



OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS – The People of the United Methodist Church

The **ECHOES** of Edwards

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Pastor's Column:

“Dear Friends,

At the beginning of this New Year, let us join together in a season of prayer. Prayer for each other, for our families, for our church, for our nation and for our world. Let us not pray for only a day, but each and every day as we grow in the realization that **GOD IS MAKING ALL THINGS NEW!**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, all things are possible in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Blessings to you this New Year's and always,

Pastor Scott Bell

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dear God,

Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said “no,” “not yet,” or “wait.” We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts.

We ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you. We pray that you'd keep us far from the snares and traps of temptations. That you would whisper in our ear when we need to run, and whisper in our heart when we need to stand our ground.

We pray for your protection over our families and friends. We ask for your hand to cover us and keep us distanced from the evil intent of the enemy; that you would be a barrier to surround us, that we'd be safe in your hands. We pray that you would give us discernment and insight beyond our years, to understand your will, hear your voice, and know your ways.

We ask that you would keep our footsteps firm, on solid ground, helping us to be consistent and faithful. Give us supernatural endurance to stay the course, not swerving to the right or to the left, or being too easily distracted by other things that would seek to call us away from a close walk with you.

Forgive us for the times we have worked so hard to be self-sufficient, forgetting our need for you, living independent of your spirit. Forgive us for letting fear and worry control our minds, and for allowing pride and selfishness wreak havoc over our lives. Forgive us for not following your ways and for living distant from your presence.

We confess our need for you...fresh...new...again. We ask that you make all things new, in our hearts, in our minds, in our lives, for this coming year. We pray for your refreshing over us.

Keep your words of truth planted firm within us, help us to keep focused on what is pure and right, give us the power to be obedient to your word. And when the enemy reminds us where we have been, hissing his lies and attacks our way, we trust that your voice speaks louder and stronger, as you remind us we are safe with you and your purposes and plans will not fail. We ask that you will be our defense and rear guard, keeping our way clear, removing the obstacles, and covering the pitfalls. Lord, lead us on your level ground.

We ask that you would provide for our needs, we ask for your grace and favor. We pray for your blessings to cover us, we pray that you would help us to prosper and make every plan that you have birthed in our heart to succeed. We pray that others would take notice of your goodness and could not help but to say, "These are the ones that the Lord has blessed."

Help us to be known as great givers, help us to be generous and kind, help us to look to the needs of others and not be consumed by only our own.

May we be lovers of truth, may the fruits of your spirit be evident in our lives - your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set you way before us. May all your plans succeed. We may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing.

To you be glory and honor, in this New Year, and forever.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.



to the following folk who provided us with flowers for the worship services during the month of December:

**Jayne Bennett,
and everyone who donated Poinsettias
for our Christmas Services.**

Upper Rooms:

The January/February Upper Rooms are available in the back of the sanctuary on the table in the corner. Please help yourselves to this wonderful devotional magazine; there is large and small print. There is a basket next to the rack if you wish to leave a donation to help offset the cost.

A Word of Thanks!

Barb and I want to thank all of you for the kind words, cards, and gifts we received during the Christmas Season. We continue to be overwhelmed by your love and support, and look forward to seeing where Christ will lead us in the New Year!

Pastor Scott and Barb

I would like to thank everyone who left a gift or a card on my desk during December. It is nice to know you are thought of, loved and appreciated during this very hectic time of year. I am very blessed and thankful to have a wonderful church family.

Wanda Parker

Budget Report

2018 Budget	\$202,969.00
Received Budget YTD	197,969.00
Received in December	30,293.25
Budget	29,689.25
Fund Raising	100.00
Bishop's Children's Offering	431.00
Poinsettias	73.00

OUR FRIENDS IN THE HOSPITAL OR ILL DURING DECEMBER:



Get-Well Wishes to: Vivian Kaser, Barry Bryant, Melissa Dennington, Bobbi Schuck, Dorothy Finch, Joe Irwin, Lee Alcorn, Stephanie Chamberlain, Courtney Fairchild, Linda Teegarden, Esther Bunch, Malcolm Miles, Quentin Richardson, Taylor Bunch, Ruth Bertch, Juanita Jordan, Audrey Brown, Julia Porter, Lloyd Bowers, Robert Ponder.

The family of Vivian Kaser would like to let the congregation know Vivian had a couple of falls before Christmas and has been moved to a nursing home closer to her daughter. The new address is: Vivian Kaser, Room 110, St Andrews Health Campus, 1400 Lammers Pike, Batesville, IN 47006.

Spiritual Moment

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.

**Happy
New Year!**



**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.
(Notify us of Corrections or omissions)

Here are the **January** Birthday's:

- 1: Erin Schwendenman
- 3: Reida Scott
- 4: DJ Wilkin
- 5: Duane Lafuze
- 6: Kay Parks
- 7: Jim Williams, Debbie Fields
- 9: Jeff Rhonemus
- 10: Helen Peters
- 12: Lorraine Shepler
- 13: James Miles, Kyleigh Payne, Jack Whipple
- 16: Don Clevenger
- 17: Jay Payne, Juanita Jordan, Molly Fields
- 19: Chloe Meier, Shannon Brown
- 20: Donna Bourne
- 22: Dale Cummins
- 24: Tom Jahosky
- 25: Andy Brown
- 28: Robert Dunning
- 31: Levi McCashland, Tom Carr



January

2019

Edwards Memorial
United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		6-8pm ABLBH	7 pm Choir Practice			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service		6-8pm ABLBH	7 pm Choir Practice			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service	7pm Trustees Meeting in RFC	6-8pm ABLBH	7 pm Choir Practice		Newsletter articles are due	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service <i>Fund Raising Dinner in RFC following church</i>	6pm Worship Committee Meeting 7pm Ad Council Meeting in RFC	6-8pm ABLBH	7 pm Choir Practice			
27	28	29	30	31	1-Feb	2-Feb
9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service <i>Fellowship Hour by: Discovery Class</i>		6-8pm ABLBH	7 pm Choir Practice	Newsletter goes out		