



The ECHOES of Edwards



EDWARDS MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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**NOVEMBER
2021**

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Pastor's Column:

My six year-olds love to dance. Mostly it doesn't look like much of anything—it involves a lot of either distractedly moving your feet around while you watch TV, or a lot of hopping and twirling around and then posing dramatically, I've noticed—but they still do it, almost automatically, if there aren't *too* many people around when they hear a song with a beat they like. They also like to try to sing along, even if it's the first time they've heard it.

I should say: Hi, I'm Ben. I'm the new guy. We've been here for about four months now. The real estate market is a mess and a half right now, so we bought a house in Richmond, where I was born, which makes all of this feel a little like coming home. My wife, Lori, is teaching at the high school she was teaching at a few years ago, that she used to have to commute to. The girls, after a few years of being nearly five hours from grandma's house, are thrilled they get to see her four days a week after school. The world turns, and things change, and as uncomfortable as it was to move again, because we (mostly) stayed positive and faithful along the way, we find ourselves in a place that feels familiar and welcoming.

As with anything, it takes time to get used to a new thing. Scott was here with you guys for a long time. Many of you are probably still mourning his leaving. And that's okay. He was a big part of your life. I'm not here to try to be him, which is good, because I couldn't do it. I'm somebody else. And that means there's stuff that's different at church. Some of it you've noticed already. Some of it you'll notice as time goes by. You won't like all of it. Some of it (I hope!) you will. But the itinerary exists to make stronger congregations, who all get to hear the truth of the gospel in new and surprising ways, instead of only from one, singular perspective forever.

And let me say: I'm not here to change everything. I've seen enough to know this is a good church with a good heart. So many of you have already bent over backwards to make us feel welcomed and loved, when you didn't have to. I'm here to help you live the mission of the gospel, not to make it trickier. Some things will change, but what church is for absolutely will not. And I am emphatically not here to make it harder for you to do the things you are already doing for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ.

The holidays are rushing up toward us all over again, and after last year, it'll be good to have a chance to celebrate and worship in ways that are more familiar again. At the same time, we know there will be new challenges, and that after all the machinery of church ground to a halt for so long, it'll be hard to get it up and moving forward again. Sometimes it's our job as the church to sing along, the first time we've ever heard the song. We'll figure it out together, because what we've got to offer the world, they need desperately.

Change is hard and weird, and sometimes it's uncomfortable. Sometimes it's also an incredible blessing. Often it's at least a little of both. Jesus never promised us a world without change, just that he would be with us no matter what happened. Change has always been a part of the deal. But often enough, if you're willing to try, even when things seem very different, even when the future is uncertain, you can still find a familiar beat to dance along to, even if you're not sure it looks like much when you do it.

Thank you for welcoming us here, and the many large and small kindnesses you've shown us. Thank you for your commitment, as a church, to do the things Jesus called us all to do. I am so happy to be here, and to be your pastor.

May God bless you all!

Yours, In Christ,

Ben Dilworth, Pastor



WOW!
PIE AUCTION A HUGE
SUCCESS!

Because of the pandemic last year, the Pledges received for the District United Methodist in 2020 was only 61% so they stepped out in faith and mailed to all the units a \$10 bill plus a challenge of the Parables of the Talents. Our Unit decided to invest our \$10 to

an auction of the famous Jean McCormick's pies. She made a variety of four pies (Peanut Butter, Pecan, Sugar Cream, and Cherry pie) which was auction off on Sunday, November 7, following the Worship Service, with Jim Hensley being our auctioneer. A grand total of \$305 was brought in at the auction with the Peanut Butter Pie receiving the highest bid of \$160. We had another \$47 donated bringing the total to \$352. **Thanks for so much to all the bidders** and those attending for your support. A very **BIG THANK YOU** to **Jean McCormick** for making her delicious pies for the auction and to **Jim Hensley** for serving as our auctioneer!

Special Music Needed for Christmas Eve Service:

We'd like this year's Christmas Eve service, after a year without Christmas Eve services, to be a celebration of the people of the church worshipping together. To that end, if you have a musical talent (or just a willingness to make a joyful noise in front of a whole lot of people), we want you to be a featured part of the worship service! Whether you sing or play an instrument, start polishing up your best (Jesus-themed) Christmas musical performance, and get in touch with the pastor, the church office, or any of our talented musicians to let us know you're willing to be a part of the service that night. We look forward to a service filled with all the beautiful music of a worshipping church!



We're looking to revive the CHOIR! We'd love to have you join us for Choir Practice starting Wednesday, December 1st at 7pm in the choir room at the church. See Kevin or Karen Bunch if you have any questions.



**God Bless you on your Birthday
God be with you everyday!**

Birthdays remind us of God's gift of life.

Your birthday reminds us
of your special place in our Christian family.

