

Elmwords

PASTOR'S CORNER

"Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you."

Genesis 12.1

It is my painful duty to inform you that I have accepted a call to be the pastor of the West Dennis Community Church, UCC with a start date of October 1, 2020.

The Genesis quote has long been a touchstone of my ministry journey. A call to ministry is a call to begin the journey; it is an invitation to take the next step. One does not know beforehand where it will lead or what the future will hold. It is not only pastors who know what their next step should be; all believers do as well. Often all we get is that one step. Only when we trust God enough to take it are we given subsequent steps. As always, the Holy Spirit guides us.

I took such a step when I quit work and enrolled in seminary. I was married; our son was not yet two years old. Upon graduation I was called to a church in a small hill town. Fourteen years later, I was called here. Eleven years later, I was called to West Dennis. I began the journey not knowing where it would take me. The journey continues, but I still don't know what the future holds.

These are difficult days for churches. A few generations ago nearly everyone attended church. Now hardly anyone attends. My hope is that Elmwood will abide long into the future. Elmwood is a true community of faith; a family of believers that knows one another by name and by need. You are wonderful people, faithful and kind. You welcome the stranger and feed the homeless. You care about the world. I know for certain that each of you makes a difference wherever you may be.

Elmwood has been very, very good to me. You have sustained me through some very difficult days. And if I have not always been at my best, I have done my best. You have challenged and encouraged me to grow in knowledge and in the practice of ministry. You have opened your hearts and lives and invited me to live among you with grace and dignity. Your faith and diligent work inspires me.

I have every confidence that you will find your way into the future which God has prepared.

May God bless you now and always,

Pastor Dave

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

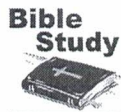
JULY/AUGUST
BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

July

01 Diane Ludwick
05 David Lamb
07 Lauren Janas
08 Addison Brown
08 Anson Brown
08 Mark O'Connor
11 Colleen Peterson
14 Charles Shorter
15 Kathy Barletta
20 Craig Croxall
20 Bill Alberti
24 Rick Coler
26 Dave Cunningham
31 Abby Hunsinger
Anniversaries
07 Carol & Bill Alberti
31 Judi & Mark Janas

August

02 Ronnie Hunsinger, Jr
03 Gene Knorr
05 Bruce Wittchen
10 Kirsten Peterson
11 Hannah Wittchen
11 Cindy Gauthier
11 Eric Lee
12 Ellen Bucchere
18 Brian McLarney
18 Wendy Leonard
19 Barbara Hinds
19 Jerry Gray
20 Ted Janas
24 Ron Hunsinger, Sr
28 Norman Carter
Anniversaries
06 Colleen & Chuck Peterson



There is no Bible Study during July and August. Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, September 12, 2018.



Currently, there are no Board meetings during the summer months. However, if a special meeting is needed, members will be notified.

The Choir is on summer vacation and will tentatively return on 9/06/20.

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At this time, there are no plans for the Strawberry Festival or ChickenBBQ this summer.
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If anyone becomes aware of a church member that is sick or has any special needs, please contact Pastor Dave either at the Parsonage (860-231-0012) or call the office (860-233-8203) Monday thru Friday between 9 a.m. and 12 noon. Thank you!

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OFFICE CLOSED FOR NOW

The office is closed for now. Barbara is working from home and coming in occasionally to take care of issues.

Pastor Dave can be reached at the Parsonage for any emergencies 860-231-0012.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

OUTDOOR SERVICES

Starting **July 12, 2020, at 9 a.m.**, we will hold our somewhat usual Sunday worship outside the church. We will meet in the area between the church and the parsonage. There will be some standard rules to follow:

- Masks need to be worn
- Bring your own chair. There will be markings for social distancing
- Bulletins will be available, but will be sent in advance if you prefer to read on your phone or tablet.
- Bring your own Bible if you want to read along with the scriptures
- There will be musical parts to the service, Prelude, Anthem and Postlude.
- There will be NO singing, choir or congregational.
- There will also be NO communion, collection, coffee hour or "passing of peace".

The service will be "live-streamed" on Facebook for those who cannot or don't feel comfortable attending in person.

Going forward we will continue to hold these services. In case of inclement weather, we will revert to the Sunday morning message from inside the church.

We hope all who can attend will. Be safe and stay strong.

Your Deacons



MISSIONS

The following 2020 dates are to serve dinner at South Park Inn:

July 19
September 20
November 26

We are looking for donations of sandwiches or sandwich fixings and/or cookies for July 19. Please drop off any donations at the church between 9:30 and 11 a.m. Please contact Carol Alberti at pier224@aol.com with any questions.



Scholarship

The Mission Board is proud to be giving college scholarships. The scholarships have been mailed to the recipients.

James O'Connor - James is going to Siena College in New York and is studying creative writing. He will graduate in May 2022.

Frank Nobou - Frank will be attending CCSU in the Fall. He will graduate in May 2024.

Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients!

The Mission Board and Your Church

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ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Rest in Peace, Albert Rakus

Our beloved Sexton Al Rakus has passed from this life. We don't have many details. Al was a spectacular Sexton. He did a fine job on routine cleaning tasks, but also went above and beyond. For example without being asked, he fixed the little table that holds the Prayer Jar. He could do minor plumbing. He did a great job looking after the grounds. He leaves us with many fond memories and a good supply of the vacuum cleaners he would find and repair. Al was a character and a piece of work.

As Jesus said, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Go on home to your reward, old friend.

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INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS *For the 4th of July*

"We hold our heads high, despite the price we have paid, because freedom is priceless."
– Lech Walesa

"Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." –
John F. Kennedy

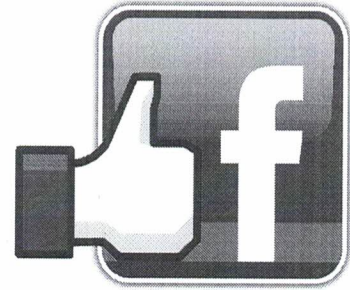
"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." –
Elmer Davis

"In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved." – Franklin D. Roosevelt

"We must be free not because we claim freedom, but because we practice it." –
William Faulkner

"The United States is the only country with a known birthday." -James G. Blaine

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**HAVE A WONERFUL
AND SAFE SUMMER!**



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Pastor's e-mail: elmwoodchurch@snet.net**

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