MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ELDRIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FAITH*news*

December 2021

(turn over for January 2022 edition)

Greetings from your pastor!

Dear friends,

It is hard to believe that we are already in the season of Advent….. WOW! As the original Latin word 'adventus' means 'coming' or 'visit,' advent is such a joyful time as we anticipate the coming of the Messiah.

During Advent season, we prepare our hearts and reflect on what is truly important in our lives as a means for celebration of the first coming of Jesus Christ and anticipation of his second coming. As living between the ages of the first coming and second coming of Jesus, we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward to anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

The approaching season in reality is one of the most stressful times of the year. Demands of the holiday season—parties, shopping, baking, cleaning and entertaining, just to name a few—may lead us to frustration, anger, & depression. In this season we are supposed to slow down and focus on the coming of Jesus.

Continued on next page ...

ELDRIDGE UMC
604 S. 2nd St.
Eldridge, IA 52748
563-285-4314
eldridgeumc@csteldridge.com

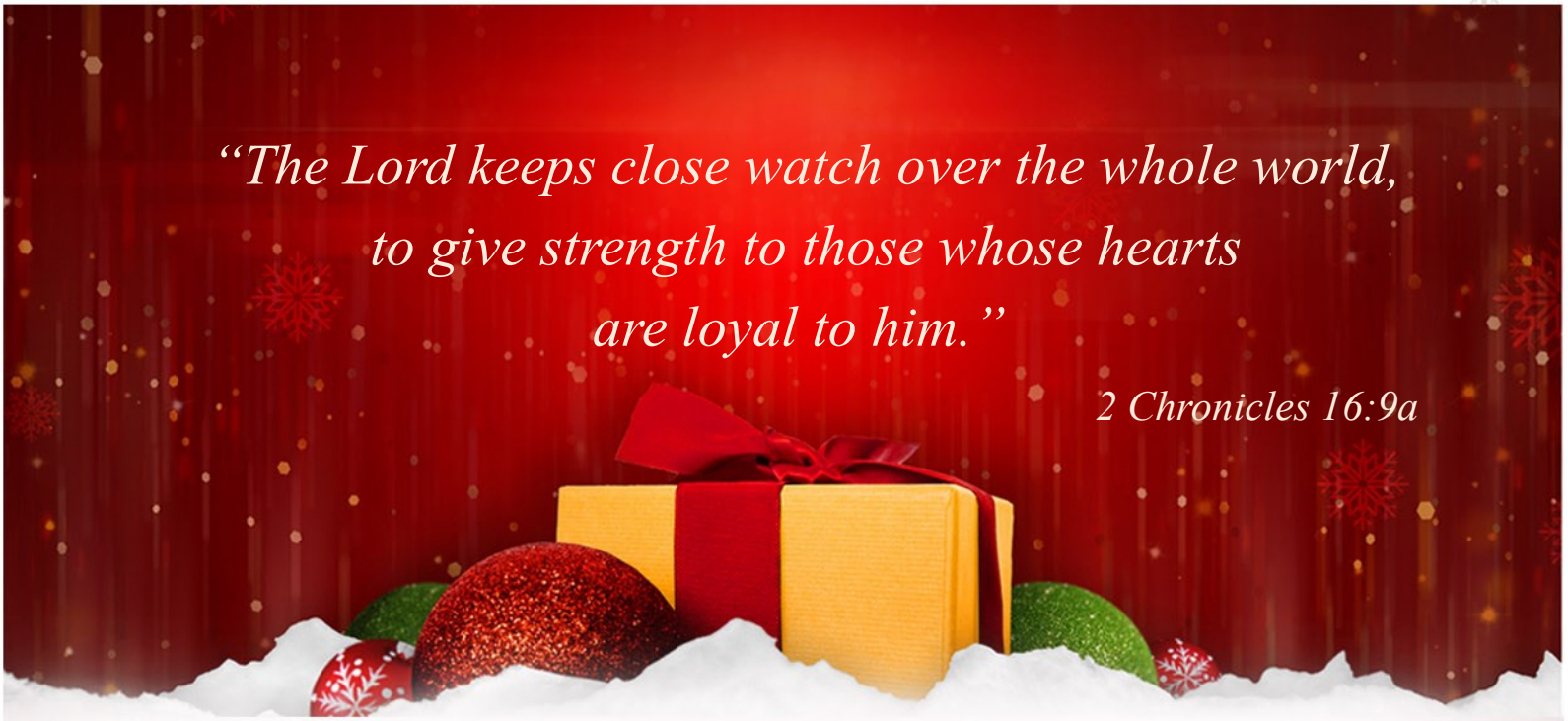
PASTOR
JaeHee Lee
chorongee13@gmail.com
515-380-0624

