

EPWORTH UMC

November 29, 2009
Weekly Edition

Celebrations

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1st Sunday of Advent

UM Student Day

History

In 1866, a special fund was established for the advanced education of Sunday School children and the educational preparation of persons for the ministry and missionary service. The 1940 General Conference established Methodist Student Day with a church wide offering. The 1968 Uniting Conference continued this connectional student-aid program to be funded by the United Methodist Student Day offering. Dates for taking the offering have changed through the years.

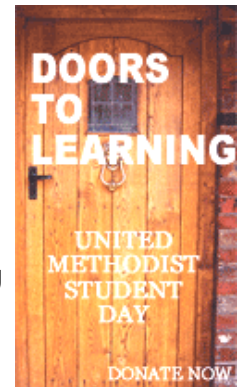
Recipients

Thanks to United Methodist Student Day, people in our annual conference—perhaps even members of your family—have a chance to attain higher education. Students attending United Methodist and other accredited colleges and universities receive scholarships and loans. Participating annual conferences receive 50 percent of the offering for merit-scholarship awards to students of their choosing.

Receipts

In 2008, the United Methodist Student Day offering totaled \$554,252, an average of only 7 cents per U.S. member. If every member gave \$1, that would total more than \$7.8 million!

Invest in the future of our church through the United Methodist Sunday offering. We can help students unite faith with knowledge.



Sunday School Christmas Program



Come and join your family and friends for this year's Sunday School Program next Sunday, December 6th. The evening will begin at 5:30pm with a potluck meal for all to share in the celebration of the season. Bring a dish to pass and join in the fellowship. Following the meal, Epworth Sunday School will present their program: *The Midnight Miracles*. Questions, contact the Church Office at 847-931-5400.

Fresh Cut Christmas Trees Available At Epworth



Dave and Jackie Nusbaumer from "Our Holiday Farm" will be offering fresh cut Christmas trees in our South East parking lot every weekend until December 13th. This is a great opportunity to support our church while buying a beautiful tree.

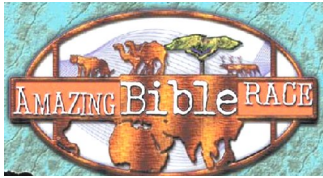
"Our Holiday Farm" is located in Ottawa, Illinois and was purchased by Dave and Jackie Nusbaumer in May of 2004. The farm was formerly known as "Our Christmas Tree Farm". They are committed to bringing you great products and family activities at a fair price. For more information about Our Holiday Farm, please visit their website: <http://www.ourholidayfarm.com/>.

Our vision is to be a church where people's lives reflect God's passionate love in all ways ... always!

Our mission is to cultivate passionate relationships with God, each other, and our neighbors to nourish, grow and replant the seeds of God's love.

Epworth Mosaic Youth Group

Mosaic youth group is open to Youth in 7th Grade and older plus their friends. Invite your friends to any of the events and earn a prize.



Today, Sunday, November 29th: - No planned event.

December 6th - Lunch and decorating the Youth Room for the holidays. Everyone needs to bring something to share for lunch. Let's see what kind of a meal we come up with. Whatever you bring is what we eat.

December 11th - Lock-In. This event starts at 7pm. Everyone needs to bring a wrapped present appropriate for anyone in the group. We will play a game to determine what gift you get. Everyone also needs to bring \$5.00 for pizza. Guys bring pop. Gals bring snacks. Breakfast is at 7:30am and we are out by 8am.

December 13th - Ice Skating or Sledding depending on the weather at 2pm

December 20th - Christmas Caroling at 1pm

December 27th - Enjoy the weekend with your family...



Rainbow Covenant - Last Chance

November's ministry for our Rainbow Covenant is El Mesias UMC in Elgin. The Hispanic ministry of El Mesias began as a mission in the late 70s by a group of Mexican immigrants mainly from northern Mexico, in the State of Coahuila, and a few from D.F. Jaime Garcia, was one of the founders of this mission. El Mesias UMC began meeting using Epworth UMC's church facility. In the 80's, El Mesias was able to purchase a church building located on Chapel Street on the East side of Elgin. Pastor Betancourt and Dennis Morales were a few of the Pastors that initiated this journey. As the years passed, the congregation grew and grew.

Rev. Awilda Nolla arrived at El Mesias UMC in the early 90's and was El Mesias' Pastor for approximately 9 years. During her journey at El Mesias, the church's membership grew in number and diversity. The congregation began to outgrow its installation, which led them to purchase a vacant dealership on Chicago Street in Elgin. The Men and Women united, and together helped renovate it to accommodate the church's needs. As the years passed, the congregation kept growing and growing and growing.

