

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

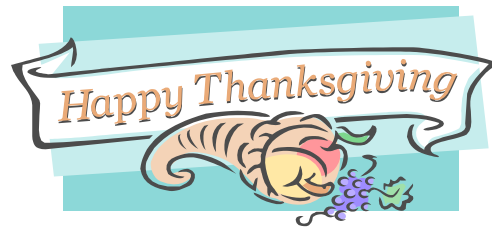
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**November, 2011**

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Non-Profit  
Permit No. 10  
Elmwood, IL 61529

### Upcoming Events:

- |       |                            |   |
|-------|----------------------------|---|
| 11/2  | 6:30 p.m.<br>7:30 p.m.     | Nominations Committee Mtg.<br>Trustees Meeting  |
| 11/3  | 9 a.m.<br>6-8 p.m.         | Mom Squad<br>Mom Squad One Stop Shop  |
| 11/8  | 9:30 a.m.                  | UMW Meeting   |
| 11/10 | 9 a.m.                     | Mom Squad   |
| 11/12 | 8:30 a.m.<br>5 p.m.        | UMW Fall Fair<br>Set up for packing Christmas<br>boxes in fellowship hall                                 |
| 11/13 | 9 a.m.<br>4 p.m.<br>5 p.m. | Pack Christmas boxes<br>Charge Conference at<br>Galesburg 1 <sup>st</sup> UMC<br>Jr./Sr. High Youth Group |
| 11/14 | 7 p.m.                     | Manna Board Meeting   |
| 11/15 | 9:30 a.m.                  | UMW Circle  |
| 11/17 | 12 Noon<br>6:30 p.m.       | Manna Meal<br>Alpha Group Meets   |
| 11/19 | 9 a.m.                     | Scrapbooking  |
| 11/22 | 6 p.m.                     | Finance Budget Meeting  |
| 11/24 |                            | Happy Thanksgiving<br>Office Closed   |
| 11/27 | 2 p.m.                     | Good Grief Group  |



# The Beacon



**Mom Squad  
One Stop Shop  
Thursday  
November 3  
6 - 8 pm**  
All Dolled Up, Avon,  
Amy Davis Designs,  
BEGirly, DS Designs  
Gold Canyon,  
Juice Plus,  
Mary Kay, & more

**United Methodist  
Women  
Fall Fair  
Saturday  
November, 12  
8:30 am - 1:30 pm**  
Breakfast, Lunch  
Craft Items,  
Baked Goods  
Gift Basket  
Silent Auction

**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](mailto:umc@elmnet.net)  
Church Website: [www.elmwoodumc.org](http://www.elmwoodumc.org)

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

## Charge Conference

**Charge Conference** will be held **Sunday, November 13, at 4:00 p.m.** at the **Galesburg First United Methodist Church, 120 N Kellogg Street, Galesburg.** Charge Conference is an annual meeting presided by the District Superintendent to formally present what has taken place at our church over the past year and to share our plans for the coming year. Several area United Methodist Churches participate in this meeting together to streamline the process and give us a chance to hear what other churches in the area are doing. The meeting is open to all members and friends of the church and members have a voice and a vote.

Charge Conference is the official body that sets the pastor's salary, votes on officers and committee members for the coming year, and approves the goals and objectives that have been articulated by various ministry teams of our church. I encourage you to come to this meeting. Charge Conference is a good way for you to learn about the workings of the church behind the scenes and how we connect with other churches in our denomination. I hope to see you there.

**Pastor Mark**

## Mission Update

A missions inquiry meeting was held in early October to assess the interest and explore ideas for having an adult mission trip. The good news is there is a great deal of interest and many good ideas both for local mission projects and for putting together a mission work trip in 2012. Those who attended this first meeting are researching several options including the Pine Ridge Lakota Reservation in South Dakota, and some of the communities along the East coast that were hit by Hurricane Irene. Pastor Mark and Steve Davis are going on a 4-day mission trip to Joplin Missouri later this month to participate with other United Methodists from Fairview Center and to possibly scout out one of our options for a work trip for a larger group from Elmwood to participate in next year. Those interested in attending a trip like this will also have the opportunity to give their input as to which of these many options would be the best for our church and for the people who are willing to go. Please keep this opportunity for our church in your prayers and prayerfully consider if this is a step in your faith that you are ready to take.

