

# The Erie Evangel

November 2011



## Erie United Methodist Church

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*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

## WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?



“This Is What I Think Of You!”

Visiting in a church recently I heard the pastor say that the lay person who received the offering each Sunday during his growing years always said as he held up the plates:

“No matter what I say or do... This is what I think of you!”

The you is God. What do we really think about God?

On Sunday, November 20th, we will make our annual stewardship response. It will be our opportunity to say what we think of God. What we decide to do is a highly personal decision. The United Methodist Church DOES NOT dictate what you should commit to the work of God's Kingdom through your local church. We DO call on each person, each family to do their best.

Our best means that we “tailor” our life styles to make sure that our number one commitment is to our Lord. It means that we decide not to do (or have) some things in order to be able to do (or have) the thing. In a faith that has a cross at the center we can do no less. We do not use guilt, fear, judgment or manipulation as methodologies to get your response. We simply offer you this opportunity to give your stewardship estimate for 2012 so that we can plan our budget accurately. If circumstances change you may cancel or alter your estimate. We are not GMAC or the Bank. We are family.

Each of us who takes our faith seriously is just doing his or her best for the One who gave His all for us. Your church opens its books to any inquirer at any time. We handle your giving with confidentiality and take seriously the responsibility to manage those contributions with the utmost care. We'll communicate more before the 20th.

Till then—may God bless you richly while you serve faithfully as a dedicated disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ's love,

### Welcome, New Members!

Bryon & Nancy Bednar  
Larry Brown & Mary Gibson

Sybil Eppinger  
Tim & Christina Brekel

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

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

# NOVEMBER CALENDAR

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Connect Service

11:00 am Traditional Service

### November 6

The Hole in Our Gospel:  
#5 Uncovering the Hole in the Church  
Luke 10:25-37

"The New Testament Church: Today"  
"Sacramente—The Church Shares Communion!"  
Jubilate Singers

### November 13

The Hole in Our Gospel:  
#6 Repairing the Hole in the World  
John 6:5-13

Linda Freund preaching—The Hole in Our Gospel:  
#6 Repairing the Hole in the World  
John 6:5-13

### November 20 Stewardship Sunday

Jim Calhoun preaching  
"A Cross Across my Pocketbook-Life"  
Matthew 16:24-26

"A Cross Across my Pocketbook-Life"  
Matthew 16:24-26

### November 27 First Sunday in Advent

Begin Advent Series: "The Journey"  
Part 1: Mary of Nazareth  
Luke 1:26-38

"Christmas—In A Truck Stop!"  
Luke 2:1-14

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Women's Bible Study**— Wednesday mornings, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Childcare is available. (No meeting on November 23).

**Wonderful Wednesdays**— Every Wednesday through November 16. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall) Study from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (Sanctuary) Childcare is available (Fellowship Hall).

**Connect Worship music practice**— Thursday nights, 7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary) (No meeting on November 24)

**Dinner for 7 or 8**— Saturday, November 5

**Board of Christian Education**— Monday, November 7, 7:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

**Ad Board**— Tuesday, November 8, 6:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

**Family Mission Activity**— Sunday, November 13, 1:00 p.m.

**Methodist Women**— Wednesday, November 16, 1:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

**Fellowship Meal**— Sunday, November 20. Brunch at 10:05 - 10:50 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

## YOUTH GROUP - AT A GLANCE

November 6	6 - 7:30 p.m.	<i>Twinkies &amp; Goldfish aka Loaves &amp; Fishes @ Lafayette</i>
November 13	6 - 7:30 p.m.	<i>Minute to Win It @ Lafayette</i>
November 20	6 - 7:30 p.m.	<i>And so We are Thankful @ Lafayette</i>
November 27	1:30—3:00 p.m.	Thanksgiving Food Drive Culmination - @ TBA

## BIRTHDAYS :

5— Michael Hughes

6—Joella Whittaker

10—Dorothy McMillan

11—Barbara Earl & Madeline McAdams

13—Carole Craig

14—Barbara Hughes



16—Dolores Boyd & Henry Kraus

17—Bridget Cleveland

19—David Cunningham & Todd Dixon

20—Rich Lesser and Richard Pelsler

27—Megan Pickens

## ANNIVERSARY :

28—Rich & Becky Lesser



## DEACON'S DIARY



I am writing this in the midst of the amazing and beautiful fall weather we are having. Bright sunshine, crisp mornings, snow topped mountains in the distance. What a joy to be living in such a beautiful place!

