



From the Pastor

By Rev. Karen Bunnell, Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

If you're anything like me, the blocks on your December calendar are filling up quickly. There are concerts, and special worship services. There are meetings, and school events. There are family parties, and neighborhood gatherings. On top of all of that, not listed on our calendars are the millions of things we have to get done this month – Christmas shopping and wrapping, baking, making special meals, writing out Christmas cards. It's exhausting and the month has barely begun.

How easy it is to just fly through December in a blur, and then fall exhausted into Christmas! I pray that won't be the case for any of us. My hope and prayer is that, even in the midst of it all, that we remember why we're celebrating in the first place. We're celebrating because God gave us the gift of His Son – the Prince of Peace, the one who came that we might have life, and have it in abundance (not in exhaustion!).

So please, take time this month to savor the gift. Use the wonderful Advent devotional that has been written by your fellow church members. Maybe it will start out your day in such a way that calm will reign in your soul. Come to worship regularly and let the peace of Christ fill your heart. Then, come to worship on Christmas Eve, that most special of all nights, and join your voice with the herald angels singing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

May this December be a special and blessed time for all of you!

December 2013

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A Quick Glance At Dates

- December 8
 - Children's Christmas Program
 - Youth Group Christmas Party
- December 13
 - Classic Christians' Meeting
- December 14
 - Cookie Walk and Christmas Bazaar
- December 15
 - Youth Group meeting
- December 20
 - Couples Dinner
- December 21
 - Youth Group Progressive Dinner
- December 22
 - Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Eve at Elkton UMC

5:00 p.m. – **Family Worship Service**

(This service features Christmas carols, scripture lessons, and a special time just for children. There is no sermon in this service.)

7:00 & 9:00 p.m. – **Identical Candlelight Services**

(These services feature handbell, choral and brass choirs, as well as hymns, scriptures, a sermon and candlelighting. Nursery and childcare will be offered at the 7:00 service only.)

10:00 p.m. – **Silent Communion** in the sanctuary

Mission Update

Submitted by Bob Gilmore, Chair

The Missions Committee has completed a very busy fall that included the church wide yard sale, the Harvest Festival collection to support the Immaculate Conception food bank, the startup of the dining out nights at Nino's Restaurant and the ongoing organization for the EUMC responsibility at the homeless shelter around the holidays. The committee would like to thank the congregation for their support throughout the year and for their helping attitude toward any new needs within the community.

