

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

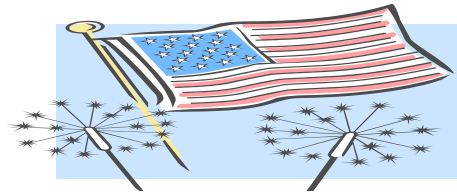
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July 2011

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Permit No. 10
Elmwood, IL 61529

Upcoming Events:

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------|---|
| 7/1 | | VBS Registration Deadline |
| 7/6 | 9 am–4 pm | VBS Decorating Work Day |
| 7/7 | 8 am | Life Line Screenings |
| 7/8 | 12-4 pm | VBS Decorating Work Day |
| 7/9 | 9 am | Scrapbooking |
| 7/10 | 10 am
5 pm | Groundbreaking Ceremony
Drama R Us |
| 7/11 | 7 pm | MANNA Board Meeting |
| 7/12 | 9:30 am | UMW Meeting |
| 7/19 | 9 am-4 pm | VBS Decorating Work Day |
| 7/20 | 12 - ? pm | VBS Decorating, if needed |
| 7/21 | 6:30 pm | Alpha Group |
| 7/23 | 9 – 11 am | Pre-K VBS |
| 7/24-7/28 | 6:30-8:30 pm | K-6 th VBS |
| 7/28 | 12 pm | MANNA Meal |
| 7/29 | 11 am | Youth Fight Against Hunger
Lock-In |
| 7/30 | 9-11 am | Youth Car Wash for Canned
Food Items |
| 7/31 | 2 pm | Good Grief Group |



The Beacon



Building Excitement for Generations to Come

Groundbreaking

Bring your Shovels

Sunday, July 10, 10:00 am Between Worship Services

Groundbreaking Ceremony & Coffee Fellowship Time

All invited & all encouraged to participate!

New Day Worship, 9:00 am & Traditional Worship, 10:30 am

Will still be held at regular times

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
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.

Building Excitement – Groundbreaking

On **Sunday, July 10, at 10 a.m.**, between services, the entire congregation – members, friends, everyone -- is invited for a brief groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the beginning of construction of the classroom addition to the church facilities. You are invited to bring a shovel and encouraged to participate in the ceremony or, if you choose to just be a part of the enthusiastic audience, you are encouraged to do that as well. We anticipate that construction will begin mid-July. It is our time to celebrate as a congregation reaching this important milestone in the process of building on to the church and continuing to provide the necessary facilities to sustain the ministries and activities that we have to offer our community and the surrounding area.

On **Sunday, June 19**, the congregation approved the motion of the building committee to build the classroom addition and authorized the trustees to secure a mortgage to cover a portion of the cost of the project. With 108 present, 81 members voted in favor, 3 voted against, 6 newcomers/regulars voted for, 0 newcomers/regulars voted against, and 10 children voted for and 2 voted against. The Building Committee is negotiating a final bid from First Build Associates in Germantown Hills with an anticipated cost of \$350,000. The total cost approved by the congregation for all expenses, including furnishings, parking lot work, and floor-coverings, is not to exceed \$470,000.

I offer my thanks to the Building Committee under the leadership of Lawrence Kane for their conscientious work to bring us to this point of beginning construction. I hope you will make every effort to be a part of the groundbreaking celebration. Pastor Mark

Joplin Tornado Assistance

The churches of Elmwood are banding together to collect supplies for the people of Joplin, Missouri who have suffered the loss of loved ones and property in the devastating tornado that hit Joplin, wiping out a third of their city. Supplies will be collected through the month of July and will be transported to Joplin the first of August. The supplies needed are: personal care items such as shampoo, toothpaste, shaving cream, razors, bath soap; cleaning supplies – mops, brooms, sponges, work gloves, disinfectant, all-purpose cleansers, etc.; first aid supplies, such as band-aids, Neosporin, rolls of gauze, and medical tape; infant supplies – disposable diapers and wipes; and flashlights and batteries. All supplies must be new and unopened.

