

MARCH 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

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M.

WORSHIP 10:30 A.M.

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March 2019

It's probably too optimistic to open with spring greetings . . . so . . . Happy Hoping for Spring! What a winter this has been.

As most of you have heard, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church has been in special session in St. Louis since Friday to wrestle with the questions around homosexuality and same-sex marriage. Our Discipline currently states that a homosexual lifestyle is not compatible with Christian teaching, and as a result, openly gay individuals are not eligible for ordination in the denomination, and clergy are not allowed to officiate same-sex marriages.

A good number of clergy and laity, over the last thirty years, have made a significant effort to change these policies, and this issue was the purpose for the special called session of General Conference. If you've been following the news, you have already heard that the decision of GC today was to adopt the Traditional Plan that will actually tighten the existing wording around this issue. More specific information will be released soon, but as you can imagine this news has caused division. Some churches will choose to leave the denomination, and time will tell us how many that will be. I pray that rather than leaving the denomination, many churches will choose to continue to work toward their desired changes within the denomination. Again, time will tell us how this will play out.

In the meantime, I have not heard from any of you any strong conviction that we should leave the denomination as a result of any decision made at GC and am not aware that this is a source of great discord. I invite you to speak with me about any concerns you have on this topic so that we can all be fairly heard. WE are the church together, and I believe our greatest strength is our diversity. All opinions matter on this topic and any other. Please know you are welcome in my office anytime, and I am always available by phone. I especially want to recognize the pain this decision has inflicted on our LGBTQ friends and wish to extend my apologies as well as my reassurance that all people have been and will continue to be loved at Eldon United Methodist Church.

I ask each of you to lift up the United Methodist denomination in your prayers over the next weeks and months, praying for unity and compassion for all of its members. This is an issue that will always create diverse responses, and in being open to one another and to opposing opinions we can love one another as Christ would have us do.

Grace and Peace,
Rev Joan



ASH WEDNESDAY
Worship

Ash Wednesday Service

The season of Lent is upon us and will begin with Ash

Wednesday on March 6th. Please join us for a worship service of prayer, music and the imposition of ashes in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. This is a lovely service and a perfect beginning for the season of Lent, one in which we prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Week and Easter.

Baby Grace Prep Sunday

Immediately following worship service on the second Sunday of each month volunteers are needed to prepare for Baby Grace. Some of the things that will be done are stuffing bags with diapers and laying out clothes. It should only take about 30 minutes to an hour depending on how many helpers there are. Anyone is welcome!



Thank you

We are truly blessed to have friends like you. Because of your food donations of almost 100 pounds we are able to provide additional food to families affected by poverty and other social situations.

Thank you also for the volunteers from your Church who help distribute food each month. Blessings!

Eldon Food Pantry

Lenten Study

If you are interested in learning more about the events of the last week of Jesus' ministry, Holy Week, please join us for a new Lenten Study based on the book *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginners Guide to Holy Week*. The class is being offered at the church at two times: 10:30 am on Thursdays beginning March 7th and 4:00 pm on Sundays beginning March 10th. Classes will end on the 11th and 14th respectively. Please prayerfully consider joining us for an informative and meaningful study.



5th Sunday Potluck

Don't forget to mark your calendar, if you haven't already, for this month's fifth Sunday potluck on March 31. Please plan on joining us for lots of good food and fellowship.

Lenten Luncheons Schedule

Once again the Eldon Ministerial Alliance (EMA) will host our annual "brown bag" Lenten Luncheons on the first four Thursdays in March from 12 – 1 pm. The luncheon will be hosted at different area churches belonging to the EMA. Each host church will provide drinks and desserts, and the attenders are invited to bring their own lunch to eat while listening to different local pastors share a devotion and reflection on Lent. All are invited and welcome to attend. The schedule is as follows:



March 21

Lunch Host – First Christian Church

Speaker – Rev. Pete Lange

March 28

Lunch Host – Eldon UMC

Speaker – Rev. Art Walker

April 4

Lunch Host – Ninth Street Christian Church

Speaker – Rev. Jerry Frye

April 11

Lunch Host – Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Speaker – Rev. David White



Your New Prayer Team

Individuals from our congregation have graciously agreed to serve on a new prayer team. The purpose of the team is to cover our

church, its ministries, and its members in prayer.

The prayer team will pray over the individuals on our prayer list and shut-in list. The team will also send cards to a couple of families each week letting them know they are being lifted in prayer during the week just because they are valued members of the congregation. The team will also pray over special services, ministries and missions, and larger church events such as Annual Conference. Prayer is basic to who we are as disciples of Christ, and I am excited and thankful for this new team. Members so far include Marcia Homan, Denise Taylor, A J Mistler, Sally Dorrell, Mark Richard, David Wood, and Willard Haley. We have one addition we hope to make and will share that information if we are able to do so. Thank you to each of you for agreeing to serve in this important ministry.

UMW

The UMW will be meeting on Wednesday, March 6th at 1pm. All women of the church are encouraged to attend.



Food Pantry

The first Sunday of the month is designated Food Pantry Sunday. Please bring your donations for the Food Pantry and put them in the bins located in the Narthex. If you wish to give a monetary donation please put it in the collection plate and have it marked for Food Pantry. Also our church's time to volunteer at the Food Pantry is Monday, March 11th at 9am.

CHILI & SOUP EXTRAVAGANZA

Our church's Soup and Chili Extravaganza is set for Friday, March 8, from 11-1:30 and 4:30-7:00. The dinner cost \$8 for 12 years and up, Kids 4-11 cost is \$3, with children under 4 free.


Thursday, March 7 we will be setting up for the dinner. We will start at 9:30 am and it should only take a couple hours at the most.

There are sign up sheets in the Narthex on the different ways that help is needed. If you volunteered to make soup and desserts they need to be brought to the church by 10:00am Friday. If you are planning on helping with the noon dinner, please be to the church by 10 am to help with the last minute details. If you plan on helping with the evening meal, please be there by 4:00. Soups and desserts for the evening meal may be brought between 3-4pm on Friday.

If you have any questions or still interested in volunteering please contact Mary Morgan at 392-7851.



March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8am Men's Fellowship Breakfast @ Church 9-11 Acolyte Training	2
9:00am Kid Bell Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 2pm Rock Island Asst. Living	4	5	1:00pm UMW 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	6 9:30am Soup Dinner Set up 10:30am Lent Study	8 Soup Dinner 11-1:30pm & 4:30-7pm	9
9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Baby Grace Prep 4:30pm Lent Study	10 9:00am Food Pantry Volunteer Day	11	12 6:30pm Baby Grace	13 10:30am Lent Study	14	15 8am-1pm DAR meeting 6pm Men's Fellowship @ Whittle's
16 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 4:30pm Lent Study	17 2:00pm Lee House	18	19 6:30pm Church Council meeting	20 10:30am Lent Study Noon - Lenten Brown Bag Lunch @ First Christian w/ Rev. Pete Lange	21	22
23 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 4:30pm Lent Study	24	25	26	27 10:30am Lent Study Noon - Lenten Brown Bag Lunch @ Eldon UMC w/ Rev. Art Walker	28	29
30 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:45am 5th Sunday Potluck 4:30pm Lent Study						31