

# The Erie Evangel

February 2012



## Erie United Methodist Church

604 Holbrook St, Erie, CO 80516 (303)828-3906

erie@rmcumc.org www.erieumc.org www.facebook.com/erieumc

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

## WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

“Potpourri!”



Usually I pontificate on some Biblical/Theological idea for this article but today I want to reference notices of happenings that appear elsewhere in the Newsletter and underscore their importance.

### ORIENTATION—LEADERSHIP TEAM

Saturday, February 4th, 10:00 to 2:00. Adults in the Lion’s Club building, nursery in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch at noon (for children too). Purpose: To acquaint all of our elected leaders (and others who may be interested) with the work of each committee, task force, or work area and to show how it all fits together to enable our Church to do its work effectively and creatively. Each committee will have time to meet separately to organize and strategize. Moses and Nehemiah will be there...

### LENTEN ACTIVITIES

Seems early to be talking about this but read about:

- a) SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER—Fund Raiser for Kenyan Trip in July. Lots of fun—good food—great cause. Tuesday, February 21st, 6:30 p.m.
- b) ASH WEDNESDAY—Beginning of Lent, Wednesday, February 22nd. Service at 7:00 p.m. A meaningful, symbolic way to start the greatest season of the Christian calendar.
- c) Other Lenten events will be in the March Newsletter

### URBAN ACADEMY

Our Conference is offering this excellent opportunity for information, education, inspiration and motivation for more effective ministry in the local church. We are registered and can send as many as we choose but we must make reservations, for the meals. If you’d like to be a part of our team attending, please contact Linda.

1st session—January 27-28

May be too late by the time you get this. Pray for this event. Also, let’s welcome new members who have joined in 2012: Ray and Joyce Franks, Brian and Niki Pettegrew.

See ya’ Sunday at the Welcoming Place.

In Christ’s love,

Senior Pastor: Jim Calhoun  
(303)955-1185 - jimnjo30@aol.com

Associate Pastor: Linda Freund  
(303)733-4113 - lindafreund@comcast.net

# CALENDAR

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m.

Connect Service & Sunday School

11:00 a.m.

Traditional Service & The King's Kids

### February 5

Re-Connecting With God Through Prayer:  
Praying Scripture  
Psalm 119:97-112, excerpts

"The Measure of Our Worth...  
at Super Bowl Time!"  
Psalm 8, Matthew 5:1-16 and Philipians 3:7-9

### February 12

Re-Connecting With God Through Prayer:  
Prayer as a Way of Life  
Luke 18:9-14

Re-Connecting With God Through Prayer:  
Prayer as a Way of Life  
Luke 18:9-14  
*Linda Freund preaching*

### February 19

"Can These Bones Live?"  
Ezekiel 37:1-10  
*Jim Calhoun preaching*

"Can These Bones Live?"  
Ezekiel 37:1-10

### February 26

Series "Ready For a Change":  
Courage  
Matthew 14:22-36

Theme: "Faces Around The Cross"  
"Peter: The Faithful/Fickle Disciple"  
Mark 14:27-31

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Youth Group** for middle school and high school youth, Sundays, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. (Lafayette UMC 1st 3 Sundays, Erie UMC 4th Sunday)

**Women's Bible Study**—Wednesday mornings, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Childcare is available.

**Connect Worship music practice**—Thursday nights, 7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)

**Committee Orientation Session**—Saturday, February 4, 10 am to 2 pm. Childcare and lunch are provided.

**Methodist Women**—Wednesday, February 15, 1:00 p.m.

**Ad Board Committee**—**NOTE CHANGE!** Wednesday, February 15, 6:00 p.m.

**Mardi Gras Pancake Supper**—Tuesday, February 21, 6:30 p.m.

**Ash Wednesday**—Wednesday, February 22, 7:00 p.m.

**Wonderful Wednesdays**—beginning February 29, dinner at 6 p.m., study at 6:30 p.m. Childcare is provided.

**"Living Your Strengths" study**—Wednesday, February 29, 6:30 p.m. immediately following Wonderful Wednesday dinner. Childcare is provided.