We will **not** be accepting clothes, toys, bedding, or any items too large to fit in an individual's car.

Items can be either be brought to the United Methodist Church and placed in the drop-off box in the church lobby area or taken directly to the First Presbyterian church Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon.

Prayer Chain

Did you know that the church has a prayer chain? We do. It is not meant to be a secret. It is not meant to be a project of just a few people. It is meant to be a vital ministry that connects with young and old alike throughout the entire congregation. The chairperson of the prayer chain is Carol Foster (742-8217). All prayer concerns should go to her and she will initiate the prayer chain. The prayer chain has been used to lift up prayers for those who are in the midst of critical health issues, surgery, and prolonged care issues, as well as to lift up families in prayer who are in the midst of grief and loss. When a prayer concern is brought to Carol's attention, she activates the prayer chain and everyone who is contacted has a responsibility to lift up the concern in prayer. If you would be interested in participating in this ministry fill out your name and phone number on the sign-up in the church lobby area or contact Carol Foster to be included in the chain.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

Written by: Carol Kemper – Lay Member to the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference. For several years I have attended the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference as your church Lay Member. This year it was held at the Civic Center in Peoria.

Looking back, one of the high points this year was the Thursday evening dinner hosted by Bishop Palmer. The theme of the evening was "Imagine No Malaria." We were told that every 30 seconds a child in Africa dies of malaria -- a chilling thought! On Wednesday evening our former bishop, Woodie White, preached. Both his sermon and the one given later by Bishop Palmer were excellent. Also I won't forget Bishop Palmer's singing. He has a good strong voice and he led the hymns and initiated singing when things were slow. I decided that the man likes to sing. Also always memorable are worship services for those who have died and services to honor retirees, the ordination of pastors, and communion.

The business this year was dominated by the election of delegates to General Conference to be held in 2012 in Tampa, Florida and the North Central Jurisdictional Conference to be held in July of 2012 in Akron, Ohio. There were six clergy and six laity elected to General Conference and six of each to Jurisdictional Conference plus two alternates for each. It sounds easy to conduct such an election, but the election was completed just before closing on Saturday after many, many ballots. There was also a budget to be passed, offices to be filled, insurance and pensions to be dealt with, churches to close, new ones to be started, and much more.

Over all the speakers are really great, and the music is the best. Next year's Annual Conference will again be held in Peoria. This is a great opportunity to take part as a lay member or as a visitor. You will not regret it.

In Deepest Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the families and loved ones of the following:

Earline Windish, mother of Chris Stevens, who passed away June 8, and Bessie King, mother of Connie Dalton, who passed away June 22.

Please keep these families in your prayers.

Keeping It All in Perspective

July 1st I begin my seventh year as pastor of the United Methodist Church of Elmwood. I love serving as your pastor and I look forward to spending many more years here as long as I lead effectively, the church continues to be fruitful with my leadership, and it is God's plan for me to continue to serve in this capacity. The last couple years have been dominated by making plans and raising funds to build a classroom addition. It looks like the pieces are falling into place to make this dream a reality. As you well know the church is not the building – the church is the people. The focus, above all, is helping people come to faith in Jesus Christ and helping people grow as followers of Jesus. The building is a valuable tool. It is a means for us to take care of our main purpose which is connecting with people and helping all of us to connect with Jesus Christ. I celebrate what God has been doing here at Elmwood and how he has helped us all to grow in our commitment and grow as followers of Jesus. I am delighted with the progress we are making toward building an addition. But this is not all God has in mind for us. God has much more for us to do to reach people around us with the love of Jesus. Having more space for the many activities of the church will be great. But greater still will be seeing people with little faith connection come to know Jesus and become his followers. This is our calling – to give people a safe place to know God and grow in faith. Let us press on to do what we've been called to do. Pastor Mark



VBS IS ALMOST HERE! The registration deadline for VBS is July 1st. Thanks to all our Vacation Bible School volunteers for their help. Also, thanks to those who are helping by donating needed supplies. Please have all non-perishable donations to the church no later than July 1. Perishable items (mainly food) need to be brought to the church the week of July 17-23. Once again we are collecting school supplies for Pleasant Hill School in Peoria as our VBS mission project. Supply lists can be found outside the church office for those who would like to contribute in that way. We also appreciate the prayer support and monetary donations. Much goes into putting all the pieces together for Elmwood Community VBS and we are looking forward to taking the children on a journey to "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid" beginning July 23rd with our Pre-school Session, follows by the K-6 Session the evenings of July 24th – 28th. Please direct any questions to Lisa Roberts (742-8931) or the church office (742-7221).

