

The Erie Evangel

October 2011



Erie United Methodist Church

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WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

“Relax—Rest—Rejoice!”



Usually, in this column, I am touting an upcoming event or expounding on some theological or biblical concept. However, on this occasion, I want to experience the alternative heart beat of life which is to rest and relax and, then, rejoice. I've been pushing (all of us) pretty hard for a while now as we got ready for our Fall Round-Up with all of the changes and hard work required to make it all come about. Now I want us to fit into a groove and let it happen with a rhythm and flow. The work, of course, must continue but the stress, anxiety, and pressure of the launch may alleviate a bit and we can catch our breath, restore, rest and relax.

We will take this time of rest as an opportunity to celebrate all that has happened. We can express our appreciation to those most involved in making it happen.

- I. Round-Up Sunday: Bennett's did their usual excellent job with the BBQ. Enough in the freezer for another Hoop-de-doo. Carmen Coleman warmed our hearts with her singing and got our hands to clapping and our toes to moving. The entire 11:00 service was alive and vital. Our thanks to Linda and Joel and the whole Connect Service Team for a job so very well done in preparing and presenting a lively, interesting experience of worship, commitment and fellowship. Through their efforts we are reaching out to a new generation of those seeking a new way of doing worship that speaks more directly to their needs.
- II. Christian Education: Vi, Marilyn, Linda and a “cast of thousands” who have spent hours getting ready for our new education format on Sunday mornings; 9:00 am—Traditional Sunday School, 11:00 am—Puppet Ministry.
- III. Youth Activity: Our new working arrangement with Lafayette UMC for a joint youth program got off to a great start on September 11. We look forward to a most meaningful experience for all our youth. Thanks to Megan Armstrong, the Youth Director at Lafayette.
- IV. Study and Fellowship Opportunities: Linda has put together a number of classes, programs, and experiences for our growth in learning about our faith and times to be together in fellowship.
- V. Fellowship Hall (etc.): Once again, I must express the heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to Lori Ladd, George Bachelder, and all of you who had a part in the remodeling and updating of our Fellowship Hall—splendid job. Words aren't adequate to say, “Thank you!” properly for this transformation of our facility.
- VI. Mission Outreach: You'll be hearing about and be given opportunity to be involved in a number of projects and activities which define us as a missional church—reaching out to the community and the world.

I'm going to relax a bit and enjoy the fruits of our labor and the evident presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst as the results of our Round-Up and the ensuing ministries that are unfolding around us take place. Thanks to all of you once more.

In Christ's love,

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

CALENDAR

Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Connect Service

October 2 – Communion

11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

Three Simple Rules Series

“Staying in Love with God”

“#3 Stay in Love with God”

John 21:15-17, 19

John 21:15-17, 19 (Jim Calhoun preaching)

October 9

The Hole in Our Gospel Series

“Doxologica: The Church Celebrated!”

“What is the Hole?”

Romans 15:6, 1 Timothy 1:12-17,

Ephesians 3:14-21 and Ephesians 5:19-20

October 16

The Hole in Our Gospel Series

Isaiah: The Healing Church!”

“Finding the Hole in Me”

Acts 5:12-16 (and other pertinent verses)

October 23

The Hole in Our Gospel Series

“What's Wrong with this Picture?”

“What's Wrong with This Picture?”

(Linda Freund preaching)

October 30

The Hole in Our Gospel Series

“Diaconia: The Servant Church!”

“How Does Servanthood Fit in?”

