

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

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MAY 2011

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Permit No. 10
Elmwood, IL 61529

Upcoming Events:

- May 1 9 a.m.** Faith in Action Sunday
- May 3 6:30 p.m.** Finance Committee Meeting
- May 5 9 a.m.** Mom Squad
- May 8 5 p.m.** Jr. High Youth Group
- May 9 7 p.m.** MANNA Board Meeting
- May 10 9:30 a.m.** UMW Meeting
- May 12 7 p.m.** EHS Baccalaureate
- May 13 6:30 p.m.** Mother-Daughter Banquet
- May 15 1 p.m.** EHS Graduation
- May 17 8:30 a.m.** UMW Circle/Making Jam
- May 19 6:30 p.m.** Alpha Group
7 p.m. EJHS Graduation
- May 21 9 a.m.** Scrapbooking
9 a.m. Camp Big Sky Fishing Tournament
- May 22 11:30 a.m.** VBS Area Lists Meeting
2 p.m. Good Grief Group
- May 24 8:30 a.m.** UMW Making Jam
- May 25 7 p.m.** FCJHS Graduation
- May 26 12 Noon** MANNA Meal
- May 29 9 a.m.** Worship/Memorial Service
10:30 a.m. Worship/Memorial Service
2 p.m. FCHS Graduation



The Beacon



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Sunday School Class Re-Enacting the Last Supper

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.

Hospitality Team: Coffee Bar

Joe and Emily Webel have volunteered to be in charge of a "Hospitality Team" here at UMC Elmwood and are asking for volunteers to assist them. The Coffee Bar will be under the direction of this new ministry. Following is an overview of some changes they would like to implement beginning May 8 (since Faith in Action is May 1 and we won't have Coffee Bar).

Materials Needed:

- Doughnuts/pastries that can be purchased to be used for a few weeks in a row.
- Orange Juice (or other juice), Chocolate Milk, White Milk
- Napkins
- Cups

Manpower:

- 2 or 3 volunteers per week (maximum)

Duties to be Performed:

- Food/materials purchaser
- Pour drinks in cups
- Put treats on napkins (this will cut down on the 35 little doughnuts for Sunday School kids and none for the adults who have attended church and come in later)
- Replenish as needed
- Clean up

The idea is to simplify and streamline this ministry to eliminate the stress of getting and/or making treats every week. This is an easy "first serve" opportunity for someone who may either be new or serving in another ministry but would like to be part of this new version of a great idea. This also makes the Coffee Bar more uniform and, thus, when something celebratory is scheduled, more people would be willing to bring in something more "jazzy" for treats.

Scheduling:

There would be a "point person" to be the head of the "Treat Ministry." That person would be in charge of checking our supplies and purchasing treats and drinks as needed. We would need one or two people each week to set out the treats and drinks and keep them replenished.

We would like to implement a rotating schedule. For example, if I were to serve, I would serve every third Sunday, and if necessary, find my own sub or contact the point person to let them know I was unavailable on that day. This would eliminate the urgency of a week by week schedule.

If you would like to help with this ministry or have questions or input, please see Joe or Emily or contact them via e-mail at emilywebel@gmail.com or let the office know at 742-7221 or umc@elmnet.net. Thank you.

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 and would like to begin this the week of May 2nd. Teachers and other community members have been taking meals to them the past few months and we would like to help also. 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.



Living the Easter Message

The good news of Easter is that Jesus lives. Jesus, who was born in Nazareth over 2000 years ago, who was first trained as a carpenter, who became a rabbi, proclaimed the good news that the Kingdom of God is at hand. The religious leaders arrested and convicted Jesus for blasphemy, the Romans crucified him for treason, the crowds rejected him, the disciples abandoned him – Jesus faced the worst that humanity could dish out at him and in the eyes of the world Jesus was a total failure... but... God said yes to Jesus by raising him from the dead. He confirmed Jesus' identity that he was the Son of God, God confirmed his teachings on the Kingdom of God that the first shall be last and the last shall be first, and that lost sons and daughters are forgiven, lost sheep are found, and children are the ones that lead the way into God's Kingdom.

