

JANUARY, 2009

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BOX 477
ELMWOOD, IL 61529

Upcoming Events:

- Jan. 12, 7 p.m. – Manna Board meeting
- Jan. 13, 9:30 a.m. – UMW Meeting
- Jan. 15, 9 a.m. – Mom Squad
6:30 p.m. – Alpha Group Meets
6:30 p.m. – Sr. High Youth Meet
- Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m. – Kane Small Group
- Jan 17, 9 a.m. – Scrapbooking Workshop
- Jan. 20, 9:30 a.m. – UMW Circle Meeting
- Jan 22, 8:30 a.m. – SEAPCO Screening
- Jan. 24, 10 a.m. – SHARE Distribution
- Jan 25, 2-6 p.m. – Leadership Retreat
6-6:30 p.m. – Ad Council Mtg.
- Jan. 30, 6:30 p.m. – Kane Small Group

OTHER WEEKLY EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Mondays, 6:30 p.m. – Music Ministry
- Tuesday, 5 p.m. – Weight Watchers
- Wednesdays:
10 a.m. – Elm Haven Bible Study
7 p.m. – Choir Practice
- Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – Sr. High Youth
- Friday, 10:30 a.m. – Free Bread Pick-Up



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Elmwood, IL
61529

The *Beacon*



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

The United Methodist Church of Elmwood

Mark Graham: Pastor

Kris Petermeyer: Administrative Assistant

Office: 742-7221 Pastor's Home: 309-692-2264

Pastor's Cell: 309-258-2258

e-mail: markbegraham@yahoo.com or markbegraham@elmnet.net

Leadership Retreat

Sunday, January 25
2:00 – 6:30 p.m.

**“Putting Your Strengths to Work
for the Kingdom of God”**

Led by Nancy Davis & Pastor Mark

Sign Up at the Church
Childcare available
(more information inside!)



Leadership Retreat

There will be a leadership retreat on **Sunday, January 25, from 2:00 – 6 p.m.** (the Ad Council will meet from 6-6:30 p.m.) at the church, for all those who are serving on committees and ministry teams for the coming year. The purpose of this retreat is to reflect on our strengths as individuals and as a congregation, and to explore effective strategies for decision-making and conflict resolution. Pastor Mark and Nancy Davis will be sharing the leadership of this retreat. We will be using a resource called, "Strengths-Finder 2.0." In this resource there is a code number that will allow you to go online and fill out the Clifton Strengths Finder. This inventory will help each participant discover their top 5 strengths. Those who took the strengths finder last year will not need to do it again. But if you have never taken the Clifton Strengths Finder and plan to attend the leadership retreat, you will need to sign up, pick up one of the books at the sign-up table in the church lobby, and take the online strengths inventory before the retreat.

The retreat is open to all. Every person in the congregation is either a leader already or a leader in the making. You will be instructed in the book how to take the online strengths inventory. If you need help or do not have access to the internet, please contact the church office and either Pastor Mark or Kris will help you with this. Each participant in the Leadership Retreat should complete the Strengths Inventory before the retreat on the 25th and bring the results with you.

Childcare will be available. Please sign up for childcare ahead of time so we can provide enough staff and plan activities for the afternoon.

Thank You

On behalf of Bryce, Jackie, Melva, and myself, I want to thank you for the many Christmas greetings, the delicious goodies, the gifts, and generosity that you have extended to our family this Christmas. We were confronted with some unexpected car expenses right at Christmas and were a little unsure how to take care of everything all at once so your generosity eased our anxiety. God is good! And so are you! Thank you for all your encouragement and support this past year. I look forward to continuing to serve as your pastor in 2009. I anticipate an exciting year as we continue to grow deeper in our faith and stronger in our resolve to pour out our lives in service to others!

