

The Caller



Evangelical United Church of Christ—Tell City, IN
Pastor Mark McDaniel—812.583.3508
Suicide & Crisis Hotline—988 (*Call or Text*)

EUCC Mission Statement: To reflect the image of Jesus in our community and in the world.

Pastor's Page

So This Is Christmas

So this is Christmas
And what have you done
Another year over
And a new one just begun

And so this is Christmas
I hope you have fun
The near and the dear ones
The old and the young

A very merry Christmas
And a happy New Year
Let's hope it's a good one
Without any fear

And so this is Christmas
For weak and for strong
For rich and the poor ones
The world is so wrong

And so happy Christmas
For black and for white
For yellow and red ones
Let's stop all the fight

And so this is Christmas
And what have we done
Another year over
And a new one just begun

John Lennon

(continued on page 2)

DECEMBER 15, 2023—JANUARY 31, 2024

(continued from page 1)

This particular Christmas song has always been a downer for me. Especially the line “*So this is Christmas, and what have you done? Another year over, and a new one just begun.*” It has made me reflect upon the previous year, and it has left me feeling guilty over all the things I meant to do, but didn’t get accomplished. Maybe guilt is too strong a word – maybe remorseful or regretful. Anyway, it hasn’t given me the sense of accomplishment that I so badly desired.

I didn’t reread Calvin’s Institutes of the Christian Religion. I didn’t begin an exercise regimen. I didn’t lose the weight I wanted to lose. I didn’t begin the book I wanted to write. I didn’t keep up with my journaling. I didn’t reconnect with old friends and relatives that I haven’t spoken to in years. I didn’t...I didn’t...I didn’t...

As I wallowed in my own self-pity, it occurred to me that this had become an unhealthy pattern in my life. Being my own worst critic, it was easy for me to beat myself up. Maybe it was time to begin to lift myself up. Not to the point of arrogant pride, but to find a balance between what I hadn’t accomplished, and what I had accomplished.

When I began to reassess my year, and all those previous years, a new pattern seemed to reveal itself. I realized that those things that I did to glorify God, or for the sake of God, or with the understanding that I couldn’t have accomplished it without God, were accomplished. It was those things that I tried to do on my own, under my own power, and perhaps even for selfish reasons, were the things I didn’t accomplish.

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13 (NRSV)

Here we are facing a New Year. The slate will be wiped clean. We will have a chance to begin again. As you face the New Year, I encourage you to refocus your energies on those things that will honor God. That will be my goal, as well.

Blessings,
Pastor Mark

Christmas Service

Dec. 24th –4th Sunday in Advent Service— 10 a.m. (Children’s Program)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—Dec. 24th - 7:00 p.m. (Choir performs)



A special thank you is extended to the members of the Worship Resource team for making our sanctuary look beautiful for the Christmas season. And a special shout out goes to Emile Kercher and Bradley Belcher; they aren’t members of the Worship Resource team, but their assistance was invaluable.



LIVE STREAM EXPERIENCE BEING ENHANCED WITH NEW EQUIPMENT

As the December *Caller* is being prepared, the Communications and Technology Team, along with the Building and Grounds Team, is working hard on the installation of two new cameras in the sanctuary. The enhanced equipment will make the online viewing experience more enjoyable. We hope to have the new equipment up and running by Christmas Eve, but there is a lot of training which needs to take place before then. A huge “thank you” is extended to Mark Fenn and the rest of the Building and Grounds Team for doing the heavy lifting in getting cables run so this project can work.

We are excited about this enhancement and are proud of the commitment of our Church Council to our online viewing audience.

It's Time for Another T-Shirt Sunday!

With December having a 5th Sunday, we have another opportunity to wear our EUCC t-shirts to worship. Of course, you are welcome to wear yours any Sunday, but having a 5th Sunday lets us coordinate our wardrobes! If you have an EUCC t-shirt, whether it's one of the new ones or a vintage one, pull it out on December 31 and wear it to worship. We will take a photo afterward. Let's continue to show our pride in EUCC and to promote our message . . . no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are always welcome at EUCC.



Join us for another 5th Sunday Fellowship Meal on Sunday, December 31st, immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall.

Our meal will consist of a Subway tray, chips, and cookies.

We hope you will join us as we finish out 2023!

ANNUAL FALL FOOD DRIVE



Thanks to everyone who donated items for the food drive during the months of October and November. We collected 1,194 items. This was wonderful!

