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Deadline for Article Submission is the 15th of Each Month

FROM THE PASTOR

Rev. Eric Warner, Senior Pastor

This morning I was rushing out of Cracker Barrel after the men's breakfast. I was in a hurry to get to the office because this is one of the busy times of the year and there is a lot to accomplish. However, Cracker Barrel had their real fireplace crackling with a cozy fire. I couldn't help but stop there for a minute to soak in the warmth. Growing up, we had a real fireplace in our farmhouse. It brought me back to childhood memories of opening gifts there in front of the fireplace on Christmas mornings with my family.

I'm reminded of the importance of Christmas traditions that focus our hearts on God and family. Attending the candlelight Christmas Eve service, decorating the Christmas tree together, watching old Christmas movies, hanging the greens in the church. All of these traditions bring us warm memories, like a cozy fire to warm our hearts, and bring us into the true spirit of Christmas.

I miss those days when I would have my arm around my mom and a candle in the other hand. I may not be able to be with my family this Christmas, but I'm grateful that I am able to celebrate this season with

my church family. I'm grateful for the love that you share with one and especially, the love of Christ. I hope that this year we might bring back some of our Christmas traditions. The last couple of years have been difficult. Many of us have been separated from family and our church family. Family traditions weren't kept, as we avoided gatherings that might put us at risk. However, may your lives be enlivened by Christ, your family, and your brothers and sisters in Christ this holiday season.





Sunday, November 28th - First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 5th - Second Sunday of Advent Holy Communion

Sunday, December 12th - Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 19th - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 am & 11:00 am - Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata 10:00 am - Sunday School Christmas Pageant 4:00 pm - Blue Christmas Service

Friday, December 24th - Christmas Eve
5:00 pm - Family Service
7:00 pm & 9:00 pm - Christmas Candlelight Services

Sunday, December 27th

One Service at 10:00 am

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"

It is important to remember that we cannot be careless, get vaccinated and follow all the rules to help eliminate the spread of the Covid virus.

- EUMC monthly blood drives for the Blood Bank of Delmarva: The November 5th donation had 36 donors, so was above the average we have had for the year. The next donation date is December 3rd, from noon until 5:00 pm. If you wish to donate, you can sign up at delmarvablood.org or walk-ins are welcome. We have set up donation dates for 2022 and are scheduling for the first Friday of each month. **Donating Blood Saves Lives!**
- We have resumed our non-perishable food collection on Communion Sundays to support the Food Pantry at Immaculate Conception. Please continue to bring in can goods and other nonperishable food products to the Welcome Center on Communion Sundays to support the needy in our area. Please also consider paper products and cleaning products. It was pointed out to me that with Food Stamps you can get food products, but not other household items.
- We are planning a mission trip to Spirit Lake for the summer of 2022. We will try to book dates for the middle to the end of July. We are hoping that we can get more young people involved this year.
- Missions is providing a cash donation to Meeting Ground to provide meals for the Winter Homeless Shelter. EUMC is also asking individuals to contact the Mary Randall Center to select dates to prepare and donate meals for either 25 or 50 individuals who will be staying in hotel or motel accommodations this winter.

EUMC is a Missions loving church!!

MISSION FINANCES: The Mission Fund balance in the cash account as of November 15, 2021 was \$8,476.98 with an additional \$28,838.77 in a money market account. Thank you everyone for your generous support of EUMC's Missions program that allows us to do important things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



MONTHLY MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast takes place on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 am at Cracker Barrel. All men of the church are invited. No signup is necessary. This month's Men's Breakfast will take place on Wednesday, December 15th.

FELLOWSHIP & STEWARDSHIP

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

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Ellen Gruebel, Committee Chairperson

Romans 14:12 "So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God."

Greetings from the Stewardship Committee! We hope this finds our congregation well!

Our Committee is now working on events for next year. I'd like to apologize to our congregation for the 'ambiguity' around having a speaker on Laity Sunday. We were so busy with the workings of the 5K that we didn't feel we did enough advertising to the congregation about the speaker on Laity Sunday to actually have the officer join us. We definitely plan to reschedule that important event sometime in the coming year.

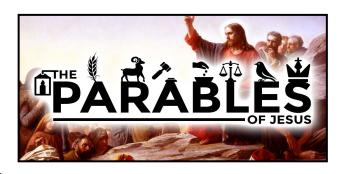
NEWS!!! We are planning to combine the efforts of both the Stewardship and Evangelism committees into one committee. We will be choosing events from both committees that we think the congregation will enjoy and will alternate from year to year. As many of you know, the Stewardship committee oversees 5K fundraisers, Laity Sunday events, and Earth Day events. The Evangelism Committee oversees Joy of Faith weekend, any July 4th events, and Elkton Fall Fest. Additionally, we're now working on scheduling a Financial Peace University class for the younger folks of our congregation for late spring. More to come!