Mission Update

Our church stepped up its involvement in hands-on mission projects in 2008. We continued our long term relationship with Pleasant Hill School. We delivered much-needed coats, mittens, winter hats, and other clothes because of your generosity. A number of people participated in work days at Camp Big Sky and helped with participants who made use of the camp facilities last summer. We joined Peoria First United Methodist Church, in a partnership with Dream Center, to serve the residents of Morton Square neighborhood in Peoria. We had a small group that helped with flood relief along the Mississippi during the worst flooding. We had a work day at the Midwest Distribution Center, preparing flood buckets and medical emergency kits. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, we prepared Christmas baskets for families in need in Elmwood. In spite of the bad weather in December that interrupted plans for a community benefit concert for Tom Endres, our church was still able to contribute to the Christmas benefit fund for Tom and his family. Along with the other churches in Elmwood we delivered Christmas cards to every home in Elmwood. It was a busy year.

Because of your faithful giving, we were also able to support mission projects in Liberia, Haiti, China, and the United States. Your efforts are making a difference. We give God the glory. May God continue to rekindle our spirits to be in mission in 2009.



Congratulations!!

Congratulations to Samantha, Sydney, and Logan Seipel the children of Michelle and Bill Seipel, who were baptized on Sunday, November 30.



In Loving Memory

We extend our deepest sympathies to the loved ones of John Gilmer who passed away November 27.

In 2009: At the Administrative Council Meeting on Sunday, January 25, at 6 p.m., the council will vote on a proposal to add a 9:00 am worship service during the Sunday school hour beginning March 1. There are a number of implications for beginning a second worship service:

- The congregation will be in two groups during worship; there will be a need for opportunities for fellowship to bring the congregation together to keep us well acquainted and connected with one another.
- The sanctuary will not look as full with two services as compared to one. Current members and friends will need to make extra effort to invite friends to come to worship.
- More people will be needed to staff the nursery, and to assist in worship as greeters, ushers, and acolytes.
- We will double our worship space and parking space without having to build onto the sanctuary by simply adding a second service.
- We will give opportunities for more musicians to share their talents to lead in worship.
- We will have the potential to add variety to our worship services.
- We will offer greater flexibility for families and individuals to pick an early or later service time according to their needs and schedules.

You are invited to prayerfully consider this proposal and share your concerns with the Administrative Council members. Our continued growth in attendance this past fall has brought us to a point where we need to consider adding a second service.

I believe it is important for you to know where I stand on this issue. I am in favor of adding a second service. The attendance was over 140 for 20 Sundays and over 130 for 6 Sundays in 2008. The maximum capacity in the sanctuary without adding chairs is 160. Sundays of 140 or more are uncomfortably full. Our congregation cannot grow any further unless we make room for more. And the most cost-effective way to make more room is to add a second worship service. I believe it is the right option for us to continue to grow. As long as there are people in our community and in the surrounding area that do not have a church home

and do not know Jesus Christ, then we have work to do to reach them and make room for them.

I also believe that adding a second service will require a high level of commitment from the church. We will need twice as many volunteers as ushers greeters and participants in the worship service. We will need twice as many volunteers for the nursery and several volunteers for Sunday school and Children's Church to keep up with the growing attendance in children's ministry. If the Administrative Council does decide to add a second worship service, members and friends who have been active in church will need to consider how they can help to make adding a second service be a successful and fruitful step for us to take as a congregation. Here are some questions to consider:

- Would I be willing to attend both worship services for 6-8 weeks to help the attendance of both services?
- Would I be willing to attend worship during one service and serve as a volunteer in the nursery or in children's ministry during the other service?
- Am I willing to invite friends and neighbors to come to worship with me?
- Am I willing to sacrifice what makes me comfortable in order for others to find a home here?
- What do I need to do to grow further as a follower of Jesus Christ?
- Am I willing to hang in there and keep coming even during the Sundays when the sanctuary looks empty?

These are the questions that have come to mind for me that we need to consider as we make this important decision. If you believe that this is the right step for our church to take then be sure that you have the commitment to stand behind our decision.