The Church Growth & Mission Team along with several volunteers boxed up the food drive items on November 20th. Members from the Perry County Food Coalition then sorted and divided up the donated items the next day and distributed the items among the local food pantries, which is a group of five pantries and the Weekend Backpack Program. Our donated items are used by all the food pantries in the county. Thank you for caring about others in their time of need.

Women's Guild News

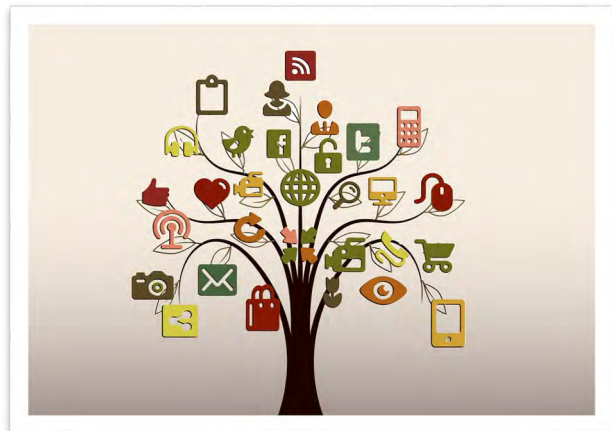
Women's Guild hosted the Table of Blessings meal on December 7th. Thanks to the ladies who helped with the meal!

Our **Holiday Salad Luncheon** held on December 14 was a great success. We served 136 people and sold more of our cookbooks. The Women's Guild would like to thank everyone who donated salads, cookies, helped decorate and worked to make this happen. The funds we raised will go to help the children of the area schools and the elderly in our community. It took everyone to make this a great success! Women's Guild is now on break until March.



COMMUNICATIONS TEAM NEEDS MORE MEMBERS

The Communications Team needs a few more members to help lighten the load of the current members. The team meets on the second Tuesday of each month; the meetings last approximately 45 minutes. The group is responsible for all communications, both internal and external, set forth by the church. This includes social media posts, news articles, the Caller, as well as keeping the banners on our corner sign post fresh and current. We have a team member who makes monthly calls to our members. Basically, this team is responsible for getting EUCC’s image and information to the public and for keeping our members informed of church happenings. We also brainstorm ideas for ways to make EUCC even better.



If you’re interested in being a part of this very important team, please contact Shari in the church office. Remember, many hands make light work!

How Can You Watch Our Worship Services, Either Live or Recorded?

We have an Audio/Visual team that has worked very hard at providing a quality viewing experience for our on-line worshippers. Thanks to their work and the magic of technology, you have many options for watching our services, whether you wish to do so live on Sunday mornings or later in the week. Here are instructions on how you can watch. All are simple to follow and, ultimately, take you to the same place, our YouTube channel.

Facebook—Go the www.Facebook.com and search “eucctellcity.” You will find a post at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning which includes the link to our YouTube channel. Click on the link. Once the service begins, the video will go live.

YouTube—Go to www.YouTube.com and search “Evangelical United Church of Christ Tell City.” Click on the service you wish to watch. If you are watching live, the video will begin once the service starts. Or you can watch any of our previous services; simply select the video you wish to watch.

Web Site—Go to www.tellcityevangelicalucc.org. Click on “Worship and Ministries.” Click on the purple “Facebook Live” link to watch the live service. Click on the purple “YouTube” link to watch previous services.

Church Directory to be Updated in January



The “phone book” section of our church directory will be updated and reprinted in January 2024 to incorporate all the changes we have learned about since we prepared an addendum in July 2023. If you have any changes, additions, deletions, and/or corrections to the directory, report them to the church office by **December 28**.

HAPPENINGS AT OUR CHURCH

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH ON-LINE WORSHIP SERVICES AND SOUNDBOARD

When our doors were closed due to the pandemic, a team worked quickly to put together the equipment and skills needed to have an on-line presence so our services could be live streamed. Over the years, we have purchased better equipment and have fine-tuned the process so that we deliver a quality on-line worship service. Even though we are having in-person worship again, the on-line presence will not go away. This is a valuable and necessary ministry. We regularly have 5 families who watch the live stream during worship time, and there are dozens more views during the week.

