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EUMC YouTube



December 2020

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FROM THE PASTOR

Rev. Eric Warner, Senior Pastor

Isaiah 52:7 - How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Dear Friends,

Here we are folks! We are entering the last month of 2020! I know it has been a difficult year for many of us, and we're ready for 2020 to be over. However, I want to remind you that despite our many hardships, God's blessings have been evident through you. You have responded to needs with generosity. You have reached out to the people of your community and have lived out God's love. You have shown patience, endurance, longsuffering, and have kept the faith. I have received letters from local ministries about the enormous impact that Elkton United Methodist Church has had in the lives of people who are struggling to make ends meet. Despite the many barriers before us, you have overcome it all with God's love.

As we enter the Advent season I will be doing a sermon series entitled "Company Is Coming". Even if we may not have the holiday season and family gatherings we hoped for, Jesus Christ is ever-present and desires to be with us. In Advent, we celebrate the good news that Jesus is coming. Not only as a little child in our celebration of Christmas, but Jesus is also coming into our hearts. Not only as a child and into our hearts, but Jesus will come someday in his glorious return. I am excited to celebrate these truths and the good news that Christ is coming. I am excited to worship and give God the glory for the hope we have in a life with Christ. I hope that despite all the challenges, you will be encouraged in your relationship with Jesus this season. I hope that you will share such tidings with others. Continue to be the hands and feet of Christ so that others might meet Christ by your love.

Christmas Eve at Elkton UMC

5:00 pm - Family Service

7:00 & 9:00 pm
Identical Candlelight
Services





Sunday, November 29th - First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 6th - Second Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion

Sunday, December 13th - Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 20th - Fourth Sunday of Advent
4:00 p.m. - Blue Christmas Service

Thursday, December 24th - Christmas Eve
5:00 p.m. - Family Service
7:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. - Christmas Candlelight Services

Sunday, December 27th
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

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Submitted by Joe Tanner

Jesus said: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples"

Because of the coronavirus, we have seen a reduction in the monetary giving to Missions during this year. We have been able to continue to support almost all of our mission projects. Trying to figure out our finances for 2021 has been a little difficult and we have reviewed our commitments. We think we can support most of our mission projects, but we may have to reduce some of our financial support. We plan to stay on top of this problem and do all we can.

- EUMC monthly blood drives for the Blood Bank of Delmarva:

We have had blood donations in September, October and November and averaged about 25 donors. Our next donation is December 11th from noon until 5:00 pm. If you wish to donate, you can sign up at delmarvablood.org or walk-ins are welcome.

Tentative dates for 2021 are: January 8th, February 5th, March 5th, April 9th, May 7th, June 4th, July 2nd, August 6th, September 3rd, October 1st, November 5th, and December 3rd. Donating Blood Saves Lives.

- Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Donation to provide Christmas giving and joy to children around the world resulted in 35 shoe boxes at EUMC being contributed to support Children and show them Jesus' love at Christmas time.
- Harvest Food Festival for Immaculate Conception resulted in over 160 bags being contributed to provide food and supplies to those in need in the Elkton area.
- All of our mission trips were cancelled for 2020, but hopefully we will be able to resume in 2021
- The Emergency Rotating Shelter will not be as it has been in the past. Meeting Ground is hoping that churches will supply to-go meals during the months of the shelter. More on this will follow.
- UMCOR donations totaled \$11,332.

EUMC is a Missions loving church!!

MISSIONS FINANCES: The Mission Fund balance as of November 6th was \$8,717.14.

FELLOWSHIP & STEWARDSHIP

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

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Ellen Gruebel, Committee Chairperson

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Greetings from the Stewardship Committee! We hope this finds our congregation well! Our Committee is now already busy discussing things we'd like to do next year that we had hoped to do this year. For Earth Day Sunday (April 25, 2021), we've been working with the education director to select several projects for the Sunday School classes that are related to Earth Day. We've chosen three craft projects that we think the students will enjoy. We're also discussing having another 5K walk/run next Spring since it is such a great way to bring people together to raise funds for brain cancer research. This will be in honor of Nadine Allen's great-grandson, Kameron. In addition, since our committee is also responsible for something special for Laity Sunday (October 17, 2021), we may invite a speaker to our church to speak between services in Weldin Hall to discuss a topic of importance. At this time, we're leaning towards the topic of Personal Security since it is so important to all of us, regardless of age. We look forward to being more productive next year on Laity Sunday!

