



UMW NEWS

Our next UMW meeting will be on November 14 at 9:30am. The coffee will be served by Connie Dalton and the program by Marge Haahn.

This will be after our Bazaar which will be held on November 11 from 10:00 to 1:30. I have put a sign-up sheet in the narthex. We still need 22 pounds of hamburger for the maidrites. We need this before 8am Thursday the 9th. The soup will be made on Friday the 10th at noon. We still need 6 pounds of carrots diced for the soup. If everything is ready to go in the pots, the committee can make the soup in about 3 hours. For Saturday the 11th, we still need 2 pounds of crackers, 6 pies, 4 cakes and 4 salads. We can always use help, come join in!

Evening Circle meets on Monday, November 20 at 7:00.

God's grace -
Carol Kemper

Couples Gathering

Thank you to the Kane's for hosting the wiener roast in October. Great weather, good food and lots of fun was enjoyed by all.

Jeff and Lisa Roberts are hosting game night at the church on Saturday, November 18 at 6:00pm. They will be serving soup and sandwiches and will provide table service and drinks. Bring along a dish to pass and your favorite game to share. All couples are welcome, so feel free to invites other couples to join in. Hope to see you there!

Please RSVP to Lisa Roberts at 309-360-3498

Christmas is coming!

As we prepare for Advent and for celebrating the birth of Christ, we will be gathering to decorate the church on Saturday, December 2 at 9:00 a.m. We will enjoy fellowship, carols, and light refreshments as we adorn the church for the festivities of Christmas. Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex during the month of November and indicate if you will need childcare.

Join us for fun, fellowship, food, and festooning the church! All are welcome regardless of age, decorating ability, or previous experience. Hope to see you there!



Greetings in the Holy and mighty name of Jesus Christ.

Fall is a time when things begin to go dormant. We get beautiful colors in the trees, cold crisp air and shorter days, but we know what is coming. Winter (I know I said it). Folks in the South, they love fall because they can go outside again without melting in the heat. The colder air is invigorating to them. For us, when we think about what comes next with the grass dying, leaves falling from trees and the barrenness of winter, it reminds us that death waits for all of us. Sometimes, I think that we need a bit of dormancy. We need to reset and rethink our situation and go dark at times.

Many times, we allow things in our lives to just die, or we remove them from our lives because we feel they are not important. Yes, some things need to be out of our lives, but not everything. Often God or worship will take the back seat to our agendas and schedules. Sometimes, we need to step back and allow God to speak to our hearts and restore our souls in the midst of the quiet. Lots of activity and "life" is always a good thing but, just like the seasons of the year, getting quiet and going below ground is needed too. Sometimes, we need to allow something to die so that we can live again in a new way. This sounds rather morbid, I know. But, I do not mean it that way. How "busy" are you? What are you trying to make happen in your life? Where does God "fit" into your day, your life, your family, your money, your church?

So, how much activity are you engaged in trying to accomplish things? The real question is, "Are you tending to your soul?" Have you considered that perhaps your soul needs restoring? Maybe your heart is blistered from the heat of going full speed, and you have not taken the time to engage in soul care the way that you should. As a caring congregation, we should remember not just to keep our minds and body in shape, but also our spirit.

Jesus said in John 12:24, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Jesus was talking about Himself and His upcoming death. But, He was also talking about the resurrection and the life that He would give to all of us. We would be the fruit that he would bear and it would come through His death. Similarly, when we die to ourselves or when we simply take time to step back from the fray, we find that our hearts can be restored in the quiet. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still and know that I am God." Our call is to trust God. In this upcoming season of "quick and much" we need this time to rest in God's care for us. What will God speak to you in the quiet? I am looking forward to what God is going to be this November. Are you?

