

Elma United Methodist Church

Methodelma

From the Desk of the Pastor

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Greetings and grace to you all;

While we all have a special place in our hearts for the message of Christ's nativity and the arrival of the magi, the real ministry of Jesus (the preaching, teaching, healing ministry) does not begin in earnest until his baptism by John in the river Jordan. This event is annually recalled almost in parallel with the beginning of a new calendar year. So while a new lectionary year back on the first Sunday of Lent in November and the birth of Christ in December can both often feel like the beginning, all four of the gospels agree that it was Jesus' baptism by John that begins his public ministry.

For us who reside in these northern climates thinking about beginning anything 'public' in tandem with this gospel message is a chilling reality. And yet any resolution we make because of the start of a new calendar year is exactly that, a public declaration of what we intend to do to begin this year. Why is it that our participation in faith seems not to deepen as we read through and experience the story of Jesus' baptism and the calling of his first disciples in the two weeks that follow, but thins following the false start of Christmas? Perhaps our faith lives need to follow the lectionary this year, marking a new beginning as we hear of Jesus' baptism. We can, as we listen to this story, revisit the waters of grace and recommit our lives to the promises made in those waters. We can begin to take the first tenuous steps in public ministry as we heed the call to follow that Jesus makes over the next weeks. Then maybe our world can begin to be transformed into the possibilities that so captured our imagination just at the end of the last month.

All of this requires us making a good and honest start alongside Jesus. Let us use this time and the journey through the gospel message of this month as a time to begin again. Let us hear and heed the call to follow. Let us work together to embody and become 'A Loving Church SERVING A LOVING GOD!'

God bless you all, Pastor Daven

JANUARY 2012

- Confirmation Classes resume January 8th
- Human Relations Day (special offering) is January 15th
- The office will be closed on Monday, January 16th

Inside this issue:

Worship Schedule	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
UMW NEWS	3
Mission Moments	4
Christian Education	5-6
Bricks for sale	7
A Tribute	8

Sunday Worship on January 1, 2012

Services will be held at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Scriptures: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7,10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Greeters: John & Rose Shiesley & Hazel Wilmot Altar Flowers: Poinsettias

Acolytes: Cassidy Setzer & Theda Ball

Toddler Time: Amanda Ball & Cheryl Kowalski

Liturgist: Doris Smith

Ushers: Mike & Sue Brunner

Fellowship: John & Rose Shiesley, John & Rose McCarthy

Sunday Worship on January 8, 2012

Services will be held at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Scriptures: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Greeters: Schuetz Family

Altar Flowers: Available

Acolytes: Chloe Garbacz & Emma Fisher Liturgist: Shirley Schildkamp

Toddler Time: Nancy Gradwell & Laura & Charlotte Buechi

Ushers: Mike & Erika Wargula

Fellowship: Melissa DeGraff & Cheryl Kowalski

Sunday Worship on January 15, 2012

Services will be held at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Greeters: Don & Shirley Schildkamp

Altar Flowers: Steve Buechi Family

Acolytes: Claire DeNies & Grant DeNies

Liturgist: Rob Coatsworth

Toddler Time: Carrie Schmitz, Bev Hornung & Amanda Hartman

Ushers: Matt & Amy Thormahlen

Fellowship: Peter, Cheryl, Steve & Laura Buechi

Sunday Worship on January 22, 2012

Services will be held at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Scriptures: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Greeters: Marlene & Marion Molenda

Altar Flowers: Available

Acolytes: Ed Hornung & Mike Schuetz

Liturgist: Jennifer Fuer

Toddler Time: Amy & Chloe Garbacz, Bridget Talty & Emma Fisher

Ushers: Youth

Fellowship: Michele Setzer

Sunday Worship on January 29, 2012

Services will be held at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Greeters: Carol & Ken Garland

Altar Flowers: Available

Acolytes: Amanda Hartman & Hanna Wargula

Toddler Time: Judi & Sue Wollen & Rob Coatsworth

Liturgist: Steve DeNies

Ushers: Jim & Deb Coatsworth

Fellowship: Fuer & Schmitz Families

There are many 2012 dates available for those wishing to place flowers on the altar. Please sign up on the chart near the Mission Table and remit payment of \$17.50, to Joyce Zimmerman prior to your scheduled Sunday. Thank you.

