



FAITH^{news}

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ELDRIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 2023

from the Pastor's Pen

Good May to you all!

The last Sunday service I conducted before my vacation was Easter Sunday. Back from two weeks' vacation, Easter's celebration is still lingering in my spirit as I am working on Sunday worship service ahead. And I have a good reason to talk about Easter now because May is still in the season of Easter, which ends on Ascension Day- 39 days after Easter Sunday.

The story of Easter is at the heart of what makes our Christian faith unique and life-changing. Death is overcome by life. Not even the grave holds back the life-giving power of Jesus Christ. What implications do these simple statements have in our life? EASTER CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING IN OUR LIFE if we live on the right side of Easter. So let me begin with two sides of Easter: A pre-Easter side & A post-Easter side.

1. Those living on a pre-Easter believe only in what they can see but those who are on a post-Easter side believe in what they cannot see.
2. Pre-Easter people rely upon human ideas and possibilities, but post-Easter people rely upon imagination driven by faith and the Holy Spirit.
3. A pre-Easter church is fixated on the past, but a post-Easter church is focused upon the future.
4. Pre-Easter Christians live in fear and dread, but post-Easter Christians live in confident anticipation.

Maybe some of you have sung at one time or another called, "Every Morning is Easter Morning." The chorus of the song begins with these words, "Every morning is Easter morning from now on and these words ever ring true.

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Pastor's Pen *(continued from Page 1)*

How do we continue celebrating Easter every morning, living on a post-Easter side, then? Well, it is through abiding in the presence of Christ. So, here is my prayer for all of us that this May is the time for us to remember and encourage one another for abiding behavior as a post Easter church. Let us come together and find new ways of abiding as a worshipping congregation because every morning is Easter morning from now on.

Blessing on the month ahead,
Pastor JaeHee Lee

MAY at the FOOD PANTRY



We offer special PRAYERS for . . .



...**SUZANNE WILLEY** (Cliff's mom), recently diagnosed with small cell carcinoma. Good news is that while 2 lymphs are affected and there is a small spot on a lung, all are contained and have not traveled to her brain. Praise be! A plan for treatment is in the early stages.

...**AL KAY**, diagnosed with Leukemia at Iowa City University Hospitals. Complicating factors and continued testing are determining an action plan. We additionally pray for **CAROL**, who is fatigued and overwhelmed with arrangements and care-giving.

...**TENLEY** (Kathy Rhinehart's 6-yr. old great-niece) having seizures & undergoing extensive testing.

...the ongoing health concerns of EUMC parishioners: **MARIANNE** Doonan, **DONNA** Eudaley, **KEN** Fordham, **PHIL** Johnston, **LEONA** Lightner, **JOYCE** Orcutt, **TIM** Reickard, **SALLY** Riewerts, **KATHY** Rhinehart.

...for insight, patience, flexibility, energy, discernment & faithfulness as EUMC works to move strongly forward to a bright future.

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

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



SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEERS

DATE	HOSTS	ACOLYTE	LITURGIST	PIANIST	TV SCREENS	TREATS
4/30	5th Sunday Combined Worship in McCausland @ 10am					
5/7*	Biekert Family	Clint Biekert	Cindy Irwin	Kathy Dawson	CJ Albertson	Karen Apple; Betty Frazee
5/14 Mothers Day	Sondra Bulazo; Mary Thomas	Trish Reisener	Trish Reisener	Linda Reickard	Keith Riewerts	*Mothers Day Brunch*
5/21 Graduation Sunday	Doug Becknell; Christie Nevenhoven	Dietrich Muhs	Joyce Orcutt	CJ Albertson	Stacy Muhs	Dave Muhs; Daisy Schoonover
5/28	Apple Family	Karen Apple	Rheta Allen	Cindy Irwin	CJ Albertson	Kelly Cronlketon; Carol Haugland