May God bless all!



Thanks to Ron and Nancy Fetterolf for the beautiful altar display as we give thanks to God for our many blessings and seek ways to share our blessings with others!

EVANGELISM

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



SPECIAL OFFERING ON DECEMBER 6TH

It has been an important tradition of our church that every year during the holiday season we take a special one-time offering to provide gift cards to those who sacrificially serve our communities. First responders are oftentimes not able to be home for the holidays, and we hope to encourage them. The offering this year will be on Sunday, December 6th, so please give as generously as you can. Those who are worshipping virtually, please send your offering by mail to the church office and put in the memo of your check "Special Offering".



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) 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!



MONTHLY MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men are welcome to come and experience some food, fellowship, and prayer together at the Men's Breakfasts! The next one is planned for December 16th at 7:30 am at Cracker Barrel. Cracker Barrel has assured us that they will be able to provide a space with safe social distancing.

MUSIC & WORSHIP

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

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Submitted by Suzette Burgess

Choir Director & Coordinator of Music Ministries

Thank you for all of the positive feedback about our in-person worship music! Choir members have been practicing and learning the anthems on their own to be presented on Sunday mornings. Choir members have also been presenting the Hymn Stories that Pastor Eric has researched. If anyone would like to join us in these endeavors, please drop me an email at suzetteising@gmail.com.



The Sunday before Christmas has traditionally been reserved for the Choir Christmas cantata. Unfortunately, this year we will not be presenting a cantata during in-person worship. If you feel that you will be missing out on this tradition, never fear! We will be airing a previous year's cantata at the end of the YouTube worship service that evening, so stay tuned for that!

Have a blessed and safe Christmas season.



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 20th 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 will not be held during the month of December, but will resume in January on the 13th and 27th.



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

The year-to-date balance in the Ministries Fund as of October 31, 2020 is a deficit of \$12,121.71. The total income through October 31, 2020 was \$322,665.39 and total expenses were \$334,787.10. In comparison to 2019 at the same time, the deficit was \$20,694.45. Therefore, even though 2020 has been an incredibly difficult year, the church is holding its own. This is due to the savings in staff salaries, church maintenance and being conservative in the overall spending.

You may remember the church applied for and received a PPP Loan from the government, which was handled through Fulton bank. The amount of the loan was \$27,891.85 and this amount was placed into a Notes Payable account, which allowed the church to have use of the cash but not consider it income. The church received notification from the bank that the loan has been forgiven. So, in the month of November, the Notes Payable will be canceled out of the accounting and the income will increase. This will have direct effect on the bottom line.

Below you will see a comparison of the income and expenses for 2020 verses 2019.

Without the dedication of the members of this very generous church, we would not be in the position we are currently. Thank you for your continued generosity.

	Thru Oct 2020	Thru Oct 2019	Difference
Income	322,665.39	347,588.13	-24,922.74
General Expenses	52,216.12	55,932.41	-3,716.29
Church Staff	198,762.80	212,812.72	-14,049.92
Council on Ministries	8,499.08	8,416.67	82.41
Education	890.35	5,276.76	-4,386.41
Youth Programs	0.00	264.69	-264.69
Rental Property	0.00	884.73	-884.73
Church Utilities	22,296.73	20,932.68	1,364.05
Insurance	8,556.27	9,384.62	-828.35
Church Maintenance	35,047.67	46,012.89	-10,965.22
Parsonage Expenses	8,518.09	8,142.76	375.33
Miscellaneous	-0.01	221.65	-221.66
Gain(Loss)	-12,121.71	-20,694.45	

FINANCE & GIVING

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

FINANCIAL PLEDGES FOR 2021

If you have not turned in your pledge card for 2021, it’s not too late – but please turn it in as soon as possible. If you didn’t receive a pledge card, you can pick one up from either of the sign-in stations, from the table in front of the sanctuary, or call the church office and we’ll make sure you get one.



