



FAITHnews

Monthly Newsletter of
Eldridge United Methodist Church

 October 2024

A WORD FROM PASTOR JIM:

Well baseball season is about over, and I have not really kept up with any of my favorite teams. I know the Royals made the playoffs but that's about it. But when I was young, I loved playing baseball, and I loved catching. The catcher is the only player on the field that can see all the action. The pitcher can't see everyone because they are looking at the catcher most of the time. The infielders can't see the outfielders. The outfielder can't watch the other outfielders as they are watching the batter. Only the catcher can see everything that's going on. The backstop has a unique perspective on the game and sometimes based on what's going on in the game might bark out an unusual direction. That direction comes because the catcher can see things other players can't see.

For example, in one game that I caught, the other team had the bases loaded and I think one out. The pitcher threw a couple of pitches, and I noticed that the runner on first base would get over half way down the second base before that pitch crossed on plate. He also took his sweet time getting back to first. Seeing this I called the infielders to the mound. I told them about the baserunner. I said, this is what I want to do. The next pitch I am going to call for a pitch out and throw it down to first. I think we can get the runner out before they get back to the bag and before the other two runners try to advance. The rest of the infielders were not sure about the idea but gave their approval.

Working out of the stretch, the pitcher threw the pitch out. The ball made a thud as it hit my glove. I quickly threw it down to first base. In fact, almost too quickly as the throw was a little wild. It soared high, but thankfully my first baseman was tall. He made a jumping catch. Put on the tag as he came down, and the runner was out. We got out of the inning without allowing any more runs as the pitcher ended up striking out the batter. All because I could see things that the rest of the team could not or did not see.

Think of God as the "catcher of your life." You can't see everything that is going on in your life. You might know where some things in your life are headed but you can't see everything or everyone. Thankfully God can! He can see things you can't see. He knows things you can't know. He wants things... good things, for you that you don't even know you need. So what happens? God sees the game called your life from a unique place. So, God "barks out" a course of action. You might think why does God want me to do that? I really don't know if that will work or not. The question becomes, "Do you listen or do you throw the proverbial ball where you want?" I want to encourage you to go with God's instructions because He sees things we can't even fathom.

Blessings, Pastor Jim

WHAT'S HAPPENING in OCTOBER?

- Tues, Oct 1 10:00am Bible Study resumes (studying “Moses” this fall)
 6:30pm Special Finance Committee meeting
- Wed, Oct 2 1:00pm Worship Committee meeting
- Sat, Oct 5 10:00am Special “welcome back” Choir Rehearsal & Potluck lunch
- **Sun, Oct 6 9am **Worship with Communion****
 2:30pm Charge Conference @ St. John’s UMC in Davenport
- Tues, Oct 8 10:00am “Moses” Bible Study
- Wed, Oct 9 6:30pm Joint SPPRC mtg @ McCausland UMC
- Thu, Oct 10 5:15pm SPPRC Committee meeting
 6:30pm Administrative Council meeting
- Sat, Oct 12 7:00am Men’s Breakfast Fellowship at Tasty Cafe
- **Sun, Oct 13 9am **Worship / “Pastor Appreciation Sunday”****
 LAST CHANCE to sign-up for “White Christmas” !!!
- Tues, Oct 15 10:00am “Moses” Bible Study
- Wed, Oct 16 6:00pm Diabetes Workshop #1
- **Sun, Oct 20 9am **Worship (Begin new sermon series—Today: “Prayer”)****
- Tues, Oct 22 10:00am “Moses” Bible Study
 6:00pm Missions-Outreach Committee meeting
- Wed, Oct 23 3:00pm United Women of Faith meeting
- **Sun, Oct 27 9am **Worship (Today: “Presence”)****
- Tues, Oct 29 10:00am “Moses” Bible Study
- Wed, Oct 30 6:00pm Diabetes Workshop #2



Dear Eldridge United Methodist family,

Words cannot adequately express our appreciation for all of you at the Eldridge United Methodist Church. Your prayers, your kind expressions of sympathy and the generous memorial gifts, the food you provided, and your love mean a great deal to us at this very difficult and sad time as we adjust to the new reality that we must go on with our lives without Bill.

Special thanks go to Pastor Shrimplin and office staff, CJ and Nancy; to the custodial staff; to John Cannon; to Joyce Orcutt, Lori Stackhouse, and Sue Cannon; to Kathy Dawson; and all who contributed to or attended the visitation or the service or the luncheon in any way. I am sure that there are many I have neglected to thank individually, and for that I am sorry. Please know that, if I did not mention you by name you are ALL appreciated.

