November 2019

Faithnews

Monthly Newsletter *of* Eldridge United Methodist Church

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Deadline for the DECEMBER 2019 issue of FAITHnews is November 20th, please!

CONVERSATION with Pastor Courtney

We have entered the season of thankfulness. This is the time of year when we are intentional about counting our blessings. However, as people who love God, we should live that thankfulness year-round. Having a heart of thankfulness helps us to praise God in the good times and difficult times. To notice the big miracles in our lives and the little blessings too. Gratitude helps us recognize that our life is not our own but God's. Our life is a gift from God that should not be taken for granted. Gratitude also helps us live unselfishly. Henri Nouwen says,

Continued on page 2...

"Conversation" Continued (from page 1) ...

"Gratitude goes beyond the 'mine' and 'thine' and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy."

According to Nouwen, gratitude is a lifestyle. It takes practice. It's not just an in-the-moment recognition when we've dodged the deer on the road or held our tongue when we wanted to lash out in anger. It's more than blessing our meals before we eat or saying our prayers before bed. Gratitude is a way we move through life. It's a part of our being. It brings us joy. It's a celebration of God's love and grace in our lives, of knowing that our sins have been forgiven, wiped completely clean because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's about living every moment in this freedom. A love that frees us to raise our hands in gratitude.

This Thanksgiving let us hold on to an attitude of gratitude. May we not release the Thanksgiving spirit and live it all year long.

For All The Saints

We remember here, family and friends who have gone on before us in this past year and now rest from their labors in the Lord's presence. Lord, we give you thanks for your good and faithful servants:

Bob Arnold	Jim Blubaugh
Brian Cronkleton	Clay Dawson
Jeremy Fickel	Jim Green
Stanley Hague	John Karnstedt
Laurence Long	Zoe Long
Barry Lahann	Clark Malmer
Pat Mart	Jan Mayer
Francis Medina	Helen Miller
Mary Ellen Rand	Allen Spangler
Ed Tubbs	Grace Tubbs
Juanita Teran	Carrie Virgil
Wendell Watts	Ramona Wild

November BIRTHDAYS

11/8	Elizabeth Leslie
11/9	Marge Stapleton
11/11	Wendy Popelka
11/13	Alexis Cary Dietrich Muhs Grayson Schoonover
11/15	Sue Cannon
11/17	Randy Kinney
11/25	Nancy Bryant
11/27	Norma Neilson
11/30	Beth Carlson

November ANNIVERSARIES

11/7	Gary & Bea Abbas
11/11	Jan & Flo Veldhuis-Kroeze
11/22	Bill & Linda Tubbs

Dinner with Pastor Courtney

Join Pastor Courtney for fellowship around a meal. Groups will be limited to 10 so everyone may be included in the conversation. Location and times are listed below. Please RSVP to Pastor Courtney or the church office.

6 p.m. Friday, November 15, at 350 Grille

Please RSVP by noon Nov. 15

(Dinner conversations will break for the holidays and return in January.)

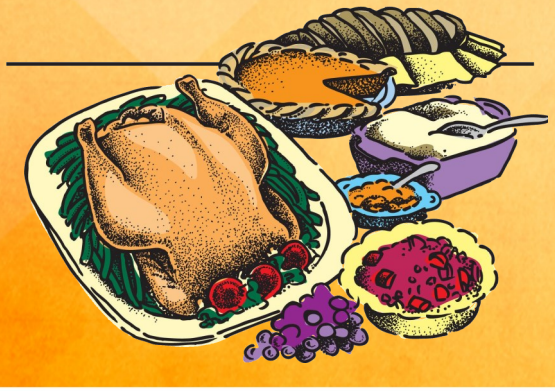
- All the Saints unspecified in the EUMC remembrance *(see pg 2)*
- The family of Margie Knauss (Betty Frazee's sister)
- Don Doonan - diagnostic testing
- Jenny Greenwood - complications from gall bladder surgery
- Leona Lightner - recovering AT HOME!!!
- Nancy Herrin - more eye surgery this month
- Keith Riewerts - upcoming shoulder surgery
- Linda Terrill - badly in need of a kidney for transplant *(see bulletin board)*
- Brittany Bunch /YWAM Ships - housing for their mission
- Firefighters and victims of the California wildfires
- Strength, healing, & support for Terri Dockery, Barb Fischer and *all* those with cancer and other serious disease.

