

# December 2019



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### FROM THE PASTOR

*Rev. Karen Bunnell, Senior Pastor*

Dear Friends,

Happy December! It's hard to believe that December is already here! What a great fall we've had at church! So many good things have been happening – we welcomed Suzette and Jason to our church staff and what a wonderful job they've both been doing; we've had several special events like the "Can You Hear Me Now?" intergenerational discussion; our small groups for study and support continue to thrive; we've reached out into the community in many and various ways (our youth serving a meal made by adults in our church at the Paris Foundation, collections for the Help Center and elementary school teachers; a booth at Elkton's Fall Fest – and so much more!); we had a tremendously successful Financial Peace University class, and a tremendously successful Spaghetti Dinner! God has been working in a mighty way in our church, empowering us to be the place we have promised to be – a place where people come to "know Jesus, be known by Jesus, and make Him known to others."

We'll be that especially this month as we invite people to make the journey to the manger in Bethlehem during Advent. There is so much in this world that draws us away from remembering the great gift God gave us in Jesus, so this month, this Advent season is especially important. In the midst of the hustle and bustle of preparing for Christmas celebrations (gifts, parties, decorations, etc.) the season of Advent worship keeps us grounded and centered upon the real reason for the season. So, my prayer is that you will make a commitment to be in worship every Sunday morning in Advent, that you will make a commitment to remember that Christmas is about Christ first! I look forward to worshipping with you, and looking toward that day when we remember the greatest gift we've ever received – Jesus!

### *Christmas Eve at Elkton UMC*

5:00 pm - Family Service  
Scriptures, Stories & Songs (no sermon)

7:00 & 9:00 pm  
Identical Candlelight Services

10:00-10:30 pm  
Silent Communion  
in the Sanctuary





Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> - First Sunday of Advent  
Holy Communion

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> - Second Sunday of Advent  
4:00 p.m. - Cecil County Choral Society Concert

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> - Third Sunday of Advent  
Choir Cantata at both services

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> - Fourth Sunday of Advent  
9:45 a.m. - Children's Christmas Program in Weldin Hall  
4:00 p.m. - Blue Christmas Service

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve  
5:00 p.m. - Family Service  
7:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. - Christmas Candlelight Services  
10:00 p.m. - Silent Communion

Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> - **One Service at 10:00 a.m.**

# MISSIONS

*"He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy." Proverbs 14:21*

## MISSION TEAM UPDATE

At this time of year, we, members of the Mission Committee, wish to thank you for all the support you provide to this church, this community, and beyond. You not only provide support through your financial pledges but, when called upon, in your individual giving of not only funds and other donated items, but your individual services as well. Below are examples of the various organizations and programs we supported in 2019.

- Phone cards provided to those who serve
- The Community Kitchen
- The shoe box program
- Mosquito netting sent to Africa
- Gilpin Manor school
- Thomson Estates school
- Cecil Manor school
- The ICC food bank
- The rotating shelter
- The brain tumor walk
- The Cecil County Pregnancy Center
- The care packages to our college students
- Meeting Ground
- Paris Foundation
- Deep Roots
- Camp Pecometh
- Christmas in April
- Our scouting program
- Various organizations through the Peninsula Delaware Conference

The committee wishes to thank particularly those who supported our mission trips to Kentucky and North Dakota. Special kudos to those hard working souls that went on these trips.

We look forward to continuing these programs and more into the New Year.

You are a giving and selfless congregation. When called upon, you freely and without hesitation answer that call. Trust me, that call will come again and we know you will answer.

So, at this time of year when God gave us something special, the members of this committee wish to give you and your families all the best. Have a wonderful holiday season.

Thanks and God Bless  
Michael Foster, Chair



## THANK YOU TO SOME OUTSTANDING OUTGOING LEADERS!

Many thanks go to the following persons who have served in leadership positions in our church this year and are finishing their terms of office: Dot Eltzroth, Administrative Council Chairperson; Nancy Crawford, Communications Chairperson; Mike Foster, Missions Chairperson; and Krista Gilmore, Worship Committee Chairperson. Thank you for serving so well, and blessings on all of you as you go on to serve the Lord in new ways!



