

EARLVILLE UNITED PARISH

JUBILEE

111 N. West Street • Earlville, IA 52041-0308

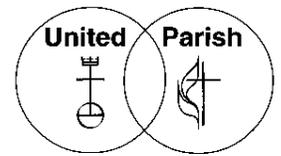
(563) 923-5460

www.eup91.net

eup91@iowatelecom.net

November 2019

Earlville



"The Earlville United Parish is a family of faith who reach in to take care of each other and reach out to grow God's Kingdom."

A Message from the Pastor

Over the last several weeks, we've been doing a series on our membership vows – that we pledge to support the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. When we covered "presence" we talked about worship attendance and participation in church activities and events. Just today, this article from the Pew Research Center came in my email about the decline of Christianity in the U.S. and I thought I'd share some excerpts from it. It echoes some of what we lifted up.

In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace

The religious landscape of the United States continues to change at a rapid clip. In Pew Research Center telephone surveys conducted in 2018 and 2019, 65% of American adults describe themselves as Christians when asked about their religion, down 12 percentage points over the past decade. Meanwhile, the religiously unaffiliated share of the population, consisting of people who describe their religious identity as atheist, agnostic or "nothing in particular," now stands at 26%, up from 17% in 2009.

Both Protestantism and Catholicism are experiencing losses of population share. Currently, 43% of U.S. adults identify with Protestantism, down from 51% in 2009. And one-in-five adults (20%) are Catholic, down from 23% in 2009. Meanwhile, all subsets of the religiously unaffiliated population – a group also known as religious "nones" – have seen their numbers swell. Self-described atheists now account for 4% of U.S. adults, up modestly but

significantly from 2% in 2009; agnostics make up 5% of U.S. adults, up from 3% a decade ago; and 17% of Americans now describe their religion as "nothing in particular," up from 12% in 2009. Members of non-Christian religions also have grown modestly as a share of the adult population...

As part of the demographic battery of questions that ask respondents about their age, race, educational attainment and other background characteristics, these polls also include one basic question about religious identity – "What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?"

Additionally, most of these political polls include a question about religious attendance – "Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services? More than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?" Taken together, these two questions (one about religious identity, the other about religious attendance) can help shed light on religious trends in the U.S.

The data shows that just like rates of religious affiliation, rates of religious attendance are declining. Over the last decade, the share of Americans who say they attend religious services at least once or twice a month dropped by 7 percentage points, while the share who say they attend religious services less often (if at all) has risen by the same degree. In 2009, regular worship attenders (those who attend religious services at least once or twice a

month) outnumbered those who attend services only occasionally or not at all by a 52%-to-47% margin. Today those figures are reversed; more Americans now say they attend religious services a few times a year or less (54%) than say they attend at least monthly (45%)...

There's more in the article - many more statistics - but I thought I'd share this much with you. It's an unfortunate trend, and one that we see in our own church - whether it's because we seem to be less committed to our faith and our church or because our witness is less effective. And so, my question is...what are we going to do about it? Food for thought - and prayers...

Well, enjoy the rest of your fall! And as fall turns to winter, I hope you'll remember the multiple activities and events happening at Earlville United Parish, as well as the two weekly opportunities to worship. Read on elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.

In Christ together,
Pastor Jill

Pastor Jill's contact information:
Home phone: 563-923-2312
Cell phone: 563-419-1016
e-mail: rjmack@iowatelecom.net



W.O.W.

(Worship on Wednesdays)



5:30 pm – free meal and fellowship time
6:00 pm - Christian Education for all ages: Pre-K through adults
7:00 pm – short, casual, contemporary worship

Please keep our mailing list up-to-date!

The Post Office will not forward our newsletters if the address is not correct. It also costs us every time a newsletter is returned with an incorrect address. We need the correct and current address. Please notify the church office by mail, phone, or e-mail if you or a family member move or will be gone for a season (such as going south for the winter.) We want to keep in touch with ALL our members and friends.

INFORMATION FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Send your monthly reports for the newsletter to: eup91@iowatelecom.net or rjmack@iowatelecom.net or bring them to the church in a timely fashion. The deadline for any article is on the calendar.

We should have reports from the various committees who meet each month: the women's group, the treasurer and the financial secretary so that we can keep the congregation up-to-date and informed each month.

