

September 2022



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ELDRIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

from the PASTOR'S PEN

Peace and grace to Eldridge & McCausland church families in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. WOW! Fall is off to a great start. Summer is known as a growing season, and fall is too, for harvest is coming near. Without growing, there is no harvest. Driving back and forth between Eldridge and McCausland, I have seen the crops growing faster and faster, which reminds me of the riches of God's glory. It is still quite a mystery to me how a grain of seed is growing fully after it is planted in the ground. Just like that, there is a mystery of God's words. As the Bible says in 1 Peter 1: 23 & 25b "You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.... That word is the good news that was announced to you". God's words are planted in the hearts of believers, growing more and more, manifesting the goodness of God's salvation.

As we enter the season of another growing season for harvest, I want us to take a deep breath and think about the way God's word has been growing in our hearts and lives because it takes attention and care to make the planted seeds grow well. Are there weeds that hinder their growth and need to be pulled out? Are there any areas of our life that are disconnected from the Vine, lacking nutrients and growth? If so, how can we make them reconnected to the Vine again?

(Continued on page 2)

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BAPTISM brings special joy to eumc



Welcome to **Charlie Ernest Conover**, infant son of Zach & Kat Conover. Zach is the son of Janice & Matt Conover and the grandson of EUMC members, Betty & Larry Frazee. A special addition to the day was having Charlie's Grandpa Matt, a UM pastor, share with Pastor Lee in the rite of baptism & provide the morning's message.



"The Club", the after-school program at Neil Armstrong Thursdays from 2:45-4:45 p.m. will begin October 13th. If you have a heart for children who need to know how much God loves them, we can REALLY use your help for 2 hours a week. Where else can you play games with kids, enjoy snacks with kids, get to know kids, and show them God's amazing love all for the gift of 2 hours a week???? To volunteer call Joyce Orcutt at 563-940-

Continuing thru September!

Pastor Lee's Sermon Series entitled:

"Growing In the Abundant Life Jesus Promised"

John 10: 10b

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly"



BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday morning Bible Study resumes on October 9th at 10am in the EUMC library.

Welcome back! We will begin the year by studying Adam Hamilton's book about Peter called, Simon Peter, the Flawed but Faithful Disciple.

Most of us will meet in person, but one or two of us will join via Zoom each week, so you can join us from wherever you are! We would love for lots of you to join us, so contact Joyce Orcutt, 563-940-5565 to get a book ordered for you.

Bible study isn't for people who already know the Bible, but for all of us who know how much we *don't*

know and want to know more, because there is always so much more to know! Together we read, discuss, share varying and sometimes opposing ideas. But together we learn and grow so much from each other in our diversity.

Oh, and did I mention COFFEE, TREATS, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP?? Can't forget those! 

Think about becoming part of a small group you may not have known before. We may not have it all together, but together we have it all! Come join us!!!

PASTOR'S PEN

(continued from pg.1)

There are things we are called to do together as the body of Christ in this new season so that the many parts of the body may continue to grow for the harvest season. A sermon series on "Growing in the Abundant Life Jesus Promised" will continue on in September. Our leadership team is going to prepare to work with the congregation through CAT (Congregational Assessment Tool) for the healthy growth of our church. This new season seems to be an exciting season, doesn't it?

Love in Christ,

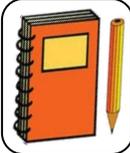
Pastor JaeHee Lee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- CHOIR:** The EUMC Chancel Choir is made up of 24-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. We will begin at 8am Sunday morning, September 11th as we prepare to sing that morning during worship. We will rehearse again that evening at 4pm in order to 'get ahead' for the remainder of the month. The first Sunday of the month, the choir takes the day off — a perfect opportunity for us all to enjoy the many talents of individuals. 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 to share YOUR talents, either as 'special music', or a worship pianist, or a member of the choir. We have fun and want to include YOU!
- ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Beginning October 9th in the library, grab your coffee and treats and meet in the church library. We'll decide together what direction we want to go this year, so come look at some ideas and do some brainstorming, so we can make adult Sunday School what will make the rest of your week better because you were there.
- FOOD PANTRY needs for SEPTEMBER:**
 *Pasta *Peanut Butter *Jelly *Cooking Oil
 *fresh garden produce if you have too much!