I am also in the midst of our worship series using Richard Stearns' book *The Hole In Our Gospel*, and about to embark on our Wonderful Wednesday evening study of that book. The book is profoundly moving and inspirational. It is changing the way I look at my life and the world. It is opening my eyes to places where I did not want to look. Part of my response is gratitude and thanksgiving. There is so much I take for granted each day... clean water to drink and bathe with; a comfortable bed to sleep in; a clean, dry, spacious, warm and bright home; a wide choice of clothing to wear that are appropriate for each season; an abundance of delicious food. I am part of a loving community of faith; I have opportunities to learn and grow and try new things each day; there are new possibilities in my life almost constantly. My family and I are in good health. I have a husband and two children (and two significant others), and two dogs who I love dearly. My parents continue to bless me with their wisdom, their love, their encouragement and their support. I have many other relatives and friends scattered around the country who have touched me and loved me over the years. I am a beloved child of God, who has transformed my life and who offers me a relationship and life of faith, and life more abundant each day. I could go on and on. I am sure there are significant things I have left out.

In a few weeks we are taking a trip to the east coast over the Thanksgiving holiday. We are returning to a place we used to go when our children were young. It is a special place filled with so many good memories, time spent as a family to relax and just be together. Our children and their significant others, and my parents are joining us there, and we rented a big house a few blocks from the beach. We are celebrating my husband's birthday, and we are celebrating our lives together. I am so thankful for the gift of this special time together, for the opportunity to pause from the daily routine of life, to celebrate, to remember and give thanks, and to rest.

May our lives be filled with gratitude for God's abundance and grace. May we give ourselves unreservedly to God and be transformed into people of who generously share from our abundance, and join in bringing about God's Kingdom on earth.

In Christ's love,  
Linda



Dear Jim

Thank you for your invitation to come to Erie UMC on September 11. I had two major events to be a part of and regrettably would not have been able to come to Erie that day. Please know that I am always with you and your congregation in heart and spirit.

I give thanks to God for all the lives that have been touched with the grace and love of Jesus Christ by your ministry. I was delighted to read the newspaper article of all the wonderful community projects you are doing and to learn of your two services. My thoughts and prayers are with you. I thank you for all you have done throughout your community and for the gifts and graces you have demonstrated to us all. I pray that you will continue to be blessed with many years to come.

Grace and peace to you, Bishop Elaine J. W. Stanovsky.

## CONNECT WORSHIP

**"CONNECT" WORSHIP CONTINUES "CHANGE THE WORLD" SERIES** In November will conclude our fall "Change the World" series using Richard Stearns' "The Hole in Our Gospel" as we explore what God expects of us as individuals and as a church. Then on November 27, we begin our Advent Series "The Journey".

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).



## FELLOWSHIP

### UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Now that we have two worship services, fellowship activities are a helpful way to stay connected to each other. Here are some upcoming dates to mark on your calendars.

Wonderful Wednesdays, each Wednesday night through November 16. See separate story for details.

**DINNER FOR 7 OR 8 RETURNS ON NOVEMBER 5!** Are you looking for a fun way of getting out and connecting with people from our congregation? Our fellowship activity for November is **Dinner for 7 or 8, to be held on Saturday, November 5.** We need two or three hosts to offer their home for the meal, and choose what dish they will prepare. Late in October reservations will be open to all adults, single or attached. Make your reservation by filling out the form in the bulletin by October 30. Once the reservations are in we will randomly assign groups of 7 or 8 to get together for dinner on November 5. You will be contacted to let you know where you will be having dinner and what dish you should bring. We hope everyone will be part of this special dinner!

No child care will be provided for this event, but we do have several youth in our church who have completed YMCA babysitting training and are willing to volunteer their time. Contact Linda for names and contact information.

**THE YOUNG ADULT PROGRESSIVE DINNER WAS A BIG SUCCESS.** On October 15, 17 young-ish adults from the church gathered at church and journeyed around town for a delicious 3 course meal. Children enjoyed a pizza dinner and were well cared for by Carolyn and Erica. Everyone had too much to eat and lots of opportunity for conversation and fun. Cate Kraus was heard shouting with joy about a pizza party! Special thanks to Joanie Calhoun, Richard Freund, and Nancy and Emiline Dixon for preparing such delicious food, and to Carolyn and Erica for caring for our children.



