

Elmer United Methodist Church



CHURCH OFFICE AND PETER'S PANTRY - 358-0135

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DAVID REPENNING, PASTOR

Date: MAY 2013

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

Thursday, May 2nd is the National Day of Prayer. This day was first called by the Continental Congress in 1775. Both President John Adams and President Abraham Lincoln also called for a National Day of Prayer. In 1952 President Harry S. Truman called for this day to be observed annually, and in 1988 Congress declared it to be observed each year on the first Thursday in May. Elmer United Methodist Church has joined with this observance and will once again host an open prayer meeting this year at 6 P.M.

Often I have accepted invitations to National Day of Prayer gatherings with some fear that they would become times of using prayer to condemn our nation, and those who may not agree with one's political and religious beliefs. As I reflect on how some of the poorly presented prayers came out, I realize the one common problem was that most were "negative prayers." "Negative prayers" focus chiefly on what is wrong with our nation, ourselves, and others. They seem to dwell on the evil in the world, and give it too much importance. Though we do need to confess our sins and seek forgiveness, too often we as "saved" Christians forget that we are in a state of having been forgiven already. The more we dwell on the negative, the more it becomes our reality.

Negative prayers bring down the creatures which God has delivered and the people for whom Christ has already died. James 3:9 describes it this way, "With the same tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness." He goes on to explain how powerful our tongues are and the words we say with them. Rather than proclaim everything that is wrong with the fallen world, I suggest we ask God to make our world as we would like it to be: better yet the way God intended it to be.

Positive prayer names what we expect God to do. It speaks what is good and rewords negative problems into requests for God's glorious outcomes. Paul speaks about this in Philippians 4:8: "Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy- think about such things." Anticipate God's redeeming victory coming through our positive prayers. Paul says we can do this because (Colossians 1:13) "He (God) has rescued us from the domain of darkness and

brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

So as we gather to pray on the National Day of Prayer and every day we pray, let us lay aside the things that would draw us down and focus on the promise we have in Christ. Let us pray that God would continue the work of transforming our world, our nation, our church and ourselves. Ask God to bring us to a place of healing, peace, joy, and love, a place of victorious living in genuine Christian fellowship, and a place where all people are treated with dignity and respect. Let us gather and lift our hearts in prayer for the United States of America, a nation which may have problems, but which rises above all others as a leader for freedom and human dignity. Let us dwell in prayer, as we anticipate the power of God to transform our world. It is the end for which we wait as we anticipate the Lord's return.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Dave Repenning

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Early</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>S. School</u>
April 7	23	114	45
April 14	24	102	30
April 21		134	47
April 28		105	36

<u>Stewardship:</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>S. School</u>
April 7	\$3,311.00	\$639.00	\$29.30
April 14	\$2,786.00	\$420.00	\$30.25
April 21	\$4,243.00	\$1,047.00	\$26.86
April 28	\$4,617.15	\$507.00	\$34.50

May Birthdays Happy Birthday to All!!

1st	Lila Hathaway
2nd	Marissa Moran, Jennifer Hall & Katharine Harper
6th	Courtney Wygor & Bill Gaunt
7th	Stephen Slavoff, Jr.
8th	Linda Herrmann
10th	Margery Kelly & Shaun Campbell
11th	Mason Orzechowski, Stephen Quigg, Harry Hunt, Barbara Slavoff, Robert Kanady & Stacey Welsh
12th	Nick Repenning & Walt Voeckler, Jr.
13th	Paul Eller, III, Justin Timberman & Cole Batten
14th	Emily Cooke & Brenda Gaunt
16th	Justin Harper, Sr. & Michele DuBay
18th	Jesse Pike
20th	Ella Shimp & Carly Timberman
21st	Scott McDonald
22nd	Carla Pitman & Anthony Baldosaro
23rd	Jennifer Richards, June Clemick & Logan Welsh
24th	James Hathaway
25th	Ben Laury
27th	Christopher Weed & Miranda Richmond
28th	Reed Bucolo, Gracie Eller & Richard Montana
29th	Joseph Griffith
30th	Dianne Wentzell





National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 2, 2013

National Day of Prayer is quickly approaching. Please consider being a prayerful part and let Pat Hall know you can help. We have many things to pray for. You could simply read a short prayer to help us cover our prayer needs – both as a community and a country!