If you do not see a report in the newsletter that you feel should be there, contact the church office or let Pastor Jill know. Thank you for your cooperation in seeing that this is done.



Second-grader, Caden Cannon, receiving his Bible.

Just a reminder that there are auto-debit forms available in fellowship hall if you would like to have your offering automatically sent to the church from your checking or savings account. This would be a great help to the church!

Did you know that the church receives numerous copies of the Upper Room devotional? They are available at the welcome table in the dining room. A small donation to cover the cost is appreciated, but not required. Why not take advantage of these excellent materials for your daily devotional time with God?

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE			
Offering for the week of...		Attendance	
(includes WOW)			
Sept 15:	Regular:	\$ 907.00	27
Sept 22:	Regular:	\$ 926.00	14
Sept 29:	Regular:	\$1480.00	22
Oct. 6	Regular:	\$1596.00	21
Oct 13:	Regular:	\$ 797.00	18
Oct 20:	Regular:	\$3576.00	22
NEEDED WEEKLY TO MEET THE BUDGET: \$2183.25			
NOTE: At this point, most weeks we are receiving <i>about half OR LESS</i> of what is needed to meet the budget. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help keep the ministry of this church going and in good financial condition.			
W.O.W. ATTENDANCE			
Sept 18:	25	Oct 9:	22
Sept 25:	24	Oct 16:	25
Oct. 2:	18	Oct 24:	39

**EUP Finance Report
September 30, 2019**

Checkbook Balance 8/31/19	\$ 5,537.79
Receipts	8,075.50
Disbursements	- 8,135.88
Checkbook Balance 9/30/19	\$ 5,477.41
Breakdown on Funds:	
General Fund	\$ 1,715.38
Vacation Bible School	- 1,577.84
Christian Education	387.38
After school program grant	444.41
Library	168.60
Memorial	1,275.81
Maintenance Fund	2,494.39
Men's Group	334.74
Flood Buckets	198.00
Family Thank Offering	15.00
Women's Bible Study	13.67
Interest on checking	7.87
* Checkbook Balance 9/30/19	\$ 5,447.41

* Balance includes the following subsidies from the Endowment Fund:
 Calendar year 2017 - \$15,000.00
 Calendar year 2018 - \$20,000.00
 Calendar year 2019 - \$22,795.00 (To date) - Includes \$15,000 subsidy for general fund and \$7,795.00 for new furnace and air conditioner for the church.

Scripture List

Scriptures for the next month are:

Nov 3: Psalm 119:137-144; Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

Nov 10: Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; Haggai 1:15b-2:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

Nov 17: Psalm 98; Malachi 4:1-2a; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

Nov 24: Psalm 46; Jeremiah 23:1-6; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

Ushers/Greeters and Liturgists for November

If you cannot help on your assigned Sunday, please find your own substitute!

Nov 3: ANNUAL MEETING

Ushers/Greeters: Kent & Susie Salow;

Liturgist: Susie Salow

Nov 10: Ushers/Greeters: Laurie Boies & Tristan Baker; Liturgist: Laurie Boies

Nov 17: Ushers/Greeters: Jim & Connie Clifton; Liturgist: Melissa Dutra

Nov 24: Ushers/Greeters: Lance & Dawn Smeins; Liturgist: Dawn Smeins

Altar Flowers: Alan & Gini Von Talge
Communion Steward: Traci Massman



Membership and Evangelism

The Membership and Evangelism Committee met on October 13, 2019. Attending were Pastor Jill, Gini VonTalge, and Laurie Boies. Jill opened with prayer and the meeting was called to order. Caring thoughts this month are for those struggling with illness and infirmity, and farmers working to bring in the harvest. No Welcome Plants to deliver this month. We discussed our upcoming Night of the Nativity and have set the date for December 7, from 5-7 pm. We are planning to serve a meal of soup and sandwiches, relish tray, and bars. We will also have music throughout the evening. Our annual meeting is coming up on November 3rd, and we will have a potluck afterward, so plan on attending that. Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 10th. Laurie closed with prayer and we read our affirmation.

Laurie Boies, Secretary, Pro Tem

Mark Your Calendars!



Saturday, December 7th - Soup and Sandwich Supper 5-7 pm - Freewill offering - Enjoy viewing the many Nativity sets on display and listening to live Christmas music! Keep watching for more details.



