

The Eagle



Loving, living, and serving
faithfully – uniting God and
our neighbors.

March 2017

Faith in Chilton

by Rev. Michael Safford-Kennedy

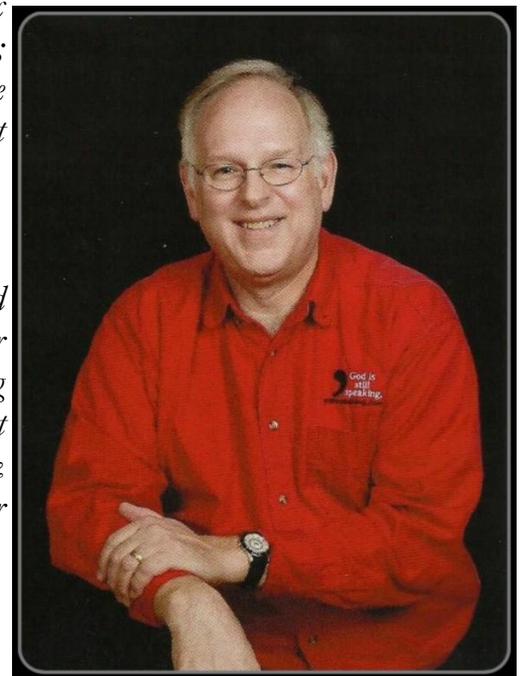
We are about to begin the season of Lent. We do this with our Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00 pm. Many Christians ponder privately, “What is Ash Wednesday and Lent?” While reading UCC newsletters, I came across the following article which attempts to answer these questions and I think does it quite well.

What do we mean by the term Lent? Since at least Medieval times, the church (meaning all denominations and traditions) has had a church calendar — worship topics and foci are scheduled in a way that creates a rhythm to the year, just as the school year does for students. Before regular people were educated, the church year was a vehicle for teaching the story of Jesus’ life to people who didn’t have access to the written word. The details of what parts of the church year any denomination or any church at any point in history celebrates are complicated and historically fraught with details and disagreements. There is a seasonality to the church year, just as school and the weather have seasons. Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches have complicated calendars with Saints’ days to celebrate particular saints, as well as seasons related to our reconstruction of the life of Jesus. Protestants generally dumped the idea of saints, but kept the seasons. But which seasons? While the world outside the church recognizes the names of Christmas and Easter (at least here in the U.S., where they have become commercial, secular events in addition to whatever religious meanings they may have), there are a bunch of seasons that some churches celebrate and others don’t. Some churches don’t even celebrate Christmas and Easter! It’s complicated – but don’t worry, there isn’t a test at the end! We follow a tradition of the church year beginning with Advent, when we prepare for the symbolic birth of Jesus. This is followed by Christmas, the birth of Jesus; Epiphany, the period after the birth and focused on introducing the child Jesus; then a bit of space before we have Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter.

Ash Wednesday:

Ash Wednesday is a day that is intended for quiet contemplation and preparation for the time of Lent, which itself is a preparation for Easter. Ash Wednesday is the day that you see people walking around town with a cross made of ashes on their foreheads — it’s not that they forgot to wash, it is a sign that many churches use to mark the time that we begin a serious time of reflection in preparation for Easter, which is the holiest and most joyous time of the church year.

Cont. on pg 4



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC CORNER . . .

By Elaine Hessel

Work has begun on rebuilding the windchests and re-leathering the wind reservoir of the organ. The project will probably take at least 2 months. During that period, Tom Salzman, the organ technician does part of the work at his Appleton shop in consultation with the Peterson Organ Company. Many of the pipes and parts are presently stored in a corner of the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome (encouraged)

to see the pipes, with many of the parts stored in large, labeled wooden trays. In the meantime, the piano and keyboard will provide the service music.

It was a pleasure to have the combined Senior Choir and Everybody Singers from Our Saviour's UCC of Ripon adding to the February 19 worship service. The choirs were under the direction of Dr. Dave Thompson. The piano (Dave Thompson), cello (Kathy Schieler), and flute (Denise Thompson) trio provided enlightening service music. Note the pictures of the choir and the trio. Varied music always adds to the worship atmosphere and we are grateful to them. It is always a hope that Ebenezer could once more organize a choral group.