**Pastor Mark**

## Remembering & Celebrating Your Baptism

During the last couple months I have been leading a sermon series on the book of Acts. One of the recurring events in Acts is baptism. People come to faith in Jesus Christ and are baptized.

In the United Methodist Church we make baptism available for all ages. Baptism is seen as a celebration of what God has already done – that regardless of our age or stage in life, we are loved, accepted, and we belong to God's family. Before we do anything, God already sees you as His precious child. Baptism celebrates what God has already done.

Even though it is quite common in the United Methodist Church for infants and young children to be baptized, it is also understood that people of any age can be baptized. Many churches, including the United Methodist Church, also practice believers' baptism. Through the act of baptism, you make public to family and friends that you have said Yes to Jesus Christ and put your faith in Him. Baptism becomes an expression of your faith.

Whether you were baptized as an infant or later on in life, it's clear to me that we need reminders of God's unconditional love through Jesus Christ. We need to be reminded of our baptism and have the chance to re-live it and experience it for ourselves throughout life so that we will never forget the depth of God's love for us.

On **Sunday, November 13, at 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.** there will be services of baptism to give you the opportunity to remember your baptism or celebrate and experience for the first time being baptized in Jesus Christ. I encourage you to be present and invite you to participate. Please feel free to invite your family and friends to share in this special service with you. I believe that the faith journey we are on requires some fresh starts along the way. I hope this will be one of those fresh starts for many of us in our commitment to follow Jesus and to put our faith in Him.



## Building Update

It may seem like a long time in coming but real progress has been made in construction of the classroom addition. The floor has been poured, the building has been framed, and what was a dream, an idea, and a plan on paper is becoming a reality.

You are invited on **Sunday, November 6,** to sign a board in the construction site. Children will have the opportunity to sign some short boards safely within the confines of our existing church building. Teens and adults will be able to sign boards that are already in place. Your names will be hidden in the walls of these classrooms to surround the students and all who use the facility with the presence of our congregation.

We do not have a date when construction will be completed, but the good weather has allowed our builders to make up for a delayed start to the project.

The children and youth Sunday School classes have grown significantly this fall. They are outgrowing every space we presently have available. The promise of new classroom space just over the horizon is welcome news to students and teachers who are creatively using the space we have.

Will construction be done by Christmas? That would be a wonderful Christmas present. Just hold on and keep the faith. Right now I would say, "So far, so good."



## A Life of Thankfulness

President Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving an official holiday in 1863. Its roots go back to the Pilgrims who first celebrated a thanksgiving feast with native Americans in 1621 after surviving a brutal winter the year before and coming through spring and summer with a bountiful harvest. It was a tradition for the Pilgrims to set aside a day each year to remember and celebrate their arrival and their survival in the New World.

You often hear it said that we should not celebrate Christmas just one day a year but we should live the spirit of Christmas all year long. The idea behind these words is to encourage us to be generous throughout the year, to be mindful of people's needs and make the effort to meet those needs each and every day. The same thing could be said of Thanksgiving. Why set aside only one day to be thankful? The apostle Paul said, in Philippians 4, in all things give thanks. In the midst of the good and the bad, in times of great success, and in times of failure, it is good to give thanks in all things. Many counselors instruct patients with depression to write down those things they are thankful for because it helps them to rise above those things that bring them down and does actually help them in many instances to feel better. Living a life of thankfulness helps us to focus on the positive and to seek the blessings that come our way even when times are hard. There is much that can bring us down and cause us to become discouraged, but when we keep looking for those things that bring us joy, that boost our spirits, that fill us with love and compassion, that help us hold onto hope, we discover that we do have within us a faith that will sustain us in good times and bad. Let us live lives of thankfulness, not just for one day, but all year long.

