Edgewood United Methodist Church
The Vision
August 2026

"Where there is no vision the people perish" Proverbs 29:18

August Sermon Series: Stories of Elijah

This summer we are exploring more stories throughout the Old Testament that many of us grew up hearing in Sunday School. This month we are tackling the story of the Prophet Elijah that is messy and full of wonder. Growing up I heard the "Sunday School" version of Elijah that would leave out some of the messiness, or not attempt to explain the harsh realities of the stories in the Old Testament. During my elementary years, the teachers would ask questions and we would give Sunday School answers. There was nothing wrong with those answers, after all it was age appropriate. It was simply a way to introduce us to the story.

Fast forward to middle school and high school days I remember hearing teachers encourage us to dig deeper into the story. That it's ok to say: I'm not sure, I don't understand why, and to realize that some of the stories are really messy and amazing at the same time! Elijah falls into this category, and as I began preparing for this series, I have more questions than I do answers. The amazement comes from Elijah's bold ability to speak truth and stand against false gods in Israel. The Israelites had turned their back on God, forgotten their covenant with God, and started following the prophets of Baal. Ultimately Elijah performed miracles that reminded the Israelites of their covenant with God and called them back to God.

Meanwhile, the messiness came from the death and destruction of those who would not turn back to God and the prophets of Baal who led Israel astray. How does the stories of Elijah fit in the narrative of a loving God? We believe that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. So, how can we explain the way God acted in some of these stories compared to what we see in the New Testament? Stories like what we find with the prophet Elijah is what inspires the most debated topic in Christianity: How does a loving God inflict judgement? Some theologians have gone as far as to say that the Old Testament God is different from the NT God. Well, now that we've opened that can, I hope to see you on Sundays so we can talk more!

Pam Whited	8/5
Greg Beardsley	8/10
Rev. Kevin Davis	8/15
Rick Kauffman	8/18
Julia Brookshire	8/20
Heather Rhoda	8/26
Janet Jensen	8/30
Judy Selke	8/30
Lisa Biggerstaff	8/31

Happy Anniversary

Chris & Elaine Huehls	8/01

Thought for the Month

HAPPINESS IS ALLOWED

"Happy are the people whose God is the Lord", Psalm 144:15. You can expect some happiness even though you live in a broken world. With all the rumors, propaganda, false teaching and distractions, it is very easy to get our focus on worldly things around us. So, as Christians, it takes re-centering our minds to focus on the noble, lovely, good and edifying. We have the Holy Spirit to alert us when we hear or see something which is only half-truth or less, or is ugly and mean spirited. Psalm 46:10 says, "Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted in the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." There is a certain happiness or joy when we know from whom our help comes. Psalm 46:1-3 says, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though it's waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with the surging". So, I encourage you to be alert to what is happening in the world, but confront those things through faith in Jesus, and the lens of Biblical teaching. We, as Christians, should be the happiest and joyful of people because we know the end of the story.

- Sue Moffatt

Kick off Sunday: August 9th at 10:30am

When you were a teen, when did your school kick off the fall semester? My birthday is in August, so I remember being worried each year that the start of the fall semester would happen on my birthday at some point. Well, fortunately the earliest I can remember starting school was August 20 something. I can remember hearing my parents and their generations saying that their school started after Labor day and was finished before Memorial day!

All of that being said, school now started for most of our children and youth on July 29 this year. So as a church it may seem early, but our fall kick off is Sunday, August 9th complete with Brunch! We want to find ways to support children and youth as they begin the school year. So, we will have a hot meal, prayer for Children, Youth, Teachers, Parents & Grandparents! We hope that you can join us for this worship service as we continue to grow our presence in our neighborhood serving families. Remember to invite family, friends, and neighbors!

July Sing and Shout to the Lord

August is a special month for many of us! Pastor Kevin Davis celebrates his birthday. Personally, two of our sons have birthdays in August, as does one granddaughter.

From ancient history we know that the month of August was named for the Roman leader Caesar Augustus, who had many military victories in this month.

It seems such recent history, not that long ago, when Indiana students celebrated the start of summer break! And now the new school year is ready to start. Edgewood's Chancel Choir season is similar to the school year, but without Spring, Fall and Winter breaks! Anyone who likes to sing is invited to join us. Our choir practice is on Friday at 4 pm, beginning on August 28th.

