

Elmer United Methodist Church



CHURCH OFFICE AND PETER'S PANTRY - 358-0135

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DAVID A. REPENNING, PASTOR

DECEMBER 2012



Dear Friends,



Yesterday I saw my first flock of snow geese for the season. They are sort of a sign marking the change from fall to winter when they arrive and from winter to spring when they leave. December is a month of many changes: the weather, Christmas decorations, focus in worship, and many other things. The normal December changes go through a yearly cycle. Other changes don't seem to repeat themselves: changes in ourselves as we grow older, global warming, the prices of things and so on.

As Christians we look forward to the changes we might call Christian growth. Our hearts grow and change by the power of the Holy Spirit living and working within us. Spiritual change can be frustrating. We don't always experience the transition of our soul. Sometimes it is so immediate and other times it seems we will never grow into the things around us. The frustration is because we are not in control of our spiritual growth. Yes, we can slow it down or open ourselves to the moving of God's Spirit, but ultimately the Spirit will move according to God's time, for God's purpose, to accomplish God's plan.

Our task, especially in Advent, is to remain steadfast and open to God's moving; to be at the station when God's train arrives. We do this through worship, study, prayer, and service. Sometimes we do it by being still and waiting. We are in the Church season of Advent. It is time set apart for reflection and waiting for God to intervene in our lives. So we sing songs like, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus."

Many at Elmer UMC are eager to see lots of things happen. It is a great thing to be excited about change and growth. It is important to also wait for God's times, places, and servants to be ready to be used.

So as we wait, what can we do? There are a number of things that we can do to help nurture our souls for growth. Each of us can pray and seek guidance for Spiritual Renewal. During December, I will lead a Monday night discussion based on the book and video by Adam Hamilton called *The Journey*. We have our Christmas play, *A Cricket County Colorado Christmas* on December 1st & 2nd and our Cantata, *A Midnight Clear* on December 16th. I hope you will look at these and the special Christmas time services as spiritual times to refresh and be open to God's awesome Word in the different ways it is presented. In January about 6 of us will be traveling to

Haiti to experience *Feed My Sheep Ministries* and see the work going on there. February 17, 18 & 19 will be a time of special services with Steve Seamunds, our former pastor. Steve's most recent book is called *Wounds that Heal*. It is about working through some of the difficult times in our lives. I will also lead a group to work in this book beginning in February.

Finally, we can always use a daily devotional for personal study and reflection. *The Upper Room* is in the sanctuary. I use *The Upper Room Disciplines*. Oswald Chambers has a great devotional called *My Utmost for His Highest*, and Upper Room Books have many other great devotionals. They help you get focused on a daily basis and are a good way to be open to God's leading.

I wish you a spirit filled December and Christmas season. I also pray with you as we wait for the moving of God's hand in our lives.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dave Repenning

Elinor Lubrano will be in the chapel on Sundays, Dec. 9th & 16th to take your order for poinsettias. They may be placed on the altar for Christmas to the Glory of God and in loving memory or in honor of a loved one. \$6.50 each. You may also contact Elinor by calling 856-279-8107.



The Mitten Tree

returns to the Fellowship Hall on Dec. 1st!! Please place hats, scarves, gloves, and/or mittens on the tree to be distributed to the needy. Thank you

"The Journey"

By Adam Hamilton

Join us for a book study on Monday evenings beginning Dec 3rd in the Church Parlor at 7:30pm. Take a journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels on video from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. This five-session DVD (Mary of Nazareth; Joseph of Bethlehem; Mary's Visit to Elizabeth; From Nazareth to Bethlehem; and The Manger) was filmed on location in the Holy Lands and retraces the actual path of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Monday, December 24, 2012

7:30 and 11pm



<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>8:30am Service</u>	<u>10am Service</u>	<u>S.School</u>
Nov. 4	21	98	
Nov. 11		185	
Nov. 18	19	155	44
Nov. 25	24	110	33
<u>Stewardship:</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>S.School</u>
Nov. 4	\$4,216.00	\$510.00	
Nov. 11	\$4,161.45	\$961.00	
Nov. 18	\$3,982.59	\$580.00	\$32.50
Nov. 25	\$4,609.10	\$1,009.00	\$23.01