(Jim Gulley, guest preacher)

(Jim Gulley, guest preacher)

Acts 6:1-7 and Luke 13:2-9

Activities

- **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.
- **Wonderful Wednesdays** - Every Wednesday. 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)
- **“Mario the Peddler”** – Saturday, October 1, 7:00 pm (Centaurus High School)
- **Youth's Fall Retreat** – Friday, October 7, 4:30 pm till noon on Sunday, October 9 (Drop off and pick up at Lafayette UMC)
- **BUMMP Salmon/Turkey Dinner** – Sunday, October 9, 5:00 pm (Broomfield UMC)
- **Young Adult Progressive Dinner** – Saturday, October 15.
- **Methodist Women** – Wednesday, October 19, 1:00 pm (Fellowship Hall).
- **Crop Walk** – Sunday, October 23, 2:00 pm (First UMC in Boulder)
- **Fellowship Meal** – Sunday, October 30, 10:05 – 10:50 am (Fellowship Hall)

Youth Group – At a Glance

October 2	6-7:30pm	Praying in Color @ Lafayette
Oct. 7 – 9	4:30pm Fri. – 12pm Sun.	Fall Youth Retreat @ Blue Mountain Ranch
October 9	NO YOUTH GROUP - Retreat	
October 16	6-7:30pm	Goofy Game Night @ Lafayette
October 23	6 – 7:30pm	Our Favorite Ghost @ Erie
October 31	NO YOUTH GROUP – Family Sabbath	



DEACON'S DIARY



Fall has arrived, bringing with it a new chapter in the life of our church. There are two worship services now, with different styles and approaches. Two different opportunities for children on Sunday morning. Two new bulletin formats. Two opportunities for fellowship. There are new youth opportunities on Sunday evening. So many people are involved to make all these things possible. We have worked hard for months, planning and preparing for this time, talking through the concerns, and identifying strategies to address them. For me, it is a relief to finally be past the initial days of the changes, to see that our planning has paid off and we are making smooth transitions.

The fall has brought personal changes for me as well. Since I let go of my position as hospital chaplain earlier this summer, I am only serving in one place--here at Erie UMC. Most of my energy is going into our new Connect worship service. We have shifted from a monthly worship service, to weekly. I am searching for a new rhythm in my life as I adjust to these changes.

As I reflect on all this, I am reminded of a snow globe. You know the kind I mean, where you shake it and the snow flies around, finally settling on the bottom. That is what this fall feels like to me, like everything has been shaken up, is thrown up in the air, and is swirling around. At the moment, we are still caught up in the chaos of that swirling. But before long, things will settle down. It takes trust during unsettled times like this, to get through them. Trust that, based on our experience in life, things do eventually settle down and find a new 'normal'. Trust that we have been listening to God's call, and that, even though things might not turn out like we envision them, God is there in the swirling, and all will be well. Trust that, even though sometimes it feels like there is too much to be done, and we cannot do nearly enough, God will create beautiful things out of us and out of our efforts.

We are already beginning to see fall changes around us: changing colors and falling leaves, and crisp, cool mornings followed by warm afternoons. Parker Palmer writes about fall in his book "Let Your Life Speak": "Autumn is a season of great beauty, but it is also a season of decline: the days grow shorter, the light is suffused, and summer's abundance decays toward winter's death. Faced with this inevitable winter, what does nature do in autumn? It scatters the seeds that will bring new growth in the spring--and scatters them with amazing abandon."

Perhaps this is a new way of thinking about fall, and about the snow globe. Maybe all the stuff that is swirling around us is seeds that are being scattered with abandon. that will bring new growth in spring. It is reassuring to feel the rhythm of the seasons of nature, even as we struggle to find rhythm in our weeks. As the leaves fall and change, God's love for creation remains changeless and eternal. May the beauty of this day, the blessings of this life, and all that we do to serve God, glorify God's name, now and always. Amen.



In Christ's love,
Linda

Birthday Celebrations

7 - Becky Lesser
13 - Neel Pelser

24 - Sonia Woodruff
30 - Lonnie Yenny

EDUCATION

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 October 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!

"Wesley: A Heart Transformed Can Change the World"

It's not too late to join in this study about John Wesley, the father of Methodism. Pastor Jim is leading this study in the sanctuary from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., immediately following the Wonderful Wednesday meal (at 6 pm). You will learn about Wesley's life, his inner struggles and challenges, and our United Methodist faith. This study includes a new feature film based on Wesley's private journals, that enables us to step into Wesley's life and experience his spiritual struggles and transformation. The study continues until October 19. Childcare is provided.

