

Elkton United Methodist Church

# The Beacon



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*Deadline for Article Submission is the 15<sup>th</sup> of Each Month*



## FROM THE PASTOR

*Rev. Eric Warner, Senior Pastor*

***1 Peter 2:23-25 - When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.***

### Christ's Love Endured

When I was in college, I was doing an internship in Michigan and the pastor invited me to come with him to do some visitations. It was one of my first experiences doing pastoral visitation and we were going to visit with a 92-year-old woman who was in the hospital after she had fallen and broken her hip. While we were there, her husband of 72 years appeared in the door, moved to her bedside, and lovingly kissed her. He cupped her hands and spoke words of love to her. He sat beside her and stroked her arm. I was made witness to their love that had surely endured through many difficult days and ups and downs in their 72 years together.

And to think that their love is a pale reflection of the love Christ has for us, which also endures. Ephesians 3:10 says that Christ's love surpasses all knowledge. God's love has persisted throughout human history even after Adam and Eve sinned in the garden; even after the Israelites forsook their covenant with God in the Promised Land; even after Jesus suffered and died at the very hands of God's beloved creation. But Romans 8:38 says that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Do we allow our love for others to endure even when they have failed us, betrayed us, mocked us, harmed us, or abandoned us? Christ experienced all such sufferings. Abandoned by his disciples, mocked by the soldiers, betrayed by the people of Jerusalem, harmed by his torturers and executors. Yet one of the last things he said while alive, dying on the cross was, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." May Jesus's words be our words for one another and all the people of this world.

# 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"***

During this wild Omicron period, 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 January 14<sup>th</sup> donation had 30 donors. The next donation date is February 4<sup>th</sup>, noon until 5:00 p.m. If you wish to donate, you can sign up at [delmarvablood.org](http://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 non-perishable food products to the Hospitality area on Communion Sundays to support the needy in our area. Please also consider paper products and cleaning products, as it was pointed out to me that with Food Stamps you can get food products, but no other household items.
- We are working on building our Mission Team for our trip to Spirit Lake, July 17<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>. So far, we have several people who have indicated their interest, but we would like to get more people committed. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Joe Tanner. We are hoping to get more young people involved this year.
- Meeting Ground needs help to provide meals to the homeless this winter. If you would like to help:  
Log into "meetingground.org" and click on "Become Involved"  
Click "Volunteer"  
Click "Winter Shelter"  
Click "Sign up Here"  
Scroll down to find an open date, select the date you want, and click "Submit and Sign Up"
- We will be holding COMPASSION SUNDAY on May 1<sup>st</sup>. This is an opportunity to help young people around the world. More information will follow.
- Missions will be holding a Teacher's Breakfast during the week of "Teacher's Appreciation Week" in May for teachers at Gilpin Manor, Thompson Estates, and Cecil Manor.

EUMC is a Missions loving church!!

MISSION FINANCES: The Mission Fund balance in the cash account as of January 21, 2022 was \$11,855.86 with an additional \$28,846.83 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.

# FELLOWSHIP & STEWARDSHIP

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

## STEWARDSHIP/EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

*Submitted by Ellen Gruebel, Committee Chairperson*

**Mark 16:15 "He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."**

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

Our combined Committee is now working on events for this year! We are 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, July 4<sup>th</sup> events, the Elkton Fall Fest, and the gift card donation to first responders each fall.

Currently we're working on scheduling a Financial Peace University class for the entire congregation for late spring. We're also planning Earth Day Sunday celebrations and, hopefully, a Joy of Faith celebration for 2023.

May God bless all with good health and peace in the new year!

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## HELP FILL OUR NEXT ROUND OF COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

Several times a year we send a package of goodies to our College Students to remind them that we're thinking of them and wishing them the best. The next package will go out at the end of month and we need your help to fill it! Please bring your donation of goodies (granola bars, hot chocolate mix, microwavable mac 'n cheese, etc.) to the donation box in the Welcome Center area. It will mean so much to our college students!



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## CALLING ALL MEN

Don't forget that on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 am the Men's Breakfast takes place at Cracker Barrel. All men of the church are invited to take part in this time of food, fellowship and discussion of a new topic every month. No sign-up is necessary, just show up at 7:30 ready to eat breakfast and have fun! The breakfast is usually over in an hour.

