

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

Pastor Mark's Faith Journey – Part 2

This morning I would like to continue with my Faith Story. During this present time of illness and uncertainty, I have been hearing a lot about an increase in burnout, depression, despair, and suicide. Those are very challenging struggles. Believe me, I know. Some of you know that I struggle with depression. I have also been diagnosed with panic attacks, anxiety disorder, and Childhood Trauma induced PTSD. You may wonder why I share those things with you, but they do play a significant role in my Faith Journey.

I did not have a happy home life. My time away with The Spokesmen singing group became the high point in my life, with most of the rest of my life being pretty gloomy. Getting away from home, and going off to college, seemed a perfect way to put the gloom behind me. I was given a pretty good faith foundation from the time I spent in The Spokesmen, and I was hoping to carry that faith life into my college experience. Unfortunately, it didn't turn out that way.

One of the first organizations I joined in college was the Chapel Affairs Committee. We were responsible for organizing weekly Bible Studies and Worship Services for the campus. I was sure that with my background, I would have much to contribute. Then I found out that one particular fraternity controlled the committee, and if you didn't pledge their fraternity, or if you were a freshman, you wouldn't have a role in the planning or the facilitating. Also, the campus chaplain was near retirement, and was very uninvolved in the work of the committee, so the frat boys and their girlfriends pretty much ran things their way. I quit the committee after three weeks. I spent several weeks visiting churches in the community, but never found one that was very welcoming or seemed like home.

I felt like God had deserted me. I was looking for the feeling I had experienced when I was with The Spokesmen. I realize now that was probably unrealistic, but it was the only meaningful Christian experience with which I had to compare. I became the typical college student, drinking too much, partying too much, hanging out with friends too much, going through a variety of girlfriends, and not studying enough. I just chalked up my religious high during my teen years to a once-in-a-lifetime experience that would never be repeated.

My faith wasn't doing much to curb depression, but, unfortunately, alcohol did. I found myself in a downward spiral and knew that I needed help. I saw a college counselor, who referred me to the local mental health clinic, but I wasn't ready to deal with the label "DEPRESSED", so I stopped going. I learned to live with depression without the use of alcohol, so I thought I was doing better.

(continued on page 2)

JULY 15, 2023—AUGUST 31, 2023

Then I met Connie, and things got a bit better. We got married, we started our new life together, I got a job, we bought a house, we had a baby, and then the dark clouds started gathering again - worse than before. I felt more abandoned by God than I had before. Some nights I would go outside in the middle of the night, stare at the stars, and scream at God to give me a sign that he still cared about me. Connie knew that something was wrong, that I was drifting into a dark place, so she convinced me to go to a psychiatrist. I did and was diagnosed with severe clinical depression. He started me on anti-depressants, and I did begin to feel better. The dark cloud wasn't completely gone, but at least I could see through it to a dim light.

During that period of time, we had our first child, Jessica, baptized at Connie's parents' church because we didn't have a church of our own. When we started talking about having another child, we both agreed that we wanted that child to be baptized in our church, so we started looking.

I was working at a hospital at that time, so I spread the word to my co-workers that we were looking for a church to attend. We received many invitations and visited many churches. We settled on the Presbyterian Church because it seemed to have the friendliest and most welcoming people, and, since our daughter attended the nursery school that met in the church, she was already comfortable in the building.

Connie and I became very involved in the church. We both served as Sunday school teachers, and we were both ordained as Deacons. I served for a time as moderator of the Deacons. I also sang in the choir, sang solos, was on the drama team, served as liturgist, and occasionally did the children's sermon. When our second child, Ryan, was born, he was baptized in our church, by our pastor, and was embraced by our faith family.

I finally came to the realization that God had not deserted me. I was just looking for God in all the wrong places. I knew that I should stop looking for what I had with The Spokesmen and begin to recognize what I now had: a loving wife and two beautiful children, a supportive faith family, and the opportunity to serve God in a new way. That was when I began to feel God's call to become more involved in ministry to the larger church. I say "began" because it didn't happen all at once. I pushed back for many years, but a tragic incident finally convinced me to move forward.