(Please notify us of Corrections or Omissions)

Here are the November Birthdays:

- 2: Emily Fields
- 3: Greg Myers, Dale Walker
- 4: Karyn Clevenger
- 9: Denton Shepler, Jean McCormick
- 10: Kathy Burkhead, Kyle Chamness,
Logan Sanford
- 11: Heather Brock
- 15: Brian Winters
- 18: Brian Anderson, Ben Clevenger
- 19: Mary Shepard,
- 23: Vanessa West
- 24: Jennifer Cashdollar
- 25: Katelyn Rhoda
- 27: Diane Rose
- 28: Alyssa West, Robin Singer

Here are the December Birthday's:

- 3: Joy Woodruff
- 4: Alicia Miller
- 6: Tim Bowers, Erica Moffett
- 7: Stanley Nichols
- 8: Anita Faye Howard
- 9: Jennifer Oster, Braden Norris
- 10: Campbell Meier
- 11: Pat Gentry
- 13: Kadence Brock
- 14: Cathy Hensley, Sarah Schwendenman
- 15: Brian Keith Anderson
- 16: Ruth Bertch, Victoria Russell
- 17: Cynda Bilbrey
- 18: Sandi Cox
- 21: Jacob Schwendenman, Karen Bowers
- 22: Linda Jahosky, Amanda Jahosky
- 24: Stephen Whipple
- 25: Jesus, Phil Cox
- 28: Betty Richardson, Rod West
- 29: Russell Hensley, Ryan Hensley
Jerry Tipton
- 31: Beth Fields, Mary Alice Crowder



Thank you to all who helped with our annual Safe Stop, held in Rogers Fellowship Center on 10/31 for Halloween. The Ripberger's, Parker's, and Russell's all helped with day of activities. Thank you to those that donated all the candy – we made 315 treat bags! And to those that brought in cookie donations.

Nov-Dec 2021 Schedule of Events

Saturday, November 20th
Community Thanksgiving Dinner (Carryout Only)
4-7pm
EMUMC Parking Lot at 4 W Seminary St.

Sunday, November 28th
(First Sunday of Advent)
10am Worship Service
Hanging of the Greens after Worship Service

Sunday, Dec. 5th
(Second Sunday of Advent)
10am Worship Service



Saturday, Dec. 11th
9am-11:30am
"Cookie Walk" in RFC



Sunday, Dec. 12th
(Third Sunday of Advent)
10am Worship Service

Sunday, Dec. 19th
(Fourth Sunday of Advent)
10am Worship Service

Friday, Dec. 24th
8pm Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
Edwards Memorial United Methodist Church

Saturday, Dec. 25th
Merry Christmas



Poinsettias

If you wish to order a poinsettia for the Christmas services, please sign-up on the sheet in the parlor on the table by the door. *Please use the second line under your name to write "In Honor of" or "In Memory of"* the person or persons you wish to list. You may also email Dawnn: emumc@emumc.com with your sign-up request.

Make checks out to EMUMC for \$10.00, mark the memo section Poinsettia, and drop in the offering plate. If you e-mail Dawnn your request, you may mail your check or use e-giving for your payment.



Greeter/Usher Schedule:

November 7	Jim & Cathy Hensley
November 14	Jeff & Beth Fields
November 21	Bill & Jayne Bennett
November 28	Rusty & Erin Hensley
December 5	Dale & Debbie Cummins
December 12	Greg & Julie Horn
December 19	Bob & Kathy Burkhead
December 26	Brian & Rhonda Wilkin

What is: "Hanging of the Greens?"

**Will take place after Worship Service on
Sunday, November 28th*

Many churches hold a service of preparation for Christ's coming, which includes hanging greenery traditionally associated with everlasting life. Greens such as cedar for royalty, fir and pine boughs for everlasting life, holly symbolizing Jesus' death and ivy representing the resurrection are used.



What do the candles in your Advent Wreath mean?



The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. In some churches, four purple candles, one for each week in Advent, are used with one larger white candle in the middle as the Christ candle. Other churches prefer three purple or blue candles with one candle being rose or pink, to represent joy.

The lighting of the first candle symbolizes Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.

The Christian Year:

Advent: Beginning the Christian Year and including four Sundays before Christmas, this season is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ.

Christmas Season: The season beginning with the anniversary of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on December 25th and continuing through Epiphany on January 6th.

Epiphany: Celebrated on Jan. 6th, this day marks the coming of the magi to visit the baby Jesus. The season after Epiphany is observed from the First Sunday After the Epiphany until Ash Wednesday. The Last Sunday After Epiphany is also celebrated as the Transfiguration.

Ordinary Time: The Sundays that stand between the two great Christological cycles of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany and Lent-Easter-Pentecost. The shorter period of Ordinary Time is usually designated as Sundays After Epiphany and the longer period is designated Sundays After Pentecost.