MISSIONS

Thanksgiving food collection

On Sunday, November 17 we will have a special food collection for the King's Harvest Thanksgiving Meal. Please bring any of the following:

Boxed stuffing
Instant mashed potatoes
Jars of turkey gravy
French fried onions
Cornbread mix
Pudding and jello mix
Pumpkin pie filling
Canned yams
Green beans
Cream of mushroom soup



YWAM Ships Corpus Christi

YWAM Ships Corpus Christi, Brittany's new mission, is still in a season of trusting God for provision and for facilities--staff and student housing, staff vehicles, etc. They have a lead on a house that perfectly fits those needs. It's owned by a charity that is selling it. Please pray that if this is within God's plan, that this charity would be willing to sell or donate this building to the YWAM outreach. *(Read more on page 6 & 7)*

Ingathering

Thank you to everybody who helped with the Thanksgiving Ingathering kits. Special thanks to Trish Reisener for making all 112 school bags and several receiving blankets; to Lynn Hunter for making baby jackets and more receiving blankets; to Becky Newmeister, Jane Varcho & Norma Neilson for helping Janalee Keppy and Judy Kilzer pack all the boxes for them to take to Mt. Pleasant on Saturday, November 2.

EUMC was able to donate $3.936.00 in kits and cash — an increase of $841.00 from last year! We sent 41 Hygiene Kits, 112 School Kits and 20 Layette Kits as well as $1200 in cash donations and a fleece throw for the bazaar to help the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR); Midwest Mission; Church World Service for Blankets; Heifer international; Self-help International Feeding Project; and Mobility Worldwide.

So, once again you ***all*** were awesome! Thank YOU!

PLEASE NOTE: Whenever North Scott Schools are called off due to inclement weather, the EUMC office is closed & all scheduled church activities/meetings will be CANCELLED for the remainder of the day.

EUMC's 43rd Annual CHILDREN'S BAZAAR

Saturday, December 7 -- 9am to 1pm
(Snow Date, December 14)

*Children shop for Family, Teachers, Friends and Pets... All gifts are priced at **$3.00 or less!***

Information and Ways You Can Help

- **Donations:** Thanks to your generosity, we have *most* of the items we asked for at this time but if you signed up to bring something and haven't done so yet, we really need it soon, *PLEASE!*
- **Gifts you have made/are making to sell:** Please deliver to the church by Thurs. November 31st..
- We are *always* in need of **Plastic Grocery Bags**.
- **Adult volunteers:**
  - Needed for Set Up on Thursday/Friday, Dec. 5th & 6th
  - Needed on the day of the bazaar to work a designated area, wrap gifts or to help the younger shoppers select presents.
  - Needed to help with clean up immediately after the bazaar on Saturday.
- **Youth Volunteers (5th grade through high school):** If you would like to help the day of the bazaar, please sign up in the Gathering Area. Your friends from outside the church are also welcomed to help at the bazaar. Come early and complete your own shopping before the doors open to the public.
- **Sign-up sheets & instructions:** For those helping, information will be in the Gathering Area.

Questions?

Call Janalee 285-4123 or Judy 285-8157

Our elves are ready to begin their ASSEMBLING WORKSHOPS in preparation for the fun & fast-approaching Children's Bazaar. No special 'artsy' skills are necessary—just a willingness to lend a hand to a great event for the kids! Please come help as much as you can on:

Tues, Nov 12	1pm-4pm
Wed, Nov 13	9am-noon
Thurs, Nov 14	9am-noon
Fri, Nov 15	9am-noon

(PS-If you've signed up to bring things, we <u>really</u> could use them before the 12th if at all possible, please.)

MISSIONARY MINUTE with BRITTANY

brittanylynnbunch@gmail.com

www.missionarybritt.com

24 October 2019

Aloha from Hawaii!

It's already almost November, but it sure doesn't feel like it here! Kona has been consistently 85 degrees and sunny/rainy for the past month, and it doesn't look like it's going to change anytime soon!

We are 4 weeks into the 12 week Bible Core Course, and our students are working so hard on their studies. They have a good grasp of the Inductive Study Method, and we're already to the time of the prophets! We'll study Amos and Hosea next week, Ezekiel the week after, and then the week after that **I get to teach on Nehemiah**!

I'm really excited about teaching Nehemiah to this class. As I've started preparing, I'm learning more about God's heart in reestablishing His people and His heart for holiness. During Nehemiah, God really sets the people apart again to be holy and wholly devoted to Him. I also will be covering a bit of the answer to the question "how do God's people get from the end of Nehemiah to the start of the gospels?". I want to bring clarity to how Israel got from the point of rebuilding Jerusalem to the point of missing the long-awaited Messiah. We'll talk about **how to apply the truths found in Nehemiah**—how to be fiercely devoted to holiness and also accept the grace of Christ.