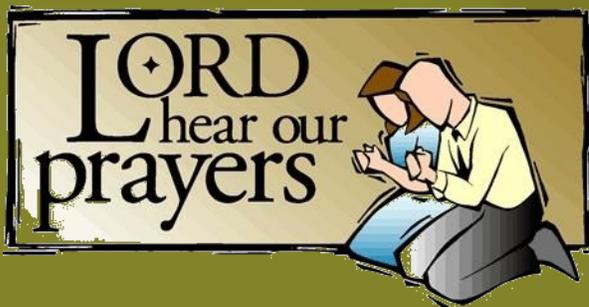
- INGATHERING KITS:** THANK YOU to everyone who donated items for the Student Kits. What a great response!! For the Personal Dignity and Layette Kits, there are a few things still needed. Please check the mission table in the Gathering Area for latest information on items needed. Note: October 16th is the cutoff date for all supplies.








- 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 Churches United Meal Site! Please place all items in Gathering Area during September and early October.
- MEN'S BREAKFASTS:** Each month, on the 2nd Saturday morning, the men of EUMC and McUMC join for a fellowship breakfast at 7am. Although for many years, they went to Argo, they have now decided to stay right here in town & go to TASTY CAFÉ from now on--see you there!
- PARENTS OF TEENS:** Watch your mail! You will be getting a letter soon from our "Children, Youth & Family Ministry" (CYFM) committee explaining plans for your teen here at EUMC this school year.



...for **RAINE** (Jackie Berhenke's granddaughter) who has problems with her hips from a breach birth & **MARILYN** (Jackie's mother) who has cancer.

...for **ANN MULVILL** (NS retired teacher and friend of many here) who continues to struggle with ill health and dwindling 'options'.

...for **LINDA TUBBS**, who is home from the hospital and recovering well. Miraculously through it all, her back pain is much abated!

...Dennis Eudaley's sister, **WENDY**, who has developed a brain tumor and is undergoing difficult radiation treatments.

...for all those affected by **FLOODS & FIRES** across America.

...for **FLO KROEZE**, struggling with on-going pain after a fall.

...for **LEONA LIGHTNER** who is seriously 'in decline'

...for bringing growth to our congregation, especially in the form of **YOUNG FAMILIES** with children.

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

...for **FRAN WILSON**, suffering chronic shoulder & back pain.

...for the **PEOPLE OF UKRAINE**

...for the **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** & its many struggles.



A Prayer for Back-To-School



Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Dear God

Thank you for our young learners. As they embark on a new school year and meet new friends and teachers, and start new coursework, help them be courageous and hopeful. Let them wake up each morning refreshed and excited to start a new school day.

God, our young people have their whole lives ahead of them. Give them a sense of adventure as they explore the world around them, beginning with the security of their own classroom and school.

We pray that our school students would feel physically and emotionally safe in their classrooms, with minds free from fear and open to learn. Protect them from evil, hatred and violence all of their school days.

May each student have the confidence to approach new challenges with a growth mindset, believing that they can do anything they choose with enough practice and grit.

Knowing You love them even more than we, it is in Your name we pray . . . Amen.



Jaelyn (gr.K) & Jesse (gr.2) on the first day of school



Logan (gr.4), Claire (gr.1) & Spencer (gr.3) at cousin Charlie's baptism in August.

'Thank You' x 3!

Dear Church,

Thank you for letting us baptize Charlie, and for Matt to preach. From our family joining in the 70's, to the 4th generation coming to Eldridge, Matt & I couldn't be blessed any more than we are.

Charlie's baptism will be another great memory EUMC has provided our family.

I love coming back and seeing people I have known for so many years. Eldridge UMC will always hold a special place for us.

Thank you.

Janice & Matt Conover

Dear EUMC friends,

Thank you all so much for the prayers, well-wishes, cards & follow-up during my recent surgeries, hospital stay & illness. I am currently recovering at home and feeling stronger each day.

You are loved!

Darlene Arana

Robert (gr.8) & Ethan (gr. 6) Wheeler got to spend a week of "Summer Adventure" at Wesley Woods Christian Camp. They enjoyed it very much and want to thank everyone here at the church for helping to make it possible.