Here is a list of Administrative Council Members:

Mark Kemper -- Chairperson,
Joe Weibel -- Finance Chair,
Terry Schulz & John Callister -- Trustees Co-Chairs,
Sherry Powers -- Treasurer
Carol Kemper -- Lay Member to Annual Conference,
Chris Ewalt -- Lay Leader,
Lavonne Rushing -- Worship Chair,
Karla Kane -- Education Chair,
Lawrence Kane -- Building Committee Chair,
Marge Camp -- Missions Chair,
Lavonne Haney -- Fellowship Chair,
Cathy Ekstrand -- Membership Chair,
Marilyn Bowhay -- SHARE Food Coordinator
Evelyn Dorich -- UMW President.



Just a reminder: Sunday school starts at 9 a.m. We are excited about getting back into the "Live Big" programs for our Pre-K through 5th graders and the "Grapple" sessions for our Jr. High group. Also, our "Young Disciples" group meets during the 10:30 worship with an age-appropriate worship service.

Can You Help? Our youth supply of Kool-Aid, microwave popcorn and Casey's pizza coupons has been depleted. We have even more youth gatherings happening these days so if you could help us replenish our supplies it would be greatly appreciated. Please pass on donations to Karla Kane. Thank you!

SEAPCO SCREENING

The Special Education Association of Peoria County ("SEAPCO") will be conducting pre-school screening sessions for birth to five-year-old children at the church on Thursday, January 22, 2009. The screening checks areas of development that include: vision and hearing, speech and language, behavior and social development, small and large muscle coordination, thinking and reasoning skills, and other readiness skills. The purpose of this screening is to aid parents in answering questions regarding their child's progress and also to identify those children who may qualify for a free preschool education in the public schools. This is for children residing in Peoria County, but NOT District 150. An appointment is necessary and can be made by calling (309) 697-0880, extension 218.

THANKS!!

Dear Sunday School Staff and Students:

It was such a joy to see so many of you participating in our Christmas Program this year, and having the help of some of our parents and Pastor Mark made it even more special. Many people shared with me their

appreciation for all the hard work that every one of you put into the program. I want to thank you for the "Willow Tree" angel and the many beautiful cards you made for me. I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to join in the many ways that we worship together. Sincerely, Karla Kane

Thanks to all the choir members and Sandy Cantu, our pianist, for a job well done on the December 14, 2008 cantata. I appreciate all your hard work and extend a special thanks to Alex and Erik Davis, Jackie England, Melva England-Graham, Chris and Vic Ewalt, Kris Petermeyer, and Todd Stevens for contributing their talents for the cantata. We welcomed two new choir members this year, Charlotte Booth and Charlotte Haley, and say "Thanks" for joining the choir.

As outgoing Pastor-Parrish Committee Chairperson, I want to thank the PPR committee members for their attendance at meetings and assistance with PPR issues.
Lois Hill

We wish to thank our church family for all your thoughts, prayers and acts of kindness during our stay in the hospital and since returning home. We especially want to thank the Jr. High Youth Group for the prayer blankets.
Joey and Wayne Callister

Thank you to everyone for the cards and gifts I received during the Christmas holiday and to the congregation for the beautiful angel. I appreciate all the assistance provided to me throughout the year and thank you for the opportunity to serve in the church office.
Kris Petermeyer

Thank you to everyone who helped to put up and take down the Christmas decorations in the church. You are appreciated. The Worship Committee

2009 UMC COMMITTEES

Below is a partial list of Committees for 2009. We will run a full list that includes, greeters, ushers, etc. next month. If you notice any corrections or changes that need to be made, please let the office know. Thanks.

