



Red Bird Mission—Page 3



Rummage Sale—Page 10



New Hire—Page 13

Edinboro United Methodist Church

CROSS CURRENTS

*And the one who was seated on the throne said,
"See, I am making all things new." (Rev. 21:5)*

September 2023

Dear Friends,

Here we are at the beginning of another church year! It can be a time of excitement and wonder. What blessings will God bring to us this year? In what ways will God use us to be a blessing to others? What new things will I learn? What new experiences will God bring? This year at Edinboro UMC, as you will see below, God has blessed! There are new things that God is bringing to us.

I want to thank this community of faith for its prayers, discernment and support over the past year concerning our Youth and Family Ministries. We've been very blessed by those who have committed themselves to serve, teach and support this important area of ministry! I am also very grateful for the financial support of this congregation. As of this writing, we are in the black and are poised to move forward in our witness to Christ in Edinboro. In response to God's faithfulness through you, we are stepping forward to bring some new ministries to Edinboro UMC this Fall. These ministries will take your continuing commitment and willingness to step out to meet the challenges of our faithful response to God's call.

This month we will be welcoming Tyler Volk to our staff as our new Director of Youth and family Ministries! Tyler has his bachelor's degree in student ministries from Geneva College and comes with wonderful experience working with churches in their Youth ministries. We were very impressed with Tyler's passion, openness, and enthusiasm. Welcome to the Edinboro family, Tyler! More information will be coming as the events and ministries are planned.

We are in the process to hire Nursery staff for Sunday Mornings: We believe that this will be an important addition our ministry as we seek to provide safe space for infants and toddlers and meet the needs of young families. The consistency of the staff will be a great encouragement to young families, helping them build trust as they come to know those caring for their children. As our staff meets the needs of their children, young parents can attend to their own spiritual and emotional needs and grow in their faith and relationships. We look forward to what God may have in store for us in this area.

As I write this letter, I think of the quote above taken from the vision given to John of the "New Jerusalem" at the end of the Book of Revelation. It is a vision of hope, of life, and of resurrection! Our God is a God who makes all things new! It is that hope that holds us through the sometimes long, long journey and the dark places in life! Praise God! Our God is making all things new! Come and experience the new beginnings!

See you at worship!

Blessings,

Pastor Ed



Finance

July Update

The financial health of our church continued to be healthy at midyear with a positive balance of \$11, 670 , this while forwarding just shy of half of our required appointments to the conference. We have maintained this positive balance while maintaining our facilities and forwarding 47% of our Connectional Apportionment obligation monies to the WPAUM Conference.

The financial health of our church is stable but will be challenged as we go into the second half of the year. The addition of staff to bolster our commitment to our youth and young families will stretch us, but we believe that this is the right time to bolster this ministry as our church grows.

You should have received a midyear statement that summarizes your giving for the first half of the year.

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support.

Bell Choir

Bell choir will start a new season on Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30. New members are welcome, no musical experience needed. To join please contact Ann Trask at ketc5287@yahoo.com or (845)701-7442.

SPRC Committee

The SPRC interviewed and hired Tyler Volk as our new part-time Director of Family and Youth Ministry, and we are truly excited for them potential of this new endeavor. Tyler started his work on Monday, August 14, and he's hitting the ground running by helping right away with the rummage sale to benefit the Bre Humble & Kind fund. He's an experienced youth leader, and is married with two children.

SPRC approved Jerra Jenrette as a candidate and is pursuing Certified Lay Minister following certification of Certified Lay Speaker (completed June 2023) by our church. While her leadership will continue to provide teaching, support, and perspective to Pastor Ed's work as lead pastor, this formalizes her position in our church at the District and Conference levels.

The SPRC approved the hiring of two preschool/nursery assistants to staff our nursery every Sunday. Church Council approved the hiring. We are advertising and hopefully will hire as the new school year begins.

We are searching for a skilled musician to handle the role of choir accompanist. Larry Evans will not be continuing in this role, although he remains committed to our instrumental music team, praise band, and Sunday worship. It will be rough rehearsing without this position. Keep this in your prayers.

