



Church matters



Quarterly Newsletter of East Glenville Community

From Pastor Mitch:

Hello East Glenville Church! So, have we had the chance to meet yet? The thought in my head as I write my first article for EGCC is that line you sometimes hear, "I don't think we have been properly introduced." My wife, Cheryl and I were introduced back in March, when we came for the weekend for the "interview." That was a whirlwind of a weekend for us, as we met so many people in a day and half. When I arrived (without my family) back at the beginning of June I was introduced on my first Sunday morning at EGCC, but at outdoor worship everyone sits so far away. When my family arrived in mid-July, we were warmly greeted with a welcome basket and a host of gift cards. (By the way, thank you all for that welcome, it made us feel appreciated). Many of you have come up after worship and introduced yourself, or I met some of you at a Zoom Life Group meeting. So there have been introductions. However, with all the restrictions of COVID and the social distancing, it's just doesn't feel like we have been properly introduced. I am eagerly anticipating seeing what happens at the church in more normal times. Meanwhile, in the next few weeks we are going to do something that may help me get to know people at the church. We are inviting people over for *After-Dinner Appetizers at the Reed's*, where we will have various evenings that people can join us for light snacks and some discussion time. Details about how to sign up for an evening will be coming soon.

So to switch to a spiritual focus, how were you introduced to Jesus? Did you learn about him through church, or family, or maybe a friend? Was it a good

Wednesdays

**6:30 PM Bible Study for
Men and Women**

**6:30 PM Youth Group
(doors open at 6)**

From Pastor Mitch (cont.)

introduction or a not-so-good one? Did you begin to follow the Lord right away, or did you keep your distance at first? In his gospel letter, Mark is the first one to introduce us to Jesus, and put his story in writing. Mark was the first of the gospels to be written, and it tells the story of Jesus from when he started gathering disciples up until his death and resurrection. Now, I know what you're thinking, "Isn't Matthew the first book of the New Testament?" and you would be right. Nevertheless most scholars agree Mark wrote his gospel first, and that both Matthew and Luke followed the format of Mark, but then added the stuff they knew. John wrote his gospel even later, as an old man, and told the story of Jesus in his own way. So Mark was the first!

The gospel of Mark includes very little of the actual teaching of Jesus, and instead focuses on what Jesus did. When Jesus does speak in Mark's gospel it is often in response to what is happening in the story. Through Mark we learn about Jesus, not from what he says of himself but by how he treats people and the amazing things he does. The first verse speaks of Jesus as the Son of God, but Jesus does not go around telling everyone, "Hey look at me, look at what I can do, I'm the Son of God!" Instead, the disciples slowly discover who Jesus is as they follow him around and see him in action. When Jesus calms the storm they ask, "Who is this guy?" When they finally start to put together that he is the Messiah (8:29), and even the Son of God (9:7), that is when Jesus reveals his purpose in coming was to give his life and be killed on the cross. It is an amazing (and true) story, and Mark writes it down so we can read it and make the same discovery as the disciples. That is how Mark is introducing us to Jesus.

This fall we are going to study the gospel of Mark with the intent of learning about who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him. The series is called "Ichthus," which is a Greek acronym that spells out: *Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior*. How did the actions of Jesus show he was the Jewish Messiah, (Christ = Messiah)? How can we see that Jesus was more than a miracle-working prophet but the one and only Son of God? How did Jesus respond to the hurting and broken people around him? And how did he respond to the hard-hearted and proud? Does the way Jesus healed and helped people 2,000 years ago tell us anything about the kind of Savior we need today?

As we start this series I invite you to do a couple of things:

One – Read the passage ahead of time. In the Thursday Email I will send out the passage.

Two – Try to set aside previous notions and read Mark as if you were hearing about Jesus for the first time. I think you may learn some new truths.

Three – If you have a question about the text, about Jesus, or what it means to follow Him, send it to me and I'll try to answer it in the sermon. Send any questions by email or Facebook, or even stop by the office.

Four - Try to keep up with the messages. The series will build up each week. So if you miss a Sunday, try and listen on our You-tube page later in the week. (Maybe, listen while you do dishes, that is what I sometimes do).

Thanks, Pastor Mitch.