This month Pastor Kevin is preaching a new sermon series on Elijah and his successor, Elisha - two very important Prophets from the Old Testament. As Christians, we spend a lot of time in the New Testament but all Scripture is God-breathed - included in the Holy Bible because we can learn from, and be inspired by, the texts. Elijah and Elisha are featured in Second Kings, chapters 1-6. If we ask God's Spirit to open our understanding, we can learn new ideas to help us grow in our faith journey.

We encourage each other as we worship together each Sunday, with Sunday School at 9 am and Worship Service at 10 am. Let us Sing and Shout Praises to the Lord in August and in every month of the year!

Susan Wood, Chancel Choir Director & Lay Leader

Edgewood UMC Christian Holidays

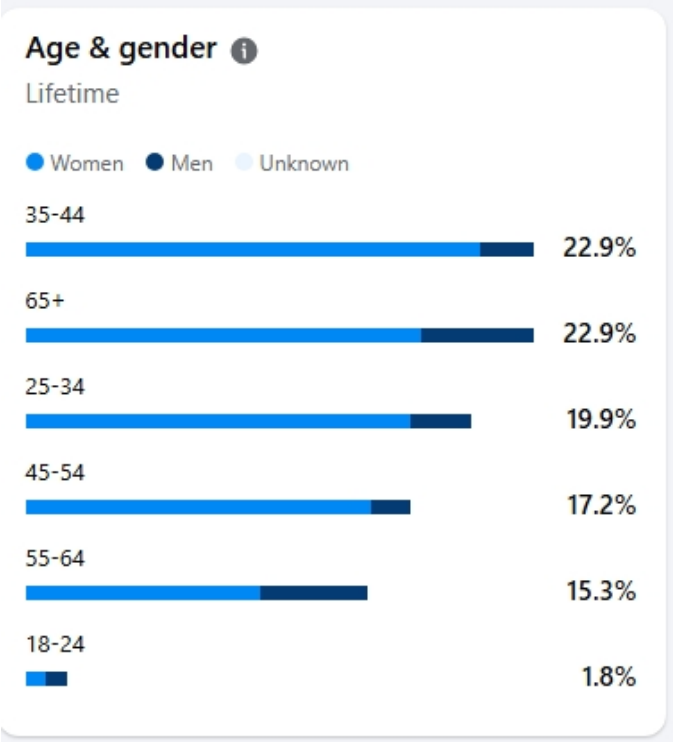
Aug 2026 (Eastern Time - Indianapolis)

