



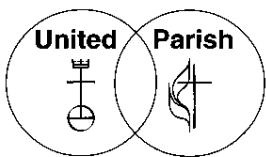
EARLVILLE UNITED PARISH

JUBILEE

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March 2020

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

*I'm forgiven, because you were forsaken.
I'm accepted, you were condemned.
I'm alive and well, your Spirit is within me,
Because you died and rose again.
Amazing Love, how can it be?
That you my King, should die for me.*

Those are the opening lines of a contemporary Christian song called "Amazing Love." A couple of weeks ago, around Valentine's Day, I was reading a story about the amazing things people do for love. Some of them we might even call crazy things! For instance...

- Many of you may know that in 1936, King Edward VIII of Britain abdicated his throne, giving up the privileges of royalty in order to marry an American—Wallis Simpson, who had been divorced twice before.
- Or you may have heard that Emperor Shah Jahan of India built the Taj Mahal in memory of his third wife, whom he named "Jewel of the Palace." When she died in childbirth, the emperor began designing a suitable mausoleum to express his love and honor her memory. It took 22,000 workers 22 years to finish the project, and many today consider the Taj Mahal one of the most beautiful buildings in the world.
- Then there was the 20-year-old in Milwaukee who had a friend shoot him—yes, with a gun—in hopes that the injury would win back his girlfriend. He hoped the girl would feel sorry for him and rush to his side to care for him. He waited in vain for her to show up at the hospital.

People do amazing things in the name of love, sometimes even crazy things!

Do human beings ever outgrow the need for love, the need to belong, the need to have someone who is concerned about us, who will go to any lengths just to be with us? Psychologists say no.

Sociologists say no. Our own hearts—if we stop to listen to them—say no.

And Scripture agrees. Well over one hundred times the Lord through the prophet Isaiah refers to "my people." The other prophets do the same. Our God's heart longs to draw each individual, each person he has created, to himself! When we stop to really think about this, we realize how amazing God's love for us is! Truthfully, we don't deserve his love—and we never will deserve it. Even on our best days, our prayers are thoughtless or lukewarm. We have ignored opportunities to show our love for God by caring for the people around us. We have shown love only when we knew we might receive credit and gain prestige by doing so. We have wasted the resources our Lord has entrusted to us. We have been afraid or ashamed to speak up for just causes and, sometimes, even for our Savior.

When we stop to consider our attitudes and actions, we start to wonder whether God really means what he says about loving us. Can Jesus truly mean it when he says, "*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you*" (John 15:9)? Yes, he can! Yes, he does!

And, as we now enter the season of Lent, we are reminded once again that he has done an absolutely crazy thing to prove it! Jesus Christ, God's own Son, stretched out his arms on Calvary's cross in a love that embraced all of us, each one of us! Christ on Calvary, arms outstretched, bled and died so that our Father could call us "my people"—"my sons, my daughters."

In Jesus, you are forgiven. You are treasured. You are dearly and eternally loved! Love like that takes our breath away. Love like that transforms our lukewarm love for others, making it burn more brightly and consistently.

The Bible tells us, "*While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*" (Romans 5:8).

And we respond in the words of a hymn written more than 300 years ago, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross:"

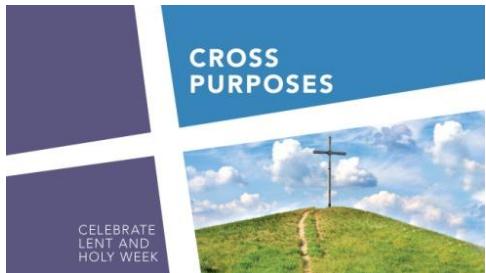
*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

I pray that during this Lenten season you will remember Christ's deep, never-ending, very personal love - his amazing, even crazy love. The love that led him to die rather than face eternity without you. Remember his love, his death, his resurrection, and his forgiveness for all your sins. All these are yours unconditionally - no strings attached. Believe it! While we were yet sinners, Christ died - for us!

You are invited to hear more about this on Sundays and Wednesdays during Lent as we explore the theme of "Cross Purposes" in worship. See below...

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



Cross Purposes

Our Lenten series this year helps us to remember and recognize God's purposes as we stand at the foot of the cross. In these services, we will come to realize, as we walk through the season of Lent in humility and repentance, that God's promises are fulfilled and sins are crossed out only at the cross of Jesus.

