

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**September, 2011**

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

### Upcoming Events:

- |      |                      |   |
|------|----------------------|---|
| 9/1  | 6 p.m.               | Trustee Meeting   |
| 9/8  | 9 a.m.<br>6 p.m.     | Mom Squad Begins<br>Pie/Dessert Sale at park                              |
| 9/9  | 5 p.m.               | Pie/Dessert Sale at park  |
| 9/10 | 6:30 a.m.<br>11 a.m. | Pancake Breakfast at UMC<br>Pie/Dessert Sale at park                      |
| 9/11 | 5 p.m.               | Drama R Us  |
| 9/12 | 7 p.m.               | Manna Board Meeting   |
| 9/13 | 9:30 a.m.            | UMW meeting   |
| 9/15 | 9 a.m.<br>6:30 p.m.  | Mom Squad<br>Alpha Group  |
| 9/17 | 9 a.m.               | Scrapbooking Workshop   |
| 9/18 | 9 a.m.<br>7 p.m.     | Sunday School begins<br>Community Service with<br>Todd & Arnetta Hastings |
| 9/20 | 9:30 a.m.            | UMW Circle meeting  |
| 9/25 | 10:30 a.m.<br>5 p.m. | UMW Sunday & Potluck<br>Drama R Us  |
| 9/29 | 12 p.m.              | Manna Meal  |



# The Beacon



## Fall Festival September 8 – 10

Pie/Dessert Sales – Food tent Sept. 8, 9, 10  
Pancake Breakfast, Saturday, Sept. 10, 6:30 – 10:00 a.m.  
Volunteers, Supplies, Food Items needed  
Sign Up in Church Foyer or call church office at 742-7221  
Serving Christ as we serve the community



**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.

### **Fall Festival – Sept. 8 - 10**

The United Methodist Church of Elmwood will continue to have a substantial role in this year's Fall Festival. Many people serve on several different organizations in Elmwood and are busy with set-up, food tent, clean-up, and this year's 5K run/walk. In addition the church will continue to have the following opportunities to serve:

#### **Pie/Dessert Table at the Food Tent –**

Desserts will be for sale whenever the food tent is open until the items are sold out on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. If you would like to donate pies and desserts, please sign up at the church. In compliance with Peoria County Public Health, please have your pies, cakes, brownies, Rice Krispies treats, and cookies cut, put on disposable plates, and individually wrapped or placed in a Ziploc bag, before bringing them directly to the food tent. Suggested sizes: 6-7 slices per pie, 3 large or 4 smaller cookies per plate, brownies, Rice Krispies treats cut from a 9 x 13 pan into 12 – one per plate. Disposable plates and Ziploc bags will be available at the church for your dessert items. Contact Lavonne Rushing 742-8010, Sherry Powers 742-8316, or Mary Howard 742-8187 if you have any questions.

#### **Pancake Breakfast at the Church –**

**Saturday, Sept 10, from 6:30 – 10:00 a.m.**  
**Adults: \$5.00, Children 5-10: \$2.00, Children under 5: \$1.00.** All the pancakes and sausage you can eat, fresh fruit, juice, milk and coffee. **All proceeds will go to the church's local mission fund for needs in Elmwood and the surrounding area.** Supplies and volunteers are needed; schedules & sign-up sheets are in the church foyer area or call the church office to sign up.

#### **Church Float in Fall Festival Parade –**

Contact Janet Mottaz 742-2350 or Karla Kane 446-9454 if you would like to help.

### **Elmwood Fall Festival 5K Run/Walk**

*Sponsored by Mom Squad & Fall Festival*  
A 5K Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, September 10, at 8 a.m. beginning and finishing at Central Park, along with a Kids Fun Run at 9 a.m. for youth 12 years and under. Registration forms with all the details are available in the foyer by the office.

#### **Ten Year Anniversary of 9-11**

On **Saturday, Sept. 10, at 1:30 p.m.** at the music stage during Fall Festival, there will be a brief remembrance of those who lost their lives in the 9-11 attack at the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and rural Pennsylvania. The high school band and area pastors will be participating in this ceremony to remember those who lost their lives in 9-11 ten years ago, to honor the fire fighters, police, and ambulance staff who serve and protect the residents of our community and surrounding area now, and to look to the future with the hope and promise of bringing US troops safely home. This brief ceremony is an opportunity for those in our community and surrounding area to express our thanks to our veterans and to all our civil servants and to appropriately remember this tragic event in our nation's history. Please plan to come by the music stage following the parade for this important occasion.

#### **Good Things Come to Those Who Wait...**

In Isaiah 40, it says, "Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, shall mount up with wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint." We've had the groundbreaking, all the contracts have been signed, sealed and delivered. Everything is in order. So now we wait. We expect construction to begin anytime. Hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter something will be happening. But if not, we have been assured that it will all be underway very soon. So let us wait with patience and endurance.

