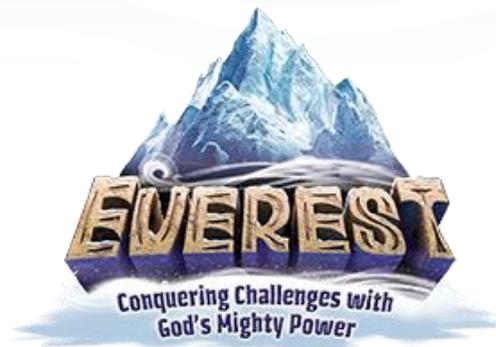


The Beacon

June 2015

Faith and Family Night at the Peoria Chiefs

Saturday, June 27 is Faith and Family Night at the Dozer field. We invite everyone to join the church for the game, fireworks and after-game Christian concert. Tickets are \$10.00 each. Contact Cathy Ekstrand or the church office for more information.



Vacation Bible School

Kids! Join a crew on our climbing expedition of Everest at Vacation Bible School! We will be learning how to conquer challenges with God's mighty power while having fun with your friends! Pre-K will be on Saturday, July 18th 9:00am to 11:00am. K – 6th will be on Sunday, July 19 through Thursday, July 23 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Register your kids on-line at www.elmwoodumc.com, under children/youth, for the expedition. You can sign up to volunteer there, too! For more information, call Chris Stevens at 742-8476 or Denise at 742-7221.

Community-Wide Picnic

On June 14 at 1:00pm, the community churches are inviting everyone to a picnic in Elmwood Central Park. There will be music, games and fellowship. Meat will be provided, just bring a dish to share, table service and a beverage. Hope to see everyone there!



Homes for Heroes

Ground Breaking for the Elmwood Home for Heroes will be on June 6th 10:00am at 502 S. Locust. Mr. Ray LaHood will be there, and has put his name to our house. Come out and show your support for this wonderful cause!

Graduates



Congratulations to our 2015 graduates! We acknowledged their accomplishments on Sunday, May 17th at 9:00am service. We are proud of you all!

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11



UMW News

If you are in the Fellowship Hall, you will see that we have been busy making strawberry jam to be sold at the Strawberry Festival on June 6th. Thanks to the great crew of workers, we were able to complete this job in two days. This event helps support our mission projects.

Our next meeting will be June 9th at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee will be served by Marilee Hurst and the program will be given by our shepheress Joyce Francis. Please join us!

In God's Love –
Carol

Children's Church

We are looking for aides for Children's Church program. Dates open are June 14, July 5 & 19, and August 2, 16, & 30. Karla will be available Sunday, May 31st at 10:00am to discuss the program or answer questions for anyone interested in serving.

Scholarships

Attention High School Seniors! There are scholarships available through the church scholarship fund. There are applications available from Karla Kane or in the church office. Deadline for applying is July 1. We will be presenting the scholarships on Sunday, August 2.

BRAD ON WBYS

We are very excited to announce that Pastor Brad's sermons will be broadcast on WBYS 1560 AM and 93.7 FM on Sundays at 10:00am. You can also catch his sermons anytime on the church facebook page.

We are inviting financial support for this ministry through donations from companies and individuals. If you would like to be a part of this venture, contact Tom Hayes at 309-253-8047.

Walking With Jesus

Those of us who call ourselves Christians all have a faith story. My faith story began early in my life. I grew up with what I call the best of both worlds. My mom, being Irish Catholic, wanted my sister and I brought up in the Catholic Church since she was strict in her faith and its practices. My dad agreed. He has always been a believer, but was not the practicing Seventh Day Adventist that his parents (my grandparents) were.

Both my parents inspired me with their faith in the example they set in life as well as the values that they instilled in me.

My grandfather, my dad's dad, was also a great influence in my life. He lived his faith on the outside. One of my earliest memories, which left a lasting impression on me, was when I saw him on his knees in prayer at his church with his head held in his hands. Now in the Catholic Church people kneel all the time as part of the mass, but this was a grown man in a church with no kneelers and ritual, just humbling himself before God in prayer. In fact, I give him a lot of credit for teaching me how to pray and what words to say. I have tried to pass this way of praying on to my sons as well.

As I grew older the Catholic Church gave me a foundation of faith that I hold dear to this day, but it was the Protestant exposure to Christ's love and how to share that love that I strive for in my Christian life today.

As I grew into an adult, I fell in love with a man whose church was not my own, but who shared the love of Christ and values that would unite us in marriage and as parents.

One of my most emotional testimonies I give in sharing my faith was when my husband early in our marriage suffered a brain stroke. There I was just 30 years old with two little boys and my husband bleeding from his brain in the neuro intensive care unit. I felt so alone and so afraid. I went to the hospital chapel and I prayed and cried and prayed some more and I felt a presence enter the room and comfort me. All my fears and sadness went away and, although still uncertain, I felt such a presence of peace. I believe God was there for me then and many times since.

I see God working in our church and through our members every time I attend the worship service, Bible studies and fellowship. I'm grateful to the priests and ministers I've known and examples of faith I'm witnessed by all the believers in my life and I hope to live up to their teachings, especially those of my Lord and Savior as I continue living my faith story.

