

# The Eagle



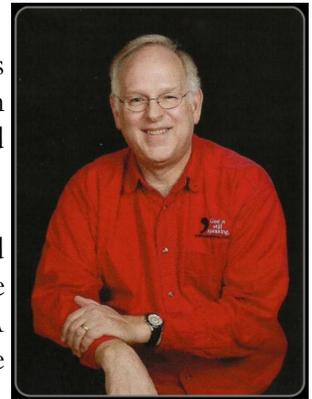
*Loving, living, and serving  
faithfully – uniting God and  
our neighbors.*

October 2017

by Rev. Michael Safford-Kennedy

Our society has witnessed an extraordinary closing of the mind and the heart this past year. Where once we had conversations about the great issues of the day in society and in the church, we now have bitter arguments with accusations and threats replacing ideas.

What does a closed heart look like? We are blind and deaf to what happens around us. We rationalize our behaviors and practice self-deception. When our hearts are closed, we are in bondage. We live not for others or God, but only for ourselves. A closed heart lacks gratitude. We feel we are entitled to whatever it is we get and we should be getting more of it. A closed heart is insensitive to wonder and awe. A closed heart forgets God. A closed heart is separated from the larger world. A closed heart lacks compassion. A closed heart is insensitive to injustice. We are witnessing the hearts of some people opening and standing for righteousness. They do this as a faithful practice of following Jesus on “The Way.”



“The Way” that Jesus presents to his disciples is the way of transformation. To be a disciple of Jesus is to examine our lives and then open our hearts to his transforming power. This is not always easy, but it is always good and it leads to closer discipleship with Jesus and a closer bond with Creation.

How do we go about seeking this transformation? First and foremost is to come to God. Present yourself to God in worship. Sing the songs while paying attention to the words and to the music. Pay attention to how your mind and heart are reacting to the piece of music.

Let your heart hear the words of the liturgy. If you can say something from memory, do it and let your heart and mind be moved by the repetition and cadence of the words and phrases.

Participate in Communion. We share Communion once per month, please don't miss it. Lose yourself in the time of Communion. What are those words saying to you? What do they mean? What are you feeling as you take the bread and the wine? What are you feeling and thinking as you wait for everyone else to receive the bread and wine?

Listen to the sermons. What reaction do they elicit from you? How does the sermon relate to your life? What challenges does the sermon present to you for Monday morning?

Read the Bible and read about the Bible. There are many books that provide valuable information about what was happening when parts of the Bible were written. A Study Bible offers incredibly helpful information about each book of the Bible.

Clearly, many of us need to have our hearts changed and renewed. This fall begin exercising some of these practices which will help open your hearts amid a closed world.

Peace and Grace,

*Pastor Mike*

## Sunday School Corner...

Teachers and students have hit the ground running with the start of Sunday School for the year. Although we do not have enough 4-year-olds to hold a class this year, we have added an additional class for our 4th graders. We have welcomed some new faces and welcomed back those from last year. Our confirmation class is the largest it has been in a very, very long time. Teachers this year are: Kristi Schnell, Ann Gasch, Tiffany Porsche and Shirley Lisowe. Pastor Mike leads the confirmands on Monday evenings.

We always designate our weekly offering to a specific mission project, most often one that will benefit children. This year we have selected the American Red Cross. With all the natural disasters the United States has faced in the past few weeks, we took a look at how the children may be impacted. Hurricane Harvey in Houston and its aftermath didn't just mean extra days of summer vacation for the kids because schools were not able to open (it was estimated that over 230,000 kids were unable to start school on time), but when they could return it would be to schools with structural damage, broken windows, flooded gymnasiums and destroyed books and classroom supplies. Beyond that, there is a huge emotional and academic impact that could plague these kids for years to come in the form of depression, anxiety and physical illness or injury. Even once Houston and Florida and other impacted areas are back on their feet, there will always be another disaster—another hardship for kids and families to face. Red Cross is always there, no matter the time, place or circumstances. We would invite the congregation to support our mission throughout the year. Any donations you mark “Sunday School” will be forwarded to the Red Cross at the end of our school year.

We wish you could all experience the enthusiasm our kids bring every Sunday morning, and we hope you will all receive them and encourage them as your own. Oh, by the way, were you in church on Sept. 10 to hear Jennifer Pringle and her grandpa (Don) sing??



Sunday school begins at 8:30 a.m. and finishes about 9:15 a.m. Classes are held in the basement. It's not too late to begin attending. Our teachers welcome students anytime in the year. It's never too late to attend Sunday school.

