

# Elmer United Methodist Church



CHURCH OFFICE AND PETER'S PANTRY - 358-0135

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DAVID A. REPENNING, PASTOR

DECEMBER 2013



Dear Friends,



Greetings,

Let me use this letter to say thank you. About the time you get this letter I will be recovering at home from my left knee replacement. I want to thank you for your prayers and patience as I have gone through a second knee replacement in one year. It has been a difficult year and yet one to appreciate friends, family, and our church. God has been especially good to me and I praise Him for His wonderful power and grace.

Now we begin the season of Advent and we focus on God's abundant gift to the world, Jesus Christ. As we worship this month, building to Christmas Eve, we will focus on the Advent candles, lighting a new one each week. HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, and JOY. Christmas Eve we light the Christ Candle and each week leading up to Christmas we will begin worship singing:

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called, Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us. His name is called Emmanuel.*

It seems a difficult thing for people to know God in us. I can think of several times I was in that position of someone knowing God's presence through me. They were simple times that had little to do with me and much to do with the other's needs at the moment we met. Once at Christmas time I took food to a woman who had attempted suicide several days before. I handed her a box of food. Filled with tears, she took the food and slammed the door in my face. By the time I got to my car she came out to thank me and to apologize for closing the door in my face. "I was just overwhelmed by your gift." she said. Last spring we were in Milford having an estate yard sale for our friend, Maryann. A couple came and bought most of the furniture for their new house. I offered to help take the things to their house. One item was a large heavy cabinet. The man had just broken his foot and couldn't help move it. Well we got the things in his house and he thanked me and my friend. We then prayed for their new house. Since then he has contacted me asking for copies of my sermons. He said when we were there he could feel the presence of Christ.

I share these stories not because I am a great person, but because simple things we do for others demonstrate to the world Emmanuel, God with us. I too have felt the presence of God as you have ministered to me in my recent surgery and recovery time. At the November 10<sup>th</sup> service I was

blessed as you prayed for me and as I made plans with others to fill in while I would be gone. Your visits, cards, and little gifts of food or cups of coffee remind me of God's presence and of God's awesome love. Thank you for sharing with and caring for me.

Each of us is called to represent Christ to the world. Not by our great works, but by our simple acts of caring. December is a month of opportunities to care for others. Please do this everywhere God takes you this month. Be Christ for the world and may the thought of Emmanuel, God with us and revealed in us, bless us all with HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, and JOY.

God be with you,  
Pastor Dave Repenning

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>8:30am Service</u>	<u>10am Service</u>	<u>S.School</u>
Nov. 3	28	103	27
Nov. 10	15	128	25
Nov. 17	20	96	47
Nov. 24	28	155	41
<u>Stewardship:</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>S.School</u>
Nov. 3	\$5,891.50	\$1,580.00	\$21.25
Nov. 10	\$4,650.75	\$647.50	\$21.46
Nov. 17	\$2,809.00	\$432.50	\$34.55
Nov. 24	\$5,012.65	\$779.80	\$24.56



## 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



*Christmas Eve Candlelight Services*  
Tuesday, December 24, 2013  
7:30 and 11pm



### The Mitten Tree

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



### Order Your Poinsettias!

Elinor Lubrano will be in the chapel on Sundays, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> to take your order for poinsettias. They may be placed on the altar for Christmas Eve to the Glory of God and in loving memory or in honor of a loved one. \$6.50 each. You may also call Elinor (856-279-8107) or Pat (856-358-3177).



### 2014 CALENDAR SALE \$13.00

The calendars are designed using pictures of different areas of our Church. Photography by our own Megan Chapman!!  
Proceeds will go to the Music Fund. Please make checks payable to "EUMC Music Fund." All orders must be turned in to Al-Jo Voeckler by December 12<sup>th</sup>.  
Thank you for your support of Elmer United Methodist Church Music Ministry.



### Attention: Christmas Shoppers Babysitting available at the Hangar for children - 2 years and up

Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> from 6am to 6pm  
Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 6pm  
Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 6pm  
See Sharon Pike for more details (358-6228)

### Elmer Drama Ministries Presents

### Miracle on Main Street



Elmer United Methodist Drama Ministries proudly presents *Miracle on Main Street*, December 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. What would you do if the Mayor decided that you could not put on your Christmas pageant because it would cause "traffic problems." Come find out as this determined group of carolers goes house to house to get support. Along the way they learn that it is not the outside appearance but what is within that makes us understand the true meaning of Christmas.

Come watch this touching musical that reminds us how important it is not to get caught up in the commercialism of the season but to remember and show what Christmas really means. *Miracle on Main Street* will be performed 7:00 pm at Elmer United Methodist Church. Admission is free. Please bring a coat to donate for those in need. A free will offering will be taken. Refreshments will be served.

For more information see our website, [Elmerumc.org](http://Elmerumc.org), or call the church office (856) 358-0135. We look forward to seeing you there!



### Annual Church Wide Christmas Caroling

6:30pm Wednesday, Dec. 11th  
A hayride around town - so bundle up!! Don't forget to invite a friend!  
Refreshments afterwards!!

Christmas Party at 6:30pm on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at the Hangar for Middlers and Wednesday Nite Owwt.



