



South Elgin Community United Methodist Church

# Newsletter

August-September 2017



## South Elgin Community United Methodist Church (CUMC)

400 W. Spring St.  
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Facebook:

Southelginunitedmethodistchurch

Worship: 9 a.m.

Pastor:

Jan Comerford

Cell:

815-236-3904

Secretary: Nancy Durso

M W F 9 a.m. – noon

Food Pantry:

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

9:30 a.m.-noon



To celebrate, we have planned 2 events:



## Open House

Sunday, August 27, 1-4 p.m.

Free ice cream, Local dignitaries, Tours of the church, Bell ringing

Invite your friends and neighbors

A fun time is planned.

## Homecoming

Sunday, Sept. 17, 9-11 a.m.

Former pastors and members, Continental breakfast

Reminiscing! Stories!

*(See page 4 for more information)*

# From the Pastor

Do any of you remember how you felt on any of your milestone birthdays? I remember 18, because I could vote....and go drink legally in Iowa if I wanted to. Of course I remember 21...for similar reasons. I remember 35 because I was just finishing seminary, and 40 because Grace was two weeks old. Birthdays 50 and 60 were celebrated and memorable for other reasons....and who knows what 65 will bring?

Over the years I've talked to a lot of people about that 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mostly the conversations focus on the impact of retirement, which happens at all sorts of ages these days. A couple of pastors I've known knew that they and their spouse could benefit from a little counseling as they began a new phase of their lives. A common remark I hear is "I married you for better or worse but not for lunch." Maybe you've said that to your spouse as your home/work life balance has changed. My point is that landmark birthdays sometimes are important opportunities for taking stock of our lives, to measure the way we are living in comparison to the ways we want to be living.

Our church is celebrating a 125<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, in case you haven't heard. What better time to take stock of where we are and how we are positioned for the future. Financially we have almost never been in a better place, with physical plant in great repair and money in the bank. So the question, is no longer will we be able to hold onto our church building, a refrain that has been used for decades around here....but rather, who are we to be serving with this wonderful building??

Now our building and our church do a LOT for the community in service. Of course the South Elgin Food Pantry is a major agent of service, and while the community hasn't exactly been jumping at the opportunity, so is the Summer Food Program. We house Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts and AA. We support people's fitness and health goals by sharing our space with both Jazzercise and Dragon Kido. We have supported young people as they develop skills in baseball, soccer and basketball. We do a lot!

What have we been doing to build disciples of Jesus Christ? What have we been doing to build the Body of Christ in the world? Maybe those are questions that we should take a look at as we turn this corner. The world of our next 125 years will certainly look nothing like the world of our last 125 years...well duh Pastor Jan! But God is eternal...always at work no matter what the social structures or priorities of society might be. How will we be God's agents?

I am inviting the church council to begin leading us in that conversation. How will we be God's agents for the sake of the Body of Christ?

In the meantime.....let's enjoy the party....and the CAKE!

Pastor Jan



## Vacation Bible School 2017 Jesus and His Friends

Another successful VBS was held at CUMC the week of June 19. This year we created our own program, based on the model of the Summer Reading Vacation we had used the previous three years. Our Read-Aloud time was based on stories from the Bible about Jesus, his disciples, the children, the feeding of the 5,000, Zacchaeus, and the death and resurrection of Christ (A Sad Day, A Happy Day). Ask any of the kids who attended to tell you these stories! They are great storytellers! We also learned a song to accompany each story.

I would like to thank **Pastor Jan** for leading games that all the kids (from 6-18) loved and **Angela Balk** who led amazing child-centered crafts which were also enjoyed by everyone involved. Also, many thanks go out to **Connie Schweitzer, Mary Lou Wicklund, Rose Eliasek, Ken Bruhn, Justin Flory, Seth Pritchett, Jaleisa Blalark, and Sadie Garnett** for being "buddy readers". Sitting and reading to and with kids is a wonderful experience for everyone involved!!

--Sue Thelen



## **125 Celebration**

The bell will be ringing as we celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary events this year!

The original bell which was brought upriver to South Elgin and hauled up to the original clapboard church at 200 W. Spring St., is still the bell we ring to call people to worship every Sunday at 9 a.m.

When the first church burned down in 1949, only the bell and the belfry remained after the fire.

When the new church was built two years later, the old bell was newly installed in the bell tower at 400 W. Spring St., where we are today.

So it is only fitting that we ring out the bell as we celebrate 125 years in South Elgin at our two events:

### **Open House – Sunday, August 27, 1-4 p.m.**

The Open House is a way that we can invite people from the community to celebrate our century-plus here in this town.

We have invited many local officials. At this time, Village President Steve Ward has indicated he will attend, make a few remarks, and read the Proclamation for our 125 years (see page 5). Also from the village will be other officials, including Village Clerk Margo Gray, and Village Trustees Jennifer Barconi and Greg Lieser.

Mike Kenyon, County Board Member, and officials from Elgin Township have also been invited, as well as officials from the library, park board, etc. It should be a good turn-out, so please be sure to invite your family and friends.