## Adult Faith Formation

This fall we are offering two classes: The Wired Word and Confirmation for Adults/Faith Formation. The Wired Word is a topical Bible study focusing on a current event in the news. The study provides questions and scriptures that help us understand what is happening in the world through the lens of scripture. This class will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays beginning October 10.

Confirmation for Adults/Faith Formation is a class designed for teens/adults who want to expand/refresh their knowledge of the basics of the faith. We will also be covering how we use our faith as adults living in a complex world. This class will meet Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. beginning October 12.

## NOTES FROM THE MUSIC CORNER...

One of the frequently listed hymn favorites that the congregation requested in June was “I Am the Light of the World.” It is a hymn easily sung with gusto! That was exactly what happened for Sunday School kickoff Sunday, September 11, when Jennifer Pringle and her Grandpa, Don Pingel, sang it to precede Children’s time. It is truly an inspiration to see how music transcends the generations! THANK YOU Jennifer and Don! Do we have any other ‘generation’ combinations that could provide special music, either vocal or instrumental?? It adds an extra ‘spark’ to the worship service.

On September 11, Ebenezer Brass was welcomed back to a new season under the direction of Jill Sippel. We are grateful for Jill stepping up and for the 9 returning ringers plus 2 Junior ringers. Their determination and dedication help to provide special music on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. The sermon theme for September 24 was “Tension in the Wilderness” so the bell choir began the service with “God’s Train” to calm the tension. Despite the fact that Janine Bratz has 2 artificial eyes, she added an extra whistle to the ‘train!’ She has a keen ear with a strong sense of rhythm and likes to participate so we hope to hear more from her in the future. New ringers are always welcome. Junior rehearsal begins at 5:45 p.m. and Ebenezer Brass begins at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. Thank you to the Juniors for helping put the equipment out!

It was very timely for the congregation to sing a specifically written song in response to all of the natural disasters that has dominated the news. “O God, We’ve Prayed in Wind and Rain” was written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette as a way of responding to the many ‘weighty’ concerns around the world.

*Thank you goes out to Elaine Hessel as she retires from her Bell Choir director duties. Elaine has led the Bell Choir for many years and has brought her deep knowledge and love for music to the choir, and then to the congregation, and the wider community. She will be missed. Her contributions will always be cherished. Thank you for your years of faithful service!!*

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Be sure to help yourself to a copy of the September-October “The Upper Room” in the Narthex. Regular and large print are available.

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A flower chart for 2017 is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway by the church office. 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.

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DIFFICULTY HEARING???

Don’t forget the availability of the Hearing Loop for anyone with hearing aids or the head phones available at the entrance to the sanctuary.

## Christmas Walk Frenzie

When I volunteered to take on the role of being chairperson for the Christmas walk, Shirley had warned me one of the daunting tasks of just finding participants to partake in this wonderful experience. Well, I'm starting to realize what she meant by that! We like to try to have 5 to 6 places to visit, and at present date I only have one. I know you may think there is plenty of time, yet something like this takes a lot of organizing and I'm starting to get in a frenzie!!! So I'm sending it out there for anybody who knows of ANYONE that would be willing to open their homes for this wonderful cause. They do NOT have to be a member of our congregation.; it is for anyone in the community. It is a major fundraiser for our church missions projects and I'd HATE to see it NOT take place. So I'm asking in desperation for your help! If you know of anyone or have any suggestions, please email me at [karen.cmejla@outlook.com](mailto:karen.cmejla@outlook.com) or approach anyone on the Missions Committee. Thank you very much in advance for your consideration and cooperation.

Karen Cmejla and Missions Committee

### PROPERTY PURCHASE UPDATE

The council would like to update the congregation on the Washington Street property next door. Even though we reached an agreement with the price of the property, we were unable to reach an agreement on the offer to purchase regarding inspections. Since there is a law that states no tenants can be removed from the rental property after October 1st, we will not be able to proceed with the purchase as of this time.

## 2nd Annual Ebenezer UCC Brat Fry



Fall is coming faster than we expected!! So, it's time to start planning the Ebenezer UCC Brat Fry. Heritage Orchard is hosting us again during the Rural Arts Tour on October 13, 14, and 15. We will again run from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Friday, and 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday.

The proceeds will be split into the areas of the church that the volunteers choose to represent. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for volunteers to sign up for shift(s). The schedule is in hour increments so we are able to staff the whole day.

This year our menu will include: Johnsonville brats, Hickory Hills hamburgers, and a slice of pie from Heritage Orchard. Coffee and hot apple cider will also be available. If you are unable to help, please consider coming down for lunch or a piece of pie. Thank you again!

Any questions, please call Stephanie Adamietz at 920-645-8707.