God said yes to Jesus and now it's up to us. Are we going to say yes and follow him? Are we going to say yes, I believe, I accept, yes, Jesus you are the way for me. The great Easter hymn "He Lives" says it this way, "You ask me how I know he lives... he lives in my heart." Through the power of the Holy Spirit I know Jesus lives because he has broken through my doubt and my questions, he has broken through all my sin, guilt and hardness of heart, he's broken through my stubbornness and my self-centeredness with his love and with his life. It is my hope and prayer that Jesus will break through your doubts and fears and you will have that same assurance, "You ask me how I know he lives, he lives in my heart." Pastor Mark

2011 Graduates: We congratulate and wish the very best to each of the following graduates as they continue to advance in their education or begin their career:

Kindergarten:

Allie Crisco	Lucas Johnson
Ryanne Dunn	Jackson Potts
Melody Glenn	Samantha Seipel
Taylor Glover	Anna Webel

Jr. High:

Ian Armbruster	Elmwood Jr. High
Taylor Armbruster	Elmwood Jr. High
Ethan Callister	Elmwood Jr. High
Erica Kane	Elmwood Jr. High

High School:

Haleigh Forrest	Elmwood HS
Karissa McMillan	Washington HS
Chelsea Morse	Elmwood HS

College:

Alex Davis	Knox College
Ashley Duley	Western IL University
Bryce Graham	SIU-Carbondale (Aug.)
Joselyn Howard	Bradley University
Nicholas Paige	Bradley University

In Deepest Sympathy



We extend our deepest sympathies to the families and loved ones of:

Mary Fishel, Grandmother of Debbie Glenn, who passed away on April 7, 2011.

Dick Shoop who passed away on April 7, 2011.



VBS Registration is Now Open! Take a journey with us to *Hometown Nazareth, Where Jesus was a Kid*. Visit our church website (www.elmwoodumc.org) to register as a participant or as a volunteer for Elmwood Community VBS 2011. The Pre-K session is July 23rd from 9 to 11 a.m. Children entering grades K-6 will attend July 24 – 28 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All sessions will be held at the United Methodist Church this year. We will need lots of volunteers once again. Please note: even if you have volunteered in the past, we need you to complete a registration again. All volunteers also need background checks on file. VBS volunteer training is June 26 at 3 p.m. at UMC. Please help spread the word – all registrations are due by July 1st. Please call the church office (742-7221) or Lisa Roberts (742-8931) with any questions.

If you are an Area Leader for VBS and need to turn in a list of items you need for VBS, please plan to attend a meeting on Sunday, May 22, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. at the church. You will need to have your list of items prepared and ready to be submitted that day. Thank you.

Heifer Project: Three important announcements:

- The bank's change-counters are tired.
- There may be a shortage of pennies in Peoria, Knox and Fulton Counties.
- We raised more than \$500 for the Heifer Project.

Thank you SO much for your generosity. The Sunday School children loved the games and projects connected with their giving, and they were particularly thrilled when they could solicit coins from you. We filled the big jug. We raised \$520.95. We are sending a bred heifer and the skill to care for her and her calf to a family in need. She and her offspring will provide milk, income, fertilizer, and hope. Plus, the family will pass along the gift – her first female offspring – to another family, who will repeat the process. You have begun a cycle of giving and hope that can spread for generations. Thank you again. We also want to thank Janet Mottaz for doing this project with us; it was really cool!

Congratulations to Alex Davis on making the Dean's List at Knox College for the winter trimester. Way to go!

I got my feet washed! It took how long? They ate what? On Palm Sunday morning the Sunday school classes joined together in re-enacting the last supper. First we put on our robes and dressed as the disciples did. Then we removed our shoes and socks to have our feet washed by the Jr. High class. Jesus did this so the disciples would remember that He loves them and they were to remind others that Jesus loves all of us. We learned that while we sometimes rush through dinner in 20 minutes they took four hours to eat the Passover meal. We tried chicken (instead of lamb), flat bread, horseradish, parsley, romaine lettuces, a boiled egg, and grape juice (instead of wine). We prayed as Jesus did with his disciples and at the end of the meal we learned they sang a hymn before they went out to pray. We sang "Jesus Loves Me" because through the whole meal, as Jesus was explaining to the disciples what was about to happen, he was telling them he would always love them. We also learned that Jesus asks us to share His love with everyone we meet.



Sunday School Schedule for May:

- May 1 – No Sunday school – Faith in Action
- May 8 - Regular Sunday school classes
- May 15 – Last Sunday school session – group activities in the Fellowship Hall.

Young Disciples – Children's Church:

Beginning June 5th through August 28th we will be offering Children's Church during the 9 a.m. service for students up to 5th grade. We are in need of teachers and helpers and would like to give our Sunday school teachers a break for the summer. If you are willing to help with this ministry on a rotating basis, please contact Angie Tracy at 742-2020.

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.)

UMW News: We hope that everyone is getting their tickets for the Mother-Daughter Banquet scheduled for Friday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m. Tickets will be on sale on Sundays May 1 and 8 between worship services, or you may contact Winifred Horney or Janet Mottaz to purchase them. Ticket prices are \$6 for adults, \$3 for ages 4 – 10 years, and free for age 3 and under. The program, "Pioneer Life in Song and Story," will be given by Carol Ortery, daughter of Don and Carolyn Dean. We hope to see you for a fun evening.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 10, at 9:30 a.m. Mary Stenwall will give the devotions and program. Donita Kaebel is doing the Social.