**VBS DECORATING DATES –
Can You Spare Some Time?**

We would greatly appreciate any extra hands to help prepare the church for VBS. We will be setting up and decorating the following dates. Any time you are willing and able to give would be wonderful.

- July 6 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- July 8 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- July 19 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(Lunch provided for those working through the lunch hour.) We may work later than 4 p.m. for those who are available later in the day. See Karla.

**UMC YOUTH TAKING A STAND
TO FEED THE HUNGRY!**

The Drama R Us group has organized a "Fight Against Hunger". All youth, 7th grade and older,

are invited to join the effort to support local food services. Here is the plan:

1. A "Lock-In" will be held starting at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 29, going through 11 a.m., Saturday, July 30. **NO FOOD WILL BE EATEN FOR 24 HOURS.** Water will be provided; students may bring Gatorade or All Sport drinks. Movies and activities will be available during the "Lock-In." Students will be asked to get pledges (pledge sheets are available from Karla or in the narthex) for the hours they can go without food. All money raised will go to the South Side Mission daily meal service. Please note that once students arrive they cannot leave the building; once students leave they have concluded their participation in the program.

2. On Saturday, July 30, from 9 to 11 a.m. a car wash will be held in the church parking lot. The fee for a car wash will be a donation of canned food. The canned food will be donated to our church food pantry. If you cannot do the "No food for 24 hours" you can still help with the car wash.

3. Following all the fun and starvation a buffet will be served for all those participating!

Bring your sleeping bag, a movie or game to share, and help take a stand to Feed the Hungry! Students: Please contact Karla Kane or Michelle Armbruster if you plan to participate so we have enough supplies. Parents: If you would like to donate food for our hungry students on Saturday, please contact Michelle Armbruster. We will also collect a parent phone number "just in case."

We look forward to having some fun and helping those in need. Hope to see you there.
Karla Kane & Michelle Armbruster

DRAMA R US: Do you ever feel like you want to be someone else? Drama R Us could be for you. Any youth 7th grade and older are welcome to join in the fun, laughter and sometimes silliness. Each skit has a message that we share and act out; sometimes we follow the script and sometimes we add our own little twist. We always have dinner together when we're done. In July we will meet at 5 p.m. on July 10. We will not meet the 24th due to VBS, but we will be

doing some short skits for VBS during the week. We look forward to "acting up" with you.

Karla Kane & Michelle Armbruster

CALLING ALL 3RD GRADERS AND OLDER!!

Are you signed up as an acolyte yet? Would you like to serve in worship? If you have some free time on Monday mornings and would like to practice and join the team, give me a call. I'll be glad to practice with you. Call me at 446-9454 or the church office at 742-7221.

Karla Kane

UMW NEWS: I really want to tank everyone who helped make and sell strawberry jam. It is a big undertaking and three very full days of work; two days making the jam and then selling it on a very hot day. We still have a few jars of jam for sale in the fellowship hall.

I also want to thank those who have helped with funeral dinners; both those that work and those who provide the food. A special thanks to Marge Haahn who took care of the Windish dinner while I was at a family wedding.

Our next meeting is July 12. We elect new officers at this meeting and I hope that you will consider filling an office if asked. Joey Callister is in charge of our social time and the program is to be announced.

Carol Kemper

Congratulations to Aaron and Kelli Miller on the birth of their twins, Austin and Aleah, on May 19, 2011. Best wishes and many blessings to your family.