The event will be kicked off at 1 p.m. by Pastor Jan. After remarks, ice cream will be served to everyone, and we will begin tours of the church.

For the event, we are going to be asking members to serve as volunteers to serve ice cream and lead tours through the building. You will hear more about this later, but if you would like to volunteer, please let Penny Bauer know.

Everyone who attends the events will receive a free gift tote bag inscribed with our celebration logo.

### **Homecoming – Sunday, September 17, 10-11 a.m.**

The Homecoming celebration is for the celebration of our current and former members and pastors.

All of the former living pastors have been invited. So far, Clyde Galow, John Smith and Rick Carlson have indicated they will be able to attend.

An invitation has also gone out to all former members who we have been able to locate.

We will have a special worship service at 9 a.m. that morning with the former pastors in attendance. They have been invited to share their memories of their service here.

After the service, there will be a Continental Breakfast in Fellowship Hall so that everyone will have a chance to visit.

Immediately following, the pastors and their wives will be served a private brunch at the parsonage so they can return home with full bellies!

The 125 Committee has been working very hard and is very excited about the upcoming celebrations. If you would like to help in any way, do not hesitate to let us know!

Penny Bauer, Shirley Remes, Maggie Braddock, Sara Johnson, Lori Lancaster

## **In Honor Of....**

This proclamation will be read at the Village Hall Meeting, Monday, Aug. 21 at 7 p.m. We are at the top of the agenda. Please come and hear the proclamation read at the meeting. We would like to have a nice group in attendance to show our appreciation, so please let Shirley Remes know if you would like to come along so that we know how many we have. We are told we may leave right after the reading.

Then Mr. Ward will again read the Proclamation at our Open House.

# **P R O C L A M A T I O N**

## **Recognizing the South Elgin Community United Methodist Church on its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**WHEREAS**, in the 1890s, people met in a room above a storefront to hold services for what would become the South Elgin Community United Methodist Church; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 12, 1892, the cornerstone for the first church was laid in the 200 block of Spring Street; and

**WHEREAS**, the bell in the belfry of the original church was used not only to call people to worship; but also to call local firemen in emergencies; and

**WHEREAS**, while the original church burned to the ground in 1949, the bell survived, and the very next day a rebuilding campaign was launched; and

**WHEREAS**, on Easter Sunday, 1950, the first spade of earth was turned for the present church at 400 W. Spring Street. On May 6, 1951, the first service was held at the new location.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven Ward, President of the Board of Trustees of the Village of South Elgin, Kane County, Illinois do hereby program August 27, 2017 as SOUTH ELGIN COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH DAY in the Village on the occasion of its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - and to recognize the congregation's integral and historical role in shaping the South Elgin community.**

Dated this 21st day of August, 2017.



**CUMC Bell**

## More 125...

In working on collecting the history of the church for the 125 Celebrations, I have a couple of questions for those of you out there.

There are many references and photos of the original cornerstone, but does anyone know where it is, or what happened to it? Wade does not.

Also, the history seems to end at 1962 or thereabouts. Does anyone have a scrapbook, or any information and photos, on the latter years? Does anyone have a program from the Centennial in 1992?

We would like to have two dramatic flower arrangements for the altar, one for each event. We estimate these would cost about \$50 each. Would anyone like to donate for one or both, and if you want, dedicate either just to the event or to a loved one?

Also, we are concerned that all of our real old history is contained in one notebook. Would anybody be interested in scanning and digitizing this so we don't have to worry as much about losing the hard copy? Let me know.

Shirley Remes

## Shop 'n Share

It's our new name for the fundraising program that doesn't cost any additional money.

This is the replacement program to the Manna Gift Card/Scrip program. Traditional Gift cards can still be purchased for the face value or spendable value and the church will earn \$ from every order. But this program offers so much more!

Here are some of the additional options:

### **Direct online ordering -**

Each person can sign up online to order and pay without waiting for the two order Sunday's each month (2nd and 4th). Payment is completed through the Scrip company using ACH payments (direct personal bank payment processing).

### **E-gift cards -**

This is an electronic gift card (no plastic card) that comes in an email and can be printed or displayed electronically to show merchant (retailer, restaurant, hotel, gas station, entertainment venue, etc.) for making payment.

### **Mobile device Wallet –**

This option for ordering delivers “scrip now “ items to a personal online wallet for point of sale transactions (which means no physical card or printout needed to pay for items using this type of payment).

### **Reload –**

Physical cards can now have additional \$ added to them so there is no waiting for a new card to come. Reload orders that are paid for by customers are directly added to the existing physical card balance.

Our Shop 'n Share program provider is the Great Lakes Scrip Company which has easy-to-use online learning videos that can be viewed anytime. The online address is <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com>. One especially helpful video for church programs can be viewed on youtube.com by searching “scrip fundraising for church”.

Please see Connie Schweitzer with any questions or comments.



Because You Give . . .



### Everyone Is Able To Enter

There are more than one billion people living with disabilities in the world, 56 million here in the United States. In order that these people have the same freedom to worship as we, the abled, are blessed to do, we must provide to make every UMC church, college and facility open, accessible and welcome to all.

