

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

June 2011

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Permit No. 10
Elmwood, IL 61529

Upcoming Events:

- | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|--|
| 6/1- 4 | | Annual Conference |
| 6/2 | 5-7 pm | Tornado Recovery Appreciation Picnic – next to Merrick’s Floorcovering |
| 6/4 | 9:30 am- 7:00 pm | Strawberry Festival |
| 6/5 | 9:00 am | Children’s Church Begins Sundays through August 28 |
| 6/6 & 7 | | Bright Futures Screenings |
| 6/11 | 8 am | Trustees Work Day |
| 6/12 | 5:00 pm | Youth Ministry – Drama R Us |
| 6/14 | 9:30 am | United Methodist Women |
| 6/16 | 6:30 pm | Alpha Group |
| 6/18 | 10:00 am | District Committee of Building and Location and Building Committee meeting |
| 6/19 | 10:00 am 10:45 a.m. | Combined Worship Service Church Conference – vote on building addition |
| 6/26 | 2:00 pm 3:00 pm 5:00 pm | Good Grief Group VBS Staff Training Youth Ministry: Drama R Us |



The Beacon



Building Excitement!!

Sunday, June 19, 10 a.m. Combined Worship Service
Final Vote on Building Classroom Addition
Church Conference, 10:45 a.m.
Presentation & Vote By Ballot (details inside)

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 – On the Verge!!

Last June – **June 27, 2010** the congregation launched the Building Excitement capital campaign for the construction of a classroom addition to the church. Fifty two Sundays later – all the plans and preparations will be completed for the congregation to have a final vote on the project on **Sunday, June 19, at 10:00 a.m. at a combined worship service** with an all-church vote toward the end of the service at **10:45 a.m.** All church members, newcomers, regulars, and children who have not gone through confirmation (grade school age) will have color coded ballots and the opportunity to vote.

During the next few weeks final blueprints and bids will be reviewed by the Building Committee, financial plans will be finalized, and the Building Committee will prepare the final plan to be presented to the congregation. The District Committee of Building and Location will be meeting with the Building Committee on Saturday, June 18, for their approval. If all deadlines are met and the District Committee approves the plans, the congregation will have the opportunity to vote on Sunday, June 19, at 10:45 a.m. following worship at what is called a Church Conference presided over by Rev Jan Griffith, District Superintendent of the Spoon River District.

It is a lengthy process to get to this point. The congregation has been diligent and generous in their giving to the building campaign and we have made great progress in meeting and exceeding our goals to raise the funds needed to begin building. It is important for the congregation to be well informed of the final plans and the total cost of the project in order to make the final decision. The Building Committee welcomes your questions and concerns as we come to this important point in the process. We cherish your prayers in the crucial weeks ahead.

Lawrence Kane
Chairperson of the Building Committee

Trustees Work Day: The Trustees have scheduled a work day on **Saturday, June 11, from 8 a.m. – 12 noon** to spruce up the church building and grounds. Among the projects to be done are weeding, trimming bushes and trees, and washing windows. Anyone who is willing to work is welcome to come and help for an hour, a couple hours or more, whatever you have available. If you are willing to help or have questions, please contact Terry Schulz, Trustee Chairperson, at (309) 368-4478.

Appreciation Picnic: The Elmwood Development Association is hosting a Tornado Recovery Appreciation Picnic on **Thursday, June 2, from 5 – 7 p.m.** at 116 E Main Street (next to Merrick's Floor-covering). This gathering is an opportunity for the community businesses and leadership to express their appreciation to all the volunteers who have helped throughout this past year in the recovery efforts from the devastating tornado last June. An open invitation was given to the United Methodist Church and its members and friends for making ourselves available to help and providing meeting space for community gatherings last summer. I hope that we can have a good turn-out from the church for this celebration and all that's been done in the past year to help our community rebuild.

Pastor Mark

THANK YOU to thank my church family and friends for their cards, prayers, and acts of kindness during my hospital stay and recuperation. Also, a big **THANK YOU** to all who did yard work on Faith in Action Sunday in my yard.

Blessings to All – Mary Stenwall

THANK YOU to Georgia Stevens, Janet Mottaz, and Bob Paige for leading and coordinating Faith in Action Day and to Kent Stevens and Darren McMillan for grilling hot dogs and hamburgers.

It's Time to Pray...

This Spring has brought a heightened concern about the weather as we have witnessed the devastating storms that have hit our nation, especially the tornadoes that have hit Joplin, Missouri and Tuscaloosa, Alabama and the surrounding communities. The loss of property and the loss of lives are unimaginable and the pain and grief these communities are enduring is beyond our comprehension. We know just how lucky and how blessed we are, even with the damage that our community suffered last year. With these massive storms has come the realization of just how vulnerable we are to the powers of nature. No matter how great our technology or our ability to track these storms, we cannot stop them and we cannot protect everyone from what these storms can do.

Nature is neutral. Tornadoes form because of the right air pressure and temperature and weather conditions. Tornadoes do not know or care what is in their paths.