UMW NEWS

The women will be meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 11 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will be packing cookies to mail to college students and military people.

Please bring a sandwich to share. Soup, dessert and beverages will be provided.

We are asking the congregation for donations of cookies by Sunday, February 5th, or you can bring them to the meeting.

All women are invited and encouraged to attend.

There is a sheet on the bulletin board to list names and addresses of college students and military personal who would like to receive a cookie box.

Christmas Bazaar Results

The Christmas Bazaar was a huge success. We earned \$2,224.75 through the efforts of many talented people. Thanks so much to all who contributed, all who bought, and all who helped move much furniture. Please get busy on items for next year's Bazaar.

Judi Wollen and Shirley Schildkamp

Thank you to EUMC

Our heartfelt thanks for all the cards and prayers at Will's death. Also, your attendance at the service to support us in celebrating his life. The music was great as was everything else. The reception following took much work by many people. We would like tot let everyone know how much it is appreciated.

Rhoda Eagle



Happy Birthday to... 1/1 Joyce Zimmerman 1/2 Bob Pierce 1/3 Marge Heck 1/4 Carol Garland 1/6 Hans Brunner 1/8 Ed Hartman 1/10 Matt Lawrence, Michael Wilson 1/12 Marietta Andrew, Matt Thormahlen, Elaine DeLisle, Annette DeNies 1/13 Jacob Everhart, Little Peter Buechi, Karen Cordes 1/14 Dawn Rodgers 1/15 Kristen Rosenburg, Norine Ceppaglia, Dana Pauly 1/16 Paul Penner 1/19 Lee Gojmerac 1/20 Greg Schuetz 1/21 Wanda Hoertz, Judy Smith 1/22 Hailey Sugrue 1/23 Eileen Bippert, Evan Schmitz, Matthew Mandych 1/25 Jean Kron, Christopher Zelasko 1/26 Mary Schuetz 1/28 Stephen Green 1/31 Matthew Thomas Blair

Happy Anniversary to... 1/12 Mike & Sue Brunner 1/20 Jack & Sue Lawrence

Birthdays and anniversaries are published by the office. Please call 652-5427 with any corrections or omissions.



Condolences to the family of Todd Erhardt, who passed away on December 18th. A Memorial Service was held at the church on Thursday, December 22nd.

IN LOVING MEMORY

MISSION MOMENTS

MISSION MOMENTS

THANK YOU

Thanks to all the Elma UMC “Angels!”

The response to our Angel Giving Tree was overwhelming! We were able to provide all the gifts requested from **AIDS Community Services, Gateway/Longview, Iroquois Helping Hands, and Seneca Street UMC**. The Christmas of those receiving the gifts certainly was happier because of your generosity in providing the gifts or the money to purchase them.

Thank you to **Taylor Thormahlen** for designing the beautiful congregational Christmas card, and to all who shared their Christmas wishes on it, with a gift to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund.

The **Christmas Eve Offering** was divided between **Asbury Shalom Zone** and **Seneca Street UMC**, two of our partners in outreach, bringing hope to their neighboring communities in the city of Buffalo.

Gateway Longview

Mission Moments on Sunday, January 8th will highlight the work of **Gateway/Longview**, presented by **Kathy Swenson**. No longer the “Methodist Children’s Home,” it is now so much more to children and families in the Western New York area. Be here to learn what this United Methodist agency which we support is providing for children of all ages and their families.



Did you know...

- The Missions/Outreach commission established the **Good Samaritan Fund** to assist any of our own members who may be in financial need in these often difficult times. Completely confidential, contact Pastor Daven to learn more.
- The **Casserole Commission** stocks the upper freezer in the refrigerator in the kitchen with delicious, nutritious home-made meals for anyone who is in need when an emergency occurs, when returning from the hospital, when illness strikes, when a new little one arrives, or if you’d just like to try them! Contents and instructions for heating are included. A token donation is requested (\$2.50), but not required.
- We are trying to **assess the need** for transportation and help with small odd jobs and errands for our members who are no longer able to or cannot perform these tasks, and to assess the availability of members who would be willing to transport to appointments or shopping or errands, or able to do small repairs and odd jobs. Please let the offices know if you are in need in these categories and would appreciate a little help.