Praying for our Fellow Believers Facing Persecution

I Peter 1:9 - Resist him [the devil], standing firm in your faith and in the knowledge that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

Occasionally in the news we hear a little about the persecution that believers in other countries face. However, there is often far more going on than makes the news. At East Glenville, we want to invite you to learn more and to pray for our fellow brothers and sisters throughout the world that face greater hostility and outright persecution. Each month we will focus on one country and include that in our Prayer Guide. In addition we will put together a summary of the news from that country along with a suggested prayer.

The prayer focus for this month is Iran, and the Christians there who face arrest for their beliefs.

Worship Notes . . .

This past month, August 30 – September 2, Chantelle and I were blessed by the church to be able to attend the Virtual Sing! Global Conference, the Getty Music Worship Conference. Along with great music, we heard speakers like John Piper, Tim Keller, John MacArthur, and Paul Tripp. The many breakout sessions included focuses on singing the Word, musicianship and creativity, technology serving the Word, and becoming a global Christian to name a few. -We were reminded of the command in scripture that we're to be a singing people. In fact there are over 400 references to singing and at least 50 direct commands to sing in the Bible! It is critical that our singing should be Word driven (Colossians 3:16... "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ...singing Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...").

Our prayer is that East Glenville continues to grow in singing the rich truths of God's word, and encourages one another to live lives of faithfulness that reflect those truths, building strong disciples through that process.

Sandie Wanamaker



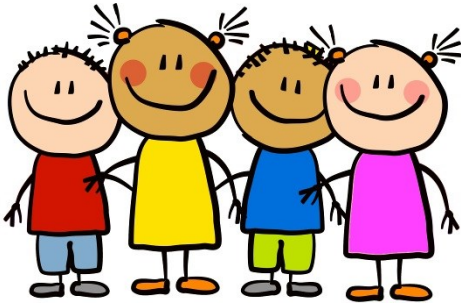
Do you receive the Thursday emails?

Each week the office sends out an email on Thursday to update everyone on what you need to know for the upcoming Sunday and any special events or announcements. If you have not been getting our emails, please contact the church office and we will add you to the list.

Newsletter

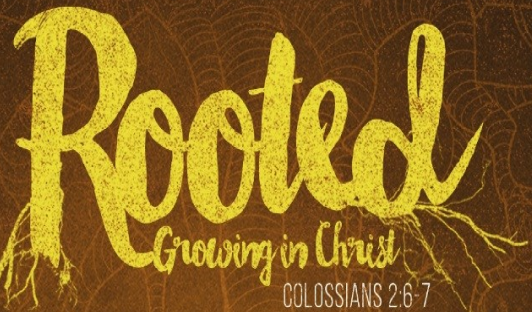
You can sign up to receive the newsletter by email on our website. If you or someone you know does not have an email, contact the church office and we will mail you a paper copy.

Preschool News



EGCPreschool:

We are back!! After 6 long months of no school, we are starting back on September 21st. It will be a very different year following the CDC and NYS guidelines to keep everyone safe and healthy, but we are excited!! Our classes will be smaller, masks have become the norm along with frequent hand washing and disinfecting. All of our classes are almost full and it is a blessing that parents are trusting us with their children. It is so good to see the new and returning students and their families. God has blessed us with this amazing ministry and we are very grateful. Please pray for a successful, healthy year for everyone!



This year our youth will experience what it means to be rooted in God's Word. We look forward to digging deep into the Word of God on our Wednesday Night programs while having fun relatable activities to go along with the lessons.

Lessons will include practical themes that we can take home and apply to our lives — in our relationships and as a body.

The theme of being rooted in what it means to be a Christian and live for Christ is taken from the Colossians 2 passage about being rooted and built up in Him.

Our desire for the students is to be strongly rooted in God's Word and in the truth of His scripture.

WEDNESDAYS 6:30-8 PM

Doors Open at 6:00

Contact Nick:

youthdirectornick@gmail.com

YOUTH GRADES 6-12

COLOR WAR



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Lord was gracious in allowing us to adapt our VBS programming this summer and run a three-day Mini-VBS from Aug 18-20. Many adults and teens offered to staff this program with the goal of teaching children about Jesus and how much He loves them! New methods and protocols were implemented to comply with safety guidelines. There was truly a spirit of joy and peace among the children and the volunteers as we celebrated the message that Jesus' love is one-of-a-kind! A big thank you to all who contributed time, energy and resources to Mini-VBS!

