

The Erie Evangel

January 2012



Erie United Methodist Church

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Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

“Get The Connection”



The measure of any Christian movement is what happens in the local Church (not denominational headquarters, District events, National judicatories, world wide organizational structures, or anything else), just the local church. Thusly, our Annual Church Conference is vitally important for it is the place where the work of the local Church is reviewed, projected, evaluated and celebrated.

Our ACC will be on Sunday, January 8th

Representing our D.S. will be Merlene Barner—
Chaplain at our UMC Retirement Home in Boulder, Frazier Meadows Manor.
She will preach at our one service that day, 9:00 a.m.—
Share our Fellowship Meal at 10:10 a.m. and then—
Preside over our ACC at approximately 11:00 a.m.
Plan to attend this special event in the life of our Church.

At this meeting we will elect our leadership team for 2012, review and accept the reports which detail all that we did in 2011, approve the salary packages for our Pastors, adopt our budget for 2012, and just celebrate together who we are as God's people in ministry. Mark your calendar and be in your place on this pivotal occasion.

See you on the 8th at the “Getting It Done” 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

January 1

"Epiphany—Huh?"

John 1:1-34

One informal service for all ages at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Sharing time... stories... New Year's resolutions.

January 8

9:00 a.m. One combined Worship and Sunday School

10:05 a.m. Fellowship Meal (brunch)

11:00 a.m. All Church Conference

January 15

"Why Pray?"

Luke 18:9-14

"How To Win Friends And Influence People—
For Christ!"

Acts 1:1-8, Matthew 28:16-20

January 22

"Lord's Prayer"

Luke 11:1-4

"Mouse Soup?"

Luke 24:14-20, 30-34

January 29

"The Time and Space of Prayer"

Daniel 6:10 and Luke 5:15-16

"The Measure of Our Worth...
At Super Bowl Time?"

Psalm 8, Matthew 5:1-16 and Philippians 3:7-9

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) (No meeting on December 4, 25 or January 1).
- 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)
- All Church Conference—Sunday, January 8, 11:00 a.m.
- Fellowship Meal—Sunday, January 8, 10:10 a.m.
- Methodist Women—Wednesday, January 18, 1:00 p.m.
- Simonson Baby Shower—Saturday, January 21, 10:00 a.m.
- Annual Fellowship Planning Dinner—Sunday, January 29, 4:00 p.m.
- Ad Board—Tuesday, February 14, 6:00 p.m.

YOUTH GROUP - AT A GLANCE

January 1 NO YOUTH GROUP

January 8 6 - 7:30 p.m. - A New View @ Lafayette with Rev. Jim Calhoun

January 15 6 - 7:30 p.m. - Tempting Stuff @ Lafayette

DEADLINE FOR YLC REGISTRATIONS

January 22 6 - 7:30 p.m. - Mission Trip Meeting (Youth Only) @ Lafayette

January 29 NO YOUTH GROUP - Family Sabbath



DEACON'S DIARY



I love the start of the new year. It is such a great opportunity to pause and reflect on our lives--to look back at the past twelve months, and to look forward to the new year. Looking back can be a time of celebration for achievements, events and blessings; and a time to recognize a need for change. By the end of the year my life feels out of balance--I have become too busy and my focus has shifted away from things that I think are most important. I have been eating all the wrong foods, and letting go of exercising. My quiet time has suffered and I feel exhausted. Visioning for the new year gives me an opportunity to reorder my priorities, to re-set the balance in my life. And beyond that, the new year is an opportunity to dream about what the next twelve months might be like.

As I begin to reflect, I wonder... what is it that I am seeking in 2012? Here are a few of my thoughts...

- Since September, our Connect Worship team has been learning what it is like to prepare and deliver weekly worship, seeking to offer fresh, meaningful experiences each week. We will continue to experiment with how to involve the team in the creation of worship experiences so that the members of the team can share their gifts and talents with joy, and not become overburdened. In the new year, we need to expand our focus to include getting the word out to the community about what we are doing. To that end, we are preparing a grant proposal that might offer us funds to do more outreach communications and activities.
- Joel and I began to design a worship series on Prayer beginning January 15. Prayer is something every person of faith struggles with. Why do we do it? How do we do it? What do we hope to accomplish? As usual, my preparations for these experiences are as much about my own need for growth as they are for sharing with all of you! I look forward to going deeper into prayer...not just learning about it, but diving into deeper experiences of prayer in the new year.
- Our nominations committee invited people who are new to the congregation to become more a part of the committees that keep our church operating smoothly, and our All Church Conference report will reflect many new names on the list of committees. But there are still many ways for people to become involved in the ministries of our church. I am planning to lead a study during Lent about how we are all called to use our talents, gifts, experiences, style and passion to make our unique contribution toward God's kingdom. We plan to have a ministry fair to cap off this study, showcasing many opportunities to serve, both within and outside our congregation. I hope this will spark a conversation in our church about how we can go to the next level with our vision of "Growing in Christ... To Serve Others!"
- I know I need to be more intentional about exercise, and I am searching for a class I can take, maybe at the Erie Rec Center, that will help me be more accountable. Let me know if you have any suggestions!



In Jeremiah 29:11, we learn "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." As the new year begins, may you make time to pause, listen and reflect, and may you find hope in the new year of possibilities.