ATTENTION ONLINE GIVERS

Don’t forget to go online at the end of December to our church website – elktonumc.org – and update your figures for your online offering for 2021! Be sure to also delete the figures for 2020, or both amounts will be taken from your account!



OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you use offering envelopes to make your offering, you can pick up the 2021 envelopes starting on November 29th. Please remember to pick them up in person, because that saves the church the expense of mailing them. You can pick them up on Sunday either before or after the worship service, during office hours (Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm), or they will be available for pickup with the Communion elements on Thursday, December 3rd through Saturday, December 5th.



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 – click on “On Line Donations” and you’ll be walked through the process. Questions? Call the church office.

CHURCH NEWS

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

ALTAR FLOWERS 2021

If you would like to provide the altar flowers for a particular Sunday next year, please put your name on the sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board across from the office or you may call the church office at 410-398-0933 to request a date.



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

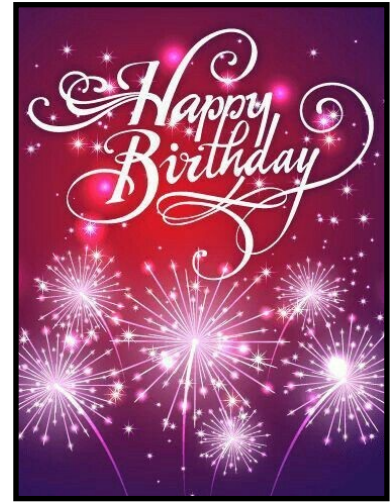
Purchase a poinsettia to adorn our sanctuary for our Christmas Eve services in honor of or in memory of someone you love – or, if you don't want or need the poinsettia, make a donation to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). All names (for both poinsettias and UMCOR) will be listed in a bulletin insert at Christmas. **The last day to place orders will be Sunday, December 6th**. 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. Order forms are available at various places throughout the church and also online.



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	12/16 Nancy Stubbs
12/3 Joseph Arroyo	12/17 Marge Jacobs
12/3 Cheryl McKeown	12/20 Linda Carey
12/4 Laurie Alphin	12/21 Alexandria Sparks
12/4 Paige Armour	12/22 John (Jack) Edler
12/4 Sidney Bledsoe	12/22 Enrique (Marc) Gonzalez
12/4 Margaret Haines	12/23 Nancy Draper
12/4 Eli Mackie	12/23 Edward Marsilii
12/7 Larry Williams	12/23 Timothy McCardell
12/8 Jessica Keithley	12/24 George Veasey
12/10 Jane Cebula	12/25 Jack Bailey
12/11 Larraine Campbell	12/26 Lauren Carbone
12/12 Richard Ceresini	12/26 Robert Gilmore
12/14 Phyllis McCoy	12/26 Kathleen Keithley
12/14 Charles (Gary) Storke	12/28 Robert Olewine
12/16 Charlotte Hoffmann	12/28 Fran Vassalotti



12/29 Chace Crawford
12/31 Debra Hughes
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)



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.

BIBLE ANIMALS

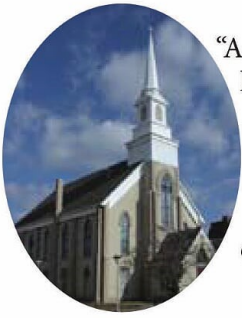


ADDER
 ANT
 ASS
 BAT
 BEAR
 BEETLE
 BIRD
 BUFFALO
 CALF
 CAMEL

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. Eric Warner
 Children & Education Ministries Director.....Katie Sparks
 Youth Ministries Director.....Jason Cornish
 Organist.....Brian Willmore
 Choir Director/Coordinator of Music Ministries.....Suzette Burgess
 Nursery Care Professional.....Yolanda Gomez
 Treasurer.....Laurie Ruth
 Secretary.....Beth Gullion
 Sexton.....Joseph Gordon

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 am

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 - Friday
 9:00 a.m. - 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.