



Elkton United Methodist Church

The **Beacon**



From the Pastor

Rev. Karen Bunnell, Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

Happy 2017! Here we stand at the beginning of a new year, fresh with possibilities and opportunities! When I look back and see all the things we did and everything we accomplished as a church last year, it's amazing! And then I look ahead to this New Year, and wonder what God has in store for us! Where will he lead us this year? What opportunities will he lay before us to be his faithful disciples? How will he stretch us and challenge us? And how will we answer the call?

That's a lot of questions, the answers to which are unclear right now. But one thing we do know is that God will be with us. He showed us that at Christmas! In Christ, the baby born in Bethlehem, God came to be with us, and so we are never alone. He walks with us every step of this journey to which he has called us – so no matter where he calls us to go this year or what he calls us to do together, he is with us!

Knowing that, there's nothing we cannot do – no challenge we cannot face, no ministry we cannot undertake, no dream we can't dream! So Happy 2017! I'm so blessed to be on this journey of ministry with you, and I can't wait to see what God has in store for you, for me, and for us as the church this year!

January 2017

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A Quick Glance At Dates

January 6-8

Youth Rally

January 13-15

Women's Retreat

January 16

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

January 20

Classic Christians' Meeting

January 20-22

Men's Retreat

January 28

Administrative Council Retreat



Missions News

Submitted by Joe Tanner, Chair

A new year is beginning with opportunities to serve our Lord by giving and serving our neighbors here in Elkton, Cecil County, and around our world. There are several Missions already scheduled for 2017. EUMC will again be hosting the Homeless Shelter from March 6th through March 12th. We have supported this mission faithfully in the past and with your help will do so again in March. In talking to those who are homeless, there are many reasons why their lives have turned out the way they have - bad circumstances and sometimes bad decisions. For instance, a bad decision based on bad circumstances by a 17 year old ends up 25 years later with a 42 year old homeless person. But they are our brothers and sisters in need of our help.

We will again put together a walking team for the Delaware Brain Tumor Walk on April 22nd. Please consider becoming a member of the team or help by supporting a walker. Our walk is dedicated to our loved ones who have suffered from this terrible affliction; so if you have a loved one you would like to dedicate our walk to, please let us know. All proceeds go to support research to help end this affliction.

On April 23rd we will again have a blood drive in Weldin Hall. We have supported this mission very actively in the past with donations of 30 to 40 units of blood in each of the three previous blood drives. We are hoping to exceed this level of giving in this drive in April.

These are just small samplings of how those of us at EUMC can serve our Lord by helping our neighbors. I am looking forward to a New Year of support for those in need!

Missions Finances

Year to date at the end of Nov. Missions income was \$45,044 which was \$424 more than 2015.

Mission expenses year to date at the end of Nov. were \$37,677 which were \$7035 less than 2015.

UMW Cookie Walk: Another Successful Year

Submitted by Dot Eltzroth

On Friday, December 9, our bakers kept up a steady stream of cookie deliveries. Oh, what wonderful variety of shapes, sizes, flavors, and colors – we had it all! The event volunteers had their hands full arranging all the cookies on trays, ready to entice the buyers. And then Saturday arrived, the big Cookie Walk day! Yes, at 9 am there was a line forming at the door, waiting in anticipation to enter Weldin Hall, land of cookies galore. What fun to watch the guests; some knew exactly which cookies to load in their box, others shopped, trying to decide just the right ones to select. And, of course, on Sunday morning, many in the congregation purchased cookies, and then another annual Cookie Walk event came to a close. It was just the perfect weekend in December, getting ready to celebrate Christmas.

Thank you to all the bakers; you are wonderful. Thank you to all the volunteers that worked the event; you are outstanding. Thank you to all the buyers; your support is awesome. Together, we created another happy day for a lot of folks – it doesn't get any better than that!



Sunday School and Education News

Submitted by Katie Sparks, Director of Children and Educational Ministries

Happy New Year!

It's a brand new year and that means time for New Year's Resolutions! How about making your resolution to learn more about the Lord? The education department has the perfect way to help you with this resolution every Sunday morning from 9:45- 10:45am; join a Sunday School class. We offer a variety of classes for every age group and interest and would love to have you join us!

