
Elmwords

Elmwood Community Church

October 2011

PASTOR'S CORNER

October is sort of a golden month. The leaves will soon change and the sunlight takes on a warm, slanted quality. Apples are ripe, the last of the fresh corn can still be found at roadside stands. Gardens are giving us their final goodness. Children are settled in school, routines are established that will last through the school year. With the coming of the cooler weather meals change. No more summery salads, smoothies of fruit, ice, and yogurt. Time to make the first soup and stews. Put away the grill and bring out the crockpot.

October is a month where we see the balance changing from summer to fall. The days are noticeably shorter, the air is clear and cool. As much as we may enjoy October, it can bring a sense of melancholy. There is no way around it: winter is coming. Very few of us eagerly await winter. Far from it.

They say (whoever "they" are) that all good things must come to an end. To me, this seems pessimistic. How dare anyone say that goodness invariably ends? Christians hold fast to God's unchanging goodness. Hebrews 13:8 promises that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Sure, the cycles of nature repeat year after year. The seasons come and go. The more years one lives, the shorter a year seems.

Some years are more favorable than others. There are floods and recessions, prosperity and sunshine. Days we hope will never end alternate with hours that seem to last for ages. Such is life.

With all these ups and downs, comings and goings, our one constant is the love God has for everyone. Seasons do not matter to God, neither does being young or old, male or female, rich or poor, healthy or not. Those conditions change. Through it all, God's love remains. God's love abides and sustains. Come what may, we may rest well assured that God loves each and every person. Thanks be to God for that!

Peace



Dave

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

02 Lucas Teodoro
04 Dave Congdon
04 Grayson Carter
06 James O'Connor
14 Geri Noonan
20 Barbara Hesse
24 Kriss Brown



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

09 Sharon & David Lamb
16 Deb & Carl Moskey

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

02 Ruth Porter
03 Sam Congdon
04 Grace Congdon
04 Bobbie Ellison
05 Judi Swift
07 Linda Knorr
09 William Balser
18 Sarah Bryden
24 Heather Buckley
26 Herbert Seagren
26 Marion Cook
27 Carol Hunsinger

SYMPATHIES

Sympathies to the family of May Burgess who went home to be with the Lord on September 7th, 2011. A Memorial Service will take place on October 1st at 1:00pm at Elmwood Community Church. Donations in her memory may be made to Elmwood Community Church.

PARK ROAD PARADE

Last year, we marched in the annual Park Road Parade. We carried our "Little Church with the Big Heart" banner, wore matching T-shirts, carried hearts on sticks, and generally had a fun time. **This year's parade is Saturday, October 1st**, and we plan to be in it again, so we need some marchers. The parade steps off at 10:30am and the route goes from Ringgold Street to South Quaker Lane. If you can participate, please: (1) Contact Susan Wiley (570-0541), (2) Plan to meet at the church around 9:15am, so we can hand out t-shirts and consolidate cars. **LET'S GO!!!**

HISTORIAN CORNER

The first 40/50 Dinner was held on January 9th, 1952. The cost per person was \$1.50.

On March 2nd, 1961 at the Circle I meeting, it was voted to spend \$25.50 on Metal Sponges to sell to the members of all the Church circles.

If these metal sponges were used for cleaning regular dishes, pots and pans, iron stoves or rusty tools, we don't know. If you know how they were used and how much the circle charged its members for one, please inform Pat MacDougall or Ellen Bucchere.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

October 2nd is *Neighbors In Need Sunday*.

Please consider taking the *Neighbors in Need Offering* this year. Two-thirds of your offering supports the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries and one-third supports the Council of American Indian Ministry. Missions

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Blessing of the Animals **will be held on Sunday, October 2nd, at NOON** outside in the **Memorial Garden area** (or in Conte Hall if rain). Please **bring your pets** and **join us**. Please pass the word to **human friends**, also!

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

A volunteer sign-up sheet is posted on the Missions Board. **Volunteers are needed for Wednesday, October 5th.**

Thank you – Al Waite

WORKS

The Mum sale for *HopeWorks* was a success this year. I want to thank everyone who made this possible. Thank you! We sold 41 mums this year. *HopeWorks* does so much for the West Hartford Community. They strengthen community through education, counseling and outreach services for young people and their families, for schools and community organizations. Much like the church, they strive to help people find within themselves the strength of purpose and hope to help them on their journey through life and the challenges they face. Thank you – The Missions Board

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Elmwood Community Church

Invites Everyone to our



50/40 Celebration & Dinner



- Come and celebrate our long-standing members -

Sunday, October 23, 2011
Conte Hall 11:15 a.m.
(immediately after Worship)

- Menu -

Garden Salad
Spoon Roast
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Gravy/Rolls
Beverages
Dessert

Hot Dog available for children upon request

\$11.00 Adult

\$5.00 Children under 12

Please return the reservation slip below by October 17th

----- ✂ clip and return to church office by October 17th -----

Elmwood Community Church 50/40 Dinner

Name _____

Number of adults _____ Number of children under 12 _____
Number of Hot Dogs _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (Payable to Elmwood Community Church.
Please note "50/40 Dinner" in check memo)

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

SOUTH PARK INN

On Sunday, October 16th, members of our church will be serving dinner at the South Park Inn. The Missions Board is looking for donations of the following on that day:

*individually wrapped sandwiches – peanut butter and jelly, tuna, ham and cheese, etc., and desserts.

