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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 477
ELMWOOD, IL 61529

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

FEBRUARY 2010

Upcoming Events:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|---|
| Feb. 1 | 4:30-8:30 p | RSI Training |
| Feb. 2 | 7a-7p
12-8 p.m. | Primary Election
RSI Training |
| Feb. 7 | 11:30 a.m.
2 p.m. | Youth Super Bowl Party
New Members Class |
| Feb. 12 | 6:30 p.m. | Kane Small Group |
| Feb. 14 | 1 p.m. | Sr. High Youth Deliver
Valentines |
| Feb. 16 | 9:30 a.m.
6 p.m. | UMW Meeting
Trustees Meeting |
| Feb. 17 | 7a-7p | Ash Wednesday Prayer
Vigil at church |
| Feb. 18 | 6:30 p.m. | Downard Small Group |
| Feb. 20 | 8 a.m. | Men's Breakfast at
Presbyterian Church |
| Feb. 21 | 2 p.m. | Lenten Bible Study
Begins at church |
| Feb. 22 | 8 a.m. | LifeLine Screenings |
| Feb. 23 | 6:30 p.m. | RSI Leadership Team |
| Feb. 25 | 12 noon | MANNA Meal |
| Feb. 26 | 6:30 p.m. | Kane Small Group |
| Feb. 27 | 10 a.m. | SHARE Distribution |
| Feb. 28 | 2 p.m. | Lenten Bible Study |

The Beacon



The United Methodist Church of Elmwood

Mark Graham: Pastor
Kris Petermeyer: Administrative Assistant
Office: 742-7221
Pastor's Cell: 309-258-2258
Website: www.elmwoodumc.org
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We are followers of Jesus
Connecting to God and
One another, growing in
Faith and pouring our
Lives Into serving others.

Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil Wednesday, February 17, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**Members and friends of the congregation are invited to stop by
the church for prayer for as long as you would like to stay.**



Pastor Mark will be present throughout the day for those who would like the traditional mark of the ashes on your forehead for repentance in observance of Ash Wednesday. Prayer resources and devotionals will be available as options for those who like written materials to guide your prayer time. You are welcome to come for quiet reflection—a few minutes to start or end your day, or more time if you have it to give. The day-long prayer vigil will take the place of an evening service.

Mission Update – Emergency Relief in Haiti

A 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti on Tuesday, January 12, killing and injuring thousands. The response world-wide to this crisis has been impressive, and the response from the United States alone is making a difference in getting help to those who need it. The United Methodist Church has an ongoing presence in Haiti, a field office, many mission projects, and a number of missionaries – both short-term and long-term who have spent their careers serving the people of Haiti.

Many emergency agencies are present in Haiti and are doing great work – including the Red Cross, Compassion International, Save the Children, Convoy of Hope, and many others. The United Methodist Church has an emergency relief organization called UMCOR. (United Methodist Committee on Relief) UMCOR has an excellent reputation throughout the world. It is effective in getting resources where they are needed to do the work for which the resources are intended. It is known for being one of the organizations that is the first to arrive and the last to leave.

There are many avenues for giving to relief funds for Haiti. Giving through the church is one of the best. Administrative costs are covered through other funding in the United Methodist Church. When you give to UMCOR for emergency relief in Haiti 100% of your gift goes directly for emergency relief in Haiti.

On Sunday, January 17, the United Methodist Church of Elmwood had a special offering for Haiti totaling \$1,045.59. This was an outstanding response from our congregation. You can trust that your gifts will be used effectively.

The needs in Haiti are overwhelming. The United Methodist Church will continue to serve the people of Haiti for months and years to come. Along with our financial help, there is a need for certain supplies. UMCOR is providing health kits to the hundreds of thousands of survivors who are now homeless.

The kits, valued at about \$12 per kit, contain everything from towels and washcloths

to sterile bandages and bar soap. They will be distributed to those who have been forced to leave their homes as a result of the recent disaster.

For individuals or groups that want to contribute basic necessities, UMCOR requests that the following NEW items be placed in a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27". No kitchen towels.
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

(NOTE: Toothpaste is purchased in bulk to be added to health kits to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.) Because the emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations and strict rules govern product entry into international countries, UMCOR requires that the kits contain only the requested items – nothing more.

A box will be placed in the lobby area at the church for your donations for health kits. You are encouraged to either prepare completed kits as outlined above or to donate individual items in larger quantities that can be used to assemble health kits before they are sent. Your help is greatly appreciated. If you are interested in sending additional financial gifts write checks to the United Methodist Church of Elmwood and in the memo write "Haiti".

