

September, 2008

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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ELMWOOD, IL 61529

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Upcoming Events:		
Sept. 3:	7 p.m.	Choir Practice Begins
Sept. 4:	5-9 p.m.	Pie/Dessert Sales
Sept. 5:	5-9 p.m. 6 p.m.	Pie/Dessert Sales Closer to Free Sings
Sept. 6:	6:30 a.m. 11 a.m.-?	Pancake Breakfast Pie/Dessert Sales
Sept. 7:	9:45 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time Worship Service Share Sign Up
Sept. 9:	9:30 a.m.	UMW Meeting
Sept. 10:	1-7 p.m.	Blood Drive @ UMC
Sept. 11:	9 a.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Mom Squad Begins PPR Comm. Meeting Sr. High Youth Begins
Sept. 14:	9 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 4 p.m.	Sunday School and Pastor's Bible Study UMW Sunday All Church Potluck Wiener Roast @ Kane Residence
Sept. 16:	9:30 a.m.	UMW Circle Meeting
Sept. 19:	6 p.m.	Bricker Rehearsal
Sept. 20:	3 p.m.	Bricker/Diefendorf Wedding
Sept. 21:	9 a.m. 9:20 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	SS / Bible Study Acolyte Review Worship Service Membership Inquiry Meeting
Sept. 25:	12 noon	Manna Meal
Sept. 26:	8 a.m.	Work at Share-Peoria
Sept. 27:	10 a.m. 6-9 p.m.	Share Distribution Community Picnic and Music at UMC
Sept. 29:	6 p.m.	Women's Small Group

The Beacon



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

The United Methodist Church of Elmwood
Mark Graham: Pastor
Kris Petermeyer: Administrative Assistant
Office: 742-7221 Pastor's Home: 309-692-2264
Pastor's Cell: 309-258-2258
e-mail: markbegraham@yahoo.com or markbegraham@elmnnet.net

Fall Festival -- Sept. 4-6



Volunteers needed:
Dessert Tent -
Thursday, Sept. 4 -
Saturday, Sept. 6
If you would like to donate
desserts or pies, sign up at
church;
Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, Sept 6
6:30 - 10 am
Cooks & Servers Needed!!
Sign-Ups in Church Lobby.

Mark your calendars!! New time for worship,
Beginning **Sunday, September 7!!**
Worship will begin at **10:30 a.m.**

MISSION NEWS

Pleasant Hill School

School supplies and children's clothes, jackets, etc. (for elementary age and above – in good condition) are still being collected for Pleasant Hill School. Our first delivery was made just before the first day of school and the staff was overwhelmed with all the supplies we brought in. Both the donations from Vacation Bible School and additional donations from our congregation were taken in together. Thanks everyone for continuing to be mindful of the needs of the children of Pleasant Hill School!

Camp Big Sky

A work day was scheduled the first Saturday in August. Thanks to everyone who was able to participate. The group was able to clear brush, continue work on some of the wooden walkways, and help complete the bocce ball court. There will be one more work day scheduled on a Saturday in October to close down the camp for the season.

Mark Your Calendars:

Midwest Distribution Center Work Day

The Midwest Distribution Center is a warehouse and construction center located south of Springfield that stores and sends out items needed to respond to disasters and crises throughout the United States and the world. It is one of the main distribution sites for flood relief in the Midwest and has sent out thousands of flood buckets this past spring and summer.

Our church has the opportunity to spend a morning organizing supplies for flood buckets, medical kits, school bags, and other projects to restock and prepare for whatever needs are the most urgent. A work day has been scheduled for **Saturday, November 8**. We will meet at the church at **7:00 a.m.** to carpool together and will work from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the center. We will stop for a quick lunch on the way home and return no later than 3:00 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet in the church lobby.

