



The Beacon

May 2017

UMW NEWS

UMW meets May 9 at 9:30am. Coffee will be served by Chris Stevens and the program given by Debbie Nelson-Watkins.

Evening Circle will meet May 15 at 7:00pm.
Morning Circle will meet May 16 at 9:30am.

Mother-Daughter banquet to be held Friday, May 5 at 6:00pm.

We plan to make jam on Tuesday, May 16 and May 23 at 8:30am. Donations of sugar, pectin, jars (old and new) and lids are appreciated. Help is even more appreciated?

We hope to see you!

God Bless

- Carol Kemper

Mother-Daughter Banquet 2017

The Mother-Daughter Banquet will be held at Elmwood United Methodist Church on Friday, May 5th at 6 p.m. The United Methodist women would like to invite all Grandmothers, Mothers, Daughters, Granddaughters, and ladies of the community to an evening of great food, fellowship, and entertainment!

This year we will present a mother- daughter and grandmother-granddaughter fashion show with casual and dress attire! We will culminate with wedding dresses "Through the Ages", which promises to be spectacular!

Tickets are still available at the church office or call Winifred Horney at 742-8654. Ticket prices are \$8 for 12 years and older, \$4 for 6 to 11 years old and children 5 and under are free! Childcare will be available upon request.

Hope to see you there!

Blood Drive



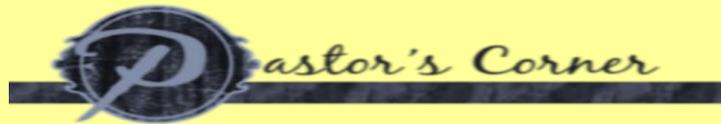
American
Red Cross

Tuesday, May 16, 2017
2pm to 6pm

Elmwood UMC
Fellowship Hall

Call Gene Gibson
309-678-2242

For an appointment



Who is Bradley Watkins, II?

After several years, I hope that most people feel they know who I am. I appear to be more than what others think I am and less than what some hope that I am. I would call myself an “**Evangelical Liberal**”. For some of you that seems like an oxymoron. For me, I can only think that it represents who God is shaping me to be and has formed me to be. It’s important to me in these *controversial times* within the United Methodist Church, which is anything but United, to express how important my belief and faith in Jesus Christ is the Son of God. It is important that people feel and see, hope, love and acceptance through the Christian faith in me. It is important that my faith emanates from the biblical witnesses of love and acceptance, but also it is important for me to be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit and not constrained by historical, and sometimes archaic, understandings of God’s intent for covenant relationships. To me today, my liberal side comes out as I embrace all of God’s children with love regardless of their race or gender or orientation status. It is important to me that the Evangelical side of me reaches out to all in Jesus name and the liberal side of me loves all in Jesus name. There is no exclusion in that all. That is it. So, as I close out my time here in Elmwood and look forward to a different future with all of God’s people in a different place, I pray that everyone who knows me will be able to say “Brad Watkins is one who love Jesus, loves all of God’s people and one who sought to be moved and guided by God’s holy spirit.”

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND SUPPORT TEAM UPDATE

The month of May, our task force On Mental Health Awareness has inspired me to preach a sermon series around the theme “*Shining the Lights of Hope In Dark Places*” and cast a vision for where God would call us to be and go with this ministry. I invite you to pray and join me as we seek to be there for those who struggle in dark valleys or cave of hopelessness. My sermon themes for the month of May are as follows:

- May 7 “Finding Hope In The Dark Places”
- May 14 “Breaking the Chain”
- May 21 “Substance Abuse, Unhealthy Food For The Mind”
- May 28 “Casting Off Evil Spirits”

JESUS PEOPLE MINISTRY

I recently read an article about vital Older Adult Ministries within the United Methodist Church. Then I thought about our church and the Jesus People Ministry jumped to the top of my list. I was reminded that as God’s people we are called to be balanced in seeking to offer ministries of support and love to people of all ages. I was reminded that the Jesus People Ministry, through its home visits, phone contacts, cards, and ministries of compassion in the institutions surrounding our congregation, witness to how we show God’s love to those who are senior amongst us. Today I invite you to be God’s people in the name of Jesus. I pray that some new people will join us as we seek to be there for all of God’s people. Please reach out to Connie Dalton or the church office if you have questions about joining this ministry or suggestions for those who could benefit from being reached by this ministry.

MEET THE NEW PASTOR

Pastor David Pyell (pronounced Peel), or PD as he likes to be called, was born in Pomona CA in 1964. He was raised in Southern California and attended college there. He worked in a number of different industries – restaurant, welding shop and taught at a welding trade college. He followed his father, who was raised here, to Illinois and began a new chapter in his life.

