

United Methodist Church of Elmwood  
P.O. Box 477  
Elmwood, IL 61529

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**April 2011**

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Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Non-Profit  
Permit No. 10  
Elmwood, IL 61529

### Upcoming Events:

**April 3, 10:30 am (each Sunday in April 3, 10, 17)**

Couple's Small Group led by Janet & Ted Mottaz

Children's Church led by Angie Tracy

Jr/Sr High Youth Small Group led by Karla Kane

**4:00 pm**

Women's Small Group led by Michelle Dunn

Men's Small Group led by Mark Graham

**April 7, 9:00 am** Mom Squad

**6:30 pm** Building Committee Meeting

**6:30 pm** Small Group at Mary Nell Simpson's

**April 8, 6:30 pm** Small Group at Kane's

**April 9, 4-7 pm** Ham & Beef Dinner

**April 10, 2:30 pm** Slide Presentation of Holy Land

**April 12, 9:30 am** UMW Meeting

**April 14, 9:00 am** Mom Squad

**6:30 pm** Small Group at Mary Nell Simpson's

**April 15, 6:30 pm** Small Group at Kane's

**April 16, 9:00 am** Scrapbooking

**April 19, 9:30 am** UMW Circle

**April 20, 6:30 pm** Alpha Group

**April 21, 7:00 pm** Maundy Thursday Worship

**April 22, 7:00 pm** Community Good Friday  
Service at United Methodist Church

**April 24, 7:30 am** Easter Sunrise Service at the  
First Presbyterian Church  
(breakfast following worship)

**9:00** Sunday School Easter Celebration

**9:00 & 10:30 am** Easter Worship Services  
United Methodist Church

**April 28, 12 Noon** Manna Meal

# The Beacon



Opportunity to Use Your Strengths  
To Serve in Christ's Name

**Sunday, May 1, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**9 a.m. Worship**

**9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Local Mission Projects**

**12:30 – 1:00 p.m. Closing Picnic Lunch/Potluck**

**(Grilled hamburgers & hot dogs and beverages provided)**

**The United Methodist Church of Elmwood**  
Pastor: Mark Graham  
Administrative Assistant: Kris Petermeyer  
Office: 742-7221 Pastor's Cell: 309-258-2258  
Church e-mail: [umc@elmnet.net](mailto:umc@elmnet.net)  
Church Website: [www.elmwoodumc.org](http://www.elmwoodumc.org)

We are followers of Jesus  
Connecting to God and  
One another, growing in  
Faith and pouring our  
Lives into serving others.

### **Holy Week Worship Services**

There are a number of opportunities to remember and celebrate the events that took place during Jesus' last week on earth. There are also opportunities to worship and fellowship with members of other churches in town as we hold community-wide services:

#### **Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 17**

**9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services**

Children's Procession of Palms

#### **Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 21**

**7:00 p.m.**

Candlelight Communion Service

#### **Community-Wide Good Friday Service**

**Friday, April 22, 7:00 p.m.**

United Methodist Church of Elmwood  
Community Choir from all the churches will be singing.

#### **Community-Wide Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, April 24, 7:30 a.m.**

First Presbyterian Church of Elmwood  
(Breakfast following worship service.)

#### **Easter Sunday Worship**

**Sunday, April 24, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.**

United Methodist Church of Elmwood

#### **Children's Easter Celebration**

**Sunday, April 24, 9:00 a.m.**

Special activities for children to celebrate Easter

#### **Special Music for 10:30 a.m. Worship**

The church choir sings one or two Sundays per month. This leaves at least two other Sundays per month that are open and available for those in the congregation to provide special music. If you would be interested in playing an instrument or providing a special as a solo, duet, or trio, or any combination, you would be welcome to enrich our worship experience. There is a sign up in the church lobby area.

### **Ham & Beef Dinner**

The Annual Ham & Beef Dinner will be held **Saturday, April 9, from 4-7 p.m.** The menu is: roast beef, ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, roll, dessert and drink. The cost is **\$8** for adults, **\$4** for children 5-10, and children 4 and under are free. Donations of food items and volunteers are needed. Sign-ups are in the church lobby. Check out this opportunity to serve. Spread the word – family, friends, acquaintances -- everybody is welcome!