# FELLOWSHIP & STEWARDSHIP

*"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us" II Corinthians*

## CLASSIC CHRISTIANS' NEWS

All Classic Christians in the church (age 50 and over) are invited to join in the fun of our December "Christmas" meeting. We'll meet on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Weldin Hall. The night will begin with a potluck dinner (bring a dish to share) and then continue on with Christmas fun and fellowship! Everyone is invited to take part in the "Christmas stocking" activity. Details about it are on the counter across from the Welcome Center. Be sure to pick up the information sheet, because the filled Christmas stocking is something you'll bring with you to the gathering!



## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

*Submitted by Ellen and Rich Gruebel, Committee Co-chairpersons*

1 Corinthians 4:2 "Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy."

Greetings from the Stewardship Committee! Our Committee is now already busy discussing things we'd like to do for Earth Day Sunday in April. We are also discussing having another 5K walk/run since it is such a great way to bring people together to raise funds for a good cause. And, since our committee is also responsible for something special for Laity Sunday in October, we may invite a speaker to discuss a topic of importance, of which there are several. We'd like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas season as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! And try to keep warm in this very cold time of year!



## WOMEN'S RETREAT 2020 IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

This year's Women's Retreat, "Second Chances" featuring guest presenter Michele Chynoweth, is just around the corner - January 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> at the fabulous Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City MD. All women of the church (and their friends) are invited to take part, and it's not too late, we still have some space left! A brochure containing all the details about the retreat is on the Welcome Center. Just a reminder to those already registered - your final installment payment is due now!





# FELLOWSHIP & STEWARDSHIP

*"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us" II Corinthians*



## MONTHLY MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men of the church are invited to take part in the Monthly Men's Breakfast, which takes place on the third Wednesday of every month. December's Men's Breakfast will take place on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. at Cracker Barrel. No sign-up is necessary – just show up and enjoy the food, fellowship and fun!



## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SPAGHETTI DINNER!

**Thank You to All Involved!**



# EVANGELISM

*"He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy." Proverbs 14:21*

## EVANGELISM / MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Evangelism has been busy this fall! Financial Peace University was an amazingly successful activity in which our church reached out to the surrounding community and invited them to participate. FPU wrapped up on November 17<sup>th</sup> and class members expressed how valuable the information they learned would be to their financial future. With its focus on Biblical solutions and practical wisdom, FPU is ideal for families, singles and anyone looking for a financial makeover. Watch for more FPU news in 2020.

Evangelism committee members donned halos and handed out candy and cheese curls at drugfreececil.org Trunk or Treat on October 26<sup>th</sup> at Elkton High School. So much fun!! Thank you to our 'Angels'.



Thanksgiving was merrier this year for our local law enforcement, first responders, 911 dispatchers, and nursing home caregivers who are working so that we can enjoy time with our families. A great big "THANK YOU" to all who generously donated so we can show our gratitude to these workers with gift cards to local establishments.

Finally, best wishes from our committee to all our church friends and family. Best wishes for a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Blessings to you,  
Linda Meffley



## New Member

Kelly Thompson

# YOUTH

*"Guide me on your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and my hope is in you all day long" Psalm 25:5*



*Submitted by Jason Cornish*

It is always this time of the year that reminds me of friends, family, and other connections that we have in our lives that make the difference. I decided that I needed to start a Christmas card list! It started with immediate family and then exploded into a litany of massive proportions. Keeping up with all the names and numbers can be maddening as day-to-day tasks never cease, while traffic and tempers get testy. In the midst of all this, I want to take this time to remind you of two significant things. First, people are precious. Second, God is still reaching out to all creation (that includes us)! We constantly get overwhelmed with the themes and activities of the holiday, but quickly forget the reason why the advent season is so important. Eclipsed by meetings, gifts, and the pageantry of the commercial season is hidden deep and undeniable truth. The real advent started with obedience and sacrifice. The willingness of a virgin to accept her call by God and leave her comfort zone and the sacrifice of a newly formed family to migrate from Bethlehem to Egypt (Matthew 2:12-15).

Along with gifts and presents that have been expected at Christmas, we should empower our youth and young adults with the truth of the holiday season. It is a time to give to others, as the Magi did. It is a time of discerning God's call in our lives, as Mary did. It's about willing to be obedient to God's will even when we don't clearly understand it, as Joseph did. This is the true Christmas story! God shows us how precious we are by starting our road to redemption in a manger. God sent the best of himself to offer to us not just for a holiday, but every day. In this way, God continues to reach out to all creation, attempting to reconnect a dysfunctional relationship. What better story can we tell our youth and young adults about love? No hero or heroine, nor castles or kingdoms in a land far far away, can ever compare to the reality of God's love. It is what should be the motivating factor of our lives and of our faith.