*juice bottles; *juice boxes. Donations can be marked and left downstairs in the refrigerator prior to 3:00pm on Sunday, October 16th.

Thank you.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will take place every Wednesday morning during October at 10am in the Fellowship Room. Everyone is welcome to join us!

KITCHEN RENOVATION

The committee for the kitchen renovation consists of the following volunteers:

Al Croxall
Susan Giaccotti
Jerry Gray
Barb Hesse
Pat Johnson

“DID YOU KNOW”

Did you know that some of the people who attend our church have food allergies? Approximately 12 million Americans have a food allergy including 1 out of every 17 kids under age 3. Eight foods account for 90% of all reactions: milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, soy, fish and shellfish. Most food allergy symptoms are mild but more than 150 people die annually from anaphylaxis (a whole body reaction). Some complaints include mouth tingling, swelling of the tongue and throat, or difficulty breathing; skin problems such as hives or eczema; stomach cramps, diarrhea or vomiting; or a drop in blood pressure, dizziness or loss in consciousness. The only way to prevent an allergic reaction is to avoid the food altogether.

Therefore, as part of our new “safe church” practices, we will be establishing new rules for coffee hour and other church functions where food is served. Remember, we are all in this together and keeping people safe is our priority. Websites: www.foodallergy.org and www.breatherville.org

HOLIDAY FAIR

Our 63rd annual Holiday Fair is scheduled for Saturday, November 19th, from 9-2. Can you help?? We need:

* Suggestions for craft vendors. We have a few spaces still available.

* Volunteers to help set up the hall on Friday, and decorate the hall.

* Donations of: collectibles - pictures, vases, kitchen items, etc. - vintage jewelry - necklaces, earrings, pins, trinket boxes, dressing table items, etc. - and holiday decor - gently used Christmas decorations, linens, etc. Donations should be clearly marked "**For the Fair**" and left in Conte kitchen.

* Cookie bakers, also tea breads, scones, etc.

* Someone to coordinate the morning coffee shop and lunch. Lunch is sandwiches, chili or soup and a dessert, to serve about 40-50.

* Volunteers to work at the various tables on the day of the fair. If you can help, please contact Susan Wiley, 570-0541, sumawi@sbcglobal.net

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Our 2011 capital campaign has attracted donations from 46% of the congregation. The total pledged to date is \$73,163; this includes two "directed donations" for Conte kitchen improvements and a new copier. The total collected to date is \$34,563. All four boards - Christian Ed, Deacons, Missions and Trustees - have received the congregation's suggestions and are discussing how best to use their portion of the funds. Trustees have already used some of their funds to complete repairs and painting of the steeple and to paint the bathroom near the sanctuary. It's not too late to donate! Even a donation of \$5.00 or \$10.00 will be appreciated, will be put to good use, and will count toward the "% donating" figure. Donations can be put in a plain envelope, clearly marked "Capital Campaign" and left in the offering plate.

The Elmwood Community Church
 -----United Church of Christ-----
 26 Newington Road
 West Hartford, CT 06110
 860-233-8203 fax: 860-233-4202
 Secretary's e-mail: eccsecretary@snet.net
 Pastor's e-mail: elmwoodchurch@snet.net

**PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY
 DATED MATERIAL**

DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 1st10:30am Park Road Parade
- October 1st1pm Memorial for May Burgess
- October 2ndBlessing of the Animals at Noon
- October 2ndNeighbor in Need Sunday
- October 2nd6:30pm Youth Group Meeting
- October 5thHabitat for Humanity
- October 5th6:30pm Deacons
- October 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th10:00am Bible Study, FR
- October 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th7:00pm Choir
- October 9thChristian Ed Meeting
- October 10th6:30pm Circle 6
- October 12th5:30pm Endowment Meeting
- October 12th6:30pm Trustees
- October 13th thru 17thGeri out with office coverage
- October 16thMissions Meeting
- October 16thECC Serving South Park Inn
- October 16th6:30pm Youth Group Meeting
- October 17thDeadline to RSVP 50/40 Dinner
- October 17th6:30pm Council
- October 18thNewsletter Deadline
- October 23rd50/40 Dinner after Worship
- October 25thFinal Deadline for Newsletter
- October 30thNovember Newsletter Available