OFFICE MANAGER/ EDITOR
CJ Albertson
eldridgeumc@csteldridge.com

TREASURER
Becky Esbaum
treasurerUMC@csteldridge.com

CUSTODIAN
Andres Arana-Nigh

TECH SPECIALIST/ VIDEOGRAPHER
John Cannon



Pastor's Greeting *(continued from page 1)*

For some this holiday season can be painful and lonely, due to the deaths of their beloved one, isolation from daily relationships and activities, lack of financial source, and for other reasons.

It is the time of year, perhaps, when we need God's help more than any other. Worship is the place we may run to for help, for confession, for forgiveness, for being redeemed in the midst of the holiday season. It's a place where we can sort out our priorities.

As we enter into the advent season, I love to encourage you to come to worship. Worship is the place you may run to for help, for confession, for forgiveness, for blessings in the midst of the holiday season. Please set aside time for daily devotional. This year, I will send out an Advent Daily Devotional Video to help you learn more about Jesus and pray during this season. It will allow you to grow as a Christ follower. You will be honoring God as well. Furthermore God will bless you for it!

Remember these encouraging words as you begin this journey:

"The Lord keeps close watch over the whole world, to give strength to those whose hearts are loyal to him." (2 Chronicles 16:9a)

May God richly bless you as you walk with God through the season of advent.

Rev. JaeHee Lee

December Announcements

The church office will be CLOSED Dec 23 thru Jan 3 for Christmas and New Years. + There will be no January "Faithnews".(info is included in this edition) .

Office personnel will return as usual on Tuesday, January 4. For time-sensitive issues or emergencies, feel free to call Pastor Lee at 515-380-0624.

Merry Christmas!

U.M.W. CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Due to the holidays, the December gathering of UMW is *this* Wednesday, Dec. 8. at noon. This special 'meeting' is a Christmas luncheon here at the church which will be a catered box lunch from North Scott Foods. The box lunches will consist of a sandwich on a bun or a wrap (roast beef, ham turkey and cheese), chips, salad (pasta, vegetable or potato) and a cookie. We'd love to have everyone join us but due to the necessity of ordering the lunches, we *will* need advance notice. Please contact Linda Tubbs, 563-285-9320 or bltubbs2@gmail.com, for more information or to make a reservation.

thank you to Janalee Keppy and Judy Kilzer for once again spearheading the massive undertaking of the Children's Bazaar . . . and to ALL the many, many elves it takes to pull it off so successfully. Although our numbers were down this year, we still made lots little kids excited about . not just receiving at Christmas, but about *giving*.

Best Wishes for a Blessed Christmas
from everyone here in the church office!
We send you our love & thanks
for the blessings you are to us.

Peace

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL -- November 11, 2021

Members Present: Brian Popelka, chair, Pastor Lee, Bill Tubbs, Linda Tubbs, Kelly Cronkleton, Becky Esbaum, Gary Abbas, Debbie Menke, Kathy Rhinehart, Cindy Irwin, Joyce Orcutt.

1. **God sightings**
   a. Last night's Salute to Veterans soup supper was a blessing.
2. **Committee Updates**
   a. **Church Charge Conference** is Tuesday, November 16 6:30, at St. John's UMC.
   b. Brian went over some of the information for Church Charge Conference.
   c. **SPPRC** – Debbie Menke & Gary Abbas
      i. The Pastoral Support form for the Church Charge Conference.
      ii. John Cannon's proposal for updated internet service at the church was tabled until December when John can be here to answer questions.
      iii. The issue of communication with Pastor Lee was discussed.
   d. **Outreach** – Cathy Rhinehart
      i. Pastor Lee and Kathy visited three new families and received positive receptions.
      ii. There will be an Angel Tree this year, but due to COVID, gift cards only will be given. Carol Haugland will do the shopping using donations from the congregation.
   e. **UMW** – Linda Tubbs
      i. At the November meeting we will fill bags to go to the Churches United meal site when we serve in December. We will also cut fleece scarves to also go with the meal.
      ii. We still hope for more calendar orders for the 50th anniversary edition of our church calendar which will include pictures from the beginning of our church to the present, and as many birthdays and anniversaries as possible of our members and friends.
3. **Finance Update** – Becky Esbaum & Kelly Cronkleton
   a. Becky had questions about the guidelines for use of the Parsonage Fund and about how the gains from the fund may be used. Brian will ask District Superintendent, Doug Cue, those questions.
   b. There was a discussion about how the Outreach Fund may be used.
   c. Bill Tubbs moved and Gary seconded acceptance of the printed treasurer's report.
4. **Meeting adjourned with prayer by Pastor Lee.**

