

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

August 2011

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Organization
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Permit No. 10
Elmwood, IL 61529

Upcoming Events:

- | | | |
|------|---------------------|---|
| 8/1 | 6 p.m. | Interior Design Group Meets |
| 8/2 | 6 p.m. | Trustee Meeting |
| 8/3 | 6 p.m.
7 p.m. | Finance Committee Meeting
Bridge Team Meeting |
| 8/8 | 6:30 p.m.
7 p.m. | Sunday School Teacher Mtg.
MANNA Board Meeting |
| 8/18 | 6:30 p.m. | Alpha Group Meets |
| 8/20 | 9 a.m. | Scrapbooking Workshop |
| 8/21 | | Scholarship Recipients
Honored During Worship |
| 8/23 | 8:30 a.m. | UMW Day Apart |
| 8/25 | 12 p.m. | MANNA Meal |
| 8/28 | 5 p.m. | Drama R Us |
| 8/31 | 6:15 p.m. | Choir Practice Begins |



The Beacon



Building Excitement for Generations to Come

Roughly 150 people participated in the Ground Breaking Ceremony that was held on **Sunday, July 10**. Rev. Jan Griffith, the Spoon River District Superintendent, presided over the festivities. Kathryn Fincham, who has been a member of the church for the most years (77), with the help of her son, Gary Fincham, was the first to break ground. The Joe & Emily Webel family, with their girls, Anna, Josie, Amelia, and their son Jack, who is the youngest individual of member families in the congregation, were also among the first to break ground. (More inside.)

The United Methodist Church of Elmwood

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Administrative Assistant: Kris Petermeyer
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Church Website: www.elmwoodumc.org

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

Groundbreaking (continued from p. 1)

Contracts are being signed, the building permit is in process, and construction should begin in early August. Thank you all for your generous gifts, your faithful commitment, and your patience to see this project get underway.



Kathryn Fincham & son, Gary start the groundbreaking



Joe & Emily Webel family all dig in



Building Committee Members Present for Groundbreaking



Rev. Jan Griffith, District Superintendent, and Pastor Mark Graham offer words of blessing and thanks.



Kathryn Fincham (member for 77 years), Jack Webel, 3 months, celebrate the groundbreaking together.



Pastor Mark tries to save the sod!

In Deepest Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the loved ones of Ellery King, father of Jennifer Wilson, who passed away, July 19. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Conference-Wide Bible Reading Program

Have you read through the entire Bible? It is an incredible journey for Christians to make it all the way through the Bible. It is an undertaking that takes some discipline and dedication to keep at it. You have probably seen in bookstores, "One Year Through the Bible." The Bible is divided into sections – readings from the New and Old Testaments for each day of the week. Such a structure can help to put the scripture into small enough bites that we can handle the challenge of reading the entire Bible in a year. It also helps if there are others you know who are also taking up the challenge and are reading as you are. For this reason, the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is challenging people throughout the conference to read through the Bible in one year. We are encouraged to enter into this project together, to begin the Bible reading schedule on August 1. Copies of a schedule for reading are available in the church lobby area and the church office. It will be posted on the church website: www.elmwoodumc.org in the near future.

Early this year I made a commitment to read through the whole Bible and I have found even books like Leviticus and 2 Chronicles to be very interesting and enlightening. This resource will be available for your use. I hope that you will take up this challenge and make Bible reading a priority for this year.

I've always been fond of these words that I remember a pastor saying after the reading of scripture in worship. He said, "God always blesses the reading and hearing of his Holy Word. Take up this challenge and see how God blesses what you do."

Making Memories

I have been blown away by the number of hours and all the thought and effort that many people have put into preparation for this year's Vacation Bible School: "Hometown Nazareth -- Where Jesus was a Kid." The decorations, the games, and activities all go over the top. There are those who might think it's too much. It takes too much time and it's too much activity and there is a risk of kids missing the message because of all the stuff we do to dazzle the senses and entertain. There is a risk I suppose that kids will miss the point and just have fun and not get the message about how much God loves them and how Jesus wants to be in their lives. It's possible to miss the main thing. But I believe it is worth the risk of them not getting it because all our effort is for the purpose of creating memories. I want children to feel like we have gone all out for them and that what they experienced was special because they're special – special to God. And maybe, just maybe the memories they have of Vacation Bible School will help them stay connected with church through the years as they grow up and will carry them into their adult years to the day when they have families of their own and want their children to have the same positive experiences with church that they had as kids.