We currently have 3 teams of 2 who rotate Sundays running the soundboard and the audio/visual equipment. With vacations and other commitments during worship (such as serving as the liturgist or an usher), the 6 of us who do this important work for the church really do need more help. It isn't difficult. The soundboard technician mutes and unmutes mics and adjusts the volume. The audio/visual technician starts the live stream, moves the camera, plays the streamed songs, and stops the live stream. Everything is prepared in advance and set up prior to Sunday morning. It's really just a matter of pushing buttons and clicking keys.

Of course, training will be provided. You will not be left to do the live stream on your own until you are comfortable doing so.

If you feel it in your heart to help with this part of our worship, please contact Darla Goffinet at 812.608.0122 or dgoffinetlaw@pcsi.net.

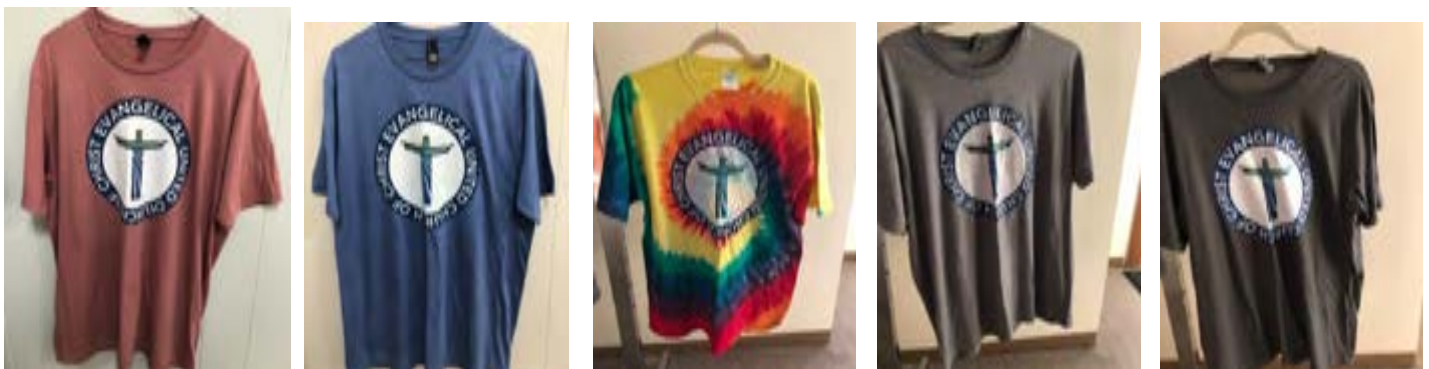
EUCC T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE TO ORDER

Would you like a shirt with our logo on the front and our motto on back? And have you seen the two new colors – royal frost and blush frost? Let's keep promoting our church by showing our pride in EUCC. If you'd like a new shirt, please complete one of the order forms (located in the narthex and in the church office), and drop the order form and payment in the offering box. The shirts are only \$17 each (which is our cost); sample shirts are available in the narthex on Sunday mornings and in the office during the week. This is a great way to show your pride in EUCC.

We are taking orders on a continuous basis, meaning there is no deadline to submit your order. We will submit orders at the beginning of each month; the shirts should be in within two weeks.

Youth and adult sizes are available in short sleeved and long sleeved styles. We have a light grey, dark grey, tie dye option, as well as blush frost and royal frost. Tie dye is available in short sleeves only, and the youth sizes of the two new colors are only available in short sleeves.

Questions? Contact Darla Goffinet at 812.608.0122 or dgoffinetlaw@pcsi.net.



HAPPENINGS AT OUR CHURCH

Thanksgiving Dinners



We had a very successful Community Thanksgiving Meal again this year. We served 190 people. Nancy and Debbie would like to thank everyone who helped in any way in the kitchen (cooking, washing dishes, serving, cleaning), delivering, baking turkeys and pies, and if you ate a meal.

We have been offering the Community Thanksgiving Meals since approximately 1990 and we hope to continue!

TELL CITY CHRISTMAS PARADE

Thank you to Jerry & Sara Belcher, Mark Fenn, Linda Franchville, and Steve Owen for volunteering to walk, and/or drive in the Tell City Christmas Parade! A special thank you to Jerry Belcher for pulling the church float!



TEAM PROFILES CONTINUE

Church and Ministry Team

Clayton Jefford (Chairperson), Linda Kramer, Chris Goffinet, Meg Butler, Nancy Ress (Council Rep), and Roy Raider.