IFF: Men's Book Club "Early Risers"

We have completed discussion of the challenging Karen Armstrong book entitled [A History of God](#). This book proved to educate many of us as to the similarities, social and cultural impacts, and religious perspectives of the world's three major monotheistic religions: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. I know I am a more reflective reader of scripture a result of this encounter with Armstrong's writing.

We started a new book on August 9, [Preparing for War](#), by Bradley Onishi, a religious scholar who teaches at the University of San Francisco. This book is considered a "riveting history of White Christian Nationalism that led to the January 6 insurrection". The author begins by tracing his own journey into conservative evangelical Christianity, and his eventual move away from those beliefs, asking, had he remained, "would I have been there?" Exploring Christian Nationalist issues connected to civil rights, the women's' movement, and LGBTQ+, among other political topics, Onishi introduces ideas worthy of great discussion (which is what this group thrives on).

Join us for good questions, warm fellowship, and learning for living on Wednesday mornings! We'd love to order more books!



Our weekly newsletter has changed its name from the EUMC's Cross & Flame to The Beacon! We have changed the name to reflect our status of a Lighthouse Congregation and that our congregation is a bright light of hope and encouragement to all.

This newsletter will arrive in your email every Tuesday with current church schedule, announcements, and articles. If you have been receiving The Cross & Flame, your email has been transferred to The Beacon email list.

The email list for the newsletter is also used to send important messages or announcements. In addition, this is the method used for our Way Maker Wednesday ministry piece and the Zoom link for Conversations Uncorked on Thursday evenings.

If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact Junia in the office at 814-734-3182 or email her at office@edinboroumc.com.



Anyone Interested in a EUMC Mission Trip to Red Bird Mission?

**Plans are being made to schedule a EUMC Mission
Trip to Red Bird Mission in the summer of 2024.**

All ages are welcome!

Sign ups are being done now in the Narthex. If you are interested, sign up! An information meeting will be held later this fall with those interested before official commitment is required.

**Fundraising opportunities and scholarships will be available
to help pay for the cost of the trip.**

Questions? Please see Greg or Deb Thomas or Jim or Deb Zahler.

Church Choir

Church Choir is resuming practices starting Wednesday, September 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to participate. Weekly practices will continue every Wednesday.

C.A.R.E. Team

The C.A.R.E. Team focuses on HOSPITALITY and LOVING SERVICE within our church.

Work of the Team Members:

- coordinate meals for parishioners recovering from surgery and illness;
- Connections are made by team members with cards, visits, phone calls, prayers and e-mails to those who may be unable to attend church services;
- Welcoming new members to Edinboro United Methodist Church is coordinated through Pastor Ed and a sub-committee of the C.A.R.E. Team;
- The Teddy Bear Ministry strives to bring comfort and encouragement to people suffering from physical, mental, or spiritual stress. Groups of teddy bears consecrated at church services are ready to be sent out on their mission of love and caring; and
- Funeral dinners are coordinated by the Team. This most important service is only successful when YOU respond to the call for volunteers when needed.

If you or someone you know would benefit from any of the services/ministries noted above please call the church office at 814-734-3182.

Your C.A.R.E. Team members are Pastor Ed Schoeneck, Irene Smith, Patti Snow, Marla Stauffer, Kelly Temple, Debbie Thomas, Linda Moore, Debbie Zahler, Cheryl Wiegler.

“Pack the Backpacks”

On Monday, August 14th the annual indoor picnic and “Pack the Backpacks” event was held in Grace Hall. Twenty two members of EUMC and three members of the First United Presbyterian Church of Edinboro joined in fellowship to share in a potluck dinner, lively camaraderie, and the task of packing hundreds of school supplies. In the next two weeks 155 students in grades K-12, as they visit the Edinboro Food Pantry with their families, will choose a backpack and fill it with a bag of supplies they will need in the new school year.

Thank you to all of you who contributed time and money in this valuable local mission project. Its success was made possible through the generosity and combined efforts of:

Edinboro Food Pantry
Edinboro United Methodist Church
First United Presbyterian Church of Edinboro
Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church
Unity of Edinboro Church
The Salvation Army of Erie.