Elmer United Methodist Drama Ministries
proudly presents

"A Cricket County Colorado Christmas"



7:00pm December 1st & 2nd

Come watch as Oswald Tippenhimer and the city cousins take their country cousins out of Cricket County to Colorado for a ski trip. Oswald plans the trip so he and the city cousins can try to get on the good side of Grandma Taylor so she will include the city cousins in her will and inherit Uncle Zeke's millions.

When they get to the ski lodge, they find that the owners are trying to get their grandfather to the nursing home to get him out of the way. Gramps however has decided that he wants to stay. Seeing the situation, Oswald gets an idea to get Grandma and Gramps together so that she will freely give them her money.

Come watch this hilarious but touching comedy that reminds us how valuable our seniors are and the true meaning of Christmas. *A Cricket County Colorado Christmas* will be performed 7:00 pm at Elmer United Methodist Church. Admission is free. A free will offering will be taken. Refreshments will be served. For more information see our website, elmerumc.org, or call the church office (856) 358-0135. We look forward to seeing you there!

Admission: One new or used, wearable coat to donate to Peter Pantry's Coat Closet.

The Adult Fellowship will meet on Monday, December 3rd at 6pm at the home of Jean Bishop for a covered dish supper. Please bring a White Elephant gift.

The YCW Class will meet at 5:30pm on Tuesday, December 11th at the church to go out to dinner. After dinner they will go to the home of Elaine Masters for their Christmas party. Please bring 3 small gifts.



Carla's Kids

Gifts are due in for the homeless children by Sunday, December 9th. Please remember to give Carla the checklist for each of the children you sponsor. Thank you

"A Midnight Clear"

By Randy Vader, Jay Rouse, Camp Kirkland
4:00pm Sunday, December 16th

A Midnight Clear...a night that will be filled with unsurpassed miracles. This is a night that will be remembered and re-enacted for ages to come. This midnight clear is host to an advent that began before the earth was formed. This midnight clear will be witness to events that still ring true, for no one other than God Himself has the imagination to bring this story to life. Human history is full of those who, in some way or another, sought to be a god, but on this midnight clear, the one true God becomes one of us. The Eternal One locked in time and space; the Holy One clothed in humanity; the ageless, mighty Lion now the newborn, meek Lamb. The darkness is still apparent but the midnight is becoming clear. There is a solemn stillness that will soon be shattered by angel voices. Come and listen to that glorious song of old.

...Randy Vader

Please join us on Sunday, December 16th at 4:00pm as all our choirs participate in our cantata worship service followed by a covered dish supper in the Fellowship Hall.

Annual Church Wide Christmas Caroling

6:30pm Wednesday, Dec. 19th

A hayride around town - so bundle up!! Don't forget to invite a friend!

Refreshments afterwards!!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Monday, December 24, 2012

7:30 and 11pm



Boomers Annual Traveling Supper

Saturday, December 29th beginning at 5:30pm

If you are interested in hosting a course, please contact Donna Stemberger. dkstembug@yahoo.com.

Courses are: Hors d'oeuvres, Soup, Salad, Fruit Cup, Main Course, and Dessert

Parsonage Open House

4-8pm Sunday, January 6, 2013

19 South Main Street, Elmer

Please come and join us
as we celebrate the Season

Barb, Pastor Dave and family

Mark Your Calendars!!

Rev. Steve Seamands will be coming here!!
February 17, 18 & 19, 2013

Youth News

The Middlers' Annual Shopping Trip for the Homeless Children is Wednesday, Dec. 5th at 5:30pm. We'll shop at the Bridgeton WalMart and then eat at McDonalds returning at 7:30pm.