For additional information, please visit our Mission Board located in the Community Room and see their story through pictures.

Doctrines And Theology Of Methodism Discussion

The Young Adults have been meeting regularly for Sunday School at 9:45 am every week (or after the coffee and snacks have been gathered/consumed). We have just completed the history of early Methodism and we know who REALLY started Methodism (it was Charles - John just took over after a while). If there is anyone else interested in joining us, we will now discuss the doctrines and theology of Methodism, followed in the coming weeks with Methodist polity. Come and join us in the Upper Youth Room, U5.



Monthly Breakfast

Each month a group of men gather on a Sunday morning for a delicious breakfast followed by a variety of wonderful speakers. This group also gathers for numerous other activities like Movie Night or cooking for UMW events.

Come and join us next Sunday, December 6th at 7:00 a.m. All Men are welcome.

If you would like more information about this great organization, contact the Church Office at 847-931-5400.

KWWWJ (Kids Who Walk With Jesus)

Special Thanks to the volunteers in KWWWJ Nursery last Sunday, November 22nd. 😊
 Today, November 29th, we will celebrate four November birthdays!!! We will learn about God and how he loves us so.
 Then in 2 weeks:

OK..... everyone..... get your party hats on!!!!

Starting 12/6/09 - 12/20/09 for 3 Sundays..... the kids and adults in our KWWWJ Nursery will be celebrating the BIGGEST birthday of all..... the birth of JESUS!!!

PLEASE STOP IN AND SEE OUR BIRTHDAY DECORATIONS AND SAY HI!!!!

Each Sunday, we will sing Happy Birthday to Jesus, the Son of God, and how happy we are that God sent Jesus with wonderful stories for all of us.

w/God 1st and Giggles 2nd, Childcare Coordinator
 MERRY CHRISTMAS means HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!!!

Wednesday Evening Dinner / C.H.O.W. (Celebrate Hump Day Our Way)

Come and enjoy one of our favorites this Wednesday, December 2nd; French Toast Breakfast. This free-will offering dinner is served each Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:45pm.



You can eat whenever it's convenient for you. Come and enjoy this special fellowship opportunity! Questions, contact the Church Office at 847-931-5400.

Tracking God ... Weekly Bible Study



Bring your walking shoes and join with others at The Centre's track down town Elgin on Tuesdays at 6am as we explore the coming week's scriptures or bring a Bible and join the group Wednesday, 6:00 a.m. at Panera Bread in South Elgin, on Randall Road, as we continue the discussion about Genesis.

Give Someone a Merry Christmas This Year!

Elgin Christian Development Corporation (ECDC) each year hosts a Christmas Store offering new items at a reduced price for our community. ECDC is a Christian community development organization committed to empowering people and empowering west Elgin. Many west Elgin families in under-resourced neighborhoods are unable to purchase new Christmas gifts for their children. It's important to preserve each family's dignity by creating a program that would give parents the opportunity to select gifts, at significant savings, that are appropriate and enjoyable for their children. This unique day, honors the parents while offering a low cost, supportive alternative to retail shopping. The Proceeds of the Christmas Store are designated to the Elgin Christian Development Corporation for programming and community resource needs.



Please check the board in the Community Room, take a pamphlet to see what items you can purchase to help this worthy cause. Bring your items to Church and place them in the box located in the Community room. ECDC will be picking them up on December 10th. For additional information check their website at www.elgincdc.org.

Benefit for the Ecker Center in Elgin

Today, Sunday, November 29th, T & L Salon located at 947 N. McLean (located in the Walgreen's shopping strip) in Elgin will be holding a fundraiser from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. 50% of all proceeds (haircuts, coloring, waxing, manicures, and pedicures) will go to the Ecker Center of Mental Health. Ecker Center for Mental Health is a non-profit organization serving adults (and their families) with mental illness in Kane County, Illinois, from Geneva north plus Barrington and Hanover Townships with: Emergency mental health assessment and assistance 24/7, Psycho-Therapy, Advocacy, referral and linkage to needed services, Psycho-social rehabilitation and Psychiatric residential facilities.

One Methodist Per Mile, Asbury, And Hoosiers?



I was born and raised less than two miles from Epworth. I consider myself an Illinoisan to the core. However, in one way, we are all Hoosiers. For this we need to look at the Ministry of Francis Asbury, and his unlikely fellow Circuit Rider Rev. Harry Hoosier.

