



THE PARISH VISITOR FEBRUARY 2024



PASTOR'S PAGE

John Omerod,
Pastor

Hymn-“*For Everyone Born*”



NEED TO CONTACT US?

Church Office:
630.556.3986

Pastor's Cell:
815.761.3910

Pastor's email:
jckburbnk@yahoo.com

Church Secretary's
email:
ecuccsecretary@gmail.com

Visit us on Facebook at:
BigRockECUCC

Church website –
www.ecucc.org

1. For Everyone Born, A Place At The Table,
For Everyone Born, Clean Water And Bread,
A Shelter, A Space, A Safe Place For Growing,
For Everyone Born, A Star Overhead.

**Refrain: And God Will Delight When We Are Creators
Of Justice And Joy, Compassion And Peace:
Yes, God Will Delight When We Are Creators
Of Justice, Justice And Joy.**

2. For Everyone, Lord, A Place At The Table,
And God Will Delight When We Are Creators
Of Justice And Joy, Compassion And Peace:
Yes, God Will Delight When We Are Creators
Of Justice, Justice And Joy.
3. For Young And For Old, A Place At The Table,
A Voice To Be Heard, A Part In The Song,
The Hands Of A Child, The Hands That Are Wrinkled,
For Young And For Old, The Right To Belong.
4. For Just And Unjust, A Place At The Table,
Abuser, Abused, With Need To Forgive,
In Anger, In Hurt, A Mindset Of Mercy,
For Just And Unjust, A New Way To Live.
5. For Everyone Born, A Place At The Table,
To Live Without Fear, And Simply To Be,
To Work, To Speak Out, To Witness And Worship,
For Everyone Born, The Right To Be Free.

Recently, I discovered the wonderful hymn on Youtube, “For Everyone Born.” If you have easy access to Youtube, you can easily locate the choir and congregation of First-Plymouth Congregational UCC, Lincoln, NE who sang it a few years ago. The words were written by Shirley Erena Murray in the late 1990’s, and the tune, written by Brian Mann, came along in 2006. Murray, a New Zealander, composed the words after collaborating with people from around the world. The words are intended for Communion, but can be sung at other times during the year. I won’t add it as a hymn for us to sing anytime soon. The melody is engaging, but unfamiliar, and a bit complicated for the first-time listener.

Verse 1: Everyone deserves “clean water and bread, and a ”safe place” to live. The star is a poetic reference to the Star over Bethlehem.

Verse 2: The Communion table is one of equality where we put aside our differences to include all for a “place at the table.”

Verse 3: The table is one of acceptance where the young and the old support one another, and their “right to belong.”

Verse 4: The Communion table is a place for reconciliation. This verse may be seen by some as contentious as the “just and the unjust” and “abuser and abused” sit together. This verse, however, isn’t anything new in this day and age. You may recall the 1984 movie “Places In the Heart” starring Sally Field. During the closing scene of this wonderful film, the “just and the unjust,” those who engaged in mayhem and deceit, sat side-by-side in church with the whole church community while the bread and wine were passed and shared in an eloquent moment of grace. Reconciliation is the theme of the hymn we have been singing every first Sunday of the month, “Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil.”

Verse 5: The table of the Lord is a place of dignity where people are safe “to work, to speak out, to witness and worship” that is, for everyone born, the right to be free.

This hymn reflects God’s concern for all humanity, and uses us to make this world a better and safer place. Please take a moment to breathe in the words. I hope you are able to find it online!



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be
on February 14th.

The service will begin at 7pm.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

A big thank you is extended to Amy Ashby, Mary Dalton, Becky Byington, Wilma Phillips, and Melissa and Mike Peters for providing enough food to feed 10 homeless people at a DeKalb church during the recent brutally cold weather streak. Though the need was rather sudden, the people of this church responded in love. Several locations in DeKalb were opened as warming centers, but the Unitarian Church was the only site to offer a warm space along with meals that stretched into overnight accommodations at the church. Dan Kenny, a Unitarian member, sends his heartfelt greetings and gratitude to the members of English Congregational Church.

I wish to extend a thank you to the members of English Congregational Church for your generous gifts to me during the Christmas season. You have been most considerate and welcoming to Ginny and me over the past year and a half, and we love you for your friendship!

Pastor John



PIZZA NIGHT at LIFESPRING IN AURORA

The monthly Pizza Night with the women and children at LifeSpring will be Friday, February 2nd starting at 6 pm.

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



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 \$67,232.68!!

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 4th
Sunday School at
9am
Worship 10:15 am
*Sacrament of
Communion*
Change-Up Sunday

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



Communion Servers: Moderator, Treasurer, Worship
Lock up: Treasurer

February 11th
Sunday School at
9am
Worship 10:15 am

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Nursery:
Coffee: Worship Ministry Group

Lock up: Operations



February 18th
Sunday School at
9am
Worship 10:15 am

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

Lock Up: Outreach

February 25th
Sunday School at
9am
Worship 10:15 am

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Nursery:
Coffee: Volunteers Needed

Lock Up: Nurture



FEBRUARY 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1
 2 Worship
 Ministry Meeting at 9:30am
 LifeSpring Pizza
 Night at 6pm in
 Aurora

4 Sunday
 School -9am
 Worship 10:15
 Communion
 Change Up
 Sundaes

11 Sunday
 School—9am
 Worship 10:15

12

13

14 Ash
 Wednesday
 Worship Service
 & communion
 at 7pm

15

16

17



18 Sunday
 School—9am
 Worship 10:15

19 Executive
 Council
 Meeting
 6:30pm

20

21

22

23

24

★ Presidents' Day ★

25 Sunday
 School—9am
 Worship 10:15

26

27

28

29



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1st—Lance Hatfield

2nd—Marilyn Lasecki

5th—Brian Wolbers

6th—Chelsea Hatfield

21st—Roger Hatfield

26th—Sophie Peters



Upcoming Change Up Sundaes Dates:

February 4th

March 3rd

April 7th

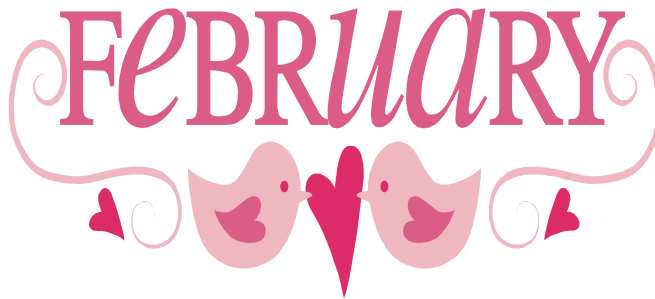
May 5th



ENGLISH
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Pastor's cell: 815.761.3910
Pastor's email:
jckburbnk@yahoo.com

Church Secretary's email:
ecuccsecretary@gmail.com



301 Rhodes ~ PO Box 156
Big Rock IL 60511
Church Office: 630.556.3986

Like us on
Facebook 



“SEEKING JUSTICE, LOVING KINDNESS, AND
WALKING HUMBL Y WITH OUR GOD. ”

2024 VISION STATEMENT