



South Elgin Community United Methodist Church

Newsletter

October-November 2016



*South Elgin Community United
Methodist Church (CUMC)*

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Worship: 9 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

Pastor:

Jan Comerford

Office hours:

Tuesday, Thursday 9:30 a.m.-noon

Cell: 815-236-3904

Secretary: Nancy Durso

W F, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Food Pantry:

1st and 3rd Wednesday

9:30 a.m.-noon



Trunk-or-Treat

Trunk-or-Treat this year will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30.

Children of all ages are invited!

A bin for candy donations will be in the Narthex, and a clipboard is going around church to sign up to volunteer. Questions? Get ahold of Debbie Cox or Cindy Bauer.



Turkey Dinner

The turkey dinner this year will be a fundraiser and have eat-in or take-out meals from 4-7 p.m. Wed. Oct. 26

The menu is turkey (of course!), dressing, mashed potatoes with gravy, green bean casserole, salad bar, rolls, dessert and beverages

Cost is \$8 adults, \$5 kids 10 and under.

From the Pastor,

If you have heard me talk recently about any of the outreach events we do, you will have heard me mention the power of building relationships. Jesus used relationships to introduce people to the Kingdom of God. The apostles used relationships to spread the good news across the Mediterranean. An apostle would enter a community and begin teaching and talking in the local synagogue, eventually that leads to deeper conversations about Jesus.

While we aren't foreigners to our community, or just traveling through, Christian faith is foreign to our contemporary culture. Give the (shall we say?) maturity of our congregation, we may not even be aware of how different we have become. Much of our culture thinks of Christians and church people specifically as being weird. People in our culture may say that they believe in God, but living the Christian life is still generally considered outside what is now normal...imagine?

So when we here at CUMC offer any event to build relationships it is for the purpose of letting people know we aren't weird. Well maybe a little weird, but not out of place weird. People who aren't a part of the church spend time with some of us and start to get to know us. They figure out we don't hit people in the head with a Bible, or are missing a sense of humor, or are going to condemn them for any number of things people think Christians are opposed to.

As people get to know us and know about us we become a bridge for the love of God and the Good News, because they discover our warmth, humor and humanity. The purpose of outreach events isn't just for fun, in fact it's much more important than that.

I heard a story on the evening news this week about the power of such relationships. A police officer drove a young man MANY miles to attend a family funeral. This was a surprise for a couple of reasons. The police officer was white and the young man was African American. When they arrived at the destination, the police officer asked the young man if he could pray for him, and when the young man said yes, the officer did just that. The young man later reported that he was deeply moved by the whole experience, including the prayer.

We may not extend an offer to pray every time we meet someone new...that might just confirm that Christians are a little weird. But we certainly can be available to be in relationship with people that might lead to who knows what?

Busy month this month! Hope to see you all in worship, at the Turkey Dinner and at Trunk or Treat!

--Pastor Jan

Get smarter and celebrate Christmas at the same time

Our series for Advent is called "The Redemption of Scrooge" and it comes with a study book. Because the weeks of December are so busy I want to offer this book study during November. After all Christmas décor arrives in stores at Halloween...

I am thinking 7-8pm on Wednesday's, beginning November 2, so it would be 11/2, 9,16 and 30.

Here is some more info...from the book cover.

Go from "Bah! Humbug!" to a blessed Advent and Merry Christmas.. "The Redemption of Scrooge", based on Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" will explore the world of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and the Cratchits, with an eye to Christian faith. Along the way we will meet the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come and learn about living with and for others in a world blessed by Jesus. If you are interested in joining the study, the book is available at Amazon in paperback.

--Pastor Jan

Turkey Dinner Plans

Coming up on Oct. 26, we will be hosting a Turkey Dinner for the community.

2016 has been a challenging year for us, with illnesses, injuries, deaths and relocations within our congregation that deeply affected giving. Additionally, we did not run a summer Adopt-a-Bill campaign that really helped us last summer.

In the past, we have made the turkey dinner a free-will donation offering, but this year we need to make this the biggest fundraiser we have ever had.

We will be charging \$8 for an adult meal and 5 for children., and moving it from Fellowship Hall to the gym in hopes of handling a larger crowd, and we are asking that every one of you involve yourself in some way.

We will have plenty of ways to volunteer that day, and in addition, we would like to have all the food donated, so we are asking for families to donate green beans, mashed potatoes, stuffing and turkeys and so on.