Here is a good question? So what do you do when you feel overwhelmed? What happens when you've got too much going on, and you're not sure how much more you can take? You STRESS OUT- Right? That is why I am offering a short, small group study on handling Stress for the Holidays. It is just four weeks during November (4 hours total - 1 hour each week) Sunday Nights at a comfortable, convenient time and guaranteed to be relaxing, refreshing and gives you the tools to face the stress of the next couple of months. I confess I don't have it all figured out, but I do want to offer a few simple suggestions on Sundays in November - 4-5 p.m. At Elmwood UMC

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

November 5, 2017

Message: God, You Are Good

Text: Luke 11:1-4

Theme: Prayer/Relationship w/God/Faith

November 12, 2017

Message: I Need Your Help

Text: Luke 18:1-5

November 22, 2017

Message: So Do They

Text: Genesis 18:22-33

November 29, 2017

Message: Thank You

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



It's packing Christmas shoe box time again...

On November 13, our Sunday School classes and anyone who would like to help will begin packing at 9:00 am and pack until finished. We have the pre-printed cardboard boxes available if you would like to pack your own.

Your contributions would be greatly appreciated and you can put them in a collection box in the narthex. A suggested list of items will also be available. If shopping isn't in your schedule and you would like to donate, we can shop for you or use your donation for freight.

New this year...NO toothpaste or candy (Due to customs regulations)

\$9 Donation per box (covers freight, booklets in child's language, and ministry classes)

Thank you for your service to children all over the world.

Karla



How is it already November?! We have so much going on in youth land! Sunday school is going great so far. Encourage your kids to invite other friends and family to Sunday School! We love seeing new faces and it's a blast! Please keep in mind if you ever want to volunteer in anyway, let us know! We can always use the help, especially for Sunday School aides and substitutes. Please let one of us know if you would like to help out!

We are making some changes with our youth groups. We have decided to combine middle school and high school youth groups (grades 6-12th). This means there will be no more "J-Walkers" and "God Squad". Right now we have undecided on the name, we are wanting to get all of the youth's input! Youth group will meet every 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month. We will take the first weekend and dedicate that to devo time, games, and of course food. For the 3rd Sunday, we will have an activity planned outside of the church. (Bowling, roller skating, trampoline park, etc.) We are encouraging parents to help out as much as possible as well. With larger groups it is always good to have some extra hands. Our first meeting is November 5th from 4-6pm at the church. We are so excited to start this new adventure with our youth! Let us know if you have any questions!

Remember to stay plugged in! We will be getting a new youth group Facebook page, so be on the lookout!





Perhaps Christmas Is Difficult For You—

God understands. He's been here. If he was willing to be born in a barnyard, then expect him to be at work anywhere. No place is too common. No person is too hardened. No distance is too far. There is no limit to God's love. Out of chaos, Christ came. In spite of, and out of, the pandemonium, Christ came.

Max Lucado loves Christmas. Let the sleigh bells ring. Let the carolers sing. The more Santas the merrier. The more trees the better. He loves it because somewhere someone will ask the Christmas questions: What's the big deal about the baby in the manger? Who was he? What does his birth have to do with me? And the answers he's found give us all hope. God knows what it's like to be a human. When we talk to him about deadlines or long lines or tough times, he understands. He's been there. He's been *here*. Because of Bethlehem, we have a friend in heaven. And Christmas begins what Easter celebrates. The child in the cradle became the King on the cross. Because of Bethlehem, we have a Savior in heaven.

These are the heart shaping promises of Christmas. Long after the guests have left and the carolers have gone home and the lights have come down, these promises endure.

Let's turn on the lamp, curl up in a comfortable spot, and look into the odd, wonderful story of Bethlehem. Max has found a lifetime of hope. We will too.

You can join the Advent study at any of these three times – Mondays at 6:30pm, Tuesdays at 6:30pm or Wednesdays at 10:00am.

We hope to see you there!!



Donation Guidelines*

We welcome donations such as: - Antiques - Baskets - Bedding - Books - Clothing - Cookware - Family DVDs - Drapes - Glassware - Jewelry - Knickknacks – Lamps - Pictures - Plates - Radios - Shoes - Small appliances - Sports equipment - Tools - Towels - Gently used toys, puzzles, games - Video games and systems - Utensils.