Cathy Ekstrand



Seeking Wisdom Sermon Series

Sometimes it seems that your life is moving like a tornado! Well that is how I feel right now. To quote someone smarter than me, "I see the good, the bad, and the ugly" on a daily bases. Through it all the people in communities like Elmwood, Yates City, and Farmington continue to bless me and Debbie. I can hardly go to a restaurant in any of those communities (my favorite places...LOL) and not have someone come over and speak to me or strike up a pleasant conversation. As I approach two years of my appointment to this congregation, I am moved to reflect on how warm, welcoming, and compassionate the people have been.

As I literally hang on in this time of ministry expansion and mission enrichment, I cannot envision a more faithful and focused congregation. During the almost thirty years as an ordained minister in The United Methodist Church, I have not encountered a gathering of people more desiring of serving God and sharing the love of Jesus.

Even though some of you know I struggle with words that hint of *predestination*, my placement as your pastor feels right! Romans 8:28 was lifted up in our Bible Studies this week and I believe sums up where I and many in our congregation are right now:

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Prayerfully submitted,
Pastor Bradley F. Watkins II

This series will be based on a collection of books in the Bible which compose teachings or sayings considered to lead to wisdom or practical directs for living as a Godly people, as understood from the Hebrew text of the Bible. We will explore in the dog days of summer how and why we can live in peace in the midst of our un- peaceful world.

June 14, 2015

Sermon Title: Don't worry be happy
Scripture: Proverbs 1: 1-7

June 28, 2015

Sermon Title: How do we live right in a wrong world?
Scripture: Proverbs 3:1-8

July 12, 2015

Sermon Title: Analyzing a Mid-Life Crises
Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

July 19, 2015

Sermon Title: Patience, who needs it?
Scripture: Psalms 19:1-11

July 26, 2015

Sermon Title: The Gospel According to Job
Scripture: Job 2:11-13

August 2, 2015

Sermon Title: If god is So Good, Then Why Are Things So Bad
Scripture: Job 1:1-21

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND
ANNIVERSARIES**

2 Errol Brewer
2 Larry Cox
2 Mary Howard
2 Shannon Glover
4 Melissa (Gray) Wilson
6 Sierra Peterson
7 Leann Lovingood
7 Taylor Glover
8 Matthew Bledsoe
8 Joe Gasparovich
9 Megan Johnson
10 Amelia Jane Webel
10 Brad & Jill Crisco
11 Allie Dunn
12 Don Forrest
12 Connie Johnston
13 Garrett Whitehurst
15 Jim Blane
16 Elizabeth Vallas
18 Cindy Fargher
19 Sandy Cantu
19 Chelsea Morse
19 Carolyn Stevens
21 Greg & Verlene Callister
21 Chad Wagner
23 Brad Johnson
24 Mia Swadinsky
25 Jackie Diebold
25 Emily Roberts
26 Glenn & Nancy Moody
30 Chad & Dara Wagner

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

June 7, 2015

GREETERS: Diane Malott/Veva
Windish
USHERS: Brad Crisco/Bob Paige
LITURGIST: Dean Cantu
NURSERY: Alana/Katie Parm
COFFEE BAR: Need Volunteer

June 14, 2015

GREETERS: Chuck/Carolyn Stevens
USHERS: Lavonne Rushing/Janet
Vallas
LITURGIST: Bev Miars
NURSERY: Jill Crisco/Sara Kane
COFFEE BAR: Need Volunteer

June 21, 2015

GREETERS: Gene/Peggy Gibson
USHERS: Kent/Georgia Stevens
LITURGIST: Kurt Webster
NURSERY: Amanda Howard/?
COFFEE BAR: Need Volunteer

June 28, 2015

GREETERS: Doug/Traci Whitney
USHERS: Don/Marge Haahn
LITURGIST: Cathy Ekstrand
NURSERY: Megan Perryman/?
COFFEE BAR: Need Volunteer

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

June 7, 2015

GREETERS: Karen Prouty/Bev
Keefer
USHERS: Charlotte Haley/Mary
Howard
LITURGIST: Chris Stevens
ACOLYTES: Isaac/Clara Asplund
NURSERY: Kristi/Link/Shelli Shoop

June 14, 2015

GREETERS: Dan/Pat Keefer
USHERS: Tom Morse/Erik Davis
LITURGIST: Laura Stewart
ACOLYTES: Rachel Link/Josie
Webel
NURSERY: Alana/Katie Parm

June 21, 2015

GREETERS: Winifred Horney/Chris
Stevens
USHERS: Mary Nell
Simpson/Sherry Powers
LITURGIST: Mary Howard
ACOLYTES: Adeline Webster/Megan
Johnson
NURSERY: Nancy Davis/Sara Kane

June 28, 2015

GREETERS: Gary/Patty Fincham
USHERS: Chuck/Connie Johnston
LITURGIST: Mary Nell Simpson
ACOLYTES: Anna/Josie Webel
NURSERY: Erica Kane/Catie Tracy

ATTENTION: If you are unable to serve on the day given, find someone from the list to trade with. Please advise Gerri Pettit or the office or 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.**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF ELMWOOD P.O. BOX 477
ELMWOOD, IL 61529

Pastor Bradley F. Watkins, II E-mail: bradley.watkinsii@gmail.com Pastor's cell: 217-775-2020 Website:
www.elmwoodumc.org Administrative Assistant: Denise Hayes Office: 309-742-7221