## YOUTH GROUP - AT A GLANCE

February 5 – 6 - 7:30 p.m. - Winter Games @ Lafayette

February 12 – 6 - 7:30 p.m. - Tempting Stuff Too @ Lafayette

February 19 – 2 p.m. - TBA - Movie & Discussion

February 26 – 6 - 7:30 p.m. - And So It Is Lent @ Erie

## CELEBRATIONS

**Anniversary:**

5—Geg & Jean Gilmore

**Birthdays:**

1—Ray Bundy

4—Kendyl Fanger

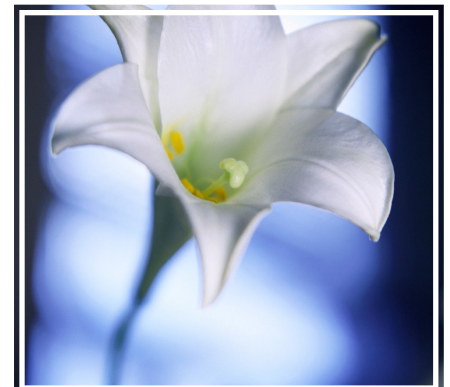
6—Linda Olinger

13—Sybil Eppinger

22—Evelyn Smith

27—Thea McAdams

28—Sophia Trevino



## DEACON'S DIARY



As I write this, I am in the midst of our Connect worship series on "Reconnecting with God Through Prayer" and of making plans for Ash Wednesday and Lent. I am excited by the connections I see! Lent is a time of preparation and turning away from those things that take us away from our relationship with God, and our series on Prayer is a great warm-up activity for Lent.

Late this fall, as Jim and I worked with the Nominations Committee to invite people from the congregation to serve on the committees and boards that keep our church alive, we identified the need to offer some ways to help people figure out how they might serve. I have found a study that helps us to know ourselves better, and that will help us in all areas of life, not just in serving the church. When I was a consultant, I used The Gallup Organization's research found in their book, "First Break All The Rules," to help managers become more effective. The conclusion was that great managers help their employees become more of who they are created to be, not to try to correct them or change them to be someone else. Gallup continues to expand on this research, helping people identify their strengths so that they can live up to their potential. They have taken their research and worked with some spiritual leaders, including Rev. Dr. Albert Winseman, a United Methodist pastor and now Gallup's practice leader for faith-based organizations. The result is a study called "Living Your Strengths" with the tag-line: "Discover your God-given talents, and inspire your congregation and community." This is what my heart is calling me to share with you for our Lenten study.

Lent is a time of preparation, of self-examination and inward searching and "Living Your Strengths" is a great way to do this together. I am excited about what we might learn about ourselves, and what new directions you might seek as a result of your self-examination. I look forward to getting to know you more as we journey together through Lent, and to seeing the freedom you find in living into the fullness of who you are created to be. I wonder what new ways and places you will find to serve, here in the church and out in the world. I go back to the scripture I used last month, Jeremiah 29:11, "I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

May your time of preparation and reflection during Lent help you to feel closer to God, and may you be blessed with a new clarity about who God has created you to be.

In Christ's love,

*Linda*

### ORIENTATION SESSION

**Saturday, February 4, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

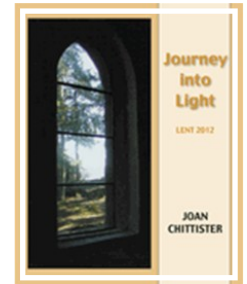
We kickoff the new calendar year with a new list of committee chairs and members that was approved at our Annual Church Conference on January 8. We are holding an orientation session to explore ways to live out our vision in the coming year. The session will include time as a whole group, and time for each committee to meet on their own to clarify their direction, their role and the tasks they need to accomplish. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you are not part of a committee, but would like to know more about how the church is organized, or would like to see where you might fit in--please join us! Childcare and lunch are provided.

## STUDY

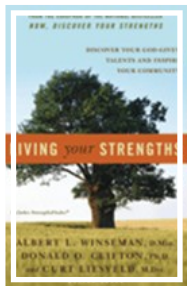


**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY MORNINGS** Our weekly women's Bible study is continuing with "Guidance" from "A Year With God". During Lent we will shift gears and take up Joan Chittister's Lenten study "Journey into the Light" beginning February 22. If you are looking to get in the habit of reading and discussing the Bible, this is the place for you! This small group is an intimate place to share, to get to know others, to ask hard questions and seek answers together. We meet Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00, and childcare is available. The 90 minute sessions include reflections on the

reading, and sharing where we are in our lives and how the group can support us. All are welcome to come weekly, or when your schedule permits. Contact Pastor Linda for more information or if you would like to be part of this group.



