



Church *matters*

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | EAST GLENVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH | SPRING 2019

ELDERS CORNER

We have just begun another fiscal year in the life of our church. At our annual congregational meeting on January 25 we voted in a budget for 2019, elected new board members, affirmed a proposal by the elders to form a search team for a permanent senior pastor, and passed some bylaw changes. It is always a blessing to see how God works at these meetings. Even though there may be differences of opinion, He leads us forward and He calls us to follow in unity.

So what does that mean? As I prayed about this question and what to write in this article, the answer I received was to focus on prayer. For our church to move forward and fulfill the great commission in Matthew 28, we need the spirit of God to work in us and through us. We must be united in prayer that we all have a zeal for God's word, a love for one another, and hearts for spreading the gospel near and far.

The budget we passed was similar in amount to the 2018 budget even though we had a shortfall in last year's giving. Let us pray together that we will be a church family of cheerful and faithful givers to God's work at EGCC so we won't have to ask ministries and staff to cut back. Thank God for the Rhodenizer's gift and ask that God show us how to use it wisely.

As another search team is gathered, pray that God will move in the hearts of those He has chosen to participate in it. Pray that the team will work well together, that God will guide all that they do, and that God's man will come here in God's timing.

We praise God for Pastor Brad and Pastor Phil as well as all of our staff. Pray that they will keep their eyes focused on God and feel His presence, protection and love. Pray for all of the boards and ministries of our church as they reorganize with new members. Ask God to give them wisdom and unity, patience and endurance, and that they will see fruit from their efforts. Ask God to show you how you can help.

I am convinced that if we all pray faithfully our mighty God will do mighty works within and through us. Please remember that your elders are always available to answer your questions and receive your input.

*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.*

Gary Williams, for the Elder Board

BECAUSE GOD IS EVER-PRESENT...I AM NEVER ALONE

September 20th 1994 is a day that has forever changed my life. It was the day that my sister and only sibling Carol Lynne died along with her husband Gerald Hunter in a car accident on a small country road. I will never forget the phone call from my wife telling me to get to my parents home quickly there had been a terrible accident involving my sister! It was the longest drive to mom and dad's I had ever made, minutes seemed like hours, and the entire way home I found myself descending deeper into my thoughts, "is this true?" "Could this really be happening?" "What will I say to mom and dad?" "What will happen to my niece and nephews?" "Oh God, Father are you here, I feel so alone!" Later in the day, we found ourselves there as a family, along with our many friends trying their best to help with hugs and words of encouragement, but the truth was that all of us felt alone and so paralyzed in our pain and shock that we didn't know what to say.

That is when I started thinking, why did the accident happen today? Why not tomorrow? Why didn't it take place in the morning instead of the afternoon? What if the truck that they collided with had left the yard just 30 seconds earlier or later, none of this would have happened. After mulling these questions repeatedly in my mind, it struck me, all the timing had to be perfect for these two vehicles to collide! Though we all were shocked with surprise by this tragedy, and emotionally undone by the suddenness of the event, God was not! The one who controls time was completely aware of the timing; He was completely aware of the event. The difficult reality is that God was there! He was there with me on my way to my parents. He was there when I called out, "Father, are you here?" God was there in that room full of comforting friends when we felt so alone; He was there! He was there with my sister and her husband when He took them by the hand and brought them home to Himself. Moreover, He has been there for our family everyday since.

You see God is always here, right where you are, all the time. Nothing takes Him by surprise, nothing that happens to us happens in a vacuum. No matter whom you are, or whether you believe me or not, God is always there. And you and I are never out there on our own. In Psalm 139, David, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit declares this truth,

"7) Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? 8) If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. 9) If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea... 11) If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,' 12) even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you."

And further the Bible teaches that even those who don't believe in God's existence are still in His sight!

