

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ELMWOOD
P.O. BOX 477
ELMWOOD, IL 61529

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

October 2009

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

Upcoming Events:

- | | | |
|-------|------------|--|
| 9/27 | 2:30 p.m. | “The Shack” Book Review |
| | 4 p.m. | Membership Orientation |
| 9/29 | 6 p.m. | Nominations Committee Meeting |
| 10/4 | 11:30 a.m. | SHARE Sign Up |
| | 4 p.m. | Jr. High Youth 1 st Meeting |
| | 6 p.m. | Sr. High/Young Adults – (meet each Sunday at 6) |
| | 6-8 p.m. | “Making Ends Meet” Seminar - Dean Warner |
| 10/8 | 6:30 p.m. | UMW Guest Night |
| 10/13 | 9:30 a.m. | UMW Meeting |
| | 10 a.m. | Flue Shot Clinic – here |
| 10/15 | 6:30 p.m. | Alpha Group Meets |
| 10/17 | 8 a.m. | Camp Big Sky Workday |
| 10/18 | 6:30 p.m. | Leadership Dessert Night |
| 10/20 | 9:30 a.m. | UMW Circle Meeting |
| 10/24 | 10 a.m. | SHARE Distribution |
| 10/25 | 9 a.m. | Consecration Sunday Worship Service followed by brunch |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Consecration Sunday Worship Service followed by lunch |
| 10/29 | 12 p.m. | MANNA Meal |
| 10/31 | 3 p.m. | Halloween Fun for the Kids at EUMC |

The Beacon



The United Methodist Church of Elmwood

Mark Graham: Pastor
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We are followers of Jesus
Connecting to God and
One another, growing in
Faith and pouring our
Lives Into serving others.

Consecration Sunday - Sunday October 25 **9:00 & 10:30 am**

Celebrating God's Blessings... Growing in Faith



Leadership Dessert Night – Sunday, October 18, 6:30 pm

Consecration Sunday Worship - October 25: both services

Brunch following the 9 a.m. service

Lunch following the 10:30 a.m. service

Mission News -- Faith in Action

"Awesome!" was the word used to describe Faith in Action Sunday in which 141 people from the congregation and several people from the community came together to be in mission to the people of Elmwood and the surrounding area. In about 3 hours time our congregation went out in small groups to visit the homebound, went door-to-door giving out light-bulbs, mowed lawns, transformed West Park, held a free car wash, and prayed and connected with a number of people from the surrounding area. Special thanks go to Georgia Stevens for coordinating this event, the City Council for their suggestions for a number of projects, and to Dave Jordan, for making Jordan's available for the car wash.

Consecration Sunday is Coming! -- October 25

When it comes to church giving, there is only one question we really need to address: What does God want me to do to grow in my faith? Church giving is all about loving God -- nothing more, nothing less. When we give faithfully, we honor God, we are challenged to grow as followers of Jesus, and we have the opportunity to make a difference for God's Kingdom.

Our congregation's Finance Committee has decided to utilize the Consecration Sunday stewardship program. *Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. We see each other as devoted followers of Jesus Christ who consider giving an expression of our faith. *Consecration Sunday* encourages people to grow year by year by answering this question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking members and friends of the church to make their financial commitment to the total ministry of the United Methodist Church of Elmwood. Every person who completes an estimate of giving card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. No one is pressured or put on the spot if someone is reluctant to fill out an estimate of giving card.

We will not do any home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. The only time will be during morning worship at both services on the 25th, when members and friends will be invited to fill out an estimate of giving commitment card at the close of worship

You are invited to a free catered meal immediately following either worship service on the 25th. The entire family is welcome. Members and friends of the church are included. Reservations for the meal will be taken care of during worship on Sunday, October 11th and 18th. Totals from the estimate of giving cards will be tallied and reported at the meal. All estimate of giving cards will be handled confidentially by the financial secretary.

There will be no follow-up visits to have people complete their estimate of giving cards. It is the hope of the Finance Committee that church members and friends will make every effort to be present for worship and the meal on Sunday, October 25.