We cannot accept the following items:

Automobiles and auto parts - Batteries - Broken, soiled, wet, or mildewed items - Cosmetics - Detergents or cleaners - Drugs - Food - Hazardous chemicals (acids, pesticides, paints, oils) - Large appliances (washing machines, dryers, stoves, refrigerators) - Lawn clippings or trash - Baby cribs and beds. - Lewd or pornographic magazines, videos, DVDs, or games - Tires - Any Mattresses - Televisions or monitors with broken picture tubes - Weapons and ammunition

How to Donate - Donations are accepted during normal operation hours. Donations are not accepted after hours. Please do not "dump" items off at front or back door after hours. This is a violation of City's dumping ordinance.

***PLEASE NOTE:** We encourage that donations be washed, ironed, mended, or repaired to be ready to serve the needs of others.

Donation receipts may be obtained at the time of your donation.

Pick up requests are not available at this time.

Thank you for your generous donations. Your donations bless many lives.



To the Elmwood United Methodist Church congregation.

As you may or may not be aware, the Elmwood Ministerium of churches and pastors (Elmwood Crossroads Assembly, Elmwood Presbyterian, Elmwood St. Patrick's, Elmwood UMC) have been working on building a community thrift store in the Elmwood Downtown area since July 2017. The location is at the old "Every Little Thing" store, operated by Tracy Parrish. The building owned by Carol Inskeep. She has been exceptionally gracious in helping the Elmwood Ministerium make this opportunity possible. At the moment, many items have been given to stock the thrift store, including display racks, shelves and other items. The local True Value has donated a cash register to us also. The plan is to become a self-existent, self-funding business in the Elmwood downtown area.

Through much research by Pastor Tim of Crossroads church and encouragement of the Elmwood businesses, the plans are moving forward. There is a steering committee representing each congregation - Our two members are Terry & René Schultz. This committee will help give direction and oversight in launching and running the thrift store.

Currently, we have a business license, bank account, approval from the Elmwood Foundation Insurance is being covered The Thrift Store is planned to be called: New 2 U.

The Elmwood UMC finance committee and church council granted approval to move forward with the investment for 1 year of \$3,600.00 (\$300 a month) towards the yearly operation expenses from each congregation. (Elmwood Crossroads, Elmwood Presbyterian, Elmwood United Methodist). If you would like to make a personal monetary donation, you are welcome to make a check or give cash at the Farmers State Bank - Tell them it is for the Community Thrift Store. You may also put your gift into the offering plate on Sundays - Please mark for Community Thrift Store. The Elmwood Ministerium is planning to apply for a 501C3 not-for-profit status for the store in the coming year. Pastor David is contacting Ted Frost of the United Methodist Foundation to request a grant to help cover the investment into this ministry.

The purpose of a community thrift store is primary a ministry to our community in the downtown area, as someone pointed out "the face of the church on Main Street." Plans are being drafted on procedures and policies for volunteers and helpers to the thrift store. We are encouraging you to rummage through your home to find the items we would love to receive for resale. **Please see the list of accepted items for donation.** We are also obligated to provide volunteers to help with running the store. René Schultz is helping to recruit volunteers for our times of service to the thrift store. If you would like to volunteer- just let her know ASAP! Operation days are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Times 12 noon to 5 pm. These days and times are tentative.

Our goal is to be open Tuesday Nov. 21st, (Black) Friday Nov. 24th and Saturday Nov 25th of Thanksgiving week. Hours are to be announced. The GRAND OPENING will most likely be scheduled for Saturday Dec 2nd.

Please start cleaning out those closets and cabinets and get ready!

There will be an informal informational meeting in the library during coffee time on Sunday, November 12 for anyone who would like to learn more about the great volunteer opportunity.