September Calendar Events

- 4 Communion Sunday
- 8 Admin Council / 6:30pm
- 10 Men's Brkfst @TastyCafe/7am
- 11 Choir Begins / 8am & 4pm
- 13 Special Election (voting here)
- 14 Worship Committee / 1pm
- 16 EUMC works @ Food Pantry
Private event in Gathering Area
- 28 UMW meeting / 3pm
- 29 NS Homecoming Tailgate Party
@ Faith Lutheran / 5:15pm
- 30 NS Homecoming Football Game



Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is
 love,
 joy,
 peace,
 longsuffering,
 gentleness,
 goodness,
 faith,
 meekness,
 temperance:
 against such there is no law.

*What kind of apples would
 your tree limbs hold?*

September WORSHIP TEAMS

DATE	HOSTS	ACOLYTE	LITURGIST	TREATS	PIANIST	TV
9/4*	Marianne & Don Doonan	Marianne Doonan	Rheta Allen	Kate Biekert; Sue Cannon	Kathy Dawson	CJ Albertson
9/11	Kelly Cronkleton; Janalee Keppy	Kelly Cronkleton	CJ Albertson	Karen Apple; Judy Kilzer	Cindy Irwin	Trish Reisener
9/18	Dietrich Muhs; Mary Thomas	Dietrich Muhs	Marianne Doonan	Becky Esbaum; Dave Muhs	CJ Albertson	Stacy Muhs
9/25	Biekert Family	Reese Riewerts	Keith Riewerts	Kelly Cronkleton; Betty Frazee	Linda Reickard	CJ Albertson

* COMMUNION Preparers/Servers (4th): Ben & Karen Apple



September Celebrations

9/5	Gabriel Skyles
9/6	Clifton Willey
9/7	Owen Popelka Grant Stilson
9/9	Dave & Carol Faeth
9/11	Lynn Reth
9/14	Larry Frazee Marcia Nestler
9/15	Ethel Reynolds
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
9/24	Kyle Apple
9/26	Melvin Reth
9/28	Stacie Kintigh

Birthday & Anniversary Club

Recent New Members (as of 8/27)
Cindy Irwin & The Kintigh Family

2022 Contributions so far: \$684

United Methodist Women...*busy, busy!*

RESUMING MONTHLY MEETINGS:

UMW meets at 3pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month in the church library. This month's September 28th meeting has Jan Wright presenting the program and acting as hostess.

We would love to have any and all women of the church to join us and to be part of United Methodist Women. Join us as we work toward our many mission projects, such as cutting fleece scarves to go with personal care bags we assemble for men, women, and children that go down when we serve the December Churches United meal to hungry people. We look forward to seeing you on the 28th!

FALL RETREAT:

UMW is also planning a women's retreat for October 15th. This year it will be held at the church as we learn about women of both the Old and New Testaments; who they were, how they lived, what they did, how the world treated them, what they might have eaten. We'll do some household tasks they might have done, eat some food they might have fed their families, explore some of the attitudes toward women in Biblical patriarchal society.

We'll learn together, have fun together, have great fellowship, and end the day glad we were there. Invite your family and friends. There will be more information about reservations and a minimal cost to cover lunch and craft/activity expenses (probably \$5-\$8) McCausland ladies will also be SO welcome to join us! Let's see what we can appreciate about the legacy these Biblical women left for us, and how we can also impact our small world around us for God's kingdom and God's people in our lives.

LASAGNA SALE:

We were all sad that we couldn't taste those wonderful Colorado Peaches this year, but the UMW ladies have a great idea to appeal to our appetites that just might do the trick to tempt those tastebuds. They are going to be putting together yummy trays of LASAGNA for your dinner or your freezer! More details to follow on dates and prices but be on the lookout — you won't want to miss this!

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL -- August 11, 2022

Members present – Gary Abbas, Keith Riewerts, Deb Menke, Pastor Lee, Brian Popelka, Kelly Cronkleton, Becky Esbaum, and Joyce Orutt

Glory sightings – Several shared where they had seen God at work recently.

Review of minutes from July meeting – The minutes had been sent out electronically and were approved as printed.

