

# The Beacon



## Church Workdays

The Trustees have scheduled church-wide workdays. **April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** is a church-wide clean-up day. We need many hands here to spruce up the church for our big mortgage burning service on April 10. There are lots of jobs for all skill/ability levels, so come on out!

On **April 30 at 9:00 a.m.**, there is a landscaping workday to beautify the grounds. If you have a green thumb and an interest in gardening, come lend a hand! There are sign-up sheets in the lobby.

## All Are Invited!

On **April 10<sup>th</sup>**, all church family and friends are invited to a day of celebration with **one worship service at 10:30 a.m.** We will *burn the mortgage* for the education wing! Special guests will include former pastor, Mark Graham and Bishop Johnathan Keaton, our Episcopal Leader in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of The United Methodist Church. There will be a special meal served after the service. Our musical/worship leadership has planned a morning of uplifting music. Please come and join us for this day that will celebrate the efforts of the past, rejoice in our current mission as a community of Jesus followers and look toward our future in God's creation and with God's people.

**Please call** the church office to let us know if you are staying for the meal and what side dish you would like to bring, so that we can plan for the meat, which has been generously donated.

## Couples Fellowship

Couples fellowship enjoyed a great evening in February eating dinner at Gil's - 20 people from Elmwood UMC can get quite loud! A good time was had by all! In March, we ventured into Peoria and watched "RISEN" - POWERFUL MESSAGE!!! Pizza followed at Monical's! Thanks to Angie Tracy and Gayla Taylor for coordinating! This month we are off to the Cantu's for game night! After devotions and dinner, we rotate tables and play games against each other - some of us can be quite competitive!!!! PLEASE JOIN US AT THE CANTU'S HOME ON **SATURDAY, APRIL 30 AT 6:00** FOR FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!!!!

PEACE, DEBBIE NELSON-WATKINS



Spring is here which means it will be summer before we know it. Please keep in mind that Sunday school will be wrapping up on **April 24<sup>th</sup>** and **Children's Church** will begin the **first Sunday in May**. I can't tell you enough how much I appreciate everyone who has volunteered to help out with Sunday school for the 2015-2016 school year. One of my favorite things about Sunday school is watching all of the children learn about Jesus, and being excited to do so in the process. It is truly amazing to watch God at work.

It was so great seeing all of the children in our Palm Sunday service. Thank you Mary Nell for getting all of that together. The children and our congregation are so lucky to have a great leader like you! So thank you for all you do for us!

Although Sunday school is wrapping up for the school year, there are plenty of opportunities for kids to stay involved and continue that walk with Jesus. A great way to do that is to join **Youth Life**. Youth Life is a Christian Junior High Youth Group in the Farmington and Elmwood areas (and beyond) that meets once a month. It is affiliated with local churches and has many future events planned for the year. The events that are planned offer a chance to hang out with friends and stay connected with the Lord. **Fun, food, friends, and Jesus!** What else do you need in life? Please take time to "Like" the Youth Life Facebook page as it is updated on a regular basis.

For those of you who did not attend **Winter Jam** this year, boy did you miss out! We had a great group of kids and adults that came with us this year. All of the music acts were phenomenal, including the band "Red". Who doesn't like a heavy metal rock group so dedicated to the Lord? Ask Pastor Brad, that was his favorite group! (Wink, wink) You get to see ten bands for \$10 and you get to hang out with Pastor Brad for a few hours in line! You just can't put a price on that!

We are still looking for any **volunteers** that would like to help out with children's church for the summer. This will be for children K-3<sup>rd</sup> grades, so I will need a few teachers for each Sunday. If you are interested, please contact me.



Happy Spring!

Kelly Hoffman



## SEAPCO PRE-SCHOOL SCREENING

On **Tuesday, April 26** and **Wednesday, April 27**, SEAPCO will be conducting pre-school screenings for children birth to five years old. These screenings will check areas of development that include vision/hearing, speech/language, and behavior/social development, among others. This is for children in Peoria County from the Brimfield/Elmwood area. To make an appointment, call SEAPCO at 309-697-0880 ex. 200.