**Pastor Mark**



### CHRISTMAS BOXES

We will be supporting Samaritan's Purse in packing Christmas boxes for children all over the world. **Our packing day is Sunday, November 13, at 9 a.m.** All of our children and youth are asked to participate; there will not be a regular Sunday school class that day. All boxes will be dedicated at the beginning of the 10:30 a.m. service. We ask that the children stay to help carry in the boxes.

Why pack boxes? Sharing the good news of our Savior, Jesus Christ, is the ultimate goal. Every box represents a precious boy or girl in need of a savior. Many children are introduced to Jesus through a booklet (in their language) given with the shoe box. Ministries through the local churches continue to help guide the children through their walk to know Jesus. We can share in showing God's love by giving what we can and supporting those who work with these children. If you would like to fill your own box, contact the church office or Karla Kane (446-9454) for a box and information. If you would like to go shopping, there are lists available in the church foyer. If you can't go shopping, and would like to donate, we have people who can do the shopping for you. Postage money is always helpful as it costs \$7 per box to ship. A donation box is in the foyer, by the coat rack. If you have any questions, please contact Karla Kane or talk to your Sunday school teacher. Thank you for your support.

### JR. / SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Our group will only meet on Sunday, November 13, this month due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We'll be back on December 11<sup>th</sup>!

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS!

Bibles were presented to the youth in 5<sup>th</sup> grade on Sunday, October 23, during the worship services. Our 5<sup>th</sup> graders include: Julia Bledsoe, Ben Crisco, Emmie Crisco, Megan Perryman, Alex Swadinsky,

Jade McMillan, Kaitlynn Vallas, Kyle Doubet, Blake Finn, Shelby Glover, Katie Parm, Logan Whitney, and Zofia Lehew. We hope you enjoy your new Bibles.

### MOM SQUAD ONE STOP SHOP

Mom Squad is sponsoring a "One Stop Shop" to help you get started or continue your holiday shopping. It will be on Thursday, November 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Elmwood. There will be many items available, as well as silent auction items. These include:

Jar cookies made by Mom Squad – proceeds will go toward adopting a family for Christmas. All Dolled Up (Susan Gibbs) – Hair bows, hats; Amy Davis Designs (Amy Davis) – Photographs; Avon (Lyndsay Johnson); Affordable Bracelets (Becky Conklin); BEgirly (Amy Evans) – Tutus & hats; DS Designs (Donna Neal) – American Girl doll clothes; Discovery Toys (Gayla Taylor); Gold Canyon Products (Anne Hollis); Juice Plus (Stephanie Colgan); Lia Sophia (Roz Finn); Mary Kay (Becky Hunt); Morey Girl (Heather Windish) – purses, scarves, various creative things; Scentsy (Amanda Price); Scrips (Elizabeth Gallagher) – gift card purchasing program to benefit EES; Specialty Sweets (Jill Gensler) – sweet indulgences; Stampin Up (Georgia Stevens) – premade cards & scrapbooking/card making materials; Tastefully Simple (Jill Gensler); Thirty-One products (Jenny Crone); Tupperware (Edie Pullen); and Usborne Books (Alicia Sparks).

Silent auction items include: 1 dozen holiday cookies from Too Little Time cookies; Cheddar basket from Cabot Cheese; Fun gift basket from Cabot Cheese; \$50 game and dinner for 2 at Jillian's; John Deere basket; Lumenok basket; Buffets at Par-a-Dice; 4 Riverplex passes; Mexican basket with 20 tacos from Taco Bell; 4 tickets to a Chief's game next year; 2 Riverman tickets; Tastefully Simple sweets basket; 2 rounds of golf at Laurel Greens; 2 full service car washes at Red Carpet Car Wash; 2 Brunches at Weaver Ridge; \$25 at McDonalds; and 4 passes to the Peoria Zoo.

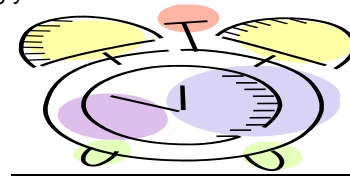
Proceeds from the One Stop Shop will go toward mission projects throughout the year (currently adopting a family for Christmas) and to defray group costs.