The Middler Sub Sale is Saturday, Dec. 15th. Pick up time is 10:30 to 11:30am. Be sure to order yours!! \$6.00 each!!

Jr/Sr. High Youth will meet on Sunday, Dec 9th at 6:30pm at the Hangar for **Gym Night**.

Jr/Sr High Midwinter Advance Retreat

February 1 - 3, 2013

Please sign up now. We need a \$20 deposit. Total cost is \$50. Our Church will pay the balance.



HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES: CYSTIC FIBROSIS

Cystic Fibrosis is a life threatening disorder that causes severe damage to the lungs and digestive system. It affects the cells that produce mucus, sweat, and digestive juices. These fluids are normally thin and slippery, but in cystic fibrosis, a defective gene causes the secretions to become thick and sticky. These secretions plug up tubes, ducts, and passageways, especially in the lungs and pancreas. Screening newborns for cystic fibrosis is now performed in all 50 states, so now the condition is diagnosed within the first month of life. People with cystic fibrosis now have a longer life span than in the past.

Respiratory signs and symptoms include: a persistent cough that produces thick sputum, wheezing, breathlessness, a decreased ability to exercise, repeated lung infections, and inflamed nasal passages or a stuffy nose.

Digestive signs and symptoms include: foul-smelling, greasy stools, poor weight gain and growth, intestinal blockage, especially in newborns, and severe constipation. Frequent straining while passing stool can cause part of the rectum to protrude outside the anus. When this occurs in children, it may be a sign of cystic fibrosis.

CF is caused by a defect in a gene that changes a protein that regulates the movement of salt in and out of cells. The affected gene is a recessive gene. Children need to inherit one copy of the gene from each parent in order to have the disease.

Respiratory system complications: damaged airways, chronic infections, nasal polyps, thinning of the airway walls causing bleeding, pneumothorax --air collects in the

space that separates the lungs from the chest wall, also collapsed lung, and respiratory failure.

Digestive system complications: nutritional deficiencies caused when thick mucus blocks the tubes that carry digestive enzymes from your pancreas to your intestines. Without these enzymes, your body can't absorb protein, fats, or certain vitamins. Cystic Fibrosis can lead to diabetes, liver problems, and gallstones.

There is no cure, but treatment can ease symptoms. Medications include: mucus-thinning drugs to help you cough up the mucus, antibiotics to prevent and treat lung infections, bronchodilators to help keep the airways open, and oral enzymes. Chest physical therapy can improve your lung function. Lifestyle and home remedies can minimize complications. People with cystic fibrosis need 50% more calories a day, extra fiber to prevent intestinal blockage, extra salt, and increased fluid intake to thin the mucus in the lungs. Exercise helps loosen mucus in your airways and strengthens your heart and lungs. Eliminate smoke. Don't smoke in your home or car, and don't allow other people to smoke around your child. Teach all the members of your family to wash hands before eating, after using the bathroom, when coming home from work or school, and after being around a person who is sick. Still the best infection fighter!

If you or your partner has close relatives with cystic fibrosis, you might want to undergo genetic testing before having children. You might want to join a support group so you can talk with others who are dealing with the same issues.

"Glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Cor. 6:20

Bonnie Kanady, R.N

December Birthdays Happy Birthday to All!!



2nd	Frank Locke
3rd	Paul Eller, IV, Justine Fox & Melissa Greene
4th	Danielle Repenning
5th	Rachel Larcombe
6th	Fritz Harz
8th	Jen Bucolo
9th	Heather Layton & Jim Shimp
10th	Katelyn Dilks
11th	Alexis Richards
12th	Marsha Lewis
14th	Peg Walker
15th	John Bucolo
16th	Wyatt Schneider, Gust Theopulos, Chase Miller & Justin Harper, Jr.
17th	Alice Nelson
21st	Stephen Locke
23rd	Shannon Hall
24th	Ed Bucholski
26th	Kevin Hill
29th	Ike Zane
30th	Jennifer Lloyd & Jacklyn Wriggins
31st	Linda Bramell