**LENTEN STUDY "LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS"** Would you like to go deeper during Lent, to explore who you are as a person? Are you looking for more fulfillment in your life? Would you like to find ways to make a difference in the world and in the church in your own unique way? Are you contemplating a career change and wanting to know more about your strengths? This five week study is about discovering more of who we are created to be, and identifying ways we can live more fulfilling lives. "Living Your Strengths" is based on more than 30 years of research by The Gallup Organization and developed in conjunction with church leaders. The book includes access to an online assessment of our strengths.



As our church grows, we are always seeking new ways to empower our congregation to become more engaged in the life of our church. And as a church we are seeking ways to serve the community. This class is a way of helping people identify how they might use their own strengths to serve the needs of our congregation, and our larger community. The study will meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30, following the Wonderful Wednesday dinner, beginning February 29. Childcare is provided. Please contact Pastor Linda if you have questions or would like to discuss this study.

## FELLOWSHIP



Now that we have two worship services, fellowship activities are a helpful way to stay connected to each other.

**UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES** Our Annual Fellowship Planning meeting just took place and we will soon be revealing the exciting fellowship opportunities that have been planned for the year. If you would like to be part of making fellowship opportunities happen at our church, please contact Pastor Linda.

**WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP TIME BETWEEN WORSHIP SERVICES, 10:05 - 10:50** Don't miss this great opportunity to see people from both worship services and share some delicious treats. Everyone is welcome! Bring treats to share when you are able--no sign-up is needed.

**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS BEGIN FEBRUARY 29** During Lent we are having Wonderful Wednesday fellowship dinners on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m., followed by the "Living Your Strengths" study for adults at 6:30 p.m. Chef Richard Freund will be preparing a delicious meal each week, and donations will be accepted to cover the cost of the food. Come for the meal and the class, or just the meal, or just the class—whatever fits your schedule. We hope you will join us!

## MISSION NEWS

**KENYA WORK TRIP—JULY 1-14** The Calhouns are taking a team from our conference to build a classroom for a school in Kenya. We will be fundraising to assist someone from Erie UMC to go. The cost of the trip is about \$3500. We'll be having a couple of fundraisers at EUMC so come and join us!

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 5** Yes that's right! SOUP. Our youth are collecting cans of soup on this date! Let's fill up their soup kettles to overflowing!



### Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

February 21, 6:30 p.m.

Cost: Adults - \$5, children - \$3, Family - \$15.

Buy your tickets ahead or at the door!

Benefits an EUMC team member to help build a classroom in Kenya.

**VALENTINE CARE BOXES FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS—FEBRUARY 5** The Missions Committee and the Methodist Women are filling shoeboxes with goodies to send to our college students to let them know EUMC cares about them. Bring your donations of goodies to the kitchen labeled "Valentine Boxes". If you have a student in college, let Joanie know their address!



**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** Our grocery card sales and reloads have been averaging over \$5000 per month which means we earn approximately \$250 each month toward our Habitat for Humanity goal. We have earned over 89% of our goal. Thank you to all the families who have participated in this worthy way to SERVE OTHERS. Grocery cards are on sale after each Sunday service in the Fellowship Hall.

## NAME TAGS

**NAME TAGS MAGNETISM RETRO-FITTED** You have probably noticed the name tags have not been holding very well with your thicker winter clothing. This has been because we switched out the magnets inside the name tag sleeves for less expensive (and less powerful) magnets. Since they have not been adequate, the decision was made to go back to the old magnets. Assuming your name tag was on the board during the week of January 16, you should find the new magnets more powerful. If your name tag did not get retro-fitted, please contact Ray Bundy or the church office.

You will find the magnetic attraction will be more powerful if you turn the "button" (the part that goes inside your clothing) so its small magnet is facing the magnet in the back of the name tag sleeve. Just remember, Magnet to Magnet is more powerful.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Our Sunday School and Puppet Ministry are back to their respective hours and locations. It is so good to see all the children and to resume our opportunities to share the love of Christ with the children.

### SUNDAY CLASSES:

Sunday School for Adults and Children (K-8) in the Fellowship Hall, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Puppet Ministry (The King's Kids) during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall

We welcome all the new members of the Board of Christian Education and we thank you for wanting to ensure that our children are given the opportunities to learn of the love of Christ, to join in the fellowship of fellow young children in a Christian environment, and to grow in their Christian faith.