Nursery care is available for children who are too young to join a Sunday School class. There will be short term studies held throughout the year during the day and in the evenings so keep an eye on the bulletin, newsletter, and website to see what is being offered (childcare will be available if needed during these classes). If you have a study that you are interested in leading, please see Katie Sparks.

Christmas Pageant

The children did a great job performing the annual Christmas Pageant for a packed house last month. Thank you to all who came out to support them as they performed “Miracle at Midnight” and to all the Sunday School teachers for their support during rehearsals. A big thank you to Jen Noll for directing the pageant; we could not have put the pageant on without you!



Additional Announcements

If your child forgot to return their red stocking for the Board of Child Care, it is not too late. Have them bring it in as soon as possible and give it to their Sunday School teacher.

The education department is looking for help planning future family events. If your family has an idea for a fun monthly event that they would like to plan, please see Katie Sparks so that we can make it happen!

Youth News

Submitted by Sandy Wherry, Director of Youth Ministries

REMINDER: All those attending the Youth Rally need to make sure they have their paperwork into me before we leave @ 1:30 on Friday, January 6th from the church. Please contact me about any money that is still owed (443-309-0160).

NOTE: We will be changing our youth group meeting time in January 2017. We will begin meeting after church on January 15th. The meeting will officially begin at 12:30 with lunch and end at 3 p.m. This schedule will continue until school is completed for the year.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year!



Finance News

Bill Ferringer, Chairman

The ongoing operations of the church through November is positive \$1,831.

Income is up from last year by \$5,792. The main components are offering income is up from last year by \$994, Youth program income is up \$1,805 and rental income is up \$3,018. All other income is down \$25.

General expenses are down from last year by \$92. Apportionment and district office expenses are up \$3,640. Office supplies, postage and other expenses are down \$3,732.

Pastor and staff expenses are down \$2,084.

Council on Ministries expense is up from last year \$3,044. Ministries Program and Evangelism are up \$3,393. Youth and Education are down \$260 and all other expenses down \$89.

Building expenses are down from last year by \$3,579. Church utilities are down \$2,951 and copier expenses are down \$1,111 due to the lease of new copiers at a lower price and the first month rental being paid by the vendor. Church repairs and maintenance are up \$483.

Parsonage expenses are up from last year by \$1,126. This is primarily due to repairs and maintenance.

Non-Operation is a net deficit of \$13,128. This is primarily due to the second payment for the Weldin Hall air conditioner replacement of \$14,000.

The Building Fund received \$67,289 this year as we work to secure funds to repay the loans of \$245,000 in 2021. Total balance on hand is \$125,588.

The Finance committee continues to ask everyone to be good stewards and keep your pledges up to date.

As I always say, 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.” And everyone is important.

Welcome our New Church Treasurer

We welcome Lee Collins to the staff of Elkton UMC as he begins work as our Church Treasurer. Lee follows in the footsteps of Bill Vassalotti who recently retired after serving for fifteen years! Many thanks to Bill for his faithful service, and a hearty welcome to Lee!

Please Pray for Incoming Church Leaders

As the new year begins, several new leaders are taking office, so we ask you to pray for them:

- Administrative Council Chairperson – Joe Buckley
- Evangelism Co-Chairperson – Lorraine Jones
- Trustees Chairperson – Ray Whiteoak
- Lay Leader – Keith McKenica
- Associate Lay Leader – Nancy Crawford
- Lay Member of Annual Conference – Heidi Gaultney
- Reserve Lay Member of Annual Conference – Bill Ferringer

Finance News

Submitted by Bill Ferringer, Chair

	NOVEMBER MONTH	NOVEMBER YTD
Income		
General Ministry & Trustees		
Operational	30,056	383,944
Non-Operational	150	5,995
Total Income	<u>30,206</u>	<u>389,939</u>
Expenses		
General Ministry & Trustees		
Operational	32,308	382,113
Non-Operational	-	19,123
Total Expenses	<u>32,308</u>	<u>401,236</u>
Net Income/(Loss)		
General Ministry & Trustees		
Operational	(2,252)	1,831
Non-Operational	150	(13,128)
Net Income/(Loss)	<u>(2,102)</u>	<u>(11,297)</u>



Administrative Council Retreat

Attention all Administrative Council members! The annual planning retreat for the Council will take place on Saturday morning, January 28th, from 8 a.m. until noon. If you, as the chair of your ministry area, are not able to attend, please be sure to have someone there from your committee as your representative.