## PASSION WEEK REVIEW

Passion week was amazing! We had a moving and inspirational **Holy/Maundy Thursday** service. The choir was angelic and communion focused us on the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples. From there we moved to **Good Friday** and a joint community service at First Presbyterian Church of Elmwood. Pastor Marla Bauler helped us to view the cross through Jesus! **Easter Sunday** morning was inspirational as well. The first of our three Easter services was a joint community service led by Pastor Tim Cavallo from Cross Roads Assembly of God. He brought the Word of God to our sunrise service and New Day Worship Band uplifted us and awakened our spirits for the next phase of service and ministry in light of the resurrection. The first service was followed by a filling and tasty Easter breakfast with muffins, egg casseroles and all kinds of pastries. New Day Worship graced us again at the 9 a.m. service. We owe a great debt of gratitude for their service in the early community worship service and at the 9 AM service. Then we switched gears at the 10:30 service with the choir being in full voice and uplifting through angelic music. Special music by Josie Gibbs, Eli and Clara Asplund took us to the cross and Brett Morse brought us back to the Lord's Table as he sang the Lord's Prayer. God blessed us to share the resurrection story with around 265 people Easter Sunday Morning. God is still moving amongst us and through us.





### Walking with Jesus

It is difficult for me to write in a few words why I came to attend Elmwood United Methodist Church. This part of my journey probably started last year on June 23. I was holding my mother's hand, giving her one last earthly kiss and watching as she quickly slipped to be with Our Lord. Did I blame God? Not at all! But I did question what direction I was going to take. In July, I was asked to help with Vacation Bible School. From that time, I could feel an inner nudge to move forward. Forward? To where? What was this feeling? I started to come to church a lot more. I got to know more people and, if I was in Elmwood, I would be greeted a lot more! These are the people I worshipped with! I started going to bible study and participating more in the events. I have started helping in the nursery and, this summer, I will be the Director of VBS. With the help of a lot of wonderful people, I felt I have found a home! Not only a place to worship, but somewhere to be surrounded by friends.

Do I need to say who I feel was doing the nudging? HE has been with me everyday!

Laurie Leadley



### UMW News

Our next meeting will be held on **April 12 at 9:30 am**. Coffee will be served by Lavonne Haney and the program given by Joyce Francis, our District Representative.

We will be making **strawberry jam** on **May 17** and **May 24**. We are more than thankful for any help on those days, time from one hour or more. It is tiring, but we have fun. We can use sugar and jar lids. People often return their jars, but throw the lids away. We can always use jars as we make **200 to 300 jars of jam**.

God's Love—  
Carol Kemper  
President



Dear UMC Congregation:

Thank you so much for supporting our recent Noodles for Poodles Dinner on February 27. We appreciate the opportunity to use the church facilities as we strive to raise funding for the shelter. The event was definitely a success and we appreciate all who attended and made donations. As a 501c3, we rely heavily on the generosity and support of people like yourselves to care for our animals and find them homes. We couldn't do it without you!

Thank you!

Kris Petermeyer (Secretary), Connie Davis (Executive Director), All our Volunteers, Staff and Especially our Animals

P.S. We received a \$30 donation from "UMC of Elmwood Congregation" with no names attached. Thank you again!!



Recently my spirit was lifted and soul disturbed as I read an article in Sower's Almanac. The article, "14 favorite ways to twist the gospel" by Howard Snyder, made several pertinent points for this season of political discourse and religious reflection. "Walling off economics and politics from the gospel and placing them outside our discipleship is unbiblical dualism. The gospel is an economic and political reality, so by definition the church is both economic and political. But economics and politics are to be understood in light of the gospel, not the other way around. The kingdom of God is the comprehensive framework."

Now we work very hard in our congregation not to talk about politics. But, when I read this article, I'm challenged to invite you to consider where does your faith play a role in your political choices. It should lead! I know this sounds judgmental but the words of Jesus Christ are judgmental. I do not want to direct you on what party to choose or how to make your political decisions. But I believe that the Bible should direct our hearts, so let us consider the words of Jesus as we think of who should lead us and in what direction our country should be heading.

Economics, politics, spirituality they are all one.

My prayers for you and myself are that God's Holy Spirit is real and acted in your lives and my life and thereby not separated from the choices we make in all things, especially economics and politics.

## UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

### April 3, 2016

Sermon: Check the Third Box

Scripture: James 1:5 – 8

### April 10, 2016

Sermon: The Way of the Best Yes

Scripture: Issiah 30:15 - 18

### April 17, 2016

Sermon: Overwhelmed Schedule, Overwhelmed Soul

Scripture: Number 3:5 and Philippians 2:3 – 7

### April 24, 2016

Sermon: God's Word, Ways and Wonder

Scripture: Luke 14: 28 - 30

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## Oaks- Hines Sponsorship

We would like to thanks Oaks-Hines Funeral Homes for continuing their sponsorship of our weekly radio broadcast of our church service on WBYS 1560AM at 10:00am Sundays. Be sure to catch it when you can!

