

Dear Church Family,

This past month, eighteen Edgewood members traveled to Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota to work with, and learn from, the Oglala-Lakota people. While there, we heard story after story of injustice. The Massacre of Wounded Knee one hundred years ago, the forced removal of Lakota people during World War II, the intentional terrorization and murder of traditional Lakota in the 1970s, and the current use of condemned FEMA trailers on the reservation today. Those are only a few examples of a steady campaign of violence and genocide that have left a people in poverty and pain.

The stories are not easy; we heard of families torn apart as young children were forced to go to boarding schools, where they were beaten for speaking their native language, and turned against their own parents. We learned of young men returning from World War II only to see their homes destroyed by U.S. bombs, as our army used the Badlands for a bombing range. We listened to stories of suicide, as the youth of Pine Ridge give up hope and give into despair.

It is not an easy place and it is not an easy trip. But as we witnessed very real suffering and horrific injustice, we also heard stories of faith. Speaker after speaker lifted up the power of prayer, and the way in which the Lakota find their strength through their belief in Wakan Tanka, the Great Spirit, or the Great Mystery. We learned of the Sacred Circle, which consists of all four directions, North, South, East, and West, uniting all people in our common humanity. And we listened to creation stories, affirming our connection with the natural world, with all animals and human beings, and with our Creator, the source of life.

The Lakota believe that every day must begin with prayer and end with prayer, but not only that, they believe that every breath can be a prayer. In the midst of their history of oppression, their poverty and pain, the Lakota continue to pray, they continue to trust, and they put their faith in the Creator and in the traditions of their ancestors.

Now, it is true, of course, that this is not the case for all Lakota people. Many have become so burdened by the oppression and poverty that there is little room for faith. Some have succumbed to addiction, as they seek to escape the pain of their reality. But for many people on Pine Ridge reservation, there is a faith and a tradition that sustain them through the very worst. And through their witness, we can grow in our own faith and in our own tradition, as well.

As Christians, we are also called to pray. We are also called to hope. We are also called to connection with all life. And so, may we pray for justice, may we pray for the Lakota people of Pine Ridge, and may we pray for a deeper connection with the Creator, who loves us all, and calls us all into that great, sacred Circle of Life.

God bless!  
Kari

**Needed: Pastoral Review Focus Group Members**

The Personnel Committee is charged with conducting an annual review of Edgewood's pastors. Last year's review process was completed through written questionnaires. This year we will be conducting three small focus groups to spend time reflecting on Pastor Kari Nicewander's ministry with us. We are looking for a variety of folk who can spend about an hour in conversation on one of the dates below. If you are interested in participating, please sign up on a Sunday "pink sheet" (in August) or call the church office. Focus groups will be limited to the first 12 people to sign up on the following days:

**Thursday, September 8th, 6:30 - 7:30**

**Sunday, September 11, 12:00 - 1:00**

**Tuesday, September 13th, 12:00 - 1:00 (brown bag lunch on this date)**

**Intentional Interim Update**

The Intentional Interim Selection Committee has met several times in the past few months. We've interviewed six candidates as of this writing. We remain hopeful that we will have the best person available before September. The committee is strongly committed to the Just Peace and Open and Affirming covenants, and we are seeking an interim who fully embraces these beliefs.

Committee members: Harold Beer, Sue Fierro, Carol Grayhawk, Ellen Ives, Melissa Lehti-Shiu, Steve Rentschler, Jon Ritz, Kari Nicewander (ex-officio).

### **Edgewood Camp News**

Edgewood Camp is a wonderful summertime gathering of Edgewood members and friends at Stony Lake Camp near Lake Michigan. We enjoy community, learning, play, and renewal. It is also a great way to get to know other Edgewood folks. **This year, Edgewood Camp will start Friday evening, July 29, through mid-day Wednesday, August 3.** You can come for any or all of that time. There are cabins and the “White House” and many people camp in tents or RVs. There are many diverse opportunities for participation for everyone of all ages at camp. The cost of camp is relatively modest and some scholarships are available. We invite everybody to come and enjoy camp – it’s great fun. Contact Mary Bendall at [bendall.mary@gmail.com](mailto:bendall.mary@gmail.com) or 643-1985 for more information.