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Orcutt, secretary

WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

DEC.	Hosts	Liturgist	Treats	Pianist	Screens
*5	Janalee K & Mary T	Dan Esbaum	Karen A & Kelly C	Kathy D	CJ-A
12	Flow & Jan V-Kroeze	Marianne D.	Kathy D & Shaws	CJ-A	Keith R
19	Don & Marianne D.	Trish R.	Carol H & Judy K	Kathy D	Cindy I
26	Bea & Gary Abbas	CJ Albertson	Marianne D & Joyce O	Linda R	Keith R

*Communion Preparers: Becky & Dan Esbaum

2021 Monthly STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE Update

STEWARDSHIP: "Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation."

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT	General Operating Fund		Building Fund
2021 Pledges:	$ 120,924.00		$ 26,645.00
Anticipated 2021 Growth:	$ 13,457.00		
TOTAL	$ 134,381.00 ($11,198/mo)		$ 26,645.00 ($2,054/mo)
Received in 2021:			
January	$ 8,865.00		$ 715.00
February	$ 9,173.00		$ 1,690.00
March	$ 10,683.00		$ 1,700.00
April	$ 7,220.00		$ 1,695.00
May	$ 8,788.00		$ 1,530.00
June	$ 13,858.00		$ 615.00
July	$ 8,268.00		$ 630.00
August	$ 14,005.00		$ 3,220.00
September	$ 6,662.00		$ 405.00
October	**$ 11,009.00**		$ 1,130.00
2021 Income To Date:	**$ 98,531.00**		**$12,200.00**
Percentage of 2020 pledges:	**81%**		**54%**

— Accounts Receivable	*(General Fund only)—*		
OCTOBER (net *GAIN* of $118.47)	**Income: $ 11,559.70**		**Expenses: $ 11,441.23**
TOTAL to date (net *GAIN* of $5,541.37)	**Income: $115,951.17**		**Expenses: $ 110,409.80**

...the family & friends of **CINDY CRAIN** who passed from world on Nov. 23.

...the family of **BARRY HOLZWORTH** (son of Paul & Marguerite), who passed from complications of COVID on December 3rd.

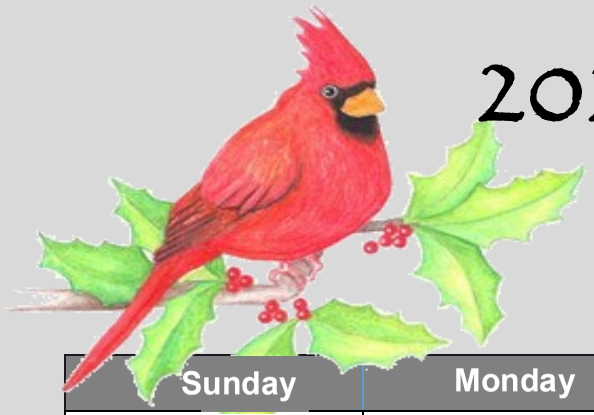
...**PHYLLIS KINNEY**, that she be okayed for permanent use of the medical trial device that brought her relief from her severe back pain.

...Mary Beth Riewerts' teaching colleague & friend, **LAURA CARTER,** whose 30 year-old son, **TONY's** liver transplant is failing.

...**TRUDY SHOCKEY,** Alisa Tubbs-Sleep's mother-in-law, who is not doing well & has been put into home hospice.

...**MIKE WRIGHT**, still struggling with pain & neuropathy after back surgery.

...the remaining kidnapped **HAITIAN MISSIONARIES** and their worried families.