We go all out for Christmas and decorate the church, we have our candlelight services, we sing everyone's favorite carols for the purpose of making memories that touch us as children, and stay with us into adulthood. I hope we will have the same impact through Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Children's Church, youth activities, small groups, Bible Studies, Faith in Action Days, and our worship from week to week. We are here to make memories, to touch hearts and do all we can to help people experience the love of Jesus. Not every Sunday is going to be as memorable as every other. We're not always going to hit a home run with everything we do in the church. But I hope that every Sunday and every time we come together for worship or for an event in the church, that lives are touched. Wouldn't it be great if every Sunday people would leave the church and go out into the world with positive memories of their experience here and they'd yearn for more? And even better that their experience would encourage them to invite others to join them? That is my hope.

Pastor Mark

VBS: We are in the middle of our community Vacation Bible School – Hometown Nazareth – as the newsletter is being compiled. The front of the church sanctuary has been transformed into a village scene and the library is now home to Mary and Jesus. The decorations were made possible through many hours of hard work by adult and youth volunteers. Thank you so much to Karla Kane for her great leadership and skill in planning, making preparations, getting supplies and leading us in this project. It looks over-the-top great! Thank you also to our VBS Director, Lisa Roberts, whose tireless efforts, direction and leadership over the past few months through now have brought about another exciting and wonderful VBS for the 100 plus youth who are attending. Thank you to all those who have donated supplies, food, money, time and helped in any way, shape or form. We also appreciate and thank the many volunteers who help during VBS. Everyone's support is essential and we could not do this without any one of you. We will provide pictures and highlights from VBS in next month's newsletter. The following pics are from work days.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETING
We Need Your Help!**

A Sunday School Volunteer (Teachers, Aids and Substitutes) meeting will be held on

Monday, August 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Even though Sunday School doesn't start until the middle of September, we need to organize a couple of things before we start. It is important to be at this meeting as this will set our class sizes and curriculum outlines for the upcoming session.

One of the agenda items is concern regarding the number of teachers. We need two teachers per classroom, substitute teachers and Pre-K/Kindergarten aids. Some of you have agreed to teach again, but we are short teachers if we keep the class structure the same as the last session; plus we are adding a Senior High Sunday School class at 10:30 a.m. The number of teachers we have will determine the combination and size of classes that are put together. We have only six teacher commitments. We still need three teachers for 1st through 8th grade classes, Pre-K, Kindergarten aids and substitute teachers.

Your help is very much needed to support our children and youth. Please consider this very rewarding opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact Karla Kane at (309) 446-9454 or e-mail her at kckane@s-pelmwood.com.

MOM SQUAD:

Calling all Moms! Mom Squad is starting up its 2011-2012 year on Thursday, September 8, at 9 a.m. If you are an at-home mom in need of adult conversation, yummy snacks, and great speakers in a Christ-centered environment, this is the place for you. Please contact Emily Webel (217) 840-2470 or emilywebel@gmail.com for more information on this year's registration and fees. We would love to invite all moms from our surrounding communities to be included in this growing, exciting, and uplifting ministry.

Serving Opportunities: If you are a mom of older, school-aged (and above) children or a grandma or just a loving person with nowhere to go on a Thursday morning, we could use you too! Kid Squad is a wonderful place to serve children ages birth to five. Please also contact Emily Webel or Kathleen Conklin (309) 645-4243 if you are interested in using Kid Squad as your mission. We are always in need of loving folks to care for our precious cargo! Thank you, in advance. ♥

SCHOLARSHIPS recipients will be recognized and given their award during the worship services on Sunday, August 21.

UMW NEWS: The Illinois River District UMW Prayer Breakfast/Day Apart is Tuesday, August 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Living Springs Campground in Lewistown, IL. Cost is \$9.50 per person. See Carol Kemper for more information.



**FALL FESTIVAL PIE/DESSERT SALE
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We will be having our Pie and Dessert Sale during the Elmwood Fall Festival scheduled for September 8-10, 2011. This is a great event that allows our church to be involved in serving the community and to make our presence known.

