GOOD NEWS

November 2018

Congregational United Church of Christ

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. - 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Greetings Members and Friends of Evansville Congregational UCC,

I pray this message finds you well.

I confess I don't have any grand message to share this month. There are so many things happening in our world leaving folks feeling angry, depressed, overwhelmed, or just plain tired. I pray that you have your plans all set to vote on November 6th (if you haven't already). In the midst of it all, I also pray you are finding the peace and joy that comes from knowing you're connected to something much bigger than yourself.

If you are, I hope you are taking a moment regularly to pause and be thankful. As Thanksgiving nears, gratitude is on my heart today so I want to pause with this month's message to say, 'Thank you.'

Thank you for accommodating my schedule as I have gotten established in Evansville. The Navy stuff is (hopefully) beginning to settle into a more regular routine. Band season is over so there are far fewer evenings when I will need to escape a meeting to pick up my step-daughter from a late practice. I'm beginning to know when regular meetings happen, but I appreciate your patience while I was figuring all of this out.

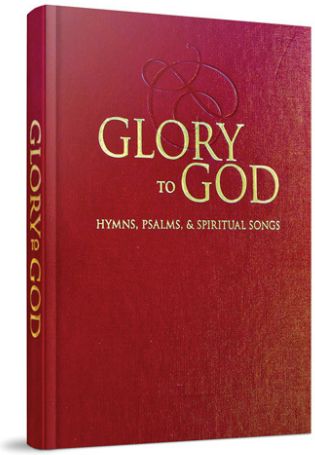
Thank you for your support. Since I have come the bulletin has undergone a big visual change, the pulpit was removed from the worship space, the screen was pushed forward, the projector took a pew spot, written sermons have become audio sermons posted on our website, and we have purchased new hymnals (more on that in this issue of the Good News!). I am certain some of this has been unsettling, but I am thankful for the support you have given me as we try things out and see what God is calling us to do in this union of pastor and church.

Which leads me to my biggest 'thank you' and the reason this is so on my heart. Thank you for all that you did to make my installation such a special day. I do not want to list names here, though certainly a few folks went above and beyond. The church looked lovely. The choir beautifully sang a benediction which was truly experienced as a blessing. Family and friends visiting from various distances were all speaking joyfully about the incredible welcome they received in their visit here and expressed a desire to return again. Thank you.

In our scripture we find Paul saying his own 'thank you' to the faith community in Thessalonica. He wrote about remembering the work they do, the support they offer, and the strength of their faith. Know that everyone in this community is in my prayers for the same reasons. Though I didn't specifically mention your faith in my gratitude, it is all the little things you do to care for me, for one another, and for this community as a whole which speak to the character of that faith. As we move through Halloween and into Thanksgiving, I just wanted to take this opportunity to say, 'Thanks." With everything else happening, gratitude is a vital aspect of faith. I pray you're finding it as well.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Shaun



Coming Soon: **NEW HYMNALS!**

This has been a *long* time coming! For years this church has discussed the need for new hymnals due to some significant functional limitations of our current one. Things were discussed. Committees were formed and, in the end, it was determined we would wait until we had our new pastor. Well, we have our new pastor and now we have our new hymnal!

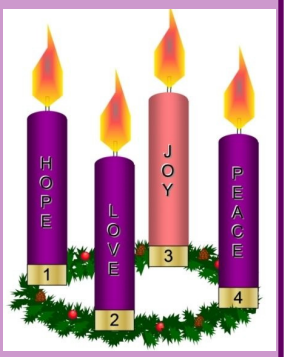
With Pastor Shaun's guidance and discussion by the Diaconate and Music Committees the Council has approved the purchase of the *Glory to God* hymnal.

The purchase was made with the money from our music fund so there is no need to contribute. However, if you would like a hymnal for your personal home use, we will take orders. Hymnals are $18 each. If you would like to add a memorial to one of the new hymnals already on its way, you may do so with an $18 donation to the church's general fund.