As we seek to draw closer to family and friends this holiday season, also remember to draw closer to God! Remember those who don't have family to visit or friends to visit them. Remember those who travel and work during this time. Remember the sick and shut in, and most of all remember that God still loves us all regardless of our country of origin, financial status, age, or sexuality. We are all children whose divine parent loves us eternally. Along with everything else you share this season, share God's love.

Happy Advent! Merry Christmas!

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

December 1 <sup>st</sup> -	The Village Meets in the Underground
December 8 <sup>th</sup> -	The Village Meets in the Underground Redners Sub Sale After 8:30 & 11:00 Services
December 15 <sup>th</sup> -	The Village Meets in the Underground Redners Sub Sale After 8:30 & 11:00 Services
December 22 <sup>nd</sup> -	Redners Subs Distribution
Date TBD -	Progressive Dinner Date
January 10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> -	Youth Rally in Ocean City, MD

# EDUCATION

*“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not turn from it” Proverbs 22:6*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Submitted by Katie Sparks, Director of Children & Education Ministries*

As Christmas approaches, think about giving God the perfect gift. Give him you! A great way to grow closer to the Lord is through attending a Sunday school class and it is never too late to join. Stop by and join one of our amazing Sunday school classes this Sunday morning.

As winter approaches and germs spread, the education department has been finding itself spread a bit thin this year on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in helping out by substituting when needed, please see Katie Sparks for a volunteer application.

Did you know that the bulletin board across from Reverend Bunnell’s office is decorated by a different children’s Sunday school class each month? Be sure to pause and look at it to see the amazing things our children are doing in Sunday school!



**Christmas Pageant:** On Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, the children’s Sunday school classes will be presenting “The Christmas Story” in Weldin Hall during the Sunday school hour. Please come support all of the children, as they are working hard to prepare this production.

**Acolyte Sign-Ups:** If your child is in kindergarten or a higher grade we would love to have them join the acolyte team! If your child is interested in becoming an important part of the service, please see either Barb Pinder or Katie Sparks for more information.

**Nursery:** Our nursery is in need of volunteers for both services. Volunteering in the nursery is very rewarding and a huge help to parents with small children! Volunteering in the nursery is also a great way for middle or high school students to earn service hours for school. If you are interested in volunteering, please see Katie Sparks in the education office for more information.

