

OCTOBER 2023

FAITH*news*

Monthly Newsletter of Eldridge United Methodist Church



Hello, my friends!

It's CJ. Last month, having missed several days of work with my mom's hospitalization and death, I apologized for doing a simpler version of the newsletter. Everyone was, of course, understanding and gracious; But even more so--especially from those who realize the number of overtime hours I work on an *all-too-regular* basis--I had many comments last month in the vein of *"Why don't you always do the newsletter like that?"* and *"You're newsletters are beautiful, but we don't need all that fancy stuff if it keeps you there so late at night."* and *"You know, I even like it better this way, because I can keep it in my phone and refer back to it when I need it"*.

Then, just this week in conversation with the Pastor on an unrelated topic, we came upon the idea of a broader outreach of information (a topic that is never as simple as that last phrase sounds) that she would like to see done on a quarterly basis. In combination with her desires for more and my need to dial back some overtime, we are going to try doing a combination: On a monthly basis, the information will be dispensed in a more simple version as you saw last month and are seeing today; Quarterly, I will publish the 'elegant', formal version of a hard-copy "Newsletter" that will not only be for our own congregants but for people in our larger 'community'. This more formal newsletter will, of course, include our usual information but will look forward even further (3 months) and include upcoming sermon topics, special events, outreach efforts, missions reporting, etc. Again, I reiterate--Please understand that the content will remain the same – it's just the pretty (time-consuming!) formatting that will be foregone for two out of every three months.

In order to hit the church calendar best, we're thinking that the quarterly editions will be:

1. **February-April** (*this allows for Easter whether or not it falls in March or April*)
2. **May-July** (*ending the school year and kicking-off summer-specific topics*)
3. **Aug-Oct** (*moving into the new school/church year; setting up for Ingathering, Fall Festival, etc*)
4. **Nov-Jan** (*Stewardship, Thanksgiving, Lent/Christmas and the January 'slow-down' to balance out the size of an otherwise jam-packed season of reporting*)

As usual, I will have a limited number of PRINTED hard copies available on the foyer table every month for those who do not get email, but for the other 95%, you will continue to get your news via email attachment as you have been in recent years.

The main thing this will need from you is two-fold:

1. PLANING AHEAD for your activities in order to get them included in the "big" newsletter as well as the monthly one.
2. Some understanding, flexibility and patience as we work the kinks out for a good result over the next few months.

Okay, so here we go for our OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER . . .

1. PASTOR'S GREETING: *Greetings and Blessed Autumn to all of you!*

What a wonderful time of the year we have as a blessing from God to enjoy! I am so much enjoying the cool evenings and refreshing mornings that we have this time of the year, even though I am not looking forward to the following season -a cold and snowy winter.

In many ways, this season of autumn marks a new beginning for us: In September, a new school year began. Sunday school and the Choir began, too. Harvesting of crops is beginning around this time, and on the way to McCausland, I saw harvest done in some fields. The church leadership and committees gear up for the new ideas and plans for the rest of the year and beyond, sharing hopes, joys, and concerns as a Church community. Right now, we are working on the coming Sunday service, which will be a very special Sunday for the whole congregation -both of Eldridge & McCausland - receiving new members into both our churches. I am so excited about their faith journey with us.

Following this Sunday, I am planning on preaching (a sort of) sermon series on how to build our church family strong, looking back the way God has blessed us and looking ahead, where God wants to take us for the following years. As planned early this year, we are going to have a Joint Service at McCausland on Oct. 29, and have a potluck together. McCausland church is planning a Fall Day Trip to Dubuque on Oct. 12th, and we will have a guided tour of St. Luke's, which is my home church in the US. We are going to bring a welcome basket to two worship visitors at Eldridge church and my prayer goes out for them every day. Whenever someone walks into the sanctuary to worship with us, I feel super excited to get to know about them, and I love to visit with them. This is the heart that God put in me for new people. If you know or see new neighbors move in our town, please share with us. We love to welcome them and show the love of God through our support and care as they settle in a new place.