Community Kitchen News

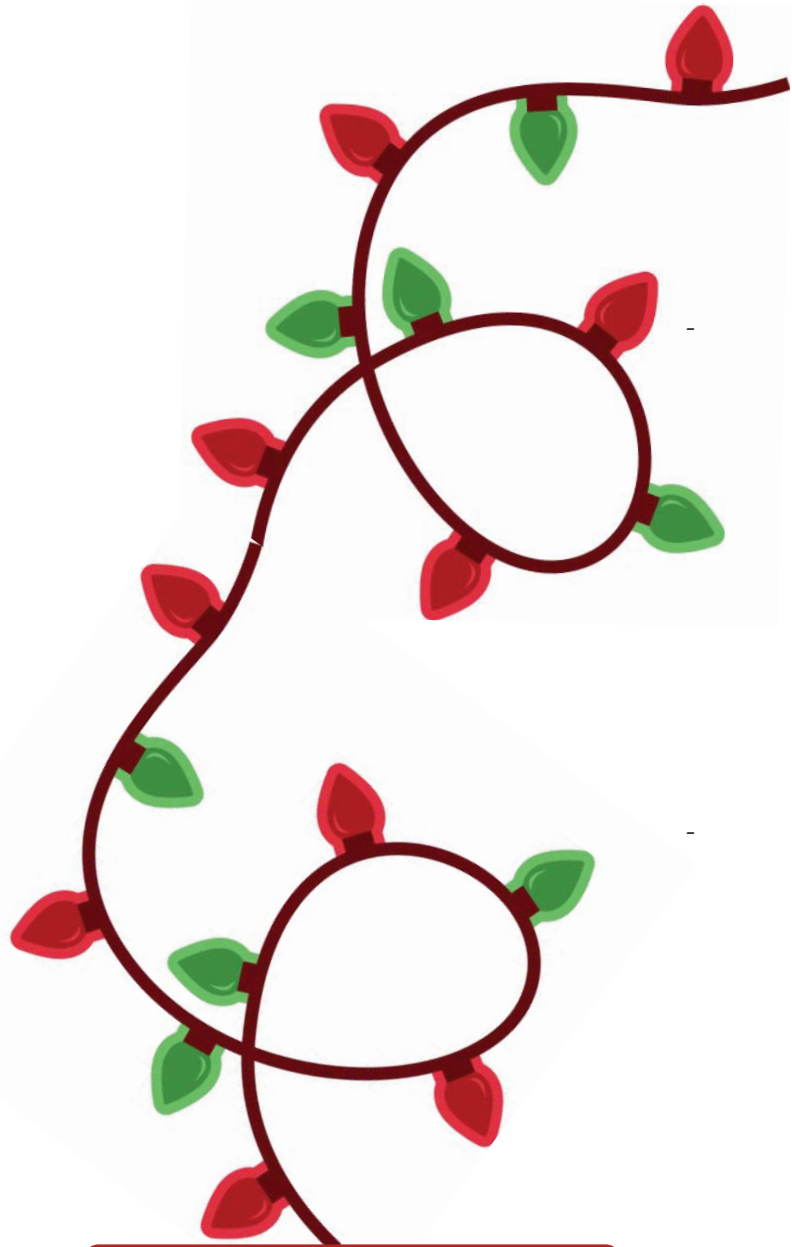
Submitted by Mary Mackie, Coordinator

There has been a change in the coordinator for the Community Kitchen. For 12 years, Nancy Fetterolf has organized meals on behalf of EUMC. When our church was called on to provide the meal on any given Friday, Nancy would work her magic and put together a wonderful group of volunteers to make sandwiches, soup, and desserts and ask for helpers to present this to those in need who would come to Elkton Presbyterian Church looking for a good meal. Nancy has been very devoted to this cause and has spread much cheer to the ones who look forward to this meal every week. Nancy has done a wonderful job and many of our members would tell you this. Thank you, Nancy, for your dedication and a job well done!

Our new coordinator is me, Mary Mackie, I will be calling on members to help in the same way Nancy did. The Community Kitchen is an organization that provides a free meal every Friday to the county's needy. This is done through county churches and businesses. There are about 20-25 groups that rotate providing these meals. There are eight board members (all from different churches) that get together once a month to organize the community kitchen's plans. Nancy was also one of these broad members and I will work with these ladies too.

I am putting together a list of church members who are willing to help when called on. Please let me know if you are interested. There will be a sign up sheet in the Welcome Center before our turn to serve a meal. It will also be in the bulletin and/or newsletter. I am reminded of the Bible story where Jesus provides fish and loaves of bread to the multitude of people. I hope that we come together with helping hands that are willing to comfort and bring joy to the hearts and minds of everyone we touch.

You can reach me by phone 410-398-3356, cell # 443-945-6439 or email memackie4@aol.com.



HELP the



HelpCenter

On the 1st Sunday of each month, the Missions Committee will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Help Center. Please bring donations to the welcome center on

**December 1st
& January 5th**

Sunday School News

Submitted by Shannon Laramore, Director of Children and Education Ministries

Red Stockings

This month we will be doing the "Red Stocking" mission to benefit the UMC Board of Child Care. All Sunday School children will be bringing home a stocking to fill with quarters and return to their teacher by December 22nd.



Annual Children's Christmas Program

The annual Children's Christmas Program will be held on December 8th at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This year's play is titled "The Christmas Story." The children will be re-telling the story of Jesus' birth through scripture readings and songs. All Sunday School classes will be participating in this program. At the conclusion, everyone is invited to a potluck dinner in Weldin Hall. We are asking each family to make a side dish or dessert for everyone to enjoy. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from Rev. Bunnell's office.

Children's Christmas Program

**UMW 13th Annual Cookie Walk and
2nd Annual Christmas Bazaar
Saturday, December 14th
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**



If you are baking cookies, please deliver them to the church on Friday, December 13th from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Youth Group and Young Adult News

Submitted by Sandy Wherry, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Scrip Cards – an everyday shopping experience!

We want to remind the members of the congregation to purchase their scrip cards to do their shopping for gas, groceries, clothing, recreation and meals. Those of you who go out to lunch after church could get the scrip cards from us to eat your lunch and the church receives a portion of the money you spend...similar to our Nino's nights. We will have many on hand the first Sunday of every month in the hospitality area for your shopping convenience. Remember, you're helping the youth with each purchase and you didn't spend any additional money. A win – win situation!

*If we don't have the cards on hand, we can order on Sunday and you'll have it the following Sunday. Help us help others!