He met his wife, Linda, in 1994 and they married in 1995. He felt a calling into ministry that year and became a licensed lay speaker, filling the pulpit at his church and other churches in the Galesburg Area. He became a certified candidate for ministry in 1997 and went to licensing school in 1999. He received his first charge in 1999 at Washburn and Lowpoint, the next year taking on Varna as well. He completed his 5 year course of study from St. Paul's Seminary in Kansas City, MO in 2005.

He was appointed to the Loraine congregation in Prophetstown in 2005. He was appointed in January 2009 to the ABC Parish (Altona, Bishop Hill, Clover Chapel). That three-point charge was in the process of being reorganized. He remained at Altona and also took on Oneida, from where he is joining us. FYI- Oneida is also United Presbyterian, he also their pastor at this federated charge. – he believes he learned many valuable ministry experiences from the United Presbyterian church.

“I have a deep love for God and Jesus Christ. I am always growing in my relationship with the Lord. I have a deep love for God's word, and for God's Spirit moving and working in my life by guiding me. I love God's church and people. I love the people that have no connection to the church or even to the Lord, I enjoy sharing my story of how God is working in my life through Jesus Christ. I have a passion to see all people come to know the hope, grace, peace and the salvation that Jesus Christ offers. I greatly enjoy making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I enjoy laughing and humor. I know how to be serious, and I know the importance of being realistic and laid-back. My priorities are in order: God first, my family and God's people.”

He enjoys model railroading, antique radios, theater, movies, video games, cooking and is a huge Star Wars fan! He also enjoys reading and American history. His professional experience include Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis, prison ministry, mission trips, counselor at local high school during difficult times and has even been church secretary!

Linda Pyell was born in Galesburg in 1966 and lived here most of her life, living a few years in Northern California. She graduated from Williamsfield High School. She has held numerous jobs throughout their marriage including food service, coaching softball, track and basketball and umpiring. She has worked in group homes and has offered “in-home” health care to seniors wishing to remain at home. She is also a licensed umpire with the ASA.

She is sports minded and finds much inspiration in the lessons sports offers in life. She loves the Lord and trusts the Holy Spirit's guiding. She holds strong convictions of her faith and is a strong supporter of the Galesburg Christian School. She enjoys movies, reading – especially about ADD and ADHD, is fascinated by the human mind and how it function and loves attending sporting events with PD and their son, Daniel.

Daniel Pyell was born in October 2001, about 4 weeks premature. Daniel has always been a part of the church, he is definitely a PK (preacher's kid). Daniel attended grade school in the ROWVA School District. After a lot of prayer -Daniel began to attend the Galesburg Christian School in seventh grade. PD and Linda found that the school was able to offer a better learning environment for him. He will be entering into high school there in September 2017.

Daniel is a very open-minded and expressive individual at times, He balances between introvert and extrovert. Daniel is pretty easy to get to know, fun-loving and thoughtful. He is a big fan of the legend of Zelda video games and loves movies, especially the Lord of the Rings and Star Wars. He is an outgoing young man and is still learning many skills. He loves Jesus greatly, he is not afraid to tell you about his faith. He struggles at times with some learning abilities, but he's always willing to give it a try.

Children & Youth Ministries

May is right around the corner, and boy is it packed full of fun! Our last day of Sunday school is going to be May 7. We will be having a summer kickoff celebration on that day as well. Keep in mind that Children's Church begins on May 14 and is for children K-5 only. If there are any middle school and/or high schoolers that would like to volunteer to help please let us know. We are also still seeking teachers to help this summer as well.

Graduation time is finally here! We would love to celebrate and rejoice the great accomplishments for those in our congregation. If you have a graduate in your family, please let us know. Just like last year, we will be putting together a slide show for those graduating. Please turn in photos and anything else you would like on the slide show to the office.



God Squad and J-Walkers are continuing to build, and we couldn't be happier! It is such a joy to get these kids together. Middle school group "God Squad" meets on the 1st Sunday of every month and the high school group "J-Walkers" meet every 3rd Sunday. In April, we took J-Walkers to the Rivermen game and had a blast! God Squad also met at the church for game night! They enjoyed the digital scavenger hunt, and of course all the snacks!

Please remember to check the schedule for upcoming events and gatherings. This information can be found on the church website www.elmwoodumc.com.

May 2017 Calendar

May 7: God Squad (Junior High) monthly gathering - 4pm – 6pm at the church.