The Excitement Builds...

On Sunday, January 17, the Church Conference attended by 91 participants voted by a strong majority to proceed with the capital campaign and to authorize the Building Committee to hire an architect to draw up final plans for a building expansion project. This is the first of a number of votes that will take place before a final decision is made. Over the next few months the congregation will discern together our vision for the future and members and friends will be given the opportunity to make a commitment to the proposed building expansion. Dustin Cooper, a consultant with RSI, a firm that aids churches in capital campaigns, will be meeting with leaders and members of the congregation to train, encourage and guide us through this process.

Please mark your calendars and make these Sundays in worship priorities in your schedule:

May 2 – Inspiration Sunday

May 23 – Commitment Sunday

June 6 – Celebration Sunday

More details about the upcoming schedule and opportunities for you to get involved will be coming soon.

Lenten Study: Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

During Lent, the six weeks leading up to Easter the church has, in recent years, had a concentrated effort encouraging the congregation to participate in small groups. This year will be no exception. However, I will be leading this study in a slightly different way. Neighborhood groups will continue throughout the week. Warren Downard hosts a group in his home, led by Connie Dalton, on the third Thursday evening of each month at 6:30 p.m. Karla and Lawrence Kane are hosting a group in their home two Fridays a month at 6:30 pm, using the book, "What's So Amazing About Grace," by Philip Yancey.

The plan for the Lenten Study for all other groups will be **Sundays from 2 – 3:30 p.m. beginning February 21 through March 21** (5 Sundays). Childcare will be available by request. We will begin as one large group with a video presentation and a teaching time that I will lead. The large group will then divide into small groups for discussion. It is my hope that those who are not presently connected with a small group will take this opportunity to learn and grow as a follower of Jesus Christ. Even though many of us wish we could get everything we need in one hour on Sunday morning -- to know people in church, receive the teaching we need, and grow spiritually -- it's just not possible. You and I need more if we are serious about being Christ's disciples and we want to encourage others and be encouraged ourselves. The world around us with all its temptations and distractions has too great an impact on our spirits the remaining 167 hours per week. One more hour per week for the five weeks of this study will help you to get to know a circle of friends in the church and will encourage you to learn basics from the Bible that anyone and everyone can understand. *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* will teach us what it takes to be a healthy thriving congregation. Our study will give us bold practical ideas to keep the momentum going as we grow in numbers and grow in depth and strength as followers of Jesus.

Pastor Mark

New Member Orientation

There will be a new member orientation meeting on **Sunday, February 7, from 2 – 3:30 pm** at the church for all those who are interested in finding out more about church membership. Please sign up at the church. Childcare will be provided by request.

YOUTH NEWS

Super Bowl Party: Calling all Youth! Are you ready for some Pre Super Bowl Fun? Then join us on Sunday, February 7, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the EUMC fellowship hall. The fun includes pizza, snacks, games and "The Tallest Person Contest" (how tall can you make yourself ... hats, stilts? PLUS the height of any friends that you bring). Prizes will be awarded. Feel free to show support for your team by wearing jerseys or team colors (it doesn't have to be one of the teams that are playing this year). Youth and their friends should sign up to attend in the foyer. We also need some adults and older youth to help or donate food; a sign up for you is also available in the foyer.

Valentines for Sale: The Sr. High/Young Adult group is selling Valentines to be delivered on Valentine's Day. The cost is \$5 and will include a card, cookie, and flower. Proceeds from the Valentines will benefit local mission projects and a contribution to Compassion Ministry. You will need to provide the name and address of the person you are having the Valentine delivered to.

REACH – The Light Kids' Conference: This conference is a one day event designed for children in grades 1 through 5 for the purpose of getting kids excited about the faith and their walk with Jesus. Using videos, drama, worship music with Harvest Band, and concrete Bible lessons, students will connect with all the excitement and energy. Lunch, snacks, recreation and entertainment will also be provided during the day. It will take place on Saturday, March 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and registrations should be turned in by February 21. We may also need parent chaperones depending on how many children are attending (1 parent to 5 children). See Karla Kane if you need a registration form or more information.

Children's Church: Please be reminded that Children's Church as of February 1st is on hold until this summer. Due to growing and changing youth ministries it is not feasible to continue at this time. However, Children's Church will resume in June during the 9 a.m. service for Pre-K through 2nd grade (grade completed). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Angie Tracy, Children's Church Coordinator.

