



The Erie Evangel

Erie United Methodist Church

Growing in Christ...to Serve Others

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July and August 2010 Newsletter

Ad Board

No July meeting

Women's Genesis Bible Study

Thursday, July 29, 2:00; Thursday, August 5, 2:00 pm

New Ministries

Tuesday, July 6, 6 pm

Rockies Baseball

Sunday, August 15

TNT Youth

Sunday, July 11, 3 pm

Red Tent Book Study

Monday, August 23, 7:00 pm

Vacation Bible School

July 12-15, 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Sunday School Teacher Orientation

Monday, August 30, 6:30 pm

BBQ Dinner and Movie Under the Stars

All Church

Friday, July 16, time to be announced

Worship Design Team

Tuesday, July 20, 6:30 pm

Boy Scouts

Monday nights at 6:30 pm
at Erie Middle School or in the Fellowship Hall

Methodist Women's Fellowship

Wednesday, July 21, 1:00 pm

Weight Watchers

Every Friday morning at 9 am
in the Fellowship Hall

Fellowship Meal

Sunday, July 25, 11:30 am

AA Meeting

Every Friday at 7:30 pm
Call Brenna at 970-231-5859 for more information.

Education Board Meeting

Monday, July 26, 10:00 a.m.

Worship Team

Wednesday, July 28,
6:30 pm

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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Associate Pastor

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The following was submitted by a member wishing to remain anonymous.

Growing & Serving

“Growing in Christ...to Serve Others” **How does one do that?** For me, it's a matter of observing all of you, the congregation of EUMC. I've been a part of four Methodist churches, and here at Erie, I've found a spirit of serving others unlike anything I've ever seen before. Your attitude is showing me how to grow in Christ, and also how to serve others.

One example... on Father's Day, typically a day of low attendance in other churches, and with our ministers absent (attending the annual conference), our pews were almost full. A beautiful bouquet of roses graced the altar, Vi Ann's tribute to her father. Visitors were welcomed by several of you. How special to see 4 generations of the Decker/Gilmore/McMillan family filling one pew. And Rev. Jim's son treated us to a great sermon, followed by warm fellowship and the delicious goodies we've all come to expect.

Another example of your serving in the last few months has been two joyous baby showers. Numerous people pitched in to facilitate and attend these showers by planning, decorating, organizing games, and providing food and drink.

Several of you volunteered your time at our Bike Rodeo, directing participants and providing food and handing out fliers to name a few areas where you helped.

And when a call went out recently to help one of our members who was caring for an ill family member, many families answered that call. In fact, about 1/6 of our members provided food and support.

Not only do a high percentage of you serve others in many ways, but you do it with a loving, caring, and cheerful attitude. As I watch you Sunday mornings, taking Communion, singing "Amen," laughing at Rev. Jim's jokes, my spirit soars. Sometimes, although I'm not outwardly demonstrative, tears come to my eyes and a big lump clogs my throat. My heart swells with love and thankfulness for each and every one of you! Thank you for providing such wonderful examples of how to serve others... you're truly helping me to grow in Christ!

July Birthdays

July 1 – Jim Calhoun (1933)
July 11 – Ron Pickens (1968)
July 13 – Paul Kraus
July 18 – Jen Simonson (1976)
July 21 – Shirley Fischer
July 26 – Daniel Trevino (2000)

July Anniversary

July 6 – John & Amy Gross (1991)

Due to complications in the program itself, our involvement in the **Habitat for Humanity** project in Lafayette will begin early in 2011 and not this year. We continue selling grocery cards for King Soopers, Safeway, Vitamin Cottage and Sunflower Market to help us raise the \$2800 per year we have committed to raising for the project.

These stores contribute 5% of all our grocery sales to our HfH fund and it doesn't cost us anything. We just buy groceries. So far, we have earned almost \$1800 toward our goal stated above.



“What’s The Big Idea?”



Jim Calhoun
Senior Pastor

It is easy to take those who serve us regularly for granted – I try not to do that but occasionally I miss. As we move through the summer let me thank, once again, those who make things happen unobtrusively here at Erie UMC.

1. The “Fellowship People” who provide our delicious refreshments and warm reception on Sunday morning and other occasions.
2. All those who keep the building and grounds in shape so that we can carry on the business of the church without delay or hindrance.
3. The musicians who are there every Sunday so that we can worship powerfully and praise our God meaningfully.
4. All who teach and take care of our children and youth so that they can learn and grow in Christian faith.
5. Those who find ways to serve the community – volunteering – designing ways to be of help to those in need.
6. All of you who worship here on a regular basis and give so generously so that we can have a budget far beyond what you would expect in a congregation our size.

Hope I haven’t missed anyone. Thanks to all.