Attention On-Line Givers!

Don't forget that if you changed the amount you're giving from 2016 to 2017, you'll need to go to the church website, click on the on-line giving site, and follow the directions for changing the amount there. If you don't, Vanco will still follow the directions you gave for 2016. Questions? Call the church office.

Initial Offering

If you use offering envelopes, you'll notice that the first envelope is marked "Initial Offering." This money goes to cover the cost of the offering envelopes themselves. We suggest an offering of \$5.00.

On-Line Giving

The first of a new year is a great time to switch to on-line giving. On-line giving is a quick and easy way to give your offering, and it's also very helpful to the church. Your offering comes in on a regular basis, even when worship might be cancelled due to bad weather. To sign-up for on-line giving, go to the church website, elktonumc.org, click on the on-line giving link, and you'll be directed through the sign-up process. Questions? Call the church office.

Decorators Needed!!

Submitted by Judy Tanner

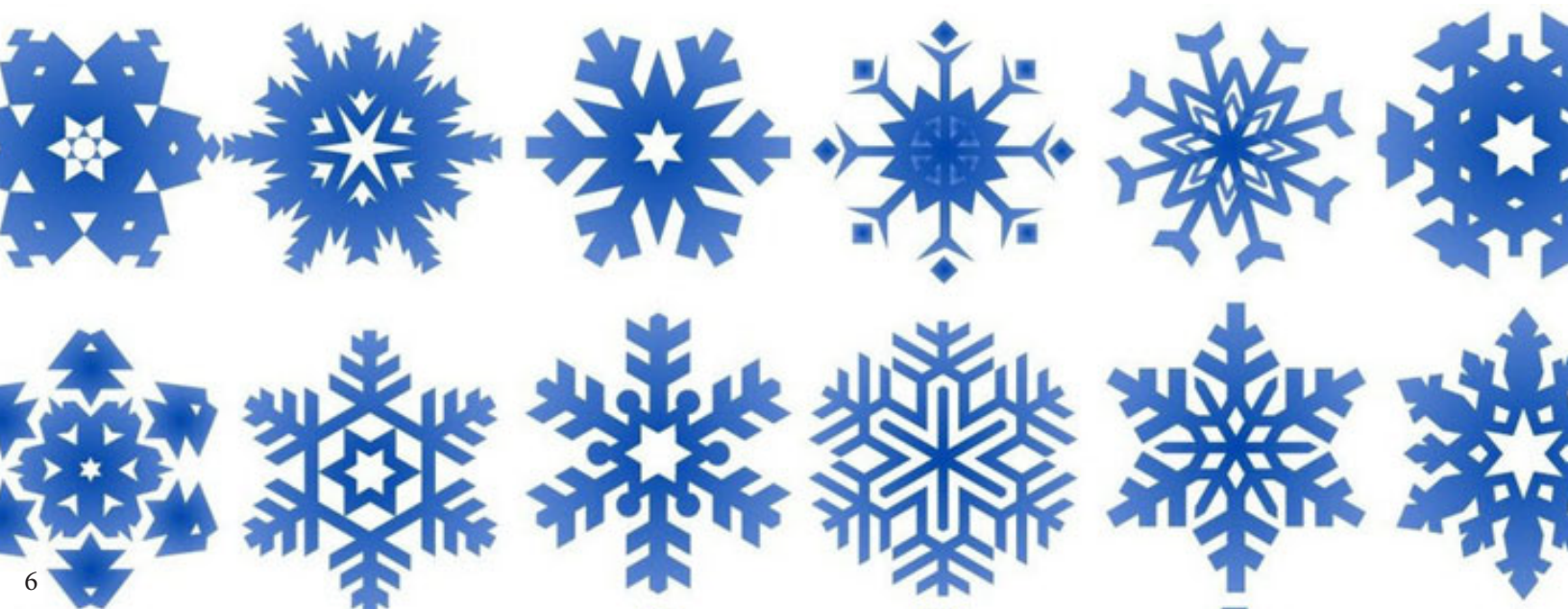
We are looking for someone to take over decorating the Sanctuary for Advent, Christmas Poinsettias and Easter Lilies. Joe and I have been doing the decorations along with some other members for 15-20 years and we feel that it is time for someone else to take over. If you find it in your heart to do this, please contact me at tannerjudy31@gmail.com or 443-604-1218. We will be glad to show you what needs to be done to make our Sanctuary a beautiful place during the Christmas and Easter Seasons. Please pray on this and get back to me.