News from the D.O.C. (Disciples of Christ)

Hello Readers!

Our discussions this month have been on sin, God's Loving Mercy and Grace. With all the problems the county has been experiencing with the problems caused by addiction, we focused our youth retreat in that direction. Our thanks goes to our guest speakers and their candid thoughts about when they started having problems, how it grew into an addiction and how they are able to live clean. Many youth are beginning the road to addiction in their early middle school years, some as early as late elementary school. We are hoping to help raise the awareness of such problems and lead the youth in the direction of Christ and his church so they may find support and love from us and most importantly through us to the Lord.

The youth had a great time carving pumpkins and visiting Truth or Terror as it reminded us to make the choice for Jesus and eternal life through His sacrifice for us. We thank the Underwood family for supplying the tractor, wagon and, most of all, the driver.

We thank the youth who helped with the Church Yard Sale, the Crop Walk, the Halloween party for the Domestic Violence Center children and the team who helped with Ted and Deb's yard.

COMING EVENTS

December 8th – Youth Group will set-up for the Sunday School
Christmas Program Potluck Dinner @3:15 p.m.

December 8th – Youth Group Christmas Party @ 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

December 13th – Youth set-up for the Cookie Walk @ 3 p.m. or right after school

December 15th – Youth Group meeting 6 – 8:30 p.m.

December 21st – Progressive Dinner 5 – 10 p.m.

December TBD – Dinner & Games @ the Wherry's 3 – 8 p.m.

Attention Young Adults

Don't forget to join us on November 30th for a zip-lining experience in Newark at 11 a.m., and the hayride and bonfire at 7 pm. We hope it will be as much fun as our paintball event was in October.

Coming Events: December 20th – Couples Dinner @ 6:30 p.m. & planning for the new year.

This program is designed for all 18 - 30 year old young adults. For questions, please contact us by text @ 443-309-0160.

Finance

Bill Ferringer, Chairman

I was very happy to give the congregation an update of our finances during one of the stewardship campaign Sundays on November 10th. It is always good when the finances are positive and our church is healthy not only with finances but with all of the people who participate in the activities at the church. By the time you read this article, we will have pretty much completed our stewardship campaign for the year 2014.

From the Finance committee, we want to thank everyone for their continuing support of EUMC.

As always, Elkton United Methodist Church continues to be an exciting place to be and is "A place to know Jesus, be known by Jesus, and make Him known to others."

FINANCIAL REPORT

	October 2013	October YTD
Income	\$36,443	\$391,701
Expenses	37,021	387,989
Net Income/(Loss)	(578)	3,712

EVANGELISM / MEMBERSHIP Committee Update

Submitted by Ellen Gruebel, Committee Chair

Isaiah 6:8 - Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me."

The E/M committee has a wonderful Thanksgiving outreach again this year. Last year, our congregation donated money to purchase 130 gift cards which were distributed to workers in Union Hospital, the police department, the EMT team and several other local entities. All of these people work on holidays when many of us are with our families. This year, we had 175 gift cards, thanks to our generous church family! These will be distributed to the Newark Toll Plaza employees, as well as to the workers on duty at several of our local nursing homes/assisted living facilities.

Our JOY of FAITH weekend is well into the planning stage! It will be held on the first weekend of February, 2/01 – 2/02. Our entertainer this year is comedian David Dean. David will entertain us in the Elkton High School Auditorium at 7 p.m. following a dinner at 5:30 p.m. David will join us again at both services on Sunday morning. We are fortunate to have so many of our usual volunteers helping us again this year with the dinner, the Cecil Whig article, and the sound system support for our entertainer!

We look forward to the attendance of our congregation and community at this wonderful event!



Church Office Holiday Hours

Monday, December 23rd
Office hours - 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tuesday, December 24th
Office Closed

