

March 2023

FAITH *news*

Monthly Newsletter of Eldridge United Methodist Church

Dear EUMC Members & Friends!

Wow, time passes by and we have entered the season of **Lent!** The name "Lent" comes from the Anglo Saxon word "lencten" or "lenchthen," meaning "lengthen." So, does this season have something to do with lengthening 'something'? Right! As Spring appears, along with Lent, days are getting longer.

On the 2023 church calendar, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lent, fell on February 22. Those who came for Ash had the imposition of ashes on their forehead which is one of the most solemn moments both for a minister and members of the church, reminding us of our fallen humanity and of God's grace that is far more powerful than the power of sins.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, we focus more on our relationship with God.

Sundays are not counted in this forty- day period because Sunday represents a "Mini-Easter."

As we have begun the holy season of Lent, I want to remind you of the exhortation our Lord gives to us all: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

The suffering and death of our Lord bring the greatest hope and joy into the world. Therefore, let us journey together the season of Lent with the reverent spirit and joyful anticipation.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor JaeHee Lee*



MARCH
BIRTHDAYS

3/02	Gary Abbas <i>!guess!</i>
3/04	Lyman Miller Zeke Skyles
3/07	Melissa Willey
3/14	Dennis Eudaley
3/15	Jack Hawker
3/16	Devan Reickard
3/22	Quentin Coffman
3/24	Reece Riewerts
3/25	Leona Lightner
3/28	Daisy Schoonover
3/31	David Kintigh

LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY

(Combined Service @ EUMC)

February 22-7pm

5 SUNDAYS OF LENT

February 26-March 26

PALM SUNDAY

April 2

MAUNDY THURSDAY

(Combined Service @ McUMC)

April 6

GOOD FRIDAY

(Combined Service @ EUMC)

April 7

EASTER SUNDAY

April 19-Hallelujah!

**Have you turned in your
Time & Talent Pledge?**

It's never too late!

(...but it would be helpful if you did it sooner rather than later)

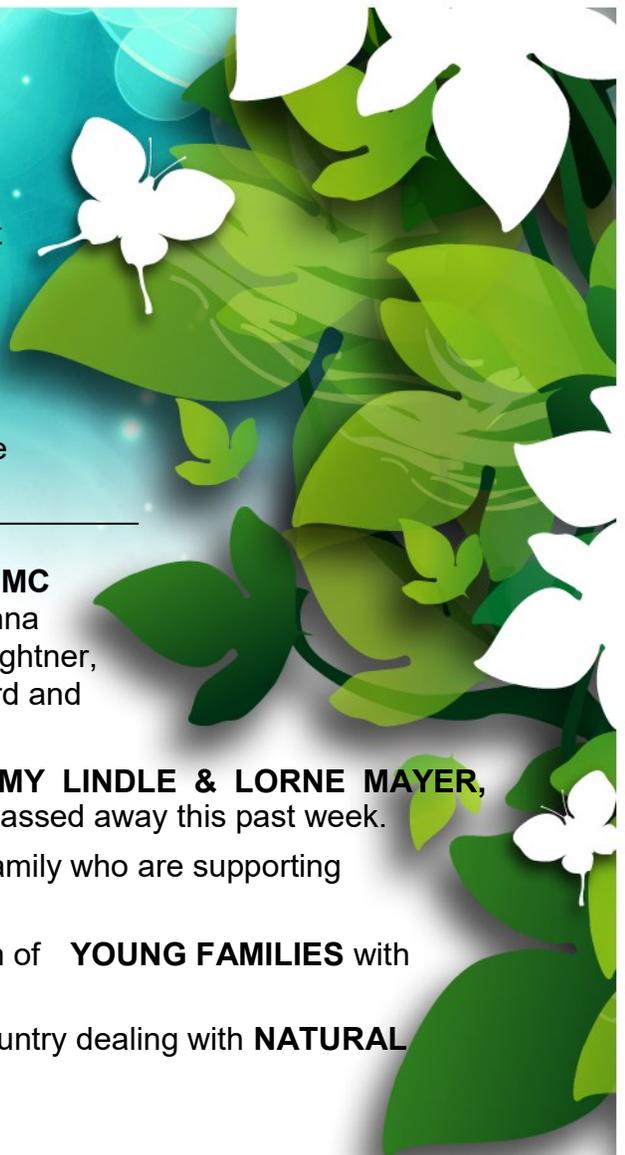


Don't be
late for church!

