



Church Matters

Fall 2021

Quarterly Newsletter of East Glenville Community Church

From Pastor Mitch

Remain in me...

John 15:4-5 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

One of the highlights of the summer for me was our family camping trip to Ausable Chasm up north near Plattsburgh, NY. The whole family did the tubing trip through the chasm that they offer. Way cool! Then, the two girls and I did the Adventure Trail through the chasm. This meant putting on a harness and safety equipment. Then we went through their training on how to cross the different sections safely. The main point being is that we should never disengage both of our safety lines, just do one at a time. Can I mention they emphasized we should NEVER disengage both lines at the same time – and repeated that like 10 times. So, the trail started with a simple climb up the cargo net to put us about 30-40 feet over the raging river below. Then we crossed a tight rope bridge over the water. From there we went alongside the cliff edge, walking on protuberances from the rock face, while holding onto the guide wire. We crossed back and forth on bridges a few more times. The sun was high over our head and we could see our shadow in the fast moving water below. As we would have said in the 80's, it was awesome! It was also intimidating if not outright fearful.

We navigated the course without a fall, however, there were certainly a few points when my heart was in my chest. My two daughters were totally brave, but I saw a glint of fear in their eyes from time to time. There were more than a few times, when we had to step up or across a gap where it was difficult to know if you had a good foothold. Yet, we had to overcome our anxiety, trust in our guide, and take that next step. Every so often we would stop to look around and take in the beautiful view of the chasm and river. There is something invigorating about working through our fear and completing the challenge. Despite our feeling of fear however, we were never in any real danger because we were always connected into the safety wire. They built the course so that you could go the whole way while being completely secured. If we had fallen, our safety line would have caught us within a foot or so and have kept us from harm.

As followers of Christ we will experience times of anxiety and fear. We look around and see major changes in society, political dysfunction, and new dangers on the horizon. We get hit with worries regarding our health, finances, or well-being. The worries turn into fears when there is so much uncertainty about what will happen next. It is tough to take that next step into the unknown when we are unsure of our footing. At times we feel alone and wish for another who can reassure us of where our life is heading. Good News! There is a guide wire we can trust. In the Old Testament it repeatedly declares that the Lord is our Rock and our Refuge. By this it means that he is our secure line. We are connected to him in a covenant relationship and nothing that this world can throw at us is stronger than Him!

In John 15, Jesus emphasized to his disciples how important it was to never disconnect from His Presence. He wanted to reassure his disciples that He would be with them and hold onto them even after his death and resurrection. They weren't really ready to understand the fullness of what was coming next, so Jesus used the metaphor of a grape vine to highlight his point. He declared that He was the vine, and as long as they were connected to him, they would be connected to life and life eternal. He promised he would never leave nor forsake his disciples, that he will remain in them, and abide with them through life. With Jesus in our life we have a source of strength and joy that can enable growth and fruitfulness even through difficult times. We are commanded to remain in Him through an ongoing covenant relationship with Christ. Like the safety wire at Ausable Chasm, the Savior holds onto us, even in the times we stumble or lose our grip. As it says in Psalm 23, *"though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me."* The fear is still there but by keeping our focus on the Lord, we can have the courage to keep going.

This fall we are moving forward here at East Glenville. We are restarting Sunday School and other activities. On Kick Off Sunday we are having a picnic. We plan to have some fellowship events so we can rebuild the close community we have at this church. As I prayed and prepared for the fall, I had a sense from the Lord we need to rebuild the fellowship by gaining skills in interpersonal relationships. Starting in October we are going to have a church-wide emphasis on reconciliation and peacemaking. We will have a 7-week Series based out of the Peacemaker Training called: [Learning God's Way of Handling Conflict](#). Along with that we will have groups going through the workbook, Resolving Everyday Conflict: Biblical Answers for a Common Problem. I have received and taught this training before and I find it to be both Biblical and practical. Look to learn more about this, as we get closer to October. I do want to invite you to really engage with this series and to be a part of one of the small groups going through the workbooks.

Rejoicing in Him, Pastor Mitch.

Church-Wide Emphasis for the Fall: *Learning God's Way of Handling Conflict*

Starting in October, Pastor Mitch will be teaching a 7-week series based on the Peacemaker's Training that looks at what the Bible teaches about conflict and seeking peace in our relationships. The Sunday morning message will set up opportunities for small group discussion, using the workbook that goes with this series.