Wednesday, December 25th
Office Closed

Thursday, December 26th
Office Closed

Friday, December 27th
Office Closed

Music Ministries

Submitted by Sharon Williams, Organist/Coordinator of Music Ministries

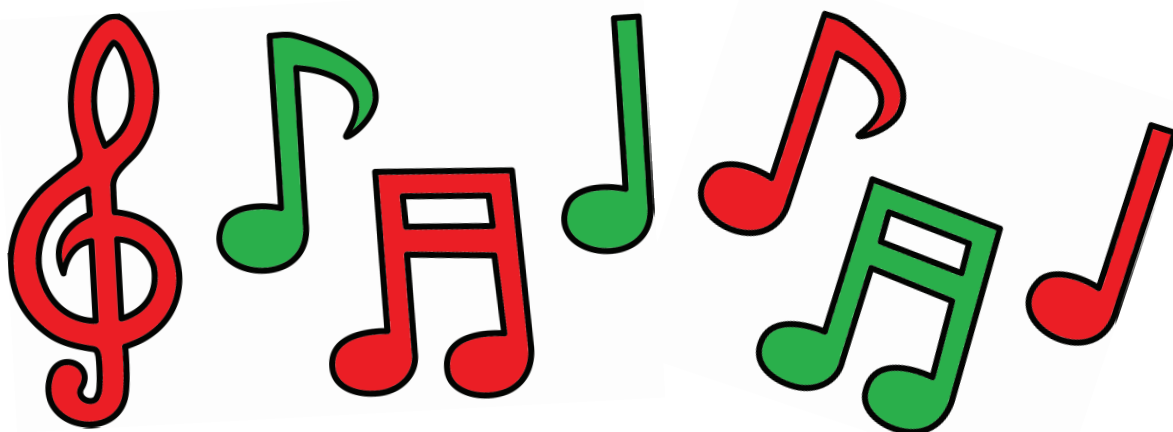
Advent and Christmas are my favorite seasons of the church calendar year. Why? The seasons are packed full of MUSIC!!!

On December 15th, at both the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services, the chancel choir will present "Tapestry of Light" a Celtic Christmas Celebration by Joseph Martin. This cantata is made up of traditional carols from the British Isles.

On December 22nd, both the children's choir and the bell choir will be with us in worship at the 8:30 a.m. service; the chancel choir and bell choir at 11:00 a.m.

On Christmas Eve, the children's choir will sing for the family service at 5:00 p.m. Our traditional, identical candlelight services at 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. will include the chancel choir, soloist, brass and organ.

I came across the following recently and would like to share it with you:



The Twelve Days of Christmas

It is said that "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written to teach the lessons of faith when Christians in England were not permitted to practice their religion openly. The song's "true love" does not refer to an earthly suitor, but rather refers to God, Himself, and the "me" receiving the abundance of gifts is representative of every true Christian. From "a partridge in a pear tree" to the 12 drummers drumming," each day's presents are reflective of specific spiritual blessings.

Day	Gift	Symbol
1st	A Partridge in a Pear Tree:	Jesus Christ
2nd	2 Turtledoves:	Old and New Testaments
3rd	3 French Hens:	Faith, Hope and Charity
4th	4 Calling Birds:	Four Gospels
5th	5 Golden Rings:	1st 5 Books of Old Testament
6th	6 Geese A-Laying:	6 Days of Creation
7th	7 Swans A-Swimming:	7 Gifts of Holy Spirit
8th	8 Maids A-Milking:	8 Beatitudes
9th	9 Ladies Dancing:	9 Fruits of the Holy Spirit
10th	10 Lords A-Leaping:	The 10 Commandments
11th	11 Pipers Piping:	11 Faithful Disciples
12th	12 Drummers Drumming:	12 Points of the Apostles' Creed

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!



Poinsettias for Christmas Eve

As you know, we have traditionally invited members of the church to donate poinsettias for our sanctuary for our Christmas Eve services. This year, we're offering a little twist. Because so many poinsettias (and lilies at Easter) were never taken home (and because there were so many, there were too many to take to nursing homes, etc.), the Worship Committee is offering a second option for Christmas memorials. You can donate the \$11.00 that would usually buy a poinsettia, but instead the money would be put toward purchasing a mosquito net for the UMC's "Nothing But Nets" anti-malaria campaign. Your name and the name of the person you're remembering or honoring will still be listed in the poinsettia bulletin insert on Christmas Eve, but you just won't have to worry about the poinsettia itself. The United Methodist Church has already raised nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of its goal of \$75 million dollars for "Nothing But Nets" and the Worship Committee thinks this is a great way for us to help! Look for the bulletin insert on the first three Sundays in December. The last day to order will be December 15th.

MUSIC! MUSIC! MUSIC!

If you're in the mood for Christmas music, you'll have ample opportunity in December to enjoy it! Our choir will present their Christmas cantata in worship on Sunday, December 15th. The Cecil County Choral Society will give a concert in our sanctuary on Tuesday evening, December 10th. And the Elkton Town Band presents their holiday concert on Sunday night, December 15th at the Elkton High School auditorium at 7 p.m.