With the addition of 3 junior ringers, Ebenezer Brass is capable of ringing with 4 octaves of bells. That requires several ringers to cover more than one position but with practice, the

February 26 anthem will use 4 octaves. This is rarely possible because of varying attendance so we celebrate the times we have at least 13 ringers. New ringers are always welcome, come try it out! Rehearsals are at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays.

A former member of Ebenezer Brass, William Elliott will be doing his Junior Recital at 7 PM in the Franciscan Center of Silver Lake College on Friday, March 10. He is majoring in music performance and will play the trumpet for his recital. William is always encouraged to see Chilton support at his concerts.



Organ pipes laid out in the Fellowship Hall waiting for reassembling



Piles of pipes

CHRISTIAN ED / WORSHIP COMMITTEE

January 29, 2017

Sunday School teachers reported that they use a commercial curriculum but supplement with their enhanced ideas. They work very hard to plan and prepare lessons so regular student attendance is encouraged. Attendance averages about 18 students per Sunday. According to insurance requirements, the safe sanctuary stipulations were discussed. Pastor will bring the necessary insurance forms to the next meeting.

There was a discussion about Christmas worship services that are offered. The Committee would like to hear input from the congregation about their wishes for the services. Tradition has **Christmas Eve 7:00 PM Family worship (83); 11:00 PM Candlelight service (33); 9:30 AM Christmas Day worship (31)**. The numbers in parenthesis show the average attendance for the past several years. As the numbers indicate, attendance patterns have changed, so the question is “Should the number of Christmas services be altered?” (i.e. Change time of Christmas Eve services? Eliminate Christmas Day worship? Eliminate 11:00 PM service?) It will be suggested to the council that this be on the agenda for the property sale congregational meeting to be held this spring. The congregation is asked to make their wishes known to a Committee member or a Council member.

It was suggested to have information about the newly-installed hearing loop printed in the weekly bulletin and included in the Eagle. Also, to have signs on the sanctuary entrance doors.

A flower chart for 2017 is posted on the entrance bulletin board. Folks are invited to sign up to provide altar/floral arrangements in honor/in memory of someone or an event.

March 1, Ash Wednesday service, with ashes, will be at 1:30 PM in building 2 at Century Ridge and 7:00 PM at church. Everyone is welcome at either service. April 13 will be a Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM service with communion at Ebenezer. For the past several years, Good Friday services were held as an ecumenical event in the evening. That group does not seem to be organized any longer. Would we like a noon or evening service at Ebenezer? Suggestion was also given as possibly holding a 1:30 PM Good Friday service at Century Ridge.

An Easter coffee hour will precede the 9:30 AM Easter service. It would begin at 7:30 AM. Tiffany and Jamie will chair the event with Bea, Diane, Ruth and Karen assisting.

Tiffany had a proposal for a possible Mothers’ Day token that her Sunday School class could help make for May 14 Mothers’ Day.

Committee Members attending: Shirley Lisowe, Tiffany Porsche, Kristi Schnell, Jamie Plate, Don and Diane Sattler, Pastor Mike Saford-Kennedy, Elaine Hessil



Our Saviour's Trio playing at Ebenezer on 2/19/17

Faith In Chilton *Cont. from pg. 1*

Lent:

Some protestant churches don't pay any attention to the idea of Lent. Traditionally among UCC churches and the churches we grew out of, there were often Wednesday night study and prayer services in addition to Sunday worship to allow people time to really think about their faith and their relationship with God. You may remember people hearing about kids "giving up chocolate (coffee, movies, etc) for Lent." That was a tradition of austerity in preparation for the solemnities leading up to Easter. In our church, Lent is a time of prayer and reflection rather than austerity. We don't really "give things up for Lent" – instead we dig deeper into what all this means to us. And it means different things to different people — we have lots of different ways of being Christian in our community.

I look forward to the coming Lenten season when we try hard to set aside time and dig deeper into our faith, ask questions, and search for the answers. See you on March 1st. Amen.

UNDERSTANDING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

By Shirley Lisowe

We have recently completed updating our membership records and we want to thank all of you who returned your forms to us. It is important for our church office to continue to have current information on all our members, and with changing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses occurring all the time, it was a good time for this periodic campaign. Directories showing all members' contact information will be available very shortly for each of you.

Membership in Ebenezer Church is open to anyone who has been baptized and confirmed here, or by submitting a letter of transfer, if possible, from another church. Per the by-laws of Ebenezer Church, the responsibilities of a member include regular attendance at worship, holding the church in frequent prayer, participation in church activities and contributing to the finances of the church.

