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20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 *april*

April showers bring May flowers,
and humble faith brings God's power.
TRUST HIS GODNESS IN THE MIDST OF LIFE'S STORMS

The Beacon



UMW NEWS

Our next meeting will be April 11 at 9:30am with coffee served by Iva Smith and the program given by Joyce Francis, our district shepardess. It would be nice to have a big turnout for her. The District Spring Celebration will be held Monday, April 24 from 8:30am till 12:00pm. It will be at Dunlap Prospect UMC. The speaker will be from Lessie Bates.

We are finishing preparations for the Mother-Daughter banquet to be held Friday, May 5 at 6:00pm. Tickets will be sold on April 23 and 30 at the church between services or you can call Winifred Horney, the church or me.

Evening Circle will meet April 17 at 7:00pm with Alana Parm and Celene Duley.

Morning Circle will meet April 18 at 9:30am with Carolyn Stevens.

We hope to see you!

God Bless

- Carol Kemper



Mother-Daughter Banquet 2017

The Semiannual 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 will be available for two Sundays only April 23rd and April 30th. You may purchase tickets between services. 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. Please mark your calendar for this special event on Friday, May 5th at 6 p.m.

Hope to see you there!

Peace,
Debbie Nelson- Watkins - Program
Coordinator
Carol Kemper – President Elmwood United
Methodist Women.

Upcoming Sermon Series

April 2

Address This Mess

Mark 10:17-27 (CEV)

Theme: Growing closer to Christ through discipline

April 9

The Message in the Mess

Matthew 22:34-40 (Message)

Theme: Loving God and neighbor

April 16th

Sermon title: A Holy Encounter

Scripture: John 20:18 (NIV)

April 30th

Sermon title: Creating a legacy of remembrance and responsibilities

Scripture: Joshua 1:1 – 9 (NIV)

Holy Week Services 2017

Maundy Thursday Service

April 13

featuring communion and choir

6:30pm

Good Friday

April 14

Community Service

at First Presbyterian Church of Elmwood Fellowship at 6pm, Service at 7pm.

Easter Sunday

April 16

Early Morning Community Service

7am

Community Breakfast

8am

Contemporary Service

9am

Traditional Service

10:30am



Local Mission Project Volunteer Workday

It's that time of year again...helping get the camp ready! **We've set the date for April 8th.** Meet at the church and leave by 8:00 am to begin working at 8:30. There are many projects that need to be done, from cleaning cabins, raking, cutting brush, re-setting dock posts, painting trail edges, sealing picnic tables and much more. Many skill levels are needed. Any supplies needed, will be provided. Bring your own work gloves. If you would like to help with wood working repairs, cordless tools would be appreciated.



Special Worship Experience on Palm Sunday

We are looking forward to our little dancers leading the way as children of all ages process in a traditional Palm parade. We will have energetic music from adults, youth and children on this special Sunday celebration at one service at 10:30 a.m. on April 9th.



The last several weeks have been a whirlwind for me as a pastor, husband, son, father, father-in-law, grandfather and friend. As I have walked with people close and dear to me these past several weeks through stressful situations, the words of Jeremiah keep popping up in my mind.

Jeremiah 29:11-12 have set a very positive tone for my current ministry and personal perspectives.

"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. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."

I've had several persons in the process of passing from this earthly plain. I've had seniors who it was a welcome relief to go join loved ones and their Eternal Creator in peace. I have walked with families of those who are totally devastated by the passing of a young person. I have been able to walk with my family and celebrate birthdays of my mother, the upcoming wedding of my son and his fiancé and to pray with a great-niece who continues to struggle with leukemia at the tender age of four. Today, as I look out at cloudy skies, I can see beyond the gray horizon. It has become clear to me that God is still working even in the midst of what appears to be hectic times. I've talked to people who are afraid about an uncertain future economically with Caterpillar Corporation and other uncertainties in the air. I've been able to rejoice with friends as they look forward to their personal economic realities. I have been able to walk with families who are struggling with marriages and with family stressors like teenagers who are struggling with physical self-harm and with other issues that cloud their way in this life. I continue to see hope in so many facets of the ministry of this congregation. Yes, I have tears in my eyes as I think about not walking with you. However, I have hope in my heart because I know that God will send someone who will continue to walk with you, and bring new and fresh visions to you and encompass your current visions to reach people for Jesus Christ in this region that we have been placed.

Jeremiah 29 reminds us that God still has a hope for us, not just in our current realities, but in that eternal hallelujah place of heaven. God wishes us constantly to turn back and to pray even as we move forward with our human plans and prosperity will come to us. God reminds us that it may not be easy, we may have to struggle, we may have to fight, we may have to encounter enemies that we are afraid of physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Jeremiah continues to be one of the spiritual foundations of my faith walk and I pray that you invited to be part of your journey too.



The Food Pantry Ministry would like to thank you all for your food and monetary donations to fill our local food pantries. We ask, you provide! We would also like to thank the Elmwood All-Stars 4-H Club for their donation of \$150.00 and food.

GOD IS GOOD!!

- Georgia, Denise, Doreen and Gayla

Children & Youth Ministries

Excitement is always in the air when it comes to the United Methodist church of Elmwood! As we continue to grow as a ministry seeking to serve the children & youth of our area, and grow together as a community of faith; we would officially like to welcome Emily Schauble to the children & youth ministry team. We believe her addition to the team is an asset, as she brings a passion for ministering to young people and a love for Jesus through a living faith! We are so grateful to God for the continued ability to build relationships and shape lives as Jesus teaches to go out in to the world and make disciples for Jesus Christ.