Hebrews 4:13 "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

So, what this means is that we are never, no matter what the situation, out of God's loving presence. Keeping that in mind let me ask you some tough questions. Where are you right now in your life? Are you alone, without friends or relationships? Are you alone in the bitterness of anger, or alone in your fear and distrust of others? Are you alone in a diseased mindset that you're going to somehow slip into the darkness and be lost? Do you feel alone in depression and yet cannot explain why? No matter where you are, you are not alone, God is there! You can call to Him and He will answer! He may answer through the love of a friend. He may choose to reveal Himself through His word, the Bible. He may show Himself to you in a church service. God may choose different ways to let you know He is there with you. Nevertheless, in every way, He will show Himself to you as He already has, in Jesus Christ! Jesus has promised that those who trust in Him, He would never leave nor forsake even in car accidents, even where you may feel the most alone right now. He's there, call out! You are not alone!

Till next time,
Pastor Brad

EGCC WELCOMES OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBER!

YOUTH DIRECTOR

NICHOLAS ("NICK") FELICIANO

Nick is a 2017 graduate of Clarks Summit University in PA, where he played college baseball. He earned a BS in Bible, majoring in youth ministry. Nick served as a youth pastor intern at Ogletown Baptist Church in Newark, DE, and has supervised several international mission trips and Christian camp sessions.

Nick's goal is to help lead students to be passionate about serving Christ in their families, schools, community and beyond, while being part of a mission-minded church body.

Please give Nick a warm welcome, as he relocates here from Delaware and begins his new position March 15. Pray for, and come alongside, him and our youth volunteer team in this vital ministry to our young people.



HOLY GROUNDS COFFEEHOUSE

Please plan to join us in Buchanan Hall on Friday night, March 8, 7pm for a night of fun and fellowship complete with emcee, music, lots of entertaining performers, and delicious treats and hot drinks to enjoy throughout the evening. Childcare will be provided for ages nursery - 4th grade.

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday Worship
Sunday, April 14, 10:30am

**Maundy Thursday
Communion Service**
Thursday, April 18, 7:00pm

Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, April 21, 6:00am

Easter Brunch
Sunday, April 21, 9:30am

Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, April 21, 10:00am

Easter Celebration Worship
Sunday, April 21, 10:30am

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Interested in joining a team of audio/media geeks? Get involved with the tech ministry here at EGCC. We're growing these teams and know that there must be at least some of you out there who would love to be a part of these great groups. Lacking experience/knowledge? We will train you! In a short period of time, you could be working in the sound or media booth. Contact Sandie Wanamaker via worship@egccchurch.org, 518.932.3286, or drop by either booth after a service for more information.