#### **Faith in Action Sunday May 1**

On **Sunday, May 1, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** the United Methodist Church of Elmwood will participate in Faith in Action Day. Instead of having our usual Sunday morning schedule, the church will have a very brief time of worship at 9:00 a.m. The congregation will then be sent out to participate in a variety of local mission projects that are suitable for people of all ages and stages of life. There are indoor hands-on projects such as baking cookies, making cards and May baskets, and assembling medical kits. Some volunteers will visit homebound members of the community to deliver the cards and goodies prepared at the church. Others will go door to door to deliver free light bulbs "to show God's love in a practical way," from the church. There will also be a free car wash and other outdoor clean-up/fix-up projects in the community. Over the next several weeks congregation members and friends can sign up for projects that fit their interests and abilities.

The congregation participated in Faith in Action Day two years ago with over 140 participants. It is hoped that we will do as well this time around. Friends in the surrounding area are welcome to participate. This is an important way for us to express our faith and let the community and surrounding area know that we want to show God's love in a way that makes a difference.

### **24 Hours That Changed the World**

Lois Hill will be giving a slide presentation on her trip to the Holy Land on **Sunday, April 10, at 2:30 p.m.** Refreshments will be served following the program. Lois went on a tour to the Holy Land and has visited many of the sites that we are learning about in our study "**24 Hours that Changed the World.**" Her presentation will give more background on the land, the customs, and the circumstances behind Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

#### **Faith & Works**

The apostle Paul in the book of Romans says, "we are saved by grace through faith." The apostle James in his letter in the Bible says, "faith without works is dead." Growing as a follower of Jesus includes living a life of faith and doing good works. If all our emphasis is on having the right beliefs and knowing the scriptures and saying how much we love Jesus but we never show any compassion and we never do anything to care for those in need or those who are lonely or those without faith, we have missed the mark. It says in 1 Corinthians 13: "If I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing." It is also true that we miss the mark if all we do is good works and if we think that our works will give us an edge or will somehow please God and earn us a place in heaven. God is already pleased with you. God loves you as you are and our good works will not influence God to love us more than he already does. Good works alone are not what bring us into right relationship with God. Having faith, knowing God, worshipping God, and spending time in prayer all help us to grow in faith. Giving ourselves away in service to others also helps us to grow in faith and grow as followers of Jesus. During Lent you have the opportunity to do both – to keep growing in your faith through study and participating in small groups and through expressing your faith in action. Your soul needs both and our world needs both – faith and action, faith and works. Our **Faith in Action Day** will give us the opportunity to express our faith and show the people in our area that Christ's love is real today!

Pastor Mark

### **Response to the Crisis in Japan**

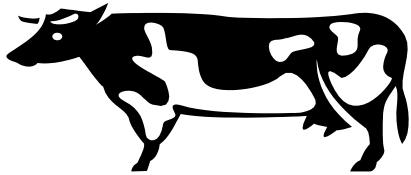
The United Methodist Church is very active in supporting the emergency relief effort in Japan and you can help. If you wish to provide financial help you can make donations payable to the United Methodist Church of Elmwood and write in the memo that it is for Japan Emergency Relief. The United Methodist Church is able to give 100% to Japan Emergency Relief because the administrative costs are covered in other ways, including the annual special offering "One Great Hour of Sharing." In addition to cash gifts, the Midwest Distribution Center, located outside of Springfield, will be shipping medical/personal hygiene kits to be provided at the relief shelters in Japan. You can donate individual items for the kits in bulk or prepare one or more of the kits with all of the items listed below:

#### Health Kit

- 1 Hand Towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", no kitchen towels)
- 1 Washcloth
- 1 Comb (large & sturdy, not pocket size or pick)
- 1 Nail file or Fingernail Clipper (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 Bath-size Bar of Soap (3 oz. or larger in original wrapper)
- 1 Toothbrush (single brushes only-in original wrapper, no child-size brushes) (no multiple packs) (no dentist name or phone number)
- 1 Tube of Toothpaste (**6.4** oz. or larger. Check expiration dates - must be at least ONE YEAR ahead.) (You may leave out and send \$1.00)
- 6 Adhesive Plastic Strip Sterile Bandages (regular size and wrapped in a rubber band)

