

# SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

*serving God in Ministry*



**For 125 Years**

**ELDON UNITED**

**METHODIST CHURCH**

600 North Oak Street/PO Box 104

Eldon, MO 65026

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM**

**WORSHIP 10:30 A.M.**

Melinda Sucha, Secretary

Office (573) 392-3713

[secretary@eldonumc.org](mailto:secretary@eldonumc.org)

Joan DeBoe, Pastor

[revjoan@eldonumc.org](mailto:revjoan@eldonumc.org)

## SEPTEMBER 2018



### Sunday School and Worship Time

Starting September 9th Sunday school will begin back up at 9:30

am. Worship service will change to 10:30 am. Please mark this on your calendar.

### Contemporary Service

Contemporary Service is being changed to a different night. The first one will be on Wednesday, September 5 at 6:30 pm. We hope you will be able to join us!



### Festival of Sharing

Once again we will be donating school kits to the Festival of Sharing on September 22, 2018.

The items needed to help make the kits complete are 24 count crayons, blunt scissors, rulers, pencil sharpeners, 70 count spiral notebooks, and 12x14 up to 14x17 cotton or light-weight canvas bag with cloth handles (no logo backs are accepted). If you have any questions please direct them to Lorraine Dowler or the church office.

We're back in school and fall activities are underway. Eldon has already hosted its first home football game of the season with more to follow. As I write today, it's still over 90° outside, but the hope of cooler temperatures and fall colors is growing!



We've recently heard again the story of Jonah, and we talked about Moses this past Sunday. Both men were sent by God to deliver messages to people they found intimidating. In Jonah's case, he was sent to a people he considered his enemy, so it was hard for him to do as God asked, and he struggled along the way. Moses was sent to the Egyptians, specifically to Pharaoh, who had once hunted Moses for murder. Both men felt uncertain, reluctant, and inadequate to succeed in delivering God's message.

Taking a message to people who may not receive it well is intimidating work, but like Jonah and Moses, God asks us to deliver his message to people we don't know, maybe have nothing in common with, and who may not seem worthy. And yet God continues to ask . . . because it isn't really about us. We *are* inadequate and unqualified to speak for God. Left on our own, we probably won't succeed, but God doesn't send us out by ourselves. He assures us that he will be with us. God can take our feeble attempts at evangelism, our halting and unsure words, and work miracles with them. We just need to show up and say yes.

As you're attending football games and Turkey Festivals this fall, you are certain to come into contact with people who desperately need to encounter Jesus. You have branded yourselves Christians, so your actions, words, and attitudes teach people who Jesus is. Carry Jesus in your hearts this fall, and invite folks to church when you get the chance. You don't have to be eloquent or dynamic, just honest and sincere. God will be with you and will take your efforts and do amazing things with them.

Happy fall, Rev. Joan



## Food Pantry Sunday

The first Sunday of each month will be designated Food Pantry Sunday. Food items and monetary donations will be collected on these Sundays. The donation container will be in the Narthex on those Sundays to place food items in as you enter the church. Monetary donations should be in an envelope and designated Food Pantry and put in the offering plate. Donations are accepted all month long and may be placed in the container found by the outside door in the commons area.

## Men's Fellowship Breakfast

The men's fellowship breakfast meets on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 8:00 – 9:00 am at Donna's Diner. In September they will meet on the 1st and the 15th. This is a good opportunity to introduce friends to our church in a non-church environment.



## Charge Conference

This year our annual Charge-Conference will be on Sunday, October 7th at 2:00 pm at the Harper Chapel UMC in Osage Beach. All members of our congregation are invited and encouraged to attend this conference.



## Eldon Food Pantry

Our church is scheduled to work at the Eldon Food Pantry on the second Monday of every month from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. You don't have to work the entire time, just come for an hour or two when you can. No sign-up sheet, just come to the food pantry ready to help!