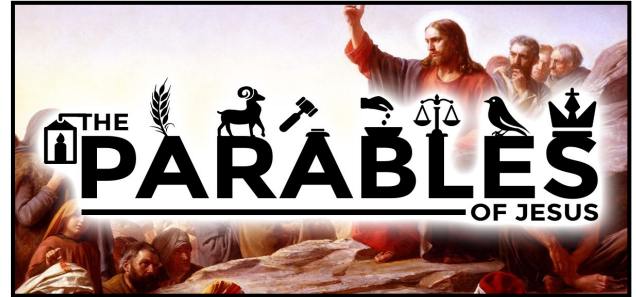
# FELLOWSHIP & STEWARDSHIP

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

## WOMEN'S RETREAT 2022

**NEW DATE! - APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup> AND 9<sup>TH</sup>**

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, April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, in Weldin Hall!



## MEN'S RETREAT 2022

**MARCH 19, 2022**

This year's Men's Retreat will be on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> in Weldin Hall. Activities will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at approximately 3:30 p.m. The subject for this event will be a history of the Methodist church, from its founding in the mid 1700's, to the move to the colonies, and the growth in the

America's. In addition, Pastor Eric will speak regarding the future of the United Methodist Church. There will be morning coffee and donuts, as well as lunch. After lunch, there will be a period for talking amongst ourselves, games, and music. The brochure and registration form will be available soon. Hope to see you there!



# 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*

**Sunday School:** It's wintertime and unfortunately that also means cold and flu season. As 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.

**Easter Egg Candy Donations:** Beginning the first Sunday in March, we will be collecting individually wrapped candy for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. If you would like to donate candy, please place it in the bin near the Welcome Center.



**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 -

- ~ 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 has been sick in the past 24 hours please keep them with you or at home. We want to limit the spread of germs!





# EUMC Youth

*Submitted by Pastor Eric*

Youth Group at Elkton UMC took a break in January due to the sharp rise in COVID cases. However, we will be coming back together for some faith and fun in February.

On Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup> we will have Youth Group in Weldin Hall from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Youth Group is a time of fun, food, games, and discussions on our faith. All young people grades 6-12 are welcome to attend. Masks will be required for this event.

We will have a special combined event with Trinity UMC of Chesapeake City on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. It will be mission night, where we will provide information about our upcoming Spirit Lake mission trip and have other family friendly mission activities. There will also be a brief message from Pastor Sam Mitchell of Trinity UMC. We will meet at Elkton UMC. More details will be available soon! Youth Group will also meet on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

We look forward to continuing to nurture the young people of our church and offer opportunities for service so that they might come to know their God-given purpose. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.



**EUMC is online.**

**Check out our social media  
and join us on Facebook  
and follow us on Twitter!**

[www.facebook.com/elktonumc](http://www.facebook.com/elktonumc)

[www.twitter.com/elktonumc](http://www.twitter.com/elktonumc)

[www.youtube.com/ElktonumcOrg](http://www.youtube.com/ElktonumcOrg)

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

# 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*

Well, with the climbing Covid numbers during and after the holidays the Chancel and Handbell Choirs were forced to suspend rehearsals during the month of January. Many thanks to the soloists who filled in - Jerry McNabb, Kelly Thompson, Paul Humphrey, and Darrin Peters. We are hoping to resume at the beginning of February, but will be keeping our eyes on the numbers and will return when it is determined that we can do so safely. All members will be notified when this happens. If you are not currently a member of choir and are interested in singing, please email me at [suzetteising@gmail.com](mailto:suzetteising@gmail.com) and I will keep you notified of our schedule!



## HOLY COMMUNION

It has been decided to wait until March 2022 to begin a new year of Communion in the Chapel on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 6:15 p.m. Communion in the Chapel will be held on March 16<sup>th</sup> and March 30<sup>th</sup> and then every two weeks each month after that through October.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

We have several dates available in the upcoming months if you would like to provide the flowers for the altar for Sunday morning services. Those dates are:

February 20 <sup>th</sup>	March 27 <sup>th</sup>	May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	July 3 <sup>rd</sup>
February 27 <sup>th</sup>	April 24 <sup>th</sup>	June 5 <sup>th</sup>	July 17 <sup>th</sup>
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	June 19 <sup>th</sup>	July 24 <sup>th</sup>
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	May 15 <sup>th</sup>	June 26 <sup>th</sup>	July 31 <sup>st</sup>



Please contact the church office at 410-398-0933 if you would like to celebrate someone special or a special date with flowers for the altar.

# MUSIC & WORSHIP

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

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We'll mark the beginning of Lent by worshiping together that evening at 7:00 in the sanctuary. The service will include holy communion and the imposition of ashes. Make plans now to attend this service and mark the beginning of a holy journey through Lent.