Coming on October 26: "The Hole In Our Gospel"

"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 will be 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 from October 26 through November 16, at 6:30, immediately following the Wonderful Wednesday fellowship meal.

COMMITTEE "MINUTES"

Administrative Board These are exciting times at Erie UMC as we continue to grow in membership and programming. We are approaching the 100 mark in membership and on September 11 we started offering two Sunday morning worship opportunities. Also, our youth have started joining the youth at Lafayette UMC for Sunday evening activities. Our Fellowship Hall has undergone a major facelift, making it more comfortable and inviting for regular attendees and visitors, and we are in the process of sharing information with the congregation regarding possible future facilities growth. At Erie UMC, all Administrative Board meetings are open to any member or constituent who would like to attend. We invite and encourage you to join us at any of our monthly meetings. – Ron Hodel, Chairperson

MISSION NEWS

Here are some opportunities to serve and support causes in our area this fall:

October 1- "Mario the Peddler" - 7 P.M. Centaurus High School on S. Boulder Rd. This inspirational one-man show is a benefit for the Meals On Wheels Scholarship Fund which assists homebound clients to have a hot meal daily. Tickets are \$15 for Adults, \$10 for Seniors and Students. See Joanie for tickets.

October 9-BUMMP Salmon/Turkey Dinner - 5-7 P.M. Broomfield UMC, 545 10th.Broomfield.This is a benefit for Boulder UMC mission partners Volunteer teams are needed to buy materials needed at their work sites. Calhouns are leading a team to Meru, Kenya next July 1-14 to help construct a classroom. This dinner will raise funds for that construction and other work sites. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-12, children under age 5 are free. See Calhouns for tickets.



October 23-CROP Walk for Hunger - 2 P.M. First UMC in Boulder, 1425 Spruce St. The route is 6.2 miles or a short 1 mile course. In 2008, EUMC won the trophy for largest % of our members who walked for HUNGER. See Joanie to sign-up and get sponsor sheets.

EUMC supports **OUR Center** Food Bank in Longmont and **Sister Carmen** Food Bank in Lafayette. We need your help to fill our Food Box in Fellowship Hall every week.



Congregational Care...What is it? How can I be involved?

Congregational Care has reached out to many families in the past year. We have brought families meals, provided child care and respite care, helped with yard work, shoveled snow, provided transportation, and prayed.

As we begin two services and our congregation grows, so will the opportunities to serve those in our midst that face trying times. Please consider how you can become involved. Would you be willing to help meet a need in the congregation? Is there someone you can refer to me that has a need? Please pray for those in our midst that are facing difficult times. If you are interested in helping or have a need request, please contact Sandy Garcia at 303-926-6889 or kruhmingarcia@msn.com.

WORSHIP

"Connect" Worship Continues "Change the World" series

In October we continue our fall "Change the World" series using Richard Stearns' "The Hole in Our Gospel." Are you wondering whether God is calling you to something more, and how you can make a difference in the world? Come join us as we explore what it means to be a Christian and the church in 2011. We offer a message of hope and transformation through music, drama, video and other images and experiences. 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).

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

We are back!!!!!!! What a blessing Sunday, September 11th was for our church and for our Sunday School children. Lots of changes have taken place since May in our Sunday School...

#1 our new class hour starts at 9:00 A.M.

2 we have added a new class for our 6th thru 8th grade children

3 we have some new teachers and helpers this year

4 we have added a Puppet Ministry which takes place during our 11:00 A.M. Worship Service.


#5 our Adult Sunday School class now is meeting at 9:00 A.M.

Each Sunday a 9:00 A.M. at the beginning of Sunday School, Nancy Dixon is leading the children in songs and Monica Pickens is teaching the children the Lord's Prayer in sign language. To further instill in our children the meaning of mission giving, we have decided that the collections donated by the children will be given to a Mission Project that will be voted on by the children later in the year.

The Nursery is booming and we are so thankful to have Erica as our primary caregiver for each service....however, we still need to have one other person helping during each worship service and ask that you give this task of love your prayerful consideration. Please feel free to contact either Joella Whittaker at 720-563-9293 or Vi MacTavish at 303-666-4603 if you have any questions. The Volunteer Sign-Up sheet is posted on the bulletin board just outside of the pastor's office in the Fellowship Hall.

