

Elmer United Methodist Church



CHURCH OFFICE AND PETER'S PANTRY - 358-0135

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DAVID REPENNING, PASTOR

SEPTEMBER 2013



Greetings,

Each year we meet for an annual congregational meeting called Church Conference. At this meeting we elect officers, set the pastor's salary, share some reports and discuss with the District Superintendent how we are doing as a congregation. This year our Church Conference is on Tuesday October 1st at 8pm. The focus for how we are doing centers on 5 important areas of a Church's vitality.

1. Vital Worship
2. Growth through Profession of Faith: this means people who accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior as opposed to those who transfer from somewhere else.
3. Involvement in small groups.
4. Generous giving beyond our local church.
5. Participation in hands-on mission.

Each of these areas helps make a church strong and vibrant. At the Church Conference we will celebrate what we are doing to strengthen these areas as well as what more is needed for us to grow. Perhaps more important than our church's vitality, is the vitality of each of us as Christians. We can ask the same questions about ourselves. How are you and I doing in each area?

1. How do I worship? Do I prepare ahead with prayer and Bible study? Do I arrive with enough time to get focused? Am I a participant or have I come for my own entertainment? Have I come to praise God and give myself to God? Worship is our way to glorify God.
2. What is my faith commitment? Have I truly committed myself to God? Do I put my hope and trust in God and the salvation I have in Jesus Christ? What still gets in the way of my worship and what am I still putting in my life before I put Christ?
3. Small group involvement is also important for our growth as Christians. We grow and we are nurtured when we can openly share with others about our faith and how we are living or not living our faith. In such settings we can raise questions, share failures, celebrate our blessings and receive encouragement from one another. Recently I received a call from a friend and colleague whom I haven't seen for a while. We both recognized the need to share in Christian fellowship and have scheduled a lunch together half way between our homes. The best place in Bordentown.
4. Generous giving is an expression of our blessedness in Christ. It also is a discipline that helps us prioritize things in our lives and set God at the front of our lives. I remember when two friends of mine decided to tithe (give 10% of their income to God). They

made a list of all the nonprofits from which they benefitted and divided the money among them. Several years later they realized that their giving was to benefit them, and wasn't really a gift to God. Too often I believe many of us in church give to our favorite causes because we are blessed by them. Our giving to God should be for God's enjoyment, not our own. Why don't we trust God to use our gifts to Him wisely and for His good pleasure. Then it will truly be a gift.

5. Finally is the challenge to be involved in hands on missions. Many in Elmer UMC have participated in mission trips. Others serve locally at Peter's Pantry, the Hangar, soup ministries and our dinner ministry. Each of these mission activities gives an opportunity to touch someone and to be a small part of their lives. It is these personal encounters that share the presence of Christ and give you an opportunity to introduce someone to Christ.

When we can grow vibrantly in our personal walks, the light will shine and we will also see the brilliance of Christ in our congregation shining into the world. Let your love light shine.

Pastor Dave Repenning

Sunday School Rally Day

Will be held on Sunday, September 8th immediately following the 10am worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for games, refreshments and meet your teacher. We have Sunday School for all ages from pre-school through adult. If you have any questions, please see Barbara Repenning 358-7491.

*Please Mark Your Calendars! Church Conference
8:00pm Thursday, October 1st
SPR Committee meets at 7:15pm*

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

will resume Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30am at the Kountry Kitchen. We will be studying I and II Thessalonians. Books are \$3.00 and can be obtained from Donna Stemberger. If you've been considering being part of a small group study, the beginning of a new book is a great time to start. All are welcome.

THE SOUP MINISTRY returns October 3rd.

If you are willing to make soup or deliver soup, please contact Joe Stemberger: 358-2509 or mayorstem@ymail.com. We especially need people that can distribute the soup and visit. A schedule will be posted in the kitchen as well as emailed once we have volunteers. Thank you!

COOKBOOKS are still available!!



Please see Karen Snyder, to purchase. The proceeds will go to the Youth in Missions.

\$10 each. Please make checks payable to Elmer UMC Missions.

September Birthdays

Happy Birthday to All!!!

