

Elmer United Methodist Church



CHURCH OFFICE AND PETER'S PANTRY - 358-0135

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DAVID REPENNING, PASTOR

Date: MARCH 2015

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

Praise the Lord,

Our Renewal Weekend, last week, was a great time of worship, fellowship and growing in the Lord. Thanks to our speaker, Rev. Dave Bailey, music leaders, Liz and Brian Fratto and family, and everyone from church who worked hard to make our weekend a meaningful success. The weekend was the beginning of our observance of Lent, which will end on Easter Sunday, April 5th.

During the weekend, Dave Bailey shared with us a number of messages. He began by calling us back to a focus on Jesus Christ. Too often we get side tracked on having correct doctrine, singing the correct hymns, what we are wearing, and what do others think about us. We focus so much on each other and our correctness that we forget Jesus, the real center of our faith. When we lose our Christ focus, we tend to become discouraged and stop growing. Dave reminded us that it is in the light of the Son of God, that we grow spiritually. Every day we are called by God to come back to the Son. Here we are renewed and overcome our failures from trying to live up to the expectations of others and ourselves.

Now we are continuing a similar focus with the theme of Be the Message, a call to return to Christ and focus our lives following his simple message of loving one another. We start the theme in worship on March 1st. Then weekly small groups will discuss and practice this idea. Our planned experience will run until Easter, April 5th. During this time of small groups we will also have a fellowship dinner every Tuesday at 6:00. Sunday morning worship and Sunday School will also follow the theme. In addition we will have our normal Holy Week activities.

In the small groups, many important interactions occur and we begin to more fully support and encourage each other in our daily walk and understanding of Jesus Christ. The groups are a place where our faith and relationship with Christ and each other can develop and mature. I am looking forward to this continued Lenten adventure of sharing together the simple basics of our faith; getting to know and be like Jesus.

This is also a great time to bring someone else into a relationship with Jesus or rekindle your own walk. Too often religion is foreign and threatening. Our small groups are a time for sharing and reflection with other pilgrims who seek to better know Jesus and each another. I hope to

see you and pray we will all be blessed in a closer and simpler walk with Christ.

Yours in the name of Jesus,
Pastor Dave Repenning

<u>Attendance:</u>	Early Service	Morning Service	Sunday School
Feb. 1	26	86	21
Feb. 9	21	113	25
Feb. 15	19	59	
Feb. 22		120	
<u>Stewardship:</u>	Church	Missions	S.School
Feb. 1	\$6,161.00	\$1,962.00	\$22.00
Feb. 8	\$3,459.45	\$310.00	\$21.00
Feb. 15	\$2,784.00	\$809.00	\$
Feb. 22	\$3,131.20	\$495.00	\$



March Birthdays Happy Birthday to All!!!

1st	Sherry Cooper & Robin Riddle
3rd	Sophia Hagen
7th	Eva Platt, Shelly Stokes & Jane Pedrick
8th	Ryan Chapman & Daniel Locke
9th	Tom Daly
10th	Holly Hall & Nicholas Larcombe
11th	Brenda Zeck
13th	Amil Still
15th	Pat Hall & Lonnie Riddle
16th	Joe Stemberger
19th	Elinor Dilks
20th	William Hunt
21st	Cara Hardman, Devon Dilks & Frank Garrison, III
24th	Caitlin Thomas & Lynda Davis
25th	Joanne Daly, Erin Zane & Daniel Evans
26th	Michael Hall & Kelsey Johnson
27th	Gary Bucolo
28th	Dean Wentz & Eric Bramell
29th	Kristin Bryan & Brittany Timberman
30th	Jennifer Kulig & Emily McDonald
31st	Janet Schmick, Tricia Elliott & Chuck Greene

Annual Fundraising Day

Yard Sale Preview

6:30-8:30pm Friday, March 20th

Yard & Sub Sale

9am-12noon Saturday, March 21st

To order subs: contact Donna Stemberger 358-2509 or dkstembug@yahoo.com. \$6.50 each

Sub Sale to Benefit the Hangar Ministries

Donations of yard sale items may be brought to the church and left in the Fellowship Hall any time after Sunday, March 15th.

