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# faith news



September 2019

Monthly Newsletter of

Eldridge United Methodist Church

## CONVERSATIONS with Pastor Courtney

I joined Facebook in 2006 as a college sophomore. One of my friends encouraged me to join as a way to stay connected with people in my classes so we could discuss assignments and meet up for group projects. (By the way, this was the original intent of Facebook.) I began to use Facebook with this motivation, but then I quickly realized that I had to post at least every day if not every week. Sometimes my posts were optimistic life updates, but a lot of the time I found myself venting or looking for a self-esteem boost from friends.

In my 20's Facebook seemed to take on a new role of "see what milestones I haven't reached in my life yet." I watched friends (classmates) begin their dream careers, get married and have children - all things which had not yet happened in my life. Facebook then evolved into an unhealthy atmosphere where I was comparing myself to others and wishing I had what they had instead of focusing on all the blessings I had.

When I received my call into ministry, my outlook on Facebook shifted. Not only did I have a goal to focus on, but I only wanted to put grace and truth into the world. I did not want to be posting negative things or look for empathy from people I do not come into face-to-face contact with. I only wanted my worth to be defined by God, a God who gave me the gifts and graces to do ministry. I stopped posting on Facebook unless it was encouraging or uplifting to others.

I still find myself scrolling through Facebook and comparing myself to others, but this is less often. Instead, I try to fill my mind with God's Word and truth. So my challenge to myself and to all of you is that at least two times a day when you reach for your phone to check social media, take those few minutes to say a prayer or read a few verses from the Bible. Let us leave behind those things in our lives that distract us, and open our hearts to grow in our relationship with God.



## EUMC Birthday & Anniversary Club

### July/August Club Members

Shirley Lucas  
Janalee Keppy  
Sally Riewerts

### 2019 Contributions:

**\$1,557**  
(as of 8/18/19)



# september birthdays

9/3	Wayne Gay
9/5	Gabriel Skyles
9/6	Bob Brandon Clifton Willey
9/7	Owen Popelka Grant Stilson
9/11	Lynn Reth
9/14	Larry Frazee Marcia Nestler
9/15	Ethel Reynolds
9/17	Mark Wall
9/18	Betty Frazee Ana Kinney
9/19	Patrick McLain
9/21	Marcia Rowley
9/22	Dee Childers Cory Gay Aurora Gentz
9/24	Kyle Apple
9/26	Melvin Reth
9/28	Anna Hodge Stacie Kintigh Steve Sorensen

## & anniversaries

9/1	Trish Reisener & Jess Medina
9/7	Dale & Shirley Carey
9/9	Dave & Carol Faeth
9/16	Aaron & LeAnn Cary
9/19	Lloyd & Janalee Keppy
9/30	Wayne & Joyce Gay



## SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEERS

DATE	GREETER	ACOLYTE	USHER	LITURGIST	KOW/ Nursery	TREATS	PIANO	AV
9/1*	Nancy Bryant; Trish Reisener	Reese Crain; Tabitha Skyles	Rheta Allen; Norma Nielson	Trish Reisener	Cindy Irwin	Crains; Doonans	Kathy Dawson	↑
9/8	Apple Family	Reese Crain; Tabitha Skyles	Dennis & Donna Eudaley	Vicki Shaw	K.O.W. (Miss Brenda)	Dee Childers; Shaws	Sally Riewerts	Keith Riewerts
9/15	Sara Sack & Megan	Reese Crain; Tabitha Skyles	Jackie Berhenke; Janet Wright	Cindy Irwin	Blake Family	Donna Eudaley; Janalee Keppy	CJ Albertson	
9/22	Jackie Berhenke; Mike Wright	Reese Crain; Tabitha Skyles	Apple Family	Keith Riewerts	K.O.W. (Miss Brenda)	Dana Blake; Carol Haugland	Linda Reickard	
9/29	Don & Marianne Doonan	Reese Crain; Tabitha Skyles	Dan & Becky Esbaum	Aundrea Crain	Lehman Family	Apple Family; Sondra Bulazo	Elizabeth Leslie	
*COMMUNION STEWARD: Nancy Bryant				MOWING: 8/25-9/7 Larry Herrington 9/8-9/21 Brian Popelka				