## 2016 EASTER LILY BLOOMS IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF

<i>Mary Drone</i>	<i>Moma</i>
<i>Patty Fincham</i>	<i>Gary Fincham and other family members</i>
<i>Iva Smith</i>	<i>Hampton Smith</i>
<i>Marilee Hurst</i>	<i>Don Hurst</i>
<i>Cindy Fargher</i>	<i>Morris Fargher</i>
	<i>Hazel Holmes</i>
<i>Jerry/Nancy Wilson</i>	<i>Loved One</i>
<i>Roberts Family</i>	<i>Jeremy Lance Roberts</i>
<i>Wayne/Joey Callister</i>	<i>Family &amp; Friends</i>
<i>Lawrence/Karla Kane</i>	<i>Family &amp; Friends</i>
<i>Carolyn Stevens</i>	<i>John Stevens and Earl &amp; Frances Ward</i>
<i>Michelle Seipel</i>	<i>Sandy Seipel</i>
<i>Mary Ann Hanlin</i>	<i>John Hanlin</i>
<i>Diana Ladd</i>	<i>George and Virginia Ennis</i>
<i>Cantu Family</i>	<i>Kenneth &amp; Betty Smith</i>
	<i>Al and Bonnie Cantu</i>
<i>Chris Stevens</i>	<i>Lloyd and Earline Windish</i>
<i>Charlotte Booth</i>	<i>Dick Booth and other family members</i>
<i>Mark and Carol Kemper</i>	<i>Family members</i>
<i>Bobbi Staples</i>	<i>Bernie Staples</i>
<i>Margot Duval</i>	<i>Audrey and Leo Duval and Family</i>
<i>Wagner Family</i>	<i>Janice Morgan</i>
	<i>Grandparents</i>
<i>Leann Lovingood</i>	<i>(Curly Carroll, Ray Duttie, Joan Meyers)</i>
<i>Mike Sweeny</i>	<i>Grandparents Lovingood and Arbell</i>
<i>Brandy Coco</i>	<i>Grandparents Coe and Sweeney</i>
<i>LaVonne Haney</i>	<i>Floyd and Mary Coco</i>
<i>Janette Morse</i>	<i>Bud Haney</i>
<i>Laurie Leadley</i>	<i>Curly Morse</i>
	<i>Tom Leadley</i>
<i>Potts Family</i>	<i>Jackie and Lawrence Kroepel</i>
<i>Sherry Powers</i>	<i>Loved Ones</i>
<i>Steve and Nancy Davis</i>	<i>Loved Ones</i>
<i>Emily Roberts</i>	<i>Jake Davis and Samuel Davis</i>
<i>Gail Sprout</i>	<i>Miss Sue</i>
<i>Jennifer Wilson</i>	<i>Family and Friends</i>
<i>Ewalts</i>	<i>Jack Wilson, Betty King, and Loved Ones</i>
	<i>Warren and Mary Stenwall</i>

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:**

- 1 Mike Case
- 1 Nicole Shoop
- 2 Paul Caulkins
- 5 Janet Mottaz
- 5 Brandon Bryant
- 6 Sarah Caulkins
- 7 Bev Miars
- 8 Connie Dalton
- 8 Roland & Cathy Ekstrand
- 11 Sara Kane
- 12 Verlene Callister
- 12 Gary & Cindy Fargher
- 15 Mary Nell Simpson
- 15 Emily Webel
- 16 Steve & Nancy Davis
- 16 Bryce Graham
- 18 Kayla Duley
- 20 Shelli Shoop
- 21 Madeline Grace Koll
- 21 Ian Smith
- 23 Tom & Denise Hayes
- 23 Ken Lester
- 24 Jade McMillan
- 24 Megan Perryman
- 25 Rachel Caulkins
- 25 Sydney Kay Seipel
- 28 Marissa Largent
- 29 Jake Callister
- 29 Kyle Fuller
- 29 Heath Schulz
- 30 Gabby Haskell



**SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM  
9 A.M. WORSHIP**

**April 3, 2016**

GREETERS: Brett/Amanda Morse  
 USHERS: Kent/Georgia Stevens  
 LITURGIST: Curtis Smith  
 NURSERY: Jill Crisco/Hannah Parm  
 COFFEE BAR: Mary Drone/Tianna Garcia  
 SS AIDES: Lexi Claerhout/Kelli Miller/Julie Asplund