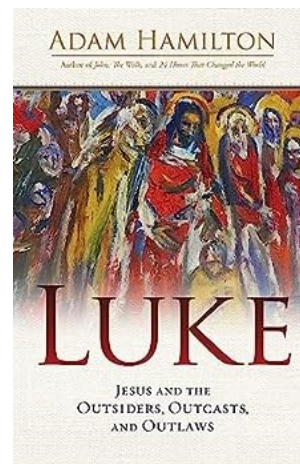


Intentional Faith Formation Team (IFF)

The Intentional Faith and Formation Team has been busy over the summer! Watch for various articles throughout this newsletter for other articles that are under the IFF team's umbrella. (Pizza and Wings with the Pastor, Director of Family and Youth Ministries hired, Rev. Scott, all Sunday Schools, etc.)

Adult Sunday School: We just finished Josh Scott's new book entitled *Bible Stories for Grownups: Reading Scripture With New Eyes* which looks at key figures and familiar biblical stories from an adult perspective. Reverend Scott joined us on zoom on Sunday August 27 for an interesting discussion on his study.

Our next book is by Adam Hamilton entitled *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws* which we will begin in early September. "Jesus came to lift up the lowly. Throughout his ministry to his final days on the road to the cross, we find stories of his relationships with ordinary, flawed, and unexpected people. He met, dined, and traveled with people who were not perfect. Many of them were struggling, some were outsiders or even outlaws. Whoever they were, from those he healed to the outlaws with him at his crucifixion, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those who most needed to hear it.



In *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today. Jesus came to lift up the lowly. Throughout his ministry to his final days on the road to the cross, we find stories of his relationships with ordinary, flawed, and unexpected people. He met, dined, and traveled with people who were not perfect. Many of them were struggling, some were outsiders or even outlaws. Whoever they were, from those he healed to the outlaws with him at his crucifixion, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those who most needed to hear it" (<https://www.amazon.com/Luke-Jesus-Outsiders-Outcasts-Outlaws/dp/1791025048>).

Disciple III Bible Study: Wednesday night Disciple III took a brief hiatus during summer but will resume in September to complete the last six chapters of Disciple III which focuses on the letters of Paul. We will pick up where we left off (Chapter 26 of the workbook) on Wednesday, September 27 (so you get to enjoy summer for an extra month!). The class will go through at least November 8. If more time is needed to discuss certain chapters, then we will build that time in.

Class time will be moved to 6:30 pm to better accommodate everyone's schedules. We will use the "hybrid method," meaning that we'll meet in person in the Wesley room, but will offer a Zoom option for those who cannot attend in person.

Disciple Advanced Bible Study: The Monday Night Disciple Group just finished the engrossing and challenging book, *The Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*, by Amy-Jill Levine. She brought the Jewish perspective and insight about the parables and how they were stories that provoked discussion and thought by the Jews of Jesus's day. We will be on hiatus until September when we will pick up a new book, "John" by Adam Hamilton.

(Continued on page 7)

SIGHTSEEING ON LADY KATE

August 6, 2023

Five people attended the Lady Kate boat trip. The lake was choppy due to the wind and by the end of the ride, we were rushing to dock before the rain came.

We had a lot of fun and the afternoon was interesting and we learned history that was new to us. Highly recommended for all.



NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT MISSIONS IN OUR AREA

SHOES (GENTLY USED OR NEW) – Looking for a place for those old shoes? Worn out? Ragged? Too Small? Any condition – boots, sandals, sneakers, adults or kids. Bring them to church, tie or band the pair together and deposit them in the box located in the narthex. Funds derived from this collection fund mission projects.

ALUMINUM CAN TABS – Bring in the tabs from aluminum cans and place in the large jug on the desk in the narthex. These are used for the Bre Humble & Kind Fund which is a fund in memory of Breanna Elder. The fund is used to sponsor scholarships for teachers and students.