Ash Wednesday, February 26: Cross Examine

On Ash Wednesday we examine ourselves in the light of the cross. Though our sins make us guilty, we are found not guilty through the death of the innocent Son of God.

March 1 & 4: Cross Out

In this service we remember that all our sins have been crossed out through the forgiveness that comes only through the atoning sacrifice of the crucified Christ.

March 8 & 11: Cross Road

In this service we remember that heaven crossed the path of earth on Mount Calvary, becoming a cross road for us that changed the direction of our lives forever.

March 15 & 18: Cross Walk

In this service we remember that we are called to follow Christ on his cross walk, stepping out into a life of suffering and service in the name of the Lord.

March 22 & 25: Cross Word

In this service we remember that the promise, the message, the word of the cross, is all-powerful, and that power is made perfect in weakness.

March 29 & April 1: Cross Reference

In this service we remember that the cross of Christ was referenced long ago by the prophets and refers us now to the future glory we will experience in heaven with him.

Scripture List

Scriptures for the next month are:

March 1 - Psalm 103; Isaiah 1:16-18; Ephesians 4:31-5:2; Matthew 6:9-15

March 8 - Psalm 51; Numbers 21:4-9; Romans 3:21-25; John 3:14-17

March 15 - Psalm 1; Isaiah 35:4-10; Hebrews 12:1-3; Matthew 16:24-26

March 22 - Psalm 111; Isaiah 55:8-11; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; Matthew 16:21-23

March 29 - Psalm 77; Isaiah 53:6-10; Hebrews 1:1-4; Luke 24:44-48

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?



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.

EUP Finance Report

(Jan 31, 2020)

Checkbook Balance 12/31/19	\$ 6,046.06
Receipts	9,882.78
Disbursements	- 10,795.21
Checkbook Balance 1/31/19	\$ 5,133.63

Breakdown on Funds:

General Fund	\$ 1,281.25
Vacation Bible School	-200.00
Christian Education	387.38
After school program grant	444.41
Library	168.60
Memorial	974.83
Maintenance Fund	1,713.75
Men's Group	334.74
Family Thank Offering	15.00
Women's Bible Study	13.67
* Checkbook Balance 1/31/19	\$ 5,133.63

* Balance includes the following subsidies from the Endowment Fund to the General Fund:

Calendar year 2017 - \$15,000.00

Calendar year 2018 - \$20,000.00

Calendar year 2019 - \$15,000.00

Calendar year 2020 - \$5,000.00 (To date)

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!



Ushers/Greeters and Liturgists for March

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

March 1 - Ushers/Greeters: Randy Mack & Alan Von Talge **Liturgist:** Randy Mack

March 8 - Ushers/Greeters: Lynn Smith & Jo Chapman **Liturgist:** Laurie Boies

March 15 - Ushers/Greeters: Lance & Dawn Smeins **Liturgist:** Dawn Smeins

March 22 - Ushers/Greeters: Kent & Susie Salow **Liturgist:** Susie Salow

March 29 - Ushers/Greeters: Jim & Connie Clifton **Liturgist:** Melissa Dutra

Altar Flowers: Virginia & Alan Von Talge

Communion Steward: Traci Massman

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.

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; confirmation

7:00 pm – short, casual, contemporary worship

OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE

Week of...

(offering includes Wednesdays)

	Offering	Attendance
Dec. 22	Regular: \$3321.00	31
Christmas Eve	Regular: \$1213.00	145
Dec. 29	Regular: \$1616.00	44
Jan. 5	Regular: \$1198.00	18
Jan. 12	Regular: \$ 918.00	17
Jan. 19	worship canceled	
Jan. 26	Regular: \$1935.00	15
Feb. 2	Regular: \$1985.50	23
Feb. 9	Regular: \$4910.00	24

NEEDED WEEKLY TO MEET THE BUDGET: \$2169.85

NOTE: At this point, most weeks we are receiving about half 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

Dec. 25	no W.O.W.	Jan. 22	13
Jan. 1	no W.O.W.	Jan. 29	27
Jan. 8	27	Feb. 5	20
Jan. 15	13	Feb. 12	19



Sunday, March 8



BLOOD DRIVE Want to make a difference in someone's life? In fact, you can help to save four lives! By donating just one unit of blood, you can help four people who desperately need what you have to give! We have scheduled another blood drive here at EUP for Monday, March 2nd in the lower level. The hours for donation will be 3-6 pm. Reserve your time slot now and help save lives! There is a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall or give Connie Clifton a call (923-2204). Walk-ins also accepted.