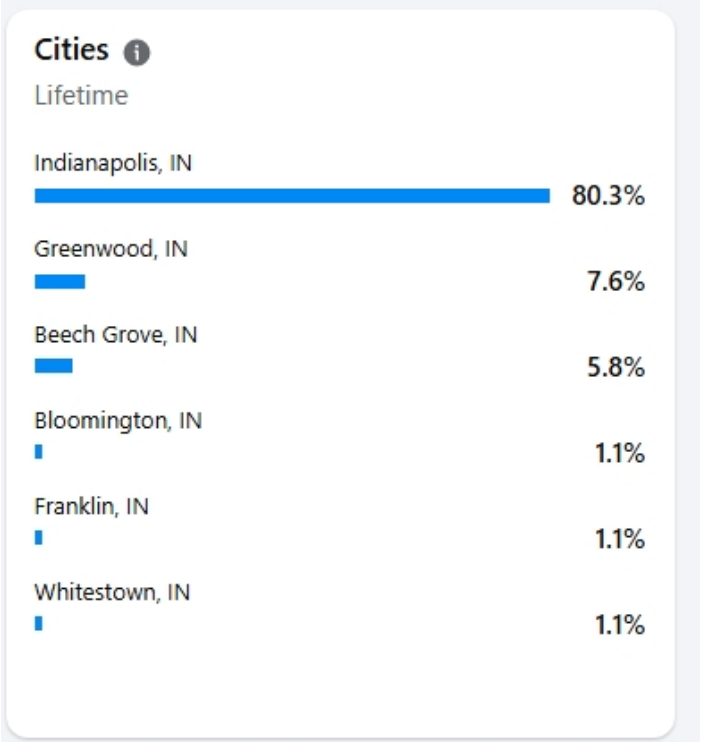
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 6pm - FGA Social Hall
2 Food Collection 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 1pm - FGA Social Hall	3 7pm - AA Meeting	4 5:30pm - Gentle Yoga	5 11am - Social Bingo 4:30pm - Youth Group	6	7 11am - Social Euchre 3pm - Trio Practice 4pm - Choir Practice	8 12pm - Social Hall Rental 6pm - FGA Social Hall
9 9am - Sunday School 10am - Brunch at the Table 1pm - FGA Social Hall	10 7pm - AA Meeting	11 5:30pm - Gentle Yoga 6pm - Ford V8 Club Meeting	12 11am - Social Bingo 4:30pm - Youth Group	13	14 11am - Social Euchre 3pm - Trio Practice 4pm - Choir Practice	15 Assumption of Mary 6pm - FGA Social Hall
16 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 1pm - FGA Social Hall	17 12:30pm - Mexican Train 7pm - AA Meeting	18 1:30pm - Staff Parish Meeting 5:30pm - Gentle Yoga 6pm - Finance Meeting	19 11am - Social Bingo 4pm - Clothing Pantry 4:30pm - Youth Group	20	21 11am - Social Euchre 3pm - Trio Practice 4pm - Choir Practice	22 6pm - FGA Social Hall
23 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 1pm - FGA Social Hall	24 7pm - AA Meeting	25 5:30pm - Gentle Yoga	26 11am - Social Bingo 4:30pm - Youth Group	27	28 11am - Social Euchre 3pm - Trio Practice 4pm - Choir Practice	29 6pm - FGA Social Hall
30 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 1pm - FGA Social Hall	31 7pm - AA Meeting	1	2	3	4 Key: FGA - Full Gospel Assembly	5

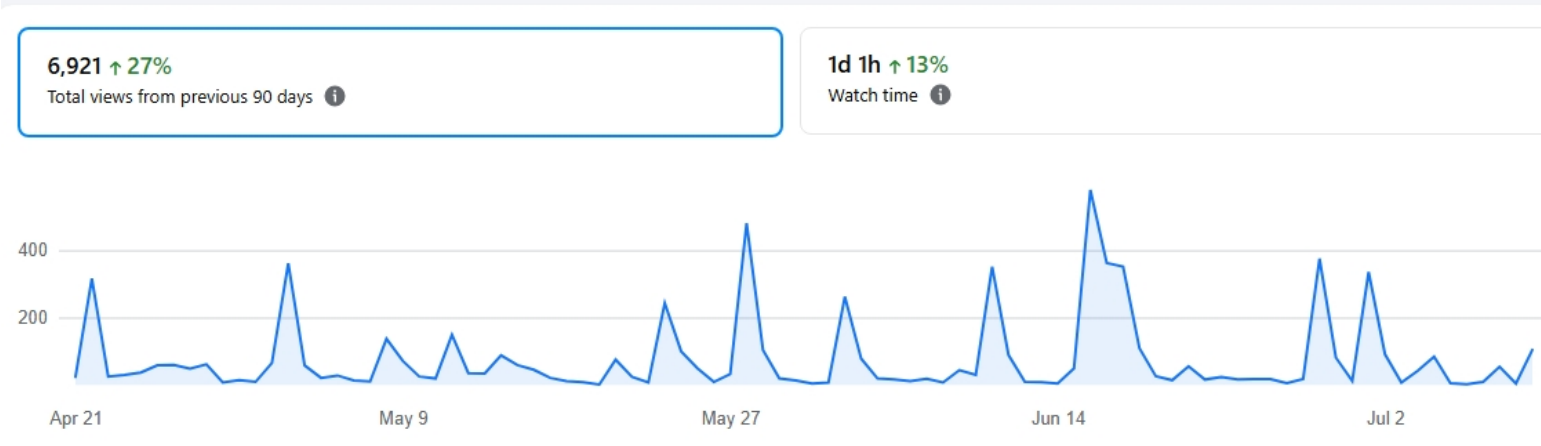
Social Media Reports & What Do They Mean?