Circuit update with Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) reviews & discussion – A facilitator will come from the Conference Center, ask a list of questions to get an idea of what our church feels, then will create a plan to move forward with the CAT.

Christ UMC communication review – Bishop Laurie has sent information that each church in Iowa may decide what they want to do about marrying same sex couples. Each pastor may decide whether or not he/she will perform the marriages.

Outreach report – sent in by Kathy Rhinehart

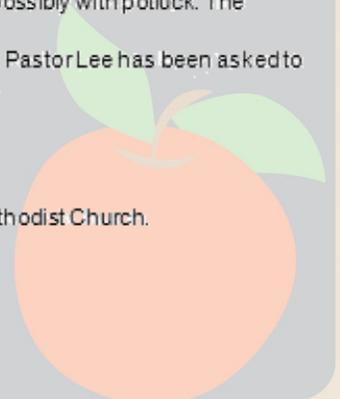
- Donated \$707.81 to Feed Our Children by purchasing food supplies needed each week. Considering the volume of meals prepared twice a week requiring many volunteers to assemble them, Becky suggested perhaps the components for the lunches be prepared at Faith Lutheran Church (sandwiches, bagged chips, cookies, etc.) then they be sent individually to distribution sites where the children coming for the lunches assemble in the bag what they choose for themselves, thus saving some assembly time at Faith Lutheran.
- The committee is setting up October as Mission/Outreach month:
 - o Oct 2 Human Trafficking speaker (TBD)
 - o Oct 9 Humble Dwellings speaker Karen Van de Casteel, speaker. (Brian will connect Kathy Rhinehart and Peggy Qh) to coordinate efforts for this mission.) We will have displays set up and sign-up sheets available for people interested in helping in any of these areas. Trucks and movers will be needed sometimes.
 - o Oct 16 In gathering review by Janalee Keppy.
 - o Oct 23 (TBD)
 - o October 30 Upcoming projects: Diabetes Workshop is scheduled for October 30.
- Soles for Souls will be collected in conjunction with the Lions Club in all area churches, library, and hardware store. This is a Christian ministry out of Tennessee to help people who need shoes. There is no cost to this.
- Other projects discussed were donating to UMCOR to help with floods and fires. Amount as not determined. Collection?
 - o Heifer Project—amount not determined. We may take up collection.
 - o Help for veterans where money donated would go to them and not administration costs. Research into this will be done.
 - o Diabetes support group and sending a child to diabetic camp at Hertko Hollow, possibly with Lions support as well.
 - o Reach out (cards, visits) to folks who have not been at church lately, so they know they are missed & important to us.
 - o Possibility of helping Leona Lightner with some financial help. Waiting to see if state will cover it.

SPPRC report by Deb Menke & Gary Abbas

- The position of a Youth Coordinator position was brought before the Council again. Joyce moved and Gary seconded creating a Youth Coordinator position. Dietrich Muhs will fill that position with a review in 6 mos.
- The committee is working on paid vacation times for employees (example: Andres has been working for the church for nearly 20 years and has 1 week, paid vacation.) Ad Council directed the committee to come back with a recommendation next month. Brian and Pastor Lee will seek comparisons from other UM churches.
- We need to work on the church website. Perhaps we will ask John Cannon to do that for us. If he needs to take a class to be more comfortable, we will pay for the class.
- The light in our sign is out and needs an electrician to look at it.

Worship Committee report sent in by Cindy Irwin

- *5th Sundays, starting October, we will have alternating joint services with McCausland, assuming McCausland agrees. I've been "assured" they will. We will begin the process October 30 at our church followed possibly with potluck. The months for 5th Sundays in 2023 are January, April, July, October, and December.
- The Fall Festival will be moved to 2023, so more planning and preparation may take place. Pastor Lee has been asked to organize it, but she will need help doing so. Brian will message Cindy for more information.
- We will have Mission "Moments" October 2, 9, 16 or 23.
- Choir will start rehearsals & singing for worship on the 11th of September.
- Blessing of the Backpacks will be August 21.
- We also discussed communion and the need to be informed about the "division" in the Methodist Church.



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Stamp
Here

Address Service Requested

Join Us for Worship at 9:00 a.m.

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Eldridge, IA 52748
Jaehae Lee, Pastor

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