DIAPER FUND – This is a monetary donation and money can be deposited in the giant plastic baby bottle on the small table as you exit the sanctuary. Darla and Tim Elder use this money to purchase diapers for the families staying in EUMA housing in Erie.

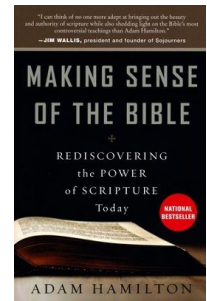
PENN-WEST UNIVERSITY FOOD PANTRY – Bring donations of non-perishable food items and place them in the tub near the table in the narthex. Please check the expiration date of the items before donation!

Intentional Faith Formation Team (IFF) (continued from page 5)

UPCOMING COURSES:

2023:

Making Sense of the Bible is currently being offered by Pastor Ed as an introduction on how we got the Bible, translations, and how to read/interpret this important collection of scriptures.



Old Testament Survey Through Different Lenses will be the next Bible study to be offered at EUMC. Please refer to page 12 for more information.

2024:

The Art and Practice of Prayer (led by Pastor Ed)

New Testament (led by Pastor Ed)

Herstory II: More about women of the Bible and/or Christian history (led by Dr. Jenrette)

ADULT TRIPS:

FALL 2023 ADULT TRIP: Eight participants will travel to Washington, D.C. to tour the National Cathedral and visit various museums on the National Mall. September 12-15.

SPRING 2024 ADULT TRIP: Participants will travel to Lancaster, PA, to see the production of "Daniel" at the Sights and Sounds Theatre on Tuesday, May 14 for a 3:00 performance. On Wednesday, May 15, we will visit the Ephrata Cloister and other sites in the area in a large or small groups depending on the interests of participants. We will return on Thursday, May 16, 2024.



Missions—Diaper Fund

By Tim Elder

It is exciting to see all the energy of the children at the EUMA on East 26th St. as we carry in the diapers. The parents and the staff's appreciation is contagious and heartfelt for our delivery. The staff always expresses the great need for our donation and sends to everyone at EUMC a big thank you hug.

IFF: K-6 notes

Sunday School Report – (Elementary - Pre K through 6th Grade) – June 2023

Miniature Golf took place on Sunday August 27 at 5:00 p.m. at Sunview Miniature Golf Course in Edinboro for Pre K through 6th grade and their families. Ann Trask has taken the lead on this activity. Pizza and drink was provided at 5:00 p.m.

We are happy to announce Karen Swager has joined the team of 4-6 grade teachers. We are grateful to Trish Hillman who has served for several years and has retired. We are still looking for Helpers with clearances for both Pre-K – 3rd and 4th – 5th grades. If you are interested please contact the church office. Helpers don't teach the class and assure compliance with Safe Sanctuary Guidelines. Sunday School does not meet on Communion Sunday.

Elementary Sunday School rooms have moved. Pre-K through 3rd Grade will meet in a room off the Narthex. The 4th through 6th grade will meet in the Beatitudes Room. Sunday School will start this fall on September 17th. Teachers will be meeting to discuss a social activity in October. Please watch the Bulletin and The Beacon for details.



Missions Team Report

- ◆ Please plan on participating in the Crop Walk on September 24. Contact Karen Swager to sign up as a walker or supporter.
- ◆ Donations are ongoing for the PennWest Edinboro student food bank on campus. See Darla Elder if you have questions. Donations can be placed in the tote in the hallway by the church office. The tote is marked for pantry.
- ◆ Diapers are still part of our EUMC Mission program. Please drop a donation in the baby bottle as you leave Sunday services.
- ◆ The shoe donations are still being accepted. Please band the pairs of shoes, slippers or boots together and put them in the donation box found in the ushers room just off the Narthex.

The next mission meeting is Wednesday, September 20th at 7:30 p.m. by Zoom.