We are learning as we grow in faith and learning as we go and tell the story of Jesus! One of the most effective ways that we share the good news is through our social media, worship online and website. Churches have been using these avenues of sharing the good news online for over a quarter of a century. While they are not new to Christianity, they are fairly new to our congregation. When we first started a professional Facebook account, 4 years ago, it was our goal to have 100 followers. Today we have 339 followers and our content is viewed over up to 650 times in one week and that is just on Facebook! We also have Instagram, Tik Tok, YouTube and our website knowing that each form of media reaches different age groups and cultures.

Social media and online resources have been the leading source for churches to share the Gospel message and today it is a game changer for our church. It connects us to people in our neighborhood and community who would otherwise not know we are here! It has replaced knocking on doors and created a more helpful bridge to the church. Here's some of what's happening online!







August Worship

August 2: Stories of Elijah: Calling Down Fire - I Kings 18:17-40

August 9: Stories of Elijah: Skipping Death - II Kings 2:1-18

August 16: Guest Preacher - Monet Orr

August 23: Stories of Elisha: Death in the Pot (turned to life) - II Kings 4:38-41

August 30: Storie of Elisha: Ax Head Floating (Mission Sunday) - II Kings 6:1-7

Garden

Special Thanks to Shari Clark, Sue Moffatt, Donna & Russel Parasky, Simone Ridgeway, Pat & Dejanique, Becky Sawyer Hilton & Family (8 members), Paris, Zane, Pat Yarber, and All who have paid special attention to our gardens this summer! It's a big job and we are blessed to have a beautiful gardenscape!

Leadership FLOW CHART for Edgewood:

Ministry Team: Is the Vision arm of the church due to its close proximity with ministry and the people that we are serving. This team replaces the 5 separate committees that we had meeting separately (Worship, Outreach, Missions, Care, & Leadership Development) with one committee that connects the dots between the vision of the church and our ministry. Ministry changes are proposed through this team with the mission of Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World in mind. Currently 6 people sit on this committee and their first meeting was in June.

Trustees: This team is currently being reformed with its first planned meeting in August. Trustees exist to help us accomplish our mission by providing building resources for worship space on our property and grounds. The goal is to have a rotational model of those who are on call. We hope to have 8 people make this commitment with 1 being the leader.

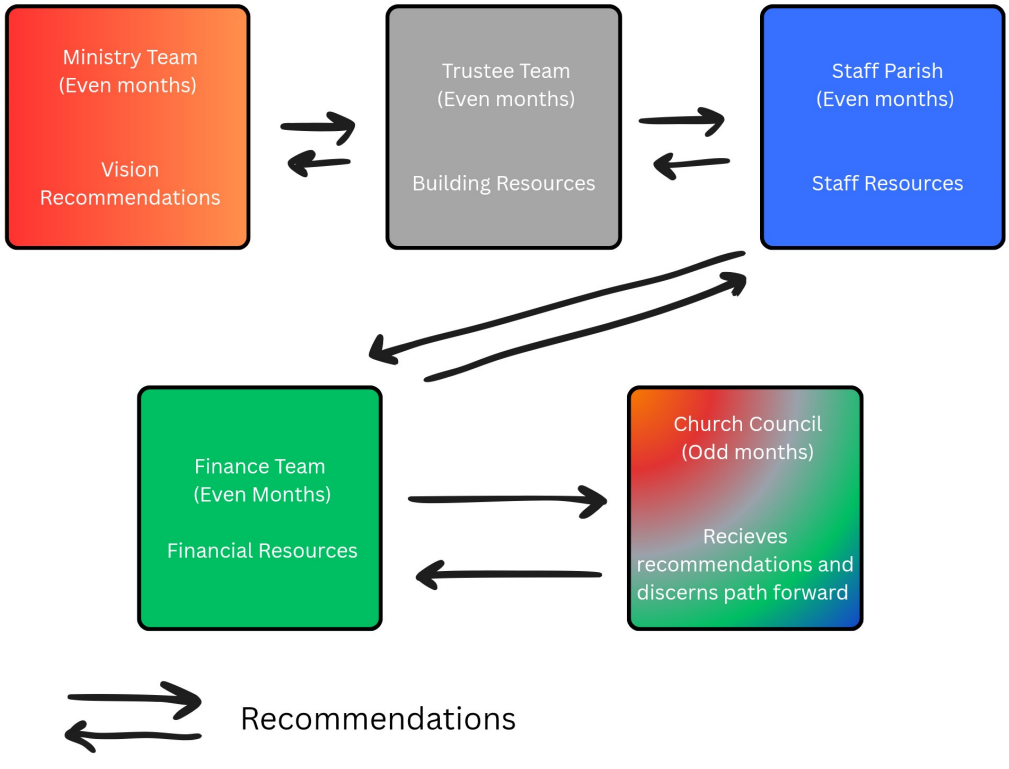
Staff Parish: Works to provide staffing resources and alignment with our vision and goals based on recommendations from the Ministry Team and Trustees. Annual evaluations, staff structure, and any changes that help us better align staffing with our mission are addressed by this team.