Questions to Ponder

Here are several questions for you to answer in your spare time ☺:

- Why is the slowest traffic of the day called RUSH HOUR?
- Why do we drive on PARKWAYS, but park on DRIVEWAYS?
- Why is it that when you transport something by car it's called SHIPMENT, but when you transport something by ship it's called CARGO?
- If you're in a vehicle going the speed of light, what would happen when you turned on the headlights?
- How does the snowplow driver get to work in the morning?
- If a cow laughed, would milk come out of her nose?
- Why are there always flotation devices under plane seats, but never parachutes?
- That little indestructible black box that they always recover from crashed planes — why don't they just make the whole plane out of the same stuff?
- If 7-11 stores are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, why are there locks on the front doors?

Membership and Evangelism

The Membership and Evangelism Committee met on February 9, 2020. Present were Pastor Jill, Gini VonTalge, Tristan Baker, and Laurie Boies. Pastor Jill opened with prayer and the meeting was called to order. Caring thoughts this month are for people who are having to work in and deal with the winter weather. There were no Welcome Plants to deliver. We decided to set our Family Fun and Game Night for March 15th, so we can hopefully avoid inclement weather, and have more time to promote it. We will serve our usual fare of sub sandwiches, chips, bars, and a drink. This is a great opportunity for the Wednesday night congregation and the Sunday morning congregation to interact and have some fun together. There will be assorted games and kids' activities and even a movie showing on the big screen in the sanctuary. There will also be fresh popcorn and extras (M&Ms, raisins, etc) to embellish the popcorn with. Please plan on joining us! Next meeting will be on March 8, 2020. Laurie closed with prayer and we read our affirmation.

Laurie Boies



Sunday, March 15th

4 pm

Board games

Crafts

Kids' crafts

Movie

Popcorn bar

Sub sandwich meal

Something for ALL ages!

Come and join your Membership and Evangelism team for a fun - and free! - evening of food and fellowship!



The Earlville United Parish takes part in three special mission offerings each year. During March we will be collecting for **One Great Hour of Sharing** (also called **UMCOR Sunday**). The offering will be collected during worship on March 22nd and 25th. We hope you will come prepared to give.

One Great Hour of Sharing/UMCOR Sunday is the Lenten Offering of both the UCC and UMC that supports disaster relief, refugee, and development activities.

"You are God's field; God's building."
-1 Cor. 3:9

Through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, we are planting seeds of new life. Together, we are investing in communities worldwide: providing education to girls and boys, empowering communities through vocational training, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all. These are just a few ways the OGHS offering touches God's children, in addition to disaster relief and refugee initiatives.

You have an opportunity to plant seeds into the lives of others. Be a co-worker with God. Building, planting, watering...and trusting that God gives growth to all good gifts shared in faith. Thank you for your partnership. Thank you for your generosity.

Invest in futures!

www.onegreathourofsharing.org



We will be doing a study of the Apostles' Creed and the basics of our faith on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights during the Lenten season. This will begin on Sunday, March 1st at 9 am and Wednesday March 4th at 6 pm. Please join us for one of these!

The Paradox of Stewards

2 Corinthians 6:3-13

"As servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: . . . having nothing and yet possessing everything."

Every once in a while around the dinner table, we think of oxymorons—those interesting expressions that seem to be contradictions in terms. Jumbo shrimp is an oxymoron.

In 2 Corinthians 6, Paul indicates that Christians are no strangers to such contradictions. Christians are those who are dying to live. They are joyful in sorrow. They are poor but make many rich. They have nothing and yet possess everything (v. 10).

What strange talk! How can we have nothing yet possess everything? Only if we understand ourselves in God's terms—as stewards of God's immense riches.