*Wrap the items in the hand towel. Items should be placed in a new, one gallon plastic zip closure bag. Please make sure all items are the correct size. If they are not the correct size, they are unusable.*

**How Much Does a Cow Cost?** In the past few weeks our youth have been learning about the Heifer Project, an organization that helps provide animals for people in poverty situations to help them feed and support themselves. The children and youth at UMC would like to buy a bred cow for a family so they can have fresh milk to drink and sell the excess to buy other things they need. When the cow has it's calf they will pass it on to another family to start the cycle over again. During the month of April you will see the children dressed as animals asking for your spare change to help raise money for a cow. We hope that you will support their efforts. By the way, a cow costs about \$500.00. Thank you.



**Re-enact the Last Supper:** On Palm Sunday during Sunday School we will be re-enacting the Last Supper with all the children. We will be washing feet and explaining each step of the last meal Jesus had with the disciples. We need help with supplies and helping children through some of the steps. If you are willing to participate, please meet in the library at 10 a.m. on April 10. We will have a list of things we need and areas where you can help to sign up for. Thank you for your support. Karla

**Celebrate Easter and the Love of Jesus Christ . . .**

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, instead of an Easter Egg hunt this year, we are going to celebrate Jesus' love for us. We will not have our regular Sunday School classes at 9 a.m., but will all gather in the fellowship hall for a special message and activities. All children and youth are invited. Come celebrate with us!

**VBS Registration is Now Open!**

Take a journey with us to *Hometown Nazareth, Where Jesus was a Kid*. Visit our church website ([www.elmwoodumc.org](http://www.elmwoodumc.org)) to register as a participant or as a volunteer for Elmwood Community VBS 2011. The Pre-K session is July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9 to 11 a.m. Children entering grades K-6 will attend July 24 – 28 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All sessions will be held at the United Methodist Church this year. We will need lots of volunteers once again. Please note: even if you have volunteered in the past, we need you to complete a registration again. All volunteers also need background checks on file. VBS volunteer training is June 26 at 3 p.m. at UMC. Please help spread the word – all registrations are due by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Please call the church office (742-7221) or Lisa Roberts (742-8931) with any questions.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Taylor Armbruster has been selected as one of 30 IESA Scholar Attitude Award winners. This award recognizes 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are young leaders in their school and community, have at least a 3.5 grade-point-average on a scale of 4.0, participate in at least one IESA activity during each of his or her junior high years, exhibit outstanding citizenship, and submit a typed essay titled "The Value of Sportsmanship." See [www.iesa.org/citizenship/sca/2011/](http://www.iesa.org/citizenship/sca/2011/) for more information. Great job Taylor!

**Congratulations** to Allie Johnston for making the Dean's List at WIU for the Fall 2010 semester. Way to go!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Charity Fishing Tournament:**

Camp Big Sky will hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Charity Fishing Tournament on Saturday, May 21, 2011 at the Lakeland Park in Canton, IL. This event is open to the public and the funds raised will benefit Camp Big Sky. 20 teams will compete in a Bass Masters style tournament complete with first class boats and an exciting Weigh-In Ceremony. The camp provides accessible outdoor recreational opportunities to children and adults with disabilities at no cost to them. Go to [www.campbigsky.org](http://www.campbigsky.org) or contact Brad Guidi at (309) 258-6002 or Sheri McGill at (309) 645-2622 for more information.

*Thank You!*

**THANK YOU** so much to everyone who participated in the Soup Lunch on February 27 and made it a success. I really appreciate your support whether it was working in the kitchen, cooking, coming to eat lunch, buying soup to take home, cleaning up or donating. Due to the efforts of each one of you we raised \$445.00 for the Building Fund. You are great!

Thank you – Mary Nell Simpson

We would like to thank everyone for the cards, memorials, flowers, prayers, and food when our husband, father, and grandpa (Kenneth Vallas) passed away. We appreciated the ladies at the church for providing the wonderful luncheon after the funeral. A special thank you to Pastor Mark for the love and support he showed my family and myself during this difficult time. May God bless each of you.

