



The Eagle

October 2013



Ebenezer United Church of Christ
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**This Eagle is in
memory of Elmer
Sohrweide and
Lorena Sohrweide.
Her chocolate coated
seafoam candy was
enjoyed by so many
for decades.**



Mission Statement of this Church

Ebenezer United Church of Christ is a vibrant faith community that strives to...

- ◇ Serve the spiritual needs of our neighbors.
- ◇ Transform by walking in Jesus' footsteps.
- ◇ Openly reach out for opportunities to share God's word at home and abroad.
- ◇ Nurture our relationships with God and each other.
- ◇ Empower and embrace faith, hope, and love in God!



PASTOR'S CORNER

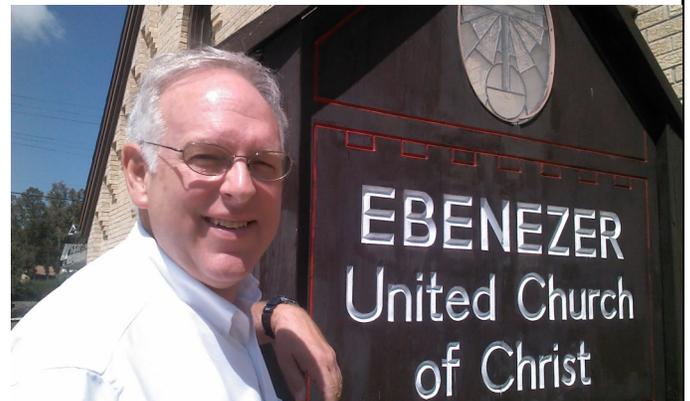
While watching the movie Les Miserables I heard the main character ask several times "Who am I?" At the end of the movie he answers his question with a well rehearsed brief statement of a "sin" from his youth. That is his only answer, a questionable "sin." His son-in-law, answering the same question says he is a saint, reciting the many ways the main character was a blessing to family, friends and strangers. How can two people have such different views?

I am a husband. I am a father. I am a pastor. I am all of those plus I have many other roles but one more thing I am encompasses all of those roles; I am a Christian. Because I am a Christian I see the world, my roles in the world, and myself in a particular light.

The light that illuminates all my roles and my being is forgiveness. I try to be the best I can be. I try to follow the commands to love my neighbors and my God. Usually, I am able to live out these commands but sometimes I fail. Sometimes I commit what I like to think are small, inconsequential sins that matter little in the grand scheme of life. A couple of times those sins were not small. When I reflect upon those sins I tend to define myself with those sins and I begin to sound like the person from Le Miserables; I am a bad person, I have failed my loved ones, and I have failed God.

Yet, I am not simply the sum of my actions. I am a Christian. I belong to someone greater than myself. Jesus Christ walks with me and forgives me. His forgiveness allows me to keep getting up morning after morning and walking bravely into the world where I will try to follow the commands to love and I will occasionally fail to keep those commands. This forgiveness frees me to not be that character from the movie who carries his

Cont. on page 2



Cont. from pg. 1

perceived failure from his youth and he allows it to overwhelm all the good he does with the rest of his life. He is tormented by his self perception. He cannot forgive himself. He has been forgiven by God but not by himself.

How many times do we confidently proclaim God's forgiveness of others sins but reject God's forgiveness for our own sins? Every time we say, "I can't forgive myself for what I have done." We reject God's wisdom, power and grace. The biggest struggle for some people is to believe God has forgiven them. Forgiving others is "easy"; forgiving oneself is far more difficult.

Every person has been sinned against. Every person has sinned against someone. You have been forgiven. Accept the forgiveness. Accept the new life that comes with that forgiveness. Live into the new life with love and more forgiveness. Let the hurts of the past melt away and do not let them block the road ahead.

God has many blessings for you and for Ebenezer. Live with forgiveness in your hearts. Move into the new life God offers.

