



FAITHnews

Monthly Newsletter of
Eldridge United Methodist Church

August 2024

A WORD FROM PASTOR JIM:

I can't believe it has been a month since Rebekkah and I came to serve as your pastor. You have warmly welcomed us, and we are grateful, but there is something that you can do for us. What is it, you ask? I would ask that you pray! Not for us per se but for the community, the congregation, and anyone we, as a congregation, might have the opportunity to minister to.

In her book, *Flood Gates: Holy Momentum For A Fearless Church*, Sue Nilson Kibby has a chapter entitled, Breakthrough Prayer. What is breakthrough prayer? Kibby describes it this way, "Breakthrough prayer is asking God to do new works, new miracles we cannot do ourselves, without limits. It does not replace any other traditional forms of prayer. It is additive."

I don't know about you but that's what I want for our band of believers. I want to see God do new works, new miracles without limits. There is only one way that I know this will happen and that is if we pray! I want to encourage you to establish a daily time where you get alone with God and pray. If you already have daily prayer time, I encourage you to try to increase your time with God. Ministry is a supernatural endeavor which we cannot do without supernatural power from a supernatural God which we communicate with through the supernatural means called prayer.

By the end of August, I hope to have two new things rolled out. The first is what I call The Pastor's Prayer Team. You will have opportunity to sign up for the prayer team. It is my plan to send out, via email, devotionals with a prayer theme. In this email, I intend to add the prayer request from Sunday's service so that you can continue to pray throughout the week. There will be two ways to sign up for this prayer team. We can either send out a link for you to sign up or you can fill out a connect card, which we are working on, indicating you would like to be a part of the prayer team.

The other plan involves prayer requests. With John Cannon's help, we will be updating Eldridge's website to include a prayer request page. Anyone from anywhere will have opportunity to submit a prayer request. To submit a request, the person will have to give their first and last name, email address, a description of the need and if it can be shared with Pastor's Prayer Partners. If the person checks yes, we will add the request to the prayer partner's email. If the person selects "no," it will come straight to me and no one else will know about unless they release me to share their request.

Now you might be asking yourself, "What about me? I don't have email. Can I still sign up?" As of right now, I hope the answer will be yes, but I am still thinking through the process of getting the information to people in a timely manner. If you have any ideas on how we can make that happen, please feel free to share them with me.

I can't wait to see what God is going to do to us and through us as we ask God for breakthroughs in our lives, church and community. There is no limit to what God might do if we pray!

WHAT'S HAPPENING in AUGUST?

- **Sun, Aug 4** **9am** **Worship / Communion**
6:30pm CCT monthly Board Meeting in library
- Wed, Aug 7 1pm Worship committee meeting
- 2:30pm Membership Directory meeting with Rep.
- Thu, Aug 8 4:15pm CYFM committee meeting
- 5:15pm SPPRCommittee meeting
- 6:30pm Administrative Council meeting
- Fri, Aug 9 noon Deadline to turn in PEACH orders
- Sat, Aug 10 7am Men's Breakfast Fellowship at Tasty Cafe
- **Sun, Aug 11** **9am** **Worship**
10am Begin preparing Churches United SACK LUNCHES
- Mon, Aug 12 (pm) Serve Churches United Meal
- Wed, Aug 14 4-6pm PEACH Pick-Ups
- Thu, Aug 15 11:30am Serve the last Summer Sack Lunch of 202.
- **Sun, Aug 18** **9am** **Worship / Blessing of Backpacks**
- Tue, Aug 20 6pm Missions-Outreach Committee meeting
- Fri, Aug 23 AM North Scott students 'back-to-class'
- **Sun, Aug 25** **9am** **Worship**
- Wed, Aug 28 3pm United Women of Faith meetings are back!



A SNEAK PEAK into SEPTEMBER

- **Sun, Sep 1** **9am** **Worship / Communion (Labor Day Weekend)**
- **Sun, Sep 8** **9am** **Worship with guest, Joye Chizek**
4pm Choir Rehearsal & Potluck
6pm CCT monthly Board Meeting in Room 9
- Sept 7-13 ————— Pastor on vacation
- **Sun, Sep 15** **9am** **KICK-OFF SUNDAY w/Choir & Sunday School!**
- **Sun, Sep 22** **9am** **Worship**
- **Sun, Sep 29** **10am!!** **5th Sunday Combined Worship (at EUMC) —**
This will be an **OUTDOOR WORSHIP** with **LUNCH** to follow (Pastor Jim is making us his famous pulled pork!)



- Aug 5 Janalee Keppy
- Aug 6 Bea Abbas
Sara Sack
Emmalyn Willey
- Aug 8 Marianne Doonan
- Aug 9 Dave Prochaska
- Aug 10 Boise Schoonover
- Aug 11 Jan Herrington
- Aug 18 Andrea Petersen
- Aug 19 Sally Riewerts
- Aug 22 Frank Rowley
Kandi Olson
- Aug 24 Karen Apple
Larry Herrington
- Aug 30 Troy Petersen

← birthdays

↓ anniversaries

- Aug 1 Clint & Kate Biekert
Don & Marianne Doonan
- Aug 3 Brian & Wendy Popelka
- Aug 8 Larry & Betty Frazee — 60 years!!!
Tim & Linda Reickard
- Aug 9 Quentin & Kathy Coffman
- Aug 10 John & Paula Bryant
- Aug 14 Richard & Glendena Heiman
- Aug 21 Rick & Traci Hardeman
- Aug 30 Ken & Debbie Fordham



Blessing the Backpacks
Sunday, Aug 18

We gather not to look away from the world, but to witness the needs of our neighbors through the lens of God's love.