BUILDING STUDY UPDATE

The Building Study Report is well underway. The report will be completed later in September with suggestions and options for additional facilities derived from the information we have gathered. Once the report is before the congregation, a meeting will be set up with the District Building and Location Committee to discern the feasibility of a building project. The report will be presented at a Church Conference for the members of the congregation to vote on whether to proceed with a plan to form a building committee. **This is the first step** in which the congregation will assess the need for additional facilities. The next step is for the congregation to decide if they wish to form a building committee that will work with an architect to develop blueprints, to determine costs, and to devise a financial plan for raising the necessary funds. There will be several points along the way for the congregation to give their input before we decide whether to build on to our facilities or not. Our goal is to take one step at a time and make sure that the congregation is informed and has the opportunity to give their input before decisions are made. I welcome your thoughts and concerns as we continue this journey together.

Lawrence Kane -- Chairperson

Reminder – New Worship Service Time

Beginning **September 7**, the Sunday worship service will begin at **10:30 a.m.** **Sunday School** will resume on **Sunday, September 14 at 9:00 a.m.**

The schedule on Sundays will be as follows:

Sunday School **9:00 a.m.**

Worship **10:30 a.m.**

Bible Study – The Words in Red

Pastor Mark will be leading a Bible Study on Sunday mornings at **9:00 a.m.** beginning **September 14** called the **Words in Red** – the words of Jesus. This study is for everybody – especially those who feel like they don't know much about the Bible. Come check it out!

Fall Festival – September 4-6

Fall Festival is an excellent opportunity for the church to be visible in the community and extend Christian hospitality to those who find their way to the food tent, stop to hear music at the stage, or who come down to the church for the pancake breakfast. There is a need for pies to be donated for the food tent and a need for workers for both the pancake breakfast and to help sell the pies and desserts. There are sign-ups at the church for pies, desserts, supplies, and time slots for volunteers to work. Desserts and pies can be dropped off directly at the food tent Thursday – Saturday.

To sell pies and desserts volunteers are needed:

Thursday, Sept. 4, 5-9 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 5, 5-9 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 6, 11 a.m. – Closing

There are also time slots for volunteers to help at the **pancake breakfast, Saturday, Sept. 6** beginning with the early set-up **5:45 – 6:30 a.m.** and two later time slots: **6:30 – 8:30 a.m.** and **8:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

“Closer to Free,” the church's contemporary group will be at the music stage on **Friday, September 5, at 6 p.m.**



Congratulations!!

Congratulations to Alivia Leigh Crisco, the daughter of Brad and Jill Crisco, who was baptized on Sunday, Aug. 17.

Congratulations to Anemelia Marie Catrino, the daughter of Mike and Heidi Catrino, who was baptized on Sunday, Aug. 24.

May God's blessings continue to come upon these children and their families as we celebrate that they belong to God's family in Jesus Christ.

Three Simple Rules

I especially look forward to this time of year when the children get back to school and most families do their best to settle into a routine for the year. It feels like a new beginning and a chance to work out our priorities and re-evaluate all our commitments.

During the month of August I have shared a sermon series on John Wesley's three simple rules for Christian living. John Wesley was one of the founders of United Methodism and had a strong commitment to helping Christians grow as followers of Jesus. He outlined these three simple rules, “Do no harm,” “Do all the good you can,” and “Love God.”

Do no harm – There are many ways to apply this rule. The most relevant may be in how we treat those who mean us harm or cause us harm. Rather than responding in kind, our calling from Jesus Christ is to respond with kindness and compassion. It is not easy but it is through making a commitment to do no harm that we take on the character of Christ in our relationships with others.

Do all the good we can – It is our calling to demonstrate the love of God through our actions and through our words. Sometimes our love falls short, but God's love has no limits. To do all the good we can requires that we allow God's love to flow through us. When we connect with other Christian friends and the church community we are truly able to do all the good we can as we serve Christ together.

Love God – The scriptures set the standard: To love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength. Loving God is not limited to one hour on Sunday mornings but is an everyday all-day activity that arises from a belief that God cares about everything in our lives and God is present in our work and in our living.