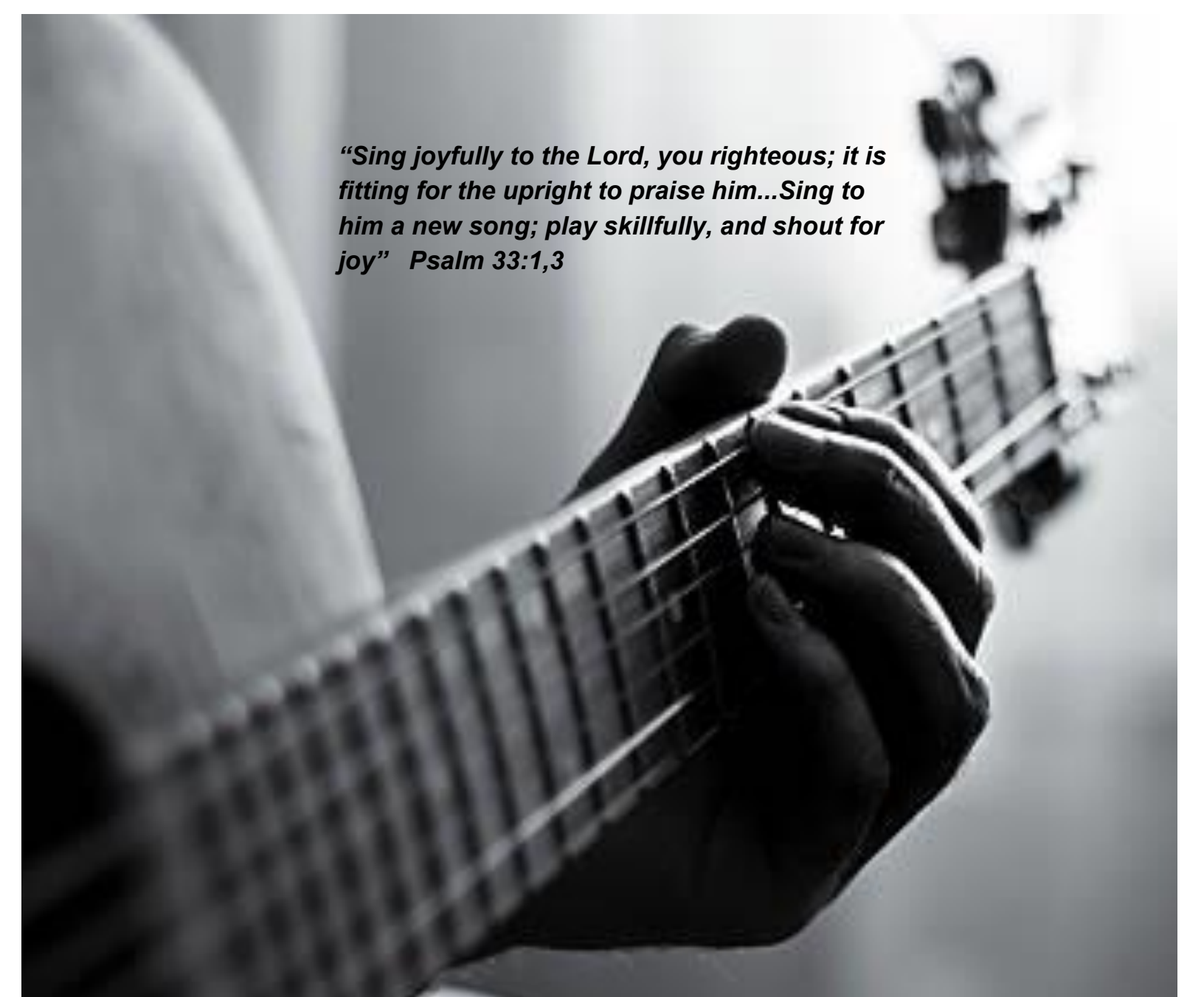
"Congregational singing is a major means of grace and growth for the soul of the Christian, it is a distinctive discipline of God's people to pour out their hearts and lift their voices together in common worship of the One who has loved and redeemed them. Singing together is the activity of Christians who wish to serve one another, who are willing to struggle together all the way to glory, who intuitively understand the power of song to lift our souls, strengthen our hands, and enlarge our hearts."

Andrew Roycroft/From Challies.com



EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

We will be accepting donations toward flowers to decorate our sanctuary for Easter Sunday (\$20). Envelopes will soon be in the pews and due by April 7th. Please note if you are giving in honor or remembrance of someone.



"Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him...Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy" Psalm 33:1,3

MUSICIANS WANTED

The EGCC Worship Team is seeking vocal & instrumental musicians to participate in leading the congregation in Worship.

Do you have talents to share?
Contact Sandie Wanamaker at
worship@egcchurch.org

TRUSTEES

We are excited for Spring and all that it brings; new beginnings, warmer weather and most importantly, Resurrection Day!

On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank those who have taken the time to attend our latest church wide workday. Going forward in 2019, we as a board have decided to have monthly church wide work days. This will enable us to pay closer attention to our facility and grounds, while ensuring that we are doing all we can as a church body to be stewards of all that the Lord has given us.

Our upcoming workdays are on Saturday 3/16/4/13, 5/18, and 6/22 @ 9 am. This is an excellent opportunity for both fellowship and Kingdom work right here at EGCC while serving our King. As always, we need all hands-on deck and we are anticipating more participation as the months progress.