## An Evening Hosted By Martin & Kate Luther

On Saturday, September 22, Bethany Lutheran Church will host a German dinner and entertainment. The doors will open at 5:00 pm with dinner being served at 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$12 and must be purchased in advance by September 19th as seating is limited. Call 815-210-2920 for tickets and details. The proceeds will go to the Eldon Food Pantry and EMA.



## Baby Grace Donations

Baby Grace is in need of wipes, size 6 diapers, and size 4T/5T pull ups.



## Thank You

We cannot thank you enough for the food you donate to help families cope with poverty and hunger. Thank you for seeing the importance of helping those in need.

Blessings, *Eldon Food Pantry*





## Did you know . . . ?

In 2015, Eldon UMC joined the growing number of local churches who have chosen to move to the Simplified Structure for Local Church Officials. This action was taken as a result of the recommendation of the then-existing Administrative Council, approval of our district superintendent, and a vote of the congregation.

We've had changes in membership since then plus a new pastor, so this seems a good time for a review of our administrative structure. The reasons for choosing this model vary from church to church, but in general, the main advantage is simplification. The new Church Council combines the Administrative Council, Board of Trustees, Pastor Parish Relations Committee, and Finance Committee into one council that acts in all four capacities. Rather than several committees proposing and seeking approval for actions, ideas, etc., the board can and does operate in all four capacities. This structure is particularly helpful in smaller congregations that tend to have the same people sitting on all of the committees at the same time. This cuts back on the number of meetings an individual is required to attend.

Here are some of the main features of this structure:

- There are a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 15 members on the Church Council. They are divided into three-year classes with 1/3 of the members in each class. This prevents the possibility of everyone going off the committee at one time and losing the "corporate memory".
- Members may serve on the Church Council for a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms, a total of six years. Once six consecutive years are served, the individual must leave the Council and may be elected again after one year.
- Task groups (finance, trustees, pastor parish relations, etc.) may be formed within the elected Council as needed.
- For corporate business purposes only, a vice-chairperson and a secretary will be elected from within the Council.
- Church staff, both volunteer and paid, is accountable to the pastor. The pastor is responsible for hiring, supervision, assessment, and termination *in consultation with* the Church Council.

- The pastor and Council set pastoral performance goals each year that are to be assessed and for which the pastor will be accountable.

- Any member of the church may attend a Church Council meeting. However, when the Council is acting as the pastor parish relations committee, only Council members and the pastor may be present for purposes of confidentiality.

- Members of the Council must be professing members of the church.



- Members are nominated by a separate committee, the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development.

The advantages of this structure are clear, but it's also important to understand that the reasons for choosing this structure do not include any attempt to reduce the number of people involved in the decisions of the church. Members of the Council are elected to represent the congregation and are expected to do so through constant contact and collaboration with its members.

Any number of other task groups can and should be formed to care for the church. One very important group is a worship team/altar guild that plans and facilitates all that is involved in worship such as communion service, altar dressing and parament management, music, liturgy, special services, etc. This was once an active group but it has gone by the wayside. I very much want to resurrect this in the very near future. If you are interested in serving in this way, please let me know. Other teams in the areas of mission, outreach, and evangelism are also vital to the work of our church, so expect to hear more about these in the days ahead.

Any change as huge as this change in church administration is unsettling and even confusing, so know that you are welcome to call me or stop in to visit. This is your congregation of Christ's church, and your thoughts and opinions matter.

# September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:00 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast @ Donna's Diner
2 9:30 am Worship Service/ Food Pantry Sunday	3  Office Closed	4	5 1:00 pm UMW 6:30 pm Contemporary Worship Service	6	7	8
9 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service	10 9:00 am Food Pantry	11	12 6:30 pm Baby Grace	13	14	15 8:00 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast @ Donna's Diner 9:00 am DAR
16 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service	17 2:00 pm Lee House	18	19 6:30 pm Church Council meeting	20	21	22 5:00 pm German Dinner @ Bethany Luthern Church 
23 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service	