If you haven't had the opportunity to plug into one of our children and youth ministry's, come and check us out! Sunday School is at 9 am on Sundays for Pre-k through 12th grades, Kid's Praise Team meets on Wednesday's at 3:30 pm for 1st through 6th graders, J-Walkers (senior high) meets on 3rd Sundays from 6pm-8pm, and God Squad (Junior High) meets on 1st Sundays from 6pm-8pm. Get plugged in, all are welcome!

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

Blessings,
- Ray, Kelly, and Emily



April 2017 Calendar

April 1: J-Walkers (Senior High) Peoria Rivermen game. Meet at the church to carpool at 5pm.

April 2: God Squad (Junior High) monthly gathering - 4pm – 6pm at the church.

April 9: Palm Sunday - No Sunday School, children please remain in church. The nursery will be open.

April 16: Easter - Children's Church 9am service.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Vacation Bible School

**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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Mike Case
- 1 Nicole Shoop
- 2 Paul Caulkins
- 5 Brandon Bryant
- 5 Janet Mottaz
- 6 Sarah Caulkins
- 8 Connie Dalton
- 8 Roland & Cathy Ekstrand Anniversary
- 11 Sara Kane
- 12 Gary & Cindy Fargher Anniversary
- 15 Mary Nell Simpson
- 15 Emily Webel
- 16 Steve & Nancy Davis Anniversary
- 18 Kayla Mitchell
- 20 Shelli Shoop
- 21 Madeline Koll
- 21 Ian Smith
- 23 Tom & Denise Hayes Anniversary
- 24 Jade McMillan
- 24 Megan Perryman
- 25 Rachel Cummings
- 25 Sydney Seipel
- 29 Jake Callister
- 30 Gabby Haskell



SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM

9 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

April 2, 2017
 GREETERS: Gene/Peggy Gibson
 USHERS: Janet Vallas/Denise Hayes
 LITURGIST: Debbie Nelson-Watkins
 NURSERY: Janelle Schrodt/Emily Roberts
 ACOLYTES: Megan Johnson/Sydney Seipel
 COFFEE BAR: Kemper/Duley
 S. S. AIDES: Jill Crisco/Doreen Smith/Angie Ladd
 VIDEO: Aaron Miller
 MUSICIANS: New Day

April 16 2017 Sunrise Service
 Sunrise Service
 USHERS/GREETERS: Bob Paige/Erik Davis
 MUSICIANS: Closer To Free

9 am
 GREETERS: Brett/Amanda Morse
 USHERS: Kent/Georgia Stevens
 LITURGIST: Curt Smith
 NURSERY: Laurie Leadley/Mary Drone
 ACOLYTES: Garrett Webster/Maddux Provence
 COFFEE BAR: NONE
 S. S. Aides:
 VIDEO: Chuck Stevens
 MUSICIANS: New Day

April 23, 2017
 GREETERS: Chuck/Carolyn Stevens
 USHERS: Joe Webel/Doug Whitney
 LITURGIST: Don Forrest
 NURSERY: Cathy Ekstrand/Megan Perryman
 ACOLYTES: Andrew Glenn/Ellie Claerhout
 COFFEE BAR: Koll Family
 S. S. Aides: Candy Hall/Laurie Leadley/Kelli Miller
 VIDEO: Kent Stevens
 MUSICIANS: New Day

April 30, 2017
 GREETERS: Janet Vallas/Jennifer Wilson
 USHERS: Lavonne Rushing/Brad Crisco
 LITURGIST: Doreen Smith
 NURSERY: Michala Schauble/Gene Gibson
 ACOLYTES: Brandon/Jonathon Bryant
 COFFEE BAR: Ekstrand/Fargher Familie
 S. S. Aides: Mary Drone/Alicia Provence/Julie Asplund
 VIDEO: Aaron Miller
 MUSICIANS: Closer to Free

SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

April 2, 2017
 GREETERS: Erik/Laura Davis
 USHERS: Chuck/Connie Johnston
 LITURGIST: Janet Mottaz
 ACOLYTES: Megan Johnson/Sydney Seipel
 NURSERY: Laurie Leadley/Katie Schauble
 COUNTERS: Kanes

April 9, 2017
 10:30 am
 GREETERS: Ruth Arnold/Diana Ladd
 USHERS: Mary Howard/Sherry Powers
 LITURGIST: Chris Stevens
 ACOLYTES: Etta Wagner/Addi Powers
 NURSERY: Shelli/Nicole Shoop
 COUNTERS: Ruth Arnold/Diana Ladd
 VIDEO: Brandon Provence

April 16, 2017
 GREETERS: Chris Stevens/Nancy Wilson
 USHERS: Charlotte Haley/Mary Nell Simpson
 LITURGIST: Debbie Nelson-Watkins
 ACOLYTES: Garrett Webster/Maddux Provence
 NURSERY: Angie Ladd/Alix Steele
 COUNTERS: Celene Duley/Alana Parm

April 23, 2017
 GREETERS: Charlotte Booth/Winifred Horney
 USHERS: Nancy Davis/Celene Duley
 LITURGIST: Karla Kane
 ACOLYTES: Andrew Glenn/Ellie Claerhout
 NURSERY: Laurie Leadley
 COUNTERS: Kanes

April 30, 2017
 GREETERS: Meade/Betty Montgomery
 USHERS: Chris Stevens/Erik Davis
 LITURGIST: Chris Ewalt
 ACOLYTES: Brandon/Jonathon Bryant
 NURSERY: Celene Duley/Alana Parm
 COUNTERS: Celene Duley/Alana Parm