Can you help lead/form a 7-Week Discussion Group for this Series?

Training time for those interested Sunday, September 12th at 9:15am in BH-1

We want to offer opportunities for everyone at EGCC to go through the Peacemakers Workbook and discuss it in a smaller group. We are looking for people to facilitate these discussion groups. Come learn more about the possibility on Sept. 12th before worship.

Mark Your Calendars!

Friday, September 10th 5:30-7:30 PM

Youth Group "Color Wars" collab event at Faith Baptist Church

Sunday, September 12th 9:15 AM

Discussion Group leader training

Wednesday, September 15th 6:30-8:30 PM

Youth Group begins

Thursday, September 16th 9:30 AM

Women's Bible Study begins at church

Contact Donna Williams 518-817-2083

Kick Off Sunday, September 19th 9:00 AM

Breakfast in Buchanan Hall and Sunday School classes for all ages begin

Picnic following the service

Monday, September 20th

EGCC Preschool classes begin

Wednesday, September 22nd 5:45 PM

Fellowship dinner and classes begin

Saturday, September 25th 9:00 AM

Men's Retreat

Contact Doug Schuldt 518-461-2158

From Linda Wachtel for EGCC Preschool

As another school year approaches, we are again looking at COVID restrictions that will impact our classes. We do have more children registered to start this year and things look more promising. We have even added another two year old class! We now have 50 children total enrolled in all classes.

We are blessed to have Catherine Gideon and Alayna Marland joining us this year to teach. God is answering prayers and keeping the preschool closely under His care.

Looking forward to another wonderful, fruitful year ministering to children and families. Please keep the staff, children and families in your prayers for good health and opportunities to tell others about the Good News of Jesus Christ.

From the Mission Board Chair, Caroline Bardwell

Over the summer, I spoke with a passionate and compelling young Floridian who was visiting the Schenectady area with his mom to see her sister. Without knowing who I was, he boldly told me that Jesus loved me! I responded that he was right! After coming into my store, he asked me to share my testimony, which was then overheard by a mix of employees and customers. He then shared his own story about how isolation during the pandemic convicted his heart that he had been living a double life. His zeal for evangelism was palpable and he told me he had an important question to ask. If someone was dying and I knew something that could save their life, would I tell them? I could feel myself already coming up with excuses about how it's not that simple, despite my evangelistic training in Cuba. But it really boils down to telling people out loud that Jesus loves them. Are we prepared to be a little uncomfortable for Jesus? To risk being mocked, to risk angering others, to have faith in the One who created us that the conversation will reach the ears of the ones who need to hear it?

The Missions Board is pleased to have hosted visiting missionary, Matthew Paschall, of United World Mission to share an inspirational message with us as he works with refugees in Europe and equips a new generation of missionaries.

Support of two new missionaries was recently approved by congregational vote, Aaron Batkay (Area Director, Young Life Greater Capital Region) and Arthur Fennicks (Director, Schenectady City Life, Youth for Christ Capital Region).

As we head into the Fall, look out for some tips from us on how you can be missional in your own daily life.

From Becky Blais for the Christian Education Board

We are so excited to be able to offer Sunday school for all levels this Fall! Please join us for Kick Off Sunday on September, 19th at 9:00 AM. This event is for everyone and will be in Buchanan Hall. Breakfast is provided and will be followed by a short program and dismissal of the youth and children to their classes. Once the youth have been dismissed, the adults will have an opportunity to hear about our upcoming adult classes, and fellowship with one another. Formal classes will begin on September 26th. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Fall Sunday School Classes Begin September 19th 9:00 AM

Classes offered for all ages

Adult Classes

- The Church on a Mission: Facilitated by Will Gideon

Pastor Mitch has used an illustration entitled Fishers of Men in some of his sermons. The illustration portrays a ship with many stick figures on deck performing various tasks as the ship performs its mission of fishing for men. This Sunday School class will use this illustration as a starting point for discussion of the following topics:

- ⇒ The mission of the church
- ⇒ EGCC vision
- ⇒ The teachings about spiritual gifts found in 1 Corinthians 12-14
- ⇒ How we begin the process of identifying our place in the church mission

- The Book of Matthew: Facilitated by Geoff Switts

Join us for a focused look at the book of Matthew and his account of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Matthew identifies Jesus as the true King of the universe and paints a vivid picture of what it means to be His disciple in a fallen world. Matthew's account also connects the longing for a Messiah in the Old Testament and the resolution and fulfillment of that promise in Jesus.

