 Meal Kits. Make a check out to EUMC (memo Missions Rice Meals) and drop it in our offering plate. These meals, although very basic, can be lifesaving during emergencies.

This project is manageable with 50 to 60 volunteers. Please volunteer and contribute if you can. In February look for a sign-up sheet in our entryway or email me at [bobyouell@gmail.com](mailto:bobyouell@gmail.com) so we will have an idea how many to expect.

*Have a Happy and Blessed New Year.*

"Whatever you did for the least of my people, you did for me" Matthew 25:40

*Notes*  *from your Minister of Music*

**Many thanks!**

For the generous gifts from the membership of our beloved EUMC!

**CHANCEL CHOIR** will resume on **January 8<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 AM**  
service, **7:00 PM** rehearsal. (Come pay us a visit - no  
experience necessary, no obligation!)

*Also - don't forget the DVD of Samaritan 2.0, available from the  
box near the office. FREE to anyone who was involved in the  
production (2017), donation requested from others.*

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Late December:

**CHRISTMAS MUSIC!!!**

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**CHRISTMAS EVE 2:00 PM**

Choir & Instrumental Group:

Music for the one of most holy days of the year.

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**CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 AM** one service: more  
songs of the season.

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As we move into winter this weekend, be aware that we have made arrangements for announcements on WHAS11 {ABC}, WAVE {NBC} and WDRB {FOX} for cancellations/closings of worship. We will also post on Facebook, in addition to sending out emails and posting on our Webpage changes in service times should weather be an issue.

**The drive way/parking lots will be cleaned for snow but not for ice.** When we cancel we will do our best to have something on Facebook for worship if we are not live in the sanctuary. During the week/daytime, if school is cancelled then the office will be closed as well and staff will work from home if necessary. Willing Workers will not meet on Tuesdays if the school is closed due to weather.

# The New Year

Dear Lord, as this new year is born  
I give it to Thy hand,  
Content to walk by faith what paths  
I cannot understand.  
Whatever coming days may bring  
Of bitter loss, or gain,  
Or every crown of happiness;  
Should sorrow come, or pain,  
Or, Lord, if all unknown to me  
Thine angel hovers near  
To bear me to that farther shore  
Before another year,  
It matters not—my hand in Thine,  
Thy light upon my face,  
Thy boundless strength when I am weak,  
Thy love and saving grace!  
I only ask, loose not my hand,  
Grip fast my soul, and be  
My guiding light upon the path  
Till, blind no more, I see!

- - Martha Snell Nicholson



August Blackman	01/03
Kylei Wagoner	01/05
Maximus Adams	01/06
Tom James	01/08
Anita Collins	01/10
Rochelle Harbison	01/12
Josh Napier	01/13
Connie Baumgartle	01/14
Terra Boone	01/15
Paul Gibson	01/16
Debra Nelson	01/16
Wayne Davidson	01/16
Lindsey Dorsch	01/18
Kathy Dorsch	01/19
Ed Cecil	01/21
Brandon Blasdel	01/21
Andrew Beckman	01/23
Charles Rucker	01/26
Joann Frederick	01/26



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