

# Church Matters

WINTER 2018 - 2019

## BECAUSE GOD IS...

Awhile back, someone gave me a bookmark that listed some of God's attributes. On this bookmark are some helpful concepts that act as an introduction to God. Not just any God mind you, but the God discussed in the pages of the Bible. Some of you may not know Him; some of you may have heard rumors about Him, while others may "know" a lot about Him, but in reality know little of Him on the level that He desires. Over the next few articles, I would like to journey into the Great Knowing. A knowing that will help us move toward the only true God. The God of the universe who assures not only can He be known but that we are known and loved by Him as well!

This writing we are going to start by discussing what it means to know God intimately as a person! Some of you may know the story of Helen Keller. Born deaf and blind, Helen lived much of her early years in the hopelessness of her condition. Helen, born without sight, the ability to see or hear would have to be destined to a life of silence and darkness if not for Anne Sullivan. With incredible persistence and patience, Anne taught Helen to understand sign language, which gave her the ability to communicate and come out of the reality of imprisonment within herself.. Over time, Anne was able to share the Gospel of Jesus with Helen. Throughout this process, Helen began to know God, the God who willingly made Himself known to her even in the silent darkness. Using Anne's signing technique Helen made an astounding confession. She said, "Anne, I always knew Him, I just never knew His name." With tears of joy Helen knew God!

Unlike Helen Keller many of us have sight, but we do not truly see. We comprehend a God who is big and all together different, but we do not know the God who made us in His image so that we would be able to have an intimate in relationship with Him; the God who has covered the vast differences within us so that we could know Him. Listen to how God speaks to us through the prophet Isaiah, "*Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.*" What could be more intimate, or more personal that a mother nursing her baby! This is for us the closeness of God's love.

You see God has made us so that we can be intimate with Him. God wants personal intimacy with His children so much that He has literally written our names in the palms of His nail scarred hands. Maybe you, like Helen Keller, have always known about God, but have never known His name. Take heart God knows yours! And it is in the person of Jesus Christ that you can know Him intimately! Till next time...

Pastor Brad

## CHURCH EVENTS

- Nov 4th - Ingathering Begins
- Nov 4th - Youth Group Worship/ Prayer Night
- Nov 10th - Trustee Work Day
- Nov 16th - Men's Bowling
- Nov 17th - Women's Ministry Shopping trip
- Nov 17th - SPARK
- Nov 18th - Youth Group with Mike Saccocio
- Nov 20th - Thanksgiving Service
- Dec 2nd - Sunday School Christmas Caroling
- Dec 5th - Christmas Concert Rehearsal
- Dec 6th - Primetimers Luncheon
- Dec 9th - Christmas Concert
- Dec 12th - Jan 2nd - No Wednesday Night Program
- Dec 16th - Birthday Party for Jesus
- Dec 24th - Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 30th - No Sunday School
- Jan 4th - Annual Report Deadline
- Jan 5th - Harrison Baby Shower
- Jan 9th - Wednesday Night Program Resumes
- Jan 12th - SPARK
- Jan 13th - Potluck Lunch
- Jan 25th - Annual Meeting
- Feb 3rd - "Souper Bowl" Sunday Collection
- Feb 9th - Church Indoor Work Day
- Feb 9th - SPARK
- Feb 17th - Potluck Lunch

## ELDERS CORNER

Do you have a favorite passage of Scripture that you keep coming back to over and over again? One of my favorite passages is Ephesians Chapter Two. I like this passage of Scripture as it reminds me, yet again, of who God is and what He has done in my life and in the lives of all Christians everywhere, including my brothers and sisters here at EGCC.

The first three verses of Ephesians 2 describe our spiritual condition before we met God. And the author of Ephesians, the apostle Paul, doesn't mince words in these verses. He describes us as being spiritually dead and because we are spiritually dead, there is nothing that we can do to change that. We are without hope.

But then, Paul writes some of the most important verses in the New Testament, verses 4 through 6. Verse 4 starts off with the word "but". I have circled this word in my Bible and would encourage you to do the same in yours. Paul describes that, in contrast to our spiritual condition, that God, because of His great love and mercy, has reached down and drawn each one of us into a relationship with Himself and "seated us with Christ in the heavenly places." How cool is that! Even though we were spiritually dead, God has made us alive again by His grace and mercy! That is the only reason that we have hope.

Ephesians 2 concludes in verses 19 through 22 by telling us that we are no longer strangers and aliens, but we are part of God's household. Paul goes on to write that we have been "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord."

And this is what is happening here at EGCC. We are all sinners, saved only by God's indescribable grace and love, and we are now part of God's family! God has redeemed each one of us and has placed us here with each other, fitting us together. I look forward to worshipping and growing together with all of you as we seek to become that "holy temple" in the Lord, as we seek to love the Lord our God and to love our neighbor.

