



# FAITHnews

Monthly Newsletter of  
Eldridge United Methodist Church

## September 2024

### A WORD FROM PASTOR JIM:

There are a lot of reasons people come to church. You could name a few; some are good reasons, while others are questionable. While a person might come to church for many reasons, there is only one way that people come to church. It's not by bus, train, plane or automobile. The only way that we come to church is by God's grace. We are part of this parish only because of the Love of God the Father through the grace of Jesus Christ while the Holy Spirit makes it real to us. We are a community of believers who come together to worship God and do life together.

We are blessed to do life together with little to no fear that something terrible will happen to us at church. This is not true in some churches around the world and was definitely not true in the German Lutheran church of the 1930s and 1940s. In the 1930s, German Nazism began to influence the State Church, the Lutheran Church. One man who was outspoken about the rise of the Furor was Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Bonhoeffer would not bend his knee to the dictator to secure his clerical job, and he joined the Confessing Movement. This movement was formed so they could study and minister without compromising the Word of God. They also came together to support one another in their struggle, not only against the Third Reich but in their battle against this world's systems, Satan, and Self.

How did the Confessing Movement have the strength to come together week in and week out as war raged around them? Bonhoeffer explained it this way:

*It is true, of course, that what is an unspeakable gift of God for the lonely individual is easily disregarded and trodden under foot by those who have the gift every day. It is easily forgotten that the fellowship of Christian brethren is a gift of grace, a gift of the Kingdom of God that any day may be taken from us, that the time that still separates us from utter loneliness may be brief indeed. Therefore, let him who until now has had the privilege of living a common Christian life with other Christians praise God's grace from the bottom of his heart. Let him thank God on his knees and declare: It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren.*

Sisters and Brothers, we need each other. We need to breathe in the Love of God the Father through the grace of the Lord Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, but we also need to breathe out that love to those around us by working together to fulfill God's will in our lives. We become the Body of Christ when we come together to worship, serve, and love God and one another.

John Wesley explained it this way, "Christianity is essentially a social religion; and that to turn it into a solitary religion, is indeed to destroy it." What is Wesley saying? Basically, Christianity should be done together as a team, not merely as an individual. We should strive to come together not primarily for our good but for the good of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus expressed it this way in Matthew 20:

**"You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people,  
and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you, it will be different.**

**Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant,  
and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave.**

**For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING in SEPTEMBER?

- **Sun, Sep 1 9am** **Worship / Communion**
- Thu, Sep 5 6:00pm Gathering Area reserved
- Sept 5-13 ——— Pastor Jim on vacation
- **Sun, Sep 8 9am** **Worship with Joye Chizek**  
~~4:00pm ——— Choir Practice & "Welcome Back" Potluck~~  
 6:30pm CCT monthly Board Meeting in library
- Wed, Sep 11 10:00am (rescheduled) Worship Committee meeting
- Thu, Sep 12 5:15pm SPPR Committee meeting  
 6:30pm Administrative Council meeting
- Fri, Sep 13 9:30am EUMC teams works as NS Food Pantry
- Sat, Sep 14 7am Men's Breakfast Fellowship at Tasty Cafe
- **Sun, Sep 15 9am** **Worship / "Kick-Off Sunday"**
- Wed, Sep 18 6:30pm Finance Committee meeting
- Thu, Sep 19 5:15pm Multi-faith Homecoming "Tailgate Party" / Faith Lutheran
- **Sun, Sep 22 9am** **Worship**
- Tue, Sep 24 6pm Missions-Outreach Committee meeting
- Wed, Sep 25 3pm United Women of Faith meetings are back!
- **Sun, Sep 29 10am!** **OUTDOOR Combined Worship / Luncheon (@EUMC)**
- Mon, Sep 30 1:00pm EUMC hosts Pastor's Circuit meeting



SEPTEMBER	
BIRTHDAYS & Anniversaries	
5	Dick Wilson
6	Rebekkah Shrimplin Clif Wiley
9	<b>Dave &amp; Carol Faeth</b>
11	Lynn Reth
14	Marcia Nestler Larry Frazee
15	Ethel Reynolds
18	Betty Frazee Anna Kinney
19	Patrick McLain <b>Lloyd &amp; Janalee Keppy</b>
21	Marcia Rowley
22	Dee Childers

EUMC & McUMC

**September 29**  
**10 am**

OUTDOOR *Worship*  
Pulled Pork Lunch  
@ 11:15 (inside)

Bring your own chair, fan, blanket, bug spray.... &

*Come Join Us!*

# Friendly Reminders

**United Women in Faith:** For those who are travelling, we are still collecting the small toiletry items from motel rooms. Items are included in the Christmas Gift Bag distributed at the Churches United Meal Site.