### **Member Ministry**

The Member Ministry Team is responsible for an annual process to review and maintain an accurate church membership list. There are individuals on the membership list who we would like to contact but we do not have current contact information for them. These folks are:

Winifred Bedford  
Sharon and Burton Cardwell  
Bob and Diane Cornwell  
Kathleen Field  
Jane Hanna  
Toby Heaton  
Susan O’Doherty  
Christy Raines  
Barbara Schulz  
J.D. Snyder  
Isela Solis  
Jeanette Steeb  
Michele Winegar

If you have a phone number, mailing address, or e-mail address for any of these folks, please give this information to Cindy Winter (332-8693; [cindy@edgewooducc.org](mailto:cindy@edgewooducc.org)) or Sue Haviland (339-0552; [sue-haviland@cablespeed.com](mailto:sue-haviland@cablespeed.com))

Thank you!

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### **Outreach and Mission**

*Don't forget . . . the Outreach/Mission team will be selling Equal Exchange coffee, tea and chocolate. The summer schedule is: August 28 and Sept 11 (because of Labor Day).*

#### **July & August Collection**

“Backpacks & School Supplies” AND “Clothe a Child for School!” Help children with the tools they need to learn! Items Needed:

**Backpacks ~ Markers ~ Colored pencils ~ Scissors ~ Rulers  
Glue Sticks ~ Pens & Pencils ~ Notebooks**

Judson Memorial Baptist Church's Love Clothing Center serves over 800 children with clothing during August and September! You have the opportunity to be a part of that great effort by donating new and like-new clothing, or by donating funds to purchase new jeans, socks and underwear. Judson depends on you—the church network—for all the clothing they give. You can “Make the Difference!” Clothing Needed:

**shirts ~ blouses ~ pants ~ jeans ~ new socks & underwear  
(Sizes: 4 toddler through teens—all sizes)**

***Let's fill our Giving Container in July & August!***

Submitted by Mary Hartung

#### **LOAVES AND FISHES**

Loaves and Fishes Ministries was started in 1982 by a group of Lansing-area ecumenical Christians committed to a concrete faith response to “feed the hungry and provide shelter to the homeless people” of our community. Its primary mission is to provide safe and clean housing AND food to homeless people in a caring Christian environment. Loaves and Fishes ministry provides emergency short-term housing and advocacy services for homeless men, women and children, and long-term transitional housing and advocacy services for single mothers and their families and for single men. A complete description of this caring organization is found at <http://www.orgsites.com/mi/loavesandfishes>.

Edgewood provides food for Loaves and Fishes two Wednesday evenings a month. Our food contribution feeds 12-15 people. Preparing one meal for 15 people is not a huge task. Two people share in the preparation of the meal. The cooking partners arrange the menu so that the tasks of shopping, cooking and delivery of the meal will not be an undue burden on anyone. If you would like to participate in this mission project, please sign up to provide a meal. Questions: contact Sylvia Stevens at 351-1684 or [steven11@msu.edu](mailto:steven11@msu.edu).

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## **Building & Grounds**

### **Progress report on the Heat Distribution System and Building Engineering Analysis.**

Working with a consulting engineer, the B&G Heat System/Engineering Analysis Subgroup (Carol Grayhawk, Ed Smith, and Dave Haviland) has completed a thorough evaluation of options for the Heating System including estimated costs and energy efficiencies. From this input, the B&G Team has prepared a set of recommendations for presentation to the Council and Finance Team. We anticipate a presentation of recommendations to the congregation followed by a decision at a congregational meeting. Stay tuned for further information.

### **Grounds Improvements**

**Volunteers will be needed**, so look for information in the “Pink Sheets” during summer and fall. The new playground, old playground area, planting of perennials, storage of “hardscape” material, and gutter-down spout repair, etc. are upcoming events to be tackled.

An “Adopt an Area” program to maintain shrubs and/or flowerbeds during spring-summer-fall has been developed. There will be a map over the grounds with areas marked A-S and corresponding adoptee names on the wall past the office. If you want to take on an area please contact Laila Sundh or Frank Dennis.