Organ Fund Update

Amount Needed - \$104,500

Amount Given So Far - \$68,050

To give, make a check out to Elkton UMC, and put "Organ" on the memo line.



Music Ministries

Submitted by Sharon Williams, Organist/Coordinator of Music Ministries

A very special THANK YOU goes out to all our musicians who worked so hard preparing for our Advent and Christmas seasons and especially our music directors: Susan Starrett, children's choir director; Paul Deemer, bell choir director; and Steve Gilmore, director of the men's choir and chancel choir.

We are now looking forward to 2017, and I am checking out new music for Lent and Easter.

As most of you know, the organ has been ordered and we continue to accept your gifts towards the organ. If you have any questions about the new organ - feel free to contact me. Also, a note about the "old" organ...we are trying to find a pipe organ builder who may want to take/purchase the organ and rebuild it.

As we begin a new calendar year, please consider offering your gift of music by singing in a choir or playing an instrument for worship. May you have a happy and healthy New Year.

Worship on New Year's Day

Because New Year's Day is on a Sunday, we'll be having just one combined service, which will take place at 10:00 a.m. What better way to start the New Year than joining your brothers and sisters in Christ in worship and gathering around the Lord's Table with them for communion?

Martin Luther King Program

The pastor and members of Wrights AME Church invite you to attend their annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Monday, January 16th at 9:00 a.m. in their sanctuary. The church is located on Booth Street (directly behind our church). The MLK program is always wonderful and lively, and it's a great way to celebrate with people from throughout our community.

Advent/Christmas Thanks!

Thanks to everyone who played a part in making our Advent/Christmas celebrations so wonderful!

- To the Tanners for beautifully decorating the sanctuary!
- To all of our Sunday morning personnel – the ushers, greeters, acolytes, Welcome Center personnel, hosts/hostesses of hospitality hour, counting team members, hall monitors, nursery volunteers, tech team members, Knights in Shining Armour – you helped make everything run smoothly and made everyone feel welcome!
- To all who helped lead worship – Worship Leaders, Gospel Readers, Communion Stewards and Communion Servers – you added so much to our worship together!
- To our fabulous musicians, who offered such wonderful, uplifting music and helped us make a joyful noise together! Thanks especially to your leaders Sharon, Steve, Paul and Susan!
- To the children and youth of our Sunday School who offered us such a wonderful Christmas pageant – and to Jen Noll and all their leaders who made it happen!
- To those who wrote the wonderful words for this year's Advent devotional and to Sandy Lavelle for putting it all together – you helped lead us faithfully through the season!
- To all who gave so generously to the many giving opportunities throughout Advent – through your giving you touched so many people – college students, those without homes, those with incarcerated parents, the Boy Scouts, children in need throughout the world and more – thank you!
- To our wonderful church staff, for whom the season adds a tremendous amount of work – thank you for doing it without complaint and for making everything run smoothly!
- Finally, to all who attended worship and special events during Advent and Christmas – you being here made a difference!



On the Road Again with the Classic Christians

The Classic Christians are hitting the road again for another spring bus trip. This year they'll be heading off to Niagara Falls and Toronto, Canada. The trip will take place Monday, May 15 – Friday, May 19, and the cost is \$675/person double occupancy. A passport or passport card (good for travel to Canada) is needed for the trip. Brochures about the trip are available on the counter across from the Welcome Center. To sign up, see the sheet across from the Welcome Center. Questions? Contact Millie Jones at grandmajonesx3@comcast.net.

Classic Christians' January Meeting

The Classic Christians (age 50 and over) will kick off the year with their January meeting on Friday, January 20th at 6:30 p.m. in Weldin Hall. The night will begin with a potluck dinner (bring a dish to share) and continue on with a program (yet to be determined). To take part, sign up on the sheet across from the Welcome Center.