F.I.S.H.

The January item is **black plastic garbage bags**. While this may seem an odd item, they are much needed and too expensive for clients to purchase when the need for food is a priority.



Christian Education & Youth

“God’s Got a Recipe to Bring Out the Best in Me!”

Let's Get
Cookin'!



Let's Get
Cookin'!

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.

Adult Class - Library

3 & 4 yr. olds—Mark Room

2nd—4th grade—Luke Room

High School Class—Youth Room

K—1st grade—Matthew Room

5th—7th grade—John Room

Erie County Home Visit—January 8

On January 8th the Puppet Ministry and Acoustic Angels will be performing for the residents at the Erie County Home. All are welcome to come and support the two groups as they share their gift of puppeteering and singing. The program starts promptly at 2:00 PM, and you must sign in at the desk where they will direct you to where we will be performing. **Performers: Meet promptly in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00.** We will be arriving at the ECH by 1:30 for anyone who would like to help transport residents from their rooms to the program.

Catch The Spirit - January 28

Catch the Spirit is Saturday, January 28th at the Clarence United Methodist Church. Many choices of workshops are offered that you can participate in. For more information on what is available, registration forms are available on the Christian Education table in the main hallway. Forms must be completed and received by the Conference, by January 8th. We are happy to announce that we will be presenting a Vacation Bible School Workshop during a morning session.

Holiday Thank You's!!!

We kicked off Advent with our **Puppet Ministry** performing *Bethlehem Rhapsody*. Thank you to Sarah Hill & Michelle Setzer, Cassidy Setzer, Owen Haines, Charlotte Buechi, Hans Brunner, Amanda Hartman, Rob & Sam Coatsworth, Rose Shiesley, Sue Brunner, and Deb Coatsworth for a fun way of sharing the message! Moving along into December several of us went **Christmas Caroling**. It was a great day to sing and share in the spirit of Christmas with friends we don't see often. Thank you to everyone who went. You brought smiles and great joy that day! The next week we came together in the spirit of Christmas with our children's play, *"The Little Stars of Bethlehem"*. Thank you to Annette DeNies & Shawn Strausbaugh and all of our young people for sharing your talents & gifts with all of us. It was just wonderful! Also, thank you to all of you who helped behind the scenes. Thank you to Taylor Thormahlen, Andy Brunner, Rob Coatsworth, Grant & Luke DeNies, Jim Coatsworth, and Steve Buechi for making the yummy pizzas. All of you worked really hard and it was much appreciated! Coming together on a cold night in December is a wonderful reminder for all of us as to what Christmas is all about and that was the **Live Nativity**. We are always grateful to **Bippert's** for hosting and all of the animal handlers in making this wonderful event come alive. Thank you to Pastor Daven Oskvig, Annette, Steve, Max, Luke, Grant, Claire DeNies, Jim, Deb, Rob, Sam Coatsworth, Martha Horohoe, John & Andrew Garbacz, Hans, Andy, Mike Brunner, Acoustic Angels, Brian Strausbaugh (Light), Keith Zimmerman (Sound), Marilyn Hartman (Usher), Cheryl Buechi (Cookie Coordinator).

Elma United Methodist Church

Senior Youth Group

Is sponsoring

KROLICK'S BBQ CHICKEN DINNER

Drive-Thru

Sunday, January 22nd 2012

Noon – 2:30 PM

(Snow Date: January 29th)

Dinner includes: half a chicken
salt potatoes, coleslaw, and a roll & butter

**You may pick up your dinners between Noon – 2:30 PM
in the Elma United Methodist Church Parking Lot**

Ticket Price: \$10.00 (until January 15th)

We are looking for volunteers to take and sell 5 tickets. (You can take more!) Our goal is to sell 300 dinners. Please see Deb Coatsworth if you want to sell tickets or you need to purchase a ticket. The Youth will be selling tickets following the 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Services.