Janet Vallas  
Ray, Lori, Megan & Elizabeth Vallas  
Kenny, Molly, Alex, Kaitlynn & Emma Vallas

**UMW News:** Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 12, at 9:30 a.m. Marilee Hurst will do the devotions and program and Carolyn Dean is in charge of the social. Mark your calendars for the **Mother-Daughter Banquet** scheduled for Friday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m. Details will follow.

*In Deepest Sympathy*



We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and loved ones of Allan Jaggard who passed away on March 22, 2011.

**Easter Lily Plants:** Easter Lilies will be available for purchase in honor or memory of a loved one that will be displayed in the front of the church during both services on Easter Sunday. You may purchase lilies at the table in the foyer following both services on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$14.50 each. Please have your cash or check made payable to the United Methodist Church of Elmwood when you order. Contact Emily Webel at (217) 840-2470 for more information. Thanks.



**SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM  
9 AM WORSHIP**

**April 3, 2011**

GREETERS: Ted/Janet Mottaz  
USHERS: Chris/Michelle Dunn  
LITURGIST: Mary Stenwall  
0-5 NURSERY: Michelle Seipel/  
Haleigh Forrest  
COFFEE BAR: McMillan/Parm Families

**April 10, 2011**

GREETERS: Betty King/Jennifer Wilson  
USHERS: Kent/Georgia Stevens  
LITURGIST: Jill Williams  
0-5 NURSERY: Kristi Link/Alex Vallas  
COFFEE BAR: **Need Volunteer**

**April 17, 2011**

GREETERS: Don/Michelle Forrest  
USHERS: Joe Webel/Doug Whitney  
LITURGIST: Haleigh Forrest  
0-5 NURSERY: Robin Furrer/Chelsie Forrest  
COFFEE BAR: **Need Volunteer**

**April 24, 2011**

GREETERS: Don/Marge Haahn  
USHERS: Bob Paige/Lavonne Rushing  
LITURGIST: Andy Bartlow  
0-5 NURSERY: Alana/Hannah Parm  
COFFEE BAR: **Need Volunteer**

**SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM**  
**10:30 AM Worship Service**

**April 3, 2011**

GREETERS: Joanne Endres/  
Peggy Harding  
USHERS: Chuck/Connie Johnston  
LITURGIST: Celene Duley  
ACOLYTES: Allison/Mia Stevens  
0-5 NURSERY: Robin Furrer/Gabby Haskell

**April 10, 2011**

GREETERS: Charlotte Haley/Mary Howard  
USHERS: Mark/Carol Kemper  
LITURGIST: Nancy Davis  
ACOLYTES: Kyle Doubet/Logan Whitney  
0-5 NURSERY: Alana Parm/Celene Duley

**April 17, 2011**

GREETERS: Winifred Horney/  
Donita Kaebel  
USHERS: Roland/Cathy Ekstrand  
LITURGIST: Chris Ewalt  
ACOLYTES: Ethan Callister/Jared Roberts  
0-5 NURSERY: Amy Deppe/Nancy Davis

**April 21, 7 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Service**

GREET/USHER: Norma Bowhay  
Dave Pittman  
NURSERY: **Need Volunteers**

**April 22, 7 p.m. – Good Friday Service**  
**(Community Service)**

GREETERS: Betty King/Jennifer Wilson  
USHERS: **Need 2 Volunteers or couple**  
NURSERY: **Need Volunteers**

**April 24, 2011 – Easter Sunday**

GREETERS: Jerry/Nancy Wilson  
USHERS: Dennis/Cheryl Whitehurst  
LITURGIST: Dave Pittman  
ACOLYTES: Erica Kane/Catie Tracy  
0-5 NURSERY: **Need Volunteers**

**ATTENTION:** If you are unable to serve on the day given, find someone from the list to trade with. Please let the office or Alana Parm/Robin Furrer (nursery) know if you no longer wish to serve or if you wish to add your name to the list and which service you attend. **THANK YOU!**