Youth 2023 Event

By Linnea Henderson

Going to the Youth 2023 event was different than any other event I've ever experienced. It was a long trip down to Daytona Beach, but the hours spent driving were accompanied by riding with excellent people I'd be spending the week with. The event itself far exceeded what I'd been anticipating, there had to of been at least 3,000 people there. Worship was held once in the morning and once in the evening, and they really went all out for it. Bringin in incredible speakers and introducing remarkable music by different bands. The sessions that I took in-between the worship's were interesting, and I learned a lot from them. Ultimately one of my favorite moments in Daytona was helping with the mission to collect fresh foods for those who are less fortunate living in Florida. All in all, the Youth 2023 event was something really fantastic.

Garden of Edin

Our Tithe Bed team continues to take care of two 4' x 8' beds and two 1' x 5' trellis beds at the Garden located on the Presbyterian church property on 6N. To date we have harvested 109 lbs. this year which includes tomatoes, zucchini, squash, beans, radishes, and lettuce. We anticipate more of each of these as well as some fall crops we will plant soon. Over the last two years our beds have produced over 300 lbs for the Edinboro Food Pantry where volunteers, including Deb McElroy and Mary Weber, distribute to families in the area.

We are so appreciative of all the help members give (Trish, Susan Y, Gert, Don, Marla, Linda, Kathy, Heather Z, Deb Z, Jim, Christine). And, we know that Dot Fleming keeps this in her prayers from eastern PA!! It should be noted that Heather is the coordinator of the Garden of Edin and oversees everything that happens there including providing advice to those who ask, and Brian Z always lends a hand. We are so fortunate to have so many people in this church involved in helping provide food for those in the community who need it!!

We are always looking for people who are interested in this type of ministry to join us. If you are interested contact jerrajenrette@gmail.com.



Church Council

Church Council has not met for normal business during the summer, but did resume meeting every other month starting on August 24th.



IFF—Youth Group

The youth spearheaded the rummage sale with proceeds to go to the Bre Humble & Kind Fund. The sale took place on Saturday, August 19th from 8 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The response for donations was outstanding and allowed the youth to raise \$2,053.29!!!



This would not have been possible without the help and support of many people. Thank you to everyone that donated items and /or their time to organize and move items to the front lawn.

We plan to do this again next year!



Pizza and Wings with the Pastor

On Sunday, August 13, 2023, Pastor Ed launched, the Intentional Faith and Formation (IFF) initiative called “Pizza and Wings with the Pastor” to help guests and others in the church community learn about what we, as United Methodists, believe. The first gathering is focused on helping new folks learn about Methodism and its key beliefs while future gathers will focus on different subjects depending on congregational and community interest.

The first meeting was a success with 10 attendees and with lively conversations. Watch for announcements for the next event.



Old Testament Survey Through Different Lenses

Taught by Dr. Jerra Jenrette

Dr. Jenrette will offer an introductory study of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible/TANAKH), a six-week course which will look at key stories in the religious life of the ancient Hebrews up through the Second Temple Period (which Christians refer to as the Intertestamental Period).

Using not only "Invitation to the Old Testament" as the primary text, by Celia Brewer Marshall and James Tabor, the study will also rely on analysis and interpretation from Rabbi Evan Moffic, "Reading the Old Testament Through Jewish Eyes", Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's "Short Course on the Old Testament" (Great Courses), and the Jewish Study Bible, amongst other resources.

The intent is to not only read as 21st century Christians but to become familiar with Jewish perspectives from a range of sources.

Dates: Sundays, 6:30 p.m. via zoom and in-person.

September 24-November 19 (group will not meet on October 1, October 29, or November 5).

**Sign up in the Narthex
or call the church office.**



Director of Youth & Family Ministries Hired

EUMC's SPRC committee is excited to announce the hiring of Tyler Volk for the position of Director of Family & Youth Ministries. Tyler jumped right into the ministries of EUMC by helping with the Rummage Sale held on August 19th. The following is the cover letter Tyler used for his interview.

Dear Edinboro UMC

To start, I didn't grow up in The Church. I remember attending a few times but always hating it, it just felt boring. Honestly as I grew up, I never had a problem with church or God, and I was very curious who Jesus actually was. I wasn't ready to understand that He is.

