

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

October, 2011

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Permit No. 10
Elmwood, IL 61529

Upcoming Events:

- 10/3** 6 p.m. Acts Bible Study @ UMC
- 10/6** 6:30 a.m. Acts Bible Study @ Café
9 a.m. Mom Squad
6:30 p.m. Chimes Group Meeting
- 10/9** 5 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Group
- 10/10** 6 p.m. Acts Bible Study @UMC
7 p.m. Manna Board Meeting
- 10/11** 9:30 a.m. UMW Meeting
6:30 p.m. PPRC Meeting
- 10/13** 6:30 a.m. Acts Bible Study @ Café
6:30 p.m. UMW Guest Night
- 10/15** 8:30 a.m. Camp Big Sky Work Day
- 10/17** 6 p.m. Acts Bible Study @ UMC
7 p.m. Mission Exploration Meeting
- 10/18** 9 a.m. Flu Shot Clinic
9:30 a.m. UMW Circle Meeting
6:30 p.m. Ad Council Meeting
- 10/20** 6:30 a.m. Acts Bible Study @ Café
9 a.m. Mom Squad
6:30 p.m. Alpha Group
- 10/23** 5 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Group
6:30 p.m. Leadership Dessert Night
- 10/24** 6 p.m. Acts Bible Study at UMC
- 10/27** 6:30 a.m. Acts Bible Study at Café
12 Noon Manna Meal
- 10/30** 9 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Consecration Sunday
11:30 a.m. All Church Potluck



The Beacon



Consecration Sunday

Sunday, October 30, 10:30 am

One Combined Service

Followed By All-Church Potluck Dinner

Guest Speaker: Rev Melva England



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.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY:

Sunday, October 30, is **Consecration Sunday.** There will be one worship service at **10:30 a.m.** Rev. Melva England (Pastor Mark's wife) will be the guest pastor and will give the message. There will be an all-church potluck dinner following worship.

The purpose of Consecration Sunday is to bring the congregation together as one to celebrate what God is doing in our church, our community, and our lives, and accept the challenge to commit our resources to the work of the church to extend the Kingdom of God. You will have the opportunity to fill out an estimate of giving card which is a commitment between you and God of what you intend your giving to be in 2012. We honor people's commitments by keeping all estimate of giving information confidential. Only two sets of eyes see this information – the Financial Secretary, Kris Petermeyer, and church Treasurer, Sherry Powers. This information is recorded for us to plan the budget for the coming year according to the commitments that people intend to make.

You will be making an *estimate of giving*, not a contract that you will be held to later on. Circumstances change and unexpected expenses arise. Your commitment is between you and God as an expression of your faith. It is our hope that all of us will prayerfully consider what God wants us to do to grow in our faith and stretch beyond what we've done in the past. When each of us considers our financial picture for the coming year and what our priorities are, we can arrive at a commitment level that God will help us to fulfill.

The bottom line is this: I believe that God will provide – that God will provide our church with the people who are willing to make the commitment and investment in the ministries of our church so that we can continue to serve this community and surrounding area with excellence and show our neighbors and friends through all we do the love of Jesus Christ.

Bible Study – Book of Acts

I will be continuing the sermon series on the book of Acts through October and November. I realize on a Sunday morning there is not the time or opportunity for you to make comments or ask questions at the conclusion of the sermon. Your thoughts and questions can add greater depth and meaning to the topics I raise and may help others with questions they have.

As an experiment, I would like to offer a 4-week study on Acts, in October. There will be three options for those who are interested to connect with this study:

Mondays, Oct 3, 10, 17, & 24, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the church.

Thursdays, Oct 6, 13, 20, & 27, at 6:30 a.m. at the Uptown Café. (yes, in the morning!!)

Online – at your convenience – go to the church website home page for instructions, www.elmwoodumc.org. If you have a Facebook account, request to join “too early Christian group.” Steve Davis will be serving as the administrator for this group to get you connected so we can have discussions online.

The chapters from Acts that will be covered in this study are Acts: 8-11 -- one chapter per week, starting the week of October 2. I look forward to making this journey with you.

Pastor Mark

In Deepest Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the loved ones of Marie Woodcock, who passed away August 24.

Would you, could you play the chimes?

Would you like to join a new music group? Our church has a set of chimes, and we'd like to invite you to come for an informational meeting on **Thursday, October 6, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. If you're between the ages of 13 and 103, you are welcome to come and learn more about playing chimes. If you love music but you're not interested in singing in the choir or in one of the worship music groups, this option might be right for you. Come check it out
Contacts for Chimes: Shelly Shoop and Lois Hill

Missions

An earthquake in Haiti, a devastating tornado in Joplin Missouri, flooding on the east coast – we wonder what we can do. A number of you have expressed an interest in extending our mission work. We have mobilized the entire congregation to be involved in serving our local community and surrounding area. We have been involved in missions at Pleasant Hill School in Peoria, serving some of the poorest families in the area and helping to provide school supplies for students – many who are homeless. We have served at Camp Big Sky, outside Farmington, and have had work days there fixing up cabins, repairing walkways, cutting firewood, and taking care of a number of projects. It is rewarding to be involved in such projects. We are shining the light of Christ as we serve others.

