

# Elmer United Methodist Church



CHURCH OFFICE AND PETER'S PANTRY - 358-0135  
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DAVID REPENNING, PASTOR

**JUNE 2015**

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

The last words of Jesus before He rose up into heaven are found in Acts chapter 1 verse 6.

**“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.”**

I hope they will be a challenge for all of us as we travel to different places this summer. How am I a witness to the ends of the earth? Methodists have often debated this question. Two views that often get pitted against each other are hospitality and witness. Traditionally hospitality is welcoming people into the church and evangelism is speaking to them about God. Often people and churches do well with one or the other but not both. The reality for today is we must do both. A recent Circuit Rider magazine addressed the two concepts as parts of the same mission of witnessing to which Jesus called us.

Hospitality is defined a little deeper than serving coffee and donuts. Hospitality is creating an atmosphere of genuine love, appreciation, respect, and friendship. People today want to belong to a community where they are known by name, loved unconditionally and helped to find meaning and hope in their lives; a community where joys are experienced, meals are shared and Good News is lived out. Though we can always improve on this, I feel Elmer UMC is well on the way of being that place and has been for a long time.

The other part of the witness call is evangelism. Often we emphasize what is said. Perhaps more important is where we go with our hospitality and who is included. Evangelism is not just inviting people into church. We expect people to come to church for worship, Vacation Bible School, Peter's Pantry, and so on. Evangelism is stepping outside of our comfortable culture with familiar people and places to go elsewhere to people with whom we are not always comfortable and familiar. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, was an Anglican priest in 18<sup>th</sup> century England. When he found he wasn't reaching most of the people by preaching in church, he broke all tradition and began preaching on the streets of England. Some in the Church tried to have him removed as a priest for this. He still followed his call to go into all the world.

We have several places where we have begun to cross over to new and different places. Some folks meet at the diner on Wednesday nights for dinner. This is reaching out when we don't just talk to church people while we are there. Others stand in the parking lot or even in line at Peter's Pantry. We have a group who are going to Lakeside Manor for social events once a month and are becoming friends with the residents there. They have taken parties and other tokens of our hospitality to those who might not normally come into a church. In response, several new people from Lakeside have become more active in our congregational life. Our mission trips are another outreach to unfamiliar people and places.

All of this comes around in a circle to hospitality; expanding who we see as us. This call is to be more inclusive of how we define our church family. Is anyone really not a part of God's family? Is anyone really not your brother or sister in Christ? Make an effort someday and somewhere to step from the comfortable places you know to touch the life of someone new. Everyone will be blessed when you do. I know personally that I have been blessed, because I too was a stranger to you and you welcomed me and my family. Thank you.

Yours in Christ,  
 Pastor Dave Repenning

<u>Attendance:</u>	Early	Morning	S. School
May 3	30	86	
May 10	26	109	22
May 17	26	92	21
May 24	25	70	22

<u>Stewardship:</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>S.School</u>
May	\$5,341.25	\$1,434.00	\$
May 10	\$3,048.94	\$511.00	\$38.00
May 17	\$3,565.00	\$269.00	\$25.00
May 24	\$2,560.00	\$269.00	\$23.50



## June Birthdays Happy Birthday to All!!

- 1st James Repenning
- 2nd Justin Nolan & Gail Moran
- 6th Holly Slusarz, Karin Abbey & William Snyder
- 7th Derik Martin & J. Gresimer
- 8th Arlene Tice, Theodore Nolan & Aaron Nolan
- 9th Donald Bishop & Laura Campbell
- 10th Ryan Schumacher & Sean Daly
- 13th Steven Fox, Stephen Dilks & Scott Snyder
- 14th Tyler Richards, Virginia Atkins & Vicki Dawson
- 16th Micah Harper
- 17th Kennedy Steier
- 18th Evan Elliott
- 20th Emily Wozniak, Tyler Kulig & Judy Locke
- 21st Bonnie Kanady & Justin Abbey
- 23rd Linda Garrison
- 25th Ruthie Wozniak, Sarah Slavoff & Jason Bishop
- 26th Eileen Eller & Cassidy Neher
- 27th Dot Somers, Florence Bramell & Daniel Pitman
- 28th Ken Thomas
- 29th Andrea Babcock & Sandi Elliott
- 30th Caitlyn Pitman, Jon Hall, Ed Fuller, Jr.,  
 Denny Hardman & Chloey Parish

## Sunday School Alert!!

Beginning Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>,  
 our Summer Sunday School Program will begin  
 each Sunday during Children's Church  
 which starts at 10:30am and will run till the end of  
 the 10am Worship Service – 11:15am.