It is important to understand that, while there are expectations of membership, everyone is welcome at Ebenezer, even if one has circumstances which will not allow him or her to meet the membership responsibilities.

Members have the right to vote in church elections and have input in church decision making, and may also represent Ebenezer by serving on the church council.

It is the job of our church to report to the conference (governing body) an accurate number of congregation members, and dues are assessed to us based on that number. It was decided at the most recent annual meeting in January that membership, for reporting purposes only, shall be the number of people who attend services at least twice per year and contribute to the financial health of the church.

One other vote at the annual meeting changed our by-laws to define a meeting quorum as the assembled members at that meeting.

Please help us keep our records current. If you know of any changes or corrections to the information we have, let us know and we will happily update the data. Information can be emailed to the church office at "ebenezeroffice@yahoo.com" or called in to (920) 849-4331 or dropped off in the office Monday thru Thursday from 11:00 am-4 pm.

Newsletter Articles are normally due to the office by email on the third Tuesday of the month (unless the last weekend of the month is early, then it will be the second Tuesday). Please always check the calendar.

Any articles submitted late will not be included unless arrangements have been made with Heather.

Weekly bulletin announcements are due in the office on Tuesday mornings.



Be sure to help yourself to a copy of the March-April devotional guide, "The Upper Room" in the narthex. There is regular and large print available.



A flower chart for 2017 is posted in the church entry, near the Upper Room rack. Please feel free to sign up to provide flowers for either the altar or the communion rail to commemorate a special event or as a memorial.



If you wish to write an article for the newsletter or have any photos you have taken of church related events/people that you are willing to share, please send them to Heather in the office by email (ebenezeroffice@yahoo.com). We want to hear from you!

Happy Birthday

Peter Hofmeister	2
Don Goeldi	3
Kevin Marx	3
Wayne Kress	4
Donna Kuba	6
Kelly Kress	7
Heather Sylaj	7
Christina McGinnis	9
Pat Ploeckelmann	10
Ellie Augsburg	11
Kimberlee Pringle	12
Heather Zwetow	12
Mike Redig	13
Jarren Pingel	13
Pastor Mike Safford-Kennedy	14
Hannah Verrier	15
Dean Beyer	16
Bill Hoff	16
Don Waldvogel	16
Dianne Buechel	19
Paul Halbach	19
Torrey Gasch	19
Janine Bratz	20
Edith Knoespel	21
Eric Plate	21
Jim Scholz	21
Aiden Tanner	21
Karen Cmejla	22
Sue Riesterer	23
Dean Pingel	25
Gary Elliott	28
Roger Kloehn	28
Harold Neuhaus	28

May God bless your years and may you continue to bless Ebenezer!

Council Minutes: February 19, 2017

Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m. Members present: Jamie Plate, Dale Hintz, Kelly Kress, Kelly Brown, Colleen Marx, Kari Meyers, Fred Kubichka, and Pastor Mike. Kari Meyers made a motion to approve January's minutes. Colleen seconded. Motion carried.

Finances Report:

Our January revenue is \$31,518.

Our January expenditures are \$16,650.

Our general fund balance as of January 31st, 2016 is \$83,513.

Our current balance is \$286,375.

Jamie Plate made a motion to accept the financial reports and January's bills. Kelly Brown seconded. Motion carried.

Minister's Report:

Pastor Mike has been busy with correspondence, counseling, hospital, home, and nursing home visits, meetings, prayer, a wedding, and a funeral. Confirmation class has welcomed a new student-Bobby Van Beek.

We are averaging 78 people each Sunday and \$2,132 each week. Pastor Mike will be gone February 27-28 for a spiritual retreat.

Committee Reports:

