



# MAY 2021

# FAITH *news*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ELDRIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## CONVERSATIONS *with Pastor Courtney*

As my time as pastor at Eldridge and McCausland UMCs winds down, I am beginning to reflect on our time together in ministry and came across the first pastor's column I wrote. Here is what I shared:

As I reflect on my first month, I cannot help but think how much perseverance it is going to take to do this job and do it well. Every week brings something new and surprising and some days there is no way of knowing what's around the corner. But that's why in the Christian faith we are in the business of hope. Hope that no matter what the day brings God will bring us through and be there to pick us up when we are down or rejoice with us in our success. One of my favorite Bible verses is Romans 5:3-4: "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope" (NIV). These verses are reassurance to me that even in my daily struggles, I have hope. That with each struggle or disappointment or rejection there is room to learn and grow. Each struggle is an opportunity to know and trust God more. It is reassurance that no one is left alone in their suffering, but that God is with them and will help them through.

It has, indeed, taken perseverance to minister to you all. In the almost three years I've been with you, I have completed requirements for ordination and became an ordained elder. I have led in a pandemic, something a tenured pastor never could have imagined. Together, with our hope in Jesus Christ, we have made it through celebrations and times of struggle.

My goodbye will come next month. For now, know that I am praying for you and am thankful God brought us together for a season.

### ELDRIDGE UMC

604 S. 2nd St.  
Eldridge, IA 52748  
563-285-4314  
[eldridgeumc@csteldridge.com](mailto:eldridgeumc@csteldridge.com)

### PASTOR

Courtney Dake  
[cdake508@gmail.com](mailto:cdake508@gmail.com)  
641-340-1211

### OFFICE MANAGER/ EDITOR

CJ Albertson  
[eldridgeumc@csteldridge.com](mailto:eldridgeumc@csteldridge.com)

### TREASURER

Becky Esbaum  
[treasurerUMC@csteldridge.com](mailto:treasurerUMC@csteldridge.com)

### CUSTODIAN

Andres Arana-Nigh

### ONLINE WORSHIP VIDEOGRAPHER

John Cannon

**CHURCH OFFICE OPEN**

**Thursdays 8:30-12:30**

# To my EUMC Family,



It's with such a wide range of emotions that I want to officially share with you that **I am taking a step back from missions for a while**. You may have heard through the grapevine, as I've already shared with those of you who were part of my financial support team. After 7 years of constant transition, **I find myself needing to prioritize my mental, physical, emotional, spiritual, and psychological health more than I have been during my time serving as a missionary**. To give you a point of reference, since I graduated in May 2013, I've stayed in 35 places (only counting places that I was in for more than a week, and not counting any time I returned home), and never for more than a year (Texas, 2020).

This February, things fell into place and it was made really clear to me that I needed to move back to Iowa. The timing of this move was so right—I got up here before the sub-zero temperatures, I got out of Texas before their cold front, and I was able to spend some time with Jim before he took a turn for the worse. **It has been a very drastic change but I've been so blessed throughout this transition**, able to step in to a job that I've loved and a routine that I've needed so badly.

**My heart is to someday return to missionary midwifery overseas.**

Midwifery was my original call to missions, and my year in Texas has shown me how much **I love delivering babies**—I think that it was something I had to leave for a while in order to realize that it's where I belong.

**I don't know when I'll return to missions, but I do know that I have some healing to do before I'm ready to be sent out as a missionary again.**

During this time away from missions, I'll be living with my mom (and the cats!) for a while, and working as a para-educator an elementary school for the rest of the school year. Starting in July, **I've accepted a position as a sales professional with Globe Life Insurance** and I'm very excited about that. It will be a new adventure to be in the 'corporate world' instead of in the 'nonprofit world', and I think the routine will be good for me.

**I will also be finding a therapist and starting the hard work of healing from and processing the things that I've experienced in missions—trauma, loss, grief, burnout, and probably much more.**

I know that I haven't been alone in these years of missions—that I've had food on the table and bills paid every month because of God's provision through your generosity. **I need to say from the bottom of my heart, thank you**. Thank you for your kindness, your generosity, your prayers, and your support.