My question is, are we ready to take on something more to extend our reach? Are we ready to raise the funds, and commit to sending a team from our congregation to Joplin or to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky or to some other location where there is a need that will involve travel and spending a few days rather than just a few hours?

I would like to invite all those who are interested in participating in a mission trip sometime in the future to come to an exploration meeting to discuss options and opportunities on **Monday, October 17, at 7 p.m.** If you are unable to attend, but would be interested in a mission trip, please e-mail me: markbegraham@yahoo.com.

Lori's Cakery Bakery

Don't feel like baking? Want to support the building fund? Lori's Cakery Bakery can help. Lori bakes and decorates cakes, cookies, pies, and breads. 100% of your money goes to the Elmwood United Methodist Church building fund. Call or e-mail Lori at: 742-4704 or johnson2428@hotmail.com.

Women's Bible Study

Please contact Lori Johnson 742-4704 or johnson2428@hotmail.com if you are interested in a fall evening small group. Thanks.

Social Media and the Church

Is social media a good thing? Are Facebook and Twitter and blogging and texting good additions to our already media-saturated lives? I'm going to choose to straddle the fence here. Yes and no. The technology has advanced far ahead of the values we need to monitor and guide our use. Issues of privacy and transparency are becoming much more complicated. Jesus said as he sent his disciples out into the mission field that they needed to be innocent as doves and wise as snakes. If we apply Jesus' teaching to social media, we need to be wise about what we put out there about ourselves and keenly aware of who will see what is posted online. What will our friends see? What will potential employers see? What will our families see? What will our students or co-workers or congregation members see? Is our presence online showing the light of Christ? Are we a positive presence or a questionable or negative presence?

Social media is a reality that many of us deal with every day. I believe it can be a very valuable tool in connecting people with one another and can be a very helpful and positive influence. It opens up opportunities for conversation and connection that we would otherwise miss. It can be a very important tool for the church to help us communicate more effectively with each other and with those beyond the congregation that are looking for a spiritual connection.

I have seen how damaging social media can be when used poorly and also I've seen how helpful it can be when it is used appropriately. I hope that in the future we will grow in this area and you will help me learn to use it well to stay in touch with you and to extend the light of Christ.

Pastor Mark



SUNDAY SCHOOL IN SESSION! Sunday school sessions are in full swing. We have classes for Pre-K through 12th grades. It is great to see everyone back and involved in studying the messages that God has for us. If you haven't had a chance to attend yet, stop by and see what it's all about.



YOUTH GROUP: Youth Group for Jr. and Sr. High students meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 5 p.m. at the church. We are currently doing a study on Courage with Francis Chan. Sharing his experiences as a teenager, he really gets to the heart of how we can be strong in our values and beliefs with others. Skits are worked in on occasion for those who like to participate and we ALWAYS feed you. Come join the fellowship!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: I know it seems silly to be talking about Christmas right now, but I wanted to give a heads up that we will be packing shoe boxes again this year. There are a lot of things on sale right now, so if you are out shopping and see things on sale that would work for a shoe box, it would be great if you could help us out. We pack items for ages 2 through 14; boys and girls. We have the boxes, we just need the items to put in them. Thank you – Karla.

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD! Did you see the church float in the Fall Festival parade?

Thank you so much to all who helped staple, cut, hammer, and ride the float, and to Janet Mottaz for organizing everything. We received third place!



MOM SQUAD UPDATE: Mom Squad has started its fall session and we are AGAIN blessed with a growing and vibrant ministry! With 22 moms and nearly 40 children in attendance, we feel so grateful to be reaching so many at-home moms in the Elmwood, Farmington, Yates City, and surrounding areas. We are truly an intra-faith group, with churches from all over being represented, but are always striving to support each other through faith in God with small group discussions and prayer, as well as devotional time. We also offer outside programs with discussions ranging from vaccinations to breast cancer to freezer meals, but always keep our faith and family at the forefront of the discussion. Some plans we have on the horizon are our annual One Stop Christmas Shop, cooking and delivering freezer meals for the Children's Hospital of Illinois Family House, and a Moms Night Out.

We are happy to report that our First Annual 5K Run raised over \$1,100 which will be used to pay our childcare workers, speakers, and mission work we do. We are always looking for folks to help out with childcare...as you can see, there are a lot of kids to watch and love on!! Thank you to all who have supported Mom Squad, whether through your time, talents, or prayer. We are blessed to have this ministry in our church!

CAMP BIG SKY WORKDAY: A workday at Camp Big Sky is scheduled for Saturday, October 15, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. to carpool to the camp. Lunch will be provided. We will be doing some repair and fix-up projects mostly. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby by the office if you want to help.