**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS
AND ANNIVERSARIES**

1 Nancy Wilson
 1 Gary Fargher
 2 Denise Hayes
 3 Linda Pyell
 4 Dakota Swadinsky
 7 Marvin & Shelli Shoop
 Anniversary
 8 Julie Ladd
 9 Pastor David Pyell
 9 Russ & Margie Clark
 Anniversary
 10 Gary Bryant
 12 Warren "Hap" Downard
 13 Kris Petermeyer
 13 Rachel Potts
 14 Bob Paige
 15 Jill Crisco
 15 Tom Morse
 19 John & Rita Callister
 Anniversary
 20 Karissa McMillan
 21 Patty Fincham
 22 Dara Wagner
 23 Beverly Keefer
 24 Jay & Chloe Martens
 Anniversary
 25 Bill Foster
 25 Alicia Provence
 26 Amanda Morse
 26 Rachel Whitney
 27 Beckett Morse
 27 Josie Webel
 27 Dan & Pat Keefer
 Anniversary
 27 Jeff & Lisa Roberts
 Anniversary
 28 Gene & Joanne Endres
 Anniversary

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

November 5, 2017
 GREETERS: Ruth Arnold/Diana Ladd
 USHERS: Doug Whitney/Rusty Koll
 LITURGIST: Cathy Ekstrand
 NURSERY: Lisa Doubet/Emily Roberts
 ACOLYTES: Lee Kosowski/Ty McFarland
 COFFEE BAR: Nancy Perryman
 VIDEO: Kent Stevens
 MUSICIANS: Tom & Tom

 November 12, 2017
 GREETERS: Gene/Peggy Gibson
 USHERS: Brad Crisco/Janet Vallas
 LITURGIST: Tom Hayes
 NURSERY: Jill Crisco/Abie Davis
 ACOLYTES: Megan Johnson/
 Addi Powers
 COFFEE BAR: Nancy Davis
 VIDEO: Aaron Miller
 MUSICIANS: Closer To Free

 November 19, 2017
 GREETERS: Lary/Mary Garrett
 USHERS: Janet Vallas/Leann Sweeney
 LITURGIST: Doreen Smith
 NURSERY: Laurie Leadley/Mary Drone
 ACOLYTES: Ian Smith/Baron Case
 COFFEE BAR: Glenn Family
 VIDEO: Jason Hahn
 MUSICIANS: New Day Worship Team

 November 26, 2017
 GREETERS: Jennifer Wilson/
 VevaWindish
 USHERS: Curtis Smith/
 Roland Ekstrand
 LITURGIST: Rusty Koll
 NURSERY: Emily Schauble/
 Megan Perryman
 ACOLYTES: Destiny Foster/
 Cassidy Case
 COFFEE BAR: Yada Yada Sisterhood Bible
 Study
 VIDEO: Chuck Stevens
 MUSICIANS: Strong Tower

**SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM
10:30 A.M. Worship Service**

November 5, 2017
 GREETERS: Karen Prouty/Gail Sprout
 USHERS: Tom Morse/Bob Paige
 LITURGIST: Chris Stevens
 ACOLYTES: Lee Kosowski/Ty McFarland
 PIANIST: Charlotte Booth
 NURSERY: Nancy Davis/Katie Parm
 COUNTERS: Alana Parm/Celene Duley

 November 12, 2017
 GREETERS: Laurie Leadley/
 Charlotte Booth
 USHERS: Chuck/Connie Johnston
 LITURGIST: Mary Howard
 ACOLYTES: Megan Johnson/Addi Powers
 PIANIST: Vic Ewalt
 NURSERY: Shelli/Nicole Shoop
 COUNTERS: Ruth Arnold/Diana Ladd

 November 19, 2017
 GREETERS: Dan/Pat Keefer
 USHERS: Chris Stevens/Sherry Powers
 LITURGIST: Mary Howard
 ACOLYTES: Ian Smith/Baron Case
 PIANIST: Kris Petermeyer
 NURSERY: Angie Ladd/Alix Steele
 COUNTERS: Kanes

 November 26, 2017
 GREETERS: Lavonne Rushing/
 Winifred Horney
 USHERS: Chris Stevens/Celene Duley
 LITURGIST: Mary Nell Simpson
 ACOLYTES: Destiny Foster/Cassidy Case
 PIANIST: Charlotte Booth
 NURSERY: Laurie Leadley/
 Michala Schauble
 COUNTERS: Ruth Arnold/Diana Ladd