Volunteer opportunity: Would you be willing to prepare the W.O.W. meal sometime? We would like to spread the responsibility around so it does not always fall on the same people. Please contact Pastor Jill if you can help! Suggestions for meals and financial reimbursement are available, if needed.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes October 21, 2019

The EUP Parish Council met on October 21, 2019. Lance Smeins, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Pastor Jill, Art Gourley, Lance Smeins, Shannon Richardson, John Cannon, Jake Connolly, and Nikki Shaw. Shannon R. opened with a prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting were shared. Motion to approve as presented was made by Shannon R; seconded by Art G. Motion carried.

Art G. presented the financial report. Motion to accept the report was made by John C; seconded by Nikki S. Motion carried. The Pastoral Support Form I was presented. Jake C. moved to accept the recommendations on Form I, Shannon R. seconded. Motion carried. Art also presented the proposed 2020 budget. Shannon R. made a motion to approve the budget to be presented at the annual meeting; seconded by Jake C. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Discipleship Pathways: work continues, hoping to finalize it and present it during Lent

Safety and Security: haven't met

New Business: We went over the Charge Conference Forms. Filled out the Mission and

Ministry Plan for 2020. Motion to approve made by Art G. and seconded by Nikki S. Carried. The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 3rd during worship. This will be followed by a potluck lunch. All reports for the meeting are due no later than October 28.

Shannon R. made a motion to approve the work of the nominating committee in securing people for the various committee openings - to be presented at the annual meeting; seconded by Jake C. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Trustees: Replaced furnace and air conditioner in Fellowship Hall; purchased new microwave for parsonage

Worship: Planned the theme for Advent.

Hanging of the Greens will be December 1st. The Christmas program is set for December 24th.

SPRC: Met and requested to keep Pastor Jill.

Filled out Form I and other pastoral paperwork for annual meeting. Will be doing a review of the secretary soon.

Education: Will be meeting soon to plan the Christmas program.

Memorial: Meets tomorrow.

Membership and Evangelism: Met on Sunday, October 13. Worked on planning the 2nd annual Night of the Nativity for December 7th.

ETC: No report.

Endowment: No report. Have not had their fall meeting yet.

Nominations: Meets tomorrow. Working on filling the various openings on committees.

Pastor's Report: She is working on the annual meeting, UMC charge conference reports, and preparing for the upcoming Advent season.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 2 at 7:00 p.m. This will include both outgoing and incoming members of Parish Council. Lance Smeins closed with prayer and the meeting was adjourned.



Worship and Annual Meeting

November 3, 2019

10 a.m.

Potluck following

Stewardship Message

A Matter of the Heart

Most people immediately think of money when they hear the word “stewardship.” But stewardship is so much bigger than finances. It’s really a heart issue – a longing to offer everything we are and have to Him. Consider these truths from the Word of God as you prayerfully ask the Lord to make your heart more in tune with His.

Thankfulness

“In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus (I Thessalonians 5:18). A steward’s heart is a thankful heart – but how can we be thankful in everything? It begins with an attitude of gratitude – thanking God for the big and small blessings in our life, and resting on His promises during the difficult times.

Thoughts

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have...” (Hebrews 13:5). Most people think if they had just a little more money, they’d be happier. But contentment isn’t “getting what you want - it’s a mindset of wanting what you have.” Contentment comes when we tune out our culture’s relentless pursuit for more, and fix our thoughts and eyes on God who promised to supply all of our needs.

Trust

“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not . . . to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy” (I Timothy 6:17). Our trust can easily move from God to our bank accounts and abilities. But the only path to peace is to put our trust in God, yielding to His plan and timing for our lives.

Talk

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” (Deuteronomy 6: 6-7). Our children may fail to listen, but we know that they seldom fail to imitate us.

Talents

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10). Highly effective stewards see their time and talents as precious gifts from God, and use those gifts to bless others and advance the kingdom of God in their homes, communities, and around the world.

Treasure

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops” (Proverbs 3:9). When we give, we are demonstrating the depth of our loyalty to Christ and understanding of His grace in our lives. We serve a giving God, and when He lives in our hearts, our love for Him grows, overflowing in generous, sacrificial, and joyful giving to the things He cares about.

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Thanksgiving
Worship Service

Wednesday, November 27th
7 pm

Please bring a non-perishable food item with you to the Thanksgiving service. It will be donated to the Delaware County Food Bank.

