



THE PARISH VISITOR FEBRUARY 2026



John Omerod,
Pastor



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

From the desk of Pastor John

At first glance, these few words from an old Dolly Parton song ring true as we await the warmth of spring. When read again, they speak to us of something deeper than cold weather and icy streets. Life's unexpected turns can feel so intimidating: aging, illness, broken bones, walking and breathing difficulties, the bane of cancer and its treatments, and the “long dark night” of recuperation. In Dolly's words, hope is a theme and an implied confidence (“light”) in God, our confidence in family and friends, and a desire for deliverance from the ills we know too well--the “brand new day a dawning.” My prayer--my wish for you-- is to believe that in some way, the light of God makes clear that “everything's gonna be all right.”

“Light of a Clear Blue Morning” by Dolly Parton

*“It's been a long dark night
And I've been a waitin' for the morning
It's been a long hard fight
But I see a brand new day a dawning
I've been looking for the sunshine
You know I ain't seen it in so long
But everything's gonna work out just fine
And everything's gonna be all right
That's been all wrong.*

*'Cause I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of a brand new day
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Oh, and everything's gonna be all right
It's gonna be okay”*

A “thank you” from Church World Services for our support.



Dear friends from English Congregational United Church of Christ,

Thank you for your generous contribution to help strengthen communities worldwide. Through your support of Church World Service, you are helping to fight the connected challenges of hunger, lack of access to safe water and improved sanitation and extreme poverty.

Here's how:

- You are helping more children to reach their fifth birthday through programs focusing on food security and those providing families with additional income and better nutrition.
- For communities who lack access to safe drinking water, you are helping to dig wells, build gravity-fed water systems, repair pipes, elevate hand pumps and implement solutions using rainwater.
- You are providing educational opportunities for both children and adults, so women can start and grow businesses and children can have a bright future.

The men, women, and children with whom CWS works are both strong and determined. They are building the futures they deserve, and we are proud to help them as they do. I am so moved by the determination of generous people like you, who are standing in solidarity with families in need in the United States and around the world.

May God bless you for your support.

Rick Santos
President and CEO
Church World Service

To stay informed on how you're helping people in need, at home and around the world, visit www.cwsglobal.org, and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

PIZZA NIGHT at LIFESPRING IN AURORA

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

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



Eden
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

December 30, 2025

Dear Friends at English Congregational Church,

On behalf of everyone at Eden Theological Seminary, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support of the seminary. Your financial contribution to the Nicholas J. Ashby Memorial Fund for Counseling Services on 12/29/2025 is incredibly meaningful. It allows us to continue Eden's mission as called to strengthen the life of the church by educating leaders with theological imagination and faithful resilience to join God's loving and liberating work in the world.

Thanks to your generosity, we are engaging people in a seminary education to meet the moment. Our Network Model for Theological Education facilitates collaboration among seminaries, colleges and denominations to equip and support leaders wherever they are in their journey. A new Momentum for Ministry Initiative coordinates learning among congregations, seminaries, students, and alumni to thrive in the current and future digital age.

We are grateful that you belong to this community of supporters and are eager to keep you updated on the impact of your gift.

Once again, thank you for your kindness and support. Should you have any questions or wish to learn more about our programs, please do not hesitate to reach out at mblaufuss@eden.edu.

In Gratitude,

Mary Schaller Blaufuss

Rev. Dr. Mary Schaller Blaufuss
Vice President for Advancement

*In gratitude
Thank you for
this continuing
care for Eden
Students!*

Eden
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

Gratefully acknowledges a gift of

\$ 2,600

Received from

English Congregational Church

*Unless otherwise stated, Eden Theological Seminary has not provided any goods or services in consideration for the contribution acknowledged on this receipt.

Matching Gift Update

Our thanks to everyone that was able to help us with our 2025 Matching Gift campaign.

Your generosity is overwhelming!

Once again, we were blessed to make our goal!

The total contributed by the congregation was \$30,009.01!

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 very 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 beautiful! We are blessed to have such an active and involved church family.

The Worship Ministry Committee

VOLUNTEERS FOR FEBRUARY



February 1st

Sunday School at 9am

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

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Coffee: Jim and Amy Ashby



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

February 8th

Sunday School at 9am

Worship 10:15 am

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Coffee: Worship Ministry

Lock up: Operations



February 15th

Sunday School at 9am

Worship 10:15 am

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Coffee: Volunteers are needed

Lock Up: Outreach

February 22nd

Sunday School at 9am

Worship 10:15 am
CHILI COOK OFF
FOLLOWING
WORSHIP



Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Coffee: Congregation Chili Cook Off

Lock Up: Nurture



FEBRUARY 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Sunday School - 9am
Worship 10:15
Communion
[Change Up Sundaes](#) Pizza Night at LifeSpring at 6pm in Aurora

8 9 10 11 12 13 14
Sunday School—9am
Worship 10:15



15 16 17 18 19 20 21
Sunday School—9am
Worship 10:15 Executive Council Meeting—6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship 7pm



22 23 24 25 26 27 28
Sunday School—9am
Worship 10:15 Worship Ministry Meeting at 9:30am
[Chili Cook Off after Worship](#)



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1st—Lance Hatfield
- 2nd—Marilyn Lasecki
- 5th—Brian Wolbers
- 6th—Chelsea Hatfield
- 21st—Roger Hatfield
- 26th—Sophie Peters



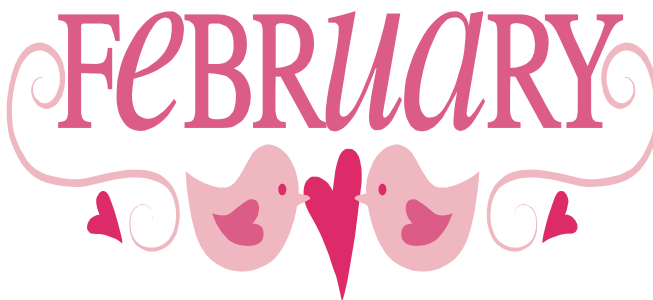
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd Following the Worship Service

Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.
There will be voting and recognition of
the most preferred recipe.

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 



**“A FAMILY OF BELIEVERS,
A COMMUNITY OF SERVICE ”
2026 VISION STATEMENT**