Thanks in Christ's love
Pat Hall



Mother's Day

Sunday, May 12, 2013!

Mother and Daughter Banquet

Saturday, May 11th at 5:00pm
at the church.

Call the office (358-0135) to make a free reservation for you and your mom.

Youth Schedule

Sunday, May 26th

Float Building and lunch at the Stembergers immediately following Sunday School.



Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th

Be at the Stembergers at 9am to ride on the float. A Covered Dish Picnic with swimming and games will follow the parade. In case of bad weather, the parade and picnic are canceled.

Hangar Sub Sale - \$6 each

Saturday, May 18th

Pick up time: 10:30 – 11:30am

Please place your order form in the basket in the back of the church, or contact J. Gresimer, 856-297-2778 or jgresimer@yahoo.com.



Malaga Camp Brochures, Registration Forms, and EUMC

Camp Scholarship Forms are now available in the back of the sanctuary. Please return completed forms & monies to Kathy Laury by May 28th.

Our church provides Camp Scholarships each year to help our youth participate. If you would like to make a donation towards these scholarships, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you



**HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES:
CARE FOR THE
CAREGIVER**

Sometime during your life it is likely you will be taking care of someone in your family, someone who is ill, someone who needs your care. Even though you might be willing to take on this function, you need to remember you can't take care of someone else without first taking care of yourself. Caregivers have stress that might vary from case to case. This stress needs to be acknowledged.

Indications you are under stress: Muscle tightness, back and shoulder aches, headaches that never go away, Inability to sleep, pains that wander from place to place in the body, stomach, digestive, gastrointestinal problems without real physical cause, restlessness, so that even if you get a chance to rest and relax, you can't, gritting or grinding your teeth, small accidents, inability to concentrate, mood swings, flying off the handle, weeping, increased reliance on alcohol, pills, tranquilizers, decreased socialization, fear of others, can't be bothered about others, blaming others, palpitations or chest pains, inability to carry out normal activities of daily living, increased forgetfulness, having a feeling of despair, being overwhelmed, depressed, or overanxious.

What can you do to help yourself as a caregiver? Think before you react. Don't use physical force. Take a walk or exercise. Take a hot bubble bath to soothe tensions. Listen to soft music, control breathing, think of beautiful things. Participate in a support group. Involve other family members, Delegate some responsibilities.

What can you do to help the caregiver? Ask how the caregiver is coping. Be sincere and listen. Be understanding and compassionate. Don't try to give advice or fix their lives. Give the caregiver opportunities for leisure time. Provide opportunities for play. Help keep humor in the lives of the caregiver and receiver. Let them know that you care about them and are praying for them.

*"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you."
II Peter 5:7*

Bonnie Kanady, RN

Graduate Recognition Sunday

is June 16th. If you or a loved one is graduating from 6th, 8th, 12th grade or college, please contact Barbara Repenning by June 2nd and let her know. Please give her the student's name, grade and place he/she is graduating from and future plans if known. You may email her at njbrep@yahoo.com or call her at 856-358-7491. Thank you.



Missions Report

United Methodist Homes

One of the missions we support here at Elmer UMC is the United Methodist Homes. There are 10 homes in NJ. The closest two being Collingswood Manor and Pitman Manor.

The United Methodist Homes are beautiful facilities. They are homes - not what you might think of as traditional nursing homes. The Homes have an "aging-in-place" approach to Senior care that has its advantages. The less restrictive care-giving model does not require support, even as needs change. Additionally, the continuum of care permits residents to have all their health needs fulfilled at the Home. The residents benefit from the Fellowship Fund which assures that they will never be asked to change their accommodations or leave due to the inability to pay the total cost of care giving.