Evangelism/Membership Committee

Submitted by Robyn Graham, Co-Chair

1 Corinthians 1: 4-6

I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way--in all your speaking and in all your knowledge--because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you.

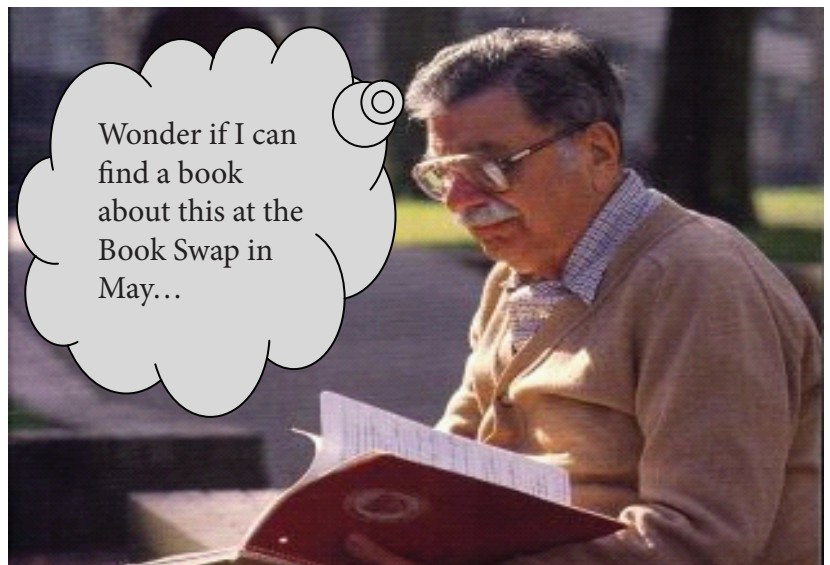
Greetings from the Evangelism/Membership Committee! Thank you to everyone who gave a donation for our Thanksgiving giveaway. We hope you all had wonderful experiences giving away the gift cards. Please share your experience on the church website or Facebook page. We would love to hear about it! We are continuing to plan for the upcoming Joy of Faith weekend, February 4th & 5th, 2017. We are very excited that our entertainment for the weekend is going to be a wonderful Christian comedian. His name is Aaron Wilburn and he will be putting on a show that everyone will enjoy! We will kick off the weekend with the prayer breakfasts on Saturday morning. We will have a wonderful dinner that will be hosted by the Treese family once again on that Saturday evening, and then we will be entertained by Aaron Wilburn. The event on Saturday will take place at EUMC. We will begin selling tickets for the Saturday dinner in January. Please stay tuned for more information. We are looking forward to another great JOF weekend!

Women's Retreat News

The 2017 Women's Retreat is just around the corner – January 13-15th – at the fabulous Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, MD. All women who have registered for the retreat should be on the lookout for a letter from Pastor Bunnell and Betty Sprague, retreat registrar. It will contain details about the weekend, and, even if you have attended previous retreats, make sure to read the letter – there are some new details you'll need to know for this retreat! Currently, there are 84 women signed up to attend this always wonderful weekend, but there's still room for more, if you want to sign up at the last minute!

Men's Retreat News

Plans are well underway for the 2017 Men's Retreat which will be held the weekend of January 20-22, at the Riverview Retreat Center at Camp Pecometh. This year's theme is "Not a Fan," helping us realize that God calls us not just to be fans, but disciples. Brochures about the retreat are available on the counter across from the Welcome Center. Sign up soon – before it sells out!



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APPETIZERS
 BABIES
 BALLOONS
 BANNERS
 BUFFET
 CELEBRATE
 CHAMPAGNE
 CONFETTI
 DANCE
 DAY ONE

DECORATIONS
 END OF DECEMBER
 EVENTS
 FAMILY
 FATHER TIME
 FEAST
 FESTIVITIES
 FIREWORKS
 FIRST OF JANUARY
 FRIENDS

HATS
 HOLIDAY
 HORNS
 KISS
 MIDNIGHT
 MUSIC
 NEW YEARS DAY
 NEW YEARS EVE
 NOISEMAKERS
 OCCASION

PARADES
 PARTY
 PUNCH
 RESOLUTIONS
 SINGING
 STREAMERS
 THIRTY FIRST
 TIARAS
 WINE
 YEAR IN REVIEW

Crossword puzzle solution on page 12!