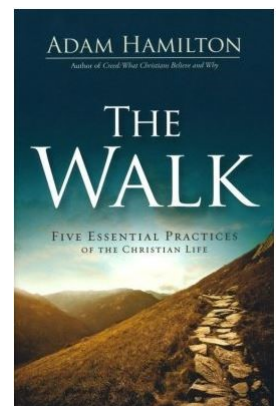


## THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent is the season that walks us on a journey through Jesus' life from the time just after he was baptized, and encountered the devil in the Wilderness of Temptation, up to the moment his crucified body was laid in the tomb. It lasts for forty days plus Sundays, and is a penitent and contemplative time, a time when we refrain from saying or singing "Alleluia" and from applauding in worship. It is a somber, yet holy season during which we remember the tremendous and painful price Jesus paid for us and for our salvation.

## LENTEN LUNCH & LEARN

Pastor Eric is leading this special study on the Wednesdays of Lent, starting on March 16<sup>th</sup> at noon in Weldin Hall. Participants are invited to bring a bag lunch and join in, as we learn from Adam Hamilton's book *"The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life"*. This book may be familiar to you because Rev. Karen Bunnell was going to lead the same study in March of 2020 before COVID so rudely interrupted church plans. Check your bookshelf because you may already have the book. To participate, please call the church office at 410-398-0933 to sign up and let us know whether or not you need the book. You will also be able to sign up through a bulletin insert that will be made available soon. The cost of the study is \$15 if you need the book (to be paid on the first day of classes – checks made out to Elkton UMC). Please let the office know if this cost is prohibitive. We do not want it to be a barrier to your participation.





# 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 end of 2021 closed on a very good note for Ministries, **ending in the black by \$22,179.53**. This is due largely, but not only, to your continued generous support, as well as staffing changes and being very conservative with spending. You may remember that EUMC ended 2020 in the black also, but that was helped by the PPP loan that was received and forgiven. As you can see below, 2020 ended in the black by \$29,203.45; the PPP loan amount was \$27,891.85, which means that actually the real gain amount was \$1,311.60.

THANK YOU all for continuing to be very generous in your support of EUMC. You make it "A place to know Jesus, be known by Jesus, and make Him known to others."

	<b>Thru Dec 2021</b>	<b>Thru Dec 2020</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Income	375,992.12	432,549.84	-56,557.72
General Expenses	58,459.75	62,347.28	-3,887.53
Church Staff	218,632.61	232,746.92	-14,114.31
Council on Ministries	2,355.25	8,894.17	-6,538.92
Education	1,200.64	890.35	310.29
Youth Programs	59.21	0.00	59.21
Church Utilities	23,221.27	25,536.97	-2,315.70
Insurance	8,988.13	8,556.27	431.86
Church Maintenance	32,867.93	54,655.86	-21,787.93
Parsonage Expenses	7,977.80	9,718.58	-1,740.78
Miscellaneous	50.00	-0.01	50.01
<b>Gain (Loss)</b>	<b>22,179.53</b>	<b>29,203.45</b>	



# 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*

## CHRISTIAN VOICES FROM THE PAST

*Submitted by Ivan Mehosky*

### **George Whitefield 1714-1770**

Biographer Arnold A. Dallimore wrote: “God’s accomplishments through George Whitefield are to this day virtually unparalleled. In an era when many ministers were timid and apologetic in their preaching, he preached the gospel with zeal and undaunted courage. In the wake of his fearless preaching, revival swept across the British Isles, and the Great Awakening transformed the American colonies.”

Called by many the greatest preacher that England ever produced, George Whitefield was born in Gloucester, England on December 16, 1714 to parents who ran the Bell Inn.

Growing up, young George had a good memory and a glib tongue that helped him excel at making speeches and acting in plays at school. Despite health issues, which plagued him all of his life, George entered Oxford University where he met John and Charles Wesley and became part of their Holy Club Meetings. At twenty-two, this boy wonder of London was drawing great crowds who came to hear him preach the gospel and hundreds were converted to faith in Christ. Over the course of his life, his preaching shook Great Britain and America, resulting in the Great Awakening. In fear of popularity and promotion, this humble man of God prayed, “Heavenly Father, for Thy dear Son’s sake, keep me from climbing.”

George Whitefield preached from forty to sixty hours a week, which totaled over 18,000 sermons during his 34 years of public ministry. He went out to the people and started open air or field preaching, which was a hallmark of the Methodist movement. Wiersbe wrote: “It comes as a surprise to many people to learn that it was George Whitefield, not John and Charles Wesley, who founded the Methodist Church. The Wesleys entered into Whitefield’s labors and eventually were given the leadership of the new movement by Whitefield.” This ordained priest of the Church of England died on September 30, 1770, during his seventh visit to America, preaching in New England to the Presbyterians at Newburyport, Massachusetts, where he is buried.

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## Blood Bank of Delmarva

The Blood Bank of Delmarva will be holding its monthly blood drive on Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://delmarvablood.org).