Another part of my time here at YWAM Ships Kona has been **meeting with the YWAM Ships Corpus Christi (Texas) pioneer team.** We are sharing our vision with people on the base here in Kona, and we've been able to recruit a couple of people to join us in Texas to pioneer the base. I've become good friends with one of the other BCC staff people, and she & I share a similar heart and vision for the BCC that will be starting in Texas. She's planning on joining us in Corpus Christi to help me lead the Bible Department at the base.

I'm very excited about what God is doing here in Kona, and in Corpus Christi**. I'm also very excited about what God is doing through you all at EUMC!** Joyce was telling me about what God is doing in the different ministries that you are all involved in, and I'm so encouraged by the faithfulness of God to a community that I love so dearly.

I hope to see you all when I'm back in Iowa around the holidays, before I move to Texas!

Always, Brittany

About finances:

I'm so thankful for the support I have from my family at Eldridge United Methodist Church. **I'm so very thankful for every one of you who has donated, and I see Jesus working through you**. As the year is wrapping up and you're looking at your financial plan for 2020, I would like to ask you to **prayerfully consider making a monthly donation** toward my missionary work, or to pray about increasing your donation if you already support me monthly. I'm trusting God for a drastic increase in support in order to continue doing what I'm doing—**I'm still in need of about $2,000** consistently each month more than what I'm currently being supported. My ministry is asking me to be at a level of $2850-$3000 in support each month. I feel like God has said that I can trust Him for 13 new committed monthly supporters by the end of 2019. Would you pray about becoming one of those 13?

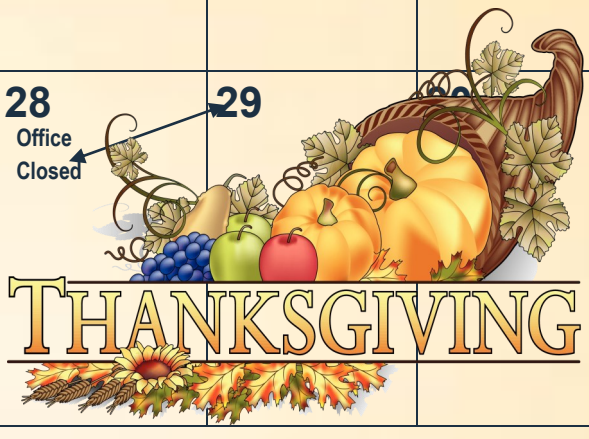
Thank you so much for your continued prayer and financial support!

Our lecturer for 1 & 2 Kings was a mom on base here at YWAM Ships Kona. She has three little ones--a daughter (5yr) and two sons (4yr and 5mo). I think it was so good for our students (an all women class) to see a woman who is walking in a lot of different roles--Amaris is a mom and a wife and also a Bible scholar and gifted teacher. She nursed her baby while teaching through the books of Kings!

Our Genesis speaker has connections and brought in a copy of the Pentateuch (Genesis -Deuteronomy)... on a 300-500 year old scroll made of sheepskin!

We take one day each week as a 'reading day' and we spend hours reading through the Bible. Our students study 15 books more in-depth, but we read through the whole Bible during these 12 weeks.

NOVEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	**2** Deliver Ingathering to Mt. Pleasant
3 ***All Saints Sunday*** 9:00 Worship with Communion 9:15 K.O.W. 10:10 Adult S.S. 4:00 Confirmation 4:30 Choir Prac. 6:00 CCT Bd.Mtg	**4** **Office Closed** 5:30 Lions Club	**5** **7am-8pm ELECTION DAY** *(EUMC is a polling place)* 10:30 Bible Study (room 9)	**6** 9:00 Yoga 6-WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY	**7** 5:00 "Compass" B.Y.O.S.	**8**	**9** 7:00 Men's Breakfast in Argo
10 8:00 Choir Practice 9:00 Worship 10:10 Adult S.S. 4:00 Confirmation	**11** **Office Closed** **VETERAN'S DAY** NO SCHOOL at North Scott	**12** 10:30 Bible Study 1:00 Children's Bazaar WORKSHOP 6:30-8 "Compass" Grief Support Mtg	**13** 9:00 Yoga 9:00 Children's Bazaar WORKSHOP 6-WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY	**14** 9:00 Children's Bazaar WORKSHOP 6:30 Admin . Council Mtg.	**15** 9:00 Children's Bazaar WORKSHOP 6:00 Dinner w/ Pastor Courtney @ 350 Grille	**16**
17 ***Thanksgiving Food Collection*** ***(see article pg. 4)*** 8:00 Choir Practice 9:00 Worship 9:15 K.O.W. 10:10 Adult S.S. 4:00 Confirmation	**18** **Office Closed** 6:00 Lions Bd.	**19** 10:30 Bible Study	**20** 9:00 Yoga 3:00 UMW 6-WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY 7:00 Pastor's Advent Bible Study #1	**21** 9:00 December Newsletter Item Deadline	**22**	**23**
24 ***Consecration Sunday*** ***Food Pantry Sunday*** 8:00 Choir Practice 9:00 Worship 10:10 Adult S.S. 4:00 Confirmation	**25** **Office Closed**	**26** 10:30 Bible Study 6:30-8 "Compass" Grief Support Mtg	**27** NO ~~Wonderful Wednesday~~	**28** **Office Closed**  	**29**	