Save the Date!! Church Family Picnic



July 12<sup>th</sup> 12 to 4pm at the Church



### Graduate Recognition Sunday is June 21<sup>st</sup>.

If you or a loved one is graduating from 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> grade or college, please contact Pat Hall (358-3177) or Linda Thomas (881-2631) by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please give the student's name, grade and place he/she is graduating from and future plans if known. Thank you.



## Volunteers Needed for Handi\*Camp 2015 Schedule

### Mark Your Calendars!! Vacation Bible School



Come and join the fun!

**Place:** Elmer United Methodist Church

**Date:** July 6 -10, 2015

**Time:** 6:00 pm to 8:30pm

Crafts, music, stories, snacks, games, friends and laughter is waiting for YOU  
Register Early! And bring a friend!

You can find forms online at [www.elmerumc.org](http://www.elmerumc.org)

**June 6** Malaga Camp Clean-Up Day

**Volunteers needed!!!**

**June 8-13** Week 3, Malaga Camp NJ  
(Bible Conference 1\*)

**June 15-19** Week 4, Malaga Camp  
(Challengers/Adventurers\*)

**June 22-26** Week 5, Malaga Camp  
(Conquerors\*/Voyagers\*)

**June 28-July 3** Week 6, Malaga Camp  
(Bible Conference 2\*)

**July 4** Staff departs for home

**\*Challengers:**

Youth (ages 9-21) and adults (21+) who have moderate or life skills level intellectual or multiple disabilities.

**\*Bible Conference 1:**

Adults (ages 35+) with physical and/or mild intellectual disabilities who need minimal support for participation.

**\*Adventurers\*/Conquerors\*/Voyagers:**

Youth (ages 9-15 and 16-20) and young adults (20-34) who have disabilities and are at or near their peer level socially, emotionally and academically.

**\*Bible Conference 2:**

Adults (ages 21+) with physical disabilities who are in or have the potential to be in college or career situations.

Donations of the following items **needed by June 1<sup>st</sup>** would be greatly appreciated.

Paper towels (we use lots!)

Napkins – inexpensive square ones

Baby wipes – preferably the rectangular plastic boxes or refills

Lysol liquid all purpose (yellow) cleaner – refill bottles are best (we have spray bottles we can refill)

BLUE kitchen –sized bags if you can find them (we use blue and white for different needs and have lots of white in our supplies already)

5 oz. paper or plastic cups

Pump soaps (no refills please)

An inexpensive bed pillow

Ponchos (Dollar store variety is fine)

Plain white shower curtains

Rolls of masking tape

Personal packs of tissues

Several cases of bottled water

Gallon-sized Ziplock bags

## WACKY WEDNESDAYS

### Mark Your Calendars!!!

Family Fun each Wednesday

July 15<sup>th</sup> - August 19<sup>th</sup>.

July 15<sup>th</sup> - Funny Farm Animal Rescue  
& Dinner with Elvis

July 22<sup>nd</sup> - Miniature Golf & Ice Cream

July 29<sup>th</sup> - Swim Party & Water Balloon Fight  
at the Elliott's

133 Palatine Rd, Pittsgrove



August 5<sup>th</sup> - Canoeing & Kayaking with Pastor Dave

August 12<sup>th</sup> - Wilmington Blue Rocks  
Baseball Game



August 19<sup>th</sup> - Traveling Supper on Bicycles & Swimming

Fill a Bottle, Help Save a Life!

**Kick-Off**  
**April 26**

**Due Date**  
**June 7**

A fundraiser to benefit

**Cornerstone Women's Resource Centers**

...reaching out to women and youth in our communities.



### Malaga Camp Brochures, Registration Forms, and EUMC Camp Scholarship

**Forms** are now available in the back of the sanctuary. Please give completed forms & monies to Kathy Laury by June 1<sup>st</sup> to receive the early bird registration fee. 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.