

The Beacon

January 2018



Couples Night

Pastor Dave and Linda are hosting La Fiesta Mexican food and movie night Saturday, January 20 at 6:30pm at Elmwood UMC. All couples are invited to join us to enjoy fun, food and fellowship.

We will enjoy a great meal followed by the movie "Remember the Goal".

There is a sign-up sheet for items to bring.

Please RSVP to Pastor David or Linda if you are planning to attend. Hope to see you there!!

UMW NEWS

It's a new year. The January meeting will be held January 9 at 9:30am. Coffee will be served by Charlotte Booth. The program will be given by Winifred Horney. Officers for 2018 will be installed.

Morning Circle will meet at the home of Carolyn Stevens on January 16. Please car pool.
Evening Circle will meet on January 15 at 7pm at the church.

God's grace -
Carol Kemper

Adult Membership Information Meeting

Are you already member of Elmwood UMC? If not, are you considering joining membership here?

Are you thinking of transferring your membership here? Here are some questions you may have:

- *Does it really matter if I'm a member or not?*
- *Do I have to take a class to even become a member?*
- *Do I have to sign anything?*

People often ask these questions about our membership process, skeptical as to why there seem to be so many "hoops" to jump through. It's true. We take membership seriously and with a lot of gravity. Committing yourself to a body of believers is weighty. But, it's also wonderful. When folks join, they commit to a spiritual family that provides encouragement and support. They are called to a biblical degree of responsibility, service and sacrifice to their brothers and sisters.

Find some of the answers and get more information at the informational meeting on Thursday, January, 18th 6:30 p.m.

Contact Pastor David Pyell (309) 221-4879 or pdpyell@gmail.com for more information.



Greetings to you in the Name of Jesus.

Dear Church family,

As I have been reflecting over the events of the past 6 months since I was appointed here to the Elmwood Community, and looking forward to the progress of the coming year, I am reminded of how precious you are to me. Without your faithfulness, the doors to the church building would have been closed long ago.

Without your generosity in giving to support the mission and ministry the church, the lost would not hear the good news of Jesus. Without your labor of love and sacrificial giving, our renovations at the church would have never happened. Without all our volunteers working on the building and grounds, our property would soon fall apart. Without those that take time to serve at the worship services and in all the ways we reach out to our communities, we would just be a memory. Without your joyful voices singing together and leading us in praise each Sunday morning, our worship would be dull and lifeless. Without our volunteers faithfully working with our children each week, the life of our church would be sucked dry. I could continue; but what I am trying to say is that without you, we would not have a church. I am most thankful for your commitment and faithfulness to the Lord and His church this year. It has been my highest honor and greatest joy to serve as your pastor this year. I know, in many regards, I am a lousy leader with much to learn. I thank you for your patience with me as I discover each day what it means to lead a church. I have a lot to learn and little time to learn it. My heart wants what will lead to your greatest good and God's highest glory.

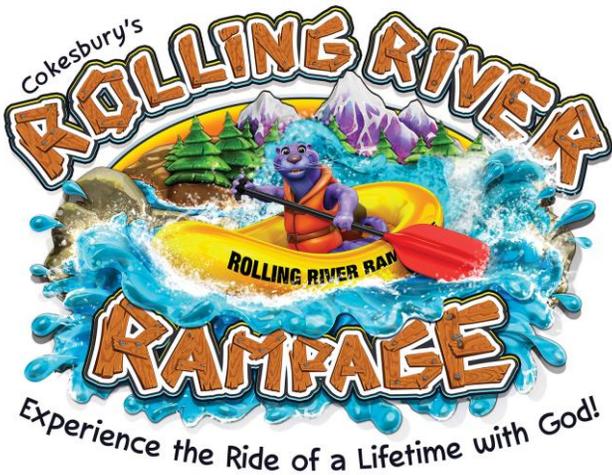
My commitment is to uncompromising faithfulness to the Word of God and the proclamation of the gospel throughout the Elmwood community. My goal is that every decision I make for the church would be perfectly in line with the will of God. I wish to live my life in such a way that the people of Elmwood UMC would prosper the most from my daily activities. If Christ thought you were worth shedding His blood for on the cross, then may I be so committed to do the same. If my Savior gave all His life for your good, then so will I.

