

JULY, 2008

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BOX 477
ELMWOOD, IL 61529

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, July 6

10 a.m. Worship
11 a.m. Share Sign-Up

Tuesday, July 8

6:30 p.m. PPR Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 10

6 p.m. Membership Committee Meeting

Sunday, July 13

10 a.m. Worship
11 a.m. Community Survey Mtg.

Monday, July 14

7 p.m. Manna Board Meeting

Thursday, July 17

6:30 Alpha Group Meeting

Sunday, July 20 – Thursday, July 24

6 p.m. VBS Registration (6 p.m. registration on 7/20 only)
6:30-8:30 p.m. VBS

Saturday, July 26

10 a.m. Share Distribution

Sunday, July 27

10 a.m. Worship
11 a.m. VBS Reception/Cookies

Thursday, July 31

10 a.m. Methodist Wellmobile Free Screenings at the church
12 Noon Manna Meal

Weekly Events:

Tuesdays at 5 p.m. – Weight Watchers

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. – Elm Haven Bible Study

Fridays at 10:30 a.m. – Free Bread Pick-Up

 **July**

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

Church Website: www.elmwoodumc.org

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

Community Vacation Bible School 2008

Sunday, July 20 - Thursday, July 24, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Hosted by Elmwood United Methodist Church



* For Children ages Pre-K through completed 6th Grade

* No registration fee; registration forms requested by July 10, 2008

* For registration forms or more information, call 742-7221 or 742-8931

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

MISSION NEWS

Peoria Dream Center. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have completed our second project with the Peoria Dream Center - putting on a cookout for the Morton Square Neighborhood. The next project is to distribute school back packs to school age children in the neighborhood the weekend of Aug. 2. More information will be coming out later.

Camp Big Sky. We participated in our second work day on Saturday, June 14, with a couple building projects and camp maintenance work. Individuals from the church are beginning to serve as counselors during the week to assist camp participants. If you love the outdoors, enjoy boating and fishing, and are willing to work with people with disabilities, your help will be greatly appreciated. Applications are available at the church.

FLOOD RELIEF

Recent flooding has caused much devastation in Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana. There will be months and months of clean-up and rebuilding involved to help people get back on their feet and restore their lives. Supplies for flood buckets are still needed. Supply lists are available at the church. Donations can also be made to the church that will go directly toward flood relief. It is anticipated that clean-up projects will be organized in the coming weeks and volunteers will be needed. Stay tuned for further updates.

BUILDING STUDY UPDATE

The Building Study Team is moving to the next phase – to survey the surrounding communities, primarily in Elmwood and Yates City – to assess the ministry needs perceived by those outside the church. In the coming weeks, volunteers will be needed to go to neighbors and friends to fill out a community survey. Our goal is to have 20 volunteers make 5 contacts each. Prayerfully consider if you would be willing to

volunteer for this important project. Copies of the survey will be made available and a meeting to prepare those conducting the survey will take place on **Sunday, July 13**. The surveys are to be completed and returned to the church by **Sunday, August 3**.

This is an exciting time for our congregation as we gather the information and dream together what the needs are and what kind of church we intend to be in the future. We appreciate your input every step of the way in this process. We anticipate being able to make a full report to the congregation by September.

Lawrence Kane – Chairperson



Reminder – New Worship Service Time

Beginning **September 7**, the Sunday worship service will begin at **10:30 a.m.** This time change will relieve congestion between Sunday School and worship, will allow for transition time for Sunday school teachers and students to find seating in worship, and will give time and space for the choir to practice and prepare for worship.

Check Out our Church Website:

www.elmwoodmc.org

In Deepest Sympathy



We extend our deepest sympathy to the loved ones of John Himegarner who passed away June 10.