In September we are focusing our attention on reopening children's programming during the Sunday worship service. We are excited to see and teach the young children of our church again! Your prayers and patience are appreciated as the details of reopening are developed and adjusted to. Junior Church, for children in kindergarten-5th grade, will meet in Buchanan Hall for the entire length of the service. Children will be asked to check in and have a temperature screening prior to entering Junior Church. The Toddler room and Infant Nursery will also require a check-in prior to service and a temperature screening. However once check-in occurs, the child may enter the nursery later in the service at the parents' convenience. It's our desire that the families of EGCC can attend the Sunday worship service as desired with safety precautions in place. Questions can be directed to Susan Perregaux

at children@egcchurch.org





**After Dinner
Appetizers with the
Reed's
Sunday/Friday
evenings: 6:30-8pm
outdoors on our back
deck (if the weather
allows)**

Cheryl and I are looking for a way to get to know people at the church and find out where they are at in their faith and in the life of the church. We want to have people over to our house for appetizers and a small-group discussion. If you are in a Life Group at EGCC, we are setting up dates when you can come over as a group. If you are not in a Life Group, no worries, we have some Open Nights on the schedule. Another option is to consider joining in with one of the Life Groups, most of which have room in their group for more people/families. This would be a great time to become part of one of our East Glensville Life Groups.

We are arranging this by reservation so that each group is small enough to foster a good conversation. Below are the dates we are looking at. We are asking people to arrive in a mask, but they will be optional once we get settled. We are planning on having these outdoors, but if the weather does not cooperate, we might either move indoors or postpone depending on the groups desire to maintain distancing. To get signed up for a night, you can call the office (518-399-3151), or by email (office@egcchurch.org) or contact the Life Group leader directly to join on their evening.

Sunday Nights:

September 20 th	The Williams group
September 27 th	The Schuldt group
October 4 th	The Kraines/Young Adult Group – 3-4:30pm
October 11 th	The Gideon group
October 18 th	The Harrison group
October 25 th	Open Night

Friday Nights:

September 25 th	The Bandy group
October 9 th	Open Night

ELDERS CORNER

Church Family,

As we end Summer and begin Fall, it is a good time to reflect on the abundant provision our Father in heaven shares and rest in the assurance that he will be with us as we continue to face the challenges of this world.

It has been a bitter-sweet summer. Pastor Brad and Leah's time with us ended as summer approached. The continued restrictions of COVID-19 have limited our ability to gather in the same ways that we were accustomed to and found joy in. It's been harder to connect and stay connected as a Church family.

Despite these difficulties there are many things to celebrate through the summer. We were blessed to welcome Pastor Mitch Reed and his family. We have taken joy in gathering together outdoors, joyously singing songs of praise to our Lord and Savior and learning the word through Pastor Mitch's exploration of prayer examples from the Psalms.

The worship team and camera team have been flexible in setting up for indoor and outdoor worship as needed. Susan, Nick and a small team held a successful Mini-VBS reaching out to children of the community and their families. Susan developed new procedures to ensure the safety of the students. We were blessed with willing volunteers, good weather and grateful, happy students.

Buchanan Hall is nearly complete. The ceiling tiles were removed and we were grateful to find the mold did not extend much past the ceiling tiles. The remediation was completed and the room has been restored with new paint and ventilation improvements to help prevent mold from coming back.

When we received the Rhodenizer bestowal the congregation decided to set aside a portion (a tithe) for reaching out to the community. The Tithing team felt God's call to reach out to the community by sharing food on Saturdays. The resulting food drive lasted 18 weeks and distributed more than 815 bags of groceries plus loose produce and other items. The teams distributing the food offered prayers with and for our neighbors. Our neighbors in need were grateful; some so much so that they were moved to tears. This effort extended well beyond the Tithing team with volunteers from our church and community shopping for food, contributing food, packaging, and handing it out on Saturdays.

This summer provided many examples of great things we can do when we join with our brothers and sisters in Christ to do the Lord's work in unity. We thank all who helped in any way. Your efforts shine light in this world.

As we approach Fall and we return from summer vacations and camps there will be new opportunities to reengage at EGCC. The ministry teams have been working with deliberate and measured care to expand what we do. The Christian Ed ministry is working through details to restart Junior Church and Nursery including safety protocols. They plan to apply the lessons learned when we restart Sunday School. The Diaconate Hospitality team is finding creative ways to handle a Kick-off picnic. The Worship team has already worked out both indoor and outdoor services. There will be an alternate 9AM service opportunity without singing for those who are more comfortable with this. There will be a limited Wednesday night program with Bible studies led by Ken Sloan and Tom Dreisbach for the men, Sarah Driesbach and Cheryl Reed for the Women and Nick with Youth Group.