May God bless all with good health and peace! And may you all enjoy the gift from our heavenly Father at Christmas time, his son, Jesus the Christ! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!



WOMEN'S RETREAT 2022 JANUARY 21ST & 22ND

The retreat committee is very excited about the 2022 retreat. It will be called "The Worst Thing is Never the Last Thing: Reflections on Our 2020 Journey Through the Parables of Jesus." We'll have speakers from among the women of our church, as we have in the past,



and have small group time, crafts, and some treats along the way! It's going to be great!

The registration brochure is available for pickup at the Welcome Center and also from the table at the front of the building. The cost is minimal this year (\$25.00) – mostly to cover the cost of refreshments and a catered lunch on Saturday. Scholarship money is available if needed.

So, EUMC Women, put these dates on your calendar and plan on joining us for a great spiritual experience at the 2022 Women's Retreat, January 21st and 22nd, in Weldin Hall!

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

<u>Sunday School News:</u> Have you checked out our Sunday school bulletin board? It is right across from Pastor Eric's office. Each month it is decorated by one of the children's classes. The children help plan out the board, make the decorations, and hang it all up. Be sure to check it out each month to see what our children are up to!

<u>Christmas Pageant:</u> Our annual Sunday school Christmas pageant will be held on Sunday December 19th in Weldin Hall starting at 10:00 am. Following the performance there will be refreshments to enjoy. Be sure to come by and see the children's re-telling of "The Christmas Story"!

<u>Nursery News:</u> Our nursery upstairs is open during both services and the Sunday school hour every Sunday morning. Yolanda is eager to see all the children again, so if you have children aged 6 weeks to 5 years old please bring them along to play!!

The nursery is also looking for volunteers; both youth and adults may volunteer. If you are interested, please contact Katie Sparks for more information. (katharine.gravatt@gmail.com)







Submitted by Pastor Eric

EUMC's Youth Group continues to flourish. On November 7th, our Youth Group enjoyed a question-and -answer session with me, food, fellowship, and some exciting in-the-dark games. They certainly asked me some tough questions like, "How do we know God hears our prayers?", "What is heaven like?", and "Why does God allow bad things to happen?"

I am also grateful for our partnership youth event we enjoyed on November 14th. We partnered with Trinity UMC from Chesapeake City and with the Paris Foundation. Our young people went on a shopping spree for the most needed items for the Paris Foundation's ministry. With the generous support of our Missions Committee, we purchased items like hoodies, hand warmers, gloves, batteries, bottled water, fruit cups, and snack packs to feed and clothe those in need in our community. After shopping, we ate some pizza and enjoyed a very special presentation from a young lady who works for Voices of Hope – a local non-profit that supports addiction recovery in Elkton and the surrounding area. For years she, herself, was struggling with addiction and homeless right here in Elkton. However, by God's grace, the ministry of the Paris Foundation, and Voices of Hope, she has made an amazing recovery. She shared her powerful testimony and taught our young people about how we too can help those struggling with addiction and homelessness.





Youth Group has been so fun that I can't wait for December. We have Youth Group scheduled for December 5th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. We then have another combined even with Trinity UMC in Chesapeake City on December 12th. The event begins at Trinity UMC at 4:30 p.m. to bake cookies and make crafts for the shut-ins of our community. We will then hand deliver these gifts to our shut-ins to encourage them in a season when they wish they could be with their church family. Of course there will be food and games as well, but the most important thing is that we will we share the love of Christ with one another and those who need it the most.

Please continue to support our Youth Group with your prayers. I am excited for what God has in store for us in 2022!

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

Merry Christmas, everyone! Here are a few musical holiday announcements to help you get in the spirit. The Chancel Choir's Christmas Cantata will be presented at both services on Sunday, December 19th. It is titled "Morning Star" by the composer Lloyd Larson and will be narrated by our own Dick Gochnauer. Please join us! Also, Brian Willmore and his friend, Lori Geckle, will be video recording holiday piano duets for our EUMC YouTube channel for your viewing and listening pleasure. A new video

will be released every Wednesday during Advent. Finally, look for the return of the Men's Ensemble on Christmas Eve!

Stay safe and have a blessed holiday season.