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE** On Saturday, February 4, there is scheduled an Orientation Session for all of the Committees of the Church and we look forward to our Committee being there as we prepare for the spring semester, summer activities and Vacation Bible School. This orientation will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with lunch being provided. Nursery care will also be available.

We encourage our Sunday School teachers to attend this orientation, the suggestions and feedback from these loving and diligent folks is very important as we move forward in 2012.

## YOUTH

**SCHEDULING CHANGES** Due to some changes in the look of the year, you will notice that February is not shaping up the way I had originally planned. We will be doing Youth Sunday later in the year, so that shifted our February plans. Thanks for understanding, and please let me know if you have any questions.

**WINTER GAMES - FEBRUARY 5** Due to low interest and availability to attend Youth Leadership Conference, we will be having regular youth group on Sunday, February 5th. We will enjoy a night of fun filled games, some indoor and if it is not bitter cold, some outdoor, so please bring a coat and hat.



**MOVIE & DISCUSSION - FEBRUARY 19** For those of you who are not headed to the mountains for some Presidents Day Weekend Powder, we are going to have a fun afternoon outing for youth group that Sunday. We will meet at the church at 2pm (unless otherwise announced, based on movie times), and go see a movie, in a local theatre. We will then come back to the church for a short discussion. More specific timing details will be announced closer to the date. Each youth attending will need \$10 to cover the ticket price. Youth are more than welcome to get snacks as well, but will need to bring money to cover the costs.

**Thank you, Erie UMC!**

*...for your generous Christmas gift and continued support. I look forward to the new year of new possibilities.—Linda*

*...for the gift for Christmas, it has been added to our Kenya Construction Fund—Jim and Joanie*

*...for the Cokesbury gift card. It was a joy to be with you at your Church Conference.—Merlene Barner*

*...for your tremendous dedication to helping those less fortunate in the St. Vrain Valley. \$55,861 was collected in kettles during the 2011 holiday campaign!—The Salvation Army*

## CONNECT WORSHIP

### "CONNECT" WORSHIP LENTEN SERIES "READY FOR A CHANGE" BEGINS FEBRUARY 26

Lent can be a way of taking inventory of our lives as we repent and use this time to prepare for a deeper dedication to our faith. During Lent we will explore the idea of change and the change-making actions of Jesus as we wrestle with our fear of change, the inevitability of change, the difficulty in changing and the way change can bring us abundant life.

The Connect worship team seeks to create meaningful and memorable worship each week through music, drama, video and other images and experiences. We always have room for more on the team to help in all aspects of worship. We hope you will join us, and that you will invite your friends and neighbors.

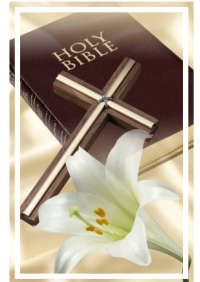
If you would like to be part of the team that is creating these worship experiences please contact Todd Dixon, Worship Chair (303-918-9443) or Pastor Linda. If you are interested in joining the music team, please contact Joel Cummings at [jgalencummings@gmail.com](mailto:jgalencummings@gmail.com) or (303-818-9622).



## LENT

**BEGIN LENT WITH ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP** Ash Wednesday is the beginning of our 40 day journey of Lent, the time of preparation for Easter when we share in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a time for us to prepare to live as resurrected people. Easter will happen whether we prepare for it or not. But without preparing our hearts and our lives, we may not have an experience of depth and power.

Ash Wednesday worship helps to frame our Lenten experience as a time of inward searching and self examination. We begin with the ashes, symbolizing our repentance. We put aside the sins and failures of the past in the light of who we are yet to become by the grace of God.



Lent is a time for journeying back toward God, a time set apart for reflection and renewal, for slowing down. We journey with Christians throughout history as we fast from those activities that keep us from God so that we can feed our spiritual lives. As we journey we see ourselves in a new light, so that we can live into the fullness of who God has created us to be. "We are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives." Ephesians 2:10 (Common English Bible).

" After being baptized by John in the River Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question of what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves...to answer questions like this is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be pretty depressing business all in all, but if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end."

– Frederick Buechner

May this season of Lent be a rich journey for you, may it bring you closer to God and to the fullness of life which God intends for you.