January 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)

1/1	Katherine Sparks	1/11	Bobby Heath	1/21	Alan Foskey
1/2	Sandra Lavelle	1/11	Carol Zervas	1/21	Ted McDowell
1/2	Rita Norman	1/12	Al Bacon	1/21	Joanna Melvin
1/3	Lynn Dech	1/12	Bill Carroll	1/21	Scott Williams
1/3	Michael Foster	1/12	Anne Humphrey	1/23	MaryAnn Schmidt
1/3	Vivian Gaz	1/13	Jenna Chambers	1/23	Jonathan Stauffer
1/4	Donald Ewing	1/13	Sheila Hendricks	1/24	Henrietta Boyce-Egner
1/4	Chuck Keithley	1/14	Edward Dalrymple	1/24	Nancy Fetterolf
1/5	Kaitlyn Czarnecki	1/15	Peggy Bunnell	1/25	Charlie Campbell
1/7	Betty Budrow	1/15	Anthony Cimorosi	1/27	Autumn Henry
1/7	Ivan Mehosky	1/15	Jack Laramore	1/28	Taylor Cimorosi
1/8	Joseph Slayman	1/15	Jennifer Slayman	1/28	Susan Gifford
1/8	Sandy Smith	1/17	Buddy Camors	1/28	Gretchen O'Neal
1/9	Lea Gochnauer	1/18	Peg Marking	1/29	Michael Strunk
1/9	Herbert Perry	1/18	Noah Noll	1/29	Mary Werner
1/10	Nicole Stauffer	1/19	Betty Deibert	1/31	David Miller
1/11	Bob Cameron	1/19	Carrie Olewine		

January Anniversaries

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

1/2	Maynard & Mary Lou Shaw
1/21	Robert & Virginia Selner
1/30	David & Sandy Wherry

January

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 <i>Happy New Year!!</i> 10:00 AM Worship Service	2 Office Closed New Year Holiday	3 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM Elkton Rehab, Deibert/Budrow Team	4 6:15 PM Communion 6:30 PM Cub Scout Committee Meeting 6:30 PM Men's Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	5 8:00 PM AA Meeting	6 Youth Rally Ocean City, MD	7 Youth Rally Ocean City, MD
8 <i>Blood Pressure Screenings</i> 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	9 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM Women's Retreat Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	10 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Communications Committee Meeting	11 10:30 AM Tele-Care Meeting 12:00 PM Ruth-Sarah Circle Meeting 6:15 PM Communion 6:30 PM Men's Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	12 7:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting 8:00 PM AA Meeting	13 Women's Retreat Ocean City, MD	14 Women's Retreat Ocean City, MD
15 <i>Women's Retreat</i> 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:30-3 PM Youth Group	16 Office Closed MLK Holiday	17 February Newsletter Deadline 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 PM Cecil County Choral Society Rehearsal	18 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 5:00 PM Relay for Life Committee Meeting 6:15 PM Communion 6:30 PM Men's Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	19 6:30 PM Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting 8:00 PM AA Meeting	20 Men's Retreat Camp Pecometh 6:30 PM Classic Christians' Potluck Dinner & Program	21 Men's Retreat Camp Pecometh
22 <i>Men's Retreat</i> 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:30-3 PM Youth Group	23 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	24 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Cecil County Choral Society Rehearsal	25 6:15 PM Communion 6:30 PM Men's Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	26 8:00 PM AA Meeting	27	28 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Administrative Council Retreat
29 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:30-3 PM Youth Group	30 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	31 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Cecil County Choral Society Rehearsal			2017	



“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.....Rev. Karen F. Bunnell
Associate Pastor of Visitation
Ministries.....Rev. Ray Graham
Children & Education
Ministries Director.....Katie Sparks
Youth 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....Susan Starrett
Nursery Care
Professional.....Yolanda Gomez
Treasurer.....Lee Collins
Secretary.....Kay Mortimer
Sextons.....Donald Ewing
Donna Horgan

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

Sunday School (All Ages)

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

Youth Fellowship

Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m.