Congratulations to Alex Davis for making the Dean's List at Knox College for the 2nd trimester. Great job Alex!

Quarterly Giving Statements: If you would like to receive your Quarterly Giving Statement via e-mail, please provide your current e-mail address to Kris along with your request for e-mail delivery. Thanks for your help.

LIFE LINE SCREENING: Life Line Screening will be at the church on Thursday, July 7, 2011, to provide screenings for stroke, vascular disease, and heart rhythm, as well as

osteoporosis risk assessments. Pre-registration is required. Call: 1-800-324-1851.

THANK YOU. The Cantu family would like to thank everyone for the flowers, cards, and prayers during the loss of their grandmother and Sandy's mother, Bettye Ramsey.

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

July 3, 2011

- GREETERS: Marge Camp/Jill Williams
- USHERS: Don/Marge Haahn
Michelle Dunn
- LITURGIST: Alana/Hannah Parm
- 0-3 NURSERY: Angie Tracy/Sara Kane
- Pre-K CC: Janet Mottaz/Catie Tracy
- K-5th CC:

July 10, 2011

- GREETERS: Chris/Michelle Dunn
- USHERS: Lavonne Rushing/Janet Vallas
- LITURGIST: Mary Stenwall
- 0-3 NURSERY: Robin/Miranda Furrer
- Pre-K CC: Karla Kane/Gabby Haskell
- K-5th CC: Becky Hunt/Erica Kane

July 17, 2011

- GREETERS: Jim/Mary Dawson
- USHERS: Norma Bowhay
Sherry Powers
- LITURGIST: Rachel Potts
- 0-3 NURSERY: Julie Bartlow
Stephanie Webster
- Pre-K CC: Amy Deppe/Jill Crisco
- K-5th CC: Cheryl Whitehurst
Jared Roberts

July 24, 2011

- GREETERS: Don/Michelle Forrest
- USHERS: Roland/Cathy Ekstrand
- LITURGIST: Chelsie Forrest
- 0-3 NURSERY: Lisa Doubet/Haleigh Forrest
- Pre-K CC: Janet Mottaz/Ian Armbruster
- K-5th CC: Michelle/Taylor Armbruster

July 31, 2011

- GREETERS: Don/Marge Haahn
- USHERS: Andy Bartlow/Kurt Webster
- LITURGIST: Jill Williams
- 0-3 NURSERY: Jill Crisco/Sara Kane
- Pre-K CC: Angie/Catie Tracy
- K-5th CC: Lori Johnson/Maggie Meyer

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

July 3, 2011

GREETERS: Meade/Betty Montgomery
USHERS: Dennis/Cheryl Whitehurst
LITURGIST: Wayne Callister
ACOLYTES: Kyle Doubet/Jared Roberts
0-5 NURSERY: Connie Johnston/Shelli Shoop

July 10, 2011

GREETERS: Linda Knight//Diana Ladd
USHERS: Mark/Carol Kemper
LITURGIST: Jerry Wilson
ACOLYTES: Jade McMillan/Shelby Glover
0-5 NURSERY: Michelle/Ian/Taylor
Armbruster

July 17, 2011

GREETERS: Danny/Marilyn Bowhay
USHERS: Alex/Nancy Davis
LITURGIST: Dean Cantu
ACOLYTES: Katie Parm/Nicole Shoop
0-5 NURSERY: Alana/Hannah Parm

July 24, 2011

GREETERS: Wayne/Joey Callister
USHERS: Brad Crisco/Dave Pittman
LITURGIST: Celene Duley
ACOLYTES: Ben/Emmie Crisco
0-5 NURSERY: Robin/Miranda Furrer

July 31, 2011

GREETERS: Nancy Davis/Winifred Horney
USHERS: Mary Howard/Sherry Powers
LITURGIST: Alex Davis
ACOLYTES: Travis Johnson
Logan Whitney
0-5 NURSERY: Angie/Catie Tracy

**PICTURES FROM GROUNDBREAKING
CEREMONY**



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!**