In Christ’s love,

Sermon Schedule

July Sermon Schedule

July 4

“Free Indeed!”

John

July 11

Linda Freund preaching

July 18

Linda Freund preaching

July 25

“Granny’s Glasses!”

Fellowship Notes

Our July fellowship activity is a **BBQ dinner and movie under the stars on Friday, July 16**. Don’t miss out on the fun for all ages beginning with a delicious meal in Coal Miners Park behind the church at 6:30 p.m. The church will provide hamburgers and hotdogs. Sign up to bring side dishes, dessert, beverages, or paper goods. As it gets darker we will show the award winning movie "Up" on the north side of the fellowship hall. This wonderful movie is about chasing your dreams, finding adventures, and lifelong relationships. Bring a chair or blanket and your bug spray and join us for an evening of intergenerational fun! If you have questions or would like to help out with this event, call Linda or Richard Freund at 303-733-4113. In August we will attend a **Rockies game on Sunday, August 15**. Watch for details!

Linda's Deacon Diary

Before I moved to Denver I did a one-year hospital residency as a chaplain in Boise, Idaho, to learn about pastoral care. One of my jobs was to visit patients and offer them support during the challenge of a hospital stay. Many people I called on had not requested a chaplain visit, and were not in a medical crisis. Since I am an introvert, this was especially challenging. It took great courage to knock on the door and introduce myself to a stranger who might not even want to see me!

Some of the patients I visited assumed I was there for religion. For those who were affiliated with a church or a particular religious group, this became a source of conversation. "What church do you represent?" they would ask me. Or they might confess that they had not been to church for awhile. Some would respond to my introduction as a chaplain by holding up their hand in that universal gesture for 'stop' saying, "I don't need any religion." At first I was only too happy to escape from that room where I was not wanted! But as I became more comfortable with my role and the deep conversations I had with people, I began to experiment. In response to 'the hand' I began saying, "That's OK because I'm not here for religion. I'm here to see how you're doing." Then we were able to talk. People shared all kinds of stories about their lives with me. And that is when I came to see that a large number of people today consider themselves spiritual but not religious. They feel a connection with the Divine, or God or a Holy Presence. But they are turned off by religion.

This was a new idea for me... but yet it was not. Even though I grew up as an Episcopalian, attending church faithfully, I had been away from the church as a young adult and had only returned after the birth of our second child.

For me, the church did not seem relevant to my life during those years I was away. I felt that I had a connection with God, but did not feel a need for the church. While that may be true for some people, others have been hurt or alienated by the church and its members. And still others have never had a connection to a church or other faith organization.

I learned that many of the people who call themselves 'spiritual but not religious' have a hunger for a connection to God. They are searching for ways to experience God more deeply, or for answers to questions that challenge them as they seek meaning in their lives.

In our church we are in conversation about beginning a new worship service this fall that will be different from the traditional worship we do so well. By offering this new worship experience, we are seeking to reach out to people who are 'spiritual but not religious', who are not part of a church, but who desire a deeper connection with God. Will you join us in the conversation about how we can begin this new ministry?

In Christ's love,

Linda



Linda Freund
Associate Pastor

New Contemporary Worship Service

Did you know that 80% of the churches that implement new services of a different style experience some form of growth? Growth comes from reaching out to people who may not be worshipping elsewhere. Well, the Worship Committee would like to invite you to be a part of designing a Contemporary Worship Service to begin this fall. We are looking for a team of individuals with energy around reaching out to people by sharing our core message in fresh ways as an alternative to our Traditional Worship Service. If you are interested, please contact either Linda Freund (lindafreund@comcast.net; 303-733-4113), Todd Dixon (dix0nfamily@comcast.net; 303.918.9443); or Jim Calhoun (jimjo30@aol.com; 303.955.1185). We plan to have our first meeting of this new team on July 20th at 6:30 pm.

MISSION NEWS

We Want to be “Imitators of Christ”

UMCOR KITS taken to Annual Conference-

EUMC prepared 25 health Kits and 8 Layette Kits for our UMCOR Depot in Salt Lake City. This makes a total of 133 Kits we've sent this year! The total brought to Annual Conference was over 17,000 Kits! Thanks to all who supplied these items for victims of disasters.

FOOD BANK NEEDS-Bring kid-friendly food items for the OUR center and Sister Carmen Food Banks!

Remember school is out and some area families are struggling to keep food on their table! Suggestions are: Mac and cheese, peanut butter, canned spaghetti, fruit juice boxes, and soups.

SWINGING AT AIDS CHARITY GOLF

TOURNAMENT & SILENT AUCTION-August 24 at City Park Golf Course, Denver.\$135 per golfer .Includes lunch. See Joanie Calhoun for details!