It was after dinner on a Friday evening. Connie and I were at a car dealership on a highway north of Alma. The sun was very low, and very bright, in the western sky. If you were driving west bound, you were easily blinded. As we were looking at the cars at the dealership, we heard a huge BANG at the intersection. An east-bound car, traveling at 55 mph, had t-boned a west-bound car that had turned left directly in front of them.

I checked on the eastbound car and saw two adults in the front seat. I checked on the passenger and realized that she was dead. The driver was moving and didn't seem to be bleeding anywhere that I could see, so I went to check on the other driver. She had been thrown onto the floor on the passenger's side. She was unconscious, but she was breathing and had a strong pulse. I noticed that the other driver was trying to get out of his car, so I went over to him, helped him out, told him to sit down, and propped him against the tire of his car. By that time I heard sirens.

When the emergency personnel arrived, I told them what I knew, and stepped out of the way to let them work. They did find two children in the back seat of the eastbound car that I had missed. A 10-year-old boy was seriously injured, but a 4-year-old girl only seemed to have some minor cuts. Tim, an EMT who was a friend of mine, called me over and asked me to take the girl until they could get to her, as she was the least seriously injured. I got a gauze pad to put pressure on a gash on the back of her head and took her in my arms.

(continued on page 3)

She was crying and calling for her Mommy. I started to softly sing children's Bible songs as I rocked her gently back and forth, praying that God would be with her. As I stood there amid that chaos, I felt a sense of calm and peace. She must have felt it, too, because she calmed down and stopped crying. Finally, they were able to tend to her, so I handed her to Tim and moved out of the way. I thanked God for being with her, and me, and said prayers for the rest of the victims.

That night I told God that I was ready to take a leap of faith, enter seminary, and prepare for full-time Christian service. Ministry has its ups and downs, but I have never regretted that decision. The depression makes ministry rather challenging at times, and that is the reason I am always up front and honest about it with my congregations. Hopefully, it helps you to understand me a little bit better. Also, as you learn a bit more about the disease process of dysfunctional mental health, I hope that you will become more sensitive to those around you who suffer from this illness.

This isn't the end of my Faith Journey. This is only the end of Part 2. It has been 30 years since I entered seminary, and there are many more stories that I could tell you about my Faith Journey since that time. I could probably write 2 chapters for my time in seminary, and a chapter for each church I have served since seminary. And, of course, you are the most recent chapter on my journey. AMEN.

Blessings,
Pastor Mark

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING SESSION HOSTED BY EUCC

Wednesday, July 19, 2023 - 6 PM

This Active Shooter Training session will be presented by the Tell City Police Dept. All members of the congregation, its employees, and the public are invited to attend. Please enter through the Fellowship Hall door and proceed up to the library.
A chair lift is available. This is a free training session.

Church Council News

The three newly elected council members, Lea Ann Gehlhausen, Steve Owen, and Scot Sandage, attended the June 26th council meeting. Officers were elected at the June meeting and are as follows: Nancy Ress, president; Jerry Belcher, vice president; Lea Ann Gehlhausen, secretary; and Jared Kleemann, treasurer.

Thank you to the three outgoing council members who gave their time for the past three years: Linda Franchville, Clayton Jefford, and Debbie Mangum

We ask that you offer prayers for our church council as they gather together the next twelve months.

5th Sunday Fellowship Meal

The Fellowship Committee is having a 5th Sunday meal after service on Sunday, July 30th. The meal will be spaghetti with meat sauce or plain sauce, salad, garlic bread, dessert, and a drink.

Women's Guild will have a fund raising bake sale during this meal. We are asking the congregation to bring any baked item of their choice for the bake sale.

We hope to see you there! The community is welcome to attend.