Much love, *Brittany*



## SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEERS

DATE	GREETER/USHER	LITURGIST	PIANIST
5/2	Apple Family	Marianne Doonan	Kathy Dawson
5/9	Kelly Cronkleton; Shirley Lucas	Dennis Eudaley	CJAlbertson
5/16	Sondra Bulazo & Bill Burns	Linda Tubbs	Sally Riewerts
5/23	Crain Family	Vicki Shaw	Linda Reickard
5/30	Nancy Bryant; Janalee Keppy	Donna Eudaley	Kathy Dawson

# MAY HAPPENINGS

- Sunday 2      9am End May Basket Raffle  
5pm Youth Picnic  
6:30pm CCT Board Mtg.
- Monday 3      7:45-12 NSHS AP tests in Gathering Area
- Tuesday 4      11:45-4 NSHS AP tests in Gathering Area
- Sunday 9      Mother's Day
- Monday 10      7:45-12 NSHS AP tests in Gathering Area
- Wednesday 12      10am Pastor Courtney to Grand Haven
- Friday 14      7:45-12 NSHS AP tests in Gathering Area
- Saturday 22      2-5pm CCT "Newsies" Read-Thru in GA
- Sunday 23      9am GRADUATION SUNDAY in worship
- Monday 24      7:45-12 NSHS AP tests in Gathering Area
- Friday 28      9:30am EUMC @ the Food Pantry
- Sunday 30      NSHS Graduation
- Monday 31      MEMORIAL DAY



## Graduation Sunday

During worship on Sunday, May 23rd we will be honoring the following young people of our church who are graduating from high school and college:

### HIGH SCHOOL

Aundrea Crain  
Owen Gentz  
Grace Kinney  
Joey Petersen  
Owen Popelka  
David Sorensen

### COLLEGE

Aaron Bryant  
Hannah Bryant  
Dietrich Muhs  
Elena Muhs



5/2	Jesse Biekert Kathy Rhinehart
5/4	Lloyd Keppy
5/5	Michael Kintigh Linda Reickard
5/7	Joyce Orcutt
5/14	Debbie Fordham
5/16	Travis Berhenke Stacy Muhs Tabitha Skyles
5/17	Ken Nestler Sylvia Sorensen Karen Voelkel
5/21	Larry Haugland Jeff & Becky Newmeister
5/22	Dale Carey Vernon & Sylvia Sorensen
5/26	Susan Ames
5/27	Richard Heiman Tim Reickard Doug Reynolds Boise & Daisy Schoonover
5/27	Dan & Becky Esbaum

# E.U.M.C.. ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL — March 11, 2021

**Members present:** Brian Popelka, Joyce Orcutt, Gary Abbas, Deb Menke, Kelly Cronkleton, Pastor Courtney Dake, Steve Sorensen, Bull Tubbs, Linda Tubbs, Keith Riewerts, Becky Esbaum

**Opening:** Joyce Orcutt opened with prayer.

**Minutes:** February minutes were approved as printed.

**Mission and Outreach discussion:** Brian suggested combining the two committees since their work is very similar. One difference is that the Outreach fund is earmarked for local mission projects. Decisions were:

The Missions and Outreach committees will function as one committee but their line items in the budget will remain separate.

The Missions committee prefers not to be responsible for oversight of the Outreach funds.

The local outreach requests that come to the Missions committee will be forwarded to the chair of Outreach.

A sub-group of the pastor (Pastor Courtney), chair of Outreach (Keith Riewerts), Ad Council chair (Brian Popelka), and finance chair (Kelly Cronkleton), will look at local funding requests and approve them or not.

There is no history in memory at EUMC of guidelines for distribution of funds.

Brian will check with other churches in our Circuit to see if any already have an application form for funding that we can adapt to our needs.

**Update on COVID 19 restrictions from the Iowa Conference and our plan for re-entry:** Because of reduced Scott County COVID numbers, we have moved from the red phase to yellow, which means we may open with precautions in place.

Our re-entry plan begins on Palm Sunday, March 28, 9 a.m. :

Masks required; Social distancing; Minimal singing

John Cannon will record the Sunday morning service and upload it by Sunday evening or Monday morning.

Our Easter service will be combined with McCausland at Scott County Park, Buffalo Bill pavilion.

Pastor Courtney will be on vacation April 5 – 11. Grace Knapper will conduct the service on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Mission activities:** Chairperson, Steve Sorensen outlined the following missions in progress:

Mattresses for kids that don't have them will be purchased from Petersen Hagge Furniture in Dewitt at a cost of about \$200 each. When we are meeting in person the committee will request monetary assistance from the congregation to help with this project.

Few people volunteered to write thank you notes to our North Scott teachers. C.J. will include another request for volunteers in her Thursday message. Currently that project is on hold until more volunteer to show our teachers appreciation for their work with our children, especially during this challenging year.

Food boxes are being collected. The list of items was in the April newsletter.