Middlers

6:30-7:30pm Wednesdays at the Hangar

Be the Message

On March 1st the Sunday message series will begin. We will “*Become the Message.*”

The Easter story tells us of Christ’s Resurrection. “One of the greatest proofs of the Resurrection is a life that has been transformed by the love of Christ. *Be the Message* will take you on a life-altering adventure of being the “voice, hands, feet, and heart of our Lord to a lost and hurting world” - Lee Strobel. Too often critics of Christianity call Christians hypocrites. We will learn to connect what we say we believe with a life that is consistent with our words.

Won’t you join us on our Lenten journey and grow together with one another?

Opportunities to connect with small groups are listed on the table in the back of the sanctuary. We encourage you to sign up for one.

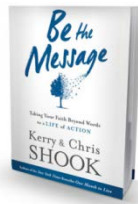
Small Groups

- Sundays during the Sunday School hour in the Chapel led by Pat Hall
- Sundays at 6:30pm at the Bucolos led by John Bucolo
- Tuesdays at 1:00pm at the Suttons led by Pat Hall
- Wednesdays at 7:30pm at the Hangar led by John Bucolo
- Thursdays at 10:00am at the Schneiders led by Patti Schneider and Carla Pitman (only a few spots left)

6:00m Tuesday Evening Fellowship Dinners

Small Group Interactive Guides are available and provided by the church. However if you would like to make a donation to offset the cost, it would be greatly appreciated.

The book **Be the Message** by Kerry and Chris Shook is available for purchase for \$12. A Sign Up sheet to order your book is also located on the table in the back of the sanctuary.



Malaga Camp

Malaga Camp, on Delsea Drive is just 15 minutes from Elmer. It is a sanctuary from our hectic schedules. Every Sunday evening starting in June at 7 PM there is an evening service with a speaker and inspirational music. Many from our church family are involved. You will find Charmaine Sutton at the piano and Ed Pitman up in the sound booth. I have counted as many as 17 people in attendance from our church on any given Sunday night.

The official summer season starts usually the week after Fourth of July as the camp becomes filled with young people. Many different people from our church are involved in this ministry. In August camp meeting begins. This is an awesome time of camp with programs reaching

the whole family. All kinds of activities are happening on the grounds. There are Bible studies in the mornings, a Bible school type program for children, and a camp for 7th to 12th graders with many activities. All three meals are provided on the grounds for a small fee and... guess who you will find in the kitchen none other than Lee Sutton. Many people will enjoy the large swimming pool or field games where healthy competition can always be found. There are cottages or rooms available for rent on the grounds during these two weeks if you wish to enjoy the whole camp experience. You can also come and go as fits your schedule.

There are many activities available during the remainder of the year. I'm sure I will not remember all of them. Eleanor Robbins and crew put on an amazing chicken pot pie dinner for a fundraiser in June and September. In August there is a peach festival, and many concerts and 2 youth rallies also happen. A huge event is the drama put on the first Saturday of August. You will see many of the youth from our church as actors and actresses.

I praise God for Malaga and their ministry to the world. There are many financial needs in keeping Malaga viable throughout the year. Our church is a supporter through our missions budget.

Submitted by Kathy Laury
Missions Committee

“If the Grave Could Shout”

An Easter Cantata

By Jason Cox

4:00pm Palm Sunday, March 29, 2015

...There would never be a greater display of God’s love than this; that while we were sinners, Christ would die for us that we might be reconciled to Him by the death of His Son. I’ve heard people stand in sacred places and remark, “If only these walls could talk.” I can’t help but think what the walls of the empty grave where Christ was buried would say. I believe if the grave could shout, it would shout, “He’s alive!”

I pray this music reminds you of the finished work of Christ and that through it you can encounter the hope, joy and salvation found in Him, our resurrected Savior.

- Jason Cox

Please join us for our cantata service involving all of our choirs on Sunday, March 29, 2015 at 4:00pm. We invite you to stay for our covered dish supper afterwards.

Altar Flowers

You may sign up for Altar Flowers in the back of the sanctuary. There is a calendar with green slips of paper on the table. Altar Flowers may be placed in memory of, or in honor of a loved one or as a celebration. If you have any questions, please see Pat Hall...358-3177