A beautiful arch entry to the Memorial Garden has been completed and installed. Rain water issues have been identified in the Garden area and will be addressed.

### **Building Improvements**

**Volunteers will be needed** for indoor building improvements as well, so look for information in the “Pink Sheets” during summer and fall. Caulking around windows and weatherizing doors, organizing and putting up shelves/cabinets in storage areas, and other tasks like painting, touch up scuffs on wood etc. need to be done.

### **Emergency Procedures and Building Safety**

Security cameras are now in place to monitor our main entrances. Thanks to Monica Murray for her professional work on the installation. Emergency procedures have been developed and documented and weather alert radios are being placed strategically, with one for the sexton on Sunday mornings.

For Building and Grounds questions, suggestions or concerns, contact any Team member: Dave Haviland, Acting Chair; Carol Grayhawk, Council representative; Ed Smith, recorder; Enrique Betancourt; Don Flachs; Bob Muhlbach and Laila Sundh. Ken Dagner is ex officio.

## **Health Ministry Corner**

### **Care Partners: A New Ministry for Caregivers**

*Rosalyn Carter said: "There are only four kinds of people in the world—those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregivers, those who will be caregivers, and those who will need caregivers."*

The Care Partners Ministry has been developed by Health Ministry/Member Ministry Team in response to the needs of caregivers in the congregation. National and state data, as well as Edgewood's experience, underscore the great need to encourage and support individuals who are in a caregiving role with its unique challenges and stressors. A caregiver is defined as an individual of any age who provides daily or episodic unpaid care and assistance to a family member or friend who has chronic illness, physical limitations, and/or cognitive impairment.

There are many community resources for caregivers, so we asked the question "What can a faith community uniquely provide to caregivers?" The Care Partners Ministry assists the pastors in providing intentional care and one-to-one information and support to caregivers. A caregiver is paired with a trained Care Partner who provides support through personal visits, phone calls, notes/inspirational messages and prayer. Care Partners are also knowledgeable about community resources and can assist caregivers to access these resources as needed. To date, 10 Care Partners have been trained and 6 caregivers are currently paired with a Care Partner.

This new ministry appears to be unique; no other church has been found to have a ministry which focuses specifically on caregivers. So, we're excited to develop a new ministry model at Edgewood with the potential to help caregivers find hope and healing, and to know they are remembered and supported by their congregation.

**If you are a caregiver and would like to have a Care Partner, if you know someone at Edgewood who is a caregiver and think they could benefit from this ministry, or if you would like more information, please contact Sue Haviland (517-339-0552) or Nancy Martling (517-346-7352).**

***Bear one another's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.***

**—Galatians 6:2**

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**Book Group**

The Book Group meets the **third Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.** in the library. If you like to read and enjoy lively discussions of an interesting variety of books—novels, biographies, memoirs, essays—come join us. Newcomers always welcome!

	<u>Book</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>
July	No Meeting		
Aug. 15	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Jonathan Safran Foer	
Sep. 19	Book Selection Meeting		

**Congregational Life**

**Save the Date**  
***Pride Family Fun Day!***

Sunday, September 18  
12-3 p.m.

CLOWNS

GAMES

MOON WALK

FUN

And MORE!

CAKE WALK

FOOD



**Let's Hear  
It For . . .**

The wonderful Sunday School teachers and helpers: *Linda Mondol, Patty Good, Linda White, Trudy Bower, Diana Farmer, Ben Pineda, Mary Bendall, Shani Feyen, Dottie West . . . all of the Easter Workshop volunteers . . . Laura Miller-Purrenhage and Marv Dunn* for assistance on

the intergenerational service . . . *Laura Miller-Purrenhage for her adult education classes . . . All the folk who have led Campus Ministry this year: Dave Kidd, Julia Grant, Dave Wiley, John Baumgartner, Jon Ritz, Bob Anderson . . . everyone who provided meals for the Campus Ministry . . . All the folks who stepped in to cover in the church office while Cindy was in the hospital: JoAnn Hubbard, Jan Bernsten, Bob Nordlund, Patty Good and Alison Cruise.*



**SURPRISE FROM STAFF!**



**STAFF LUNCH**



Loving her  
new  
Kindle  
from the  
Staff!