Looking ahead . . .

NOVEMBER Calendar Clarifications

- Due to the Veteran's Day Holiday on the 11th, the regular monthly Lions Club *Board* meeting has been moved forward a week to November 18th.
- There will be TWO special food collection Sundays this month — the 17th will be specific foods for the Kings Harvest Thanksgiving Dinner *(see article on page 4)* and our regular "Food Pantry Sunday" on the last Sunday of the month (11/24) to benefit our local North Scott Food Pantry *(November items are listed in top left corner of page 4).*
- Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, the regular '4th Wednesday' UMW meeting has been moved up a week to Wednesday, November 20th at the regular 3pm time. There is no meeting on November 27.
- There is no Wonderful Wednesday the week of Thanksgiving.
- There WILL be the regular 10:30 am Tuesday Bible Study on November 26th.
- The Confirmation Class meets *all four* Sundays in November.

Planning for a Busy DECEMBER

- ADVENT begins on Sunday, December 1st with communion and the hanging of Chrismon's on our sanctuary Christmas tree.
- CHILDREN'S BAZAAR is Saturday December 7th!!! Set-up is pretty much all week before, so try to set aside some time to come up to the church and help whenever you can, please.
- After taking the Wednesday of Thanksgiving 'off', Pastor Courtney's Advent Bible Study continues on Wednesday, the 4th, the 11th and the 18th of December.
- EUMC prepares and serves the Church's United meal on the 8th & 9th of December.
- Sunday, December 15th is the always delightful Children/Youth Christmas Program during worship.
- Musical blessings will be bestowed on us with the Chancel Choir's Christmas Cantata on Sunday, the 22nd.
- Details of our Christmas Eve service will be coming soon.

A special Advent study lead by Pastor Courtney will begin at 7p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 20, at the church. We will be studying Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience. In 1741 John Wesley preached his famous sermon titled *The Almost Christian* in which he encouraged people to follow Christ wholeheartedly. We will explore how we can make a commitment to Christ during Advent, connecting our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional Advent themes of peace, hope, love and joy. Books are available for $12 in the church office.

Classes will break for Thanksgiving and resume Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18.

ALTAR FLOWERS

NOVEMBER 3	BEA & GARY ABBAS	
NOVEMBER 10	MIKE & JAN WRIGHT	
NOVEMBER 17	— OPEN —	*(YOU?)*
NOVEMBER 24	BILL & LINDA TUBBS	
DECEMBER 1	SHIRLEY LUCAS	
DECEMBER 8	POINSETTIAS	
DECEMBER 15	POINSETTIAS	(CAROL KAY)
DECEMBER 22	POINSETTIAS	
DECEMBER 29	POINSETTIAS	(PAULA BRYANT)

SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEERS

DATE	GREETER	ACOLYTE	USHER	LITURGIST	KOW/Nursery	TREATS	PIANO	AV
11/3*	Mike & Vicki Sorensen	Grant Hodge; Reece Riewerts	Lynn & Laura Reth	Paula Bryant	K.O.W. (Miss Brenda)	Crain; Doonan	Sally Riewerts	Ryan Riewerts
11/10	Loren & Jody Rickard	Grant Hodge; Reece Riewerts	Dee Childers & Phil Johnston	Linda Tubbs	Blake Family	Dee Childers; Donna Eudaley	Kathy Dawson	
11/17	Norma Neilson; Joyce Orcutt	Grant Hodge; Reece Riewerts	Mike & Vicki Shaw	Dennis Eudaley	K.O.W. (Miss Brenda)	Dana Blake; Janalee Keppy	CJ Albertson	
11/24	John Bryant Family	Grant Hodge; Reece Riewerts	Jacki Berhenke; Shirley Lucas	Kim Lehman	Lehman Family	Sondra Bulazo; Carol Haugland	Linda Reickard	

STEWARDSHIP MONTH

Fall has arrived with its beautiful colors & brisk temperatures! Time to start thinking about the holidays & our 2020 Pledge Day. We have selected November 24th as Consecration Sunday.

