

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ELDRIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2021

FAITH NEWS

From the PASTOR'S PEN

Peace and grace to you all in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. I have heard from many of you how wonderful it was to visit family members and friends you couldn't visit because of the pandemic. I am glad that you did it.

Around this time of year, there is a mixture of emotions. For some, it is a time of blues, leaving behind favorite summer activities and going back to daily routines. Others feel so good as the summer heat cools down, and the air clears up. For me, this is my favorite time of year, smelling something in the air that has the scent of a new season.

This time of year is a good time for outdoor service. So, the worship committee decided to have outdoor service on the church lawn, to make this special service visible to our neighbors. I want to say again "Thank you" for their hard work.

Early Sunday morning, on the way to church, it began sprinkling. So, I prayed for the weather. I prayed to God to bless this service. I prayed to God to send the soul(s) who needed to hear the word of God. And God ANSWERED.

While working together for the past weeks, I was deeply moved to see the willingness of church members to support and love the church. That is where I found another joy of serving at Eldridge.

Yours in Christ, Pastor JaeHee Lee

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8:30am-12:30pm



WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

<u>SEPT.</u>	<u>Hosts</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Treats</u>	<u>Pianist</u>	<u>TV Screens</u>
5	Muhs Family	Sally R	Kathy D & Joyce O	Kathy D	CJ-A
12	Gary & Bea A.	Keith R	Linda R & Sara S	CJ-A	Keith R.
19	Kelly C & Joyce	Mike S	Karen A & Janalee	Sally R	Keith R.
26	Janalee & Rheta	Trish	Judy & Carol	Linda R	CJ-A

Communion Servers (9/5): Dave & Stacy Muhs



Outdoor Worship—August 2021



Come & Join Us for . . .

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Eldridge United Methodist Church
604 S. 2nd Street

9am - Sunday, August 29th

Bring your own lawn chair
and plan to stay afterward
for a **FREE picnic lunch!**



42nd Annual Mission Ingathering



It's time again to focus our energies on the collection of items for the Annual Mission Ingathering kits. If you would like to help complete Ingathering Kits, a sign-up sheet along with kit info will be on Mission table in Gathering Area. We would appreciate all items and complete kits be placed on the

Mission table in the Gathering Area as soon as possible before October 10th.

Student Kit - If items have been bought for Student Kits, please bring as soon as possible.

Layette Kit - Items needed to complete 20 kits are: 60 New Cloth Diapers, 10 New Onesies or Undershirts, and \$2 donation for diaper cream.

Personal Dignity Kit - To complete 20 kits, the following items are needed: 15 bars of Soap 3-4 oz.; 19 Shampoo 15-18 oz.; 17 Deodorant 2-3 oz. stick, roll on, or pump; and \$2 donation for razor & toothpaste.

**Remember, they will only accept items as described.*

CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS

If you have collected toiletry items from motels, etc. while traveling, the UMW thanks you for this help to filling the gift bags that will be shared at the Salvation Army Meal Site! Please place all items in Gathering Area during September and early October.

ALTAR FLOWERS NEEDED

If you have taken a look recently, you'll notice that we only have the first week in September spoken for to bring ALTAR FLOWERS. It would be great if we could get September and October filled in as soon as possible.

SEPTEMBER at the

North Scott Food Pantry

Toiletries

i.e. Toothpaste; Toothbrush; Shampoo;
Deodorant; Bath Soap/Gel, etc.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

9/1	Trish Reisener & Jess Medina
9/3	Wayne Gay
9/5	Gabriel Skyles
9/6	Clifton Willey
9/7	Owen Popelka Grant Stilson Dale & Shirley Carey
9/9	Dave & Carol Faeth
9/11	Lynn Reth
9/14	Larry Frazee Marcia Nestler
9/16	Aaron & LeAnn Cary
9/17	Mark Wall
9/18	Betty Frazee Ana Kinney
9/19	Patrick McLain Lloyd & Janalee Keppy
9/21	Marcia Rowley
9/22	Dee Childers Cory Gay Aurora Gentz
9/24	Kyle Apple
9/26	Melvin Reth
9/28	Stacie Kintigh Steve Sorensen
9/30	Wayne & Joyce Gay

blessings abound

*When we are constantly reminded of floods and fires and hurricanes and sickness and suffering, we must remind ourselves that there is much more good surrounding us in our everyday lives. **Lord, we thank you for:***

- . . . a beautiful morning together under the trees worshipping at the Outdoor Worship last Sunday!
- . . . the efficacy of the medical procedures that have put John Neilson in official "remission" from his cancer!
- . . . the much-needed rains that have fallen this week to replenish our yards, gardens and souls.
- . . . the skill and caring of medical personal taking care of Covid patients, a little baby with a whole in its back, & the growing medical needs of the elderly.
- . . . the determination, skill, knowledge and caring of school personnel who hold our children in their hands each and every day.
- . . . a regrowth of attendance in our church (April average = 59; May average = 55; June average = 59; July average = 68; August average = 72!)
- . . . church members who are stepping up with love to build youth and children's programs for the new year.