May we be a people who pray and, out of our praying,

*do the work of bringing
 PEACE, LOVE & HOPE
 to all we encounter. Amen*

EUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL -- July 11, 2024

Members Present -- Pastor Jim, Stacy Muhs (chair), CJ Albertson (acting secretary), Becky Esbaum, Gary Abbas, Keith Riewerts, Linda Tubbs, Judy Kilzer, Lori Stackhouse. **Happy to welcome Pastor Jim for the first time! Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.**

Minutes of MAY meeting – (there was no June meeting) Minutes read. Discussion of the Vosler account signatures; Determined that it would be good to have the actual names of the signers (Becky Esbaum, Don Doonan, Dennis Eudaley) in the minutes for the record. Linda Tubbs moved to accept as corrected; Judy Kilzer seconded; motion carried.

Financial Reports

- Becky Esbaum provided copies of financial reports and year to date figures. Becky pointed out that we've now had a number of months in a row of negative income/outgo – she forecasts that we will run short by \$30K this year but we have funds in reserve to pay the bills. This seeming 'trend' is a concern.
- We need to explain to people about the benefits of using the Retirement accounts toward their pledge.
- Gary reported positively on his AUDIT of checks/balances
- CJ provided a formal letter of resignation from Trish Reisener as our Financial Secretary (last Sunday to be July 28). Much sadness at the prospect of losing such a valuable asset to our church. There was unanimous agreement that we should try to do as much as possible to allay Trish's concerns and determine new protocols or policies that would both fulfil Conference guidelines and, at the same time, remove the complications that are keeping Trish from feeling comfortable in the position. Pastor Jim will set a meeting with her to get the full information about her concerns and then will pull together a small group of involved persons to assist in drawing up a new plan of action if so warranted.

Upcoming Events

- July 14 – will be Pastor Jim's first full worship service with us.
- July 15-18 – VBS "Lift Off: Soaring to New Heights". Pretty much ready but can still use more volunteers just to assist in moving kids from activity to activity; Becky is in charge of food—will use Feed the Children sack lunches on Tues and Thurs.
- July 20 – SATURDAY night worship with special guest, Daryl Mosley, Nashville singer/songwriter. Talked about some extra ways to get out the invitation to encourage as much attendance as possible (especially outside the congregation). There will be an ice cream social afterwards, as well.
- Oct 19 (2-5pm) – Fall Festival; CJ asked for status reports from committees. CJ mentioned that the Worship committee needs more definite info. by next month or will probably choose to cancel event.

Old Business

- Membership Directory – all pics seem to finally be in; now it's time to meet with the rep to begin the designing and data input part of building the actual directory. Karen Apple is our chair person.
- Mother's Day piggy banks raised \$851.47 that was sent to the Humility of Mary Shelter.
- We had a 'pocket posse' special collection on Sunday, May 19 that raised \$905 to send with Susan Ames to Casa Angelina-- used to provide their students with birthday celebrations throughout the year.
- Linda Tubbs, Joyce Orcutt & Keith Riewerts provided a recap of this year's Annual Conference to the congregation during the June 16th worship service. People especially mentioned the "5 Guiding Principles" portion and Pastor Jim spoke of posting them (in the library...?) as a guide to all meetings, especially decision-making discussions of this group.
- Acoustical Panels – We have been billed but are declining to pay until the additional 2 (ordered) panels are installed and project is deemed acceptable.
- BIG Thank You to the Muhs family for all the work they did to refinish the hard-surface floors!!!
- Security Camera situation – Where are we? Dave Muhs is looking into a new system. Consensus is that we need to move this up as a priority.
- Defibrillator (& training) – Dave Muhs looking into units to purchase. When we get one, CJ will contact NS nurse friends to see if they would assist with training.

New Business

- Stacy requested chairing a committee of her choosing to "evaluate space usage" in the church building. Stacy so moved. Gary seconded. Some discussion about how far this committee should go. Consensus was that they were to do an 'inventory'/evaluation and bring back to the council to determine priorities and parameters for decision-making. Motion carried with this stipulation.

Committee and Staff Reports

- The only committee seeking 'action of the board' was the Finance Committee: Still need a Finance Chair & a committee of at least 3 persons. This was supposed to have been addressed previously by the nominations committee; asked to prioritize this for as soon as possible. In the meantime, Becky will ask a couple of past Finance Chairs if they would be willing to take on a small monthly 'audit' process (similar to the checking process). Lori Stackhouse also volunteered if needed. The next meeting will be Thursday, August 8th at 6:30pm; Adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, CJ Albertson, (for Joyce Orcutt)