- **Christian Ed/Music**-Sunday school curriculum was discussed and attendance averages about 18 per Sunday. Safe sanctuary insurance was also discussed and Pastor will bring the necessary forms to the next meeting. Christmas worship services and the change in attendance patterns over the years was brought up and it was decided to ask for input, from the congregation, about their wishes for the services. We are looking for input regarding changing times, omitting a service, or keeping everything the way it is. This will be added to the agenda for the property sale congregational meeting, that will be held this spring. The committee would like the congregation to make their wishes known to a committee or council member. It was suggested that information about the newly installed hearing loop be printed in the weekly bulletin and Eagle and to have signs on the sanctuary entrance doors--this was all in place already this past Sunday. March 1st, Ash Wednesday services will be held at church and at Century Ridge--all are welcome. Good Friday services were brought up--we would like to hear input on time preferences or possibility of just holding the service at Century Ridge. An Easter coffee hour will be taking the place of Easter breakfast--this will be held prior to Easter service.
- **Evangelism**-Meeting was held this am--many exciting ideas/plans for 2017. A "Greeting Card Club" was created and will be meeting the 1st Sunday of the month in the lounge--all are welcome. A "Blessing Box" is also in the works. Flower pots will make their appearance again this summer.
- **Mission**-No new news. Colleen Marx will be the new Council representative.
- **Property**-No new news.
- **Stewardship**-No new news. Fred Kubichka will be the Council representative. *Cont. on pg 7*

Council Minutes *Cont from pg. 6*

Old news

No new updates on the house purchase.

New Business:

The membership directory has been completed, will be printed, and available at church. A huge thank you to Shirley Lisowe and Ruth Aebisher for all of their time and hard work on this big task. A new committee will be formed to keep our membership directory up to date. Shirley Lisowe, Ruth Aebischer, and Karen Cmejla have agreed to be members . Kari Meyers will be the Council representative.

It was discovered that part of the “Chicks” money, from one of the services near Christmas, was stolen. A new plan to secure donations will be discussed in the future.

The 3rd and final Tech grant application was submitted. If the grant is awarded to Ebenezer it will be used for the video portion of the new sound system.

NE Association Annual Meeting will be held April 22 from 8:30-3 at UCC in Ripon. We are in need of 2 delegates. This is where the Tech grants will be announced.

The WI Conference Annual Meeting will be held June 9-11 in Green Lake. We are in need of 2 delegates to attend this as well.

The Calumet County Hygiene Drive from the Salvation Army will be using the Fellowship Hall on March 20, 2017.

Diane Sattler has retired from decorating--A big thank you to Diane for all of her years of beautiful decorations and hard work. Ruth Aebischer and Karen Cmejla have offered to take the decorating over.

Restructuring of our bill paying process was discussed. Kelly Kress, Dale Hintz, and Kelly Brown have agreed to meet to simplify the process.

An extra saving account was noted by Kelly Kress. The origin is not known as of our meeting, but Kelly will be investigating further and we will discuss keeping the account as is or transferring to general fund at our next meeting.

**The next council meeting will be held on Sunday, March 19, 2017.

Kari Meyers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dale Hintz seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Council Secretary,

Jamie Plate

Editor's note: These minutes have not been approved or corrected by the Council yet. They will be at the next Council meeting. If you have any corrections/additions/subtractions, please let Jamie Plate or Heather know (Heather cannot change anything in the minutes, but can forward your message to Jaime). Thank you.

Message from the Conference Minister

Dear friends and colleagues,

Though I am typically a sound sleeper, lately I have found myself troubled in the night. I wake up with a nagging angst about the state of our nation. Things feel uncertain and unsteady. Many of the values I hold so deeply seem compromised. I worry more than ever about the dignity and equality of all human beings and the absence of kindness in our public discourse.

While it is obvious this partisan divide remains bitter and wide, we are wise to remember that our beloved congregations reflect the polarities of our nation. We, who are ordained in the United Church of Christ, must take great care to balance our prophetic voices with pastoral sensitivity, holding the wellness and wholeness of the Church at heart. We are not authorized, or in any way encouraged, to exacerbate divisions. Rather, we are called to lead with love.

That said, when fundamental values are at stake, silence is not an option. Recall when Jesus entered Jerusalem and the multitudes shouted, *"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord."* Some of the Pharisees turned to Jesus and said, *"Order your disciples to stop!"* He answered, *"I tell you if these were silent, even the stones would shout out."* The late Fred Craddock, distinguished professor of New Testament, offers a wonderful commentary on this sentence: "In other words, some things simply must be said; the disciples are pressing what is ultimately and finally true; God will provide a witness though every mouth be stopped; opposition to Christian witness cannot succeed, and the truth will come out, it cannot long be silenced." (Interpretation Commentary on Luke, pages 227-228).

What then, shall we say? We are surely called by God, and expected by the IRS, to rise above partisan rants and speak, instead, about the values of the Gospel. These values are more than a reflection of our unique identity in the United Church of Christ. They are the very embodiment of the life and teachings of Jesus.