T-SHIRT SUNDAY

July 30, 2023

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are always welcome at EUCC.*

Our first T-Shirt Sunday held on April 30, 2023, was a huge success. With there being a 5th Sunday in July, we have decided to do it again! Mark your calendars for **Sunday, July 30**, and get out your EUCC t-shirt!

We're looking forward to seeing our EUCC attire on July 30!

Women's Guild News

Women's Guild hosted the Table of Blessings meal on July 6th. Thank you to the ladies who helped with the delicious meal!

We will be holding a fund raising bake sale at the 5th Sunday Fellowship Meal on Sunday, July 30th, immediately following worship. We are asking the congregation to bring any baked item of their choice for the bake sale.

The Guild is now on recess until September. **Don't forget to hand in your Noble's IGA receipts! Every receipt helps!**

Women's Guild meets the second Thursday of each month except the months of January and February. We also take a brief vacation in June, July, and August. All women of EUCC are considered a member and are encouraged to attend meetings. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.**

We hope to see you then!



The Christian Ed youth is collecting items in July for the United Way's *Stuff the Bus Campaign* for the Perry County Schools. We have a box in the church narthex for donated items. Items requested are binders, headphones, pencils, crayons, notebooks, disinfectant wipes, facial tissue, and colored pencils.

Thank you,
Christian Ed

Creation of Quiet Family Zone—Final Session

The Christian Education team will hold its final listening session concerning removing pews in the Sanctuary to create a quiet Family Zone for parents with very young children next Sunday, July 23 after worship. We encourage everyone to join us to share your thoughts and concerns, especially if you have not attended a previous session. We will be conducting a straw poll among those who attend in order to give the church council a feel for the wishes of the congregation. This is not a congregational vote, it is an informal poll to gauge the member's feelings. For more information about this proposed project, please contact Linda Franchville at 812.547.3291.

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. Anyone who needs to use a chair lift should call ahead to make arrangements to enter through the Fellowship Hall doors.

The quiet areas include comfortable lounge seating, tables and chairs, a kitchenette stocked with free snacks and drinks, free Wi-Fi, and plenty of reading materials and jigsaw puzzles. Restrooms are located just across the hall. A freewill offering for snacks and drinks is appreciated; the donations go to the church's Local Emergencies Fund to help community members in need.

HAPPENINGS AT OUR CHURCH

EUCC Historical Records Books

Church Records
of
FIRST EVANGELICAL
U.C.C. CHURCH
Tell City, Perry County,
Indiana

The Tell City Historical Society has provided us with some hard-back Evangelical UCC Historical Records books. These books contain marriages, deaths, confirmations, and baptisms at EUCC for the years of 1871—1936. The cost per book is \$10. EUCC will receive 50% of each book sold. The books are available in the church office. A copy has been placed in the narthex to view on Sundays. Anyone who has relatives who belonged to our church during those stated years may be interested in having one of these historical records books.

T-Shirt Orders Continuing

Our t-shirt orders are going well. Would you like a shirt with our logo on the front and our motto on back? If so, 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.

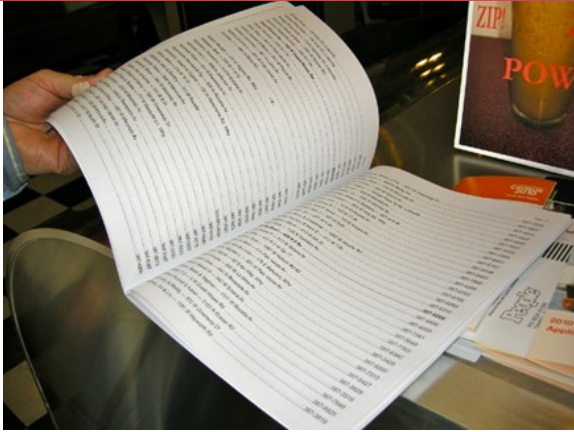
We are taking orders on a continuous basis, meaning there is no deadline to submit your order. We will submit orders at the beginning of each month; the shirts should be in within two weeks.