I pray that we all enter this new season with renewed energy and faith, blessed in the knowledge that God's presence and grace travel with us.

Blessings to you all, Pastor JaeHee Lee

- 2. RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS!** This Sunday morning, October 1, we will be welcoming **7** new members to the EUMC family. Please come to pay special welcome to them and share in a celebration afterward during the coffee hour.
- 3. CHOIR LADIES!** – Rehearsal at 8:30am this Sunday to sing for Oct 1 special worship.
- 4. ALL CHOIR** – regular 1st Sunday rehearsal at 4pm this Sunday, Oct 1...**PLEASE!**
- 5. WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING** – Wednesday, 4th at 1:00pm
- 6. Tuesday Morning BIBLE STUDY** will resume on October 10th at 10am.
- 7. ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL** meets Thursday, the 12th at 6:30pm.
- 8. MEN'S BREAKFAST** is Saturday, October 14th – 7am at Tasty Café.
- 9.** Sunday, the 22nd will be **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION SUNDAY** during worship.
- 10. UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH (UMW)** will meet at its regular 3pm time on Wednesday the 25th; they will begin work on the fleece scarves for Christmas baskets.

11. FOOD PANTRY items this month are:

Instant Potatoes, Boxed Stuffing, Gravy

12. “IGNITE YOUR FAITH” Workshop at St. Ann’s – 3 nights (Oct 22, 23 & 24) beginning at 7pm; facilitated by Fr. Ron Hoye of St. Louis. For all denominations: engaging presentations, life-changing stories, practical, ‘how-to’ approach to incorporating Jesus into the routines of our everyday lives in order to assure that “the main thing stays the main thing”. Each night is only 50 minutes long and designed for ALL ages: Young people find the stories and humor to be especially entertaining and enlightening. Perhaps there is something here to help US “ignite our faith” and grow EUMC...?!

13. OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

- 10/1 Brian Popelka
Ben & Karen Apple
- 10/5 Kathy Dawson
Carol Kay
- 10/7 Phyllis Kinney
David Muhs
- 10/8 **Jeff & Kelly Cronkleton**
- 10/9 Flo Veldhuis-Kroeze
- 10/11 **Lynn & Laura Reth**
- 10/12 Bill Tubbs
- 10/17 Dan Stackhouse
- 10/21 Lori Stackhouse
- 10/23 Jan Veldhuis-Kroeze
- 10/29 Dave Faeth
- 10/30 Laura McLain
AJ Petersen
- 10/31 Paula Bryant



14. I will send a copy of the Admin Council minutes next week.

15. REMINDER: Combined worship in McCausland on the 29th at 10am. There is a Potluck following— bring a dish or two to pass and your own table setting.

16. Here is the **WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE** for the month of October. I believe all 'trades' have now been made and this is the one I will be working from (underlined = Acolyte):

OCTOBER	HOSTS	LITUR.	TREATS	PIANO	TV	FLOWERS
*1	<u>Gary/Bea Abbas</u>	Marianne	Kelly C & Janalee K	Kathy	CJ	Carol K (B-day)
8	<u>Jack/Cindy Hawker</u>	Keith R	Phyllis & Ana K	Linda	CJ	Wright
15	Joyce O & <u>Mary T</u>	Rheta A	Karen A & David M	Kathy	Stacy	Paula (B-day)
22	<u>Rheta A</u> & Betty F	Joyce O	Carol H & Judy K	CJ	Trish	Kelly C (Anniv)
29	----- None Needed ----- Combined Worship in McCausland -----					

***COMMUNION PREPARER/SERVERS (1st)**: Ben & Karen Apple

17. Looking ahead into NOVEMBER: Don't forget that the first Sunday will be **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**. Please be thinking ahead to names of loved ones from YOUR family or closely tied to THIS church as you send your names in to be remembered specifically during our worship that day.

See you in church!

CJ Albertson

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