While this team doesn't meet regularly or often, it plays a vital role in the health and vitality of our church. The team serves as the liaison between the congregation and pastor and is charged with the task of cultivating a healthy and effective pastoral relationship with the congregation. And the team has been very busy lately with the assistance its members have provided in the development of our church profile. Please feel free to contact any member if you have questions, comments, or concerns which fall under their leadership umbrella.

BENEVOLENT TEAM CONTINUES ITS HARD WORK

Begun in 1944 with money given in memory of Christian Fenn, the Benevolent Fund purchased two hospital beds, two wheelchairs, six pairs of crutches, and various other sick room equipment. Since that time, the inventory of hospital equipment has multiplied several times, and there are now hundreds of pieces of equipment available to those in need, all at no charge. The Benevolent team purchases, maintains, and loans hospital and sick room medical equipment to the community at large. The members of this team contribute several hours a week to making sure the equipment is clean, in excellent working order, and ready to be loaned out when the need arises. And Shari does an excellent job keeping track of the equipment going out and coming in. At last count, there are, on average, 45 pieces of equipment loaned out each month. This is a truly remarkable mission project for our church.

Team members are: Jim Litherland (Council representative), Linda Franchville, Linda Kramer, Keith Kramer, and Frank Poehlein (Chairperson).



Worship Leaders

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Video</u>	<u>Audio</u>
Dec 24 a.m.	Lea A. Gehlhausen	Linda Franchville Emile Kercher	Darla Goffinet	Chris Goffinet
Dec 24 p.m.	Linda Kramer	Castello Family	Rebecca Fenn	Mark Fenn
Dec 31	Steve Owen	Jerry & Sara Belcher Phil & Jeannie DeSpain	Darla Goffinet	Chris Goffinet
Jan 7	Dan Lacy	Ellis & Suellen Howard Dan & Jill Lacy	Emile Kercher	Dan Gayer
Jan 14	Darla Goffinet	Lea Ann Gehlhausen Chris Goffinet Keith & Linda Kramer	Rebecca Fenn	Mark Fenn
Jan 21	Linda Kramer	Jerry Brunner Steve & Becky Owen Frank Poehlein	Rebecca Fenn	Mark Fenn

Thank you to each of you for helping with our Worship Services!

Local Emergencies Report



The Local Emergency Fund continues to prevent utility service disconnections, home evictions, and provides food vouchers for groceries. Please remember this fund in *memorial gifts* and/or *monthly giving*. The offering envelopes include a monthly envelope for contributing to the Local Emergency Fund.

November Total: \$691.56

Utilities—12—households—\$471.56

Rent assistance—5— households—\$220.00

ADVENT YARD SIGNS ARE AVAILABLE



We have Advent yard signs available for anyone who wants to display one in their yard or at their business. The signs can be picked up in the narthex or church office; if you need one delivered, please contact the office. Thanks for showing your support of EUCC.

Recurring events...

Every Sunday--
 Sunday Worship (10 a.m.)
 Both in-person and online
 Faith Formation (10:15 a.m.)

*2nd Sunday—Christian Ed Team
 (11 a.m. after worship in Library)

*4th Monday---
 Church Council (6 p.m.) Church Office

*1st Tuesday—
 Communications Team (6 p.m.) Ch. Office

*3rd Tuesday---
 Budget & Finance/Stewardship Team
 (5:30 p.m.) Church Office

*2nd Wednesday—
 Building & Grounds Team (6 p.m.) Ch. Office

*3rd Wednesday—
 Church & Ministry (6 p.m.) Church Office

*2nd Thursday—Women’s Guild (1 p.m.) FH
 (On break until March 2024)

*Last Thursday of each month—Men’s Brunch
 at Julie’s Tell St. Café (9 a.m.)

*Every Thursday—Table of Blessings (5 p.m) FH

Caller Deadline Reminder

The deadline for the January Caller is **Jan. 10th**.
 Articles can be dropped off, called in, or emailed
 to the church office at euacctinfo@gmail.com.

Church Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Facebook</u>
Nov 19	39	6
Nov 26	39	8
Dec 3	54	7
Dec 10	50	12
Dec 17	50	10

EUCC Adult Study Class

An Adult Study Class is meeting on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. in the Church Library. The study includes discussions regarding current issues. All adults are invited to participate. We will not meet on Dec. 24th or Dec. 31st.

REQUESTS FOR STREAMED MUSIC ACCEPTED

Do you have a favorite contemporary Christian song you would like played during worship? If you do, please call the church office (812.547.7059) or email Darla Goffinet (dgoffinetlaw@psci.net) with your requests. As long as the song is one we are permitted to play under our copyright license, it will be played!