SCHOOL OF MISSION.-July 15-17 at First UMC of Canon City- or August 24 at Broomfield UMC.

Studies are The Beauty and Courage of Sudan: Why a Dream of Peace is Possible; For The Love Of God: John's Letters; Joy to The World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity. .See Joanie Calhoun for registration details.

ERIE METHODIST WOMEN TO LEAD IN

COLLECTING UMCOR SCHOOL KITS-School children in the Gulf area where families have lost their jobs will need school supplies to start school! Please bring your donations to the box in Fellowship Hall.

August Back to School Sales will offer these items at small prices:

Small hand held pencil sharpener

Kids scissors (round tip)

Unsharpened pencils

30 centimeter ruler

Notebook paper

Crayons (Box of 24)

2 Small erasers-2 ½ inch

\$1 to ship each bag

Our Methodist Women will sew the cloth tote bags to hold these supplies. Thanks in advance for your help.

SAVE THE DATE! OCTOBER 17-BOULDER

COUNTYCROP WALK-10 k walk begins at St.

Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Boulder. Last year, EUMC won the trophy for biggest % of our church membership walking. Come and Join Us!

See Joanie Calhoun for Details. Last year, this walk raised over \$62,000 for Hunger. 25% goes to the Community Food Share warehouse in Longmont which supplies our local food banks!

	Liturgist	Ushers		Greeters
July 4	Becky Lesser	Suzzette Kraus	Paul Kraus	Jackie & Rob Freeston
July 11	Carole Craig	Neel Pelser	Suzzette Kraus	Elaine & Dee Green
July 18	Monica Pickens	Neel Pelser	Paul Kraus	Jackie & Rob Freeston
July 25	Nancy Dixon	Marilyn Bundy	Ray Bundy	Elaine & Dee Green
Aug 1	Linda Freund	Ron Hodel	Neel Pelser	Elaine & Dee Green
Aug 8	Marilyn Bundy	Paul Kraus	Richard Freund	Elaine & Dee Green
Aug 15	Becky Lesser	Marilyn Bundy	Ray Bundy	Jackie & Rob Freeston
Aug 22	Carole Craig	Neel Pelser	Ron Hodel	Elaine & Dee Green
Aug 29	Marilyn Bundy	Suzzette Kraus	Paul Kraus	Jackie & Rob Freeston

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATES

As we know, we are not having actual Sunday School classes during the summer months of June, July, and August...however, during those months we are having Jr. Church/Children Activity Time for our children ages 5 years thru 9 years during our worship hour. We have posted the volunteer sign up sheet outside of the Pastor's office in the Fellowship Hall for those willing to help with our children during the worship hour.

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS DOES CONTINUE TO MEET AT 9:30 A.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER.

Our Nursery continues to be open and staffed during our worship service and the sign up sheet for volunteers for that group of "wee" ones is also posted in the Fellowship Hall. Speaking of our Nursery, the Lessar family has donated a television/VHS player for use in the Nursery and now we are able to use the wonderful selection of Veggi-Tales tapes we have available.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS FAST APPROACHING AND THUS FAR WE ARE ON SCHEDULE AND PREPARING FOR OUR GALACTIC BLAST OFF ON MONDAY, JULY 12TH AT 6:00 P.M.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WILL BEGIN MONDAY, JULY 12TH THRU THURSDAY, JULY 15TH FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. FOR CHILDREN AGES 5 YEARS THRU 10 YEARS. ON SUNDAY, JULY 18TH, OUR WORSHIP SERVICE WILL BE BLESSED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CHILDREN...BE SURE TO COME AND SEE WHAT THE CHILDREN AND VOLUNTEERS HAVE PLANNED.

WE ARE ENCOURAGING FAMILIES TO PRE-REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN AND THEY CAN DO SO BY EITHER GOING TO THE CHURCH WEBSITE OR E-MAILING LINDA FREUND AT lindafreund@comcast.net.

Congregational Care

In June and July we started an organized effort to continue doing what many of our congregation have been doing on their own for years. The program is to provide care for people of our church in whatever ways we can. The most common help is to provide meals; however, we can provide help by spending time with someone in the family so a caregiver can run errands, go to a doctor appointment or just get away for a couple of hours.

There are three ways you can participate in this program:

- First, if you know of someone in need of our help, please contact Marilyn or Ray Bundy (303.660.9213 rmbundy@fastermac.net).
- The second way to get involved is to let the Bundys know you would be available to help. We have ten people on the list so far, but would love to have twice that many so we can spread the fun around, perhaps making us available to more people in need.
- The third way to help is to volunteer to take on an organizational role for this program. Again, contact the Bundys if you are willing to help in this way.