### **Remembering 9-11**

Do you remember where you were and what you were doing on September 11, 2001? I was dropping my kids off at school. The radio was on and the newscasters were trying to make sense out of what was happening in New York City. In minutes it was apparent that it was a terrorist attack and our nation was changed forever. Since then our nation has committed its troops to two major wars, we have had numerous security measures added to our routine when we travel and we have adjusted to a new "normal" which includes living with a heightened level of anxiety. Our hearts ache for those families that lost loved ones on that terrible day. We are in awe of the fire fighters and rescue workers who put their lives on the line to do anything and everything they could to bring people safely out of the towers before they collapsed. Our hearts go out to those who survived and yet have struggled with the emotional and physical trauma that has had long-term effects on their health.

It is appropriate as we approach the ten year anniversary to remember those who lost their lives, to honor the living who survived, and to express our appreciation to fire fighters, police officers, and ambulance personnel in our communities who routinely risk their lives as they serve and protect.

I remember the Sundays following 9-11. There was a surge in attendance for a couple Sundays. It didn't last long. I think most churches missed an opportunity to connect with people who were searching for answers and were hoping that the church would be a place where they could connect with like-minded people and find support in their search. Unfortunately, the church I was serving at the time and many other churches across the country didn't really change or adapt to accommodate those new people who were flocking to the church. The attitude of the church I served and many other churches throughout the US was business as usual. If we weren't

friendly before 9-11 we still weren't friendly after. If we weren't particularly relevant in addressing people's needs before 9-11, we weren't really much better after. Many more people came to church after 9-11 but soon dropped out remembering why they had dropped out of the church in the first place long before 9-11. Many churches missed the chance to love and support people who were looking for connection and looking for a safe place to explore their questions about God and about what had happened in our country.

Ten years later God is giving us a chance to do a better job. People all around us are anxious about the economy and the future. We can demonstrate for the people around us the love of Jesus Christ and the hope he gives us to rise above the turmoil and uncertainty we face. We can listen to people around us, offer encouragement, and do the best we can to be hopeful and resilient ourselves. As we trust God with our lives, as we give ourselves to Christ, He provides the power and presence of the Holy Spirit to move within us so that we have the assurance that he's real, that he's here, and that he will give us the courage we need to face any calamity. Being people of faith is not easy. But when we stay strong, don't give up, and stick together, people take notice. Our church has a unique opportunity to support one another, to help each other up when we fall, and help all of us find and know Jesus who is not so far away, who lives where we live, who hurts with us when we hurt, and will never leave us no matter what. We have this chance to be contagious with the victorious life we experience through Jesus Christ. Let's not miss the opportunity this time.

– Pastor Mark



### Youth Fight for Hunger:

Moving away from the table can bring you closer to God and to those who go without. Every day we hear or see something about people in need and as young people we sometimes wonder...what can I do? Can I make a difference? This is something our young people continue to search out and as a result decided to help fight hunger by fasting and having a car wash to collect canned food. We planned many activities to keep us busy through the 24 hours. Through our studies we learned that "man does not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the lord." (Deut. 8:3). God's word and each other helped us stay strong. Fasting helped us have a little more empathy for those who are without food. We are thankful for many things: that God provides, that we don't have to skip many meals, and that the support of our church family, parents, and others helped us exceed our goal of \$600 and reach a total of \$884. We will be visiting the South Side Mission soon to pass on the money for their daily meals program. We also collected 75 pounds of canned food for our church food pantry.

In Matthew 6 Jesus teaches us that fasting is a private act of sacrificial worship that should not provide any room for religious pride. We would just like to express our appreciation for the love and support we received during this time and the wonderful banquet of food following.

UMC Jr./Sr. High Youth

### Sunday School Starts September 18<sup>th</sup>!

*Come one, come all...to the greatest story every told!* Sunday School starts September 18 at 9 a.m. Our format has changed a little in that we would like the Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grades to join in the praise music at the beginning of the worship service, after which they will be dismissed for class. Pre-K can report directly to their classroom as we will get them used to one program at a time. We have made some class group changes, as follows: Pre-K; Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade; 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grades; 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades; and 7-12<sup>th</sup> grades. Please note there is a class this year for Sr. High students. Any class that grows may be split to accommodate class participation. More information will be mailed the first week of September along with a registration card. The card is so we can get to know the

students better and have contact information for each participant. Please return the card to the office or give it to Karla Kane. Blank cards will be available in the foyer if you misplace yours or by some chance don't receive one in the mail. Also note that we will be doing more hands-on Bible work, so bring your favorite version and share God's word with us. If you have any questions, please contact Karla Kane at 446-9454 or [kckane@s-pelmwood.com](mailto:kckane@s-pelmwood.com). *We look forward to sharing God's word together!*

### Sunday School Aides Needed!

This session, because our classes are bigger and younger children need a little extra help, we are looking for aides for the Pre-K class and the Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> Grade class. Aides do not have to prepare anything, just help the children. Aides will be on a rotating schedule so they will not have to be present every week unless they would like to. *Come get that shot of pure carefree child love on Sunday morning!* Please contact Karla Kane for more information or to sign up.