Please join us for **TODD'S 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.** It will be a "come and go" with refreshments from 2-4 on Saturday, November 19th at the Dixon residence. Please no gifts BUT if you don't like to come empty-handed, Todd LOVES frosted, strawberry poparts!! Hope to see you on the 19th!

## MISSION NEWS

Hebrews 13:2-“ Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

November is the time when we think about harvest, family times and sharing. The Missions Committee lifts up these opportunities: Please respond as you are able.

**FIRST SUNDAY GATHERING OF STAPLE FOODS** EUMC's Food Box for the Food Bank at Sister Carmen and OUR Center is really empty! We'll be handing out brown bags on October 30 to remind you to bring canned and boxed food items on November 2.

**“WARM AND COZY ITEMS”** The OUR Center in Longmont needs new gloves, mittens, hats, socks, blankets and coats to give to needy families at Christmas. Look for the Warm & Cozy Box in Fellowship Hall till our Sharing Tree is put up in December. Deadline to donate is December 12.



**FOOD BASKETS** Would you like to put together Holiday Food Baskets at the OUR Center? 2 & ½ hour shifts. See Joanie for details.



**SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS** Would you be able to be a bell ringer for the Salvation Army? November 25 - December 24. See Joanie.

**HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS** Would you be able to assemble Holiday Gift Bags on December 14 (Monday) and December 15 (Tuesday) See Joanie.

**METHODIST WOMEN** will meet on November 16 at 1 P.M. for devotions and refreshments. At 2 P.M. We will visit the new Sister Carmen Food Bank next to Walmart on Hwy 287. All ladies are invited. See Joanie for details.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** Dedication of the Coal Creek Village Habitat for Humanity homes will be held Sunday, December 4 at 2:30. These are the four-plexes we helped build, and the 4 families will be at the dedication. It would be great if a group of us from EUMC could attend this dedication. (You don't have to have worked at the site to attend.) See Ray or Marilyn Bundy if you have any questions. (rmbundy@me.com) or call 303-660-9213.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR A FAMILY MISSION OPPORTUNITY: NOVEMBER 13—FIGHT HUNGER NOW!** Do you want to put your faith into action and make a difference in the world? On Sunday, November 13 at 1:00 p.m. Erie UMC will be taking part in a mission opportunity working with Kids Against Hunger, a humanitarian food-aid organization. We will be packing meals to be shipped to **Ethiopia**. Packaging food is an easy, fulfilling way to feel that you are making a real difference. We will add the ingredients (rice, soy protein, dehydrated vegetables and a vitamin-mineral mixture) to pre-printed bags, weigh, seal, and box the meals. You can see the progress with each bag you package and box up.

**Volunteers of ALL ages can be involved** in this simple, manual process. Children as young as 4 years old can help independently. Younger kids can contribute with the help of an adult. And although the name states "Kids Against Hunger" this opportunity truly is meaningful and rewarding for ALL ages.

In addition to donating our time, our church has committed to a \$400 donation toward food supplies and shipping. It costs \$40 to cover all expenses from ingredients to shipping for one box containing 216 meals. **Would you consider sponsoring a box for \$40?** Please join us by volunteering your time on November 13 or giving financially with whatever amount you're able, or both! Questions? Contact Pastor Linda.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Our Sunday School classes continue to meet at 9:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall each week...it is amazing that we have a total of four classes plus our nursery all using the Fellowship Hall at the same time, and yet the noise level is very low. It is such a joy to see each of children from infants to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders all come into the Fellowship Hall with smiles. The children and their teachers have a special bond already in place and when you hear the interaction between the children and their teachers during class time, we know that God's love is in place.

Preparations are beginning for our annual Christmas Pageant which will be on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> (rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>). More information will be in the December church newsletter.



We are also in the mode of preparations for the annual Family Christmas Craft Workshop in December...more to follow in the December newsletter.

Our Adult Sunday School class is so great and so flexible when we need to use their space on particular Sundays....a special thanks to that class.

Our Nursery is available for both services on Sunday mornings....

For the 9:00 A.M. service the nursery is opened from 8:45 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.