Youth and adult sizes are available in short sleeved and long sleeved styles. We have a light grey, dark grey, and tie dye option. Tie dye is available in short sleeves only. Sample shirts are available in the narthex on Sundays and the church office during the week.

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



HAPPENINGS AT OUR CHURCH



Addendum to Church Directory Now Available

We have been informed of several changes to the church directory since our last update in January. A sheet indicating those updates, along with complete directories, is available in the narthex. In January 2024, we will publish an updated phone book section of the directory which incorporates all of these changes. In the meantime, if you know of changes which need to be made, please contact the church office so we can keep our records up to date.

If you need a full directory or only the updated section and can't make it to church to get it, please contact the church office. We will see that one is delivered to you.

SCHWEIZER FEST WATER BOTTLE GIVE-AWAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!



For Schweizer Fest 2022, we brought back the highly successful water bottle give-away. In 2019, we gave away 1,700 bottles of water; due to the pandemic, we didn't do it in 2020 or 2021. In 2022, we gave away more than 2,100 bottles of water! With the success of the project and how much it is appreciated, we have decided to do it again this year. We have made arrangements for 3,000 bottles of water to be donated; we hope this helps us not run out like we did each evening last year.

Schweizer Fest 2023 runs from Wednesday, August 9, through Saturday, August 12. We need at least two (2) volunteers per shift each evening (6:00-8:00 p.m. and 8:00-10:00 p.m.). Of course, more are welcome! Everything will be set up for you. All you need to do is show up (bring a law chair) and give a water bottle to anyone who asks. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex each Sunday beginning July 16.

This mission project is greatly appreciated by many in our community. Many of our volunteers reported having good conversations with the people who visited our tent. We need your help to make this year's give-away just as successful and meaningful. Please help us to serve as the hands of feet of God in our community.

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

Worship Leaders

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Video</u>	<u>Sound</u>
July 16	Linda Kramer	Jerry Brunner Steve & Becky Owen Frank Poehlein	Emile Kercher	Dan Gayer
July 23	Steve Owen	Linda Franchville Emile Kercher Chris Van Note	Darla Goffinet	Chris Goffinet
July 30	Lea A. Gehlhausen	Jerry & Sara Belcher Phil & Jeannie DeSpain	Darla Goffinet	Chris Goffinet
Aug 6	Dan Lacy	Ellis & Suellen Howard Dan & Jill Lacy	Emile Kercher	Dan Gayer
Aug 13	Darla Goffinet	Lea Ann Gehlhausen Chris Goffinet Keith & Linda Kramer	Rebecca Fenn	Mark Fenn

Thanks 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.

June Total: \$1,172.41

Utilities— 20 households—\$997.41

Rent assistance— 3 households—\$175.00

June Memorial Donations

Memorial donations received in June: \$25

These directed donations benefited the following funds:

Local Emergency Fund \$15
Flower Fund \$10

IN LOVING
Memory

Recurring events...

Every Sunday--

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

*2nd Sunday-Church Growth & Mission Team
(11 a.m.—after worship in Sanctuary)

*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 summer break until September)

*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 August Caller is **Aug. 10th**.
Articles can be dropped off, called in, or
emailed to the church office at euccinfo@gmail.com.

Church Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Facebook</u>
June 18	53	8
June 25	52	7
July 2	47	7
July 9	44	8

PRIDE FEST PARTICIPATION

EUCC participated in the Perry County Pride Fest that was held on Saturday, July 8th. There were several attendees who commented they were thankful we were there. Thank you to Steve Owen for getting our booth set up and for scheduling workers to man the booth throughout the event. And thank you to those who worked a shift!



EUCC Yard Signs

We truly appreciate your pride in EUCC and your willingness to spread our love throughout the community. We encourage you to display one of our all season yard signs. If you need one, they are available in the narthex and church office.

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.