This hymnal includes old standards (in familiar language), newer standards, multicultural music, as well as some praise songs. This hymnal checks all the boxes and was the clear favorite. If you have any questions or would like to see a copy of *Glory to God*, please speak with Pastor Shaun and he will be happy to help you out.

Advent is Coming

This year I will be looking for speakers to assist in lighting the Advent Candles during worship. In addition to lighting the candles, there will be a prepared reading as well as an opportunity to reflect on the theme for the week. The weekly themes are, Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. If this is something you might be interested in, please let me know! - Pastor Shaun



Pastor Shaun's Email:

pastor@evansvilleucc.org

Just a quick FYI about Social Media. I am on Facebook. For professional reasons I will not initiate friend requests with parishioners *however*, I will accept them. So if you want to connect via Facebook you can find me by searching 'Shaun C. Drefahl' and I'll happily accept. Let me know if you have any questions. - Pastor Shaun

In November we are collecting Jell-O and fruit cocktail for the Evansville Care Closet Thanksgiving baskets.

Please have donations in by **November 13.**

Ringing in the Holidays

Our church has volunteered to ring bells for the Salvation Army with all the monies staying in Evansville.

We need volunteers to ring bells at the Piggly Wiggly **December 1 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00**. If you would like to volunteer for an hour or two there is a sign- up sheet in the back of the sanctuary on the Mission bulletin board.

It ‘s a fun for our church to help our community!

TOYS FOR EVANSVILLE

We will be participating in Toys for Evansville again this year. Ornaments will be available **November 18.**

THANK YOU!

communityactioninc.
creating pathways out of poverty

We collected **36 hats** and **15 waterproof mittens/gloves** and **7 scarves** in the month of October for Evansville AWARE!

Just one of the many ways our church makes a differeince here in Evansville!

Bottle Collection

We are collecting empty prescription pill bottles for Healthnet in Janesville.

Healthnet provides free dental and medical services to uninsured residents of Rock County.

If possible, please remove labels. There is a box in the Community Room to place the empty prescription bottles near where we collect Pig receipts.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday, November 14

At 1:30

Co-Hostesses: Emmy Hurtley & Debbie Schneider

Devotion: Tammy Eckhoff

Join your friends and neighbors for Evansville's annual Thanksgiving ecumenical worship service.

Monday, November 19 @ 7 p.m.

This year's host is
Saint Paul's Catholic Church

I will be on vacation Thanksgiving week. Because I want to be here for the Ecumenical service, I will begin my vacation on **Tuesday, November 20th** (normally my vacations will begin on Mondays) and **I will return Tuesday, November 27th**.

Keep an eye out on the weekly announcements for more details as the date gets closer.

ECUMENICAL CHOIR

Attention all singers: Ecumenical Choir began **Wednesday, October 17th** hosted by Oak Grove Church. Rehearsals start at **8:30 PM.** Most rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings. We will be preparing a Christmas Cantata and several choral octavos for the Sunday, December 2nd concert. Any and all are welcome! We would love to have you join!

PROGRAM - 'BEST KEPT SECRETS'

In October Women's Fellowship sponsored a Rock County Council on Aging program that gave information on services available to seniors, their families and caregivers. The presenter was Julie Seeman. Invitations were sent to the churches in Evansville and 30 people attended. Margaret Brigham and Bonnie Luchsinger provided dessert.

If you were not able to attend and would like more information on obtaining phone numbers and services from the organization ask Ardis Zwicky or Sonja Heiser.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM COUNCIL MEETING: SEPTEMBER 2018

Pastor Shaun will provide a monthly report including items for discussion and items for discussion. During the Sept. meeting he requested announcements not be shared verbally at the beginning of service but provided in written format to Denise. She will send out a weekly email with announcements/ updates/information about upcoming events.

Pastor Shaun plans to record his sermons; he hopes to have them available through the church website soon.

There is money donated in the past that can be used only for music; Pastor Shaun will explore possibilities for purchasing new hymnals.