Since we will be in person soon, the Easter baskets will be out on Palm Sunday for silent auctions bids. This is a fundraiser for funding our church's mission projects.

There was response to the request for North Scott logo clothing to be distributed to students who are unable to buy N.S. clothing items.

C.J. will again e-mail a request for hygiene items for students in need of them: Hairbrushes; Deodorant; Shaving equipment; Body wash; Shampoo and conditioner; Lotions; Perfume; Etc. — Prayers for the students who will receive the items.

Game Shack – the committee is looking for folks with building skills to help construct a small, covered, waterproof building to house donated games. If your family is tired of the games you have, you can trade them for other games in the Game Shack. It will function much as the library boxes and the blessings boxes do.

**SPPRC UPDATE ON RETURN TO WORSHIP CARING GROUPS:** Deb and Gary reported:

Group leaders will be making the second calls soon with information about our re-entry to in person worship.

The leaders are providing a vital service to our church.

Pastor Courtney is doing the calling for a different group each month as a way to contact all persons connected to our church.

Brian will bring a form that other churches in our Circuit use to get feedback on various topics important to our church. Keith has already done a short survey of his Caring Group about returning to in person worship. All were anxious to see others in person.

**UMW:** Linda Tubbs reported:

UMW continues to meet via Zoom the 4th Wednesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. and looking forward to perhaps meeting at Crandall Park when the weather warms.

A retreat postponed from last Fall is being planned for this Fall.

Kathy Rhinehart is heading a committee to create a calendar containing birthdays and anniversaries of our church members and friends. Pictures of those celebrating will be at the top of the calendar that will be a fund raiser for UMW mission projects. Stay tuned!

**Closing:** Pastor Courtney closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Joyce Orcutt, secretary

# MOTHER'S DAY 2021

## 10 Ways to Celebrate Mom from a Distance

taken from an article in *The Old Farmer's Almanac* / May 28, 2021

In 2021, given the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, many of us are rethinking how to give extra recognition to moms. Some of us are apart from our moms when we'd normally be together. And many of us are worried about our moms, some of whom are in the high-risk age range.

### How Can We Celebrate Differently?

- Most moms simply wish to connect with their children and spend time with family in any way possible—if not in person, then with a phone call or video chat!
- If your mom is at home, give her a day off from any family chores, especially during this difficult time. Someone else can take full responsibility for making or serving the food, clearing and cleaning the dishes, and doing the laundry. Volunteer!

This probably covers the big stuff, but here are 10 creative ways to reach out to mom to show her a little extra comfort, love, and recognition. After all, moms are always there for us!

1. Offer yard and garden services.
2. Decorate your mom's door or front porch.
3. Cook for mom or set up a virtual brunch date.
4. Share a long phone call or put on a virtual talent show.
5. Watch a movie or show together, side by side.
6. Be creative-make a video, music playlist, or piece of art.
7. Get outside for a stroll in the park; pack mom a picnic.
8. Make a homemade gift.
9. Take a virtual tour of a museum or garden together.
10. Make your own card.



Mother's Day is **May 9**, and we'll celebrate this special day with our special annual offering for the Humility of Mary Shelter!! Some of you have been saving your pennies, some of you have been using those special piggy banks, and some of you prefer to write a check. It's almost time to share our offering with those who find themselves homeless. If you bring you bank, just place it on the altar before worship.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- \*Susan Ames & and the family of JIM ADEN who lost his battle with cancer on 4/26
- \*BARB HOERNER (CJ's friend) recovering from unsuccessful kidney transplant surgery
- \*BARB, DAVID & JON FISHER (Christie Nevenhoven's siblings) all battling cancer
- \*BOB BROWN (Karee Hodge's dad) for healing from foot surgery & walking again
- \*Members struggling with anxiety from PANDEMIC & SOCIAL UNREST in our country, community & among family.
- \*On-going health issues of AL KAY (& upcoming cataract surgery/May), PHIL CLARK, LEONA LIGHTNER & SALLY RIEWERTS.

## AND PRAY IN THANKFULNESS FOR:

- \*Kathy Rhinehart, who is at the end of her therapy and doing very well in recovery from her back surgery! Praise God!

ELDRIDGE UMC  
604 SOUTH 2nd ST  
ELDRIDGE IA 52748

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Address Service Requested

Worship 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School for All Ages 10:10 a.m.

(563) 285-4314  
eldridgeumc@cseldridge.com

604 South Second St.  
www.eldridgeumc.org



ELDRIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Eldridge, IA 52748  
Courtney Dake, Pastor

May 2021

Our Church Newsletter