As we look forward to the opportunities given to us in this New Year, I ask for your team support once again. The return of Christ, I believe, is coming soon. We have an opportunity in 2018 to prepare this community for the return of Christ. Pray with me like never before for the salvation of our community and the growth and revival of our church. I need your prayers as well.

Thank you for your continued love and support. May 2018 be a year of Glory to the Lord and building the Kingdom of God in our community like never before.

#thankful Pastor Dave (PD)

On behalf of Linda, Daniel and myself, thank you for generosity and expressions of love from the congregation and individuals throughout the Christmas season. We deeply appreciate everything and look forward to God's many blessing in 2018!



Shake off the winter blues! Mark your calendars! It will be here before you know it! Vacation Bible School will be Saturday, July 21 for pre-K and July 22 – 26 for K – 6.

We want to get the word out and have an AWESOME program this year spreading the Good News to the kids in Elmwood and the surrounding towns.

Keep your eyes open for more information!



I just can't believe we are already in 2018! Where does the time go?! Here's a few things going on.

- ★ J-Squad youth group (6-12 grade) meet every 1st and 3rd Sunday. Check out the J-Squad Facebook page for events and info.
- ★ With a new year here, we would like to see our Sunday school attendance rise. We are encouraging the kids to bring friends to Sunday school with them! The more the merrier! Lots of great material to go over this spring term. Looking forward to it!
- ★ We started using an app called "remind" for our youth. If you are interested in our youth group, please text me your number and I will add you to the group. It is a great app, and it's very handy to get the word out!

If you have any questions or concerns about anything, please let me know.

Kelly Hoffman
(309)712-1633

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

January 7, 2018

Message: Power of Routine (pt 1)

Text: Matthew 6: 19-21

Theme: Where is YOUR treasure?

January 14, 2018

Message: Power of Routine (pt 2)

Text: Matthew 4: 1-4, 9:15

Theme: Fasting

January 21, 2018

Message: Power of Routine (pt 3)

Text: Matthew 6: 5-13

Theme: Prayer

January 28, 2018

Message: Power of Routine (pt 4)

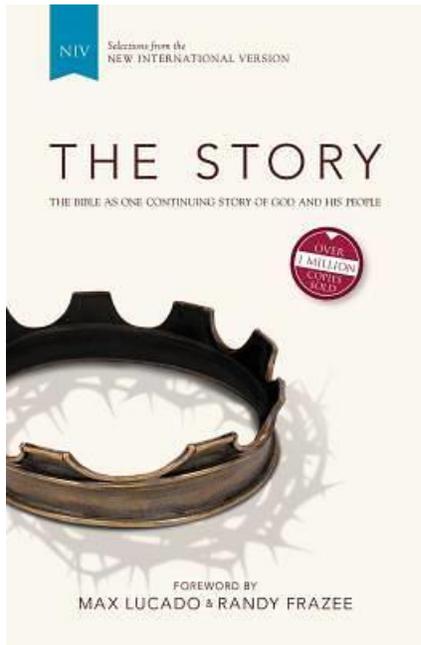
Text: Hebrews 10: 23-25



Confirmation classes starting soon

If you have a child that is in the 7th grade or higher and you are interested in confirmation class please contact Pastor David ASAP. Is God calling you to be a part of this year's confirmation class?

An information meeting with students and parents is planned for **Tuesday, January, 16th @ 6:30 p.m.** - If you can not attend meeting please contact me (309) 221-4879 pdpyelll@gmail.com



January Birthdays and Anniversaries

The Tuesday Women's Bible study group is beginning a great new study called THE STORY in January.

God goes to great lengths to rescue lost and hurting people. That is what The Story is about – the story of the Bible, God's great love affair with humanity. Condensed into 31 accessible chapters, The Story sweeps you into the unfolding progression of the Bible characters and events from Genesis to Revelations. Using the clear, accessible text of the NIV Bible, it allows the stories, poems, and teaching of the Bible to read like a novel. And like any good story, The Story is filled with intrigue, drama, conflict, romance, and redemption – and this story's true!

All are welcome to join! There will be an informational meeting on Tuesday, January 16 at 6:30pm. Come find out about this wonderful study!