Jesus valued a wide welcome and a gracious hospitality toward the sojourner - *"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you took care of me"* (Matthew 25:34-36). Against the backdrop of a travel ban for seven predominantly Muslim countries (temporarily stayed by the 9th Circuit Federal Judge), as well as a halt to refugees preparing to enter the US, over 50 congregations across our Conference have committed to talk about the issue of immigration. These resources ([Link](#)) encourage rich conversation about our own family lineage and the opportunities our ancestors found.

Jesus valued justice and compassion toward the marginalized - *"The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me . . . to bring good news to the poor . . . to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to set free the oppressed and announced that the time has come when the Lord will save his people"* (Luke 4:18-19). These days we hold in prayer and advocacy all that are disenfranchised and marginalized: those suffering racial disparities, the LGBTQ community, refugees and migrant *Cont. on pg. 9*

Cont. from pg. 8

workers, victims of abuse and addiction, the unemployed and imprisoned, the sick and impoverished. Jesus spent a disproportionate amount of his time blessing those whom society relegated least, last, and left out. As of today, 58 congregations in the Wisconsin Conference UCC are now Open and Affirming, and far more are committed to the practice of inclusion by offering a warm and wide welcome to all!

Jesus valued faith over fear and would not be manipulated by scare tactics - *"Peace I leave you, and my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid"* (John 14:27). Homeland security continues to be a preoccupying concern for our country, as it should. Vigilance is necessary. Fear, however, can be used to psychologically paralyze people. It can cause societal hysteria and be used to justify all sorts of human rights violations, such as waterboarding, racial profiling and religious discrimination. I rejoice in the fact that scores of our congregations have been involved in interfaith conversations with Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and Sikh sisters and brothers. In my yard is a sign from World Relief that says: We are not afraid - www.welcomerefugees.com.

Jesus valued a life of humility for those in positions of power and leadership - *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, who . . . taking on the form of a servant, humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on the cross"* (Philippians 2:5-8). Never do we find Jesus seeking to be the center of attention. Never do we hear him boast or desire credit for the grace of God that flowed through him. Instead he said, *"Why do you call me good? No one is good but God."* (Luke 18:19). Arrogance is the camouflage of insecurity. Humility is the virtue of maturity. If we are to bridge any of these divides - the political divide, the economic divide, the racial divide - it will take humility. It will take more listening than shouting and as much self-examination as finger-pointing.

May God grant us courage and compassion, wisdom and love, as we wade through these uncharted and choppy waters together.

In Christ, may you sleep well!
Franz Rigert



March 2017

Ebenezer

United Church of Christ
Rev. Michael Safford-Kennedy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
PLEASE ALWAYS CHECK THE ANNOUNCEMENT CALENDAR FOR THE MOST UPDATED VERSION.			1 ASH WEDNESDAY 1:30 Century Ridge, 7 PM Ebenezer	2	3	4
5 Worship 9:30 AM Council Training 11 AM Spanish Ministry 2 PM	6	7 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7PM Girl Scouts 6-7:30 PM	8 Confirmation 6-7:30 PM Hand bells 6:30 PM	9 Men's Brkfst @ 7 Angels 8:30 AM	10	11
12 Worship 9:30 AM Spanish Ministry 2 PM DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS	13	14 EAGLE ARTICLES DUE Pastor's Birthday	15 Confirmation 6 -7:30 PM Hand bells 6:30 PM	16 Women's Guild Mtg @ 7 Angels 1 PM	17	18
19 Evangelism Cmt mtg 8:30AM Worship 9:30 AM Council Mtg after service Spanish Ministry 2 PM	20 Century Ridge Worship 10 am	21 Girl Scouts 6-7:30 PM	22 Confirmation 6 -7:30 PM Hand bells 6:30 PM	23	24	25
26 Worship 9:30 AM Spanish Ministry 2 PM	27	28	29 Confirmation 6 -7:30 PM Hand bells 6:30 PM	30	31	

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pastormike79@hotmail.com
(pastor)

 Ebenezer UCC Chilton

Office Hours:
Mon - Thurs 11AM-4 PM

Date	Ushers	Readers
1		Patrick Marx
5	Church Council	Teagan Sabish
12	Sunday School	none
19	Fred & Sadie Kubischka Family	Noah Brown
26	Vern & Ann Gasch Dean & Ellie Papendieck	Breanna Cook