Thank you to all of you who attended the visitation or the service or expressed sympathy with a card or in person. Little did we know those many years ago when we helped to birth this church, that we would become part of a second family— the family at Eldridge United Methodist Church.

With love, and appreciation,
Linda Tubbs, Aimee, Anne & Matt and family,
and Alisa & Joe and family

NEWS & Reminders

Sally Stepping Down: Sally's health has brought her to the tough decision to step down completely from directing the EUMC choir. What a gift she has given us in the previous 40-ish years! In fact, we will be celebrating that gift—and HER—at a very special worship service on the morning of November 17th (*yes, it IS the same day as the combined worship, lunch & "White Christmas"...all the more celebratory, right?!).* **PLEASE** mark your calendars with a big RED circle to be here that day to show her how much we appreciate her years of dedication, expertise & beautiful music. (More details to follow in upcoming weeks).

United Women in Faith: We know the summer travel season is winding down, but we're still collecting the small toiletry items from motel rooms to be included in the Christmas Gift Bags distributed at Churches United Meal Site. Please keep us in mind when you're "on the road again".

Mission Ingathering Kits: For school supplies and Personal Dignity Kits we have *almost* everything we need. Check list on the Mission table in Gathering Area to help fill in gaps. The focus for OCTOBER is the Layette Kits and also packing all the kits for delivery. Again, info is on the table. Thanks for your support!



Food Pantry

- Instant mashed potatoes
- Gravy
- Granola bars

Please be PRAYING for:

...the victims of **HURRICANE HELENE** and the folks in the path of **TROPICAL STORM MILTON**.

...the family of **BILL TUBBS** who passed away on 9/20.

...**FLO VELDHUIS-KROEZE** rehabbing from hip surgery & dealing with shingles at the same time.

...**MIKE WRIGHT** rehabbing (now at home) from his recent stroke.

...**CAROL HAUGLAND**, having shoulder surgery on Tuesday (her dominant right arm).

...the safety of the **FARMERS** in the fields and on the roads as they are harvesting their crops.

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

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

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

Kathy Dawson	Nancy Dreibelbeis
Ken Fordham	Walt & Grace Knapper
Leona Lightner	Joyce Orcutt
Tim Reickard	Jody (& Joel) Rickard
Sally & Keith Riewerts	Dave Smith
Rebekkah Shrimplin	Fran Wilson

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- | | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Ben & Karen Apple |
| 5 | Kathy Dawson 90th!!! |
| | Carol Kay |
| | Phyllis Kinney |
| 8 | Jeff & Kelly Cronkleton |
| 7 | David Muhs |
| 9 | Flo Veldhuis-Kroeze |
| 11 | Lynn & Laura Reth |
| 17 | Dan Stackhouse |
| 21 | Lori Stackhouse |
| 23 | John Veldhuis-Kroeze |
| 29 | Dave Faeth |
| 30 | Laura McLain |
| | AJ Petersen |
| 31 | Paula Bryant |

2021 Monthly STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE Update



STEWARDSHIP: *“Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation.”*

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT	General Operating Fund	Building Fund
2024 Pledges:	\$ 116,642.00	\$ 15,568.00
Anticipated <i>non-pledged</i> income:	\$ 20,110.00	NA
TOTAL	\$ 136,752.00	\$ 15,568.00
	(\$11,198/mo)	(\$2,054/mo)
Received in 2024:		
January	\$ 10,747.00	\$ 827.00
February	\$ 13,889.00	\$ 712.00
March	\$ 7,178.00	\$ 2,343.00
April	\$ 7,262.00	\$ 317.00
May	\$ 7,357.00	\$ 602.00
June	\$ 6,185.00	\$ 142.00
July	\$ 14,593.00	\$ 3,514.00
August	\$ 9,741.00	\$ 676.00
SEPTEMBER	\$ 24,385.00	\$ 501.00
2024 Income To Date:	\$ 101,337.00	\$ 9,635.00
Percentage of 2024 pledges:	74%	62%
Accounts Receivables—		
SEPTEMBER net GAIN of \$ 12,436	Income: \$ 24,385	Expenses: \$ 11,950
TOTAL to date— net LOSS of \$ 17,867	Income: \$ 101,337	Expenses: \$ 119,204



EUMC has blocked off 50 seats at MUSIC GUILD for **“White Christmas”** on Sunday, November 17th. Church will be held at 10am that morning as we once again host our brothers & sisters from McCausland. A light lunch will be served here at the church and then hope to carpool as much as possible over to Rock Island for the 2pm matinee. Tickets are \$17 for those over 18; \$15 for those 18 & under; add \$5 if you want a lunch.

Don't miss out! Reservations **MUST** be turned in by next Sunday (13th)!