*Prepare & Serve Communion (9th): Ben & Karen Apple

5/2	Jesse Biekert Kathy Rhinehart
5/4	Lloyd Keppy
5/5	Michael Kintigh Linda Reickard
5/7	Joyce Orcutt
5/14	Debbie Fordham
5/16	Travis Berhenke Stacy Muhs Tabitha Skyles
5/17	Ken Nestler Karen Voelkel
5/26	Susan Ames
5/27	Richard Heiman Tim Reickard Doug Reynolds

← birthdays



anniversaries →

5/21	Jeff & Becky Newmeister
5/27	Boise & Daisy Schoonover
5/29	Becky & Dan Esbaum



Graduation Sunday

During worship on Sunday, May 21st we will be honoring the young people associated with our church who are graduating from high school and college. Please contact CJ in the church office with the name(s) of the graduate to be honored that day.

MAY HAPPENINGS

Monday 1	7:45-12 NSHS AP tests in Gathering Area
Mon 1 - Fri 5	5-9pm CCT Rehearsals in Gathering Area
Thursday 4	7:45-12 NSHS AP tests in Gathering Area 1pm Worship Committee mtg
Sunday 7	9am Worship with Communion 3pm "Spring Fling" @ St.Johns UMC 4pm Choir Rehearsal 6pm CCT Board Mtg.
Mon 8 & Tues 9	7:45-12 NSHS AP tests in Gathering Area
Mon 8 - Fri 12	5-9pm CCT Rehearsals in Gathering Area
Thur 11 & Fri 12	7:45-12 NSHS AP tests in Gathering Area
Saturday 13	Men's Breakfast Fellowship @ Tasty Café
Sunday 14	Mother's Day (see note at right)
Mon 15 - Fri 19	5-9pm CCT Rehearsals in Gathering Area
Tuesday 16	5:30-7:30 Gathering Area reserved (private)
Sunday 21	9am Graduation Sunday in worship
Wednesday 24	UMW to host district Shepherdess
Sunday 30	NSHS Graduation 1-5pm CCT meeting in Gathering Area
Monday 31	MEMORIAL DAY

Mother's Day 2023

As we salute our own mothers we also pause to think of others. Here is how we plan to salute ALL mothers on May 14th:



Asking all to **BRING A FLOWER** or two (in a vase) to set on the altar that morning. No particular flower or amount, just something as a visual reminder of the mom's who made our lives 'beautiful' over the years. Let's fill the altar with love!



This is the Sunday that we traditionally turn in our **PIGGY BANKS** with our donation to the Humility of Mary Shelter. Some of you have been using those special piggy banks, and some of you prefer to write a check. If you bring your bank, just place it on the altar (amid the flowers!) before worship. If you are writing a check or donating cash, use one of the "Special Offering" envelopes provided & place in the regular offering plate.



Along with special words of appreciation from Pastor Lee, the men of the church will be serving a lovely (free) **BRUNCH** after worship. The brunch will consist of egg casserole (either ham or veggie), fresh fruit cup, assorted pastries, and drink. Also, there will again be a Selfie Station for picture taking, as well as a couple small surprises to help remember the special day.

E.U.M.C.. ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL — February 9, 2023

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*

God Sightings

People pulled from rubble of earthquakes in Syria/Turkey

Neighbor shoveling driveway & gathering mail

Minutes: Motion to approve as written-Cindy I; 2nd-Kathy R; approved

Financial Report

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

Financial Audit Update (Becky)

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.

Linda moved we allow Becky to proceed to put a Monthly Audit Statement procedure in place. Keith seconded. Approved.

UMC Information Materials for upcoming 'Disaffiliation' discussion

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.

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)

Some 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.

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**.

If we decide not to vote, we will essentially be under the "One Church" description.

Timeline for Pastor's Initiatives for the Church

CAT (Sunday, Feb 19th after church; then . . .?)

"Process"

Information to Congregation

Committees to look at their roles

Other

CJ received 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

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 than 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 MEETING: Thursday, March 9 @ 6:30pm

ELDRIDGE UMC
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Address Service Requested

Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages 10:10 a.m.

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Eldridge, IA 52748
Jaehae Lee, Pastor

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