WEDNESDAY NIGHT COMMUNION

There will be a change for December regarding the dates for Wednesday Night Communion. Because the fourth Wednesday of the month falls very close to Christmas, communion will be held only on the second Wednesday of the month, December 8th, at 6:15 pm in the Chapel.

In 2022, the normal schedule of the second and fourth Wednesday of the month will resume with Communion being held on January 12th and 26th.



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 19th at 4:00 p.m. This 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.

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, 2021 is in a deficit, as you can see, of \$4,377.63. This amount is significantly less than the deficit in 2020, mainly due to the decrease in expenses. The difference in expenses between the two years is \$33,530.01. There are several reasons for the change in expenses with the main one being the change in staffing.

	Thru Oct	Thru Oct	
	2021	2020	Difference
Income	296,879.46	322,665.39	-25,785.93
General Expenses	48,838.36	52,216.12	-3,377.76
Church Staff	185,526.66	198,762.80	-13,236.14
Council on Ministries	2,094.65	8,499.08	-6,404.43
Education	999.76	890.35	109.41
Youth Programs	0.00	0.00	0.00
Church Utilities	19,024.56	22,296.73	-3,272.17
Insurance	8,988.13	8,556.27	431.86
Church Maintenance	28,887.50	35,047.67	-6,160.17
Parsonage Expenses	6,847.47	8,518.09	-1,670.62
Miscellaneous	50.00	-0.01	50.01
Gain (Loss)	-4,377.63	-12,121.71	

The Memorial Fund balance as of October 31, 2021 is \$44,713.93. The largest part of this is money dedicated to the refurbishment of the stained glass windows.

The Building Fund balance as of October 31, 2021 is \$135,922.06 and of this \$101,921.54 is in the money market.

Because of your generous support, EUMC is able to be here for not only its members, but also for the surrounding community.



FINANCIAL PLEDGES FOR 2022

If you have not turned in your pledge card for 2022, 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 the Welcome Center, from the table at the front of the church, or call the church office and we'll make sure you get one.

FINANCE & GIVING

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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 2022! Be sure to also delete the figures for 2021, or both amounts will be taken from your account!



OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you use offering envelopes to make your offering, the 2022 envelopes will be ready for pickup towards the end of December. We ordered envelopes from a new company this year in an effort to save money and will be assigning everyone a new number in an attempt to close the number gaps that have been created over the years, thus allowing us to order fewer envelopes. 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 or during office hours (Monday through Friday - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm).



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.



SPECIAL OFFERING ON DECEMBER 5TH

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 5th, 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".

NEWS & ITEMS OF INTEREST

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

IMPORTANT DATES IN CHURCH HISTORY

Submitted by Ivan Mehosky

The Great Schism

The Great Schism of 1054 was the breakup of Christian churches into two sections - Western and Eastern. It became the Roman Catholic Church of Western Europe and Greek Orthodox Church of Eastern Europe. This important event was also known as the "East-West Schism." The 'Schism,' or 'divide,' was the culmination of theological and political differences, even disputes over the liturgy.

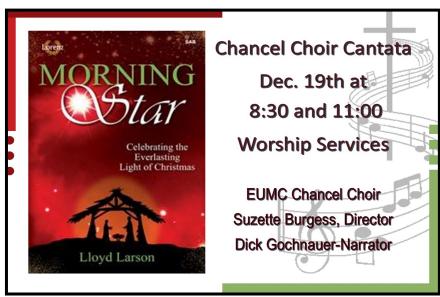
If someone were to ask, "What was the main cause of the split?" The answer would be, firstly, Papal authority; i.e., the Pope claimed he held authority over four Eastern Greek-speaking 'patriarchs.' Furthermore, other main differences boiled down to the use of images in the church and the addition of the Latin word 'Filioque' to the Nicene Creed.

The two main personalities of this time were Pope Leo IX, bishop of Rome, and Michael Cerularius, Patriarch of Constantinople (today Istanbul, Turkey). Each excommunicated the other, and the ban would last until 1965.

Some of the theological differences and misunderstandings led to two widely separate ways of regarding the doctrine of the procession of the Holy Spirit from the Father or from the Father and the Son. The Roman Church added "and from the Son" (Latin: Filioque) to the Nicene Creed without consulting with the Eastern Church. Also, the Eastern Church (Greek Orthodox) did not like the Roman enforcement of clerical celibacy, the limitation of the right of confirmation to the bishop, and the use of unleavened bread in the Eucharist.

The Schism never healed.