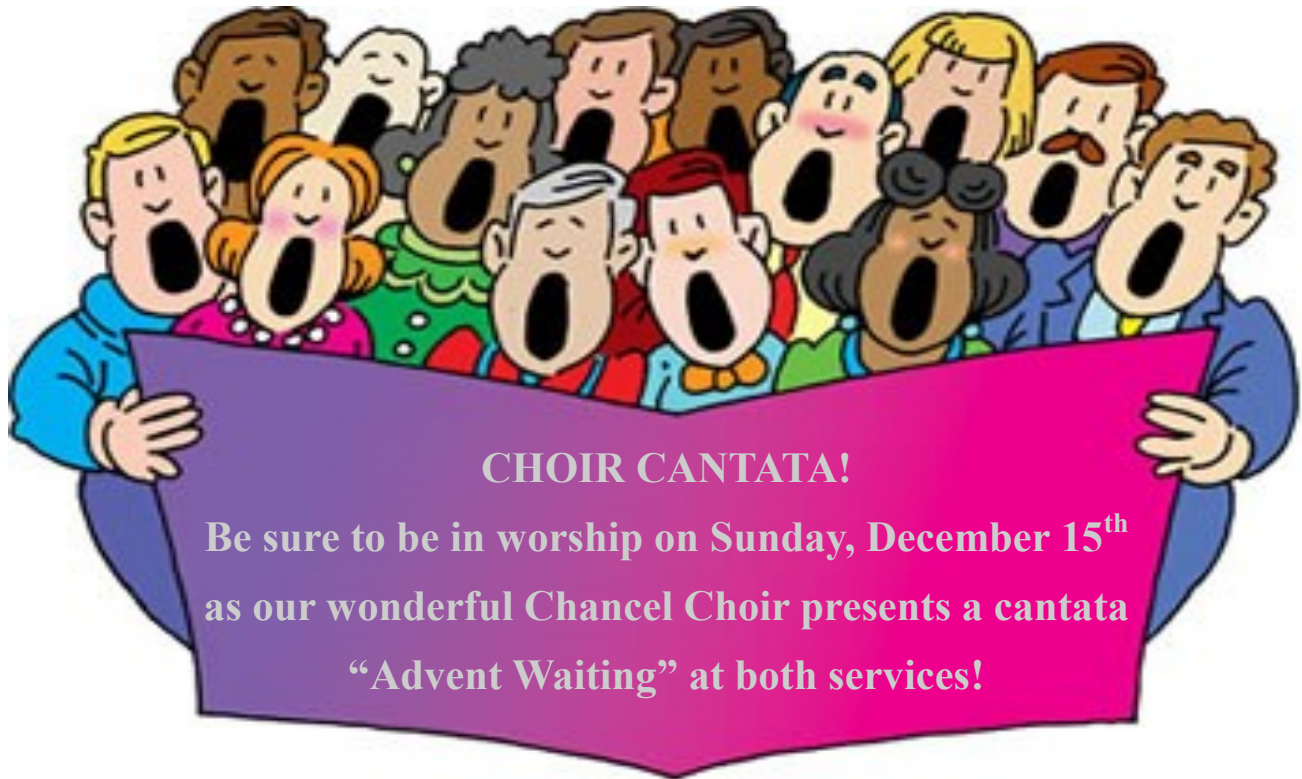
A few reminders for those who use the nursery-

- **The nursery is for birth through kindergarten. If your child is in 1<sup>st</sup> grade or higher, they should be in the service.**
- Please make sure to sign your children in and leave contact information each week! If there is an emergency, we will need the information.
- If your child is running a fever, has vomited, or had loose bowels in the last 24 hours, please keep them with you or at home. We want to limit the spread of germs!
- Unless you are the volunteer for that service, please limit your time in the nursery. Having parents stay through parts of the service upsets other children whose parents are in the service. (They think it is time to go if other adults are in the room!)



# MUSIC & WORSHIP

*"May the LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life..." Psalm 128:5*



## CHOIR CANTATA!

Be sure to be in worship on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
as our wonderful Chancel Choir presents a cantata  
"Advent Waiting" at both services!



## ARE YOU SAD THIS CHRISTMAS?

If you are sad this year during the Christmas season because of loss in your life – the loss of a loved one, a relationship, a job, or for any other reason – you're invited to come to the Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. This 45-minute service is designed to help us acknowledge that while this is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year, it's a tough time for those who are struggling in any way. The service is quiet and contemplative and offers an opportunity for those who have lost loved ones to remember them by lighting a candle in their memory.



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT COMMUNION

Holy Communion is offered in the Chapel every Wednesday night from 6:15 - 6:30 p.m. It is a wonderful way to receive a spiritual uplift in the middle of your week! All are invited and warmly welcome to attend.

# MUSIC & WORSHIP

*"May the LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life..." Psalm 128:5*

## MUSIC MINISTRY

### To Applaud or Not To Applaud?

Miriam-Webster defines applause as a "marked commendation" and "approval publicly expressed (as by clapping the hands)." In our American culture, it is "closely tied to entertainment."