Rev. Keith Anderson will be our guest speaker for Consecration Sunday. Keith has served as a pastor in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. The church where he served most recently was the Chatham United Methodist Church. Keith is presently the Director of the Preacher's Aid Society that provides financial support for retired clergy. Pastor Mark has known Keith since Keith's high school days when he was in the church youth group in Geneseo where Mark's wife Melva was the Associate Pastor.

Consecration Sunday has been a high point for our congregation in past years. It is a time for us to celebrate all that God has been doing in our congregation and all the blessings that have come our way through both joyful and trying circumstances. It is our hope and prayer that the momentum that we have experienced this past year will continue and we will continue to be challenged to give our best to God. I hope you and your family will make it a priority to be present for this special day.

Church Membership Orientation Class

There will be a church membership orientation class on **Sunday, September 27, from 4 – 5:30 pm**. This class is for all adults and high school youth who are considering church membership and will give you an opportunity to hear about some of the basics of United Methodism and the expectations for membership in the United Methodist Church of Elmwood. Childcare will be provided by request. Mark your calendars now. A sign-up will be posted in the church lobby in September.



Building Committee Update

The Building Committee is in the process of finishing its work to present a building expansion project and capital campaign to raise the necessary funds to the congregation. A survey directed to the leadership of the church will be conducted this fall to assess our readiness for this project. It is anticipated that presentations to the congregation will begin after the first of the year. Questions and concerns you have about the building expansion can be directed to any member of the Building Committee. Members of the Building Committee are: Lawrence Kane, Chairperson; Terry Schulz, Mark Kemper, Lisa Roberts, Alana Parm, Doug Whitney, Dean Hunt, Randy Furrer, Erik Davis, Tom Tracy, and Don Forrest. Please keep our congregation in your prayers as we prepare for this important step in our church's journey.



In Deepest Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the loved ones of:

Jack Purtle, who passed August 27.
Louise Craig, who passed August 30.
Robert Keefer, who passed August 31.

Keep these families in your prayers in this time of grief.

Our Response to the H1N1 Virus

The best advice from the Centers of Disease Control is if you or members of your family have flu-like symptoms including: fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue, and nausea – stay at home. We will do all we can to minimize the chances of spreading the flu at church. If further measures need to be taken, we will put those into effect as needed.

Making Ends Meet

On **Sunday, October 4, from 6 – 8 pm**, Dean Warner will be leading a seminar that is open to everyone called, "Making Ends Meet: The Basics for Budgeting." During this time in our society as our economy recovers, there is a continuing need for people to learn how to take care of their expenses and prepare for the future.

Dean Warner has spent much of his career in the area of finance. He is presently working at Farmer's State Bank and is exploring a call into pastoral ministry. Dean brings both the financial expertise and the faith dimension to this important topic.

New Choir Director and Accompanist

Matthew Henning, a recent graduate from Monmouth College in the School of Music will be our new Choir Director and Accompanist. Choir practice will be held on Wednesdays, from 7 – 8 pm beginning September 23. Youth and adults are welcome to participate in the choir. We anticipate singing at least once a month during the 10:30 am Sunday worship services.

Matt is the music teacher at Valley for K-12. He comes with a wealth of experience teaching piano and vocal lessons and serving as section leader in a church choir. We welcome Matt to our congregation and look forward to his leadership in our growing music ministry.

We extend our thanks to Lois Hill for directing the choir these past two years. Lois will continue to be involved with the church choir singing in the alto section. We also extend our thanks to Sandy Cantu for serving as the choir accompanist this past year.



Sunday School - we could use a little help . . .

Sunday school is in full swing but we can still use some help! We could use aides in the Pre-K and Kindergarten class as they are a busy group and need help with their projects. Aides do not need to prepare for this class, just help for one hour on a rotating basis. We are also still in need of another 5th & 6th grade teacher to rotate teaching. Please contact Karla Kane (446-9454) for more information if you could assist in these areas.