In 1771, John Wesley made an appeal for Missionary Circuit Riders to be sent to the American Colonies. Francis Asbury heard the appeal, and accepted the call... passionately.

History tells us that when Asbury arrived in the Colonies, there were only 550 Methodists. By the time he died, he had delivered 20,000 sermons, traveled 250,000 miles on horseback or by foot, and the Methodist church had grown to 250,000 members. That is one Methodist for every mile traveled. I expect that is a record that will never be broken.

Yet Asbury was not alone; he had a partner. Rev. Harry Hoosier (1750-1810), or "Black Harry" as he was often called, became a freed slave toward the end of the Revolution, and converted to Methodism at that time.

Harry Hoosier actually became a very popular preacher, being described as "a renowned camp meeting exhorter, the most widely known black preacher of his time, and arguably the greatest Circuit Rider of his day." (An amazing compliment for a any Preacher, especially one who would travel with Asbury).

He and Rev. Asbury teamed up. Soon they traveled into Kentucky and Indiana; their combined revivals and preaching changing the hearts of many along the frontier. Both men preached to large crowds; but even Asbury recognized that, often, Harry Hoosier drew larger crowds. Clearly, Rev. Hoosier deserves a great deal of credit for the 250,000 Methodists. I believe Rev. Asbury would be happy to give him that credit.

One interesting piece of trivia, other denominations due in part to differences of beliefs, and in part to their often southern locality, had a derogatory term for those who attended or were converted through the meetings in Kentucky and Indiana. Such people were called "Hoosiers." Like the term Methodist, Hoosier was a derogatory term. However, since both Revs. Asbury and Hoosier were Methodists; I don't think it is necessary to change our denominational name to United Hoosier Church. (Although some might consider it a good choice.☺).



Epworth's Historian

Food Pantry



For December, Epworth is putting out a plea for Pork and Beans, Dried Fruit, Canned Meat, whatever you would like to bring!

Please bring in your non-perishable food items to worship on Sunday, December 6th and place them in the baskets at the back of the Sanctuary before service. These donations will be brought to the altar table with the offering. All food collected will be given to local food pantries to help those in need in our community.

World Aids Day



December 1st, is the date set aside for United Methodist World AIDS Day observances. Forty million people worldwide struggle with this illness. 2.3 million of them are children. Let us pray for God's comfort, courage, and wisdom in fighting this human tragedy. You are encouraged to pray for those infected with HIV/AIDS throughout the Advent season and throughout the year.

Friendship Club Luncheon



Over 55? Why not plan on attending our next Friendship Club Luncheon on Wednesday, December 9th at 12:30 p.m. at the Burnt Toast Restaurant located at 2492 N. Randall Road in Elgin. To carpool, meet at the Church at 12:00 p.m. Sign-up in the Community Room or contact the Church Office at 847-931-5400.

Manna

The holidays are now upon us! Don't know what to get someone, want to avoid the hustle and bustle of the crowds – order Manna Gift Cards! Find an order in the attendance folder or Community Room. Don't forget you can also use the gift cards to pay those bills at Kohl's. This is a great fund raiser for our church. Epworth receives 2 to 20% of the price you pay. Give it a try! Orders will be placed every Sunday until December 13th. Have questions, contact the Church Office at 847-931-5400.

Men, Song & Fellowship

If you have a bucket to carry a tune, we will provide the tunes! Come and join us Sunday, December 6th at 9:45 a.m. and have some fun. We will be continuing the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, – we'll gather around the Piano in the Sanctuary.



Sermon Seeds for December 6^h

Luke 1:76-77

⁷⁶ "And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord.

⁷⁷ You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins.

Don't forget to sign up online for the Sermon Seeds E-Blast by going to www.epworthumcelgin.org and clicking on the Community link, or follow epworthumcelgin on Twitter and Facebook

Red Bird Craft Fair Update

Thanks to all our Epworth Church Members who helped work at the Red Bird Craft Fair last weekend and all those who helped the Mission Team setup Friday evening and take down Sunday afternoon. The Red Bird Mission is one of our Rainbow Covenant commitments. And they are great people and a great mission to be involved with. They were successful and made money to take back for the work they do back in Beverly, Ky. As Tim Crawford of Red Bird said, their people have 50% unemployment and have been in a recession for 30 years! They recommend doing the craft fair only every other two years, but you can still buy their crafts from Red Bird online.