We look forward to sharing the love of Jesus with these children and ask that as a congregation that you continue to remember these children and their teachers in your daily prayers.

YOUTH



Fall Youth Retreat October is here so it is time to get planned for the Fall Youth Retreat. We will be headed up to Blue Mountain Ranch a small camp in Florissant, CO. So mark your calendars for **Oct. 7-9, 2011**. Our theme for the retreat is "What's Your Character?" And we will be doing some character sketches of Old Testament Bible figures as part of our time. We will also be doing the Ropes Course on Saturday, with Rob Armstrong, Low course as a group and high course for those who want to do it. And of course what would a retreat be without games, food, and fun. **The cost is \$35/person**, and one child free for any parent that volunteers. **We will meet at the church at 4:30p on Friday**, and plan to return around 12pm on Sunday.

Adult Volunteers for Youth Group I am still in need of volunteers for the month of November, if your family has not had a chance to help out yet this quarter, please take a moment to look over your November calendar and pick a weekend that would be good for you! Thanks! I really love getting to know the adults and parents who are involved with our youth as well.

A Chance for some Family Sabbath On the fifth Sunday of the month we will not have activities for youth in the evening. With so many planned activities, events and schedules this is an evening to take time as a family. Plan something to do at home, have a nice dinner (maybe the kids could help cook), go to a movie, or just relax. Try to make this time actual Sabbath time, not just for your kids but, for your whole family.

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 in October. See separate story under Education for details.
Sunday, October 23, Crop Walk (see story under Missions).

Young Adult Progressive Dinner--Saturday, October 15 A Young Adult



Progressive Dinner will be held on **Saturday, October 15**. Everyone will meet at the church at 4:45 and carpool to the locations of three courses of this meal. Evite invitations will be sent out in September, with reservations needed for childcare and the meal. Make sure we have your email address so we can send you an invitation! We still need teen volunteers to help with childcare. If you have questions or would like to help out with this event, call Pastor Linda at 303-733-4113. Mark your calendar and plan to be part of the fun!

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.

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, to package 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 consider joining us by volunteering your time on November 13 or giving financially with whatever amount you're able, or both! Questions? Contact Pastor Linda.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION

Fellowship Hosts for Sunday Morning Fellowship Time

With two fellowship times each Sunday, there are two opportunities each week to host the fellowship time by providing simple treats and making sure the Fellowship Hall is cleaned up afterwards. We are looking for two volunteers for each fellowship time to each bring food that will serve two dozen people (cookies, donuts, muffins, coffee cake, etc.)

Yes, I would like to help!

- 10:00 Fellowship time--after Connect worship
- Noon Fellowship time--after Traditional worship

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

_____ *detach and place in offering plate* _____

Nursery Caregivers

Do you like babies and toddlers? We offer a nursery during each worship service for infants through children age 4. Our paid nursery caregiver, Erica, is responsible for the nursery each Sunday morning, but needs additional help. We are looking for one teen (who has taken the Red Cross babysitting training) or one adult for each worship service to help Erica care for our smallest children. We also offer childcare during other adult activities, such as Wonderful Wednesday studies. Would you be willing to help out occasionally?

Yes, I would like to help!

- I am available to help out during the 9:00 worship.
- I am available to help out during the 11:00 worship.
- I am available to help out on Wednesday nights.

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

_____ *detach and place in offering plate* _____

Greeters/Ushers for Sunday Morning Worship

Do you like to connect with people and help them to feel welcome? Are you interested in helping with the Sunday morning flow? We need two people at each worship service on Sunday mornings to welcome people, hand out bulletins and visitor bags, pass around offering plates, and gather the attendance pads after worship. This is a combined greeter and usher role--an easy but important role in the life of our church. Would you be willing to help?

Yes, I would like to help!

- 9:00 Connect worship
- 11:00 Traditional worship
- Either service will work for me

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____