Also, please let us remember to always leave things in a better condition than we found them. Shutting off lights, making sure doors are locked as we exit, and picking up as we go along all go a long way and are deeply appreciated. This is His house, let us give reverence at all times.

As always, we welcome suggestions on ideas to preserve and improve our building and grounds. If you have any concerns, please see me, John Ferguson, Dan Meguin, Lisa Nally, Brian Sweet, or Andrei Squires.

David Connors and the Trustees

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58 ESV



DIACONATE

What is the Diaconate Board?

The Diaconate Board consists of Deacons and Deaconesses who share spiritual ministry responsibilities.

The Diaconate Board derives its title from the Greek word *diakonos* meaning servant. Their charge is to promote the physical well-being of the congregation and support its worship. The Diaconate shall give its foremost attention to assisting those in our congregation who are widows, fatherless, poor, needy, sick, friendless, or distressed. The Board is also to minister to those outside the congregation whom the Lord may direct to us for help.

The Diaconate oversees many ministries in our church and depends on the faithful service of many from our congregation. Some of the areas that Diaconate oversees are: communion, prayer chain, meals to sick and needy, ushers, greeters, cards, flowers, visitation, transportation, scholarship fund, benevolence gifts, serving at City Mission and Baptist Health Nursing Home, Dorcas, Flannelgraph, Hospitality, shoebox ministry, baby bottle collection, holiday food drive, backpack drive and Junior Diaconate.

We thank those that faithfully serve in the Diaconate ministries. If you would like to serve on any of the ministries listed above, we welcome you.

Your Diaconate Team,
Leaa Mulone, Robin Daly, Holly Britton (Secretary), Brenda Mills (Chairman), Pastor Phil (Liaison), Gary Williams (Liaison)

Junior Diaconate

The Junior Diaconate is a ministry for children K – 12th grade who are interested in serving God by serving others. The JD team fills the pew racks each Sunday and tidies up the pews, picks up communion cups each month and helps to refill the trays for the following month. Special projects are done a few times each year that include baking cookies for shut-ins, a Mother's Day mini pie sale to raise money for those with a need, and blessing bags at Christmas time.

We will have a mini pie sale for Mother's Day this year. Information will be in the bulletin in April. If your child is interested in serving on the JD team, please have them contact Susan Williams or Brenda Mills.

MISSIONS

News from the Short Term Mission Team

We are blessed to be serving our Lord Jesus Christ, and to be supported by you, our family, friends and congregants at East Glenville. Our first fund raiser was a great success, but we still have a long way to go. See below for more details.

The Lord chooses who He will to serve Him, and prompts their hearts to respond to His call. So far a few of us have responded, but there are still openings. We would love to fill the trip with others from East Glenville, but if we cannot by March 3, 2019, then we will begin looking outside of EGCC, to other churches who are looking to respond to His call and step outside their comfort zone (and outside the comforts of the US).

We also covet your prayer support, as do all the missionaries we support here at East Glenville. We all need prayer, but especially those working in the Spiritual realm sharing Jesus Christ, and Him crucified, died and risen from the dead. No other key person in any religion in the world has done that, so we serve a unique and powerful God, who has the power over both sin and the grave. But His enemy is always looking for ways to interrupt God's plans. The enemy is destined to lose, but the battle is ongoing, and we are headed into war with a deceiver. We need your prayer. Having been on mission trips, anyone will tell you there is always an attack on those willing to serve. Please pray for each member of our team, Brian, Heather and Joylyn; Steve, Caroline and Kristen. Also pray for our East-West leaders, Larry and Jon.

Regarding fundraising, you should all know that each team member is expected to contribute financially to their own trip. We will work hard for the next several months to raise the funds needed, trusting in the Lord to provide every single dollar. After all, the One we serve owns everything, and we just need to ask our Father to provide, and He will. Also, as part of our fundraising, we will be sending out letters. Steve will send a letter to each member of the congregation on behalf of the group, asking for both prayer and financial support for the group. No member of the team will solicit support individually from the congregation. However, if led, you may choose to support individuals. In addition, members of the team will be contacting their friends, relatives, coworkers, etc., asking for prayer and financial support.