You could pool together to buy a turkey or fixings, or if you don't have the time to shop, we will do it for you if you make a contribution.

In addition, we need you to attend and brings others! We need each and every one of you to make this work.

Let's make this the Happiest Thanksgiving ever for our church and for all of us.

--Ken Bruhn

Up and about

Betsy Sohn would like to thank everyone for all the cards and prayers that were sent her way after she broke her hip in Florida. She's been in church lately and been getting out and about with the aid of her walker, so go Betsy!.



Inspiring view for Worship Team work.

Worship Retreat

Recently, your Worship Team spent 36+ hours on a retreat to the Bruhn's "cabin by the lake". What a wonderful place to relax and contemplate the glorious things that God has done for us and given to us as we begin to plan worship series for the upcoming church year. The peacefulness and beauty of the lake was very conducive to great production!!! We came home with series planned for Advent/Christmas, Epiphany season, and Lent/Holy Week. These three church seasons go from November 27, 2016, through April 15, 2017.

Beginning October 9, we are excited to bring you "Moving Out of Scare City" where we will move from the scary sense that we do not have enough to the vast, open habitats of God's abounding grace. In November, we will dwell on "The Attitude of Gratitude" ...gratitude for our past, our present, and our future.

Our Advent/Christmas series, which will begin on November 27, will be "God Bless Us Every One! The Redemption of Scrooge". We will take a look at how living in God's economy of grace and justice is the antithesis of the life-threatening addiction to money, success, exclusion and looking out for ourselves. The chimes of the clock-tower bells in Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol" provide a wake-up call for Ebenezer Scrooge and turn him from his resentment, fear and isolation. Just as God's presence was born anew into this world, we too can be born anew, woken up and redeemed into renewed life, joy, passion, generosity, humility and love.

--Your CUMC Worship Team: Sue Thelen (chair), Pastor Jan Comerford, Pam Bruhn, Kathy Sohn, and Hollister Comerford

CROP Hunger Walk

The 2016 CROP Hunger Walk will take place Sunday, Oct 16, starting from the Elgin Civic Center Plaza and Hemmens Court.

Our Confirmation Class will be walking this year, so they are hoping for support from us for their walk.

Why? The CROP Hunger Walk, supports hunger relief through local food pantries and soup kettles, including our own here at our church, as well as the needs of refugees and assisting in disasters and famines.

So please be generous when asked to give toward the walk. More information is available at crophungerwalk.org.

Confirmation News

Regular meetings: 5:00-6:30 pm, Monday evenings.

October 3, 17, 24, November 7, 14

Special events

Monday October 10, “Feed My Starving Children,” Schaumburg, IL

Meet at church at 8:30 am, travel to Feed My Starving Children, volunteer from 9:30-11:30 am, stop for lunch at Portillos in Schaumburg, return to CUMC by 1:30pm
More details will be available from Pastor Jan on Monday, October 3.

Sunday, October 16, “Crop Walk,” downtown Elgin.

Meet at church at 12 pm....**HAVING EATEN LUNCH!** Travel downtown Elgin for the 1pm start, walk 2 miles, stop for ice cream, return to church by 4 pm.

*More details for this event will be discussed at our first meeting on Monday, October 3. Everybody will get to take home a small bank and encourage your friends and family to make contributions. <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/elginil/Donate> is the direct link to donate to our team. This info will be given to the congregation....**BUT** you can also share it with your family and friends.*

Wednesday, October 26 Turkey Dinner at CUMC

*Members of the Confirmation class will be helping to set-up, serve and clean-up for this **IMPORTANT** Fund raiser! More details on the work schedule will be available on.....you guessed it....Monday, October 3. **BE PREPARED!** Because it is a fund-raiser there will not be a free meal for volunteers...however confirmation volunteers can eat for \$5, after their shift that night.*

Sunday, October 30 Trunk or Treat at CUMC

Event time, 2-4:00 pm, Volunteer time, 1:30-4:30.

*One of the best times of the year!!! Members of the confirmation class will be running games during this event. You will be part of setting up your game at 1:30, and cleaning up your area by 4:30. Wear a costume that will let you run games and will keep you warm or cool, depending on the weather. Unless there are storm warnings or it is **POURING** rain this event goes on....so be prepared! Please consider to not be toooooo scarey, for the sake of little kids.*

Mobile Food Pantry

The Food Pantry contracted to have the Mobile Food Pantry (commonly called the “food truck”) come out August 24 to distribute free food to families in our community. We served 50 families, and used the leftovers as stock for the Food Pantry.