Highschool Class

- Christianity 101: Facilitated by Kyle and Kristen Armstrong

The Christianity 101 course will be adapted and taught to High School students. It covers the fundamental elements of Christianity and the beliefs of our faith. During the seven week course we will explore what the Gospel is and what it means to believe in the Holy Spirit. We will look at the miracles of Jesus and investigate what truths the Bible teaches us and the impact they should have on our lives.

Children's Classes

- PreK through Middle School classes and teachers will be presented at the Kick Off breakfast September 19th at 9:00 AM.

Wednesday Night Program Begins September 22nd

Fellowship Dinner 5:45 PM

Small Groups and Classes 6:30 PM

Details still being developed for classes and children's program

Look for the basket in the Foyer to sign up for the Wednesday dinner!

Men's Retreat September 25th

"No More Excuses, Time to be Men of God"

250 Lake Hill Rd, Burnt Hills 9 AM to 4 PM Cost \$20 (lunch included)

For more information contact Doug Schuldt 518-461-2158

From Interim Worship Leader Chantelle Moon

*Facing a task unfinished, That drives us to our knees
A need that, undiminished, Rebukes our slothful ease
We, who rejoice to know Thee, Renew before thy throne
The solemn pledge we owe Thee, To go and make Thee known
We go to all the world, With Kingdom hope unfurled
No other name has power to save, But Jesus Christ the Lord*

Frank Houghton, "Facing a Task Unfinished", 1931 Added chorus written by: Fionan De Barra, Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ed Cash, 2016

As we face a new season this fall with some uncertainty, let's remind ourselves of our **Sure** and **Certain Hope** in **Jesus Christ**. Our Lord never changes and he never fails us (Hebrews 13:8; Psalm 136). When we gather each week to worship together, we sing together to preach the gospel to the world and to ourselves.

May our singing as a church body ring out the gospel and be a witness to the world of our **Kingdom Hope** in Jesus Christ our Savior. "The sight and sound of a congregation singing praise to God together is a radical witness in a culture that rejects God and embraces individualism. Our songs are the public manifesto of what we believe" (*"Sing" by Keith and Kristyn Getty, Pg 87*). Let your singing continue throughout the week at home and in your car, and allow our worship together on Sunday morning to equip you for the week to be the light in a dark world. May we continue to be a church who sings!

September 19th Kick Off Sunday and Picnic!

Immediately following the service. Subs are provided. Register on Eventbrite and indicate whether your bringing a side dish or a dessert to share.



From Youth Director Nick

As we look forward to a new school year, we are excited for our first official youth group event! **Color War** will be held at Faith Baptist Church on Friday, September 10th from 5:30-7:30 PM. September 15th will be our first **youth group** which will start our regular meetings every Wednesday throughout the school year! We look forward to lots of fun games and activities, digging into the Word and learning to live like Jesus and walk with Him more closely. We have all kinds of exciting events planned throughout the year!



From Children's Ministry Director Susan Perregaux



Rocky Railway VBS 2021 transformed our church into a mountain range with a powerful locomotive chugging uphill. Kids discovered that Jesus' love, like the train, pulls us through! Awesome praise songs, super snacks, Bible adventures, creative games and hands-on crafts reinforced how Jesus' power transforms their lives! Our enrollment was 75 children from pre-K through 6th grade! VBS volunteers were an amazing bunch and numbered about 50 adults and teens.

Our volunteer staff was blessed to share how GREAT our God is with the children and families from our community who attended! The wonderful news of our salvation through Jesus Christ was presented to all the children. Opportunity for adults to spend time in fellowship, prayer and devotions was also provided. Kids took home the powerful message that they can Trust Jesus!

Our VBS missions collection was on behalf of Topaza orphanage in Madagascar, home to about 50 children of all ages. About \$400 was generously donated by our VBS families. The kids were encouraged to earn their donated money by helping at home. The orphanage will use the funds to help purchase school, medical and food supplies. It's a blessing for our EGCC VBS program to be able to share God's love with children in Madagascar.