## *Dear Lord, hear our prayers for ...*

- Victims of Hurricane Dorian and other ecological disasters around the world.
- Family of Pat Mart (Rheta Allen's best friend; 'Compass' alumnus)
- Ray Hampton - declining health
- Tim Reickard - ongoing health struggles
- Leona Lightner - continuing health problems
- Linda Clark - recovering from (broken) hip surgery
- Carol Faeth - difficulties recovering from knee surgery
- Shellee Frazee - continuing pain & struggles from earlier fall
- Strength, healing, love & support for Cindy Irwin, Pat Mart, Robyn Messerly, Jan Mayer (Trish Reisener's neighbor), Terri Dockery & all with cancer and other serious disease.



### **-felt Thanks**

*for all the calls, emails, letters, and cards that you have sent since I broke my hip July 1. It has meant so much to both Dick and me to hear from such dear friends. How thoughtful of you! Our hearts are full remembering members of the Eldridge U.M. Church with whom we shared our lives for eleven years. You are very special to us!* Linda Clark



# Children Youth & Family Ministries



## A "New LOOK" for Youth Programming

### NURSERY-AGED CHILDREN:

"Sunday School" for this group of children will be a combination of traditional Sunday School, Children's Sermon, and Christian Fellowship through play. Beginning Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, youngsters will no longer have a 'children's sermon' during adult worship, but will come forward for a prayer/blessing from Pastor Courtney before being dismissed to the Nursery/Education Wing for the remainder of the worship hour. There, Brenda Sorensen will be providing K.O.W. (Kids Own Worship) curriculum *every other week*. On the off weeks, parents will rotate supervision of free play time that emphasizes fellowship/sharing/kindness, etc. *(This is no the only form of "Sunday School" for youth. See below regarding our Wonderful Wednesday alternative.)*

As we have been doing, the pianists will play a traditional *Children's* "church song" as the kids come forward for their blessing and as the leave for K.O.W./nursery. We encourage all the older worshipers to SING OUT on these songs as we will try to encourage our youngsters to learn them and keep them in their hearts through adulthood as well.

### ALL SCHOOL-AGE YOUTH:

Kindergarten thru High School students will experience the re-tooled version of WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS beginning on September 11<sup>th</sup>! We will still begin at 6pm with a free meal (for ALL ages—even adults!) and then from 6:20-7:00, students will enjoy a new format for exploring their faith and friendships. K-6 will have an opening session including music and a lesson by Pastor Courtney, then break into groups for discussion and activity lead by church volunteers. Junior High & High School students will be with Steve Sorensen. (There will be no 'Sunday School' on Sunday mornings for K-12 students.)

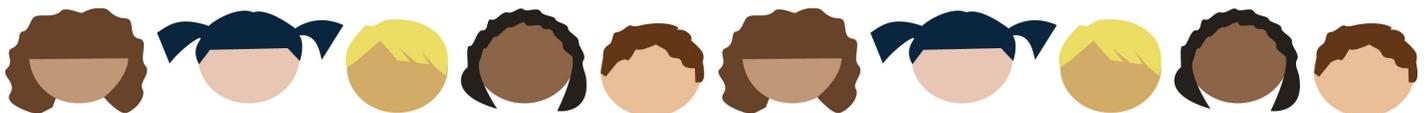
If you are interested in volunteering with the K-6 students — *regularly or 'every now and then'* — there will be a volunteer meeting at 6pm on Wednesday, September 4 at the church. If you are interested but cannot make the meeting, please let Pastor Courtney know.



PS—THANK YOU SO MUCH to all who have already signed up to provide a Wednesday night meal. Every slot is full through December!!!

### CONFIRMATION 2020:

*It's not too late!* All youth ages 12 and older are invited to attend CONFIRMATION CLASSES to learn more about the Christian faith, Methodist denomination and join Eldridge United Methodist Church on April 19, 2020. The first confirmation class will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15, at the church. See Pastor Courtney to 'get registered' and receive a full schedule of class dates.