MISSION OPPORTUNITY: Operation Christmas Child – Shoe Box Gifts: Since 1993, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God’s love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan’s Purse works with local churches and ministry partners to deliver the gifts and share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ. Once again this year, we here at EUP are asking you to participate in this wonderful ministry by purchasing gifts to fill a shoebox. Please consider shopping for or donating money for this very special project. **Gifts are due at the church by November 15th!** Information and shoeboxes are available in fellowship hall or online at samaritanspurse.org/occ. Please read instructions carefully!



Joys and Concerns

Immediate prayers

Unstable political situations around the world; migrants and refugees fleeing war, persecution and poverty; situations of racism and violence in the US; victims of natural disasters; victims of violence and terrorist attacks; immigration issues in the U.S. and the plight of immigrant children; victims of Hurricane Dorian; Vernon Buccholz (Teresa Rowland's father); Carter Zapf; Lucas Baker; Barb Behrends; Bonnie Dzaboff; Karen & Don Reittinger; Craig Wulfekuhle; Macy Jones; Bob Dutra; Barb Volk (Laurie Boies's sister-in-law); Gary Wilkinson (Laurie Boies's cousin); John Wandrey; Logan (second-grader with cancer); Whitley (18-month-old with cancer); Jeff Kelchen's father; the family of Harry Lahr

Continuing prayers

Missy Digman; Randy Mack; Tristan Baker; Gini Von Talge; Judy (friend of Pastor Jill); Zach Fisher; Amanda Polson (Rev. Lynn Patrick's granddaughter); Sue Goldsmith; Joyce McAulay (Mike's mom); Mike Long; our US troops

Those in uniform

Anthony Crawford (Cathy Hoeger's son); Joseph Bebber (Shirley Edward's son); Angelina Pedretti (Shirley Edward's daughter); Eric Deutmeyer (Melissa Dutra's nephew); Alex Digman (Missy Digman's son)

LOCAL MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING CENTERS

(In addition to your prayers, these people would surely welcome a visit or a note from you!)

Lela Thomas, Good Neighbor Home
105 McCarren Drive, Manchester, IA 52057

Betty Salow, Good Neighbor Home
105 McCarren Drive, Manchester, IA 52057

Mary Lou Schmitz, Good Neighbor Home
105 McCarren Drive, Manchester, IA 52057



NOVEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<p>1</p>  <p>All Saints' Day</p> <p>B: Kent Gourley Dylan Sellner</p>	2
<p>3</p> <p>10 am- Worship; ANNUAL MEETING w/Potluck</p> 	4	5	<p>6</p> <p><u>W.O.W.</u></p> <p>5:30 pm-Meal 6:00 pm- Christian Ed 7:00 pm-Worship w/communion</p>	7	8	9
<p>10</p> <p>9 am –Adult Sunday School 10 am- Worship w/communion M&E mtg. after worship</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>VETERANS DAY</p>	<p>12</p> <p>B: Kenyon Baker Willow Shroyer</p>	<p>13</p> <p><u>W.O.W.</u></p> <p>5:30 pm-Meal 6:00 pm- Christian Ed 7:00 pm- Worship</p>	14	15	16
<p>17</p> <p>9 am –Adult Sunday School 10 am- Worship</p> <p>B: Melissa LeGassick Christa Jillson- Richardson</p>	18	<p>19</p> <p>A: Mike & Jennifer Betts</p>	<p>20</p> <p><u>Newsletter Deadline</u></p> <p><u>W.O.W.</u></p> <p>5:30 pm-Meal 6:00 pm- Christian Ed 7:00 pm- Worship</p>	21	22	23
<p>24</p> <p>9 am–Adult Sunday School 10 am-Worship</p>  <p>Christ the King SUNDAY</p> <p>B: Hope Massman Shania Jones</p>	<p>25</p> <p>A: Randy & Jill Mack</p>	<p>26</p> <p>B: Izak Scherbring</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>Thanksgiving Eve SERVICE</p> <p><u>W.O.W.</u></p> <p>5:30 pm-Meal 6:00 pm- Christian Ed 7:00 pm- Thanksgiving Worship</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>Thanksgiving DAY</p> <p>B: Dustin Helmricks A: Brad & Lisa Christopher</p>	29	30