Bible Challenge

On Father's Day I challenged the congregation (particularly men) to work through the New Testament between Father's Day and Thanksgiving. There are a total of 258 chapters in the 27 books of the New Testament. It takes five to ten minutes to read one chapter (and longer to reflect on it, depending on the amount of time you want to spend on it). In order to complete the New Testament by Thanksgiving on November 27, participants in this challenge will need to read one or two chapters a day or ten chapters a week. There were a number of people who responded on Father's Day to take up this challenge. I would like to encourage all of us to commit to this challenge to read or listen to one or two chapters a day of the New Testament between now and Thanksgiving. This is a worthwhile exercise for our congregation to share in together. The goal is for us to feel more familiar with what the New Testament has to say, to feel more confident in our knowledge of the Bible, and to grow closer to God in the process.

Ten men came forward and committed to make every effort to reach this goal. I want to open this up to everyone and encourage others in the congregation to do the same. I still have two copies of the New Testament on CD which I will make available on a first come first served basis. I also am aware that many of you are quite comfortable with just reading and you are invited to be involved in this challenge as well.

Your spiritual growth is important. I want all of us to know God well and to feel more confident in what the Bible has to say. My hope is that we will finish

strong – that we will have a strong foundation in the Bible and a growing connection with God, so when difficult circumstances come our way, we will have enough depth and strength in our faith that we will be able to endure and hold on to the hope we have found in Jesus Christ. Bible reading and study is an important component in our growth as followers of Jesus.

I commit to this challenge as well. I hope we will periodically check in with each other and see how we are doing to meet this challenge. If you have already gotten started – fantastic! If you are right on track with about ten chapters a week, you should be somewhere around the 20th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. May God bless us and guide us as we work through the New Testament and give us new insights and greater understanding each step of the way. – Pastor Mark



Community-Wide Church Picnic – A Blessed Event!

On Sunday June 22, the churches of Elmwood came together for a community-wide picnic at Central Park. There were approximately 130 people in attendance. It was a beautiful day, and a great turn-out from area churches. It was also a tremendous statement to the community of our commitment to work together and promote unity among our congregations. Together we can demonstrate God's love and have the greatest impact for Jesus Christ



VBS: Vacation Bible School 2008 is fast approaching. Children ages preschool through 6th grade (based on grade completed) are invited to join us in the “**POWER LAB**” on July 20 – 24 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. each evening. Registration is now open and we encourage you to register beforehand if possible (by July 10), even if you cannot attend every night. We will also be available on July 20 beginning at 6 p.m. for registration. We can still use volunteers for any or all evenings. Each volunteer is asked to complete a volunteer registration form as well as a background check. Children’s and volunteer registration forms are available on the table outside the sanctuary. Please contact Lisa Roberts (742-8931) or the church office (742-7221) with any questions.

We will offer childcare for any volunteer who needs care for younger children while they volunteer. Please let Lisa Roberts know if you are in need of this service.

We are asking for donations of the items listed below and thank you for your generosity and assistance in advance. You may also make a

monetary donation if you prefer. Each church taking part in VBS is contributing to the overall list. A collection box is in the foyer area. Donations should be at the church by July 13th if possible.

Note: Please donate only items that do not need to be returned to you.

For games:

- 20 squirt bottles with trigger pumps
- Water balls
- 50 bags big marshmallows
- 10 – 2 liter bottles regular Diet Coke – (No substitutions or generic brands)
- 21 – 28 oz. or larger bottles Blue Dawn dish soap (No substitutions for brand - not foam type)
- 24 Gallons Distilled Water
- 24 Bottles Corn Syrup (16 oz. size)
- 1 Child’s Wading Pool
- 1 Hula Hoop

For snacks:

- 1 Large Bag Candy Orange Slices
- 2 Boxes of 100 Count Freezer Pops
- 17 Large Boxes Instant Chocolate Pudding
- 2 Boxes Vanilla Wafers
- 100 Disposable Gloves (Clear plastic – Not Latex)
- 25 – 2 lb. bags popcorn (Not microwave; not popped)
- 6 – 2 liter Bottles Root Beer
- 6 – 2 liter Bottles Orange Pop

Other:

- 120 Clean, **Clear, 20-oz.** plastic bottles **with lids** (Please remove labels)
- Safety Glasses/Goggles



We are excited and blessed to welcome the following new members to our church family:

- Dean Hunt
- Mandy Garrett
- Josh and Trina Jochums
- Donita Kaebel
- Jeff and Lisa Roberts

Confirmation Class:

- Mike Bledsoe
- Jake Callister
- Jared Ekstrand
- Kaitlyn Fuller
- Drake Whitehurst

We look forward to getting to know you and your families better as we grow together in our faith.