## Come & Join the Fun of Christian Fellowship

# CYFM (con't.)

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Welcome Back! Adults have TWO opportunities to gather for Sunday School (10:15am) to study God's word, find application to the world around us, and continue in worship as we fellowship together here at EUMC:

- \* Traditional Group — starts TOMORROW (9/1); studying Adam Hamilton's "John" (a dvd series w/discussion); meets in EUMC library
- \* Young Parents Group — begins Sept. 8; discussing current topics for living/parenting- "Christian" in today's world

Although we'd love to see you *every* week, the lessons can stand alone, enabling you to drop in as you are able. So please grab your coffee and treat after worship, and join in as often you can make it.

## LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

We will soon be meeting again for our weekly Bible Study in the church library. This year we'll be meeting on Tuesday mornings at 10:20 starting with a study of "The Impossible Jesus". Our first get-together is September 10th and we hope you can join us. Just like Sunday School, each lesson stands alone, so don't give up if you can't make it every time.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

At 7am on the 2nd Saturday of each month, the men of the church meet for a nice breakfast and great Christian fellowship at the Argo Corners Café. If you don't know where in the world "Argo" is, just call the church and we'll give you directions or find you a carpool ride. Hopefully, we'll see you at our next breakfast on September 14th.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (a.k.a. "UMW")

The United Methodist Women of our church are a faith-filled and active group! Meeting monthly at 3pm on the 4th Wednesday of the Month, they enjoy laughs, share life, and study/discuss topics to draw closer to God...not to mention always having great treats! Here's hoping we see YOU this year...especially at our next meeting September 25th!

## Making Sweet Music



Sing With Us

The EUMC Chancel Choir is made up of 30-ish talented and dedicated musicians. With everything from degreed music majors to life-long 'sing-along-with-the radio' buffs, they have graced this church with a weekly anthem as well as wonderful plays, cantatas, and special music for various celebrations and events. We would love to add YOU to the fun. Our first rehearsal of the new year is set for Sunday evening, September 8th at 4:30pm. The rest of the month, rehearsals are before Sunday worship at 8am. See one of our directors — Sally or Ryan Riewerts — or contact the church office for details.



Handchimes

Directed by Brenda Sorenson, our Hand Chime Choir has grown from a small group of little children to a large group of multi-generational 'chimers' who lend their beautiful music to many of our special worship services. Rehearsals have not yet begun for this year, but if you're interested in getting started (NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE NECESSARY), please let Brenda know so that she can arrange the upcoming music in accordance with the number of players available. (HINT, HINT — we have lost several of our chimers to college and other obligations, so we could really use some new folks. If you've ever caught yourself saying "That looks like fun", this is a perfect time to step out in faith.



SPECIAL MUSIC

The first Sunday of each month, the choir takes the day off—the perfect Sunday for us to enjoy the more personal talents of our church's plethora of talented members. If you sing or play an instrument or have a special talents that glorifies God, see Sally or call the office to volunteer!



EUMC is so blessed to have FIVE volunteer pianists who rotate weeks of accompanying worship. That being said, they'd be more than happy to make it a larger rotation by welcoming other pianists to join them (even as a 'substitute' when needed). If you play well enough to play hymns, we'd love you to help out. Any takers?

# Pastor Courtney's Meal Fellowship

Pastor Courtney will be hosting (but not PAYING! Yikes!) a couple more small MEAL FELLOWSHIPS in order to get to know more people better. While she'd like to keep the numbers at 8-10 in order to accommodate better, more intimate conversation, there are two upcoming opportunities and she'll be glad to schedule more if the numbers call for it! Please RSVP to Pastor Courtney or by calling the church office:

\* Friday, Sept. 13  
6pm at 350 Grille  
(RSVP by noon, please)

\* Tuesday, Sept 24  
Noon at Tasty Café  
(RSVP by 9am, please)

**12th ANNUAL NS FOOD PANTRY GOLF OPEN:**  
The St. Ann's Knights of Columbus is again hosting their Annual Food Pantry Golf Open beginning at 12:30 pm on September 8th at Glynn's Creek Golf Course in Long Grove. All proceeds will go directly to our North Scott Food Pantry. Contact Janalee, 285-4123, if you're interested in participating.