Finance Team: Receives recommendations from the Ministry Team, Trustees, and Staff Parish for review. Finance team is the gatekeeper of our resources and its primary goal is to provide for our church so that we can make disciples and carry out our vision. The Finance team has to always weigh what it costs to do our mission and how we can make it sustainable (To Be The Church & To Pay The Bills). They can send recommendations back to the Ministry Team, Trustees & Staff Parish if the resources are not available or if there is a more efficient way to accomplish our mission. This team is the last team that sees a recommendation prior to it going to Church Council. This team currently has 6 team members.

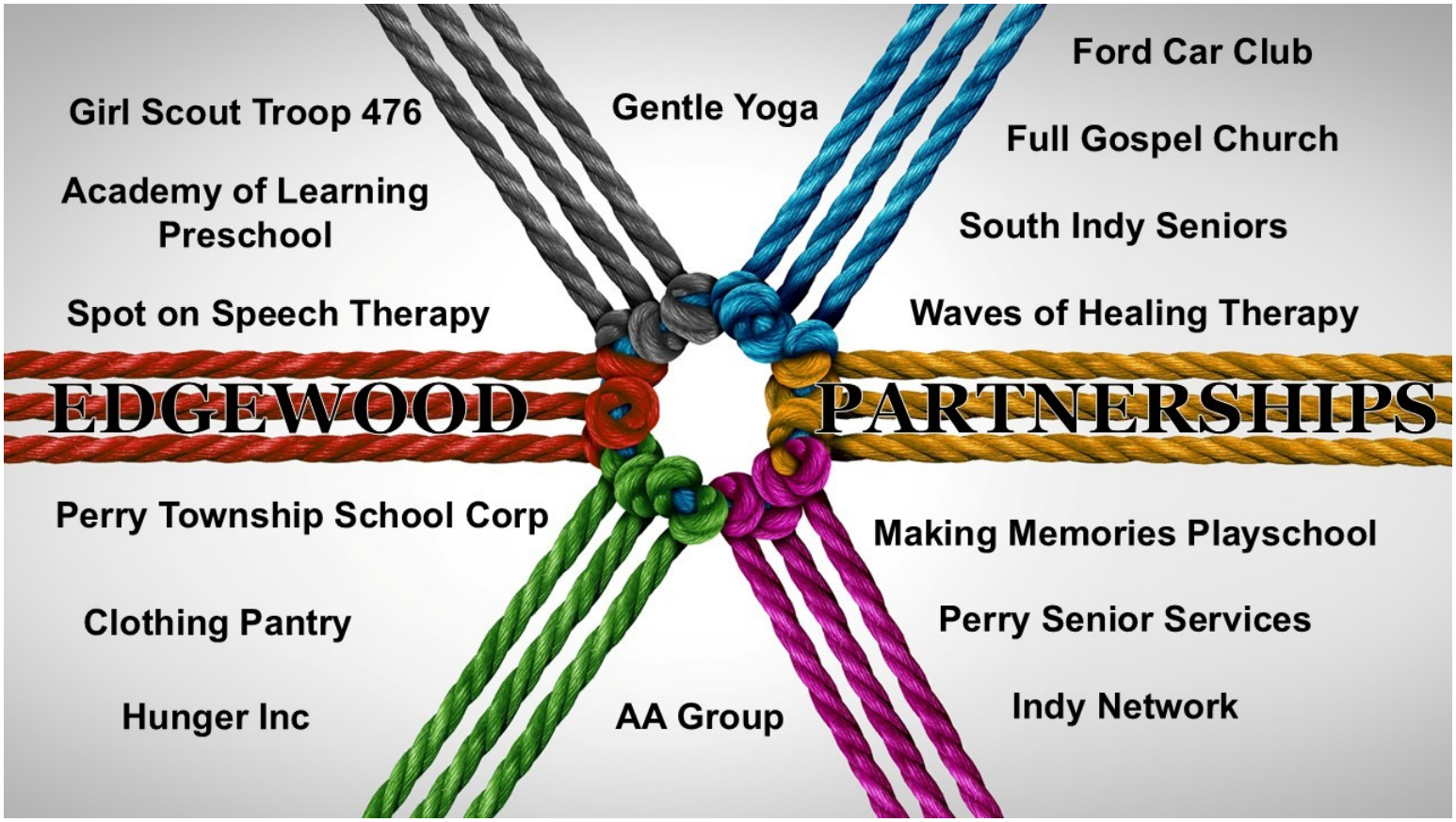
These first 4 teams meet on the even months of the year, in the order listed above, and prepare recommendations for the Church Council that meets on the odd months.