Pastoral Search Prayers

The Pastoral Search Team has been formed. We kindly ask for your prayers for the Search Team members as they seek a new pastor to serve our church.



Lynda Morton Age 78
 DOD: 11-30-2023



Financial Report November 2023

November 2023 Income - Total \$11,113.37

Offerings (checks/cash):	\$ 7,204.04
Offerings (electronic):	\$ 1,958.00
Building Rental Income:	\$ 50.00
Franklin Fund Interest Income:	\$ 402.63
<u>Income Specifically Directed to a Fund:</u>	
Maintenance & Depreciation Fund Income:	\$ 96.00
Local Emergencies Fund Income:	\$ 128.00
Benevolent Fund Income:	\$ 360.00
Women's Guild Fund Income:	\$ 649.70
Pass Through Account Income:	\$ 64.00
Flower Fund Income:	\$ 10.00
Thanksgiving Dinner Income:	\$ 191.00

November 2023 Expense - Total \$18,951.83

Salaries:	\$ 7,694.76
Pastor Housing Allowance Expense:	\$ 1,000.00
Pastor Pension Expense:	\$ 478.27
Pastor Health & Dental Expense:	\$ 1,631.72
Pastor Life & Disability Expense:	\$ 84.40
Utilities Expense:	\$ 1,800.89
Office Supplies Expense:	\$ 141.35
Custodial Supplies Expense:	\$ 111.25
Local Emergencies Expense:	\$ 691.56
Vanco Fees Expense:	\$ 66.21
Benevolent Fund Expense:	\$ 436.62
Building & Grounds Team Budget Expense:	\$ 30.00
Pass Through Account Expense:	\$ 30.00
Thanksgiving Dinner Expense:	\$ 230.20
Flower Expense:	\$ 18.99
Women's Guild Expense:	\$ 2,973.38
Christian Ed Team Budget Expense:	\$ 65.00
Walters Heating & AC Expense:	\$ 1,467.23 (Boiler parts/repair)

<p>November Total Income Minus Total Expenses: (\$7,838.46)</p>
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EUCC Assets, Liabilities, Income and Expenses

Nov-23

Assets and Liabilities November 30, 2023	Assets	\$612,953.88
	Liabilities	\$1,245.78
	Assets - Liabilities	\$611,708.10
	- General Operations Fund -- Can Be Spent on Anything	\$88,343.14
	- Thelander Mission Fund -- Designated for Revitalization Items	63,350.27
	- American and Franklin Funds -- Requires Congregation Approval on what can be spent on	\$147,669.76
	- Various Directed Funds -- Earmarked by Donors	\$312,344.93
Operations Income and Budgeted Expenses November 2023	November 2023 Operations Income	\$9,614.67
	November 2023 Budgeted Expenses	\$13,103.85
	November 2023 Operations/Budgeted Gain/Loss	-\$3,489.18
Operations Income and Budgeted Expenses YTD	2023 Operations Income	\$202,317.71
	2023 Budgeted Expenses	\$204,667.90
	2023 Operations/Budgeted Gain/Loss	-\$2,350.19
Total Income and Total Expenses November 2023	November 2023 Total Income	\$11,113.37
	November 2023 Total Expenses	\$18,951.83
	November 2023 Total Gain/Loss	-\$7,838.46
Total Income and Total Expenses YTD	2023 Total Income	\$246,188.60
	2023 Total Expenses	\$256,898.85
	2023 Gain/Loss	-\$10,710.25