As we move into this busy time of year, I invite you to join me in following these three simple rules.

Pastor Mark

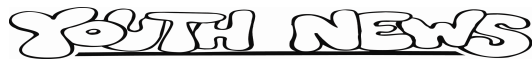


Mark your calendar! Sunday School starts September 14 from 9 to 10 a.m. We have a full hour of fellowship!! Our first meeting, we will join together in the fellowship hall for some announcements and exciting new changes. Our Pre-K through 5th grades will continue with the "Live Big" program. Our 6th through 8th grade class will try a new program called "Grapple" that tackles some of the issues our early teenagers are dealing with.

Please note that the worship service will begin at 10:30 a.m. We ask that parents pick up their children when class lets out at 10 a.m. The Pre-K and Kindergarten class will be transferred to the nursery if parents are running late. This will allow the teachers time to clean up and get to the sanctuary with their families in time for the 10:30 a.m. worship service. We are looking forward to an exciting year!

Wiener Roast: Come to our wiener roast to celebrate fall and all of our exciting youth programs, from Sunday School to Vacation Bible School to Children's Church to Jr. High Youth Group to Sr. High Worship. The list is continually growing! **All are invited to celebrate the programs and get to know other families.**

When: September 14 from 4-7 p.m. **Where:** Lawrence, Karla, Sara and Erica Kane home – 14208 W. Southport Road. (Route 8, 3 miles east of Oak Hill). Ph: (309) 446-9454. **We will provide:** hot dogs/buns, table service and drinks. **Please bring:** a dish to share, lawn chairs and roasting sticks if you have them.



Sr. High Youth Group: Have you ever wondered how you could become more

involved with younger folks without too much time commitment? Well, the Sr. High Youth need you! Beginning Thursday, September 11, we will be meeting weekly from 6:30 to 8 p.m. We will be sharing a meal, music, a message and prayer. If you are interested, or even a little curious, contact Joe or Emily Webel at (217) 840-2470 or e-mail emily@webelfarms.com for more information. Thanks!

Jr. High Youth Group: Did you know that a Jr. High Youth Group has started? Did you know it is for 6th, 7th and 8th graders? The group is being led by Julie Parrish and Becky Bledsoe-hunt and is geared toward "how we can serve others" with some fun in between. Their first gathering in September will be at the wiener roast at the Kane home on September 14. Future meeting dates will be announced. If you would like to know more about the group come and check it out!

Young Disciples (Children's Church): Our children's church program, teaching our children to be "Young Disciples," will continue this fall during the 10:30 worship service. We are trying a new program called "Kids Own Worship." This program is for K through 5th grade children. If you are in 6th grade or older and would like to be a teacher or assist with this program, please contact Angie Tracy at 742-2020 to be put into the rotation schedule.

Acolytes: All youth wishing to participate in lighting candles for worship service need to attend a short informational gathering on the "duties of an acolyte" on September 21st at 9:20 a.m. Even if you have been an acolyte before, it is a good refresher as sometimes we forget some safety habits. If you cannot attend the meeting, please contact Karla Kane at 446-9454 and let her know or we will assume you do not wish to be an acolyte. Youth 3rd grade and older are eligible to participate as an acolyte.



Women's Small Group News: Our Women's Small Group will start with an introductory meeting on Monday evening, September 29, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. An overwhelming number of women said they were interested in a study that would improve their relationship with Christ. We have chosen *The Search for Significance* by Robert S. McGee as our fall study. It is an eight-week study aimed at building your self-worth based on God's truth. A copy of the study guide as well as a sign-up sheet will be available before and after the worship service through September. You may contact Lori Johnson at 742-4704 or ljohnson2428@hotmail.com, with questions.

CALLING ALL MOMS!!!

Are you a mother of young children looking for a group where you can enjoy fellowship with other moms while your children receive quality care?