### PRAYER LIST

Tod	Arlene	Pat	Scott
Katy	Larry	Rod	Robert
Louise	Shelly	David	
Da'Nisha	Brian	Gracie	
Lorraine	Pat	Janine	
Linda	Jon	Pastor Susan	

Due to privacy laws, last names cannot be printed on the prayer list because the Eagle goes on the church website which can be viewed by anyone on the internet. Thank you.

Coffee Hour Sponsors

- October: Property Committee
- November: Evangelism Committee
- December: Church Council
- January: Women’s Guild
- February: Mission Committee
- March: Church Council
- April: Worship/Christian Education Committee
- May: Bell Choir



This is the schedule that was followed for last year and will be used again this year. If any month does not work out for a group, please contact another group and see if they will exchange with you. Otherwise this schedule will be kept and used in years to come. If there are any changes that are made, please let the church office know.

Veterans

Have you, or do you know a member of the church, that served in any branch of the armed forces? The Membership Committee would like to have those names on record, past or current, so please let: Shirley Lisowe ([shirleylisowe@gmail.com](mailto:shirleylisowe@gmail.com)), Ruth Aebischer ([draebischer@outlook.com](mailto:draebischer@outlook.com)), Karen Cmejla ([karen.cmejla@outlook.com](mailto:karen.cmejla@outlook.com)), or Kari Meyers (Council Rep. [kmeyers@vernscheese.com](mailto:kmeyers@vernscheese.com)) know by either telling them when you see them or sending them an email. Please include the name and what branch they were in by **Sunday, October 15**. We would like to recognize members of the church that have served and thank them at appropriate times during the year for their service to our Country.



Garrett Ditter	1
Donna Pingel	1
Gabriel Goodrich	2
Tony Hintz	3
Elaine Hessil	4
Kay Hertel	8
Krysta Roehrig	9
Sue Verrier	11
Shirley Ramey	15
Delmar Riesterer	18
JorJa Ninnemann	18
Vernon Thede	19
Kelly Goodrich	21
Mackenzie Brown	21
Sterling Brown	21
Kurt Knoespel	24
Steve Dvorak	25
Ann Gasch	26
Aubrey Plate	28
Riley Schneider	28
Trinity Kubichka	30
Gerald Pagel	30
Kelly Kloehn	31

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

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Newsletter Articles are due to the office on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (unless posted otherwise); be sure to check the calendar for the month’s due date. Weekly bulletin announcements are due in the office on Tuesday mornings. Please also share any pictures for inclusion! All items should be sent to [ebenezeroffice@yahoo.com](mailto:ebenezeroffice@yahoo.com).

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On Sunday, October 15, St. James UCC (13312 Pioneer Rd. Newton, WI) will be hosting a family-style ham dinner and time of fellowship from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. See bulletin board for details.

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The Confirmation Readers for the Month of October are: October 1: Patrick Marx, October 15: Noah Brown, October 22: Breanna Cook, and October 29: Claudia Brown (*no Confirmation reader October 8*).

## Council Minutes: September 17th, 2017

Meeting called to order at 10:50 a.m. Members present: Jamie Plate, Dale Hintz, Kelly Kress, Colleen Marx, Kari Meyers, Kelly Brown, and Pastor Mike. Fred Kubichka was absent. Kelly Brown made a motion to approve the agenda. Kari Meyers seconded. Motion carried. August's meeting minutes were previously approved via email.

### **Finances Report:**

Our August revenue was \$7,177.

Our August expenditures were \$8,278.

Our total equity, as of August 31st, 2017 was \$78,380.

Our balance as of August 31st was \$276,248.

Kari Meyers made a motion to accept August's treasure's report. Kelly Brown seconded. Motion carried. Jamie Plate made a motion to accept August's financial reports. Colleen Marx seconded. Motion carried.

### **Minister's Report:**

Pastor provided a brief synopsis of his activities, during mid-August to mid-September 2017, which included communion, counseling, meetings, prayer, preaching, and numerous correspondence. Pastor also made home, nursing home and hospital visitations.

We are averaging 65 people each Sunday and the average offering is \$1,790 each week. Confirmands will be meeting with Pastor Mike on Mondays at 6 p.m. starting September 18th, in the lounge, in the Narthex.

Pastor is planning to have Bible studies - with 1 in the am and 1 in the pm, once weekly for the time being. A sign-up sheet is located, on the table, in the Narthex.

New member classes are scheduled for September 24th and October 1st, 2017. Classes will be after church. New members are encouraged to attend both sessions, if possible. "New Member Sunday" is planned for October 8, 2017.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Christian Ed/Music- Sunday School started back up September 17th, 2017.
- Evangelism - The Blessing Box is complete and will be placed outside near the Washington Street entrance.
- Mission - No new news.
- Property - No new news.
- Stewardship - No new news.
- Membership - Please let someone on the Membership Committee (Shirley Lisowe, Ruth Aebisher, Karen Cmejla, or Kari Meyers) know who has served in any branch of the armed forces from our congregation, past or present, by October 15th. We would like

to recognize them for their service to our country.