### UMW NEWS

I would like to thank everyone who helped make our Guest Night a success. I especially want to thank the men (young and older) who served and cleaned up after the meal. We have had many compliments on the evening and the servers. It turned out to be a very good evening – thanks again.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 8, at 9:30 a.m. at the church. We will be having a soup and sandwich lunch. The program is to be announced. The food arrangements have been made so you just have to come and join us.

We will be making last-minute plans for the Fall Fair (bazaar) scheduled for Saturday, November 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We are still in need of a few food items and helpers. You may get a call from one of us. We hope that you will stop in early for rolls and coffee or later for lunch and take a look at the food and craft tables. We look forward to seeing you.



### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS!

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour the morning of Sunday, November 6.

### CHANGES TO PERSONAL INFORMATION

I would really appreciate you letting the office know when your address, phone number or e-mail address changes so that I can keep the church records as current as possible. An easy way to do this is to put it in the black attendance pads during the service and mark it as "change" or "new." As more families move to just having cell phones, it is increasingly difficult to contact you if you have not given us your cell number and have disconnected your land line or if your e-mail address has changed. I am using e-mail more all the time and find that a lot of the addresses I have on file are no longer valid. We certainly don't want to leave anyone out or not be able to keep you informed because we don't have current contact information. Thank you in advance for your assistance. Kris

### MANNA MEAL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Just a reminder that the Manna Meal for November is Thursday, November 17, at noon. The December Manna meal is Thursday, December 29, at noon. Please join us for great food, fellowship, and entertainment each month.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** The Worship Committee will be decorating the church for the Christmas season on Saturday, December 3, at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome to help. More information will follow.

### SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM 9 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

#### November 6, 2011

GREETERS: Keith/Betty Morse  
USHERS: Norma Bowhay/Kurt Webster  
LITURGIST: Lavonne Rushing  
0-5 NURSERY: Stephanie Webster  
Alex Vallas  
COFFEE BAR: **Need Volunteer**

#### November 13, 2011

GREETERS: Marge Camp/Jill Williams  
USHERS: Andy Bartlow/Doug Whitney  
LITURGIST: Rachel Potts  
0-5 NURSERY: Alana Parm/Sara Kane  
COFFEE BAR: Joanne Endres  
Michelle Forrest

#### November 20, 2011

GREETERS: Chris Ewalt/Veva Windish  
USHERS: Ted Mottaz/Joe Webel  
LITURGIST: Michelle Dunn  
0-5 NURERY: Robin Furrer/Julie Bartlow  
COFFEE BAR: Georgia & Kent Stevens  
Gerri Pettit

#### November 27, 2011

GREETERS: Jim & Mary Dawson  
USHERS: Kent/Georgia Stevens  
LITURGIST: Mary Stenwall  
0-5 NURSERY: Jill Crisco/Alana Parm  
COFFEE BAR: **Need Volunteer**



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

**November 6, 2011**

GREETERS: Dan/Pat Keefer  
USHERS: Chuck/Connie Johnston  
LITURGIST: Tom Tracy  
ACOLYTES: Travis Johnson/Catie Tracy  
0-5 NURSERY: Celene Duley/Michelle Forrest

**November 13, 2011**

GREETERS: Linda Knight/Diana Ladd  
USHERS: Charlotte Haley/Bev Keefer  
LITURGIST: Mary Nell Simpson  
ACOLYTES: Emma/Kaitlynn Vallas  
0-5 NURSERY: Robin Furrer/Erica Kane

**November 20, 2011**

GREETERS: Danny/Marilyn Bowhay  
USHERS: Don/Michelle Forrest  
LITURGIST: Haleigh Forrest  
ACOLYTES: Logan/Rachel Whitney  
0-5 NURSERY: Michelle/Ian/Taylor Armbruster

**November 27, 2011**

GREETERS: Wayne/Joey Callister  
USHERS: Mary Howard/Sherry Powers  
LITURGIST: Jerry Wilson  
ACOLYTES: Katie Parm/Nicole Shoop  
0-5 NURSERY: Alana Parm/Jill Crisco



**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!**