Spring Ahead
MARCH 12TH

Our Prayer for Lent

God, give us wisdom when we are tested.
 Teach us when to speak and when to be silent,
 when to ignore and when to respond with a shout
 from the rafters!
 When the Tempter comes, teach us to discern things
 Important from mere distractions from your plan
 for our lives.
 Teach us, O God, how to respond with wisdom when we
 are tested. Amen.



...the ongoing health concerns of our **EUMC parishioners:** Rheta Allen, Donna Eudaley, Phil Johnston, Leona Lightner, Al Kay, Joyce Orcutt, Tim Reickard and Sally Riewerts.

...the families of **FRAN PODBER, JIMMY LINDLE & LORNE MAYER,** local friends and neighbors who passed away this past week.

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

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

...the **SNOWBOUND & FLOODED** and all those across our country dealing with **NATURAL DISASTERS.**

...the victims of the earthquakes in **SYRIA & TURKEY.**

...the **PEOPLE OF UKRAINE** devastated by war.

...the **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** and its many struggles.



Your Name _____

Best Phone # _____ or Email _____

TOTAL # of Plants I'm Ordering _____ x \$10 each = \$ _____

The Easter Lilies will be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 12th. If you would like to purchase a lily, please fill out this form, attach payment & place it in the offering plate, hand to CJ, drop off at the office, or mail to the church (604 S. 2nd St). Please make all checks payable to "EUMC" noting "Lily" in the memoranda and plan to pick up your lily after Easter Sunday service.

Check	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cash	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you would like to dedicate your poinsettia in honor / remembrance of someone, please PRINT their name clearly below:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Please Check One

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Honor	Remembrance
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Honor	Remembrance
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Honor	Remembrance

More names? Continue on the back if necessary.

Please place your order no later than Mar 22. For your convenience, there will be a box for orders on the corner of the desk in the office.

FAT Tuesday Frivolity

**Kathy & Brian:
Our Cajun Chefs
Tres Magnifique!**



**The
Kitchen
Crew!**



Cindy Lou Who



FUN For ALL ages!



**Getting ready to
"Sing-Dixieland-with-
The-UKULADIES!"**

Laissez les bon temps rouler!

Sally served up the KING'S CAKE & these 6 chomped into the Golden Baby inside!



Sisters, Sisters!
There were never more delightful sisters!



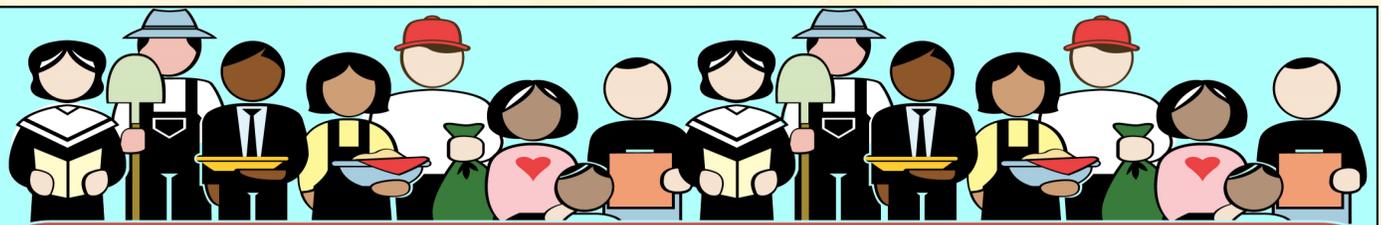
Reth's took advantage of the Photo Booth but ...



... where was Pastor Lee ???



Everyone BID a FOND "adieu" at the end of a great evening!



SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEERS

DATE	HOSTS	ACOLYTE	LITURGIST	PIANIST	TV SCREENS	TREATS
3/5* Dan & Becky Esbaum	Gary & Bea Abbas	Gary Abbas	Cindy Irwin	Kathy Dawson	CJ Albertson	Kelly Cronkleton; Daisy Schoonover
2/12	Boise & Daisy Schoonover	Boise Schoonover	Keith Riewerts	CJ Albertson	Trish Reisener	Joyce Orcutt; Kathy Rhinehart
2/19	Lynn & Laura Reth	Lynn Reth	Rheta Allen	Linda Reickard	Stacy Muhs	Cindy Hawker; Dave Muhs
2/26	Dennis & Donna Eudaley	Dietrich Muhs	Linda Tubbs	Cindy Irwin	CJ Albertson	Karen Apple; Kate Biekert

INFORMATIONAL MEETING!