I have been thinking about this subject lately, especially when it comes to applause in a worship setting. I have attended church for most of my life, childhood and adulthood, and have regularly attended a variety of denominations: Dutch Reformed, United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Episcopal. Applause during worship did not occur in any of my previous worship experiences, so I can say that I was taken by surprise on my first Sunday back in September. To tell the truth, I can admit that the applause after the choir anthem made me feel uncomfortable. But why? When my students perform concerts for school, I welcome applause. When I perform on the stage or in a concert setting, I must admit that I crave it. When my own children performed in a concert or musical, I was the loudest one clapping! But in worship.....thoughts? EXACTLY! Thoughts, reflections, prayers.... All of the activities that our minds participate in during worship. Yes, praise is also an activity during worship, but praise for whom? Is the anthem an act of worship or a performance? I can certainly understand the reaction (applause) a congregation has to a worship experience (choir anthem or solo musical performance), but if they want to show appreciation, why not for the organ prelude, the scripture reading (some of those biblical texts can be challenging to read), and the sermon? Why only the main musical offering? I think one answer comes from the definition in that it is closely tied to entertainment in our culture. That is why it makes me, personally, feel uncomfortable. Is the choir there to entertain? Are the special soloists, the Men's Ensemble and the Handbell Choir there for the purpose of entertaining the congregation? I think we all know the answer to this. We are all there in equal parts to worship, reflect, pray, confess our sins, give thanks, and praise God's Holy Name. Yes, we are also there to support and love one another, but we do that in other aspects of our church life, in Sunday School, in coffee hour, at spaghetti dinners, in youth group, in circle meetings, and in other facets of our spiritual life. On the other hand, I will admit that a word of appreciation for the choir's offering, after the service has concluded, goes a long way to making the director and the other choir members feel appreciated and loved, even though that is not what we are seeking as a response from the congregation. I would like to challenge the congregation to reflect upon what motivates the applause. Is it a job well done, to show appreciation, to praise God, or is it just an impulsive reaction to a musical performance? Could we better show appreciation by saying a quiet "Amen," saying a prayer, or talking directly to the musicians after the service? Let's open up the dialogue about this. I would appreciate any and all feedback from the congregation. Let's talk!

Peace and Harmony,  
Suzette Burgess

# FINANCE & GIVING

*"Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do. And whatever else you do, get good judgment." Proverbs 4:7*

## FINANCE NEWS

*Submitted by Laurie Ruth, Treasurer*

At the end of October, the Ministries had an income for the year of \$322,014.18 and total expenses of \$368,282.58, leaving a deficit of \$20,694.45.

The Income and Expenses are as follows:

	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>% of Annual</b>
Income	439,694.00	347,588.13	79.05%
General Expenses	70,628.00	55,932.41	79.19%
Church Staff	266,039.60	212,812.72	79.99%
Council on Ministries	14,250.00	8,416.67	59.06%
Education	10,450.00	5,276.76	50.50%
Youth Programs	2,300.00	264.69	11.51%
Rental Property	5,150.00	884.73	17.18%
Church Utilities	26,700.00	20,932.68	78.40%
Insurance	9,400.00	9,384.62	99.84%
Church Maintenance	82,075.00	46,012.89	56.06%
Parsonage Expenses	9,300.00	8,142.76	87.56%
Miscellaneous	1,350.00	221.65	16.42%
Net Gain/Loss	-57,948.60	-20,694.45	

The total in the Building Fund at the end of October was \$8,413.20, plus \$65,064.99 in a money market, and a CD of \$50,575.32, which totals \$124,053.51.

The total in the Mission Fund at the end of October was \$15,287.83.

Thank you all for your generosity. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

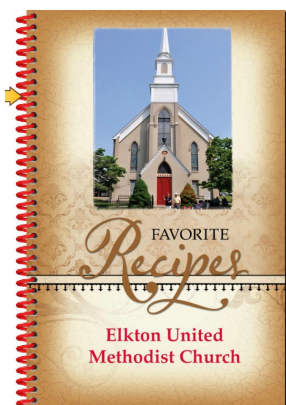


## FINANCIAL PLEDGES FOR 2020

If you have not turned in your pledge card for 2020, it's not too late – but please turn it in as soon as possible. If you didn't receive a pledge card, please see one of the ushers on Sunday morning, or call the church office, and we'll make sure you get one.

# CHURCH NEWS

*"Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do. And whatever else you do, get good judgment." Proverbs 4:7*



## 2019 EUMC COOKBOOK SALES

*Submitted by Nancy Crawford*

Your Communications Committee still has cookbooks on hand for sale. With the Christmas holiday coming up soon, we wanted to let you know we will be selling them at our annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until noon and between services on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. They make great Christmas gifts and/or thoughtful host/hostess gifts if you're invited to someone else's house for dinner. Keep in mind also that our cookbooks are available for purchase year 'round; just see someone on our Communications Committee or ask Karen to put you in touch with someone.

So if you are interested in getting a copy, especially if you have gifts to buy for the holiday, make sure you stop by our table in the Hospitality Center to pick one up. They contain 300 delicious recipes and are only \$12.00 each.



## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Purchase a poinsettia to adorn our sanctuary for our Christmas Eve services in honor of or in memory of someone you love – or, if you don't want or need the poinsettia, make a donation toward the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). All names (for both poinsettias and UMCOR) will be listed in a bulletin insert at Christmas. The first day to place orders will be on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> via a bulletin insert. Checks can be made payable to Elkton UMC, with "poinsettia" or "UMCOR" on the memo line. Unfortunately, if you are giving to both, you'll need to write two checks because of tax reasons. Make sure to put either "poinsettia" or "UMCOR" on your check.



## CECIL COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY HOLIDAY CONCERT

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m., in our Sanctuary

Come and bring your family and friends for a late  
afternoon of wonderful music!





# CHURCH NEWS

*"Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do. And whatever else you do, get good judgment." Proverbs 4:7*

## GOING TO BE AWAY DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON?

Don't forget that our worship services every Sunday morning are videotaped and by late Sunday night, they are available to be seen via our church website (elktonumc.org). It's a great way for you to stay connected with your church family, even while you're away or have to stay home for some other reason. This video service has become a precious gift, especially to those of our church family who are homebound and cannot be with us in worship in person anymore. Many thanks for making it happen goes to our wonderful tech team who faithfully man the tech booth each week and to Jeff Bunnell, our Communications Consultant, who, after the tech team has recorded the service, puts it all together for the broadcast.



## OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you use offering envelopes to make your offering, you can pick up the 2020 envelopes starting on December 1<sup>st</sup> in the Welcome Center area. Please remember to pick them up in person, because that saves the church the expense of mailing them. Thanks!



	<p><b>Buy a box for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Family</li><li>✓ Friends</li><li>✓ Neighbors</li><li>✓ Office parties</li><li>✓ Holiday celebrations</li><li>✓ School snacks</li><li>✓ Community donations</li></ul>	
<b>Cookie Walk</b>	<b>December 14</b>	<b>Weldin Hall</b>
<b>9 AM – 11 AM</b>		
<b>Thousands of cookies!</b>		

# CHURCH NEWS

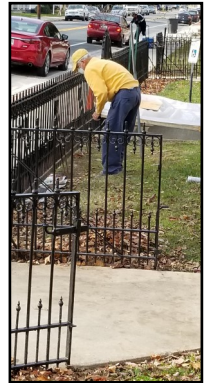
*“Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do. And whatever else you do, get good judgment.” Proverbs 4:7*

## TRUSTEES NEWS

*Submitted by Paul Humphrey*

The Trustees continue to keep our church in good working order. This past month the front door was removed, repaired and reset, and repairs were made to the main church entry, including replacement of part of the front walk. When you drive around Elkton at night, you can't help but notice that the lights are back on our newly renovated steeple as well as the front of the building.

A BIG thank you to Dick Gochnauer for his time and expertise in sprucing up the paint on the front door area and the fence across the front.



With the hope of avoiding any big heating issues during the cold months ahead and trying to address any minor issues before they become bigger, all of our heating systems were inspected and serviced and it's a good thing we did. We had a big project to replace the water coil of the heating unit above the ceiling in Weldin Hall. There were a couple of "indoor rain showers", some cold days and nights, and a couple of cancelled activities, but the water coil has been replaced and the room is nice and cozy once again. Also, a note to anyone looking for the thermostat controlling the second floor Sunday school rooms, it has been moved to the hallway just outside the door to the nursery.

Speaking of Weldin Hall, don't be too surprised when you go in through the door and turn on the light switch. Remember the "white" switch is the "magic" switch. That with the other lighting projects we have going on should help to give those who attend evening activities a better sense of security.



## SNOW DAYS

While this may seem premature, it never hurts to remind everyone that, in the event that we experience bad weather to such an extent that worship needs to be cancelled, the announcement of cancellation will be posted on our church's website ([elktonumc.org](http://elktonumc.org)) and the church's Facebook page. If you do not have computer access, you can call 410-398-4440 for that information as well. Or, if you have a computer but know of friends in the church without computer access, be a good friend, and give that person a call to let them know of the services being cancelled. Let's hope we don't have to worry about any of this this year!

