



## THE PARISH VISITOR FEBRUARY 2023



John Omerod,  
Pastor



### NEED TO CONTACT US?

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Pastor’s Cell:  
815.761.3910

Pastor’s email:  
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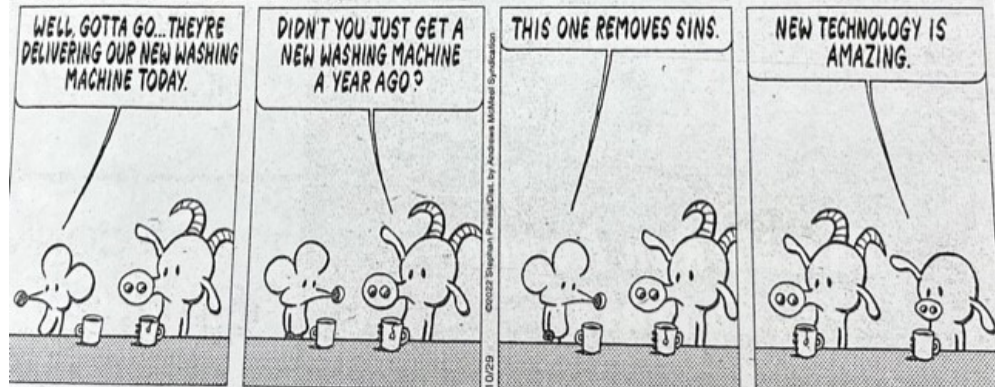
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[www.ecucc.org](http://www.ecucc.org)

### A letter from Pastor John

#### Pearls Before Swine



New technology is amazing! Advances in medical and auto technology are, by leaps and bounds, far advanced over innovative practices just ten years ago. Today, self-steering cars (scary) and washing machines that can be started remotely by cell phone are advanced enough to send retail costs through the roof. A few months ago, we bought a washing machine. The old one rattled and made grinding noises. The new one cleans clothes quite well, thank you, and it washes out food stains, but the technology has not produced anything that comes close to washing out anything more than food stains and yard dirt. If it could remove sins, the agitation of the device could create in us, not a clean heart but a fear of drowning, replacing liturgical confessions and baptismal fonts. If a minor sin registered 2 on a scale of 1-10, a short wash should do for cookie theft. If the sin scored 8 or 9, a prolonged and deeper wash, and a double rinse, should take care of the more aberrant behavior. The dry cycle could be more of a challenge. If you wanted to really fluff the load, and leave an indelible impression on the mind and body of a sinner, I would use small rocks in the dryer rather than tennis balls.

Overall, though, wouldn't you be kinder to yourself, less ruffled and tossed, to just confess in church on a Sunday morning?

# A letter of thanks received from Eden Seminary.



January 23, 2023

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Eden Theological Seminary, thank you for your gift of \$2,201 on 1/17/2023 in support of the Nicholas Ashby Memorial Counseling fund.

Your support is vital to the people who study here - leaders with a broad understanding of God and who are equipped to put into action the congregational and community ministries of and for the church. This contribution provides assistance for our students when they may need it most.

The new year brings with it great excitement for the seminary. We have been at work designing and implementing a network model of theological education. This model builds capacity for sharing faculty and courses among seminaries and offers summer contextual education for undergraduate students. It also develops formational resources accessible to candidates on a path to authorized ministry in the church.

Thank you for being part of the Eden community. Please know how grateful we are for your love and support of the seminary, and for sharing the vision of creating a stronger common good for the future.

In Gratitude

*Mary Schaller Blaufuss*  
Rev. Dr. Mary Schaller Blaufuss  
Vice President for Advancement

*Thank you*



## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be on February 22nd.

The service will begin at 7pm.



I want to thank my church family and Pastor John for all of the prayers, cards, visits and phone calls since my complete ankle replacement surgery. I still have many more months of recovery, please keep me in your prayers.

God bless all of you!

Mary Dalton

## PIZZA NIGHT at LIFESPRING IN AURORA

The monthly Pizza Night with the women and children at LifeSpring will be Friday, February 3rd starting at 6 pm.

If you would like to donate drinks, salad, desserts, or if you would like more information, please contact Melissa Peters.

Thank you to everyone for your support!