Camp Big Sky Workday: Fall clean up is set for Saturday, October 17th. The camp will be closing the end of the month and there are a few things that need to be taken care of before winter sets in. Come help with patio repair, trail repair, painting and general clean up. There is something for all ages to do. You may want to bring work gloves, chain saws, rakes, shovels, brooms and tools for deck repair. Paint supplies will be provided. Also, you can see all the changes that have happened over the summer. We will meet at the church at 8 a.m. and arrive at the camp about 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided and we will return to the church about 1:30 p.m. Please sign up on the clip board in the foyer. Thank you!

Jr. High Youth Group: All 7th and 8th graders join Jenni and Mike Case and Julie Parrish on Sunday, October 4th and October 18th for Jr. High Youth Group! Meet in the fellowship hall at 4 p.m. for food, fun and fellowship.

Sr. High/Young Adult Group: This group meets on Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. Bring a friend and join Joe and Emily Webel for an evening of fellowship.

Halloween Fun!

Pre-K through 6th grade, come join us for some Halloween fun on Saturday, October 31st from 3 to 5 p.m. – rain or shine! You will be surprised at the silliness we can have in the parking lot or the fellowship hall. There will be hot dogs and Halloween treats for all.



Christmas Boxes: We will begin collecting items for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes on

October 25th. We will pack the boxes on Sunday, November 15th. More information will be forthcoming in the near future.

Christmas Program: We have set Sunday, December 20, at 4 p.m. as the date for the Christmas program, but are in need of a director or co-directors if you would like to share the fun with a friend. There are many areas in a program to help with and we have several programs to choose from. We would like to have a preliminary outline of the program by November 1st so we can fill in parts and work on props. If you feel this is an area where you would like to serve, please contact Karla Kane.

Coffee Bar: If you would like to help with the Coffee Bar, we need volunteers for Sunday, October 11. Sign up sheets for the November and December Coffee Bar are on the clip board in the foyer.

Nursery Volunteers Needed: We are seeking a few more volunteers to help in the nursery during both the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services. Adults and youth ages 6th grade and older are eligible to serve in the nursery. Please prayerfully consider if you would be able to help in this area. Contact Michelle Armbruster at lowpockets@mchsi.com or (309) 678-0271 to volunteer or for more information. The goal is to have enough volunteers so that you are only scheduled to serve in the nursery approximately once every 5-6 weeks. Thank you.

Seasonal Flu & Pneumonia Shot Clinic: The Peoria City/County Health Department will be at the United Methodist Church of Elmwood on Tuesday, October 13, between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to give Seasonal Flu Vaccines and Pneumonia Shots. Adults age 19 and older can get the shots at the church. Children's vaccine will ONLY be available at clinics held at the Health Department on Sheridan Road. Medicare Part B coverage or Medicaid will cover the cost of Flu and Pneumonia vaccines. Persons not on Medicare or Medicaid will be charged \$28 for Flu vaccine and \$55 for Pneumovax. *An additional \$5 per shot fee will be charged to out-of-county residents not on Medicare/Medicaid.* For more information, please call (309) 679-6060.

UMW Guest Night: The UMW will host their Guest Night on Thursday, October 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the church. All women in the church are invited to attend, as well as your friends. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. The choir from Faith United Presbyterian Church in Yates City will be presenting the program. Your RSVP to Marge Haahn at 742-3761 or Evelyn Dorich at 742-8133 would be appreciated so that we can plan accordingly. Please join us for an enjoyable evening.

UMW Fall Fair: The UMW Fall Fair is just around the corner. It is planned for Saturday, November 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the church. A Continental Breakfast will be served beginning at 8:30 a.m. and lunch beginning at 11 a.m. Please bring your crafts, baked goods, candy, sewing, etc., to the church by Friday, November 13th. There will also be a "Silent Auction" of gift baskets. If you would like to donate a gift basket, please let Evelyn Dorich or one of the UMW members know. We would like to have the baskets on display 2 to 3 weeks in advance of the Fall Fair so that people have an opportunity to view them beforehand. This is a great opportunity to purchase baked goods, Christmas crafts, and other items for holiday giving.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU to Lavonne Rushing for organizing the Pie and Dessert Sale held during Fall Festival and to all the people who baked pies, cookies and cakes, worked at the stand, set up and helped clean up, and to those who purchased and enjoyed all the goodies. The sale was very successful thanks to all the wonderful people who donated their time and efforts. Thanks again.