Pastor Mike

Sunday School



THIS MORNING WHILE WALKING MY DOG I SAW MANY YOUNG PEOPLE, SOME ACCOMPANIED BY PARENTS AND SOME NOT, WALKING TO SCHOOL, WAITING FOR THE BUS, HAVING THEIR PICTURES TAKEN ON THE LAWN WITH BACKPACKS FULLY LOADED. THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL HOLDS MANY HOPES AND DREAMS FOR BOTH CHILDREN AND PARENTS. MUCH THE SAME HAPPENS AT CHURCH.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGAN SEPT. 8. WE WILL BE BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR THE LITTLE ONES. WE PROMISE TO HELP DEVELOP THE FAITH OF YOUR CHILDREN. SOME SUNDAYS WE WILL DO THIS BY RETELLING A FAMILIAR STORY, OTHER SUNDAYS IT WILL BE TELLING A NEW STORY. AS ALWAYS KIDS LEARN MUCH BY ASKING QUESTIONS AND THIS IS AND WILL BE TRUE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL. WE LOOK FORWARD TO QUESTIONS AND THE "AH-AH" MOMENTS WHEN THE ANSWERS START TO MAKE SENSE.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF INVITES ALL YOUTH, WHETHER MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH, FRIENDS, OR TOTAL STRANGERS TO COME ON BY AND SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING ON AT 8:30 AM SUNDAY MORNINGS AT EBENEZER.

The Church of Firsts

Since 1957, the United Church of Christ has been the church of firsts, weaving God's message of hope and extravagant welcome with action for justice and peace. Together, we live out our faith in ways that effect change in our communities. The UCC's many "firsts" mean that we have inherited a tradition of acting upon the demands of our faith. When we read in Galatians: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus"—a demand is made upon us. And so we were the first historically white denomination to ordain an African-American, the first to ordain a woman, the first to ordain an openly gay man, and the first Christian church to affirm the right of same-gender couples to marry. We were in the forefront of the anti-slavery movement and the Civil Rights movement. Our response to the demands of our faith is woven into the history of our country. *-taken from ucc.org*

AED

Recently There was a request for an AED in our church. An AED, Automated External Defibrillator, makes it possible for more people to respond to a medical emergency where defribulation is required. It is a postable device that checks the heart rhythm. If needed, it can send an electric shock to the heart to restore normal rhythm. They are easy to use; for each unity comes with instructions which will give voice prompts to the personnel when needed.

Since there is a substantial cost to the unit, Jane Schroeder has been in contact with Jennifer Weber from Calumet Medical Center looking into the availability of grants that would defer a portion of the cost. More future information will follow as to the possibility of partial funding sources.



R D R

Items for the rummage sale can be dropped off at the church during office hours all year long.



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OCTOBER 6
CHURCH COUNCIL

OCTOBER 13
SUNDAY SCHOOL

OCTOBER 20
JOE & JUDY MASTERCOLA
NICOLE MOORE
SUE VERIER

OCTOBER 27
MARK RUSCH
MIKE REDIG
RALPH SCHMID
TERRY SCHENKUS

Please look for and pick up your offering envelopes on the table by the East entrance. Having the right envelope and/or number is



very important for tax purposes!

Sunday School has gotten off to a great start this year. We have new families, new faces, a new class of 3-year olds and Pastor Mike will be working with 3 confirmands during the Sunday School hour. We'll continue our "Children's Worship Sunday" every 2nd Sunday of the month when the kids will assist with the responsibilities of the worship service and will enjoy figuring out what's in Pastor Mike's bag. We're inviting the congregation to join us in our mission project for the year. You will find containers of M&Ms in the back of church. Help yourself to one. Enjoy the candy, and then fill the container with quarters. When it's full you will have saved \$13.00. We will be forwarding all the money collected this year to Feed My Starving Children, an international charity which can feed a complete nutritious meal for 24 cents. By filling your M&M container, you will have helped to feed 56 children! A sweet way to contribute to a worthy cause.



From the Council:

Ebenezer has received a gift of just over \$13,000.00 from the estate of Marvin Edens. Marvin and his mother were former members of our congregation. He had most recently been living in the Adams/Friendship area of the state. Some of you will remember his mother, Lydia, as a former organist at Ebenezer.



The gift is being held in the bequests and gifts account for now.

Lois Papendieck

Our sincere sympathies to the family of Lois Papendieck who was born into eternal life Monday, September 2. She will be missed by her family and her church family.

Services were held at the church Saturday, Sept. 14 at 11:00 am. Visitation was at the church from 9:30 – 11:00 am.



PASTOR'S HOURS

Pastor Mike's hours are:

Monday 10:00 am—3:00 pm

Wednesday 10:00 am– 3:00 pm

Thursday 10:00 am– 3:00 pm

Please call ahead to make an appointment as he will not always be in the office at these times.