- 2nd Lisa Hardman
- 3rd Miriam Gibson & Christie Willoughby
- 5th Leah Bucolo
- 7th Jean Bishop & Charles Volkmar
- 9th Steve Richards & Jeremy Theopulos
- 10th Benjamin G. Nolan & Carter Nelson
- 12th Peggy Parish
- 13th Beth Timberman & Gayle Johnson
- 14th Charmaine Sutton
- 15th Lynn Boehm & Patty Gresimer
- 16th Patti Schneider, Karen Bucolo, Madyson Adler & Ed Wygor
- 17th Jennie Bea
- 18th Maxwell Lloyd & Ahnika Eberl
- 19th Alice Nelson, Mark Herrmann & Patricia Zane
- 20th Harriet Laury, David Hemsley, Jr., Kylie Parish & Kristin Kortonic
- 21st Benjamin Bishop
- 22nd Lillian Nolan, F.C. Adams Jr., Dallas Dilks & Katelyn Kulig
- 23rd Alex Baldosaro
- 24th Ben Nolan
- 25th Harley Parish, Mia Abbey & Carole Patton
- 26th Rebecca Dilks
- 28th Elaine Pfeffer
- 29th Jason Brown & Alex Canale
- 30th Belinda Hunter

August 25

\$3,432.75

\$870.50

Fall Fun Ahead



All Youth Group Kick Off

St Jude's Bike-a-thon
Sunday, September 22nd

Beginning at church parking lot at 4:00 pm.

Swimming and Dinner at the Stembergers, then...Back to the church for the 6:30pm showing of the movie, "Yo Soy Jose." Produced by our own TJ Laury and Salty Stache Productions, this is the inspirational story of Joe Matero, Fellowship of Christian Athletes Director of Extreme Sports. Much of the filming was down in Ocean City, NJ. Joe asked TJ to film his life and testimony after discovering he had malignant melanoma - Joe passed away a few weeks ago.

Middlers (grades 3rd thru 6th) return on Wednesday, September 25th at the Hangar 6:30- 7:30 pm

The Hangar is open every Friday evening for students in Grades 7th thru 12th.

MIDDLER YOUTH GROUP SUB SALE

Saturday, September 21, 2013 \$6.00 each

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

Contact Donna Stemberger to order.

dkstembug@yahoo.com



Any questions, please contact Donna Stemberger at 358-2509 or dkstembug@yahoo.com.

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Women's Retreat



Moving Out of Our Comfort Zone

Studying the Book of Ruth

November 1-3, 2013

Bird-in-Hand, PA

For a brochure, please see Donna Stemberger, Barbara Repenning or Linda Dilks.

Parish Nurse HEALTHCARE Ministries

PERITONITIS

Peritonitis is a bacterial or fungal infection of the peritoneum. The peritoneum lines your abdominal wall and covers the organs within your abdomen. It can result from any rupture in the wall. It requires prompt medical attention to fight the infection. Treatment usually involves antibiotics and/or surgery. Left untreated, peritonitis can lead to potentially life-threatening infection throughout your body.

Symptoms include: abdominal pain or tenderness, bloating or a feeling of fullness in your abdomen, fever, nausea and vomiting, loss of appetite, diarrhea, low urine output, thirst, inability to pass stool or gas, or fatigue.

Common causes of ruptures that lead to peritonitis include: peritoneal dialysis, a ruptured appendix, stomach ulcer, or perforated colon. These conditions can allow bacteria to get into the peritoneum through a hole in your gastrointestinal tract. Bacteria can spread from pancreatic inflammation. In diverticulitis, a pouch can rupture, spilling intestinal waste into your abdomen.

Peritonitis can be spontaneous. If you have had peritonitis before, you are more likely to have it again. If you have severe abdominal pain, contact your physician. A blood test will show if there is infection that could lead to sepsis. You might need x-rays or a CT scan. And then treatment. (Mayo Clinic)

"Pray without ceasing." II Thessalonians 5:17

Bonnie Kanady, RN

<u>Attendance:</u>	8:30am Service	10am Service
August 4	19	70
August 11	18	64
August 18	16	74
August 25	19	85
<u>Stewardship:</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Missions</u>
August 4	\$6,690.30	\$1,134.00
August 11	\$5,833.00	\$517.00
August 18	\$2111.05	\$340.50