To belong to our congregation is to be a steward. *Some may say that "stewardship" is just a polite way of referring to financial giving to the church. But it's far more than that. As God's stewards, we have three responsibilities:

-Receiving: We receive with joyful thanksgiving the many gifts that God showers upon us – time, talent, treasure, our bodies, our friendships, natural resources and the beauty around us.

-Managing: We take good care of what we have received. We manage these resources wisely – for our own good and the good of others.

-Giving: Out of our gratitude in receiving so abundantly, we want to share with others.

* Excerpt from *The United Methodist Members Handbook Revised and Expanded, pgs. 20-21, George E. Koehler © 2006, Discipleship Resources*

Beginning November 4th, we will once again have a series of stewardship moments. We hope these will inspire you to prayerfully consider all the gifts & talents that God has given you and how you will share them to further Christ's work in the world.

Administrative Council Meeting –Oct 10, 2019, 6:30 PM

Members present: Pastor Courtney, Gary, CJ, Kelly, Brenda, Brian, Joyce, Don, Keith, Judy

1. Devotions, CJ…Psalms 32:6
2. Minutes from Sept meeting; correction on Confirmation date should be Sept 15. Approved.
3. Pastor's Report
   3.01 Charge Conference is Oct 20 at McCausland 11:30
4. Finance/Treasurer report
   4.01 Brenda gave the report
   4.02 Budget for 2020 was presented and approved by the Ad Council.
   4.03 Continued Discussion of Trustees Endowment Fund; Only the interest is to be used for maintenance for the church unless Trustees fund is depleted and more funds are needed for building maintenance. According to The Discipline the Ad Council should only vote on financial issues that pertain to budget and salaries. Other financial decisions are voted on by the Finance Committee and presented to the Ad Council.
   4.04 Letter of resignation of Brenda was read. Looking for replacement.
   4.05 Committee: Brenda Sorensen, treasurer; Trish Reisener, Financial Secretary; Kelly Cronkleton, Financial Chairman; Laura Reth, birthday club.
5. CYFM Report- Pastor Courtney
   5.01 WW: Average 10 kids on Wed night
   5.02 Confirmation is going well.
   5.03 Advisory Task Force: Brenda Sorensen, chair; Cindy Crain, Kelly Cronkleton, Joyce Orcutt, Dave Prochaska, Deb Menke, Brenda Sorensen
6. Trustee's Report…Don Doonan presented
   6.01 Work has been/is being done on the AC. Precision Air is to check on heat & AC; cost $890 per year
   6.02 Security System will be taken care of by Night Watch from Long Grove; includes cameras & alarms for $43/month for monitoring.
   6.03 CJ Albertson will be retiring from this committee on December 31, 2019.
   6.04 Committee: Don Doonan chairmen; CJ Albertson, Cory Crain, Dennis Eudaley, Larry Haugland, Randy Kinney, Lynn Reth, Jan Veldhuis-Kroeze
7. SPRC Report –
   7.01 Met with McCausland; Pastor's salary stayed the same except health insurance increased.
   7.02 Pastor Courtney's office hours are posted on the office door.
   7.03 Committee: Gary Abbas, chair; Brian Popelka, Judy Kilzer, Debbie Menke, David Muhs, Joyce Orcutt
8. Missions Report
   8.01 Ingathering Kits to be assembled on Oct 17: those assembling…Becky Newmeister, Jane Varcho, Norma Neilson, Janalee Keppy, Judy Kilzer.
   8.02 Laura McLain is resigning from head of Missions effective Nov 2.
   8.03 Committee: Laura McLain, chair; Paula Bryant, Dee Childers, Kathy Dawson, Donna Eudaley, Janalee Keppy, Kathy Rhinehart,
9. UMW Report – Joyce Orcutt reporting:
   9.01 Cozy Mt Lodge Retreat Oct 23; 9 ladies have signed up.
   9.02 Bible Study is Tuesday at 10:30
10. Nominations Mtg is Oct 22, 7 PM
11. Prayer: Pastor Courtney

Next meeting: 6:30 PM Nov 14

Respectfully submitted, Judy Kilzer