**Our apportionments at work!**

*Please make checks payable to CUMC.*



Because You Give . . .



### People Find Hope

Economic hardship, domestic abuse, abandonment and the disintegration of the family are ongoing tragedies in our society, and thousands of men, women and children find themselves with limited options to escape intolerable situations. Because you give, crisis shelters and transitional living options are available to tens of thousands of people each day. Through your generosity, people have a safe place to go!

**Our apportionments at work!**

*Please make checks payable to CUMC.*

## United!

Above are the next two subjects of our United! campaign:

- August: Accessibility
- September: Crisis Centers. We could use someone to present this 9/3. If this is a mission that speaks to your heart, let Penny or Shirley know.

Offerings will be taken at the same time as offerings on Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of the month.

Thanks to all of you who have been giving so faithfully.



## "ALMOST" Raising The Roof!

Tap, tap, tap!!! Hear that? Well, it's the noise my imagination hears thinking about what it will sound like as we get nearer and nearer to putting the roof on our pavilion pad. As of this writing, we have been blessed with donations in the amount of \$10,070.00. Less than 39 shingles to go!

--Penny Bauer

## **Pancake Breakfast**

It has been reported that we served 131 people at the Pancake Breakfast on July 4 and that we netted \$648.00 which will provide a generous amount of scholarships for kids' camp this year and in the future.

Here's a note from Kaitlyn Werner on camp this year:

*"Camp Reynoldswood was an amazing time. I met so many great people it was unbelievable and I miss it every day since I've gotten back. I did so many things that I've never done before since this was my first year, like horseback riding, archery and finally played ga-ga ball.*

*I learned so much and we got to really focus in on Jesus and how he had emotions just like us.*

*I'm so ready for camp next year, to hopefully make even more great memories."*

## **Food Pantry News**

The Food Pantry will be introducing new late afternoon/evening hours beginning the Oct 1, the first Wednesday of the month, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The morning time will remain, so we will hold two sessions a day on the first Wednesday of the month to begin, and just the morning session on the third Wednesday.

Would you like to participate and help out at the evening distribution? Let Lori Lancaster, Shirley Remes, or any of the other volunteers know.

Additionally, volunteers from the Food Pantry will be participating in National Night Out on Aug. 1.

## **Continued Prayers:**

Prayers for the family of Neil Johnson, Sara and their sons on his passing.

Prayers of healing for Abby, a 5 year old student of Garrick Balk's, as she is treated for a health crisis that is causing critical and life threatening issues.

Prayers of healing for a friend of Pastor Jan's, Monika Gorczyca-Byczek, continuing her treatment for a brain tumor as an outpatient, and deals with the side effects.

Prayers for Connie Schweitzer's best friend, Dee, as she pursues treatment for breast cancer.

Continued prayers of healing for Steve Kelly's mother, Fran, with congestive heart failure.

Prayers for Bob Rees, recovering from neck surgery.

Prayers for Kim DeVlieger as she continues to work at quitting smoking.

Prayers for Kim's fiancée, Richard, as he continues treatment for cancer.

Prayers of healing for Paul, a friend of Armi Esposito, as he enters hospice care for pancreatic cancer.

Continued prayers of healing for Jo Anne Hufford, and strength for her family.

Prayers for Buck Hodge, as he is being treated for Parkinson's.

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

*Jane & Brian Mooberry, Mary Alice Behling, Andy Monak, 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, Lola Leman, Amy Murray, Mary Wise, Fern Bauer, Phyllis Bueche, Mariam Krogh, Paul Kobb, Jane Sanborn*

## Summer Food Program Update

As of the writing of this newsletter, we have 2 weeks left to serve children food as part of our program with the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

It has been an up-and-down summer. Some days we would serve just a few stragglers, and other days, we would have nearly 20 children to feed. There never seemed to be a rhyme or reason, sometimes rainy days were our busiest.

It was rewarding to be able to include so many volunteers from our community. From the church, thank you to these who gave of their time: **Maggie Braddock, Steve Kelly, Angela Balk, Rose Eliasek, Deborah and Bob Tucker, Dave Sorenson, Mary King, Pam Bruhn, Sara Johnson, Lou and Glenn Ritchey, Mary Lou Wicklund, June and Marv Diede, Sandy Burke, Nancy Moellendorf, and Tony Bartosiewicz.** If I missed anyone, please forgive me.

## WOW!! – CHECK THIS OUT!

The latest collection of pop tabs totaled 83,622 tabs (which equates to 66 pounds).

### 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**: Third Fridays, 5-10 p.m.

#### August

2, 16 Food Pantry

8 Leadership, 7 p.m.

11 Last Day Summer Food Program

18 Women's Fellowship, 5-10 p.m.

21 Village Hall Proclamation, 7 p.m.

27 Open House, 1-4 p.m.

#### September

6,20 Food Pantry

15 Women's Fellowship, 5-10 p.m.

17 Homecoming 9-11 a.m.

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](mailto:sremes@comcast.net), 847-697-4796