The Home's ministry reflects the social consciousness of a faith community and its commitment to seniors. The Fellowship Fund brings invaluable security to residents and their families. It enhances individuals' independence, dignity and comfort during their retirement years. The Fellowship Fund is a fund that donations are given to and then drawn upon when a resident is in need of financial support.

You can support the Methodist Homes in many ways. Continue to give through your church. Invite others to partner with them to ensure that they can continue to provide services through the Fellowship Fund. Stop by and tour one of our communities and consider becoming a resident. Visit their website and discover the many ways you can volunteer, (<http://www.umh-nj.org/>). Also in the days ahead there will be one of their signature events, *The Nancy Gilbert Rhodes Walk for All Ages* which will be held this year on Sept. 8, 2013. They will be celebrating all older adults, with a special tribute to grandparents.

Sunday School News

Recently in the 1st & 2nd grade Sunday School class we had a lesson on *Love in Any Language*. We learned it is easy to say "I love you," but do we show it by our actions? Our scripture was John 21:17:

The third time He said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love Me?" He said "Lord, you know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

We talked about how we can show our love with our actions at home. The ideas were to help with chores without being asked, being nice to brothers and sisters and playing with our pets.

Here are a few ways to say I love you in many languages. We learned American Sign Language, Spanish and French.

English - I love you!

Spanish - Te amo!

Swahili - Nakupenda!

Ukrainian - Ya tebe kokhayu!

Hawaiian - Aloha wau ia 'oe!

Norwegian - Jeg elsker deg!

German - Ich liebe dich!

French - Je t'aime!

Filipino - Iniibig kita!

Czech - Miluji tev!

Mandarin - Wo ai ni!

Japanese - Kimi o ai shiteru!

Submitted by

Barbara Repenning

Sunday School Superintendent



It was quiet that day, the guns and the mortars, and the land mines for some reason hadn't been heard. The young soldier knew it was Sunday, the holiest day of the week. As he was sitting there, he got out an old deck of cards and laid them out across his bunk. Just then an army sergeant came in and said, "Why aren't you with the rest of the platoon?" The soldier replied, "I thought I would stay behind and spend some time with the Lord." The sergeant said, "Looks to me like you're going to play cards."

The soldier said, "No, Sir. You see, since we are not allowed to have Bibles or other spiritual books in this country, I've decided to talk to the Lord by studying this deck of cards." The sergeant asked in disbelief, "How will you do that?"

"You see the Ace, Sergeant? It reminds me that there is only one God. The Two represents the two parts of the Bible, Old and New Testaments. The Three represents the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost. The Four stands for the Four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Five is for the five virgins - there were ten but only five of them were glorified. The Six is for the six days it took God to create the Heavens and the Earth. The Seven is for the day God rested after making His Creation. The Eight is for the family of Noah and his wife, their three sons and their wives - the eight people God spared from the flood that destroyed the Earth. The Nine is for the lepers that Jesus cleansed of leprosy. He cleansed ten, but nine never thanked Him. The Ten represents the Ten Commandments that God handed down to Moses on tablets made of stone.

The Jack is a reminder of Satan, one of God's first angels, but he got kicked out of heaven for his sly and wicked ways and is now the joker of eternal hell. The Queen stands for the Virgin Mary. The King stands for Jesus, for He is the King of all kings. When I count the dots on all the cards, I come up with 365 total, one for every day of the year. There are a total of 52 cards in a deck, each is a week - 52 weeks in a year. The four suits represent the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. Each suit has thirteen cards - there are exactly thirteen weeks in a quarter. So when I want to talk to God and thank Him, I just pull out this old deck of cards and they remind me of all that I have to be thankful for."

The sergeant just stood there. After a minute, with tears in his eyes and pain in his heart, he said, "Soldier, can I borrow that deck of cards?"

Please let this be a reminder and take time to pray for all of our soldiers who are away, putting their lives on the line fighting. Of all the gifts you could give a Soldier, prayer is the very best one.

Prayer for the Military.

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them. Bless them and their families. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen