

NEWSLETTER for MAY 2022

ELDRIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Friends,

I can't even bring myself to call it the May "Faithnews" because it's going to be so lame, but I need to get *something* out to you. You've been so kind and so patient. I've tried to tough it out but I've basically been ill since March 26th...the reason you didn't get an April issue of "Faithnews". Sorry!

I'm not sure what it was but I know what it wasn't...COVID. At first I was relieved but after it lingered on & on into a fourth week, I started wishing it was "something" more than an untreatable 'virus'. I missed a whole week of regular office work but did as much as I could from home to get us through Sundays. Then just when I was finally starting to feel barely enough better to come into the office for a while and thinking I was on the mend, I was hit by an infection. Didn't really know what it was, thought I was treating it, would have a good morning thinking I had nipped it in the bud only to be completely knocked on the old keester late that afternoon (too late to call doctor), etc. I started in on two more weeks of feeling just rotten. Finally meds that kicked in (even though *they* made me sick for three days) and—I almost hate to put these words to paper—but as of this minute (check clock)—6:52pm Friday night, April 29th—I think I'm going to live! (Okay, that was a bit of hyperbole, but after a good six weeks of feeling pretty darned terrible, I'm verging on giddy right now).

So here we are at another "Newsletter Time" and, although I have been in the office all week, there has been a lot of catch up and I have not even begun it until now (check clock)—7:04pm...I don't really type that slowly, I had two phone calls. So I'll apologize first to tell you that THIS is your "Faithnews" for May...no frivolous banter, no pretty pictures, no clipart... 'JUST THE FACTS, MA'AM'. Here you go. Thanks for being so patient and so kind...I'll do better next month, promise!

Love, CJ

IMPORTANT STUFF TO KNOW – Mark Your Calendars!

1. Since Pastor is finishing her vacation, we will be having COMMUNION on May 8th rather than on May 1st. Once again, I want to thank Grace Knapper for filling in these past two weeks at the pulpit.
2. FOOD PANTRY emphasis this month is on Snack Bars/GranolaBars/PopTart-type items.
3. North Scott Advance Placement (AP) Testing will be going on here on Monday and Thursday mornings of the next two weeks. Please try to avoid the church at those times if you can, in order to provide the most quiet and non-distracting environment possible for the students' success.
4. Our hard-working Trustees have measured, gathered, pre-purchased, prepped and planned so that we can get right down "to it" starting at 9am this coming **Saturday, May 7th for an All-Church WORK DAY**. Come grungy, bring your work gloves and any other 'accessory' that you find helpful but we'll provide all the tools and materials necessary to check a bunch of jobs off the list.
5. MAY 8th we celebrate our MOTHERS. Please bring a guest – your mother, your child, your grandma that raised you, your neighbor that treated you like her child, a long-time friend of your deceased mother – someone you'd like to honor. Our worship committee is planning a couple nice things for this day.

6. Additionally on MAY 8th , a reminder that our tradition is to turn in our **PIGGY BANKS** (or whatever you've been using to save up) for funds to be directed to the Humility of Mary Shelter for Abused & Homeless Women. Normally, I would tell you to just place them on the altar when you arrive, but I'm not sure there will be space since it is Communion that day. I promise you there will be an identifiable area when you get here, how's that? Just look for the piggies!
7. The WORSHIP COMMITTEE meets at 1pm on Wednesday, the 11th.
8. The Men's Breakfast is moving back to ARGO for their regular get together at 7am on Saturday, the 14th.
9. MAY is a B-I-G month here at EUMC. Sunday, the 15th we are having **GOSPEL SUNDAY at 10am**. We will be welcoming the "PROMISED LAND" GOSPEL GROUP to our church for a full concert of rousing music to accompany a service replete with the reading and preaching of Gospel as well. You don't want to miss this; McUMC is joining us; *LET'S FILL THIS CHURCH*. Please bring friends!
10. . . . and to make it just a little more festive, we're going to add in a good old-fashioned Methodist-style **POTLUCK DINNER** after all that Gospel-Raising! You bring a couple dishes to share and your own table service, *if you can* (we obviously have dishes and stuff, just not so much help in the kitchen for cleaning it all up). We'll provide some simple drinks and a dessert. It's been sooooo long since we've done this together. I can't wait to do this again, like 'normal' Methodists pre-Covid! (Oops, I did promise you no frivolous banter, didn't I?)
11. Starting that evening of May 8th, Countryside Community Theater will be holding preliminary rehearsals here until they can get into the HS auditorium. They will be here Monday thru Thursday evenings from 6-9ish. They have been apprised of conflict of which WE aware. If you have something that you were planning and didn't put speak to the office about getting it on the calendar, let me know ASAP and we'll try to get it worked out.
12. And it's another very special Sunday. . . May 22nd is **GRADUATION SUNDAY!** We want to honor and celebrate the hard work and dedication of our graduating High School and College Seniors. We obviously have a notion of who is graduating but we really BEG YOU to get hold of officially with the following information: FULL NAME; relationship to this church; place of Graduation; major activities or emphases while in that school; any major distinctions or honors; future plans/"next steps"—we need this information no later than Thursday, the 5th, please. We ask that Grads attend dressed nicely and expecting to be called forward before the church for a gift (HS only) and recognition and plan to stay afterward for a special cake reception and pictures. Of course, we'd love extended family and friends to be invited to church with them that day.
13. ...and one more Sunday to discuss...the final Sunday of the Month is, of course the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend and most Graduations around here. But pastor is planning another of her very special **SING-ALONG-SUNDAY** worship services. Please mark your calendars and try to make it to church that busy weekend....it's always worth it (you know that!).
14. Just sticking our noses into June a tiny bit – a quick reminder that our church IS a polling place for the upcoming Primary Election to be held on June 7th....another good day to avoid coming to the church for anything other than to cast your ballot, if possible.

PRAYER CONCERNS

This week, special thoughts and prayers go out to . . .

...the people of **UKRAINE** suffering the Russia invasion of their country; the people of **RUSSIA** who don't want this invasion but will suffer the consequences of Putin's leadership; the people of **POLAND & SURROUNDING COUNTRIES** who stressed & overwhelmed with the influx of refugees while worried about their own safety next; the people of all **EUROPE** who are worried about the fall-out of this incursion; the people of the **WORLD** who seek clear paths to support the innocents; the **LEADERS** of the world as they grapple with how to support the best interests of both the Ukrainians & their own countries.

...**VICTORIA** (David Smith's friend) who fell and broke her kneecap.

...Dennis Eudaley's nephew, **TROY**, who was in a motorcycle accident & sustained some tough injuries.

...**CAROL KAY** who is in pain from shingles.

...**DONNA EUDALEY** as she continues to struggle with difficult health issues.

...**VERN SORENSEN** who has come home to continue convalescing after his fall. We pray also for **SYLVIA** as she takes on this big responsibility.

...**FRAN WILSON**, both shoulders in need of surgery and very painful stenosis & arthritis in her lower spine.

...**RICH & DEB MENKE** in their medical journey thru Rich's cancer.

...**MARK BADER** who is living with ALS, as well as Julie and family who are supporting him through this difficult journey.

PRAYER & VISITS: *If you would like to add a name to the prayer list or have a visit from the Pastor, please call the church office at 563-285-4314. If it is of a time-sensitive nature, you can call Pastor Lee (515-380-0624) or CJ Albertson (563-320-4582) directly.*

MAY HOSTS	LITUR.	TREATS	PIANO	TVs
1 Mary T & <u>Norma N</u>	Rheta A	Kelly C & Judy K	Kathy D	CJ-A
* 8 Bea & <u>Gary Abbas</u>	Keith R	Christi N & Daisy S	Cindy I	CJ-A
15 <u>Dan</u> & Becky Esbaum	Linda T	Janalee K & Karen A	CJ-A	Stacy M
22 Rheta & Stacy (<u>Dietrich</u>)	CJ-A	Becky E & Carol H	Linda R	Cindy I
29 Sondra B & Janalee K	<u>Trish R</u>	Kate B & Kathy D	Linda R	Keith R

***COMMUNION PREPARERS (8th):** Dan & Becky Esbaum

Underlines denote ACOLYTE

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

5/2	Jesse Biekert Kathy Rhinehart	5/16	Travis Berhenke Stacy Muhs Tabitha Skyles	5/22	Dale Carey Sylvia & Vern Sorensen
5/4	Lloyd Keppy	5/17	Ken Nestler Sylvia Sorensen Karen Voelkel	5/26	Susan Ames
5/5	Michael Kintigh Linda Reickard	5/21	Larry Haugland Becky & Jeff Newmeister	5/27	Richard Heiman Tim Reickard Doug Reynolds Boise & Daisy Schoonover
5/7	Joyce Orcutt	5/29	Becky & Dan Esbaum		

(check clock) 7:56--sorry about any typos, but I'm going home!