During the February 26th Sunday morning worship service, Pastor Lee made a presentation regarding the history leading up to the current ‘divide’ in the United Methodist Church. You may have already heard or read pieces that have provided you the general understanding that the main topic of divisiveness is that of Human Sexuality especially as it pertains to the LGBTQ+ community—leading to, in some cases, ‘disaffiliation’ with the UMC.

A 2nd special informational meeting will held MONDAY, MARCH 13th at 6:30pm to pray and converse lovingly with each other about this important topic, to ask questions for clarification, & to hear a bit more about our options as a church.

As with any organization, we know that everyone is not of one mind on ANY singular topic. However, we call each one of us back to our best selves as a church, where we *have* been able to live and work together for our mission, even though we may have disagreed on many things – both large and small – throughout the years. We know how to do this!

Please give your attendance on March 13th your prayerful consideration.

Pastor Lee & the
Administrative Council

AND PLEASE JOIN US...

...for a special meeting of the Administrative Council as we begin the first steps of processing the information gathered from our C.A.T. Survey. A major finding of the survey showed us as a “Pastor-Focused Congregation”. *What does this mean? What does this mean to the operation of our church? Is this what we want or do we need to adjust in some way?* Answering these and other questions about the leadership of our church is of great importance to the approach/process of addressing the other topics in the survey.

ALL members of the church are not only welcome but encouraged to attend. Our district Superintendent, Doug Cue, will be here to lead the discussion at 6:30 pm on MONDAY, MARCH 20th.



McCausland UMC's

CHOCOLATE EASTER EGGS

Butter Cream, Chocolate
or Peanut Butter—\$8 each

Order by March 12

MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9-Yoga 3:00 UMW mtg. <i>(make up of Feb mtg.)</i>	2	3	4
	Granola Bars Canned Soup Crackers					
5 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> Communion Sunday 9:00 Worship 4:30 Choir Practice 6:00 CCT Board mtg	6 Office Closed	7 10:30 Bible Study	8 9-Yoga 1:00 Worship Comm	9 6:30 Admin. Council mtg.	10	11 7am Men's Breakfast @ Tasty Cafe
12 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> 8:00 Choir Practice 9:00 Worship 	13 Office Closed 6:30 Info Mtg #2 re: UMC Affiliation	14 10:30 Bible Study	15 9-Yoga	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
<p>← <i>Spring Break for North Scott</i> →</p> <p>← <i>Pastor gone for Con't. Educ</i> →</p>						
19 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> 8:00 Choir Practice 9:00 Worship <i>(Grace Knapper to preach)</i> 	20 Office Closed 6:30 Open Mtg re: CAT results for Pastor Responsibilities	21 10:30 Bible Study 	22 9-Yoga 3:00 UMW mtg.	23 Deadline for APR. FaithNews submissions	24	25
26 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> 8:00 Choir Practice 9:00 Worship	27 Office Closed @ EUMC 2-6pm	28 10:30 Bible Study	29 9-Yoga	30	31 	

Minutes: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL / February 9, 2023 (6:30)

ATTENDANCE: Temporary Chair: Deb Menke, Pastor Lee, Gary Abbas, Linda Tubbs, Cindy Irwin, Kathy Rhinehart, Lynn Reth, Keith Riewerts, Becky Esbaum, CJ Albertson: Substitute Secretary

1. God Sightings

2. **Minutes of January meeting:** Motion to approve as written-Cindy I; 2nd-Kathy R; approved

3. Financial Report

a. **Monthly Report** (*see attached*): Linda moved to approve; Deb 2nd; OK

b. Financial Audit Update (Becky)

- i. We need to do better at 'checks and balances'. Becky has a simple method in mind but will need to find 2 people to help out with it. CJ suggested a couple of names from people she has talked to through the office lately.
- ii. Linda moved we allow Becky to proceed to put a Monthly Audit Statement procedure in place. Keith seconded. Approved.