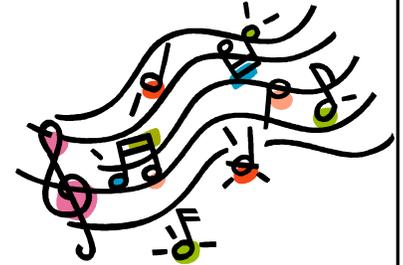
The church kitchen is missing two of their roasters and some utensils. If you had borrowed any of these things from the kitchen please return them as soon as possible so we have them the next time they are needed.

Thank you.

The Women's Guild



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC CORNER



Just as school bells began ringing in September, so Ebenezer Brass began a new season of ringing for worship. After 21 years of rehearsing on Monday nights, rehearsals were changed to Thursdays to accommodate the ringers' schedules. It is a thrill to welcome back nine returning ringers plus two new members— Claudia Brown and Nicole Moore. Claudia and Nicole are putting forth a great deal of extra effort by coming a half hour earlier (6:00 PM) to do the introductory session and then being an integral part of the three octave choir at 6:30 PM. It is also great to have Ellie Papendieck back after a few years off. There is an exciting year of musical contribution ahead with the combined efforts of these eleven ringers! The intent is to have music be part of the 'meat' of worship and not just 'frosting'.

You may wish to mark your calendar for Friday, December 13 when Ebenezer Brass will again join efforts with other choirs from the area to present "Sounds of Chilton". Details will follow in November.

There continues to be a plea for vocalists to render special worship music. If anyone is interested in being part of a vocal choir for Advent/Christmas, please contact Jane Schroeder. It would be so enriching to have Chancel Choir back! Remember, instrumentalists also have much to offer.



The congregation as a whole can add a real boost to worship when they sing with conviction and "gusto". The banner on one wall of the sanctuary so appropriately expresses the music mission:

COME, SING PRAISES TO THE GOD OF GLORY.

IMPORTANT

Attendance at church picks up as we approach autumn. During the summer it was easy to write a check or put some cash in the offering plate. It is also easy to forget about your offering envelopes.

Please remember to pick up and use your offering envelopes throughout the year. Use of the envelopes ensures your privacy and makes recording the correct amount of money to the correct person a simpler and more accurate task.

Don't forget to use those envelopes. (If you need new envelopes just leave a note or call Heather at the church. She'll get new envelopes to you for the next Sunday.)



Summer is rapidly fading into our memories; school has started, leaves are changing colors, and the "church year" has returned. With the beginning of a new church year our programs are getting underway and that means people will be wondering "who, what, where and when" when it comes to our church life.

The best way to keep people informed is to publicize your group's activities in the *Eagle* and in the weekly bulletins. This is especially true for the new kid on the block, Pastor Mike. He doesn't know the regular schedule of activities, so what is routine for everyone is brand new for him. Take pity on Pastor Mike and keep him informed of what's coming up in the church year.

Please get your articles to Heather by the 4th Monday of the month so she can get the *Eagle* published before the start of the next month. That means the deadline for the October *Eagle* is Monday, September 23. Weekly bulletin announcements are due Tuesday morning.



THE PURPOSE STATEMENT OF THIS CHURCH

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



Eva Kris
Joyce Denise
Tod Donna
Alice Jean

Due to privacy laws, we can no longer list last names of members of our congregation on the prayer list above because our *Eagle* goes on the church website which can be viewed by anyone on the internet. Thank you.

Scrip



Please keep in mind to buy scrip if you plan on making a shopping trip, gassing the car, or having dinner out!! It helps our church meet our goals!



We have partnered with United Community to help raise funds needed to help our church. We are using the funds towards our OCWM contributions and the General Fund. Many of you have been using your United Community Card at the partnered businesses and we thank you for doing that. If you do not have a United Community card and would like more information on how to obtain one, please contact the church office at 849-4331.

**Ebenezer United Church of Christ
Treasurer's Report
August 31, 2013**

July 31, 2013 Balance	\$ 31,248
August Revenues	8,678
August Expenses	(4,498)
Payroll Taxes Paid in August (Current Liability July)	(739)
Payroll Taxes to be Paid in Sept.(Current Liability August)	<u>387</u>
August 31, 2013 Balance	\$ 35,076

August Revenues:

General Fund	
Offering	\$ 7,397
OCWM	256
Total General Fund Revenues	\$ 7,653

***** General Fund Balance 8/31/13	\$ 9,643
*Restricted Funds	\$ 25 \$ 18,965
Unrestricted Funds (Memorial Fund)	\$ 1000 <u>\$ 6,081</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 8,678
Balance In Accounts	\$ 34,689
Current Liability (August Payroll Taxes Paid in Sept)	<u>387</u>
Balance as of August 31, 2013	\$ 35,076

