

# Elmer United Methodist Church



CHURCH OFFICE AND PETER'S PANTRY - 358-0135

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DAVID A. REPENNING, PASTOR  
DECEMBER 2014



Dear Friends,



Grace and Peace to You,

Did you have a good Thanksgiving? My family had a wonderful day. We gathered 11 people with 5 helping cook the "traditional" meal. Some of the dishes were new and exciting, and everything was very good. My contribution was a pumpkin stuffed with wild rice. Most of us tried to guard some part of our memory of the holiday traditions. In retrospect, I think Thanksgiving is a trial run of how we will approach all of the traditions for the month of December as we prepare for Christmas.

December is the month of many traditions, both in our families and our churches. Last week we set our advent wreath. This week is our Christmas play. (Saturday and Sunday at 7 PM) Certain decorations will be going up. We will go Christmas caroling and then we have a choir concert on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Though we don't have a senior choir this fall, our choir directors didn't want to miss the concert tradition followed by a fellowship dinner. Poinsettias arrive after the concert. Finally is my favorite, the Christmas Eve candlelight services.

Each year our congregation celebrates these traditions. People in the community also look forward to joining with us for some of these activities. They make an impact on many lives. For most of us our faith journey began with traditions. Long before we could understand complex theological concepts, we knew the traditions. They remind us of faith stories, demonstrate our participation in the community of faith and encourage us to ask further questions about our heritage and beliefs.

This is the month of traditions. Observe them. Share them with others. Dig a little deeper to understand how they inform and enhance our faith. Finally share them with others to be the most inclusive community we can.

I look forward to sharing this month of traditions with you and others as we celebrate the Lord's birth. May your preparation and celebration of Christmas be blessed and deepen your faith this year.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Dave Repenning



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**  
Wednesday, December 24, 2014  
7:30 and 11pm

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>8:30am Service</u>	<u>10am Service</u>	<u>S.School</u>
Nov. 2	36	86	23
Nov. 9	43	115	40
Nov. 16	24		28
Nov. 23	35	98	31
Nov. 30	42	101	25

<u>Stewardship:</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>S.School</u>
Nov. 2	\$4,014.85	\$1,007.00	\$20.75
Nov. 9	\$3,842.00	\$386.00	\$14.00
Nov. 16	\$2,634.00	\$480.00	\$11.00
Nov. 23	\$4,782.00	\$784.00	\$49.00
Nov. 30	\$4,336.00	\$585.00	\$18.55



Look Who's Having a Birthday!

## 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	Jenn 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.
18 <sup>th</sup>	Carter Orzechowski
21st	Stephen Locke
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Shannon Hall
26th	Kevin Hill
29th	Ike Zane
30th	Jennifer Lloyd & Jacklyn Wriggins
31st	Linda Bramell



## The Mitten Tree

has returned to the Fellowship Hall!!!

Please place hats, scarves, gloves, and/or mittens on the tree to be distributed to the needy. Thank you



## Order Your Poinsettias!

Brenda and Bill Gaunt will be in the chapel on Sundays, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</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. \$6.00 each. You may also call them at 358-8147.

## Carla's Kids



Gifts are due in for the homeless children by Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to give Carla the checklist for each of the children you sponsor. Thank you



## Peter's Pantry SUB SALE

Saturday, December 20, 2014 \$6.50 each.  
Pick Up Between 10:30am – 11:30am at the Church  
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).

Elmer Drama Ministries Presents

## *We Three Spies*



Elmer United Methodist Drama Ministries proudly presents *We Three Spies*, December 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>.

We would like to invite you on a *classified* Christmas mission. Join the C.I.K. (Christmas Intelligence Kids) on a mission to find out what is happening at a warehouse owned by the evil Harrot King, who is determined to destroy all celebrations of the birth of Christ. Despite her efforts to shut down the Nativity play and the community outreach, the church at Bethlehem Way is able to overcome all of her obstacles.

Come watch this fun musical that reminds us that no matter how bad our situation is God is in control and that the greatest gift for Christmas is celebrating the birth of His son.

*We Three Spies* will be performed 7:00 pm at Elmer United Methodist Church. Admission is free. Bring a coat or a hat and gloves 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!



## The Hangar Holiday Extravaganza

Your holiday one stop shop!!  
Pampered Chef, Tupperware  
Scentsy, Avon, homemade scarves, etc.  
1:00 to 4:00pm December 13, 2014  
The Hangar  
1 South Main St., Elmer, NJ 08318

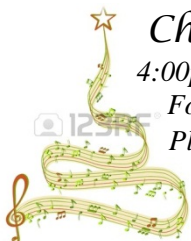


## Annual Church Wide Christmas Caroling

6:30pm Wednesday, Dec. 17th  
A hayride around town - so bundle up!! Don't forget to invite a friend! Refreshments afterwards!!

## Christmas Concert

4:00pm Sunday, December 21, 2014  
Followed by a Covered Dish Supper  
Please join us as our choirs give us the  
story of the Birth of our Lord Jesus  
Christ through music.



## Boomers Annual Traveling Supper

Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:00pm

If you are interested in hosting a course, please contact Donna Stemberger. 856-358-2509 or [dkstembug@yahoo.com](mailto:dkstembug@yahoo.com).

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



## Missions Report

### MALAGA CAMP

Elmer United Methodist Church has supported Malaga Camp for many of its 145 years. The Camp's primary objective is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ as Savior.

"Old fashioned" Camp Meeting services with outstanding guest speakers from all over the country are held during the first two weeks in August, and camps for children and teens are offered during July and August each year. Indeed, some people reading this article may have met Jesus during one of these services, but it may have been a long time since you visited the camp. Here is an update.

First of all, there are close to 100 cottages on the campground, about 50 of which are occupied year-round. Of course spring and summer are the busiest seasons, but many churches, families, and other groups take advantage of the camp's conference and retreat facilities during fall and winter. The Dr. Evan C. Pedrick Guest House has two meeting rooms, a kitchen, and rooms to sleep up to 18 guests. There are also three cottages available to rent from early spring to late fall. These lend themselves nicely to private study, prayers, and meditation.

The Auxiliary sponsors spring, fall, and Christmas yard and food sales each year. Auxiliary Day, held during Camp Meeting, features a luncheon, special music, a guest speaker, and cottage tours. The Auxiliary also staffs a Gift Shop during the summer. In addition to the Gift Shop, visitors can enjoy the ice cream store, book store, and outstanding dining hall meals, including two locally-famous potpie dinners each season.

During the summer, groups and individuals can arrange to purchase passes for the camp swimming pool, always staffed with a life guard. Other recreation opportunities include basketball and volleyball courts, a softball field, and picnic tables.

A favorite celebration is the Peach Festival in August, with crafters, children's activities, music, and an amazing assortment of food featuring peaches.

You are all invited to participate in the many aspects of this local ministry. There are evening services in the tabernacle every Sunday at 7:00 pm from June through September, ending with special services during Labor Day Weekend. Music, Art and Drama (MAD) Camp prepares a youth musical performed on the Saturday night which opens Camp Meeting. Over the years, many of our young people have been featured in this event.

Malaga Camp is located on Route 47, one mile south of the traffic light at Malaga. Come and spend a little while walking around the campgrounds. God's Spirit will quiet your soul.

Charmaine Sutton  
Missions Committee