# CHURCH NEWS

*"Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do. And whatever else you do, get good judgment." Proverbs 4:7*



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## ONLINE GIVING

Did you know that you can give your offering online? This method of giving has all sorts of benefits for you and the church. It's probably safe to say that you already do a lot of your bill paying that way, and that you probably rarely write a check anymore. So giving online to the church would come naturally for you. The benefits for the church are incredible! Online givers provide a steady stream of income throughout the year because when givers are on vacation or absent for other reasons, or on the rare occasion when services are cancelled because of severe weather, the money still comes in. And that is a great benefit to the ongoing ministry of the church. So think about changing to online giving, and if you decide to do so, all you have to do is go to the church website – [elktonumc.org](http://elktonumc.org) – click on "On Line Donations" and you'll be walked through the process. Questions? Call the church office.

## ATTENTION ONLINE GIVERS

Don't forget to go online at the end of December to our church website – [elktonumc.org](http://elktonumc.org) – and update your figures for your online offering for 2020! Be sure to also delete the figures for 2019, or both amounts will be taken from your account!

# CHURCH NEWS

*"Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do. And whatever else you do, get good judgment." Proverbs 4:7*

## **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020!**

January 10-12  
Peninsula-DE Conference Youth Rally in Ocean City

January 17-19  
Women's Retreat at the Dunes Manor in Ocean City

Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>  
Administrative Council Planning Retreat

February 22-23  
JOY OF FAITH Weekend featuring Bill Lepp



## **UPDATE ON HAPPENINGS IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

The special session of General Conference that took place earlier this year in St. Louis reaffirmed the current Discipline regarding ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals (which is not permitted) and celebration of same gender weddings in United Methodist churches or by United Methodist clergy (which is also not permitted). The only change that came as a result of that conference is regarding penalties for clergy who go against the Discipline by presiding over same gender weddings. The penalties for doing so include a year's suspension without pay for the first infraction and being "defrocked" for a second one. That policy goes into place on January 1, 2020. Other than that, there are no other major changes, and no votes that will take place on any issues until the next General Conference, which takes place in May of 2020. There has been conversation around our church about "voting in January." That information is incorrect. No votes will be taken in January. The next votes will come in May at General Conference by the delegates present. If the denomination ends up splitting, somewhere down the road, each Annual Conference and church will have to vote about where they want to be – but that action will be a while in coming. So, in the meantime, nothing has changed in the church as a whole or in Elkton UMC.



# 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	12/15 Cathy Gohlke	
12/2 Kenneth Gilliard	12/16 Charlotte Hoffmann	
12/3 Joseph Arroyo	12/16 Nancy Stubbs	
12/3 Cheryl McKeown	12/17 Marge Jacobs	
12/4 Laurie Alphin	12/17 Colette Webster	
12/4 Sidney Bledsoe	12/20 Linda Carey	
12/4 Margaret Haines	12/21 Alexandria Sparks	
12/4 Eli Mackie	12/21 Victoria Stauffer	
12/5 Carla Testa	12/22 John (Jack) Edler	
12/6 Barbara Bacon	12/22 Enrique (Marc) Gonzalez	
12/7 Irving Webber	12/23 Nancy Draper	
12/7 Larry Williams	12/23 Edward Marsilii	
12/8 Jessica Keithley	12/23 Timothy McCardell	12/28 Robert Olewine
12/9 Victoria Cebula	12/24 George Veasey	12/28 Fran Vassalotti
12/10 Jane Cebula	12/25 Jack Bailey	12/29 Chace Crawford
12/12 Richard Ceresini	12/26 Lauren Carbone	12/29 Wade Gochnauer
12/12 Wendy Kortas	12/26 Robert Gilmore	12/30 Diane Sizemore
12/14 Phyllis McCoy	12/26 Kathleen Keithley	12/31 Linda Renshaw



# December Anniversaries

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





Happy  
Anniversary

12/2	Cossie & Judith Gibson
12/6	Donald & Ina Andrews, Sr.
12/20	Eric & Alice Loveless

If we missed your birthday or anniversary please accept our sincerest apologies and let the church office know so we can correct our information.