### **Old news:**

No new updates on the Braille system.

The negotiations to purchase the property next door are at a stand still.

The Office Secretary position has been filled. Jacqueline “Jackie” Kempf was offered and accepted the position. The office hours will now be Monday through Thursday, from 10-3 p.m.

A big thank you to Ruth Aebischer for all her time spent filling in as church secretary! All of her hard work did not go unnoticed.

Jill Sippel has taken over as the Bell Choir director.

### **New Business:**

No new business.

Future Ebenezer Events:

Ebenezer will be hosting the 2nd annual Brat Fry at Heritage Orchard. The brat fry will be October 13-15th, in conjunction with the Annual Rural Arts Tour. Times will be Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Proceeds will be split into the areas of the church that the volunteers choose to represent. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex soon.

\*\*The next council meeting will be held on Sunday, October 15th, 2017.

Kelly Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dale Hintz seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Council Secretary, *Jamie Plate*

### **NEW FACE IN THE OFFICE**



**Jackie Kempf** started as the new office secretary on Monday, September 18. She lives in Harrison with her husband, Matthew, 3 children: Paige (16), Dominic (11), and Sydney (7), and their dog, Sasha. She is originally from Waukesha, WI, and graduated with a BA in Communications from UW-Whitewater in 2000. She enjoys reading, traveling and volunteer work, and stays busy attending all her children’s sporting, musical, church and school activities. They are active members of Memorial Presbyterian Church downtown Appleton.

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Looking for a gift for the person who has everything? Consider sponsoring an issue of the Eagle (suggested \$25), the week’s bulletin (suggested \$10) and/or sign up to provide altar flowers/plants. There are Eagle or bulletin slips and a flower chart on the bulletin board outside the office. Be sure to give the slips and flower information to the office so recognition is properly acknowledged in the bulletin for that week!

# October 2017

# Ebenezer United Church of Christ

Rev. Michael Safford-Kennedy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Spanish Ministry 3:30 p.m.	2 Confirmation Studies, 6 p.m. in Lounge	3	4 Jr. Ringers 5:45 PM Regular Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship/New Member Sunday 9:30 a.m. Christian Ed/Worship Committee meeting after service Spanish Ministry 3:30 p.m.	9 Confirmation Studies, 6 p.m. in Lounge	10 The Wired Word 10:00 a.m.	11 Jr. Ringers 5:45 PM Regular Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	12 Men's Breakfast @ 7 Angels 8:30 a.m. Confirmation for Adults 6:30 p.m.	13 Brat Fry @ Heritage Orchard 9 a.m.—4 p.m.	14 Brat Fry @ Heritage Orchard 10 a.m.—3 p.m.
15 Veteran Information Deadline Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Council Meeting after Service Brat Fry @ Heritage Orchard 10 a.m.—3 p.m. Spanish Ministry 3:30 p.m.	16 Confirmation Studies, 6 p.m. in Lounge	17 The Wired Word 10:00 a.m.	18 Jr. Ringers 5:45 PM Regular Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	19 Women's Guild @ 7 Angels 1 p.m. Confirmation for Adults 6:30 p.m.	20	21
22 Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Spanish Ministry 3:30 p.m.	23 Confirmation Studies, 6 p.m. in Lounge	24 <b>EAGLE ARTICLES DUE</b> The Wired Word 10:00 a.m.	25 Jr. Ringers 5:45 PM Regular Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	26 Confirmation for Adults 6:30 p.m.	27	28
29 Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Spanish Ministry 3:30 p.m.	30 Confirmation Studies, 6 p.m. in Lounge	31 The Wired Word 10:00 a.m.	<i>ALWAYS CHECK THE CURRENT SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENT CALENDAR FOR THE MOST UPDATED VERSION.</i>			

Ebenezer UCC Chilton  
44 W. Washington St.  
Chilton, WI 53014  
920-849-4331  
www.ebenezerchilton.org  
ebenezeroffice@yahoo.com (office)  
pastormike79@hotmail.com (pastor)  
www.facebook.com/ebenezerucc/  
**Office Hours:**  
Mon-Thurs 10 a.m.—3 p.m.



Date	Ushers
1	Church Council
8	Sunday School
15	Kristi & Ryan Schnell, Kari Meyers, Kurt Knoespel
22	Mike Redig, Sue Verrier, Kelly & Wayne Kress
29	Vern & Edith Knoespel, Kari Meyers, JoAnn Lakin