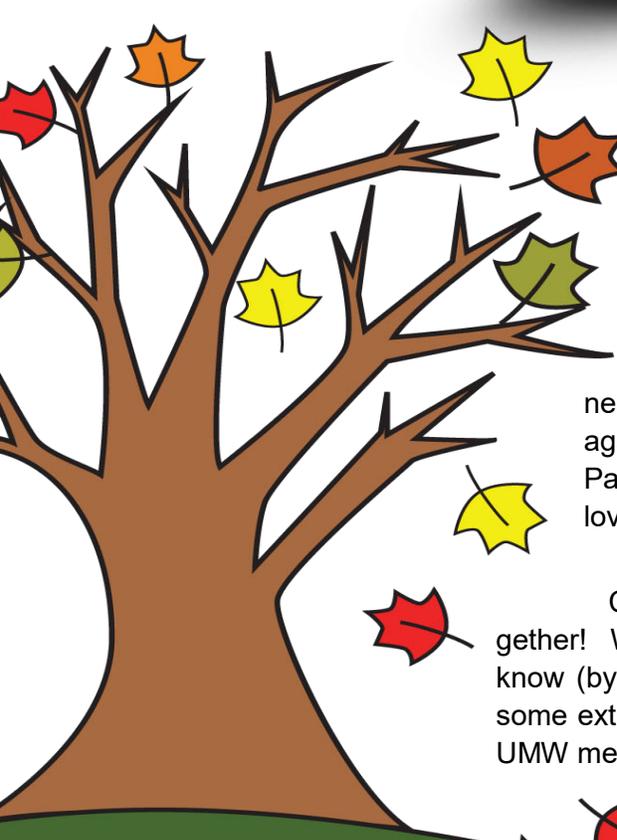
## Birthday Reception for Melvin Reth

Make a special point to stay after worship on Sunday, September 22nd to wish Melvin a Happy 90th birthday!



# COMING

# EVENTS



## UMW FALL RETREAT

### "The Sequel"

We enjoyed the Tubb's hospitality at "Wildwood" — their cabin near Maquoketa Caves — so much last year, that we're doing it again! We will meet from 10am—4 pm on Saturday, October 5th. Part II of the "Cozy Wooded Cabin" theme will be perfect in the lovely Fall setting of changing leaves!

Cost is only \$10 so please come join us for this special time together! We will be using the same book as last year, but just let Joyce know (by Sept 29th) if you need one. We'll plan on carpooling to share some extra fellowship as we travel! Questions? See Joyce Orcutt or any UMW member.



## ALTAR FLOWERS FOR SEPTEMBER

1<sup>st</sup> Christie Nevenhoven  
 8<sup>th</sup> Shirley Lucas  
 15<sup>th</sup> Frazee Family  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Wright Family  
 29<sup>th</sup> Sondra Bulazo

We have ONE open slot for MOWING this season --  
 Sept 22-Oct 5.

Can you help?



**Aspire**

Author & Speaker  
**MELISSA SPOELSTRA**

*1 night – 3 hours  
 Just for Women  
 An evening full of laughter,  
 learning, stories & music*

**FRIDAY,  
 SEPT. 20, 2019  
 BETTENDORF  
 CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
 3487 TOWNE POINTE DR.  
 BETTENDORF, IA 52722

Comedy by  
**SALLY BAUCKE**

Worship with  
**MIA KOEHNE**

**7:00PM SHOW**  
 6:30 PM GA DOORS OPEN  
 6:00 PM VIP DOORS OPEN

**ADVANCE TICKETS**  
 \$25 Gen. Admission | \$35 VIP  
 \$20 Groups of 10 or more.  
 Group sales call 480-812-1100

VIP ticket includes early entry for preferred seating and Q-n-A session with all the speakers and artists.

Purchase tickets at **480-812-1100**  
 or online at:  
**ASPIREWOMENSEVENTS.com**

Abingdon Women | Compassion | EFP Extreme Faith Productions

Talk to Donna Eudaley or call the church office.