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

### Thanksgiving Service

**"Count Your Many Blessings .. Name them one by one ...."**

On **Tuesday evening November 20** at 7 pm we'll be joining together for a special service of thanksgiving to give thanks to the Lord for his many blessings through this past year. After the service we'll enjoy a time of fellowship and pie. Plan now to set the time aside to come and share together the goodness and faithfulness of our great God!

### Songs of Joy! A Concert Celebrating the Birth of Jesus



This December we will be reaching out to our community with an invitation to a special program of Christmas music. This event will be held on **Sunday night, December 9**, at 6:30 pm. The program will highlight the best of our EGCC musicians and will feature our children, instrumentalists, choir, and vocalists, as well as a few surprises. -There will be something for everyone! The program will be followed by a reception in Buchanan Hall. This provides a wonderful opportunity to invite co-workers, neighbors, friends, and family to enjoy the beautiful music of Christmas. Please begin to pray now about who you might invite, and that God will use this to bless many from our community with the good news of Jesus' birth!

### Christmas Eve CandleLight Service

This year's Christmas Eve Service falls on Monday night, December 24, and will be held at 6:30 pm. Always a special night in the life of EGCC, this year will once again feature the familiar scriptures, beautiful music, carol singing and a message from Pastor Brad. It's a wonderful opportunity to invite family and friends to come and enjoy this beautiful and meaningful night.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Please save the dates!

There will be a Nursery Volunteer Meeting for people that are currently nursery workers, both adults and teens, and people interested in learning more about volunteering...

Please choose one of these two dates for a short training right after church on Sunday, November 18th or December 2nd.

In December please note the follow dates for the Youth Sunday School:

December 2nd: Christmas Caroling

December 16th: Happy Birthday Jesus Party

December 30th: No Sunday School

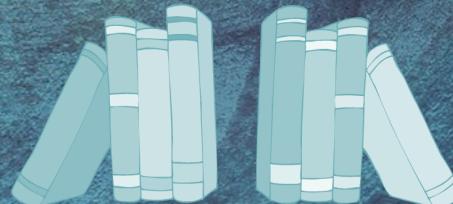
Thank you to all who support the Sunday School program!

### The Bookworm

The library is being updated one section at a time to become more inviting and user-friendly. Recently the Fiction section has been moved and the Young Adult has been expanded. Stop in to take a peek. You will notice that there are more signs on individual sections and lots of interesting books displayed.

The UPS man has just delivered a big box of exciting new books- soon to be processed into the library. Watch for new authors, children's books and books on topics such as parenting and marriage. However...don't forget the oldies but goodies that will strengthen your faith and your heart, even if you read them only a few pages at a time.

So, visit the library soon and borrow a book- they are free, easy to access, don't have to be returned in a hurry and will help you to grow closer to your Lord and Savior.





## ECGG MEN'S BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Men of East Glenville!!!

The night has been chosen:

November 16th, at 7pm

Location: Boulevard Bowl, 1315 Erie Blvd,  
Schenectady, NY 12305

IF YOU CAN'T HEAR A PIN DROP THEN  
EAST GLENVILLE COMMUNITY  
CHURCH MUST BE BOWLING!!!

Tournament Rules will be provided at the  
Venue. The location is less  
than ten minutes from Church. We can  
carpool if you'd like to  
minimize 20 plus cars needing to find  
available parking.

## PRIME TIMERS

The Prime Timers next luncheon will be on  
Thursday, December 6th at noon. Ken  
Heckeler will be preparing his soups and  
Mike Saccoccio will be our guest speaker.

## CHURCH WORKDAY

Join our Trustees on Saturday, November  
10th at 9am. All are welcome and many  
hands are needed!

Mark your calendars - we will also be  
having an Indoor Workday on  
February 9th, 2019.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Thank you to everyone who joined us at our Women's Ministry kickoff breakfast. We were able to share our Mission and Vision statement with everyone and focused on Heart Listening with Carol Patocny leading the devotional.

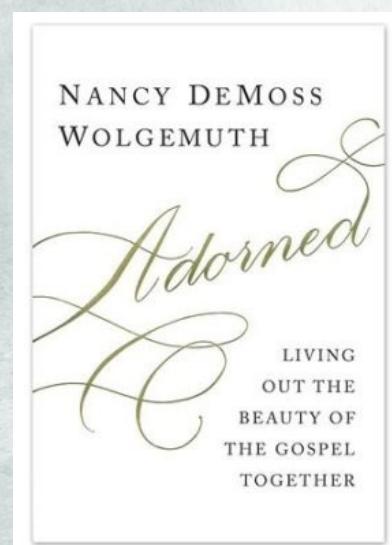
### We shared our Vision and Mission:

**Vision** - Encourage women to deepen their relationship with God and each other based on His word.

**Mission** - is to Disciple by building a solid foundation on God's word. Connect with Christ and each other. Reach women with the gospel of grace.