NEWS & ITEMS OF INTEREST

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

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 5th. Checks can be made payable to Elkton UMC, with "poinsettia" or "UMCOR" on the memo line. 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 the Welcome Center.







ALTAR FLOWERS 2022

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.



Blood Bank of Delmarva

The Blood Bank of Delmarva will be holding its final monthly blood drive for the year on Friday, December 3rd from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Weldin Hall. We encourage everyone who is able to sign up to donate blood. It truly does save lives. You can sign up to donate at delmarvablood.org.



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. In addition, an email will be sent by the church. 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!

NEWS & ITEMS OF INTEREST

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



TRUSTEES TRIVIA

Do you know what this is a picture of and where it is located in the church? Text your answers to 443-907-3282 - be sure to tell us your name.

(Answer in next month's newsletter)

Answer to Last Month's Trivia Question



Cover that was placed when the stained glass window was removed







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	12/17	Marge Jacobs	2 *	* 2
12/3	Joseph Arroyo	12/20	Linda Carey	2	* 5
12/3	Cheryl McKeown	12/21	Alexandria Sparks	2 *	* 7
12/4	Laurie Alphin	12/22	John (Jack) Edler	27	
12/4	Paige Armour	12/22	Enrique (Marc) Gonzalez	*2	7 5
12/4	Sidney Bledsoe	12/23	Nancy Draper	* 2*	18.5
12/4	Eli Mackie	12/23	Edward Marsilii	3	ATE 5 5
12/7	Larry Williams	12/23	Timothy McCardell	* 5* *	X 1 X
12/8	Jessica Keithley	12/24	George Veasey	*)	* 11/7(* *
12/11	Larraine Campbell	12/25	Jack Bailey	* H	lappy Birthda
12/12	Richard Ceresini	12/26	Lauren Carbone		,
12/14	Phyllis McCoy	12/26	Robert Gilmore		
12/14	Charles (Gary) Storke	12/26	Kathleen Keithley	12/29	Chace Crawford
12/16	Charlotte Hoffmann	12/28	Robert Olewine	12/31	Debra Hughes
12/16	Nancy Stubbs	12/28	Fran Vassalotti	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.

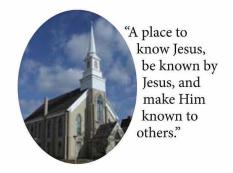
December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	2 8:00 PM AA Meeting	3 12:00 PM Community Blood Drive	4
5 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School	6:00 PM Cub Scouts	7 7:00 PM Nar-Anon 7:30 PM CCCS Concert	8 12:00 PM Ruth Sarah Circle 6:15 PM Communion	9 6:30 PM Dorcas Circle 8:00 PM AA Meeting	10	1
11:00 AM Worship Service 12 8:30 AM Worship Service	13	14 7:00 PM Nar-Anon	7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 15 December	16 8:00 PM AA Meeting	17	18
9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service		7:00 PM CCCS	Newsletter Deadline 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Boy Scouts			
19 Choir Cantata 8:30 AM Worship Service	20 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	21 7:00 PM Nar-Anon	22 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	23 8:00 PM AA Meeting	24 Office Closed	25 @@@
10:00 AM Sunday School Christmas Pageant 11:00 AM Worship Service 4:00 PM Blue Christmas Service		7:00 PM CCCS	7:00 PM Boy Scouts		5:00 PM Family Service 7:00 PM Candlelight Service 9:00 PM Candlelight Service	Memy Ontemas
26 10:00 AM Worship Service	27 Office Closed 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	28 Office Closed 7:00 PM Nar-Anon 7:00 PM CCCS	29	30	31 Office Closed	
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Advent Christmas Gold Messiah Shepherds Joseph Angel **Flocks** Magi Star Herod Myrrh Bethlehem Frankincense Nativity Swaddling **Immanuel** Manger Gabriel Noel Wisemen Census Jesus Mary



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
Organist	Brian Willmore
Choir Director/Coordinator of Music Ministries	
Nursery Care Professional	<u> </u>
Treasurer	Laurie Ruth
Secretary	Beth Gullion
Sexton	
Media/Tech Consultant	•

Sunday Worship Service

8:30 am & 11:00 am

Sunday School

9:45 am

Church Office Hours

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

Contact Information

219 East Main Street Elkton, MD 21921

(410) 398-0933

Email: eumc@comcast.net

Website: www.elktonumc.org

Elkton UMC Welcome Statement

The Elkton United Methodist Church is a family of God dedicated to worshiping, 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.