My lips will shout for **JOY,**  
 when I **SING** praises to you; My soul  
 also which you have **REDEEMED.**

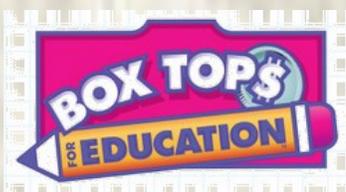
Psalm 71:23

# EUMC Reaching Out



**HiSET MENTORING** begins its Fall Term very soon meeting on Monday nights here at the church. If you or some you know would like to work toward your/their High School Equivalency Certification, call the church office and we'll get you all set up with a personalized plan.

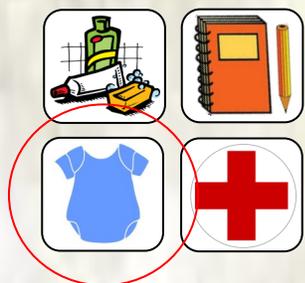
**September** AT THE **FOOD PANTRY** → **CLEANING SUPPLIES !!**



We continue to collect General Mills **BOXTOPS-4-EDUCATION** and unused travel toiletries to include in gift bags with the **CHURCHES UNITED** meal at Christmastime. Collection areas are at the back of the Gathering Area.

## 40th Annual Mission Ingathering

It is time again to collect items for the Annual Mission Ingathering kits. September's focus will be the LAYETTE KITS—information sheets concerning all kits are available on the Missions table in the Gathering Area. Remember, they will only accept items as described. Whole kits and/or items for kits collected to October 13th.



An outreach of Eldridge United Methodist Church,  
"Compass" is non-denominational,  
and completely FREE of charge.

# COMPASS

Grief Support Ministry

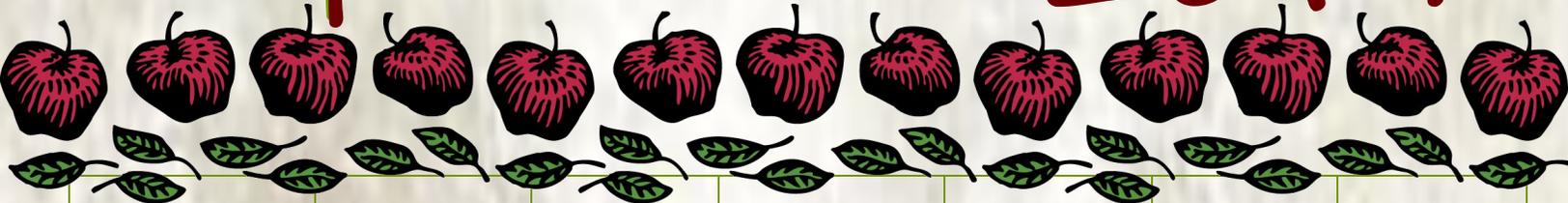
at Eldridge United Methodist Church  
604 S. 2nd Street, Eldridge

Four education lessons followed by five group support sessions,  
EUMC's "Compass" is designed specifically for WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS.  
For more information, call: (563)285-4314

The 2019  
Fall Session  
begins  
September 10th



# September 2019



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> Communion Sunday 9:00/ Worship	<b>2</b> Office Closed  <b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00 Yoga  6:00 Pastor mtg. w/ WW volunteers	<b>5</b>  5-7 Compass "B.Y.O.S."	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00/ Worship 9:15 K.O.W. 10:10 Adult SS 10:20 Trustee mtg.  12:30 Golf Outing 4:30 Choir Practice	<b>9</b> Office Closed  5:30 Lions Club 6:30 HiSET	<b>10</b>  6:30-8:00 COMPASS Grief Support	<b>11</b> 9:00 Yoga 10:00 Pastor to Grand Haven  6-7 WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY	<b>12</b>  6:30 Admin Council Mtg	<b>13</b>  6:30 Conversation w/ Pastor @ 350 Grille	<b>14</b> 7am Men's Breakfast in Argo
<b>15</b> 8:00 Choir Practice 9:00/ Worship 10:10 Adult SS  4:00 Confirmation Class begins	<b>16</b> Office Closed  6:00 Lion's Board 6:30 HiSET	<b>17</b>  6:30-8:00 COMPASS Grief Support	<b>18</b> 9:00 Newsletter Items Due 9:00 Yoga  6-7 WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY	<b>19</b> Pastor to Columbus Junction	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:00 Choir Practice 9:00/ Worship 9:15 K.O.W. 10:10 Adult SS 10:00 90 <sup>th</sup> B-Day Reception for Melvin Reth  4:00 Confirmation Class	<b>23</b> Office Closed  6:30 HiSET	<b>24</b> Noon - Conversation w/ Pastor @ Tasty Cafe  6:30-8:00 COMPASS Grief Support	<b>25</b> 9:00 Yoga  3:00 UMW mtg.  6-7 WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 5:30 Wedding Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 4:00 Wedding (Kling/Faust 1:00-5:30)
<b>29</b> Food Pantry Sunday 8:00 Choir Practice 9:00/ Worship 10:10 Adult SS  4:00 Confirmation Class	<b>30</b> Office Closed  6:30 HiSET	<p>As we move into the 'new year', the EUMC office will continue the same hours: Open Tuesday-Friday from 8:30am-12:30pm with Brenda working in the office on Tuesdays and CJ working on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays*. Feel free to stop in/call any time for assistance OR call during non-office hours, leave a message (563-285-4314) and we'll get back to you next time we're in the office.</p> <p>*Beginning the week of the 23rd, Pastor Courtney will not be in the office on Fridays but will usually be available Tuesday-Thursday from 8:30-noon.</p>				