This Fall and Winter we have several events planned which include a November 17th trip to the Lake George outlets with lunch at the Log Jam restaurant. December we will be crafting and enjoying fellowship with a date to follow. In January we will be kicking off the Mentoring program using the book Adorned by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth. More details to follow in the weekly church bulletins and on the Women's Ministry Facebook page.

It is never too late to join one of our women's bible studies, or even visit one to see if it is a good fit for you. Check the church website for details or contact Donna Williams ([gadwilly@verizon.net](mailto:gadwilly@verizon.net)). New studies will be starting in January.



## Diaconate Board

The Diaconate Board oversees many ministries within the Church that serve and care for others. We have needs for volunteers in many ministries. Here are highlights of a few:

EGCC serves dinner at the **City Mission** in Schenectady 3 times per year. The next 2 dates are February 1, 2019 and May 3, 2019 from 5pm-7pm. The mission needs us to provide 16 people to serve dinner on those nights. We have not been getting enough volunteers and the Mission has informed us that they may drop our church from serving. If you or your family would like to volunteer to serve, you must register to let them know that you are coming. If you are unable to register through the online portal, you can call Lori Meguin at the City Mission at #346-2275. Is your Care Group looking for a service project? Talk to Holly Britton if you are interested. This is the link to sign up:

<http://eglenvillecc.citymissionofschenectady.volunteerhub.com/>

There is a church service at **Baptist Retirement Center** on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month from 2pm-3pm. Each service, we need 8-10 EGCC volunteers to help transport wheelchair patients from their rooms to the church service downstairs. Pastor Phil and Dan Meguin alternate giving the sermon. The next dates are December 30, 2018 and March 31, 2019. Please contact Don Sweet if you are interested at # 399-2788. Substitute Ushers are needed to fill-in if there is an absence. If you are interested in being on the sub list for Ushers, please contact Don Sweet: 399-2788.

Operation Christmas Child began October 14<sup>th</sup>. Lists of acceptable items to fill the boxes with are included in the box. The filled boxes are sent to underprivileged children all around the world. Boxes can be picked up in the Narthex and returned by the first Sunday in November. If you have any questions contact Pastor Phil at #842-9763.

November is the annual food drive to help those in need. This year, we will be collecting food to donate to the Regional Food Bank Backpack Program. Many disadvantaged children do not have access to regular meals when school is not in session. The Backpack Program helps alleviate child hunger by discreetly providing hungry children with backpacks full of nutritious and easy-to-prepare food on Friday afternoons so they have food to eat throughout the weekend. Each Backpack contains specific items, so please try to donate from the following list: Breakfast items (single serve cereal, oatmeal packets, graham crackers, granola bars), entrées (mac & cheese, PB & J, Spaghettios, tuna, soup), loaf of bread, juice boxes or shelf-stable milk boxes, canned fruits & vegetables, snacks (cookies, popcorn, pudding, etc.) We will begin collecting on November 4th.

We would welcome you to volunteer in one or more of our ministries.

Brenda Mills, Chairman

## Junior Diaconate

The Junior Diaconate is a ministry for children 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade who are interested in serving God by serving others. The JD team fills the pew racks each Sunday and tidies up the pews, pick-ups communion cups each month and helps to refill the trays for the following month. In December we will be doing our annual cookie baking. The cookies are given as blessings to special members of our congregation. If your child is interested in serving on the JD team, please have them contact Susan Williams.



## FINANCE MATTERS

*"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need." Malachi 3:10*

As we head into the Year End, here is an update on where EGCC stands financially, compared to last year at this time:

	<u>09/30/2018</u>	<u>09/30/2017</u>	<u>\$ Difference</u>	<u>%Difference</u>
Tithes & Offerings:	\$318,586	\$340,738	- \$22,152	- 6.5%
Total Income*	\$345,511	\$368,318	- \$22,807	-6.2%
*(Includes Designated giving and other Income)				
Total Expenses:	\$334,351	\$310,727	+ \$23,624	+ 7.6%
Cash Surplus	\$ 11,161	\$ 57,591	- \$46,430	- 80.6%
Mortgage Balance	\$196,110	\$234,967	- \$48,656	-19.9%

As you can see, giving is down this year by about 6%. There can be many reasons for the decrease in giving, but fortunately we are still spending less than our income, and we continue to aggressively pay down the mortgage.

That being said, this may be a good time for each of us to evaluate whether we follow the Lord's admonition to tithe, and if not, to ask ourselves if we are ready to trust God increasingly with all that He has blessed us with – time, talents, *and* treasure.