2021 Advent Devotional Calendar

"25 Names of Jesus"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 1st Sunday in Advent	29	30	1 Jesus Matthew 1:21	2 The Word John 1:1	3 Alpha & Omega Rev.1:8	4 Mediator 1 Timothy 2:5
5 2nd Sunday in Advent Lamb of God John 1:29	6 Light of the World John 8:12	7 Lord of All Acts 10:36	8 Great High Priest Hebrews 4:14	9 Good shepherd John 10:11	10 Great Physician Luke 9:11	11 Bread of Life John 6:35
12 3rd Sunday In Advent King of Kings Rev. 17:14	13 Son of Man Mark 10:33	14 I Am John 8:58	15 Son of David Matthew 1:1	16 True Vine John 15:1	17 Wonderful Counselor Isaiah 9:6	18 Redeemer Job 19:25
19 4th Sunday in Advent Prince of Peace Isaiah 9:6	20 The Way, The Truth, the Life John 14:6	21 Immanuel Isaiah 9:6	22 Messiah John 4:25-26	23 Son of God Luke 1:35	24 The Mighty God Isaiah 9:6	25 Savior Luke 2:11
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Church Office is Closed All Week

* Pastor Lee will send a daily VIDEO to accompany these devotional readings.

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00 Yoga	**2** 10:00 Worship Comm mtg. *Set Up for Children's Bazaar—9am*	**3**	**4** 44th Annual EUMC Children's Bazaar 9am-1pm
5 ADVENT-2 **9am WORSHIP** w/Communion 4:30 Choir Practice	**6** **Office Closed**	**7** 10:30 Bible Study	**8** 9:00 Yoga 10:00 Office Meeting 12:00 UMW Box Luncheon	**9** 11:30 Pastor to NS Clergy mtg 6:30 Admin Council	**10**	**11** 7:00 Men's Breakfast in Argo
12 ADVENT-3 8am Choir Practice **9am WORSHIP** 4:30 Choir Practice 5:00 Countryside Brd. Mtg.	**13** **Office Closed**	**14** 10:30 Bible Study 1:00 Ukuladies to Grand Haven	**15** 9:00 Yoga	**16**	**17** NSFood Pantry Christmas Food Basket distribution Noon-3pm and	**18** 9am-11am 9am -11am EUMC Choir Rehearsal
19 ADVENT-4 8am Choir Practice **9am WORSHIP** **CHRISTMAS CANTATA** **with special children's performance**	**20** **Office Closed**	**21** 10:30 Bible Study First Day of Winter	**22** 9:00 Yoga	**23** **Office Closed**	**24** **Office Closed** Christmas Eve **SERVICES** McUMC 5pm **EUMC 8pm**	**25** Merry Christmas
26 **9am WORSHIP** ***Carol Sing"**	**27**	**28**	**29** 9:00 Yoga	**30**	**31**	

Office Closed December 23rd thru January 3rd

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

CELEBRATIONS

DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

12/2	CJ Albertson
12/4	Ken Fordham
12/5	John Bryant Ben Kinney
12/6	Alan Kay
12/10	Dan Esbaum
12/13	Nancy Herrin
12/15	Renee Nestler
12/19	Joyce Gay Judy Kilzer
12/22	Jeff Cronkleton Donna Eudaley
12/24	Rich Menke
12/26	Hannah Bryant
12/29	Aaron Bryant Wyatt Gentz
12/30	Kate Biekert

ANNIVERSARIES

12/13	Kandi & Holly Olson
12/26	Dennis & Donna Eudaley Lyman & Mary Miller Keith & Sally Riewerts
12/28	Lynn & Joyce Orcutt Ryan & Mary Beth Riewerts
12/30	Mike & Vicki Shaw

JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

1/03	John Cannon
1/04	Traci Hardeman
1/07	Ben Apple
1/08	Reese Crain
1/10	Jackie Berhenke
1/11	Don Doonan
1/13	David Sorensen
1/14	Deb Menke
1/17	Kelly Cronkleton
1/18	Sydney Cronkleton
1/19	Grace Kinney
1/20	Becky Newmeister
1/21	Jess Medina
1/26	Ayden Cary

ANNIVERSARIES

1/02	Al & Carol Kay
1/12	Beth & Ron Carlson
1/24	Mark & Nancy Herrin

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				.		**1**
2 **9am WORSHIP** w/Communion 5:00 Countryside Brd. Mtg.	**3** **Office Closed**	**4** 10:30 Bible Study	**5** 9:00 Yoga	**6** EPIPHANY	**7** 9:30-11 EUMC serves at NS Food Pantry	**8** 7:00 Men's Breakfast in Argo
9 8am Choir Practice **9am WORSHIP**	**10** **Office Closed**	**11** 10:30 Bible Study	**12** 9:00 Yoga	**13** 6:30 Admin Council	**14**	**15**
16 8am Choir Practice **9am WORSHIP** **11am POTLUCK**	**17** **Office Closed** Martin Luther King Holiday	**18** 10:30 Bible Study	**19** 9:00 Yoga	**20** 11:30 Pastor to NS Clergy mtg	**21**	**22**
23 8am Choir Practice **9am WORSHIP**	**24** **Office Closed**	**25** 10:30 Bible Study	**26** 9:00 Yoga 3:00 UMW mtg	**27**	**28**	**29**
30 **9am WORSHIP** w/Communion 4:30 Choir Practice	**31** **Office Closed**					

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

January at the FOOD PANTRY

*canned FRUIT

*canned SOUP

The North Scott Food Pantry Board says THANK YOU to everyone who helped with your time, food and/or funds this year. This support from the community continues and everything was greatly appreciated. The Food Pantry's logo says it all, this community is "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

A new year . . .