I found Jesus at a Christian hang out which later turned into an outreach night. I loved spending time at church, on April 14, 2006, on Good Friday I asked Jesus into my heart. But I didn't fully understand what that meant. It wasn't until a new youth pastor started that I was able to comprehend what it meant to follow Jesus and share his love. Brett and his wife Kelly were then and now a big part of my life. In fact, they and their children were a part of our wedding: scripture reading, flower girl, ring bearer and groomsmen. I don't expect to get close enough to a student to be in their wedding, but some invitations would be appreciated.

Speaking of weddings, I met my bride the summer after I graduated high school. Sara is originally from Bradford Pa, but I don't hold that against her. We met at Wesley Woods and unfortunately spent all our dating years in long distance. The max we were separated was from Geneva College to Houghton College but at the time it felt like an eternity before we would see each other. We got married in 2013 and have the last ten years making mistakes, having fun, trying to become closer to each other, and the Lord. She is my best friend and I hope you all have the chance to meet her.

My wife and I have been blessed to have the job we always wanted which is to be parents. We have three boys Grayson, Oliver and Henry. Sadly, Oliver is in heaven, and we would prefer for to be with us here but that wasn't part of the Lord's plan. But we brag about him just as we do Grayson and Henry. Oliver is and always will be a part of our family. My boys are my favorite and I love being their dad.

To be frank, my responsibility as a dad is to protect my children and unfortunately Grayson was really hurt by Corry First, he is going into 1st grade and will become a great missionary in his school and a good influence. Henry is 7 months old and will need to be in a nursery. I bring all this up because even though my training and passion is youth ministry, I have a person stake in family ministry, and I want to see my sons grow and connect with Jesus.

Sincerely,

Tyler Volk



IFF—Strawberry Shortcake Event—June 18, 2023

June 18 was a fun-filled day with strawberry shortcake, piano music, and lots of conversations around the pavilion as folks gathered to bring in the summer and enjoy the season's most delicious fruit! We also, of course, celebrated fathers on this Father's Day.



IFF—Cookie Reception for Pulpit Swap
Welcoming Rev. Kathleen Schoeneck
July 30, 2023

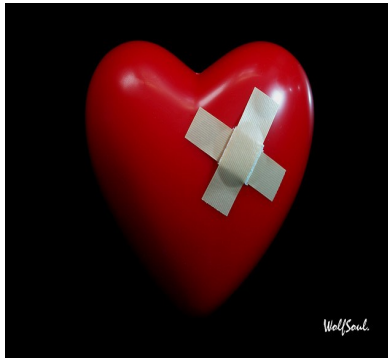
On Sunday, July 30, we welcomed Rev. Kathleen Schoeneck of Lakewood UMC as a guest speaker in our annual “pulpit swap” between Pastor Ed and Pastor Kathleen. This exciting initiative enables each pastor to get to know the other’s congregation. At Edinboro UMC we hosted Pastor Kathleen with a Cookie Reception in the narthex where most folks stayed, enjoyed cookies and lemonade, and visited with each other.



September- October Worship

Our New Series:

“On the Mend; Healing What Ails You”



Are you sick and tired of being sick and tired? Are you ready to be “on the Mend?” In this series we will uncover the wounds that hold us back from the fullness of life!

September 3: Communion Sunday

“Healing Intentions” (Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

September 10: Chelsea House Orchestra will be joining us again this year!

Come and enjoy these gifted High School Students from Michigan!

September 17: “Healing Inhibitions” (Mark 7: 24-37)

September 24: “Healing Fear” (Mark 8: 27-38)

October 1: World Communion Sunday

“Healing Pride” (Mark 9: 30 - 37)

October 8: “Healing Trust” (Mark 10: 2-16)

October 15: “Healing Divisions” (Mark 9: 38-50)

October 22: “Healing Holdouts” (Mark 10: 17-31)

October 29: “Healing Power” (Mark 10: 35-45)

November 5: “Healing Vision” (Mark 10: 46-52)

Rev. Josh Scott



Rev. Josh Scott author of *Bible Stories for Grownups* joined the Adult Sunday School group on Sunday, August 27th from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. via zoom.