**NESTING BY THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WING!**

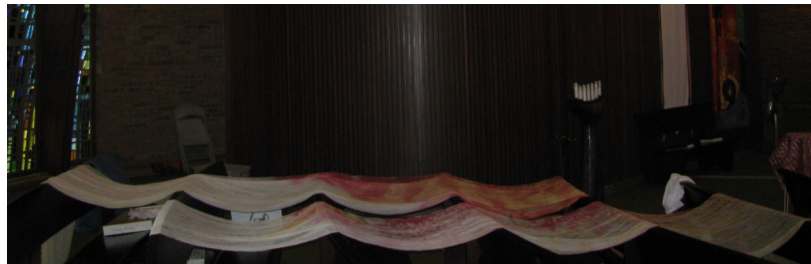




**MEMORIAL GARDEN**



**ART GOING UP IN THE SANCTUARY**



**CE CORNER**  
by Emily Barr

### **Summer Sunday School Schedule**

This summer during Sunday school, members of the congregation are invited to lead a session on a personal topic of their choice, sharing their gifts and experiences with the children and youth of Edgewood. Thank you to:

- o Jessi De La Cruz & Sally Burroughs for helping with the end-of-the-year celebration!
- o Ellen Ives & Colleen Johnson and their two sons, Sam and Aidan for sharing the experience in Cambodia.
- o Jan Bernsten for sharing about her travels all around the world!
- o Nancy Martling & Sue Haviland for sharing the new Care Partner Ministry!
- o Trudy Bower for leading the elementary class in her mission trip to Nicaragua!
- o Ada Kidd for Social Action education!
- o Frank Dennis and his gifts on Just Peace & Hunger Task Force missions!
- o Mickey Yang & Melissa Lehti-Shiu for a fun workshop on Chinese culture!
- o There will be others added to the list no doubt, so many thanks to you all who will be willing to sign-up and lead a Sunday school session!

*Summer Schedule Note:* The kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will combine as well as middle & high school during the summer session. At different times during the summer all grades will combine for an intergenerational activity. Moving up a grade? If you will be entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall you are welcome to join up with the other middle & high schoolers. NO REGULAR SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL ON July 31<sup>st</sup>.

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## JUST 4 YOU – Bible Riddles & Activities

“End of School” Jokes for all ages. Resource: <http://churchfun.com>

Kelly deciding to skip school and go to the mall with her friends waited until her parents had left for work and called the school herself.

Kelly: “Hi, I’m calling to report that Kelly is unable to make it to school today because she is ill.”

Secretary at high school: “Oh, I’m sorry to hear that. I’ll note her absence. Who is this calling?”

Kelly: “This is my mother.”

A kid comes home from his first day at school. Mother asks, “What did you learn today?”

The kid replies, “Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow.”

“Isn’t the principal a dummy!” a boy said to a girl standing next to him at recess.

“Do you know who I am!?!” the girl shouted.

“No.” replied the boy.

“I’m the principal’s daughter.” said the girl.

“Well, do you know who I am!?!” shouted the boy right back at her.

“I don’t have any idea” she yelled.

The boy said, “Thank goodness!” Then he ran away.

Edgewood United Church Staff  
**A Just Peace Church**  
**An Open & Affirming Church**  
Web page - edgewooducc.org

Ministers: Every Member  
Pastor: Kari Nicewander  
Office Administrator: Cindy Winter  
Christian Education Coordinator: Emily Barr  
Adult Choir Director: Monty Bieber  
Youth Ensemble Director: Marcia Beer  
Children's Choir Director:  
Bell Choir Directors: JoAnn Hubbard & Marcia Beer  
Organists: Mary Ann Baumgartner & Jan Bernsten  
Bookkeeper: Bob Nordlund  
Building Manager: Ken Dagner

*Guided by the love of Jesus Christ, Edgewood United Church seeks to be a community of healing, hope, and hospitality for people of all nationalities, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, types of families, marital statuses, ages, and abilities. Indeed, we celebrate the diversity that God has created.*



## The Edgewood Exchange

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Summer 2011 Edgewood Exchange