

APRIL 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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APRIL 2019

This month, we celebrate Holy Week, the most important week of the entire Christian year. We put more time into preparation and activities at Christmastime, but the truth is, if we didn't have Easter to celebrate, then Christmas wouldn't be as special as it is. From the time Jesus was conceived, this trek to Jerusalem began. Jesus knew it from the start, and he tried to help his disciples and followers prepare themselves for what was to come, but few understood. Jesus sat with them numerous times to tell them what would happen in Jerusalem, but they were like us and had difficulty comprehending it beyond how it might impact them personally. They fought over who would be greatest, they fought over who would sit at Jesus' side in his glory. Even Peter, loyal as he was, chastised Jesus for speaking such things.

In contrast to his disciples, an unnamed woman came forward while Jesus was eating dinner at Simon the leper's home. She brought with her an alabaster jar filled with very expensive ointment of nard and poured it, all of it, over Jesus' head. What an extravagance this was. The contents of that jar cost the woman an amount equal to a year's wages, yet she poured out every drop. Perhaps she understood and trusted Jesus more fully than the others. Perhaps she, unlike the disciples, trusted what Jesus said and came forward to provide a service there would be no time for later; anointing Jesus for his burial. When the disciples criticized her, Jesus spoke boldly in her defense, telling everyone to leave her alone because she was doing the right thing.

This story always draws me into self-reflection – would I give my most precious possession to Jesus if he needed it? I would very much like to believe I would, but there is that little kernel of fear that maybe I would stop just short. Would I trust Jesus enough to listen to what he says and then act on it even when it required something of me that I didn't want to do? That's what we're all called to; setting aside our own selves to participate with Jesus in his mission to reconcile the world to God.

The season of Lent is that time of the year when we dig deeply into our hearts and minds so we might more fully align ourselves with Jesus; so we can prepare ourselves for baptism and Easter. This is a time when we are called to shed our tendency to focus on self and instead focus on Jesus and what he is trying to do in the world. Two thousand years ago, Jesus invited his disciples to take up their crosses and follow him, and he still offers us, his new disciples, that same invitation. He says, "Set aside your concerns about this world and help me do what really matters. Help me save the world from sin and death." How will you answer his invitation?

Holy Week is a beautiful time in the church year, and I hope to see you at these worship services. I pray each of you will be touched anew this Easter.

Grace and Peace,
Rev Joan





Eldon UMC will offer several opportunities for reflection and worship during Holy Week this year. On Palm Sunday, we will begin our worship with the procession of palms. We will join the children in this celebration and decorate our Holy Week cross with beautiful palm branches. On Maundy Thursday (April 18th at 7:00 pm), we will gather for contemplative worship and foot washing. (No, you won't be required to do this, but it will be available. It can be a very meaningful service.) On Good Friday, we will share a Tenebrae service, acknowledging Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Finally, we will gather to celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. Breakfast will be served at 9:00, and we will worship at 10:30. Holy Week will be a joyous time, so please mark your calendars for these special opportunities to celebrate.



Dear Church Members,

We would like to thank all of you for the support you have shown us over the years - for food and financial donations and volunteers to help us distribute the food.



We are writing all our support Churches to ask for your help. Our volunteers are as important to our ministry as the food we distribute. At this time we have a need for some additional volunteers who can fill in some areas where we have a shortage. For several years Hy-Vee at the Lake has been donating their day old bread and pastries to several of the food pantries in the Lake area. Our day to pick up the bread is Thursdays. With the few volunteers we currently have, they are having to pick up quite often. We have them sign up a month at a time but we have several months where no one is scheduled: May, July, August, October, and November.

We also need some men to volunteer to help hand out the groceries at the back door. Our two main volunteers who are there everyday we are open, need a break sometimes so we need some backup men to be on call or be on a rotation schedule.

If anyone is able and/or willing to help, please let us know. You can call 392-8380 and leave a message or come in on a day we are open and we can show you around the building and introduce you to the other volunteers.

Thank you so very much for your consideration to our needs.

Sincerely,
Eldon Food Pantry



Easter Lilies

We once again have Easter lilies available for purchase in memory or or honor of a loved one(s). The lilies will be on display Easter Sunday. They are \$12 each and a sign-up sheet with envelopes are located on the table in the Narthex. Please have your money in by Palm Sunday, April 14.

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 1:00pm UMW	4 10:30am Lent Study 12:00pm Lenten "Brown Bag" Lunch @ 9th St. Christian Church	5	6 8:00am Men's Fellowship Group @ church
	7 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Baby Grace Prep 4:00pm Lent Study	8 9:00am Food Pantry Volunteer Day	9	10 6:30pm Baby Grace	11 10:30am Lent Study 12:00pm Lenten "Brown Bag" Lunch @ Sacred Heart Church	12 8am-1pm DAR meeting
13 8:15am Bell Choir Prac. 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 2:00pm Rock Island Village 4:00pm Lent Study	14	15 2:00pm Lee House	16	17 6:30pm Church Council meeting	18 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	19 7:00pm Good Friday Service
20	21 8:15am Bell Choir Prac. 9:00am Breakfast 10:30am Worship <i>Easter</i>	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	29	30			