### The Hangar Holiday Extravaganza

Your holiday one stop shop!!  
Jewelry, Lotions, Soaps, Pampered Chef,  
Tastefully Simple, Scentsy, etc.

December 14, 2013

1:00 to 4:00pm

The Hangar

1 South Main St., Elmer, NJ 08318



### Carla's Kids

Gifts are due in for the homeless children by Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to give Carla the checklist for each of the children you sponsor. Thank you

Sunday School Christmas Play

...

During the 10am Morning Worship Service  
On Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>!!

### "Festival of Lights"

By Tom Fettke

4:00pm Sunday, December 22nd

The Word became a human being and lived among us, and we saw His glory, the glory that is His, as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth...

All that came to be had life in Him, and this life gives light to all mankind, a light that shines in the darkness – and the darkness can never put it out. And to all those who believe in the Light He gives the right to become children of God. Please join us as all of our choirs participate in the cantata worship service on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm. Feel free to join us for a covered dish supper afterwards.

*A Birthday Party for Jesus will be celebrated with a cake at the covered dish supper.*

*The Adult Fellowship will meet on Monday, December 9th at 6pm at the home of Jean Bishop.*



## **Boomers Annual Traveling Supper**

Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:00pm

If you are interested in hosting a course, please contact Donna Stemberger. [dkstembug@yahoo.com](mailto:dkstembug@yahoo.com).

Courses available: Hors d'oeuvres, Soup, Salad, Fruit Cup, and Main Course. Dessert is already spoken for!!



### **Parsonage Open House**

4-8pm Sunday, January 5, 2014

19 South Main Street, Elmer

Please come and join us  
as we celebrate the Season

Barb, Pastor Dave and family

## **WOMEN'S RETREAT SUB SALE**

Saturday, December 21, 2013

Pick Up Between 10:30am – 11:30am at the Church

\$6.00 each.



Please place your order form in basket in the back of the church, or contact Donna Stemberger, 358-2509 or [dkstembug@yahoo.com](mailto:dkstembug@yahoo.com).



## **HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES:**

### **“YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT”**

It seems we think about what we eat, just before we go all out and indulge for the holidays. There is plenty of information about healthy eating, but I am taking this from the Nutrition Action Healthletter. I wonder how many of these foods we will eat at our family dinners.

Ten super foods for better health include:

1. Sweet potatoes. They are loaded with Vitamin C, potassium and fiber. You can vary them with spices like cinnamon, nutmeg & cloves.
2. Mangoes. About a cup of mango supplies 100% of a days vitamin C, one third of a day's vitamin A, potassium, and fiber.
3. Unsweetened Greek yogurt. Supposedly this is a tart, creamy food that is full of protein, and can be dressed up with berries, bananas, or cereal.
4. Broccoli. Has a lot of Vitamin C, carotenoids, vitamin K and Folic Acid.
5. Wild Salmon. The omega-3 fats in fatty fish like salmon may help reduce the risk of heart attacks.
6. Crispbreads, whole-grain rye crackers, like Wasa,

RyKrisp, Kavli, and Ryvita, are loaded with fiber and often fat free.

7. Garbanzo Beans. “All beans are good beans,” rich in protein, fiber, iron, magnesium, potassium, and zinc. They are versatile and can be added to salads, stews, and mixed with whole grains.
8. Watermelon. 2 cups equal one third of a day's vitamins A and C, potassium, and lycopene. And contain 85 fat-free, salt-free calories.
9. Butternut Squash. Can be baked, or added to soup or stir-fried. Contains lots of Vitamin A and C and fiber
10. Leafy Greens. Stand-out leafy greens are packed with Vitamins A, C, and K, folate, potassium, magnesium, calcium, iron, lutein, and fiber. Examples: kale, collards, spinach, turnip greens, mustard greens, and Swiss chard. Serve with a splash of lemon juice or red wine vinegar.

*“For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your Spirit, which are God's.”  
1 Corinthians 6:19,20.*

*Bonnie Kanady, RN*

## *Missions Report*



### **United Methodist Homes of NJ**

In the late 19th century, the social conditions following the Civil War resulted in a movement to create homes for senior men and women. A very large number of the 630,000 men killed in the Civil War were Methodist Episcopal. This left thousands of widows and fatherless children.

Bishop Simpson, the Pennsylvania area Methodist Episcopal Church leader, was asked to preach one of the funeral sermons for Abraham Lincoln. He used the text from James 2:27, which says, "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." And so he urged people to help widows and children.

As a response to this call, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Pennsylvania planned and established a home for widows and named it the Simpson House, in his honor. The Methodist Episcopal churches in the Camden, New Jersey area raised funds and in 1891 built what is now known as Collingswood Manor. In 1971 it became part of the Homes, and thus the Methodist Homes were started.

There are now ten United Methodist Homes in New Jersey. The Homes now have 1,400 residents, over 1,000 employees and 105 years of Excellence in Senior Living. They extend an on-going invitation to you to come visit and see what hospitable places they really are. The homes are located in South as well North New Jersey.

To see a map and learn more about the United Methodist Homes of NJ, visit <http://www.umh-nj.org/communities> on the world wide web or call. Our nearest Home is in Pitman: Pitman Manor, 535 North Oak Ave, Pitman, NJ 08071, 856-589-7800. Other locations include Ocean City, Red Bank and seven others.

Barbara Repenning  
Missions Committee