FALL FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES RECAP:

Pancake Breakfast: Ted Mottaz and Steve Davis co-chaired the pancake breakfast which was a great success. We served approximately 237 people. Steve Davis reported he was mostly at the grill cooking pancakes and would like to thank Tom, Dean, Andy, Wayne and Sara for all their help, as well as Kent for last minute spatula. Thank you to Central Butane in Norris for providing the grill and gas, and to Mark Kemper for picking up and returning the grill. Ted Mottaz provided personal service to those in line by distributing pancakes to them as soon as they came off the grill. Tom Morse took charge of cooking the sausage and many others helped cook, cleaned tables, kept items stocked, ran pancakes, and washed dishes. Thank you to everyone who donated items, worked during the breakfast, set up and cleaned up, came to eat, and for your help or support in any way. We raised \$790 that will go into our local missions fund to help us support those in need in our area.

Pie/Dessert Sale: The pie/dessert sale went well and brought in \$740. Thank you to everyone who donated pies, cookies, Rice Krispie treats, and cake, and to those who worked at the park. Thank you to Lavonne Rushing, Sherry Powers, and Mary Howard for taking charge of this project again this year. It is a true outreach in the community and people really look forward to checking out the pies and desserts in the food tent. Thanks again to all.

UMW NEWS: This is a busy, busy time of the year for us. We have just held our United Methodist Women's Sunday service and potluck.

On Thursday, October 13, at 6:30 p.m. we will hold our annual Guest Night. This is a candlelight dinner to which we invite women from Elmwood and the surrounding communities. If you attend our church we ask you to bring a salad or a dessert. We also hope that you will bring a friend.

We are preparing for our Fall Fair and Bazaar scheduled for Saturday, November 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 11, at 9:30 a.m. The program will be given by

Carol Kemper and the social time led by Carol Kemper and Pat Pittman. Please join us!

FLU SHOT CLINIC: Spoon River Home Health Services will host a Flu Shot Clinic at the church on Tuesday, October 18, from 9 to 11 a.m. There is no cost for those covered by Medicare (you must have your Medicare card with you). Cost is \$30 for those not covered by Medicare. Please contact Elaine at (309) 645-2436 if you have questions or need more information. Thank you.

THANK YOU to the UMW ladies for honoring me with your Special Mission Recognition award on UMW Sunday. I really appreciate you thinking of me and feel so blessed to be a part of this wonderful congregation through my work in and outside the church office. Thank you again. I am truly honored.

Kris Petermeyer

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

October 2, 2011

GREETERS: Chris/Michelle Dunn
USHERS: Kent/Georgia Stevens
LITURGIST: Mary Stenwall
0-5 NURSERY: Lisa Doubet/Alex Vallas
COFFEE BAR: Kristi/Rachel Link

October 9, 2011

GREETERS: Don/Marge Haahn
USHERS: Ted Mottaz/Bob Paige
LITURGIST: Jill Williams
0-5 NURSERY: Stephanie Webster/
Sara Kane
COFFEE BAR: **Need Volunteer**

October 16, 2011

GREETERS: Doug/Traci Whitney
USHERS: Don/Michelle Forrest
LITURGIST: Chris Ewalt
0-5 NURSERY: Robin Furrer/Haleigh Forrest
COFFEE BAR: **Need Volunteer**

October 23, 2011

GREETERS: Dean/Becky Hunt
USHERS: Lavonne Rushing/
Janet Vallas
LITURGIST: Cathy Ekstrand
0-5 NURSERY: Michelle/Bill Seipel
COFFEE BAR: Armbruster Family

**October 30, 2011 – No 9 a.m. Service
Consecration Sunday**

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

October 2, 2011

GREETERS: Joanne Endres
Peggy Harding
USHERS: Dennis/Cheryl Whitehurst
LITURGIST: Wayne Callister
ACOLYTES: Katie Parm/Nicole Shoop
0-5 NURSERY: Nancy Davis/Michelle Forrest

October 9, 2011

GREETERS: Charlotte Haley/Mary Howard
USHERS: Dean/Sandy Cantu
LITURGIST: Mark Kemper
ACOLYTES: Deanna Cantu/Kaitlynn Vallas
0-5 NURSERY: Alana/Hannah Parm

October 16, 2011

GREETERS: Betty King/Jennifer Wilson
USHERS: Brad Crisco/Tom Morse
LITURGIST: Nancy Davis
ACOLYTES: Shelby Glover/Emily Roberts
0-5 NURSERY: Celene Duley/Erica Kane

October 23, 2011

GREETERS: Meade/Betty Montgomery
USHERS: Sherry Powers
Lavonne Rushing
LITURGIST: Carol Kemper
ACOLYTES: Ben/Emmie Crisco
0-5 NURSERY: Robin Furrer/Connie Johnston

October 30, 2011 – Consecration Sunday

GREETERS: Jerry/Nancy Wilson
USHERS: Nancy Davis/Celene Duley
LITURGIST: Chris Stevens
ACOLYTES: Kyle Doubet/Jared Roberts
0-5 NURSERY: Alana/Hannah Parm



Youth drama during church

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!**