THANK YOU to everyone who donated items, worked, set up, cleaned up, or had any part in making the Pancake Breakfast a huge success. Thank you to Tom Morse, Diana Ladd and Lawrence Kane for helping keep us organized. Also, thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed the great food.

THANK YOU to all the volunteers serving in Sunday school and our other youth ministries.

Your faithfulness is greatly appreciated. You are touching many lives.

Volunteer Opportunity: We could use some additional people that are available during the week in the daytime who would be willing to assist with office tasks such as folding and stuffing letters into envelopes, putting labels and stamps on envelopes, folding bulletins and the newsletter. The projects vary but usually only take 1-2 hours at a time. Some are weekly projects, the newsletter is a monthly project, and other projects depend on the time of year and what activities are taking place in the church. Please let the office know if you are interested in helping. Thank you.

SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM 9 AM WORSHIP

October 4, 2009

GREETERS: Keith/Betty Morse
USHERS: Connie Dalton/Sherry Powers
LITURGIST: Erik Davis
0-5 NURSERY: Traci Whitney/Jenni Case
COFFEE BAR: Tom Tracy Family

October 11, 2009

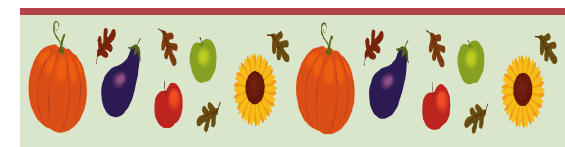
GREETERS: Dean/Becky Hunt
USHERS: Larry/Norma Bowhay
LITURGIST: Nancy Davis
0-5 NURSERY: Erik Davis/Dom Catrino
COFFEE BAR: **Need Volunteer**

October 18, 2009

GREETERS: Kent/Georgia Stevens
USHERS: Don/Michelle Forrest
LITURGIST: Chelsie Forrest
0-5 NURSERY: Michelle/Ian/Taylor
Armbruster
COFFEE BAR: Membership Committee

October 25, 2009

GREETERS: Marge Camp/Chris Ewalt
USHERS: Don/Marge Haahn
LITURGIST: Todd Stevens
0-5 NURSERY: Heide/Tony Catrino
COFFEE BAR: No Coffee Bar this week



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

October 4, 2009

GREETERS: Roland/Cathy Ekstrand
USHERS: Mary Howard/Chris Stevens
LITURGIST: Marilee Hurst
ACOLYTES: Erica Kane/Mia Stevens
0-2 NURSERY: Angie/Catie Tracy
3-5 NURSERY: Alana Parm/Alex Vallas
K-2 C CHURCH: Becky Hunt/Traci Whitney

October 11, 2009

GREETERS: Bill/Carol Foster
USHERS: Bob Paige/Tom Morse
LITURGIST: Carol Kemper
ACOLYTES: Ethan/Jake Callister
0-2 NURSERY: Shelli Shoop/Chelsea Morse
3-5 NURSERY: Emily Leggins
Need Volunteer
K-2 C CHURCH: Alana Parm/Erica Kane

October 18, 2009

GREETERS: Don/Marilee Hurst
USHERS: Dean/Sandy Cantu
LITURGIST: Mark Kemper
ACOLYTES: Deanna Cantu/Gabby Haskell
0-2 NURSERY: Amy Deppe/Emily Meyer
3-5 NURSERY: Jill Crisco/Erica Kane
K-2 C CHURCH: Marni Stevens/Jared Roberts

October 25, 2009

GREETERS: Chuck/Connie Johnston
USHERS: Wayne/Connie Dalton
LITURGIST: Lavonne Rushing
ACOLYTES: Alex/Kaitlyn Vallas
0-2 NURSERY: Celene/Ashley Duley
3-5 NURSERY: Kayla Duley/**Need Volunteer**
K-2 C CHURCH: Angie/Catie Tracy



ATTENTION: If you are unable to serve on the day given, find someone from the list to trade with. Please let Lavonne Rushing, Michelle Armbruster (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. **THANK YOU!**