TOGETHER AGAIN

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Welcome Back! There is a Sunday School opportunity for all ages here at EUMC and it all starts on Sunday, September 12th! This a chance to gather in a more intimate setting to study God's word, find application to the world around us, and continue in worship as we fellowship together here at EUMC. This year, all age groups will begin with the study of the Fruits of the Spirit:

* CHILDREN — NEW! Ages 4-6th grade will begin with everyone in the regular worship service but will be dismissed to attend "Children's Church" for the remainder of the worship. Singing, learning, crafting, having fun together . . . That's the plan!

* YOUTH (ages 7th-12th) — NEW! Ages 7th-12th graders will grab a snack and meet together immediately after worship until apx. 10:30 to take a 'deeper dive' in the meaning & application of this week's sermon on their youthful lives. Casual and youth-led, this was an expressed desire of our youths.

*ADULTS — after a short FELLOWSHIP TIME, members will refill their coffee cups and head into the church 'library' for a lively study and discussion.

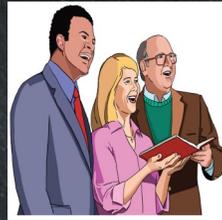
Although we'd love to see you *every* week, the lessons can stand alone, enabling you to drop in as you are able. So please grab your coffee and treat after worship, and join in as often you can make it.

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 10:30 a.m. Our first get-together is September 14th 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 car-pool ride. Hopefully, we'll see you at our next breakfast on September 11th.



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 5th 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.

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, 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?



The United Methodist Women (a.k.a. "UMW") 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 29th!

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL -- August 12, 2021

Members Present: Pastor Jae Hee Lee, Bill Tubbs, Linda Tubbs, Keith Riewerts, Becky Esbaum, Gary Abbas, Deb Menke, Kelly Cronkleton, Joyce Orcutt.

Devotions: Members shared God Sightings from the past week.

Minutes: no corrections or additions were sent for the July minutes.

Committee Updates:

SPPRC: We will need to be flexible with Sunday School and Wonderful Wednesday plans depending on how the COVID numbers progress in our area. Current plans are that Sunday School will begin September 12, beginning with a brunch starting at 8:15 a.m. consisting of fruit, quick breads, and beverages. Masking and social distancing will be in place. Kids will have been in school 2-3 weeks by that time, so maybe we can gauge the situation better. These events beginning need to be well publicized. Caring group leaders will contact their groups members to share this information.

Wonderful Wednesdays will have an ice breaker activity to get a count for more accurate ordering of food. To begin, food will be ordered in and meals will be more simple, such as pizza or sub sandwiches. After the food has arrived, activities will continue.

There was a suggestion to have brunch for kids attending "Meet Me at the Flagpole" event at the high school the first day of school as an outreach activity.

Committees currently meeting are; Worship, SPPRC, Ad Council, UMW.

Men's Bible Study: Keith said that there will be a kickoff retreat sometime in October to begin an ongoing Men's Bible study.

Nominating: needs to fill CYFM (Children, Youth, and Family Ministries) committee and to secure a chair. A chair may also be needed for Missions. Pastor Lee will call Steve Sorensen to determine his participation in this committee.

Evangelism: committee is being reformed with Kathy Rhinehart and Sara Sack. More members will be needed for this committee, as well.

Joyce Orcutt will call Greenwoods, Crains, Hodges, Ryan Riewerts, and Kintighs again to try to set a time when they can meet to plan for our older youth's programming this Fall.

UMW: meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m. in the church library. The August 25 meeting will host our district shepherds with a tea. The peach sales raised about \$250. A church calendar for 2022 is being prepared as a fund raiser to include birthdays and anniversaries as well as pictures of church activities. It will be the 50th anniversary celebration for Eldridge UMC, so that will be featured.

Financial Update: A financial report is attached to these minutes. Becky reported that we are currently in good shape financially with a balance of \$120,711.55 in checking. Balance in the Parsonage fund is \$185,938.31. The parsonage fund was established when we sold the parsonage. As per conference rules, that money may be used only for either purchasing another parsonage or for a pastor to borrow from to purchase a home of their own; the amount to be repaid when that house is sold. A budget year-to-date was attached.

Bill moved and Deb seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Open Topics

We would like to update the family pictures on the hallway bulletin board. At the September 12 kickoff for Sunday School Keith will take pictures of family groups. Bill volunteered the North Scott Press to import those pictures, crop them, put names on them, and print them for us.

Bill asked some technology questions. How many views are there for our online service? Is Zoom or live stream available? Currently live stream is not possible, but with Central Scott upgrading its services, it may be available in the future. Zoom is a possibility to make worship services available online in real time. Currently it is next day before the service is available online because of the editing time required. There is a link to the service on YouTube available on the church website.

Pastor Lee closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Joyce Orcutt, secretary