Building Committee:

Chairperson: Lawrence Kane
Erik Davis
Don Forrest
Randy Furrer
Dean Hunt
Josh Jochums
Mark Kemper
Alana Parm
Lisa Roberts
Terry Schulz
Tom Tracy
Doug Whitney

Fellowship Committee:

Chairperson: Lavonne Haney
Charlotte Booth
Wayne/Connie Dalton
Jim/Mary Dawson
Al/Evelyn Dorich
Bud Haney
Donita Kaebel
Wilma Purtle

Membership Committee:

Chairperson: Cathy Ekstrand
Ruth Arnold
Marilyn Bowhay
Connie Dalton
Alana Parm
Mary Stenwall

Worship Committee:

Chairperson: Lavonne Rushing
Mary Dawson
Michelle Forrest
Connie Johnston
Beverly Keefer
Emily Webel

Finance Committee:

Chairperson: Joe Webel
Mandated Members: Mark Graham, Carol Kemper, Mark Kemper, Kris Petermeyer
Trustees: John Callister and Terry Schulz
Class of 2009: Diana Ladd
Todd Stevens
Class of 2010: Winifred Horney
Tom Morse
Class of 2011: Brad Johnson
Nancy Richards
Joe Webel

Lay Leadership Committee:

Chairperson: Pastor Mark Graham
Class of 2009: Michelle Armbruster
Charlotte Booth
Betty Morse
Class of 2010: Michelle Forrest
Mary Howard
Class of 2011: TBA

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee:

Chairperson: TBA
Class of 2009: Nancy Davis
Jim Dawson
Jacob Ekstrand
Class of 2010: JoAnne Endres
Randy Furrer
Class of 2011: Lisa Roberts
Shelli Shoop
Janis Waite
Annual Conference Delegate: Carol Kemper
Lay Leader: Chris Ewalt

Trustees Committee:

Co-Chair: Terry Schulz/John Callister
Class of 2009: John Callister
Carol Foster
Darvin Prouty
Class of 2010: Lori Johnson
Carol Kemper
Bob Paige
Class of 2011: Chris Dunn
Dean Hunt
Jeff Roberts

**SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM
10:30 AM WORSHIP**

if you wish to add your name to the list. **THANK
YOU!**

January 4, 2009

GREETERS: Celene Duley/Chris Stevens
USHERS: Mary Howard/Sherry Powers
LITURGIST: Mary Stenwall
ACOLYTES: Erica Kane/Catie Tracy
0-2 NURSERY: Kayla Duley
3-5 NURSERY: Celene/Ashley Duley
K-2 C CHURCH: Lisa Roberts/Allie Johnston
3-5 C CHURCH: Angie Tracy/Hannah Parm

January 11, 2009

GREETERS: Marge Camp/Diana Ladd
USHERS: Alex Davis/Chris Stevens
LITURGIST: Celene Duley
ACOLYTES: Hannah Parm/Alex Vallas
0-2 NURSERY: Amy Deppe/Erica Kane
3-5 NURSERY: Michelle/Taylor/Ian Armbruster
K-2 C CHURCH: Traci Whitney/M. Furrer
3-5 C CHURCH: Becky Hunt/Chelsie Forrest

January 18, 2009

GREETERS: P. Harding/L. Rushing
USHERS: Bud/Lavonne Haney
LITURGIST: Nancy Davis
ACOLYTES: Mike Bledsoe/Jake Callister
0-2 NURSERY: Angie/Catie Tracy
3-5 NURSERY: Michelle/Chelsie Forrest
K-2 C CHURCH: Armbruster Family
3-5 C CHURCH: TBA/Sara Kane

January 25, 2009

GREETERS: JoAnne Endres/Betty King
USHERS: Jeremy/Denise Dalton
LITURGIST: Mary Howard
ACOLYTES: Dom Catrino/Jared Ekstrand
0-2 NURSERY: Connie Johnston/C. Morse
3-5 NURSERY: Shelli Shoop/Haleigh Forrest
K-2 C CHURCH: Kayla/Ashley Duley
3-5 C CHURCH: Celene Duley/Ethan Callister



ATTENTION: If you are unable to serve on the day given, find someone from the list to trade with. Please let Lavonne Rushing or Michelle Armbruster (for nursery) know if you no longer wish to serve or