For the 11:00 A.M. service the nursery is opened from 10:45 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

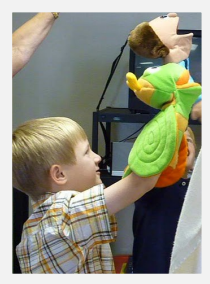
There is still a need for volunteers to help in the Nursery...please consider helping out at least once every 6 to 8 weeks. This opportunity brings extra blessings to both the volunteers and the "wee ones". The SIGN-UP VOLUNTEER sheet is posted in the Fellowship Hall just outside of the pastor's office. If you have any questions, please contact Joella Whittaker at (720) 563-9293 or Vi MacTavish at (303) 666-4603.

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**There will be a meeting of the Board of Christian Education on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.**

**PUPPET MINISTRY** The Puppet Ministry is going great! In fact, we've been getting experience in front of an audience... the nursery children often come over to watch us practice! We're planning a short presentation during the 11:00 church service on November 20, and we'll be part of the Children's Christmas Program December 18.

From time to time, we'll be in need of certain props and costumes. Would anyone have a cowboy shirt we could use for the Christmas program? A toddler size would be best, but I think we could adapt a child-size or even an adult size shirt.



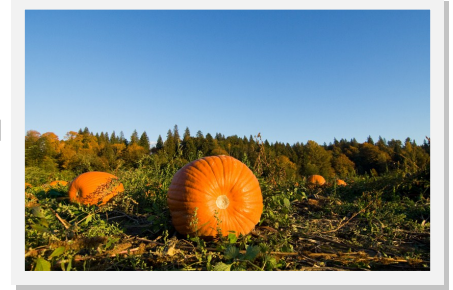
**ENTER OUR CONTEST!!!!!!** We're having a church-wide contest to come up with a catchy, meaningful name for our puppeteers. Acronyms are welcome. Just write your name and your suggestion on a piece of paper and submit your entries to Marilyn Bundy. Deadline for the contest is Sunday, November 27.

*Jackson Rozelle (brother Forest is in the background) practicing puppeteering skills*

## YOUTH

### THANKSGIVING SERVICE PROJECT

We will be doing a Service Project for part of Thanksgiving. Please bring non-perishable food to the church between October 30<sup>th</sup> and November 27<sup>st</sup>. We will collect the donations from the congregation and then sort and organize them for a local food bank on Sunday, Nov. 27th. **Please plan to meet for youth group on Nov. 27<sup>st</sup> at 1:30pm. We will finish up at 3pm.** Watch your emails for further details about where we will be meeting.



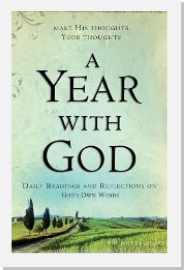
### DECEMBER SCHEDULING HEADS UP

As we come in to the holiday season I know that all families get very busy, so I wanted to be sure to give a couple of heads up as to our schedule for the Christmas and New Years seasons.

First please know that there will be no Youth Group on December 4th due to an all church event at 1st UMC Lafayette. We will meet on December 11 and December 18. On December 18 we will have our Silly Gift Exchange, so start looking for that "perfect" gift that you can bring (\$5 or less). There will be no Youth Group on December 25, Merry Christmas! And no youth group the following week, Happy New Years! Starting January 8th we will get back to our normal schedule!

## STUDY

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY MORNINGS** Our weekly women's Bible study is continuing with "A Year with God" by Richard Foster. 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 provided. 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.



**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS CONTINUES THROUGH NOVEMBER 16** Wonderful Wednesday fellowship dinners are held each Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m., followed by a study for adults at 6:30 p.m. Child care is provided. This is a great opportunity to get to know others in the congregation in an informal setting, and to grow in your faith. You are welcome to invite others! Joanie Calhoun and crew will be preparing a delicious soup supper each week, and donations will be accepted to cover the cost of the food. Come for the fellowship meal and the class, or just the meal, or just the class--whatever fits your schedule. We hope you will join us!

**"THE HOLE IN OUR GOSPEL" CONTINUING THROUGH NOVEMBER 16** "The Hole in Our Gospel" is the story of the faith journey of Richard Stearns, who went from years of corporate success to President of World Vision. Stearns asks, "Is our faith just about going to church, studying the Bible and avoiding the most serious sins--or does God expect more? Have we embraced the whole gospel or a gospel with a hole in it?" In this study we are exploring what it really means to be disciples of Jesus Christ in 2011. Books are available for \$5. Pastor Linda will lead this four week study on Wednesday nights through November 16, at 6:30, immediately following the Wonderful Wednesday