# Summer Camps at Pilgrim Park For 2023

## ONLINE REGISTRATION



## Youth and Intergenerational Camps

**Worship & Wonder June 19-24, Grades 3-10 completed 2022**  
Leaders: **Rev. Sarah Lohrbach, \$380**

**Worship & Wonder Tenderfoot June 22-24, Grades K-3 completed**  
Leader: **Amy Wildermuth, \$180**

**Sports Camp June 26-July 2, Grades 6-9 completed 2022**  
Leaders: **Marc Urban, Scott Urban, and Rev. Suzy Daly, \$445**

**Grandparent & Me / Family Camp July 5-7, Ages 4 and up**  
Leaders: **Pastor Karen Karczewski and Lorri Fookle**  
**First Family Member \$220, Additional Family Members \$120**

**Spirit Camp July 11-16, Grades 3-10 completed 2022**  
Leaders: **Sara Buresh and Diane Hooper, \$380**

**Spirit Tenderfoot July 14-16, Grades K-3 completed 2022**  
Leader: **Terri Kelly, \$180**

For more information on these camps,  
or to register for a camp,  
please visit their website at:

<https://outdoorministries.campbrainregistration.com>

## Matching Gift Update

Our thanks to everyone that was able to help us with our  
2023 Matching Gift campaign.

Your generosity is overwhelming!

We were blessed to not only reach our goal, but we exceeded it as well!

The total amount donated was \$67,803.08!!

Thank you again to our church family for your contributions and our  
donor family that has sponsored this effort for our church again this year!

We are so blessed!



We want to thank everyone who helped to both decorate  
and un-decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Many  
hands made the work quick, easy, and fun! And the  
results were great! We are blessed to have such an active  
and involved church family.

The Worship Ministry Committee

# VOLUNTEERS FOR FEBRUARY



## February 5th

Preschool—5th grade  
Sunday School at  
9am

Worship 10:15 am  
*Sacrament of  
Communion*  
*Change-Up Sunday*

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Nursery:  
Coffee:



Communion Servers: Operations, Nurture, Teaching and Learning  
Lock up: Worship

## February 12th

Preschool—5th  
grade Sunday School  
at 9am

Worship 10:15 am

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Nursery:  
Coffee:

Lock up: Youth



## February 19th

Preschool—5th grade  
Sunday School at  
9am

Worship 10:15 am

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Nursery:  
Coffee: Roger Hatfield

Lock Up: Moderator

## February 26th

Preschool—5th grade  
Sunday School at  
9am


Worship 10:15 am

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Nursery:  
Coffee: Larry and Mary Dalton

Lock Up: Vice Moderator



# February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	
				LifeSpring Pizza Night at 6pm in Aurora		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sunday School -9am Worship 10:15 Communion Change Up Sundae						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday School—9am  Worship 10:15		Happy Valentines Day 				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday School—9am  Worship 10:15	Executive Council Meeting 6:30pm  ☆☆★☆☆ ★Presidents' Day★		Ash Wednesday Worship Service & communion at 7pm			
26	27	28				
Sunday School—9am  Worship 10:15						

**UPcoming  
EVENTS  
AT ECUCC**



**MARCH**

Friday, March 3rd– Pizza Night at LifeSpring at 6pm

Sunday, March 5th—Communion and Change Up Sundaes

Monday, March 20th—Executive Council Meeting –6:30pm



Upcoming Change Up  
Sundaes Dates:

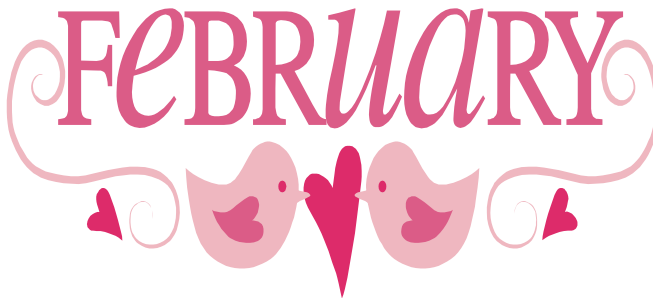
February 4th  
March 5th  
April 2nd  
May 7th



ENGLISH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

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**“SHARING GOD’S LOVE AND PEACE”  
2023 VISION STATEMENT**