Consider Abraham, the prototype of Christian faith. Abraham's personal riches were dwarfed by the promise God made: "To your offspring I will give this land" (Gen. 12:7). Yet this man who possessed everything had nothing. When his wife Sarah died, Abraham needed to buy a cemetery plot from Ephron, a local Hittite. Abraham possessed everything, yet he had nothing.

It happened again when Israel entered Canaan. The promise of the land was fulfilled. The tribes possessed everything. But not all the tribes. For one tribe, different rules applied. The tribe of Levi had no allotment in Israel (Deut. 18:1). No allotment? They owned nothing?

Well, yes and no. They may have owned nothing but they possessed everything. For Scripture goes on to explain: "They shall have no inheritance among their brothers; the Lord is their inheritance as he promised them" (v. 2).

And now this is true of us, Abraham's children by faith. We possess everything; yet we have nothing. Why? Because everything we have really belongs to God. And in that reality is our joy! We can live as God's stewards. We can live as those who are entrusted not only with God's riches, but with God's own presence! To God be all glory!

Something to Think About

In this passage, Paul expresses many of the contradictions of the Christian life. Have you experienced the contradiction of stewardship—even as we give our dollars away, we are continually enriched by God? What lasting changes in your stewardship practices would you like to make?



www.BarnabasFoundation.com



IMMEDIATE PRAYER REQUESTS

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; the coronavirus outbreak; Carter Zapf; Lucas Baker; Karen & Don Reittinger; Craig Wulfekuhle; Macy Jones; Whitley (18 month old with cancer); Logan (second-grader with cancer); Chris Hucker; Lyle Orcutt; Ilene Orcutt; Shannon Richardson's sister, Ramona; Shannon Richardson's co-worker, Adam; the family of Betty Krapfl

CONTINUING PRAYERS

Bob Dutra; Jeff Kelchen's father; Dan Krogmann; Jen Krogmann's father; Vernon Buccholz (Teresa Rowland's father); Bonnie Dzaboff; Zach Fisher; 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)

JOYS

the baptism of Easton Louis Wessels, son of Chad & Jessica Wessels

Every few months, if we are not informed of the condition of those on the prayer list, their names will be removed. To get involved in the EUP Prayer Chain ministry, or for requests for prayer, please contact Alice Hunt at 923-4505 or Pastor Jill at 923-5460 (church), 923-2312 (home) or 563-419-1016(cell).

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

Lyle Orcutt, Good Neighbor Home
105 McCarren Drive, Manchester, IA 52057





March 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 First Sunday in Lent 9 am –Adult Sunday School 10 am- Worship w/communion; baptism  3pm – 6pm B: Mahala Lahr	2  3pm – 6pm B: Mahala Lahr	3 A: Lyle & Ilene Orcutt	4 <u>W.O.W.</u> 5:30 pm-Meal 6:00 pm- Christian Ed 7:00 pm-Lenten Worship w/communion B: Sharon Paul Christian Mack	5	6  B: Betty Salow	7 B: Betty Salow
8 Second Sunday in Lent 9 am –Adult Sunday School 10 am- Worship; M&E following worship  B: Jerrett Helmrichs	9	10 B: Zachary Mineart A: Brian & Tammy Orcutt	11 <u>W.O.W.</u> 5:30 pm-Meal 6:00 pm-Christian Ed 7:00 pm- Lenten Worship	12	13 B: Jonathon Thomas Joyvonne Chapman	14 B: Alice Hunt
15 Third Sunday in Lent 9 am –Adult Sunday School 10 am- Worship  4 pm-Family Fun Night B: Landon Helmrichs	16	17 	18 <u>Newsletter Deadline</u> <u>W.O.W.</u> 5:30 pm-Meal 6:00 pm-Christian Ed 7:00 pm- Lenten Worship	19 	20 B: Sheri Mast	21 B: Janet Houlton Mike Baker
22 Fourth Sunday in Lent 9 am –Adult Sunday School 10 am- Worship; O.G.H.S.	23	24	25 <u>W.O.W.</u> 5:30 pm-Meal 6:00 pm-Christian Ed 7:00 pm- Lenten Worship	26 B : Alan Von Talge Taylor White Rhett Henney	27	28 B: Jill Mack
29 Fifth Sunday in Lent 9 am–Adult Sunday School 10 am-Worship w/communion B: Ilene Orcutt Boston McAulay	30	31				