**Mission Ingathering Kits:** For school supplies there are only a few items still needed. Check list on the Mission table in Gathering Area.

During September the focus will be on Personal Dignity Kits, which includes as a new item: Lotion 8-10 oz (no pumps).

In October we finish with Layette Kits and also packing all the kits for delivery.

## Please be PRAYING for:

...**BILL TUBBS**, heart procedure failed; in ICU awaiting new plan

...**FLO VELDHUIS-KROEZE** rehabbing from hip surgery now has Shingles

...**MIKE WRIGHT** who is in UofIA Hospitals after experiencing a brainstem stroke this week.

...the family of **SUE KNAPPER** (daughter-in-law of Grace & Walt, wife of Alan) who passed away on Thursday.

...**JACK HAWKER** receiving 'amped up' treatments for cancer

...**KEN FORDHAM** fighting a difficult battle with cancer

...**WALT KNAPPER** is back at Fieldstone in DeWitt; unable to have scheduled cervical surgery due to an infection; **GRACE** also needs our prayers.

... the ongoing health concerns of **EUMC parishioners & constituents:**

**Kathy Dawson**

**Carol Haugland**

**Joyce Orcutt**

**Jody Rickard**

**Sally Riewerts**

**Rebekkah Shrimplin**

**Barb Stahmer**

**Nancy Dreibelbeis**

**Leona Lightner**

**Tim Reickard**

**Joel Rickard**

**Keith Riewerts**

**Dave Smith**

**Fran Wilson**



## Food Pantry

- FRUIT
- PASTA
- SOUPS  
(No chicken or tomato, please)

*Pastor Jim's Current Sermon Series:*

### The 7 Themes of METHODISM

- Aug 18 The Centrality of Christ
- Aug 25 The Trinitarian Character of God
- Sep 1 Communion of the Holy Spirit
- Sep 8 (guest pastor)
- Sep 15 Ordo Salutis-part 2  
(Order of Salvation)
- Sep 22 Ordo Salutis-part 2
- Sep 29 The Christian Community
- Oct 6 Little Conflict
- Oct 13 Ministry & Mission

*Come & learn more about our Methodist faith. Each week can stand alone so don't hesitate to jump right in!*

## EUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL -- August 8, 2024

**Members Present** – Pastor Jim, Stacy Muhs, Becky Esbaum, CJ Albertson, John Cannon  
Deb Menke, Gary Abbas, Keith Riewerts, Linda Tubbs, Bill Tubbs, Judy Kilzer, Lori Stackhouse, Joyce Orcutt.

**Minutes of MAY meeting** were approved as printed.

**Financial Report – Becky Esbaum** – The final amount for the acoustical panels in the Gathering Space has been paid. C.J. moved and Gary seconded that the report be approved. Motion carried.  
Trish Reisener will remain as our Financial Secretary with some changes to the system of counting money on Sunday morning. Gary Abbas will call all of the counters and will train them on the new procedure.

### **Upcoming Events are:**

August. – back to school with backpack blessing

September – Rally Day September 15 & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday combined service is here with outdoor worship

October – Fall Festival Saturday, October 19, 2-5 p.m.

UWF – food (hot dogs, caramel apples, popcorn, cider, cocoa, water, juice)

Mission & Outreach—adult activities (church information booth, Silent Auction, Photo Booth, Bingo, Cornhole, Ladder golf, Scavenger Hunt)

Children, Family & Youth – kids' games ( paint pumpkins – done first to dry – ring toss, hula hoop challenge, corn hole toss, bounce into baskets, glider through the ring, fish casting)

Worship – advertising and generic sign up for help with all activities

**Old Business** – none

### **New Business**

We need more handicapped parking. Extending it farther down the sidewalk to the south just makes more walking. The logical location is across from the front door area.

Postcards to contact inactive members will be a project for the Missions and Outreach committee. They will set up a procedure to go forward.

The Nominating Committee needs to secure a chairperson and 2 additional members to fill out the Finance Committee.

**Pastor's Report** – Pastor Jim did a brief Wesley training highlighting John Wesley's three general rules: 1. Do no harm, 2. Watch over each other in love, 3. Our greatest resource is relationships (between each other and with God.) In this light the Ad Council's three jobs are to: 1. Create small groups, 2. Be sure they're accessible, 3. Evaluate the small groups.

He recommended reading the book Flood Gates: Holy Momentum for a Fearless Church by Sue Nilson Kibbey.

### **Technology** – John Cannon

The new office computer is here, set up, and paid for

Google has a free resource for John to upload all information to the cloud, so it is not lost.

**Pastor Jim** closed the meeting at 8:15 p.m. with prayer

**Next Meeting** – Thursday, September 12 at 6:30 in the church library

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Orcutt, secretary