If you are like me you may be wondering if God cares about what's in the path of a tornado. Does God intervene to change the weather or does God allow the laws of nature and weather patterns to just run their course? The only answer I can come up with right now is I don't know. The scriptures talk about times when God has brought an end to droughts and has brought refreshing rain to revive crops and to save the people. God appears to the prophet Elijah. The account tells us that there was a mighty wind, but God was not in the wind. There was an earthquake, but God was not in the earthquake. There was a fire, but God was not in the fire. Then there was a still small voice, and in the silence Elijah experienced the presence of God. If God is not in the wind or earthquake or fire then these elements function according to the laws of nature rather than the direct will of God. It is apparent that sometimes God intervenes and sometimes God does not. It

is a mystery about why and when God chooses to intervene and why and when God chooses not to. Even when we pray earnestly and sincerely and diligently there are times when we are still in the path of a storm.

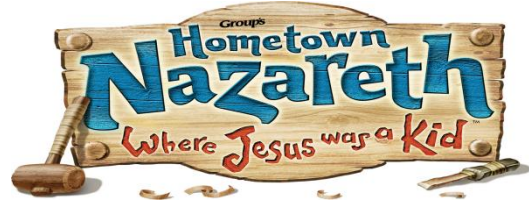
There's lots of storms – not just tornadoes. There are storms outside of us and there are storms within us. Some storms come in the form of cancer or losing one's job or losing a loved one. Some storms come in the form of stress or worry or mental illness. We are all vulnerable and chances are, at one time or another, you will find yourself in a storm's path.

So what can we do? We can pray. We can pray for healing. There is power in prayer. Energy is released, strength comes and healing is put into motion through our prayers. Prayer helps us to overcome our fears, to give peace of mind, and the will to put what we cannot control into God's hands. It is right and good to keep praying for healing until healing comes – no matter how long it takes. We need to pray for the people of Joplin, Missouri, the people of Tuscaloosa and beyond, pray for those devastated by the flood along the Mississippi, and express our concerns to God when there are no good answers for the things that have happened. We need to keep praying for those we know who are battling cancer, and who are dealing with a variety of crises and calamities in their lives, and know with every prayer we send encouraging and healing energy their way.

We can pray for our community – that this area will come through the tornado season without being hit by another tornado. We can pray that no matter what storms come our way we will have the courage and strength to endure – that we will continue to pull together with neighbors and friends and work together to be a strong community and be there for each other in the midst of whatever storms we face.

Pastor Mark

Children's Church: The spring Sunday School session is over and we are looking forward to Children's Church during the 9 a.m. service from June 5 through August 28. Two classes are available: Pre-K and Kindergarten and 1st through 5th grades (for the grade going into). Children come to the 9 a.m. Worship Service and after singing the praise songs they will be dismissed to join Children's Church. (Parents: Pre-K may be dropped off at the classroom before worship begins if that works better.) The Pre-K and Kindergarten will meet in the Pre-K Sunday School classroom and the 1st through 5th grades will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Angie Tracy at 742-2020 if you have questions or would like to help. We are still in need of teachers and helpers for this ministry on a rotating basis.



VBS: Community VBS will be here this year and the theme is "Hometown Nazareth – Where Jesus Was a Kid." The Pre-K Session will be Saturday, July 23, from 9 to 11 a.m. The regular session for children entering K-6th grades will be July 24 through 28 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Registration for participants and volunteers is available on-line through the church website at www.elmwoodumc.org, then click on Vacation Bible School. Paper registration is available for those who don't have an internet connection. **The registration deadline is July 1.**

We have a list of items that will be needed and a donation sign-up sheet will be available in the foyer beginning next week. Non perishable items will need to be at the church by July 1st and perishable (mainly food) items will need to be brought to the church the week of July 17 – 23. Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping make our VBS happen.

Drama R Us: Do you ever feel like you have an inner self that is just aching to get out? Or would you like to be someone else for a while? Drama R Us could be for you. All youth grades 7th and

older are welcome to join in the fun, laughter, and sometimes silliness. Each skit has a message that we share our thoughts about and then we act it out; sometimes as the script says and sometimes we add our own little twist. If there are any adults who enjoy a "little drama" that would like to share, encourage, or take part, we would be excited to have you join us too. We meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Dinner is served about 6:10 p.m., unless we're having too much fun and then it could be a little later. We plan on doing some presentations during the worship services so we will schedule a few quick practices on an as-needed basis.

June meeting dates are the 12th and 26th. We look forward to "acting up" with you.

Karla Kane and Michelle Armbruster

Scholarships: Any high school graduate who has been an active participant in the church and would like to apply for a United Methodist Church of Elmwood Scholarship may do so by filling out an application. Applications are available from Marilee Hurst or the church office and must be completed and returned to the Scholarship Committee by July 1, 2011. The recipients will be notified on or before August 1, 2011. (You must complete an application to be eligible to receive a scholarship.)