Blue Christmas Service

It's tough celebrating the joy of Christmas when you're going through a hard time in your life (family struggles, job loss, financial woes, depression, etc.). It's particularly tough when you've lost a loved one and it might be your first Christmas without them. The Blue Christmas Service is held annually to help those who are struggling at this time of year find comfort and peace. This year's Blue Christmas service will be held on Sunday, December 22nd at 4:00p.m. in our sanctuary. Please come if this is a tough time of year for you, or if you have a family member or friend who is struggling, invite them to the service, and come along with them.

Advent Devotional

Once again, we're blessed to have a "homemade" Advent devotional to use for the days of Advent this year. The booklet contains a devotion for each day of Advent that has been written by a member of our church. Many thanks to all who contributed! Pick up a copy in the Welcome Center area, and let its readings bless you on your Advent journey.

Baptisms

Tanner Graham Battaglia,
son of Anthony and Rachel
&
Liam Winfield Cloud,
son of Joshua and Jessica

Baptisms

If you would like to schedule a baptism, please email Rev. Bunnell at eumc@comcast.net or call the church office at 410-398-0933

Reminder to Women's Retreat Participants

Your last installment payment of \$50 is due by December 15th. Send it in (or drop it by) the church office. If you haven't signed up yet, it's not too late – there are still a few spots available for any woman interested in taking part in the retreat (Jan. 17-19).

Classic Christians' December Meeting

The Classic Christians (age 50+) will have their December meeting on Friday, December 13th at 6:30 p.m. in Weldin Hall. The night will begin with our usual potluck dinner (bring a dish to share) and then continue with our annual calendar planning night. We'll plan out all our activities and trips for 2014, so the more people in attendance the better! Sign up for the meeting on the sheet on the table across from the Welcome Center.

Healthy Cook-off Thank you!

Thanks to all who cooked and all who tasted. Our winners were: Gretchen Ginder - salsa appetizer; Cheryl McKeown - chicken main dish; Heidi Gaultney - cabbage falada side dish; and Judy Tanner - fresh apples and pumpkin pie dip dessert. It was a great success and will hopefully become an EUMC tradition!

Elizabeth Circle News

Submitted by Jen Noll

Come join the United Methodist Women's Elizabeth Circle as we bake cookies for the Cookie Walk. The Elizabeth circle is a group of women with young families who provide support, fellowship and spiritual guidance to each other through our monthly gatherings. We will be baking cookies in the kitchen at the church on Thursday December 12th starting at 7:00 pm. If you are looking for a United Methodist Women's circle to join, come out and enjoy a great time with our group as we make our sweet treats! For more information, contact Jen Noll jennifer.noll14@gmail.com.

You Did It---A Real "Glass" Act!

by the Stewardship Committee

September was "EUMC Eyeglass Recycling Month" and you did it! The official count of glasses collected was: 178 pairs of eyeglasses, 18 pairs of sunglasses, and 7 sunglass clip-ons. These glasses were delivered to the Elkton Club on Monday, October 14th at their monthly meeting. From the Elkton Club, they will be sent to the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center in New Jersey where volunteers will clean, sort by prescription strength and package the glasses. Most of the recycled glasses will be distributed to people in need in developing countries where they will have the greatest impact. Recycling eyeglasses—just another way we have demonstrated stewardship in our church!



R S O C K S C E F B T P B D E C G
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BAKING

BELT

BOOK

BRACELET

CANDLES

CANDY

CHOCOLATES

CLOTHES

COFFEE MAKER

COFFEE MUG

COLOGNE

COOKIES

DOLL

EARRINGS

ELECTRONICS

FLOWERS

GAME

GIFT BASKET

GIFT CARD

HERBAL TEAS

JEWELRY

MONEY

MOVIE

MUSIC

NECKLACE

NECKTIE

PANTS

PENDANT

PERFUME

PLANT

SCARF

SHIRT

SLIPPERS

SNEAKERS

SOCKS

STUFFED ANIMAL

SWEATER

TELEVISION

TOOL SET

TOY

TREE ORNAMENT

WATCH

WINE



December Birthdays

“One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and ask to seek him in his temple.: Psalm 27:4 (NIV)