For the Pie and Dessert Sale we need donations of pies, cakes, cookies, brownies and Rice Krispies treats to sell at the food tent on Thursday, September 8, from 6 to 8 p.m., on Friday, September 9, from 5 to 9 p.m. and on Saturday, September 10, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Most of the shifts are for two hours. Sign up sheets for both workers and donations of pies and the other dessert items listed above will be in the foyer in the next couple of weeks.

Due to Health Department regulations, all items must already be cut, put on plates, and wrapped in plastic wrap or in a Ziploc bag BEFORE being brought to the park. We cannot cut and wrap any items at the park this year. The church will provide plates and Ziploc bags for anyone who would like to use them. Pies: cut into 6 to 7 pieces, depending on the size of the pie. Cookies – 3 large or 4 smaller cookies to a plate. Brownies and Rice Krispies treats – cut a 9x13 inch pan into 12; one per plate. Cakes: Angel food with no frosting is good or something like a Texas Cake sells the best and is the easiest to wrap and keep it looking nice. Use your judgment on piece size for these. If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Powers, Mary Howard, or Lavonne Rushing.

Information regarding the Pancake, Egg & Sausage Breakfast will be forthcoming.

CHOIR COMING SOON: Practice for the traditional choir will begin on Wednesday, August 31, at 6:15 p.m. Janet Mottaz will be directing again this year and Kris Petermeyer will be accompanist. If you like to sing and enjoy choral music, we would love to have you join us. All are welcome. If you are not sure, come check it out. Hope to see you on the 31st!

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

August 7, 2011

GREETERS: Doug/Traci Whitney
USHERS: Ted/Janet Mottaz
LITURGIST: Rachel Potts
0-3 NURSERY: Kristi Link/Haleigh Forrest
Pre-K CC: Amy Deppe/Jill Crisco
K-5th CC: Karla/Sara Kane
COFFEE BAR: Lori Johnson

August 14, 2011

GREETERS: Dean/Becky Hunt
USHERS: Chris/Michelle Dunn
LITURGIST: Andy Bartlow
0-3 NURSERY: Bill/Michelle Seipel
Pre-K CC: Kristi Link/Catie Tracy
K-5th CC: Angie Tracy/Maggie Meyer
COFFEE BAR: **Need Volunteer**

August 21, 2011

GREETERS: Keith/Betty Morse
USHERS: Don/Michelle Forrest
LITURGIST: Ted Mottaz
0-3 NURSERY: Alana/Hannah Parm
Pre-K CC: Lisa Roberts/Gabby Haskell
K-5th CC: Janet Mottaz/Jared Roberts
COFFEE BAR: Michelle Forrest
Joanne Endres

August 28, 2011

GREETERS: Chris Ewalt/Mary Stenwall
USHERS: Kent/Georgia Stevens
LITURGIST: Joe Webel
0-3 NURSERY: Robin Furrer/Alex Vallas
Pre-K CC: Taylor Armbruster/Erica Kane/
Catie Tracy
K-5th CC: Michelle/Ian Armbruster
COFFEE BAR: Potts Family

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

August 7, 2011

GREETERS: Al/Evelyn Dorich
USHERS: Charlotte Haley
Lavonne Rushing
LITURGIST: Chris Ewalt
ACOLYTES: Alex/Kaitlynn Vallas
0-5 NURSERY: Robin/Miranda Furrer

August 14, 2011

GREETERS: Wayne/Gaye Fleisher
USHERS: Tom Morse/Bob Paige
LITURGIST: Dave Pittman
ACOLYTES: Kyle Doubet/Logan Whitney
0-5 NURSERY: Alana/Hannah Parm

August 21, 2011

GREETERS: Carol Foster/Marilee Hurst
USHERS: Dean/Sandy Cantu
LITURGIST: Mary Howard
ACOLYTES: Deanna Cantu/Emily Roberts
0-5 NURSERY: Celene Duley/Amy Deppe

August 28, 2011

GREETERS: Dave/Pat Pittman
USHERS: Roland/Cathy Ekstrand
LITURGIST: Chris Stevens
ACOLYTES: Katie Parm/Nicole Shoop
0-5 NURSERY: Nancy Davis/Erica Kane



ATTENTION: If you are unable to serve on the day given, find someone from the list to trade with. Please let the office, Alana Parm/Robin Furrer (nursery), or Angie Tracy (Children's Church) 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!**