4. UMC Information Materials for upcoming 'Disaffiliation' discussion

- a. Pastor passed out a hand-out that culled some important information about the history of the General Conference decisions and the options before us today.
- b. The "church" is 'in control' of LGBTQ question: If the church wants gay weddings but pastor does not, the pastor finds a different pastor to perform the wedding; if the church does not want gay weddings, but the pastor does, the pastor can perform the wedding elsewhere. ("Leadership" is responsible for figuring out and representing the church's desires; C.A.T. Survey is a good resource for this)
- c. Concern was expressed that Pastor's document as presented was too complicated for the Sunday morning presentation. Pastor said that this was to get the "Leadership team educated in the time line of actions leading up to present". She will provide a more simplified version to the congregation on Sunday, February 26th.
- d. As a means of approach, Gary & Linda both reminded us of portions of the 4 Legs of the "Wesleyan Quadrilateral", a methodology for theological reflection & decision-making: (1)chiefly **SCRIPTURE** as the first authority, supported by (2)the justification, sanctification & fellowship of **TRADITION**, and the (3)confirmation by **REASON** that brings clarification of human understanding through (4)**EXPERIENCE**.
- e. If we decide not to vote, we will essentially be under the "One Church" description.

5. Timeline for Pastor's Initiatives for the Church

- a. C.A.T. (Sunday, Feb 19th after church; then *Monday, March 20* with Doug Cue)
- b. "Process"; Continued information to Congregation
- c. Committees to look at their roles

6. Other

- a. CJ had a request from CCT for the possible use of our building for upcoming rehearsals (as we have done in the past). Linda moved and Cindy 2nd that we allow. Approved
- b. CJ said the extended warranties on the 'new' kitchen appliances are expiring soon and supplied the amounts necessary to continue them for 1 and 2 years. We have just very recently used the current extended warranty to fix one of the stoves, resulting in a \$0 dollar expenditure that could easily have otherwise cost as much as the combined warranties or, much less, replacing the stove. Linda moved that we do the 2year extended warranty on all four appliance; Cindy seconded; all approved. CJ & Becky will take of this.



Respectfully submitted, CJ Albertson
Next Regular Meeting: March 9 @ 6:30pm

Eldridge United
Methodist Church

Rummage Sale 2023



THURSDAY, April 27
8:00am-5:00pm

FRIDAY, April 28
8:00am-5:00pm

SATURDAY, April 29
8:00am-Noon

*Everything HALF PRICE on Saturday,
except designated items.*

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED. . .

- * DONATE ITEMS! Please think of us if you have one item or numerous items. Clean, useable items of everything from clothing, household goods, furniture to tools needed.
- * WORK A SHIFT! Sign-up sheet will be in Gathering Area soon.
- * ATTEND! Find "just the thing". Grab a bargain. Mingle with friends & neighbors.

PRICING & DELIVERY DETAILS:

* Each person is to price all their miscellaneous items (household items, furniture, tools, etc.).

* For nicer clothing and books please mark with a fair price.

* You do not need to individually price clothing, shoes, & books if you are OK with the our standard prices listed in the 'guidelines' to the right →

* Between April 24-26, the church will be open from 8:30am-8:00pm for you to bring your items to donate. PLEASE place clothing & items on marked tables in sanctuary & side classrooms.

CLOTHING	ADULT	CHILDREN
Blouses, tops & shirts	\$2.00	\$1.00
Sweaters & sweatshirts	\$2.50	\$1.50
Shorts	\$1.50	\$.75
Pants & Slacks	\$2.00	\$1.00
Jeans	\$4.00	\$2.00
Skirts	\$2.00	\$1.00
Dresses	\$4.00	\$2.00
2-piece Outfits	\$5.00	\$4.00
Sleepers & PJ's	\$1.50	\$.75
Shoes/Boots	\$3.00	\$2.00
Coats (light weight)	\$3.00	\$1.00
Coats (heavy)	\$5.00	\$3.00

BOOKS

Hardback \$.75 / Paperback \$.50 / Magazines \$.10

For more details or clarification, call Stacy Muhs at 563-285-6899

*Start cleaning out those closets,
garages and basements . . .*

*We love your donations
as well as your shopping!*



ELDRIDGE UMC
604 SOUTH 2nd ST
ELDRIDGE IA 52748

Address Service Requested

Stamp
Here

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

(563) 285-4314
eldridgeumc@csteldridge.com

604 South Second St.
www.eldridgeumc.org



ELDRIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Eldridge, IA 52748
Jaehae Lee, Pastor

March 2023

Our Church Newsletter