ELDERS CORNER (cont.)

I am encouraged by the creativity and focus on safety all the ministries and teams are showing as they plan for Fall.

Sadly, we are not ready yet to return to all of the activities we would have in prior Fall kick-offs. We are all still learning to adapt to the concerns and restrictions of the pandemic. The situation keeps changing. We will learn and adapt as we've seen in the Fall planning. With God's grace, we will come together as we saw over the summer and bless each other and our community.

Please pray for the Lord to share his great wisdom with the Pastors, staff, Elders, and ministries. Please pray for the health and protection of all at EGCC, in our community and a rapid end to the pandemic so that we may safely return unrestricted to the work of the church in service of our Lord. Ron Benner

Frontline Ministry is looking for volunteers in the following areas:

Medical Support Team: Are you an experienced medical care provider with a passion for people? The medical support team helps with immediate medical care and first aid when needed during services. You can support your brothers and sisters in need or just provide the comfort of knowing your support is there. Please let Ron Benner know if you are interested: rbenner20@gmail.com or 518.281.4315.

Worship Safety Team: We are looking for additional support for our Worship Safety Team. This team monitors the church during services for potential safety concerns. We are looking for people with keen awareness to lovingly help and direct new and lost people. This is another great way to help your brothers and sisters in Christ or provide the comfort of knowing your help is there. Point of contact is Bernie Wood at bwwood2@yahoo.com

Greeters: Are you a warm and welcoming person that loves new faces and is passionate about our EGCC family? The greeters share the first impression of the loving, caring, inviting nature of the people of EGCC. We are looking for additional greeters to welcome visitors and members alike as they walk in our church. Please let Ron Benner know if you are interested: rbenner20@gmail.com or 518.281.4315.

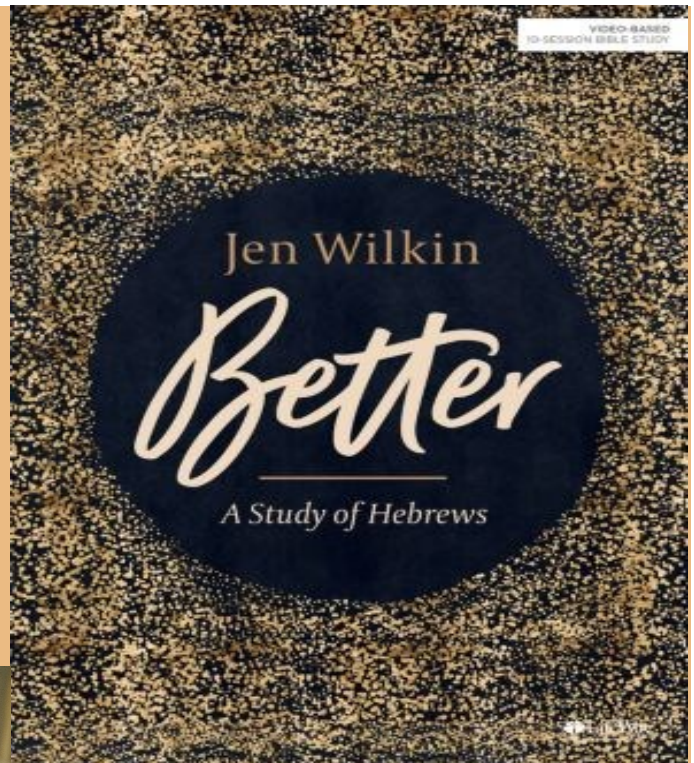
Hello Everyone!

I am the new Administrative Assistant in the church office. I am so excited to be apart of the ministry at East Glenville Community Church! Stop in and say hello, I work Tuesday–Friday 10-3.

Molly St.John

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 9:30 AM
In person and over Zoom.
Contact Donna Williams:
518.817.2083



Bible Study

with Pastor Phil
Thursdays at 1:00 PM

THIS WEEK AT EAST GLENVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday	10:30 AM	Worship , Junior Church, Nursery
Tuesday	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Men's and Women's Bible Studies Youth Group
Thursday	9:30 AM	Women's Bible Study
	1:00 PM	Bible Study with Pastor Phil

OFFICE HOURS TUESDAY-FRIDAY 10-3