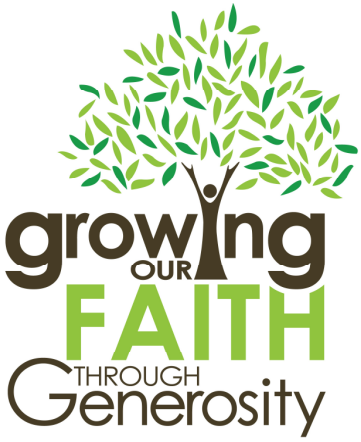
Plans are set for Pastor Shaun's installation service scheduled on October 21, 2018 in the afternoon.

There was no new information yet to share about volunteer opportunities for the General Synod to be held in Milwaukee/ Summer, 2019.

All church members are welcome to attend our Council Meetings held the third Wednesday of the month @ 6pm.

In November, however, the Council will meet on 11/14/18 to avoid meeting the night before Thanksgiving

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE



2019 Stewardship drive will kick off Sunday October 28, 2018. Speakers will share their thoughts/feelings of community and giving to our church. Consecration Sunday will be November 18. Potluck to follow service. Pledge cards will be available at the back of the church.

As we all know, expenses rise each year. 2018

It has been a tight year eased by much appreciated and generous donations. In reviewing the year we anticipate an increased need of 10% by each giver for 2019.

Please search your hearts when considering your commitment to the continued support of our church community. Contact any trustee board member with questions, concerns and suggestions.

In Our Prayers

- Beryl Gribbon Fago and family.
- Thanksgiving for the Installation of Pastor Shaun Drefahl.

Thank you to those who brought treats for Coffee Hour in October: Elvina Patterson, Norma Bjugstad and Sue Deininger.

I would just like to thank the following people who helped make the installation reception for Pastor Shaun Drefahl on Sunday (10/21/18) so inviting and full of a variety of tasty finger foods: Denise Frey, Ardis Zwicky, Norma Bjugstad, Elvina Patterson, Margaret Brigham, Chris Felton, Sue Deininger, Ruth Sperry, Judy Lopez, Lori Janusz, Al and Mary Pitas, Emmy Hurtley, and Kendall Schneider.

Additional thanks to Denise Jones, Tammy Eckhoff, Tina Harnack , Tony Ryerson, and Lori Hebel.

Beryl Gribbon and Duane Reese donated the decorative squash and gourds used to decorate the tables.

It was a fun afternoon to meet and talk with Pastor Shaun's family, friends, past and current ministers in the association and community, and guest speaker Rev. Butler.

Women's Fellowship Reception Coordinator,
Debbie Schneider

New Email for the secretary!

Update your contacts!

secretary@evansvilleucc.org

BIRTHDAYS

November 4

Timothy Kruser

November 8

Zamara Vroman

Stacy Patterson

November 9

Delores Schumacher

Bob Purintun

Ardis Zwicky

November 12

Norm Patterson

November 14

LeAnn Alf

November 16

Keegan Harnack

November 17

Anna Hurtley

November 20

Jane Youngman

November 27

Bailee Havron

November 30

Kenneth Tessman

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Gary & Sue Deininger	11th
Kent & Mary Libby	22nd

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 9:00 Piano Lessons in Sanctuary
4 All Saints' Day 9:15 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship/S.S. 11:30 School Referendum Presentation Daylight Savings Time Ends	5	6 **Election Day**	7 5:45 Diaconate Meeting	8	9	10 9:00 Piano Lessons in Sanctuary
11 9:15 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship/S.S.	12	13	14 1:30 Women's Fellowship 6:00 Council Meeting	15 9:00-11:30 UCC Pastor Group Inspiration Den	16	17 9:00 Piano Lessons in Sanctuary
18 Consecration Sunday 9:15 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship/S.S 11:30 Potluck	19 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's 7:00	20 Committee Budgets Due to Trustees	21	22 	23 **Church Office Closed**	24 9:00 Piano Lessons in Sanctuary
			Pastor Shaun on vacation November 20-26			
25 10:30 Worship/S.S.	26 **Newsletter Deadline**	27	28 10:30 The Manor Service	29 7:00 Trustee Meeting	30	

CONGREGATIONAL UCC

112 WEST CHURCH STREET

EVANSVILLE, WI 53536