**April 10, 2016**

**ONE SERVICE**

**April 17, 2016**

GREETERS: Doug/Traci Whitney  
 USHERS: Roland Ekstrand/Lavonne Rushing  
 LITURGIST: Emily Webel  
 NURSERY: Cathy Ekstrand/Laurie Leadley  
 COFFEE BAR: Potts Family  
 SS AIDES: Sheri Kosowski/Alicia Provence/Deb Morse

**April 24, 2016**

GREETERS: Doug/Traci Whitney  
 USHERS: Jared/Roland Ekstrand  
 LITURGIST: Dean Cantu  
 NURSERY: Alana/Katie Parm  
 SS AIDES: Jill Crisco/Angie Ladd/Molly Rushing

**ATTENTION:** If you are unable to serve on the day given, find someone from the list to trade with. Please advise Gerri Pettit, the office, Alana Parm or Amanda Howard (nursery) if you no longer wish to serve or if you wish to add your name to the list and which service you attend. **THANK YOU.**

**SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM  
10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE**

**April 3, 2016**

GREETERS: Charlotte Haley/Patty Fincham  
 USHERS: Chris Stevens/Mary Nell Simpson  
 LITURGIST: Celene Duley  
 ACOLYTES: Eli/Clara Asplund  
 NURSERY: Nancy Davis/Kristi Link  
 COUNTERS: Kane's

**April 10, 2016**

**ONE SERVICE**

GREETERS: Joanne Endres/Winifred Horney  
 USHERS: Janet Vallas/Sherry Powers  
 LITURGIST: Karla Kane  
 ACOLYTES: Averie/Branden Gilstrap  
 NURSERY: Alana Parm/Celene Duley  
 COUNTERS: Alana Parm/Celene Duley

**April 17, 2016**

GREETERS: Mary Howard/Veva Windish  
 USHERS: Tom Morse/Erik Davis  
 LITURGIST: Laura Stewart  
 ACOLYTES: Kyle Miller/Eli Asplund  
 NURSERY: Angie/Catie Tracy  
 COUNTERS: Diana Ladd/Ruth Arnold

**April 24, 2016**

GREETERS: Bobbi Staple//Chris Stevens  
 USHERS: Chuck/Connie Johnston  
 LITURGIST: Doreen Smith  
 NURSERY: Shelli/Nicole Shoop  
 ACOLYTES: Audrina Begner/Tianna Garcia  
 COUNTERS: Kane's

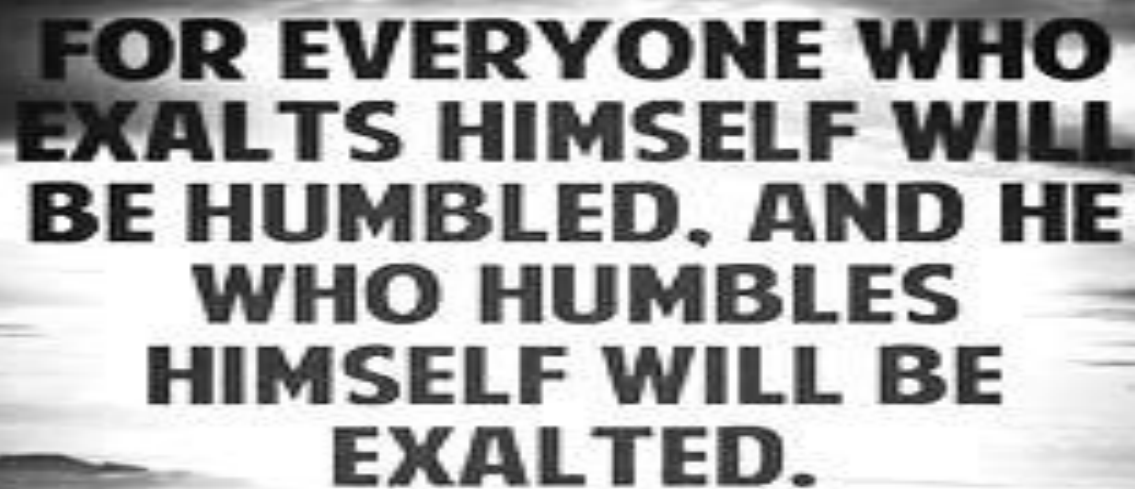
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**FOR EVERYONE WHO  
EXALTS HIMSELF WILL  
BE HUMBLLED, AND HE  
WHO HUMBLLES  
HIMSELF WILL BE  
EXALTED.**

**LUKE 14:11**