Quarterly Giving Statements: Currently the office automatically prints and distributes Giving Statements for each person who has given to the church at the end of each quarter. Beginning with the statements printed for the quarter ending June 30, you can request that we e-mail your Giving Statement to you. If you prefer a paper copy, it will be printed and put in the foyer for pick up just as we have done in the past. Statements that have not been picked up after 3 weeks, will be kept in the office but will no longer be automatically mailed to you. Statements for those who cannot attend church due to health or mobility issues will continue to be mailed. We will need your current e-mail address if you choose to have your statement sent via e-mail. Please contact Kris with your delivery preference or if you have any questions. Thank you.

Congratulations to Jeannie Blane for being named Principal of Brimfield Grade School. She has taught at the elementary level for the past several years in Brimfield. We wish her much success in her new position.

Congratulations to Anthony Gasparovich on his graduation from Canton High School. Best wishes.

Congratulations to Colee Johnston and Danny Radosavlyev on their April 30, 2011 marriage. Best wishes and many blessings to you both.

Congratulations to Joe and Emily Webel on the birth of their son, Jackson Richard, who arrived May 19 at 9:05 p.m. He weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. and was 20½ inches long. Congratulations to big sisters Anna, Josie and Amelia too!

Congratulations to Sara Kane and her partner for winning First Place in the "Total Weight Bass" category at the Camp big Sky Fishing Tournament on May 21, 2011. Great job!

A Need You Can Help With: Jennifer Spafford, a resident of Elmwood and teacher at the school, has been ill and unable to work this school year. She has an autoimmune condition called CIDP that attacks the nerves in her arms and legs and causes weakness, sometimes keeping her from being able to get out of bed. She, her husband Eric, and their three daughters live in Elmwood. Michelle Armbruster is trying to coordinate volunteers to take meals to the family three times per week. She has meals scheduled through the end of June and is working on July and August. If you would be willing to supply a meal to the family or even if you just want to drop off a gift card for Casey's, the Main Street Diner or Geppetto's that would be great. Please advise Michelle and she will get you on the schedule. You can contact Michelle at lowpockets@mchsi.com or by phone at 742-8260. Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

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. Coupons for \$10 off the Stroke, Vascular Disease and Heart Rhythm Package are available in the church office.

SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM 9 AM WORSHIP

June 5, 2011

GREETERS: Mary Stenwall/Veva Windish
USHERS: Chris/Michelle Dunn
LITURGIST: Mandy Garrett
0-3 NURSERY: Robin Furrer/Kristi Link
Pre-K CC: Angie/Catie Tracy
K-5th CC: Becky Hunt/Gabby Haskell

June 12, 2011

GREETERS: Bev Keefer/Chris Ewalt
USHERS: Kent/Georgia Stevens
LITURGIST: Marilee Hurst
0-3 NURSERY: Haleigh Forrest/Alana Parm
Pre-K CC: **Need Volunteer/**
Maggie Meyer
K-5th CC: Karla/Erica Kane

June 19, 2011 - Father's Day

ONE SERVICE AT 10 A.M.

GREETERS: Betty King/Jennifer Wilson
USHERS: Andy Bartlow/Joe Webel
LITURGIST: Rachel Potts
ACOLYTES: Ben/Emmie Crisco
0-3 NURSERY: Alana Parm/Sara Kane/
Janet Mottaz
Pre-K CC: Amy Deppe/Jill Crisco
K-5th CC: Cheryl Whitehurst
Jared Roberts

June 26, 2011

GREETERS: Norma Bowhay/Janet Vallas
USHERS: Bob Paige/Doug Whitney
LITURGIST: Kurt Webster
0-3 NURSERY: Michelle/Bill Seipel
Pre-K CC: Michelle/Ian Armbruster
K-5th CC: Lori Johnson
Taylor Armbruster

We need volunteers for the Coffee Bar each week in June and beyond.

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

June 5, 2011

GREETERS: Jerry/Nancy Wilson
USHERS: Mary Howard/Sherry Powers
LITURGIST: Chris Stevens
ACOLYTES: Alex/Kaitlynn Vallas
0-5 NURSERY: Celene/Ashley/Kayla Duley

June 12, 2011

GREETERS: Mark/Carol Kemper
USHERS: Dean/Sandy Cantu
LITURGIST: Lavonne Rushing
ACOLYTES: Deanna Cantu/Catie Tracy
0-5 NURSERY: Amy Deppe/Nancy Davis

June 19, 2011 - Father's Day

ONE SERVICE AT 10 A.M.

GREETERS: Betty King/Jennifer Wilson
USHERS: Andy Bartlow/Joe Webel
LITURGIST: Rachel Potts
ACOLYTES: Ben/Emmie Crisco
0-3 NURSERY: Alana Parm/Sara Kane/
Janet Mottaz
Pre-K CC: Amy Deppe/Jill Crisco
K-5th CC: Cheryl Whitehurst
Jared Roberts

June 26, 2011

GREETERS: Dan/Pat Keefer
USHERS: Chuck/Connie Johnston
LITURGIST: Mary Nell Simpson
ACOLYTES: Ethan/Jake Callister
0-5 NURSERY: Robin Furrer/Chelsea Morse



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!**