12/1 Robert Mitchell	12/10 Kyle Slayman	12/23 Nancy Draper
12/2 Thomas Campbell	12/11 Larraine Campbell	12/23 Robert Hoffman
12/2 Helen Seekins	12/12 Richard Ceresini	12/23 Edward Marsilii
12/2 Nicholas Stahl	12/14 Shannon Laramore	12/23 Timothy McCardell
12/3 Cheryl McKeown	12/14 Phyllis McCoy	12/24 George Veasey
12/4 Laurie Alphin	12/15 Deborah Dalrymple	12/25 Jack Bailey
12/4 Paige Armour	12/15 Cathy Gohlke	12/26 Lauren Carbone
12/4 Sidney Bledsoe	12/16 Nancy S. Stubbs	12/26 Robert Gilmore
12/4 Eli Mackie	12/17 Kristin Bjerke	12/26 Kathleen Keithley
12/5 Lorraine Price	12/17 Marge Jacobs	12/28 Robert Olewine
12/5 Carla Testa	12/17 Colette Webster	12/28 Fran Vassalotti
12/7 Irving Webber	12/19 Edward Stubbs	12/29 Chace Crawford
12/7 Larry Williams	12/20 Linda Carey	12/30 Diane Sizemore
12/8 Jessica Keithley	12/21 Victoria Stauffer	12/31 Alexis Gregson
12/9 Victoria Cebula	12/22 Jack Edler	12/31 Linda Renshaw
12/9 Nicholas Gregson	12/22 Marc Gonzalez	
12/10 Jane Cebula	12/23 Morgan Cather	

December Anniversaries

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” Genisis 2:24 (NKJV)

12/2 Cossie & Judith Gibson
12/4 John & Sandra Anderson
12/6 Donald & Ina Andrews, Sr.
12/11 Edward & Patricia Lynerd
12/16 Edward & Nancy S. Stubbs, Jr.

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> Communion 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service No Youth Group	2 6:00 PM Girl Scout Committee Board Meeting 6:45 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Cecil County Choral Society Dress Rehearsal	3 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM Sunbridge, Nancy Stubbs' Team 7:00 PM Women's Retreat Committee Meeting	4 10:30 PM Tele-Care Meeting 6:30 PM Men's Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	5 6:30 PM Man Food Man Talk 8:00 PM AA Meeting	6	7
8 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> Blood Pressure Screenings 8:30 AM Worship Service 8:45 AM The Gathering 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Christmas Children's Christmas Program 6:00 PM Youth Group	9 6:45 PM Handbell Choir	10 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Cecil County Choral Society Concert @ EUMC	11 12:30 PM Ruth-Sarah Circle Luncheon 6:30 PM Dorcas Circle 6:30 PM Men's Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	12 January Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Elizabeth Circle 7:00 PM Boy Scout Committee Meeting 8:00 PM AA Meeting	13 6:30 PM Classic Christians' Potluck Dinner & Planning	14 9:00 AM – Cookie Walk & Bazaar 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Chancel Choir Cantata Rehearsal
15 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Choir Cantata 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Youth Group	16 6:00 PM Girl Scout Committee Meeting 6:45 PM Handbell Choir	17 9:30 AM Staff Meeting	18 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast	19 8:00 PM AA Meeting	20 6:30 PM Young Adult Couples Dinner	21 5:00 PM-10:00 PM Youth Group Progressive Dinner
22 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 4:00 PM Blue Christmas Service	23 6:45 PM Handbell Choir	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 5:00 PM Family Service 7:00 PM & 9:00 PM Candlelight Services 10:00 PM Silent Communion	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed	26 Office Closed 8:00 PM AA Meeting	27 Office Closed	28
29 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	30	31				2013



“A place to know Jesus, be known by Jesus, and make Him known to others.”

Elkton United Methodist Church

219 East Main Street
Elkton, MD 21921

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Staff

Senior Pastor.....Karen F. Bunnell
Associate Pastor of Visitation
Ministries.....Rev. Ray Graham
Children & Education
Ministries Director....Shannon Laramore
Youth & Young Adults
Ministries Director.....Sandy Wherry
Organist/Coordinator
of Music Ministries.....Sharon Williams
Adult Choir Director.....Steven Gilmore
Adult Handbell Director.....Paul Deemer
Children’s Choir Director..Joanna Melvin
Nursery Care
Professionals.....Mary Ann Schmidt
Yolanda Gomez
Treasurer.....William Vassalotti
Secretary.....Kay Mortimer
Sexton.....Donald Ewing

Contact Information

219 East Main Street
Elkton, MD 21921
(410) 398-0933
Email: eumc@comcast.net
Web site: www.elktonumc.org

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. - Noon
12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Friday
8:00 a.m. - Noon

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m. - Noon

“The Gathering”

8:45 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. (Weldin Hall)
2nd Sunday of Each Month

Sunday School (All Ages)

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Youth Fellowship

Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