Church Council: Church Council is the final say based on the work of the committees providing recommendations. Discernment and decisions are prayerfully made considering the mission and vision of the church as a priority. We lift one another up, encourage one another's gifts and do our best to graciously lead the church well. The Church Council is the final decision making team and can send recommendations back for reconsideration, tweaking etc.

This model was approved by the Church Council over the last year to reflect better the idea of a 1 board model! Recently, we have had the opportunity to more fully live into this model with significant development of our teams. The growth of these teams should increase our decision making abilities. While certain teams still need work, we Thank you to everyone for your hard work in this area!



Serving Opportunities and Partnerships



Serving Opportunities at Edgewood

Ushers & Greeters	Liturgists
Video & Sound	Office Help
Children's Ministry	Church Council
Leadership Opportunities	Prayer Ministry Team
Event volunteers	Communion Prep

Food Pantry & Clothing Pantry

Please contact the office if you have any questions or are interested in serving with us!

Looking Ahead at Edgewood

- August 9: Brunch @ the Table at 10am
- August 12: Youth Outing - Back to School Grill Out @ Church
- August 19: Clothing Pantry 4p-6p
- September 13: Anniversary Sunday Serivce followed by Lunch
- October 11: Partnership Sunday
- October 25: Fall Festival
- November 22: Chili Cook Off

EDGEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Telephone: 317-784-6086
Website: www.edgewoodumc-indy.org
E-mail: edgewoodumc.indy@gmail.com
Facebook: Edgewood United Methodist Church
YouTube: Edgewood UM Church

NEXT DEADLINE

If you have newsletter articles &
events to publish in the September Vision,
please submit them August *15th.*

Leadership & Staff Contacts

Pastor	Kevin Davis
Church Council Chairperson	Susan Wood
Board of Trustees President	Russ Kauffman
Staff-Parish Chairperson	Norma Babb
Office & Communications Administrator	Grace Ferryman Grace.edgewoodumc@gmail.com
Facilities Maintenance Coordinator	Nathan Hamner Nathan.edgewoodumc@gmail.com
Treasurer	Heather Rhoda
Finance Chair	Toni Swails
Finance and Membership Secretary	Karen McKimmy
Lay Leader & Choir Director	Susan Wood
Pianist	Simone Ridgeway
Organist	Sue Moffatt
Custodian	Debbie Lynn
Prayer Chain Coordinator	Lynne Brown 317-446-7694

OFFICE HOURS – 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM
Email us at **edgewoodumc.indy@gmail.com** with any matters of business.

BULLETIN PUBLISHING
Any bulletin announcements need to be in by **the prior Sunday to announcement date.**

CHURCH CALENDAR AND SOCIAL HALL/SHELTER HOUSE RENTALS
Reserve your dates on the church calendar by using the form in the file organizer on the wall in the office labeled Facility Request Forms. Once filled out please place form in the slot on the wall labeled office admin mailbox. You will be contacted if there are any concerns, questions or conflicts with dates you're requesting. Please list beginning and ending hours for the event. You may also request by phone or email to edgewoodumc.indy@gmail.com. There are also forms on our website that you can fill out and send in to the email listed above.