Financial Report June 2023

June 2023 Income - Total \$9,896.58

Offerings (checks/cash):	\$ 6,357.00
Offerings (electronic):	\$ 1,956.45
Building Rental Income:	\$ 170.00
Franklin Fund Interest Income:	\$ 402.22
American Fund Interest Income:	\$ 477.52
<i>Income Specifically Directed to a Fund:</i>	
Maintenance & Depreciation Fund Income:	\$ 85.00
Local Emergencies Fund Income:	\$ 271.00
Benevolent Fund Income:	\$ 150.00
Pass Through Account Income:	\$ 17.39
Flower Fund Income:	\$ 10.00

June 2023 Expense - Total \$26,934.99

Salaries:	\$ 8,880.51
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
Pastoral Substitute Expense:	\$ 100.00
Utilities Expense:	\$ 2,068.48
Office Supplies Expense:	\$ 141.56
Local Emergencies Expense:	\$ 1,172.41
Vanco Fees Expense:	\$ 66.41
Misc. Expense:	\$ 50.09
Benevolent Fund Expense:	\$ 410.74
Women's Guild Fund Expense:	\$ 269.70
Fellowship Team Budget Expense:	\$ 134.49
Building & Grounds Team Budget Expense:	\$ 3,744.90
Pass Through Account Expense:	\$ 15.00
Worship Resource/Music Team Budget Expense:	\$ 278.31
Insurance/Casualty Loss Expense:	\$ 6,408.00

June Total Income Minus Total Expenses: (\$17,038.41)
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EUCC Assets, Liabilities, Income and Expenses		
Jun-23		
Assets and Liabilities June 31, 2023	Assets	\$607,134.93
	Liabilities	\$2,048.44
	Assets - Liabilities	\$605,086.49
	- General Operations Fund -- Can Be Spent on Anything	\$51,507.79
	- Thelander Mission Fund -- Designated for Revitalization Items	\$88,350.27
	- American and Franklin Funds -- Requires Congregation Approval on what can be spent on	\$147,669.76
	- Various Directed Funds -- Earmarked by Donors	\$317,558.67
Operations Income and Budgeted Expenses June 2023	June 2023 Operations Income	\$9,363.19
	June 2023 Budgeted Expenses	\$25,067.14
	June 2023 Operations/Budgeted Gain/Loss	-\$15,703.95
Operations Income and Budgeted Expenses YTD	2023 Operations Income	\$107,746.10
	2023 Budgeted Expenses	\$117,963.64
	2023 Operations/Budgeted Gain/Loss	-\$10,217.54
Total Income and Total Expenses June 2023	June 2023 Total Income	\$9,896.58
	June 2023 Total Expenses	\$26,934.99
	June 2023 Total Gain/Loss	-\$17,038.41
Total Income and Total Expenses YTD	2023 Total Income	\$117,591.70
	2023 Total Expenses	\$134,843.56
	2023 Gain/Loss	-\$17,251.86

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July

1—Mary Aders
7—Maxwell Dugas
8—Greg Held
12—Rebecca Fenn
15—Bradley Belcher
16—Hunter Sandage, Cadence Held
17—Becky Peter
19—Donna Kessler
22—Jessica Fenn Allen
25—Corey Litherland
26—Jamie Held
28—Norman Held, Sean Risse
30—Roy Raider
31—Jerry Brunner



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

August

6—Jamessa Kessner Potts
10—Danny Gayer
14—Chandler Lacy
15—Jill Lacy
17—Lea Ann Gehlhausen
18—Shirley Gayer, Spencer Sandage
19—Anthony Castello
20—Heather Howell
21—Stephen Kessner
23—Lexi Kellems
28—Paul Ramsey



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

July

2—Dan & Jill Lacy
14—Duane & Lea Ann Gehlhausen



August

8—John and Susan Ewing
14—Don and Ann Swaney
16—Dan and Shirley Gayer
20—Keith and Linda Kramer
23—Allen and Meg Butler
26—Roy and Mary Raider



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



EVANGELICAL
United Church of Christ

802 10th Street
Tell City, IN 47586
Phone: 812-547-7059
E-mail: ucctcinfo@gmail.com
Website: tellcityevangelicalucc.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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