UMW NEWS

As you may know, we had some difficulty with the Health Department at the Strawberry Festival. After twenty years of selling jam, they came by and announced we could not sell our jam. It was very disappointing for people who came from out of town just to buy some jam. However, thanks to Pastor Mark and our wonderful congregation and a lot of townspeople, we were able to resolve the situation. Thank you, one and all.



On Tuesday, June 10, nine of us, including Pastor Mark, traveled to Cunningham Children’s Home for a tour.

As Pastor Mark had visited there previously, he knew where to take us. Our guide was very nice and we were impressed with how clean and well kept the buildings and grounds were; very much like a park. It was much larger than I thought it would be. We had lunch at the Cracker Barrel before returning to Elmwood. It was a very nice trip and I think everyone enjoyed it. To end our day, approximately 15 of us went to the Trivoli Methodist Church for their salad buffet guest night. We enjoyed a large variety of salads and a good program.

On Monday, June 23, we attended the District Prayer Breakfast at Pekin Grace Methodist Church.

Evelyn Dorich - UMW President

Sr. High Youth: The Sr. High Youth are taking a break for the summer. Their next meeting will be Wednesday, August 6 at 7 p.m.



THANK YOU to the Membership Committee for the wonderful reception you held for the members of the Confirmation Class on June 1st to help them celebrate this achievement. We appreciate and thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

THANK YOU to the Fellowship Committee for all your efforts in making coleslaw and assisting with the Community Picnic on Sunday, June 22nd. You did a great job and we thank you.

THANK YOU to Lawrence Kane for helping move grills for the Community Picnic on June 22nd. We could not have done it without you. Thanks again.

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

July 6, 2008

GREETERS: Lori Johnson/Chelsea Morse
USHERS: Don/Marilee Hurst
LITURGIST: Lavonne Rushing
ACOLYTES: Gabby Haskell/Catie Tracy
0-2 NURSERY: Denise Dalton
2-4 NURSERY: Celene/Ashley Duley
K-2 C CHURCH: Angie Tracy/Allie Johnston
3-5 C CHURCH: Lisa Doubet/Chelsea Morse

July 13, 2008

GREETERS: Jeremy/Denise Dalton
USHERS: Chuck/Connie Johnston
LITURGIST: Lori Johnson
ACOLYTES: Jake Callister/Dom Catrino
0-2 NURSERY: Marni Stevens/Miranda Furrer
2-4 NURSERY: Michelle/Taylor Armbruster
K-2 C CHURCH: Becky Hunt/Ashley Duley
3-5 C CHURCH: Dean Hunt/Jake Ekstrand

July 20, 2008

GREETERS: Danny/Marilyn Bowhay
USHERS: Don/Michelle Forrest
LITURGIST: Jerry Wilson
ACOLYTES: Mia Stevens/Alex Vallas
0-2 NURSERY: Robin Furrer
2-4 NURSERY: Cheryl Whitehurst/A. Johnston
K-2 C CHURCH: Michelle/Ian/Taylor Armbruster
3-5 C CHURCH: Emily Webel/Kayla Duley

July 27, 2008

GREETERS: Gerry/Jane Reed
USHERS: Mark/Carol Kemper
LITURGIST: Connie Dalton
ACOLYTES: Kaitlyn/Kyle Fuller
0-2 NURSERY: Shelli Shoop/Sarah Caulkins
2-4 NURSERY: Michelle/Ian Armbruster
K-2 C CHURCH: Lisa Roberts/Chelsie Forrest
3-5 C CHURCH: Lori Johnson/Miranda Furrer



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