1	Donna Brewer
2	Traci Whitney
3	Lee Kosowski
3	Al & Evelyn Dorich Anniversary
4	Lori Johnson
4	Janet Vallas
5	Jeanette Morse
5	Jacob Ekstrand
8	Jon Gallagher
9	Brett Morse
11	Gail Sprout
12	Becky Caulkins
12	Melody Glenn
13	Aaron Miller
13	Stephanie Webster
13	Doug & Traci Whitney Anniversary
14	Wilma McBeth
14	Rita Callister
14	Peggy Harding
16	Charlotte Booth
16	Larry Bowhay
18	Lyla Morse
18	Tammy Herman
19	Clara Asplund
19	Ted Mottaz
19	Kent Stevens
22	Mark Kemper
26	Josie Gibbs
27	Cheryl Whitehurst
28	Matthew Glenn
28	John & Gerri Pettit Anniversary
29	Amanda Howard

Ministry Fair

Stick around after the 9am and 10:30am services on January 28 to find where your SHAPE fits in serving the church. Your Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Aptitude, Personality and Experiences are valuable in service to the church and our community. Come find out where yours fit in!

SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM

9 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

January 7, 2018

GREETERS: Roland/Cathy Ekstrand
USHERS: Joe Webel/Kurt Webster
LITURGIST: Emily Webel
ACOLYTES: Josie/Amelia Webel
VIDEO: Aaron Miller
MUSICIANS: Tom & Tom
NURSERY: Candy Hall/Emily Roberts
COFFEE BAR: Sherry Powers/Mary Nell Simpson

January 14, 2018

GREETERS: Gene/Peggy Gibson
USHERS: Sara Kane/Janet Vallas
LITURGIST: Don Forrest
ACOLYTES: Addi Powers/Megan Johnson
VIDEO: Chuck Stevens
MUSICIANS: Closer To Free
NURSERY: Janelle Schrodtt/Abie Davis
COFFEE BAR: Laurie Leadley/Gail Sprout/
Mary Drone

January 21, 2018

GREETERS: Mike/Leann Sweeney
USHERS: Kent/Georgia Stevens
LITURGIST: Tom Hayes
ACOLYTES: Lee Kosowski/Ian Smith
VIDEO: Jason Hahn
MUSICIANS: New Day Worship Team
NURSERY: Gene Gibson/Laurie Leadley
COFFEE BAR: Need Volunteer

January 28, 2018

GREETERS: Gary/Cindy Fargher
USHERS: Curt Smith/Doug Whitney
LITURGIST: Rusty Koll
ACOLYTES: Ty McFarland/Baron Case
VIDEO: Kent Stevens
MUSICIANS: Strong Tower
NURSERY: Lexi/Ellie Claerhout
COFFEE BAR: Need Volunteer

SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

January 7, 2018

GREETERS: Winifred Horney/Nancy Davis
USHERS: Tom Morse/Bob Paige
LITURGIST: Karla Kane
ACOLYTES: Josie/Amelia Webel
PIANIST: Charlotte Booth
NURSERY: Alana Parm/Celene Duley
COUNTERS: Alana Parm/Celene Duley

January 14, 2018

GREETERS: Dan/Pat Keefer
USHERS: Chris Stevens/Mary Nell Simpson
LITURGIST: Janet Mottaz
ACOLYTES: Addi Powers/Megan Johnson
PIANIST: Vic Ewalt
NURSERY: Nancy Davis/Angie Ladd
COUNTERS: Ruth Arnold/Diana Ladd

January 21, 2018

GREETERS: Diana Ladd/Ruth Arnold
USHERS: Sherry Powers/Mary Howard
LITURGIST: Celene Duley
ACOLYTES: Lee Kosowski/Ian Smith
PIANIST: Kris Petermeyer
NURSERY: Shelley/Nicole Shoop
COUNTERS: Kanes

January 28, 2018

GREETERS: Joanne Endres/Mary Howard
USHERS: Mary Nell Simpson/Tom Morse
LITURGIST: Chris Stevens
ACOLYTES: Ty McFarland/Baron Case
PIANIST: Charlotte Booth
NURSERY: Laurie Leadley/Michala Schauble
COUNTERS: Alana Parm/Celene Duley