We will be making strawberry jam on May 17th and May 24th at 8:30 a.m. We again ask for donations of sugar, canning jars, and lids (rings and flats). We realize costs have increased a lot but we hope to keep our prices down.

2nd Annual Charity Fishing Tournament:

Camp Big Sky will hold its 2nd Annual Charity Fishing Tournament on Saturday, May 21, 2011 at Lakeland Park in Canton, IL from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. This event is open to the public and the funds raised will benefit Camp Big Sky. 20 teams will compete in a Bass Masters style tournament complete with first class boats and an exciting Weigh-In Ceremony. The camp provides accessible outdoor recreational opportunities to children and adults with disabilities at no cost to them. Go to www.campbigsky.org or contact Brad Guidi at (309) 258-6002 or Sheri McGill at (309) 645-2622 for more information.

Memorial Service: We will hold our annual Memorial Service during the 9 and 10:30 a.m. worship services on Sunday, May 29, 2011. We will honor those who have died in the recent past and give families the opportunity to light a candle in honor of their loved ones. We will also dedicate the memorial gifts we have received during this past year.

Ham & Beef Dinner: Thank you to everyone who attended our Ham & Beef Dinner on Saturday, April 9. It was a great success thanks to the efforts of all our volunteers who helped cook, work in the kitchen, serve, cashier, clean and all who donated for the dinner, as well as all who came and enjoyed the delicious meal. A big thank you to Chris Dunn who took charge for the Trustees.

THANK YOU to Marilee Hurst for helping count and record the offering each week for the past 5+ years. I really appreciated your help and humor. Kris

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the services held during Easter: Greeters, Ushers, Nursery Workers, Choir, Worship Committee, Musicians, Pastor Mark, and anyone else whose efforts made them happen. Each of you is an important part of our church body.

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

May 1, 2011 – Faith in Action

GREETERS: Doug/Traci Whitney
USHERS: Norma Bowhay/Sherry Powers
0-5 NURSERY: Jill Crisco/Sara Kane (early)
Robin Furrer (late)
Need Volunteer (late)

May 8, 2011 – Mother's Day

GREETERS: Jim/Mary Dawson
USHERS: Roland/Cathy Ekstrand
LITURGIST: Lavonne Rushing
0-5 NURSERY: Alana/Hannah Parm

May 15, 2011 – Honoring Graduates

GREETERS: Dean/Becky Hunt
USHERS: Don/Marge Haahn
LITURGIST: Todd Stevens
0-5 NURSERY: Robin Furrer
Stephanie Webster

May 22, 2011

GREETERS: Keith/Betty Morse
USHERS: Kurt Webster/Doug Whitney
LITURGIST: Chris Ewalt
0-5 NURSERY: Lisa Doubet/Michelle Seipel

May 29, 2011 – Memorial Sunday

GREETERS: Kent/Georgia Stevens
USHERS: Don/Michelle Forrest
LITURGIST: Chelsie Forrest
0-5 NURSERY: Julie Bartlow/Alex Vallas

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

May 1, 2011 – Faith in Action – No 10:30 a.m. Service

May 8, 2011 – Mother's Day

GREETERS: Meade/Betty Montgomery
USHERS: Brad Crisco/Tom Morse
LITURGIST: Don Forrest
ACOLYTES: Ben/Emmie Crisco
0-5 NURSERY: Shelli Shoop/**Need Volunteer**

May 15, 2011 – Honoring Graduates

GREETERS: Mayme Moody/Veva Windish
USHERS: Nancy Davis/Celene Duley
LITURGIST: Mary Howard
ACOLYTES: Shelby Glover/Emily Roberts
0-5 NURSERY: Armbruster Family

May 22, 2011

GREETERS: Tom/Jeanette/Chelsea Morse
USHERS: Mandy Garrett/Charlotte Haley
LITURGIST: Marilee Hurst
ACOLYTES: Katie Parm/Nicole Shoop
0-5 NURSERY: Angie/Catie Tracy

May 29, 2011 – Memorial Sunday

GREETERS: Linda Knight
MaryNell Simpson
USHERS: Bob Paige/Dave Pittman
LITURGIST: Carol Kemper
ACOLYTES: Kyle Doubet/Logan Whitney
0-5 NURSERY: Alana/Hannah Parm



ATTENTION: If you are unable to serve on the day given, find someone from the list to trade with. Please let the office or Alana Parm/Robin Furrer (nursery) 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!**