In Christ's love,

Linda

MISSION NEWS

THANKS for all who shared in contributing to others this Christmas season. We have assisted persons with food, rent, clothing, toys, transportation, and Holiday baskets for Seniors and Homebound persons.

On January 15, we will celebrate **HUMAN RELATIONS DAY**. We take a special offering to support ministries such as Youth Offender Program and Community Development in urban areas.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE As 2011 comes to a close, I would like to thank all you who have shown love and compassion by serving on Congregational Care. Many people's lives have been touched by your willingness to serve. Thank you for your part in making this possible.

In the New Year we will have many opportunities to help others in our midst. If you are interested in learning more about Congregational Care, would like to volunteer to serve, or have suggestions or concerns, please contact me at 303-926-6889 or kruhnmingarcia@msn.com. Sandy Garcia

January birthdays:

1—Richard Oberhelman	17—Dee Hill
6—Kevin Dixon	20—Sandy Garcia
9—Joshua Snyder	23—Marjorie Smith
12—Dean Pelser	28—John McAdams
13—Theresa Pelser	

YOUTH



A NEW VIEW - JANUARY 8 January 8th will be a special youth group, lead by Rev. Jim Calhoun (Senior Pastor at Erie UMC). Rev. Jim has been in the ministry for many years, and will share a great program for the youth as we kick off the New Year. Please join us for this great chance to hear from Rev. Jim.

MISSION TRIP MEETING - JAN. 23 I am excited to announce that plans for the upcoming Youth Mission Trip are underway, and we will be meeting to discuss the trip on **January 22rd from 6 - 7:30pm**. We will cover the major details of the trip, including costs, travel plans, chaperones, and work plans. I am still working on dates, plans and places, so come to the meeting to learn all the great and exciting details.

YLC: YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE - FEBRUARY 3-4 Youth Leadership Conference is a Rocky Mountain Conference Youth Event for United Methodists from all over Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. This year's theme is "faithbook: What's your status?" This event will be **February 3-4 at Saint Andrew UMC in Highlands Ranch, CO**. At this event we explore what it means to be a leader, hear from young people who have become leaders in their community and the world, and elect leaders from our local churches and districts to serve at the conference level. Check out more information here <http://rmcumc.org/rmc/young-people/youth.html>. **You must turn paperwork and money in to Megan no later than January 15th.** This is a really fun way to meet other youth who are active in United Methodist Church. and have a fun weekend. I am also looking for adults to join us.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE



Sunday, December 18th was a Sunday where everyone who attended either the 9:00 A.M. or the 11:00 A.M. worship service received a special blessing. The children's Annual Christmas Pageant was a delight...we had Joseph with a beard, Mary, the baby Jesus, angels, wise men, shepherds, the innkeeper and this year we had the "wee ones" from our nursery join the pageant as little lambs. Not only did all receive this special blessing, but everyone had smiles on their lips as these children presented the Nativity.

As part of the Christmas program, the puppet masters (The King's Kids) contributed to the joy of the day with their presentation of "He Was Born In A Barn"...you just had to have had your heart lifted with this presentation...it was great..



So many people need to be thanked for all their work with the children that I hesitate to start naming them in fear of forgetting someone, so much work took place in the background especially with being prepared for two presentations...but a BIG THANK YOU to all who helped.

We do want to say a special thank you to our costume designers for their work of love in making up some new costumes this year. To Dianela Trevino we extend our thanks for the lovely new costumes that our shepherds and Joseph had, and to Theresa Pelser we extend our thanks for the sweet lamb hats that she made.



Regular Sunday School hours will begin on Sunday, January 8th at 9:00 A.M., there will not be a Puppet Ministry on January 8th, but it will resume on Sunday, January 15th.

God Bless!

STUDY

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY MORNINGS Our weekly women's Bible study is continuing with "Secrecy" from "A Year With God". 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.



CONNECT WORSHIP

"CONNECT" WORSHIP FOCUSES ON OUR CONNECTION WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER We begin the new year with the best of intentions about so many things... eating right, exercising, paying attention to what is important in our lives. What about prayer or our relationship with God? From January 15 through February 12, Connect Worship will explore prayer, why we do it, how we do it, and how it can change our lives. You won't want to miss this opportunity to "re-think prayer" in the new year.

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 or (303-818-9622).

FELLOWSHIP

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

Don't miss our weekly Fellowship Time between Worship Services, 10:05 to 10:50. This is a 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 signup is needed.



Simonson Baby Shower

Saturday, January 21

10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

As this will be the Simonson's third boy their needs are few; socks, bibs, bottles, 0-3 month winter clothing and, of course, diapers. Frozen meals would also be appreciated.

FUN & FELLOWSHIP IN THE NEW YEAR



- WHO?** Anyone with ideas, an appetite, and/or a craving for fun
WHAT? Dinner & Fellowship Brainstorming Session
WHEN? Sunday, January 29 at 4 p.m. (we'll finish no later than 6:30)
WHERE? The Fellowship Hall
WHY? To identify ideas for 2012 FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES, and also
To have dinner, and... to get to know people

Come with ideas of activities we can do in the new year. Dinner will be provided.