To have the truck come out filled with food, the Food Pantry pays a fee of \$1,000.

Thanks to all the volunteers who came and helped. It was a fun and rewarding day, and was a great, visible reminder to people in the community of the work we do.

News to know

The Leadership Team met on Sept 13. Topics that were discussed included encouraging the congregation to begin electronic giving. Two instructional sessions will be held about this after church on Oct. 2 and Oct. 9. The first session will help you to set it up by yourself, the second session someone can set it up for you, even if you don't have a computer.

New sign-holder posts were put up on the easement by the parking lot by Ken Bruhn for banner to publicize our events and worship times, etc.

It was suggested to look into having ads for tent rentals in local school's spring sport event programs.

A volunteer team has been set up to answer the phones weekday mornings when the secretary is not available. Thank you Maggie Braddock, Mary King, Mary Lou Wicklund for agreeing to do this.

The trustees were asked to look into building a pavilion on church property to be used for the many events and activities here at the church.

Connie reported on the curriculum that will be used for Sunday School.

Leadership will have a short meeting on Oct. 11 at 7 p.m., and a full meeting on Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

In addition, it was suggested to publish the members of Leadership and its committees, so here goes:

Chair: Ken Bruhn

Pastor: Jan Comerford

Secretary: Angela Balk

Worship: Sue Thelen, Pam Bruhn, Pastor Jan, Kathy Sohn

Staff Parish: Mary King, Lori Lancaster, Linda Nordvedt, Sue Thelen, Gloria Mason, Gene Mitoro and Phyllis Wittlief

Welcome: Penny Bauer, Sara Johnson

Special Events and Facility Rentals: Maggie Braddock

Communications and publicity: Shirley Remes

Trustees: Wade Koch, Rose Eliasek, Jeff Mason, Bill King, Bert Lancaster, Terri Kelly

Sunday School Staff: Kim Devlieger, Maggie Braddock, Sarah Graff, Tristen Flory, Pastor Jan Comerford, Bret Pritchett (Adult)

Finance: Bob Schweitzer, Terri Kelly

Financial Vision: Ken Bruhn, Bob Schweitzer, Maggie Braddock, Shirley Remes

Food Pantry: Emily Tobler, Jeanne Whipple, Mary Cantu, Mabel Rehberg, Shirley Remes, Opal Bartosiewicz, Lori Lancaster, Kathy Sohn

Tents: Dave Sorenson, Connie & Jeff Schweitzer, Bert Lancaster

Swap Meet

Several of our own people rented booths for the recent Swap Meet.

The event netted \$700 as a fundraiser for the church through sales of the booths, bake sale and hot dog lunch.

Thanks to all who participated and volunteered.

Manna Scrip Fundraising Program Comes to Community

What is it, you say?

A way to raise funds for our ministries without adding any additional cost to participants using scrips. SCRIP is a Latin word that means, “Anything used instead of money”.

How can that be, you say?

Participants purchase gift cards (scrip) at face value for their everyday purchases, gift-giving and shopping, turning everything from groceries, gas, travel, restaurants and online shopping into profit! Scrip fundraising operates by offering gift cards and gift certificates at a discount. Participants are able to redeem the gift cards and certificates at full face value in stores, at restaurants or online. The difference between the face value and the discount of the gift card is retained by the church as profit.

What type of gift cards/gift certificates are available, you say?

The 300+ gift cards and certificates that are offered through The Manna Group are the same gift cards found and purchased from local and national retailers. We offer local and national groceries, gas stations, retail, restaurants, travel, online retailers, hospitality, and more!

Do gift cards expire, you say?

No, however, on occasion there may be a non-usage fee applied. This is typically due to a specific amount of time being surpassed without usage. Please see the Vendor Guidelines portion of our website for further details. The Manna Group does offer a Visa Prepaid Rewards card that is only valid for 6 months from the date of purchase.

Who is The MANNA GROUP SCRIP COMPANY, you say?