Church
Membership

Many new households have become regulars with Epworth UMC in recent months. Membership information is available at 9:45 - 10:30am with Pastor Newhouse the next two Sundays. Reception of new members will also be honored during services December 6th or 13th or in January. Please indicate your interest on the attendance register or with a note directed to the Pastor. We celebrate these opportunities to honor the power of Christian fellowship and community.

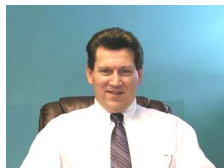
Epworth UMC

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Pastor David Newhouse

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Mon/Tue/Wed/Fri
8:30 – 1:00
Day Off – Thursday

Cell Phone: 847-263-8621
Email: NAD1126@JUNO.COM



Assistant Pastor
Nancy Vidad

Her Office
Hours are:
Tue/Thur/Fri
10:00 - 2:00pm

Cell Phone: 847-922-1203
Email: navidad1225@yahoo.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.epworthumcelgin.org

Welcome Guests / First Time Attendees

Welcome Packets are available for all visitors. The green packets are located on the Worship Center Table in the Sanctuary (as you enter/exit the Sanctuary). Please take the information home to read and fill out. Response cards can be returned in the offering basket on Sundays, or mailed directly to the church office. There is also a variety of materials, about UMC beliefs and activities and events at Epworth UMC, available at the information kiosk in the Tower entrance. And please feel free to ask the Greeters and Ushers for any additional information you may require.

Fellowship Time

Please enjoy Christian hospitality in the Community Room, directly behind the Sanctuary, with service starting between services. Have a cup of

coffee, juice and/or a snack.

Sunday Nursery

Parents are welcome to take their children, Kindergarten and younger, to the Nursery Care Room. An Infant Soothing Room/Nursing Room for parents is adjacent to the nursery. A closed-circuit television enables your Worship experience to be uninterrupted. Greeters and Ushers are always glad to assist in locating these rooms and the professional staffing. The Childcare spaces are available each Sunday morning from 8:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Qualified and experienced adults and support staff are eager to meet you and your special little ones!

Children's Worship Resources

Children are always welcome in Worship. Coloring resources and age appropriate coloring

bulletins as well as other activity supplies may be found on the back bookcase in the Sanctuary or may be secured from the Ushers.

Hearing Devices

Hearing devices are available from the ushers. If anyone wishes to purchase their own device to go with our current system, submit your request to the ushers or the church office.

Safety First

As a loving congregation, we must support legal guardians and parents in limiting all unsupervised movement by children and/or youth in the church facilities. Our goal is always to provide safe, secure, loving, and responsible accommodations and spaces for all. Together we must be alert to situations that present risk and help to ensure that supervision and security are uncompromised.

This Week's Calendar At A Glance:

Sunday, November 29

Christmas Tree Sale in SE Parking Lot
Manna Orders Taken Today
8:30am - Traditional Worship
9:45am - Sunday School for all
11:00am - Praise Worship
12:30 - 3:30pm - Private Birthday Party, Community Room
3:00 - 5:00pm - Discipleship Study, Upper Conf. Room

Monday, November 30

6:00pm - Lay Leadership Team Meeting, Upper Conf. Room
7:00pm - Boy Scout Troop #128 Meeting

Tuesday, December 1

6:00am - Walking Bible Study at The Centre in Elgin
6:00pm - Finance 2010 Draft Budget Team Meeting, M5
7:00pm - Education Task Team Meeting

Wednesday, December 2

6:00am - Bible Study at Panera Bread, South Elgin
5:30pm - Evening Dinners at Epworth / Alleluia Choir Rehearsal
5:30pm - 7:00pm - Vision Team Meeting
6:00pm - 6:30pm - Youth Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm - Christmas Tree Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 2 (Continued)

6:30pm -7:30pm - Discovery Club on Balcony
7:00pm - Adult Choir

Thursday, December 3

7:00 - 9:00pm - W.U.S.C. Study Group

Friday, December 4

7:00am - Friday Guys Devotional

Saturday, December 5

Christmas Tree Sale in SE Parking Lot
12:00pm - 3:00pm - Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Madrigal Dinner, Community Room

Sunday, December 6

Christmas Tree Sale in SE Parking Lot / Manna Ord
Food Pantry: Pork and Beans, Dried Fruit, Canned Meat
7:00am - Men's UM Breakfast
8:30am - Traditional Worship
9:45am - Men, Song & Fellowship
9:45am - Sunday School for all
11:00am - Praise Worship
12:00pm - Mosaic Youth Group: Lunch & Decorating
3:00pm - 5:00pm - Discipleship Study, Upper Conf. Room
5:30pm - Sunday School Potluck & Program