# 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*

## MEETING GROUND NEWS

Thank you for your support of the Meeting Ground, our mission partners working to help house those in our community who are experiencing homelessness. You may well know about their day use facility, Wayfarers' House and the Men's Shelter, but there is another very exciting program to tell you about. Since September 2021, they have helped 15 individuals and family units obtain permanent housing. With grant funding support, these 15 households are now in rental homes and apartments in town. As the recipients are able to meet financial targets, the support funds are reduced, allowing the tenants to become independent and self-supporting.



Meeting Ground still has an immediate need for meals for clients in the winter emergency shelter program. Individuals or groups of friends can provide 25 or 50 meals to feed the clients. In the Sign Up Genius link below you will see MANY open dates. You can deliver bulk food to the Mary Randall Center by 3:30 on your agreed date.

The staff at the Center often step up to provide meals when there is an open date on the calendar, so cash donations are also appreciated. Our mission committee recently provided funds to support up to 5 nights of meals.

Feel free to call Mike Schmook for information or other details (410-920-7547).

The link for providing meals... <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A49A9A728A2F49-winter>

You can also learn more by visiting [MeetingGround.org/volunteer](http://MeetingGround.org/volunteer)



## SNOW DAYS

Just a reminder, 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. 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 where this 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



The arrow is located in the sitting area outside of Weldin Hall and points to way to the Prom Boutique!



## ANSWER TO THE ADVENT REFLECTION CHALLENGE

What local performing organizations do these three people have in common -  
Robert Bunnell, Sharon Williams, and our own Brian Willmore?

*Cecil County Choral Arts Society, Delaware German Saengerbund Choir, & EUMC Chancel Choir*



# February 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)

2/3 Hannah Lightcap  
2/8 Robert Dalrymple  
2/8 Charlotte Mehosky  
2/10 Stanley Cebula  
2/10 Steven Gilmore  
2/11 Jack Starrett  
2/13 Lauren Hanel  
2/15 William (Kevin) White  
2/16 Grace Achuff  
2/16 Donna Horgan  
2/16 William Moffitt  
2/17 John Baynes



2/20 Heather Blackiston  
2/21 Grant Neely

2/22 Cossie Gibson  
2/23 Arlene Zappo  
2/24 Rachel Miller  
2/24 Brian Willmore  
2/25 Carolann Lewis  
2/25 Gary Lewis  
2/26 Denita Catron  
2/27 Helen Hanel-Gray  
2/27 Donna Perkins  
2/28 Linda Truitt  
2/28 Allyson Veasey  
2/29 Ben Dalrymple

# February Anniversaries


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



2/2 Carol & Hobert Halsey  
2/2 Sheila & Edward Hendricks  
2/6 Betty & Frank Deibert  
2/13 Debbie & Charles (Gary) Storke  
2/14 Sharon & Gerald Slayman  
2/28 Carol & Edward Sise

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

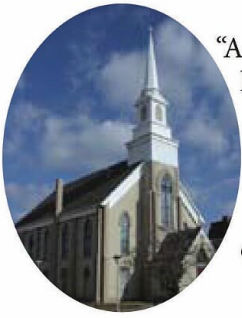
# February 2022

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1	2 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	3 8:00 PM AA Meeting	4 12:00 PM Community Blood Drive	5
6 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	7 8:00 AM AARP Tax Aide 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	8	9 12:00 PM Ruth Sarah Circle 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	10 6:30 PM Dorcas Circle 8:00 PM AA Meeting	11	12
13 <b>Scout Sunday</b> 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	14 8:00 AM AARP Tax Aide 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 	15 February Newsletter Deadline 6:30 PM Finance Comm Mtg	16 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	17 6:30 PM Admin Council Mtg 8:00 PM AA Meeting	18	19
20 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	21 <b>Office Closed</b> 8:00 AM AARP Tax Aide 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	22	23 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	24 8:00 PM AA Meeting	25	26
27 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	28 8:00 AM AARP Tax Aide 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	29 7:00 PM LULAC				

X U W F F K P L T J R K C E D L V H P J T Q  
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 L W G Y H C K C M R M D D U O C B V O G G E  
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ADMIRER	FRIEND	DATE	BOYFRIEND
SWWETHEART	FLOWERS	BE MINE	GREETING CARD
CANDY	GIFT	PASSION	PARTY
LOVERS	ROSE	HUG	CHOCOLATES
GIRLFRIEND	VALENTINE	FEBRUARY	ROMANCE
HEART	CUPID	LOVE	KISS





“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
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
Media/Tech Consultant .....	Jeff Bunnell

### 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](mailto:eumc@comcast.net)

Website: [www.elktonumc.org](http://www.elktonumc.org)

## 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.