## Administrative Council Meeting Minutes-August 15, 2019, 6:30 PM

Members present: Pastor Courtney Dake, CJ Albertson, Joyce Orcutt, Brian Popelka, Keith Riewerts, Brenda Sorensen, and Bill Tubbs

1. Opening devotion by Bill Tubbs.
2. Reviewed previous minutes. Bill Tubbs moved to accept the minutes; Brian Popelka seconded.
3. Committee overview/needs
  - 3.01 **Finance:** July fund balances: General Operating \$45,464.67; Building \$21,288.60; Checking account balance \$77,953.04.
  - 3.02 **SPPRC:** Gary and Judy Kilzer met with Pastor Courtney to discuss concerns of some members of the congregation. Gary emphasized that members of the congregation should address personal concerns by first speaking with the person directly if possible, or meet with the chair of the SPPRC committee.
  - 3.03 **Trustees:** Need to have a meeting to follow-up on security issues with the church. Reviewed status on retribution for church vandalism.
  - 3.05 **CYFM:** Average attendance at VBS was 15, with an average of 15 volunteers. The program ran smoothly. Pastor Courtney has been organizing Fall activities: Wonderful Wednesday starts 9/11 and Sunday School 9/8. Sunday school for youth will be led by Brenda Sorensen to consist of K.O.W. every *other* Sunday for those who attend nursery.
  - 3.05 **Missions:** No report.
  - 3.06 **UMW:** This week is the last Sunday to order peaches/pies. Next meeting will be Aug 28.
4. List out current committees with leads and team members
  - 4.01 List was distributed.
5. Review what additional committees the team feels we need (nominations, youth, trustees, SPPRC, missions, community outreach? Internal recruiting? finance, small groups?, building utilization, other?)
  - 5.01 Suggested reforming a Fellowship committee.
  - 5.02 Members of the Admin council are to submit names to Pastor Courtney for a nominations committee by next Thursday. Current members are Pastor Courtney and Joyce Orcutt. Bill Tubbs volunteered to be on the committee.
6. Charge the committees with developing a needs/plan/goals list for the next year
  - 6.01 Ask committee chairs to submit needs/plan/goals to the nominations committee by next Admin meeting.
7. Particular focus on the nominations committee actions that are needed, what do we want them to do? Come out of the meeting with an action list with timing.
  - 7.01 Admin council approved that an additional role of the nominations committee will be to recruit volunteers for activities/events organized by the other committees. The first step would be to contact the chairs of these committees to understand their goals, events and needs (see item 6).

Next meeting will be September 12 @ 6:30.

### Visioning

Admin Council is to review the two proposed vision statements, the core elements of the strategy, and immediate actions presented on handouts. Feedback is to be sent to Brian Popelka by the next admin meeting. The goal is to formulate an "Elevator speech" that describes what EUMC is and represents, and to summarize a list of actions to be distributed to committees that are consistent with and embody the vision and mission of our church.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Sorensen