The next activities we have planned are as follows:

March 3 we will have our Soup and Savory sale. A few weeks after that we will have a sale of beautiful limited edition prints of East Glenville Community Church, as well as possibly some other crafts. Next would be a silent auction and potluck dinner after service. Then some other crafts will be offered for sale as well as some artist signed prints and books. Finally, we plan a large community event of performance arts, such as music, dance, spoken word, etc. We don't have firm dates yet, but announcements will be posted in the bulletin as well as in the announcement and slides.

We look forward to all the Lord has planned for us as we obey His call.



PRIME TIMERS

The Prime Timers next luncheon will be on Thursday, March 28th at noon. Brenda Mills will be preparing lunch and we will be showing the local documentary "The Making of the Great Sacandaga."

EGCC WELCOMING LUNCH

If you are brand new or have been visiting us for the last year or so, we invite you to get to know us better by joining our staff for a casual lunch following the March 17th service, in Buchanan Hall. Contact the Church Office office@egcchurch.org if you would like to attend.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Registration for our women's retreat is right around the corner! Sharon Carlson, a supported missionary of EGCC with International Accelerated Missions (IAM) and on the pastoral staff at Rock Road Chapel will be our speaker as we embark on a journey as "Daughters of Destiny: Time to Rise and Shine." Make plans to be with us May 3-5th at Camp of the Woods. Start saving for registration now! \$225 for triple/quad occupancy, \$250 double occupancy, \$275 single occupancy which includes two nights and 5 meals. Saturday only attendance is also available for \$80 to come for the day! We'll have four sessions, time to connect and time to refresh! Be on the lookout for our registration flyers appearing in early March! Contact Kristen Capeci for more information at bajavagirl@aol.com.

The women's mentor program has kicked off! We have 12 enthusiastic mentees and 12 mentors who have joined together to study the book *Adorned* by Nancy Demoss Wolgemuth. If you are interested in this program in the future please see Peg O'Donnell.



Junior Church Ministry

Do you have a passion for nurturing and teaching children between Kindergarten and 4th Grade?

Junior church is a part of God's mission to 'tell the next generation' about Him.

In the near future our children will grow to be the leaders of the Church. The EGCC Junior Church

Team is recruiting for the next semester. The Junior Church Ministry provides our children with a safe environment where they learn from a set Sunday School Curriculum. Point of contact is Felipe Moon at felipe.c.moon@gmail.com

Medical Support Team Ministry

Do you have a passion for people and are an experienced medical care provider? The **EGCC Medical Support Team** is recruiting for next semester. The medical support team is responsible for providing the following: Immediate medical care prior to the arrival of emergency responders, First aid and assistance in the event of minor accidents or illnesses, and an increased level of comfort and assurance to the church family and to guests. Point of contact is Felipe Moon at felipe.c.moon@gmail.com

Front Line Ministry

Are you a warm and welcoming person that loves new faces and is passionate about our EGCC? The **Front Line Ministry Team** is seeking greeters to be stationed at our entrance to welcome visitors and ensure everyone feels God's love as soon as they walk in our church. You will answer questions regarding our service, provide information and direct people to requested locations, creating a loving atmosphere that is welcoming and caring. Point of contact is Felipe Moon at felipe.c.moon@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



SPARK FOR KIDS IN K –5TH GRADE

(Spirit-Powered Activities Reaching Kids)

SPARK meets 6:00-8:00pm Buchanan Hall

Saturday March 16, 2019
Shipwrecked Day 5 "When you're
powerless...Jesus rescues!"

and Treasure Hunt activity "Power Up Pier!"

Saturday April 13, 2019
Easter story and prep for Easter Egg Hunt
Community Outreach

Saturday May 11, 2019
Theme: VBS Preview, "ROAR" and Mother's
Day project

Light meal served to kids at 6pm.
RSVP to children@egcchurch.org for
planning purposes
Bring a friend!
Suggested donation: \$1 per child



ROLLERSKATING AT ROLLARAMA

Sunday March 31, 2018 4:30-6:30pm
EGCC Families and Friends

Join us for a private rink rental
with Christian music!