Established in 1989, The MANNA GROUP SCRIP COMPANY provides scrip fundraising to the nonprofit community. We have grown to be the second largest and longest running scrip provider in the United States. As the original and #1 Scrip Company serving the Chicagoland area we have become known for our high standard of service. The Manna Group Scrip Company is partnered with over 300 national and local gift card/gift certificate programs while offering a fundraising program that allows the nonprofit community to fundraise while they shop.

When can I find out more?

On October 2nd after church in the sanctuary we will begin with a training on electronic giving which will also be the way participants can pay for their manna orders through the church. On October 9th after church in the fellowship room meet with Connie Schweitzer to sign up as a participant and receive the first order form and further details.

When can I start buying gift cards?

Initial orders will be accepted on October 23rd and the first distribution date will be October 30th. Orders beginning in November will be accepted on the 1st and 3rd Sundays with the distributions on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Please see Connie Schweitzer on the October 9th or email her at cepschw@att.net with any questions.

Keep praying for:

Mary Lou Wicklund and family at the passing of Phil.

Fern, Cindy, and Penny Bauer, as Fern returns home. Their goal is to ALL be at Trunk or Treat

Emily Tobler continued prayer for healing.

Paul Wehrly, Sue Thelen's brother, has found a job.

Nolan Williamson, a local high school athlete, recovering from a broken neck and back.

Laura Keating and her family for continued prayers for strength and healing.

Buck Hodge, receiving long term treatment for Lymphoma

JoAnne Hufford, for continued strength for her family as they care for her

Yvonne Frey, heart related and gastrointestinal issues.

Prayers for all those struggling with chronic pain...and their families.

Mary Alice Behling, John Ragan, Andy Monak, Martha Minehart, Duane Chipman, Tootie Vandervate, Pat Fohrman, Ruth Koehler, Mary Roberts, Pat Gardner, Eloyse Anderson, Janet Werner, Laura Keating, Ed and Phyllis Wittlief, Linda Nordvedt, Karel Schaffter, Joanne Simmons, Bob Krogh, Lola Leman, Amy Murray, Mary Wise, Fern Bauer, Betsy Sohn, Phyllis Bueche, Elaine Pence, Bob & Mariam Krogh

Ladies Lunch



Lori Lancaster, Rose Eliasek, Pam Bruhn and Debbie Rees help prepare lunch.

About 17 ladies got together for a lunch in Fellowship Hall on Sept. 22.

Lori Lancaster led us in grace. Then after a nice lunch of soup and salad plus desserts, Sue Thelen gave a short devotional on the history of the hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth" and ladies shared their favorite hymns.

Librarians from the new South Elgin branch of the Gail Borden Public Library talked about how the library branch came about and told about the many programs the branch has to offer.

Everything was wrapped up by 1 p.m. and plans were made for another Ladies Lunch in February.

Community News

Fall Fun Fest

The Elgin Odd Fellows and The South Elgin Lions Club are joining forces for a Fall Fest fundraiser to benefit The Wounded Warrior Project and their other charities from noon to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1 and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct 2. at the Lions facility, 500 Fulton St.

There will be live music, food, beer and fun.

For information, go to www.southelginlions.com

New Thrift Store

The YWCA Elgin has a new thrift shop called “Thrifty Threads” that will be open the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month from 11 a.m.- 6 p.m. Proceeds from sales at the thrift store will fund WYCA Elgin programs, whose motto is “Eliminating Racism and Empowering Women.”

“The prices are really reasonable and the clothes in good shape,” said Sherry Kinser, volunteer coordinator at Elgin YWCA.

For more information and information and making donations of gently used/clean items, call 847-742-7930.

Calendar

Every month events:

Food Pantry, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 9:30 to noon, (Volunteers also work 1st and 3rd Mondays, come on down!) Fellowship Hall.

Women’s Fellowship: Second Fridays, 6-11 p.m. or drop-in anytime, Conference Room.

October

5,19 Food Pantry
14 Women’s Fellowship, 6 p.m.
26 Turkey Dinner, 4-7 p.m.
30 Trunk-or-Treat. 2-4 p.m.

6 All Saints Sunday
7 Leadership Team, 7 p.m.
11 Women’s Fellowship, 6 p.m.
24 Thanksgiving
27 First Sunday of Advent

November

2,16 Food Pantry

December

5 Charge Conference

The CUMC newsletter is delivered The first weeks of August, October, December, February, April and June. Items are due by the last week of the previous month to the editor, Shirley Remes, sremes@comcast.net, 847-697-4796