Building & Grounds Expenses 1/1/2023 - 12/15/2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Comments</u>
01/24/2023	Braun Plumbing & Heating	70.00	Parsonage - unstop floor drain
03/06/2023	Dauby's True Value	3.00	Fasteners
03/06/2023	Compass Mobility LLC	355.00	Annual inspection & permit of stair lift
04/04/2023	Braun Plumbing & Heating	150.00	Plates to cover FH floor drains
04/11/2023	Frederick Sheet Metal	178.60	Expand metal chimney
05/15/2023	V.I.P. Foliage	184.44	Flowers for church landscape
06/12/2023	Frederick Sheet Metal	549.90	Condenser fan motor; capacitor; filter changes
06/30/2023	River City Landscaping/Isaah Coyle	850.00	Remove & haul off plaster in Tots Lots area
07/10/2023	Dee Marchand	115.00	Mowing for Steve Owen (Steve reimbursed EUCC)
07/10/2023	Dee Marchand	564.00	Fall 2022 - weeding & mulch
07/17/2023	Thomas Glass and More	54.95	New door lock for third floor door
08/01/2023	Braun Plumbing & Heating	120.00	Repair FH urinal
08/08/2023	B & B Extermination, Inc.	780.00	Pest service Renewal-church & parsonage
08/15/2023	A&B Fire Safety, Inc.	348.25	Fire extinguisher inspections/maintenance/service
08/21/2023	Lambrecht Painting	1,100.00	Prime & paint 3 classrooms/Tots Lots
09/05/2023	Dauby's True Value	14.95	Building keys
09/05/2023	Mark Fenn	20.76	Walmart reimbursement - Tots Lots walls
09/05/2023	Mark Fenn	20.76	Walmart reimbursement - Tots Lots walls
09/05/2023	Mark Fenn	165.07	Casey Supply reimburse - lumber/Tots Lots
09/18/2023	Conner Floor Covering	500.00	Tots Lots new vinyl base
09/18/2023	Braun Plumbing	80.00	Clean rust out of FH urinal valve
10/09/2023	Frederick Sheet Metal	77.64	Stainless Steel cover for bell support in tower
11/27/2023	VIP Foliage	30.00	Landscape bed weeding
Total paid from B & G Budget:		\$6,332.32	B & G Budget for 2023: \$6,250

Walters Heating & A/C Fund Expense:

Fund Balance: \$29,358.99

07/10/2023	Michael L. Snyder	4,000.00	First installment/drywall/Tots Lots rooms
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Maint. & Depreciation Fund Expense:

Fund balance: \$12,491.81

06/27/2023	Van Winkle Seamless Guttering	2,345.00	Replace vertical siding
07/10/2023	Michael L. Snyder	850.00	First installment/drywall/Tots Lots rooms (\$4,000 pd from Walters Fund)
07/17/2023	Michael L. Snyder	4,850.00	Final installment/drywall/Tots Lots rooms
10/23/2023	Claise Building	2,500.00	Replace missing shingles/seal loose shingles

Total paid from M & D Fund:

\$10,545.00

LIBRARY AND CHAPEL AREAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Just a reminder that our beautifully-renovated library and chapel areas are open to the public for use during office hours and for meetings after hours. Members and visitors who wish to take their lunch break, who need a place for meditation or prayer, who want to read or work a puzzle, or who simply seek a quiet, serene atmosphere are invited to spend time at the church. The rooms are open to visitors during church office hours. If your organization needs a place for an evening meeting, contact the church office (812.547.7059) to make arrangements to use the space. Guests should enter the building through the Jefferson Street doors and sign the sign-in sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office.



November Memorial Donations

Memorial donations received in November: \$60

These directed donations benefited the following funds:

Local Emergency Fund \$ 50
Flower Fund \$ 10

*IN LOVING
Memory*

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed on the following days:

Monday, December 25th

Monday, January 1st

*We wish everyone a blessed
and safe holiday!*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December

7—Floretta Beatty, Don Swaney,
Bryce Lain
9—Kelsi Denu
13—Pam Curtiss
14—Gary Morton
15—Chris Goffinet
16—Dan Hall
24—Ann Leistner, Roxanna Zoglman
26—Helen York



**Please contact the church office if you would like to add a birthday or anniversary to the monthly Caller.*

January

1—Cadence Held, Madeline Holmes,
Debbie Reed, Grant Sanders
2—Duane Gehlhausen, Carol Hagedorn
3—Jim Holmes
10—Donna Pruitt
21—Jack Gehlhausen, Jana Lacy
22—Sarah Goffinet, Mary Raider,
Helen Richardson, Ann Swaney
23—Darla Goffinet, Jezzy Humphrey
24—Frank Poehlein
27—Jean Litherland, Denny Rogier
29—Alfred Wetzel



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

December

16—James and Patty Kessner



January

4—Tim and Debbie Reed
14— Steve and Becky Owen



EUCC Contact Info:

Church Phone: 812.547.7059
Email: eucctinfo@gmail.com
Website: www.tellcityevangelicalucc.org

Pastor Mark McDaniel: 812.583.3508
Email: pastormark98@gmail.com



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Evangelical United Church of
Christ



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United Church of Christ

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Website: tellcityevangelicalucc.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

1. Extravagant Welcome
2. Continuing Testament
3. Changing Lives