May 21: J-Walkers (Senior High) Peoria Chiefs Game. Meet at the church to carpool at 1pm.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are getting excited about Vacation Bible School this year! The theme is Hero Central and the kids will have a blast learning how to discover their strength in God. There will be science experiments, stories, games, music and more!! They even get to be a superhero one night!!!

Pre-K - Saturday, July 22 9am to 11am
K through 6th Sunday, July 23 thru Thursday, July 27 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

Register now at www.elmwoodumc.com Don't miss the fun!!

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

2 Gayla Taylor
 5 Richard & Sherry Powers
 Anniversary
 6 Lavonne Rushing
 6 Chris Stevens
 8 Heidi Ennis
 9 Allie Crisco
 11 Allie Johnston
 12 Dean & Sandy Cantu
 13 Deanna Cantu
 13 Margie Clark
 13 Curtis Smith
 16 Danny Bowhay
 16 Brad & Debbie Watkins
 Anniversary
 17 Erik Davis
 17 Don & Carolyn Dean
 Anniversary
 18 Greg & Marla Holloway
 Anniversary
 19 Anthony Gasparovich
 19 Austin Miller
 19 Aleah Miller
 19 Jackson Webel
 20 Mike & Jenni Case
 Anniversary
 22 Lucas Johnson
 24 Margot Duval
 24 Michelle Forrest
 24 Kelli Miller
 25 Steve Davis
 25 Bud & Lavonne Haney
 Anniversary
 25 Jeremy & Denise Dalton
 Anniversary
 26 Adam Johnson
 26 Paul & Amy Caulkins
 Anniversary

SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM

9 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

May 7, 2017
 GREETERS: Roland/Cathy Ekstrand
 USHERS: Curtis Smith/Kurt Webster
 LITURGIST: Rusty Koll
 NURSERY: Jill Crisco/Lisa Doubet
 ACOLYTES: Josie/Anna Webel
 COFFEE BAR: Need Volunteer
 VIDEO: Brandon Provence
 MUSICIANS: New Day

May 14, 2017
 9 am
 GREETERS: Mary Drone/Laurie Leadley
 USHERS: Lavonne Rushing/Denise Hayes
 LITURGIST: Emily Webel
 NURSERY: Karla/Sara Kane
 ACOLYTES: Ian Smith/Matthew Glenn
 COFFEE BAR: Need Volunteer
 VIDEO: Chuck Stevens
 MUSICIANS: Closer To Free

May 21, 2017
 GREETERS: Chad/Dara Wagner
 USHERS: Leann/Mike Sweeney
 LITURGIST: Denise Hayes
 NURSERY: Laurie Leadley/Angie Ladd
 ACOLYTES: Destiny/Faith Foster
 COFFEE BAR: Need Volunteer
 VIDEO: Kent Stevens
 MUSICIANS: New Day

May 28, 2017
 GREETERS: Curtis/Doreen Smith
 USHERS: Roland/Jared Ekstrand
 LITURGIST: Chris Stevens
 NURSERY: Bill/Michelle Seipel
 ACOLYTES: Bobby/Elijah Davis
 COFFEE BAR: Need Volunteer
 VIDEO: Aaron Miller
 MUSICIANS: Closer to Free

SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

May 7, 2017
 GREETERS: Mark/Carol Kemper
 USHERS: Nancy Davis/Mary Howard
 LITURGIST: Wayne Callister
 ACOLYTES: Josie/Anna Webel
 PIANIST/ORGANIST: Bobbi Staples
 NURSERY: Laurie Leadley/Katie Schauble
 COUNTERS: Ruth Arnold/Diana Ladd

May 14, 2017
 10:30 am
 GREETERS: Joanne Endres/Peggy Harding
 USHERS: Tom Morse/Laura Davis
 LITURGIST: Celene Duley
 ACOLYTES: Ian Smith/Matthew Glenn
 PIANIST/ORGANIST: Charlotte Booth
 NURSERY: Angie Ladd/Katie Parm
 COUNTERS: Kanes

May 21, 2017
 GREETERS: Dan/Pat Keefer
 USHERS: Chuck/Connie Johnston
 LITURGIST: Mary Howard
 ACOLYTES: Destiny/Faith Foster
 PIANIST/ORGANIST: Bobbi Staples
 NURSERY: Shelli/Nicole Shoop
 COUNTERS: Alana Parm/Celene Duley

May 28, 2017
 GREETERS: Laurie Leadley/Diane Malott
 USHERS: Celene Duley/Charlotte Haley
 LITURGIST: Chris Ewalt
 ACOLYTES: Bobby/Elijah Davis
 PIANIST/ORGANIST: Vic Ewalt
 NURSERY: Nancy Davis/Gene Gibson
 COUNTERS: Ruth Arnold/Diana Ladd