A new ALTAR FLOWER CHART . . .

Pick a date and share some beauty!

Not sure if you're up-to-date on your pledge?? If you have ANY questions about your 2021 giving, please do not hesitate to contact me, and I will be glad to assist you. 2021 Giving Statements will be printed and distributed in January.

Trish Reisener, Financial Secretary
t.reisener@yahoo.com 563-570-8280

PS—It's not too late to turn in your 2022 Pledge Just drop off in the church office on a Thursday or mail to the church at 604 S. 2nd St. Thanks for helping keep EUMC strong in its service to God & his people!

Pledge Cards

The Jan-Feb edition of

"THE UPPER ROOM"

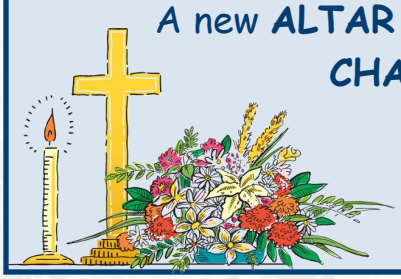
is available now

Stop by during office hours & pick one up from the table in the front foyer of the church.

January Announcements

A new year . . .

A new **ALTAR FLOWER CHART . . .**



Pick a date and share some beauty!

Potluck A-Comin

The Worship Committee would like to invite you to participate in a "Mid-Winter POT-LUCK at 11am (after church + some 'prep-time') on Sunday, January 16th. More details to follow but mark your calendars to enjoy some heart-*warming* fellowship and maybe even some board games after-wards. PS-The Worship Committee is looking for a few individuals to help out in the kitchen that day? Any takers?

Just 'Being There'. . .

It seems that the MealTrain site that was previously set up for the Crains has been filled through December and has drawn to a close. I checked in with the friend who set it up and she is not sure that Cory wants to extend it, so for now consider it a 'closed site'. I will keep tabs on it and set one up through the church if the neighborhood decides to forego it after the holidays if Cory okays it (of course) — probably just for 'once-a-week' as much to act as a reminder that their church is 'here for them' in the coming weeks and months as for the actual meal itself. I'll keep you posted but feel free to reach out on your own any time.

TIME & TALENT SURVEYS

will be coming out in January.

Please be thinking and praying about how you can give back to God from the gifts you have so richly received.

JANUARY WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

JAN	Hosts	Liturgist	Treats	Pianist	Screens
*2	Bea & Gary Abbas	Joyce Orcutt	Karen A & Linda R	Kathy D	Keith R
9	Paula B & Joyce O	Keith Riewerts	Becky E & Daisy S	Sally R	Cindy I
16	Dan & Becky Esbaum	Linda Tubbs	Marianne D & Kathy R	Cindy I	CJ-A
23	Sue C & Norma N	CJ Albertson	Kathy D & Joyce O	Linda R	CJ-A
30	Kelly C & Betty F	Dan Esbaum	Karen A & Sondra B	CJ-A	Keith R

*Communion Preparers: Deb Menke & Trish Reisener

January 2022

(turn over for December 2021 edition)

Faith news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | ELDRIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PHOTO RE-CAP of 2021

Kids add extra *'light'* to Chrismon Service.

Korean Culture Night!

Salute to Veterans

NEW PASTOR

Bekah & Reece Riewerts BOTH made All-State Choir. Congrats X 2!!

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday –Friday

8:30 am—12:30 pm

ELDRIDGE UMC
604 S. 2nd St.
Eldridge, IA 52748
563-285-4314
eldridgeumc@csteldridge.com

PASTOR
JaeHee Lee
chorongee13@gmail.com
515-380-0624

OFFICE MANAGER/ EDITOR
CJ Albertson
eldridgeumc@csteldridge.com

TREASURER
Becky Esbaum
treasurerUMC@csteldridge.com

CUSTODIAN
Andres Arana-Nigh

TECH SPECIALIST/ VIDEOGRAPHER
John Cannon