If so, the MOM SQUAD is for you. MOM SQUAD will feature speakers, activities, and social functions to uplift and renew moms so they may be the women that God intends them to be. MOM SQUAD will meet on Thursdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m. beginning on September 11. Do you work on Thursday mornings? If so, you can join us for our evening social functions.

Children in KID'S SQUAD will receive quality care from our staff. Infants and toddlers will listen to stories and play while preschoolers enjoy the "Live Big" program.

We are still looking for substitute childcare workers and others who would be interested in supporting our group through prayer, welcoming and registration, refreshments, and other activities.

For registration information and other questions, please contact Lori Johnson at 742-4704 or ljohnson2428@hotmail.com.



UMW SUNDAY

The morning worship service on Sunday, September 14 will be UMW Sunday. Janice Griffith, District Superintendent for the Spoon River District, will be our guest speaker. UMW members will serve as greeters, ushers, and organist and will be presenting the children's moment. An all church potluck dinner will be held in the fellowship hall following the service. All are invited to join us for a great morning of worship and fellowship.

The UMW District Meeting is scheduled for September 15 in Kewanee, IL (instead of Canton). Gathering time is 8:30 a.m. The cost for lunch is \$8.50. Reservations are due by Monday, September 8. See Evelyn Dorich for further information.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive at the United Methodist Church in Elmwood on Wednesday, September 10, from 1 to 7 p.m. For an appointment, please call Diana Ladd at 742-8415. (You are eligible if you have not donated since July 16, 2008.)



THANK YOU to each one who shared their talents with us during the summer by providing special music in the worship services. We appreciate your willingness to participate in this ministry.

THANK YOU to everyone who donated supplies and money for the students who attend Pleasant Hill School. We will be delivering the balance of the supplies in the near future. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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

September 7, 2008

GREETERS: Roland/Cathy Ekstrand
USHERS: Celene Duley/Lavonne Rushing
LITURGIST: Jerry Wilson
ACOLYTES: Mia Stevens/Alex Vallas
0-2 NURSERY: Angie Tracy
3-5 NURSERY: Connie/Allie Johnston
K-2 C CHURCH: Becky Hunt/Dom Catrino
3-5 C CHURCH: Dean Hunt/Chelsea Morse

September 14, 2008 – UMW Sunday

GREETERS: Winifred Horney/Bev Keefer
USHERS: Marge Haahn/Carol Kemper
LITURGIST: Pastor Mark Graham
ACOLYTES: Kaitlyn/Kyle Fuller
0-2 NURSERY: Robin/Miranda Furrer
3-5 NURSERY: Michelle/Taylor Armbruster
K-2 C CHURCH: Karla/Erica Kane
3-5 C CHURCH: Angie Tracy/Jake Ekstrand

September 21, 2008

GREETERS: Mark/Carol Kemper
USHERS: Lori Johnson/Chris Stevens
LITURGIST: Chris Ewalt
ACOLYTES: Ian/Taylor Armbruster
0-2 NURSERY: Celene Duley
3-5 NURSERY: Denise Dalton/Chelsie Forrest
K-2 C CHURCH: Lisa Roberts/Allie Johnston
3-5 C CHURCH: Emily Webel/Hannah Parm

September 28, 2008

GREETERS: Wayne/Joey Callister
USHERS: Bud/Lavonne Haney
LITURGIST: Mary Howard
ACOLYTES: Mike Bledsoe/Dom Catrino
0-2 NURSERY: Cheryl Whitehurst/H. Forrest
3-5 NURSERY: Michelle/Ian Armbruster
K-2 C CHURCH: Celene/Ashley Duley
3-5 C CHURCH: Kayla Duley/Miranda Furrer

The word "September" is written in a decorative, serif font. The letters are black with white outlines. The word is surrounded by several small, stylized leaves and berries, giving it a seasonal, autumnal feel.

ATTENTION: If you are unable to serve on the day given, find someone from the list to trade with. Please let Lavonne Rushing or Michelle Armbruster (for nursery) know if you no longer wish to serve or if you wish to add your name to the list. **THANK YOU!**