# December 2019

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>1 Communion</b> 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Youth Group	<b>2</b> 1:30 PM JC Play Group 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	<b>3</b> 2:30 PM Nursing Home Visitation (Nancy McCardell's Team) 6:30 PM Missions Comm Mtg 7:00 PM CCCS Rehearsal 7:00 PM Nar-Anon Mtg	<b>4</b> 6:00 PM God & Me - Scouts 6:15 PM Communion 6:30 PM Men's Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<b>5</b> 12:00 PM Weight Watchers 6:30 PM Administrative Council Mtg 7:00 PM Board of Laity 8:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Youth Group 4:00 PM CCCS Concert	<b>9</b> 1:30 PM JC Play Group 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	<b>10</b> 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM CCCS Rehearsal 7:00 PM Nar-Anon Mtg	<b>11</b> 10:30 AM Tele-Care Mtg 12:00 PM Ruth-Sarah 6:15 PM Communion 6:30 PM Men's Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<b>12</b> 12:00 PM Weight Watchers 6:30 PM Dorcas Circle 8:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>13</b> <b>January Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Cookie Walk 
<b>15 Cantata</b> 8:30 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Youth Group	<b>16</b> 1:30 PM JC Play Group 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	<b>17</b> 6:00 PM CCCS Board Mtg 6:30 PM Cub Scout Comm Mtg 7:00 PM CCCS Rehearsal 7:00 PM Nar-Anon Mtg	<b>18</b> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 6:00 PM God & Me - Scouts 6:15 PM Communion 6:30 PM Men's Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<b>19</b> 12:00 PM Weight Watchers 7:00 PM Boy Scout Comm Mtg 8:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>20</b> 6:30 PM Classic Christians Dinner and Meeting	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Children's Christmas Program 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Youth Group 4:00 PM Blue Christmas	<b>23</b> 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	<b>24</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 5:00 PM Family Service 7:00 PM Candlelight Service 9:00 PM Candlelight Service 10:00 PM Silent Communion	<b>25</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b> 12:00 PM Community Blood Drive	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>10:00 AM Worship Service</b> 12:00 PM Youth Group	<b>30</b> 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	<b>31</b> 7:00 PM CCCS Rehearsal 7:00 PM Nar-Anon Mtg 7:00 PM LULAC Mtg				



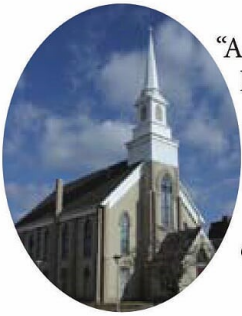
## BIBLE ANIMALS



ADDER  
 ANT  
 ASS  
 BAT  
 BEAR  
 BEETLE  
 BIRD  
 BUFFALO  
 CALF  
 CAMEL

CATTLE  
 DEER  
 DOG  
 DOVE  
 EAGLE  
 ELEPHANT  
 EWE  
 FISH  
 FOWL  
 FOX

FROG  
 HARE  
 HORSE  
 LAMB  
 LION  
 LIZARD  
 LOCUST  
 MULE  
 WHALE  
 WOLF



“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.....Rev. Ray Graham  
Children & Education Ministries Director.....Katie Sparks  
Youth Ministries Director.....Jason Cornish  
Organist.....Sharon Williams  
Choir Director/Coordinator of Music Ministries....Suzette Burgess  
Adult Handbell Director.....Paul Deemer  
Youth Choir Director.....Susan Starrett  
Nursery Care Professional.....Yolanda Gomez  
Treasurer.....Laurie Ruth  
Secretary.....Beth Gullion  
Sextons.....Joseph Gordon & Donna Horgan

### Contact Information

219 East Main Street  
Elkton, MD 21921  
(410) 398-0933

Email:  
[eumc@comcast.net](mailto:eumc@comcast.net)

Web site:  
[www.elktonumc.org](http://www.elktonumc.org)

### Church Office Hours

Monday -Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### Sunday Worship Services

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

### Sunday School (all ages)

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

### Youth Fellowship

Sunday 12:00 p.m.



### Elkton UMC Welcome Statement

The Elkton United Methodist Church is a family of God dedicated to worshipping, learning, and serving our immediate community and beyond as we embrace Jesus Christ’s message of love and acceptance. As a United Methodist Church, we stand fully behind the statement, “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.” Building on our tradition and the welcoming of those who have come before, we celebrate our diversity and invite all persons regardless of age, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital or socioeconomic status, nationality or physical or mental ability into full participation as children of God in the life of this community of faith.