Education Workshop: Attention: All Children and Youth Ministry Volunteers (this includes Sunday school, Children's Church, Nursery, Youth Groups and, as always, anyone not currently serving in youth ministries who would like to know more, are more than welcome. **Mark your calendars** for our 2nd Annual Education Workshop, **Sunday, March 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** Those who were able to participate last year gained a lot of useful information and as a result we are stronger and more confident in serving our children and youth. We have some exciting new topics to share and discuss. A light lunch will be available.



Help Wanted: Non-smoking daycare person for two children ages 3 and 5. Some driving is necessary. Please call Mandy Garrett at (309) 742-8818 (evenings) for more information. If someone is willing to watch the children, but does not drive or have transportation, I would need someone willing to take the children to pre-school in Elmwood at 9 a.m. and pick them up at 11:30 a.m.



THANK YOU to those who helped take down the Christmas decorations and put them away. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Lavonne Rushing

Dear Elmwood UMC,
I want to give you a special **thank you** for all your generosity in providing extra food, "Santa" gifts, clothes, toys and much appreciated prayers and encouragement for Brody, Kiera, and me. I am so proud of ya'll.

Love, Mandy Garrett

Men's Breakfast: The men of the Presbyterian Church in Elmwood invite all the men to their Men's Breakfast on February 20, at 8 a.m. at the church. They are serving whole hog sausage gravy and biscuits. Please call the church to RSVP at 742-2631.



We extend our deepest sympathy to the loved ones of Connie Simpson. Please keep the Simpson family in your prayers.

Life Line Screening will be at the church on Monday, February 22, 2010 to provide stroke screenings. Call 1-800-324-1851 to pre-register.



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

February 7, 2010

GREETERS: Sherry Powers/Janet Vallas
USHERS: Kent/Georgia Stevens
LITURGIST: Nancy Davis
0-5 NURSERY: Jenni Case/Dom Catrino
COFFEE BAR: Brad Johnson Family

February 14, 2010

GREETERS: Betty King/Jennifer Wilson
USHERS: Andy Bartlow/Doug Whitney
LITURGIST: Todd Stevens
0-5 NURSERY: Erik Davis/Vinnie Catrino
COFFEE BAR: Webel Family

February 21, 2010

GREETERS: Jim/Mary Dawson
USHERS: Erik Davis/Joe Webel
LITURGIST: Chris Ewalt
0-5 NURSERY: Lisa Doubet/Haleigh Forrest
COFFEE BAR: Ted & Janet Mottaz

February 28, 2010

GREETERS: Ted/Janet Mottaz
USHERS: Norma Bowhay/Sherry Powers
LITURGIST: Don Forrest
0-5 NURSERY: Michelle/Ian/Taylor Armbruster
COFFEE BAR: Leggin Family

ATTENTION: If you are unable to serve on the day given, find someone from the list to trade with. Please let Lavonne Rushing, Michelle Armbruster (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. **THANK YOU!**

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

February 7, 2010

GREETERS: Al/Evelyn Dorich
USHERS: Mark/Carol Kemper
LITURGIST: Celene Duley
ACOLYTES: Ethan Callister/Kyle Doubet
0-2 NURSERY: Kayla Duley/Chelsea Morse
3-5 NURSERY: Angie/Catie Tracy

February 14, 2010

GREETERS: Roland/Cathy Ekstrand
USHERS: Dennis/Cheryl Whitehurst
LITURGIST: Dean Cantu
ACOLYTES: Deanna Cantu/Hannah Parm
0-2 NURSERY: Emily Leggin/Emily Meyer
3-5 NURSERY: Michelle Forrest/Erica Kane

February 21, 2010

GREETERS: Wayne/Gaye Fleisher
USHERS: Dave/Pat Pittman
LITURGIST: Connie Dalton
ACOLYTES: Mike Bledsoe/Jake Callister
0-2 NURSERY: Shelli Shoop/Alex Vallas
3-5 NURSERY: Jill Crisco/Mia Stevens

February 28, 2010

GREETERS: Bill/Carol Foster
USHERS: Brad Crisco/Bob Paige
LITURGIST: Nancy Davis
ACOLYTES: Ben/Emmie Crisco
0-2 NURSERY: Alana Parm/Amy Deppe
3-5 NURSERY: Michelle/Ian/Taylor
Armbruster

FEBRUARY