Fundraiser Supports Mission Trip to Binghamton, NY Flood Disaster



JANUARY

- 8 Mini Youth Group Meeting 12:30–1:30
- 8 Erie County Home: Acoustic Angel & Puppets
- 15 Senior Youth Group Meeting 12:30–2:00
- 22 Senior Youth Group Krolick's Chicken BBQ
- 22 Mini Youth Group Meeting 12:30–1:30
- 27-29 Senior Youth Group Retreat at Camp Asbury
- 29 Snow Date for Krolick's Chicken BBQ

EVERY WEEK

- Sunday School 9:00–10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday Morning Bible Study 9:30–10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday Lectionary Study 10:00–11:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY

- 5 Mini Youth Group Sub Sale
- 5 Souper Bowl of Caring
- 5 Senior Youth Group Meeting 12:30–2:00
- 12 Mini Youth Group Meeting 12:30–1:30
- 12 Family Event: X-Country/Snowshoeing at Byrncliff Resort 2:00 p.m.
- 19 Senior Youth Group Meeting 12:30–2:00
- 21-22 Mini Youth Group Retreat at Camp Findley
- 26 Mini Youth Group Meeting 12:30–1:30

Ladies—Mark your calendars! Women's Retreat at Camp Asbury May 11th-12th

Order form for Pathway Bricks to the Labyrinth

Bricks on the pathway leading to the Labyrinth may contain up to 3 lines of 17 characters each. You may use your own name, place a brick in honor or in memory of someone, select a favorite Bible verse or even an expression, such as FAITH.

Please fill the boxes with the wording exactly as you would like it to appear on the brick you are purchasing. A space should be left between names and on either side of "&". Please allow a space for all punctuation such as apostrophes, hyphens, commas and periods. In accordance with church policy, all engravings must conform to Christian ideals and will be subject to approval.

Each engraved brick is a \$100 donation.

Please use a separate form for each brick ordered.

Name of Purchaser: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

(Please make checks payable to EUMC with labyrinth in the memo line.)

Weather permitting, each time the Memorial Committee receives 10 orders, the engraver is called to come out and complete the engraving. Bricks can be ordered at anytime.

A LOVING CHURCH SERVING A LOVING GOD.

Elma United Methodist Church

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EUMC STAFF

Dir. Of Music:

John Mitton

Acoustic Angels:

Shawn Strausbaugh

Bell Choir:

Laura Buechi

Dir. of Christian Education:

Deb Coatsworth

Secretary:

Cheryl Zelasko

Custodian:

Jim Coatsworth

Deadline for next publication is the third Sunday of the month prior. July/August issue deadline is third Sunday in June.



A Tribute to... Peter Buechi

We wish to thank Peter Buechi for his 33 years of dedicated volunteer service to this church serving as its treasurer. On behalf of this church giving endless amounts of time and talents, he has filed forms, written checks, kept track of our expenditures, and attended numerous meetings through those years. He has done all of this with an unparalleled vigilance as an extension and expression of his commitment to his faith and this particular community of faith. As we pray all may take the opportunity to say thank you to Peter, we also wanted you to know a little about Peter beyond this vital role he has played in the church.

Peter will still be serving the church in multiple ways as he always has. His construction knowledge, which has been used to improve his own home, help out his children, as well as on numerous habitat projects and on mission trips, will be of great service in his new role on the Board of Trustees.

Peter's first car was a Triumph TR3, until it disintegrated in a pile of dust. Despite the little British car's known problems, Peter remained loyal to the manufacture and now can be found working on his TR7 or Spitfire convertible. (He tries to drive them also, however according to Cheryl there is a lot more fixing than driving).

In addition to building and mechanics, Peter loves to garden, camp and is an avid sports fan. (Hopefully the Bills will have a better season for you next year Peter!)

Prior his 21 years in the Naval Reserve, Peter served 3½ years in active duty in the Civil Engineering Corps. He retired from the Department of Environmental Conservation after 34 years as a Regional Engineer in charge of the Hazardous Waste Redemption program. Peter is on the board of the UB Engineering Alumni and served as its President twice. During one of those, Peter was able to speak at his own son's graduation from the UB Engineering program.

In addition to all the wonderful things Peter does around the church, he also volunteers at Reinstein Woods, and somehow finds the time to enjoy John Wayne movies, WWII documentaries and model trains. Peter has a basement full of model trains and enjoys going to railroad museums and riding excursion trains.

Thank you Peter for all you hard work keeping EUMC fiscally sound.

*Thank
You*

www.elmaunitedmethodist.com