Miracles happen when we step out of the boat and trust Jesus.

Are you ready to put the Lord "to the test"? Try giving Him more of your time and talents – volunteer to get involved in the ministries of the church. You'll find the blessings you receive far outweigh the risk you take. And imagine how we could bless this community and God's servants around the world if each of us trusted God to "open the windows of heaven" as we increasingly honor Him with our first fruits and tithes.

## ANNUAL MEETING

**The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Friday, January 25th at 7pm. Everyone who is involved in our church is encouraged to attend.**

**All Board and Ministry Chairs or Leaders, please email your Annual Reports to the Church Office ([office@egcchurch.org](mailto:office@egcchurch.org)) by January 4th.**

**Reports will be available to the Congregation on Sunday, January 20th.**

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

# SPARK

6:00 - 8:00pm Buchanan Hall  
For kids in grades K - 5th

Light meal served to kids at 6pm.  
"Treasure Hunt" activities will build on VBS  
theme of Shipwrecked  
Games, projects, VBS music!

RSVP needed for meal planning, to  
[children@egcchurch.org](mailto:children@egcchurch.org)  
or Susan Perregaux,  
Children's Ministry Director

**Saturday November 17th, 2018** - Day 3 VBS  
and Thankfulness and Food Drive

**Saturday January 12th, 2019** - Day 4 of VBS

**Saturday February 9th, 2019** - Outreach  
project: Valentine's cards for  
elderly church members

Suggested donation \$1 per child



## Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School 2019 will be  
July 15-19!

This change is due to the lack of time  
between the end of the public school  
calendar and the July 4th holiday. It's not  
a permanent change in the VBS week, but  
rather an adjustment to the calendar  
constraints in 2019.

Mark your calendars now to avoid conflicts  
if you would like to volunteer  
or send a child to VBS!

## YOUTH GROUP

### Upcoming Events:

Worship/Prayer Night - Led by Jessica Munn and Worship Team on November 4th from 6:30-7:30. It will be a great time of wonderful uplifting faith songs and time of prayer and reflection.

Michael Saccoccio from Schenectady Mission will be joining us on November 18th at 6:30pm to provide the following message to our teens: "Serving Others and the Blessings that come to us when we serve". We are so very excited that he has agreed to join us. We are inspired and blessed anytime we have the privilege to hear him speak.



## PRESCHOOL PIE FUNDRAISER

Busy? Stressed? Don't Bake? Need  
*THANKSGIVING PIES??* Let us help you  
with those last minute pies and breads!!  
EGCC Preschool is selling fresh baked,  
home made pies and breads from  
**MOURNINGKILL BAKESHOP.**

Pickup will be: Tuesday 11/20 9 am—3 pm  
& Wednesday 11/21 8 am—11 am  
If you cannot pick up your pies then, please  
make arrangements for someone to get  
your order for you or call the preschool at  
399-6894.

Orders and payment must be received by  
November 9th.  
Make checks payable to *East Glenville Pre-*  
*school.* Thank you for your support!  
Order form on the next page!

# East Glenville Christian Preschool

518-280-7865

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fresh Baked Pies and Breads by **Mourningkill Bakeshop**  
310 Charlton Road, Ballston Spa, NY 12020      518-885-6166

PIES	Crust Top	Crumb Top
<b>Fruit Pies - \$12.50</b>		
Apple		
French Apple		
Peach		
Blackberry		
Blueberry		
Strawberry Rhubarb		
Cherry		
Raspberry		
Very Berry (Blue-, black-, & raspberry)		
Mince		
Pumpkin		
Custom Combo:		
<b>Subtotals</b>		

TEA BREADS	\$6
Cinnamon	
Zucchini	
Chocolate Zucchini	
Banana Nut	
Pumpkin	
Pumpkin Apple Nut	
Blueberry	
Apricot Poundcake	
Cranberry Nut	
Apple Raisin Nut	
<b>TOTAL BREADS ORDERED</b>	

<b>Specialty Single Crust Pies - \$13.00</b>	
Deep Fudge (rich brownie in pie crust)	
Lemon Chess	
Peanut Butter Chess	
Chocolate Chip (contains walnuts)	
Pecan	
<b>Subtotal</b>	

Total Fruit Pies \_\_\_\_\_  
x \$12.50 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Specialty Pies \_\_\_\_\_  
x \$13.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Tea Breads \_\_\_\_\_  
x \$6.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Pie Gift Certificates \_\_\_\_\_  
x \$12.50 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Money Due \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to East Glenville Preschool  
Orders and payment due by Friday, November 9th, 2018

       I will pick up Tuesday, November 20 between 9am and 3pm

       I will pick up Wednesday, November 21 between 8am and 11am