Our 7/31/13 Balance	\$ 31,248
Plus a Net Increase / Income /Expense	4,180
Difference of Current Liability (Payroll Taxes)	<u>(352)</u>
Equals Our 8/31/13 Balance	\$ 35,076

* **Restricted Funds:** Bequests & Gifts, Improvement Fund, Sabbatical Fund, Youth Group, J. Wald. Musical Fund, Chancel Choir, Special Offerings



Council Meeting- September 15, 2013

Meeting called to order at 11:03. Members present: Ken Lisowe, Don Waldvogel, Andrea Cmejla, Andy Hofmeister, Jane Schroeder, Tiffany Knoespel, and Pastor Mike. John Schroeder was a visitor. Don made a motion to approve today's agenda and the August minutes. Andrea seconded. Motion carried.

Finances Report

Our August revenue is \$7,653.

Our August expenditures are \$4,502.

Don made a motion to accept the financial reports and approve the bills for payment in the amount of \$4,502. Andy seconded. Motion carried.

Pastoral Reports

Pastor Mike shared with us a written synopsis of what he has done from mid-August through mid-September, including funerals, visitations, counseling, and Sunday School/confirmation.

Committee Reports

Christian Ed/Music- Sunday School officially started on September 15, 2013. There was a wonderful turn out and three confirmations were also present.

Evangelism- A new schedule for ushering will be coming out soon. Speak with Don if you are interested in becoming an usher.

Mission- No new news.

Women's Guild- No new news.

Men's Breakfast- No new news.

Property- Ken has started with the plumbing. There was a plumbing problem in the parsonage that is getting repaired. Karls Plumbing is going to finish up the work.

Old Business:

John Schroeder is appointed chairperson of the search committee. Members of the perspective council will be notified by John this week. Covenanting Sunday of the search committee members will be Sunday, September 29th. He will also be contacting Art Willie who will instruct the search committee what needs to be done and the order to go about it. *Cont. on pg. 9*

Cont. from pg. 8 Last month, there was a request for an AED in our church. Jane has done some research and will update our members in an Eagle article about this possibility. Be looking for that article.

New Business

The Girl Scouts have asked to use the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday evening. Jane made a motion to allow them to use the fellowship. Don seconded. Motion carried.

Issues of signing paychecks were discussed. Ken will be a signer until the end of his term and Tiffany will also be put on as a signer. We are also going the route of everyone on pay roll having direct deposit. Janene will be the primary signer of checks. When not available, Tiffany is next in line. The money from the Marvin Edens memorial fund will be transferred from the "General Funds" to the "Bequest and Gifts" fund as talked about in last month's meeting.

A member will be asked to be another signer for Script. Information about the Script program will be printed in the October Eagle and in bulletins. This will be written by Kelly Brown or Shirley Lisowe.

Next council meeting will be Sunday, October 20th, following the church service. Andy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andrea seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 12:22.

Council Secretary,

Andrea Cmejla

Search and Call Update

We will commission the Search Committee during the worship service on September 29. This is a significant step toward creating a church profile and then publishing the profile for ministers throughout the country to read and consider Ebenezer for their next call.

The Search Committee will work hard for the church. The following description of the commitments of the Committee is taken from the UCC Search and Call process. As you can read, the commitment to the Committee is significant.

Committee Members:

Ann and Vern Gasch Nicole Moore - Secretary

Jerry Pagel John Schroeder - Chairperson Jeanne Keuler

Diane Sattler – Chaplain





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Adopt a Shelter Dog Month 		1 Church office open 9-5	2 Church office open 9-5	3 6:30 Handbell Rehearsal	4	5
6 9:30 am Worship 	7 World Smile Day 	8 Church office open 9-5	9 Church office open 9-5	10 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ 7 Angels 6:30 Handbell Rehearsal 	11	12
13 9:30 am Worship 	14	15 Church office open 9-5	16 Church office open 9-5 Bosses Day 	17 1:00 pm Women's Guild @ 7 Angels 6:30 Handbell Rehearsal 	18	19
20 9:30 am Worship 	21	22 Church office open 9-5	23 Church office open 9-5	24 6:30 Handbell Rehearsal	25 Eagle Articles Due 	26
27 9:30 am Worship 	28	29 Church office open 9-5	30 Church office open 9-5	31 Halloween 6:30 Handbell Rehearsal 		