### MOM SQUAD:

**Calling all Moms!** Mom Squad is starting up its 2011-2012 year on Thursday, September 8, at 9 a.m. If you are an at-home mom in need of adult conversation, yummy snacks, and great speakers in a Christ-centered environment, this is the place for you. Please contact Emily Webel (217) 840-2470 or [emilywebel@gmail.com](mailto:emilywebel@gmail.com) for more information on this year's registration and fees. We would love to invite all moms from our surrounding communities to be included in this growing, exciting, and uplifting ministry.

**Serving Opportunities:** If you are a mom of older, school-aged (and above) children or a grandma or just a loving person with nowhere to go on a Thursday morning, we could use you too! Kid Squad is a wonderful place to serve children ages birth to five. Please contact Emily Webel or Kathleen Conklin (309) 645-4243 if you are interested in Kid Squad being your mission.

**Nursery:** If you volunteer in the nursery and have any changes in your availability, your phone number or e-mail address, or would like to begin helping in the nursery, please advise one of our Nursery Directors, Alana Parm (358-2300) or Robin Furrer (565-4240). Thank you.

**VBS Recap:** The last week of July our church was transformed into a scene from "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus was a Kid" for this year's Elmwood Community Vacation Bible School. About 100 children from local churches gathered to hear stories about Jesus' boyhood at Mary's house, enjoyed tasty treats at the snack shop, created unique items at marketplace crafts, played low-tech, high-fun "Nazareth-style" games, and learned lots of great new songs along the way. The kids loved performing for their families on the final VBS night which also included the Pre-K children from their special Saturday VBS session. 2011 was the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year our Elmwood churches have joined together for Community VBS. This event simply could not happen without the commitment and dedication of everyone involved. We appreciate all who volunteered to help each night at VBS, those who decorated, undecorated, donated supplies and money, prepared in any way, the people who worked behind the scenes, and those who offered prayer support. It truly has been a collaborative effort. In the end, it is our hope that through the VBS experience, lives have been touched, and kids and adults alike have been drawn closer to Christ. Thank you, UMC family, for being a part of it!

Lisa Roberts, VBS Director

### "Jesus had a family, we do too."



### "Jesus went to church, we do too."



### "Jesus served others, we do to."



### More VBS pics on the Website version!

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

#### September 4, 2011

GREETERS: Marge Camp/Jill Williams  
USHERS: Bob Paige/Doug Whitney  
LITURGIST: Don Forrest  
0-5 NURSERY: Jill Crisco/Sara Kane  
COFFEE BAR: Armbruster Family

#### September 11, 2011

GREETERS: Ted/Janet Mottaz  
USHERS: Norma Bowhay/Janet Vallas  
LITURGIST: Emily Webel  
0-5 NURSERY: Robin Furrer/Kristi Link  
COFFEE BAR: Lori Johnson

#### September 18, 2011

GREETERS: Jim/Mary Dawson  
USHERS: Sherry Powers  
Lavonne Rushing  
LITURGIST: Marilee Hurst  
0-5 NURSERY: Julie Bartlow/Haleigh Forrest  
COFFEE BAR: **Need Volunteer**

#### September 25, 2011

GREETERS: Don/Michelle Forrest  
USHERS: Roland/Cathy Ekstrand  
LITURGIST: Kurt Webster  
0-5 NURSERY: Alana/Hanna Parm  
COFFEE BAR: **Need Volunteer**

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

**September 4, 2011**

GREETERS: Chuck/Connie Johnston  
 USHERS: Danny/Marilyn Bowhay  
 LITURGIST: Jerry Wilson  
 ACOLYTES: Ethan/Jake Callister  
 0-5 NURSERY: Alana/Hannah Parm

**September 11, 2011**

GREETERS: Gary/Kathryn Fincham  
 USHERS: Mark/Carol Kemper  
 LITURGIST: Tom Tracy  
 ACOLYTES: Ben/Emmie Crisco  
 0-5 NURSERY: Michelle/Ian/Taylor  
 Armbruster

**September 18, 2011**

GREETERS: Ruth Arnold/Diana Ladd  
 USHERS: Wayne Callister/Dave Pittman  
 LITURGIST: Mary Nell Simpson  
 ACOLYTES: Travis Johnson  
 Logan Whitney  
 0-5 NURSERY: Robin Furrer/Erica Kane

**September 25, 2011**

GREETERS: Joanne Endres  
 Peggy Harding  
 USHERS: Dennis/Cheryl Whitehurst  
 LITURGIST: Mandy Garrett  
 ACOLYTES: Erica Kane/Catie Tracy  
 0-5 NURSERY: Shelli Shoop/Chelsea Morse



**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!**

**More VBS Pictures – Enjoy!**

Following are the 12 tribes of Israel that participated in our VBS.