Scott has been a pastor for the last two decades. He currently serves as the Lead Pastor at GracePointe Church in Nashville. The focus of his work is reimagining, reframing, and reclaiming faith through a Progressive Christian lens. His first book, *Bible Stories for Grownups* was released in April 2023. You can read his latest thoughts at joshscott.online. He lives near Nashville with his wife, Carla, and five kids.

Scott's approach reinforces the importance of reading scripture through new lenses, compelling us to reexamine our own views and interpretations and pushing us to a deeper relationship with the Lord.

We discussed Rev. Scott's book with him as well as other pertinent issues.



About Us

OUR PURPOSE:

We join with the Holy Spirit to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

OUR MISSION:

We are a dynamic community of doubters, dreamers and disciples on a life long journey of faith and action with Christ.

OUR VISION:

By embracing grace, we will engage heads, hands and hearts in the way of Christ to ignite a profound love of God in all.

WE WELCOME YOU:

Regardless of race, ethnicity, age, marital status, gender identity, sexual orientation, social or economic status, physical and mental ability or religious affiliation. All persons are of sacred worth. We are all God's beloved.

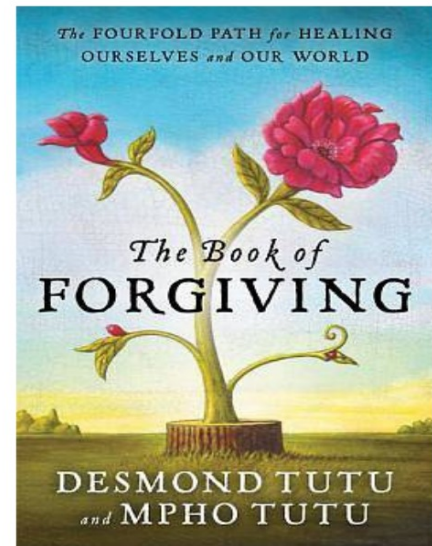
IFF—Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club meets by Zoom on Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. Currently the group is finishing up the book, *A LIFE IN LIGHT*. They are planning to begin a new book Thursday, September 28th. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex if you're interested in this new 'read', with a place to indicate if you would like to order a book. Feel free to call the church office (814-734-3182) to indicate you would like a book if you don't plan to be in church to sign up. Spread the word and plan to join us September 28th.

Women's Book Club to Begin New Book

To Start September 28th

Sign up in the Narthex or
call the church office.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize winner, Chair of The Elders, and Chair of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, along with his daughter, the Reverend Mpho Tutu, offer a manual on the art of forgiveness--helping us to realize that we are all capable of healing and transformation. Tutu's role as the Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission taught him much about forgiveness. If you asked anyone what they thought was going to happen to South Africa after apartheid, almost universally it was predicted that the country would be devastated by a comprehensive bloodbath. Yet, instead of revenge and retribution, this new nation chose to tread the difficult path of confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

Each of us has a deep need to forgive and to be forgiven. After much reflection on the process of forgiveness, Tutu has seen that there are four important steps to healing: Admitting the wrong and acknowledging the harm; Telling one's story and witnessing the anguish; Asking for forgiveness and granting forgiveness; and renewing or releasing the relationship. Forgiveness is hard work. Sometimes it even feels like an impossible task. But it is only through walking this fourfold path that Tutu says we can free ourselves of the endless and unyielding cycle of pain and retribution. *The Book of Forgiving* is both a touchstone and a tool, offering Tutu's wise advice and showing the way to experience forgiveness. Ultimately, forgiving is the only means we have to heal ourselves and our aching world.

--Krista Tippett, Host/Executive Producer of *On Being*



OCTOBER COFFEEHOUSE

**THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 5th
7:00 – 9:00 pm**

FEATURING:



Plus:

**OPEN MIKE
NIGHT!**



**AIDEN DOUGAN
& FRIENDS**

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Prayerfully Prepared For...

Please Note: If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter,
please contact the church office to be removed from the mailing list. *Thank you!*

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