\$7 per person includes skate rental
(non-skaters no charge)

Adults, teens, kids and friends welcome!
This is a good "learn to skate" opportunity.

2710 Hamburg St. Schenectady
Contact Susan Perregaux,
children@egcchurch.org



EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter Sunday, April 21 at 10:00am
EGCC will host an Easter Egg Hunt for children,
from toddlers up to 5th grade.



You can help support this event by bringing in
donations of plastic colored eggs, candy and non-candy fillers.

No peanut products please!

Box for Easter Egg Hunt donations will be
in CE Hallway until Sunday, April 14th (Palm Sunday).

If you can help fill batches of plastic eggs,
contact Susan Perregaux, children@egcchurch.org



VBS July 15-19, 2019

9am-noon at EGCC

Adults and teens, please prayerfully consider how you can volunteer for VBS!

There are many staff positions to fill.

Each provides the opportunity to impact children with the word of God.

Contact Susan Perregaux at children@egcchurch.org

Transform our church into an African savannah!

"ROAR" VBS 2019 is full of bright colors, untamed grasslands and majestic views.

Kids will explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life!

On May 1st look for a link to the VBS registration form on

www.egcchurch.org

VBS volunteer meetings will be after church at noon on

Sunday June 2nd and Sunday June 23rd.



VBS MISSIONS PROJECT UPDATE

Our Vacation Bible School students and families contributed to a missions collection of \$900 in June 2018 to provide support to Topaza Orphanage in Madagascar. The orphanage is home to 43 children from infants to students in university. We pray that the Topaza children will know God is at work in their lives and they are deeply loved by Jesus. Here are pictures of the children with new raincoats and school supplies. Thanks to Perline Cooper for delivering the funds directly to the orphanage in August 2018.



EAST GLENVILLE PRESCHOOL

Did you know?? We have classes for 2, 3, and 4 year olds. You don't have to belong to EGCC to enroll. Staff are all Christian women who are experienced and love working with children. We have very reasonable rates and scholarships available. Large rooms to move around and play. Kindergarten readiness and socialization. Bible story and prayer every day.

Interested or know someone who may be????

We are having an Open House on Tuesday, March 5th from 6-8 pm. Visits can also be arranged for another time. Contact the school at 518-280-7865; email us Preschool@egcchurch.org or check the website at www.egcchurch.org/preschool.

Preschool Garage Sale will be early May. We will begin accepting donations April 21-April 28th. Thank you.

WHY NOT TRY A CHRISTIAN CAMP EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR CHILD?

Please see the display of local summer camp brochures in the CE Hallway!

Camp Cedarbrook
in the Adirondacks

Equipping Girls to Live God-Centered Lives



Camp Pattersonville
Christian Teaching & Outdoor Camping



Camp Pinnacle
Isiah 40:31
Helping people walk in God's paths



**SACANDAGA
BIBLE
CONFERENCE**



WORD OF LIFE
YOUTH AND FAMILY CAMPS



NORTHERN FRONTIER CAMP

A PLACE OF JOY
TAPAWINGO
Camp and Retreat Center

Church Events

- Mar 5 - Preschool Open House
- Mar 8 - Holy Grounds Café
- Mar 16 - Trustee Work Day
- Mar 16 - SPARK
- Mar 17th - Welcoming Lunch
- Mar 28 - Primetimers
- Mar 31 - Rollerskating at Rollarama
- Apr 13 - Trustee Work Day
- Apr 13 - SPARK
- Apr 14 - Palm Sunday
- Apr 18 - Maundy Thursday
- Apr 21 - Easter
- May 3 - 5 - Women's Retreat
- May 11 - SPARK
- May 12 - Youth Sunday
- May 18 - Trustee Work Day
- May 19th - Prayer Service