

The Erie Evangel

September 2011



Erie United Methodist Church

604 Holbrook St, Erie CO 80516 (303)828-3906
erieumc@q.com www.erieumc.org www.facebook.com/erieumc

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?



"Searching For The Words"

Some persons who write a lot claim they have 'writer's cramp' others, who struggle to get their ideas into print, say that their Muse* has deserted them. Why is it when you most want to express an idea you have the greatest difficulty getting it into words. Similarly, speakers get a walnut sized lump in their throats, their tongues stick to the roof of their mouths or they get 'stammerer's tongue'. Mystery always eludes the pen and mere human means of expression.

Since coming to Erie July '06 I have tried to steer a course for which Jesus Christ is the guiding star (the pole star). By focusing on His empowering presence among us, His purposes for our lives (individually and collectively), and the kind of church He would have us to be I prayed that we would, indeed, be the little church with the big heart influencing the world around us to help establish the Kingdom of God.

We are not called to success in human terms (numbers, buildings, worldly recognition, ego fulfillment) but to faithfulness in our lives of discipleship. During July I have been (and will again in September be) seeking to find the words that are adequate to challenge each of us to be a powerful influence in our communities doing what Jesus wants us to do and to be, "Growing in Christ...To Serve Others".

I'm inviting you on His behalf to be in your place for these services which will serve as a launching pad for discipleship if we come prayed up and rarin' for action—FASTEN YOUR PEWBELTS—here we go! I will try with my poor, human stammering tongue to give expression to the eternal, ineffable mystery that will challenge our faith and transform our lives.

In Christ's love,

P.S. Round-Up BBQ on Sunday, September 11th. New Connect Service at 9:00 a.m. Traditional Service at 11:00 a.m. Christian Education with both. BBQ begins at 11:30 for those who attend the 9:00 service. Invite a friend, neighbor, family member, co-worker, etc. to come with you on this great day.

*The nine muses are: Calliope (epic poetry), Clio (history), Erato (love poetry), Euterpe (music), Melpomene (tragedy), Polyhymnia (sacred poetry), Terpsichore (dance), Thalia (comedy), and Urania (astronomy).

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

September 4 – *Communion*

11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

“Ten Seconds To Live”

1 John 4:7-12

Guest Preacher – Paul Eppinger

September 11

Change the World Series

"Yearning for Hope"

Lamentations 3:19-24

Series: “The New Testament Church—Today!”

“The Church: Kerygma!”

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 and Acts 3:11-26

September 18

Change the World Series

"Three Simple Rules: #1 Do No Harm"

Romans 12:14-19, 13:8-9

Series: “The New Testament Church—Today!”

“The Church: Koinonia!”

Acts 2:40-47

September 25

Change the World Series

"Three Simple Rules: #2 Do All the Good You Can"

John 13:34-5; Ephesians 2:8-10

Series: “The New Testament Church—Today!”

“The Church: Didache!”

Acts 2:42 and Matthew 5:1-12

Activities

- **Connect Worship Music Practice** - Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)
- **Information Meeting** - Thursday, September 8, 7:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- **Baby Shower for Bridget Cleveland and Sonia Woodruff** - Friday, September 9, 6:00 p.m.
- **Roundup Sunday BBQ in the park** - Sunday, Sept 11, 11:30 a.m. or immediately following the 11:00 worship.
- **Youth Group** for middle school and high school youth. Sundays, 6:00 p.m. beginning September 11, (Lafayette UMC first 3 Sundays, Erie UMC 4th Sunday)
- **Ad Board** - Tuesday, September 13, 6:00 p.m.
- **Women’s Bible Study** - Wednesday’s, beginning September 14, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Fellowship Hall) Childcare is available.
- **Wonderful Wednesdays** - Wednesdays, beginning September 14. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall) Study from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (Sanctuary) Childcare is available (Fellowship Hall).
- **Information meeting** - Sunday, September 18, 2:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- **Methodist Women** - Wednesday, September 21, 1:00 p.m.
- **Church Conference** - Sunday, September 25, 10:05 to 10:50 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Youth Group – At a Glance

September 11	6-7:30pm	Meet, Play, Eat at Waneka Lake
September 18	6-7:30pm	Games with a Goal at Lafayette
September 25	6-7:30pm	Officially Fall at Erie
October 7 - 9	4:30pm Friday	Fall Youth Retreat (See Article)



DEACON'S DIARY



September is perhaps the most exciting and challenging time we have faced at Erie UMC since I have been here. We are beginning the new "Connect" worship service as a second worship service and a way of reaching out to people outside the church. It is a risky move, and we are not certain of the outcome. Yet at the same time, we have done our homework.

The entire congregation has been part of bringing this to fruition. We have had thoughtful discussions about this over the past year at the Administrative Board and in our new worship team. Jim and I have had countless conversations about the challenges and benefits of making this change. We hired Joel Cummings to lead the music, and have had a series of "preview" services to begin to create the worship service that will now be weekly. We have reviewed the implications for children's Sunday School at the Education Board, and developed a plan for both worship services that will offer different opportunities for our children at the two services. We are walking through Sunday morning logistics to make sure someone is responsible for each aspect of what is needed to make things go smoothly. We have given a face lift to the Fellowship Hall, and it is now warm and inviting. We have prepared an invitation to Roundup Sunday to be mailed to the entire Erie community. We have planned a calendar of events for all ages this fall for spiritual growth, fellowship and ministry to others. There are even more preparations I am not even aware of. And perhaps most importantly, we have been praying about this.

I have to confess that this is not what I saw myself doing... ever. Preaching and worship leading were not my calling to ministry. Yet as I have been serving here over the past several years, and in the hospital out in the world, I have been touched by how many people are spiritual but not religious, how many people are seeking a connection with God but haven't found a place where they feel they fit in. That is the direction where God has been nudging and maybe outright shoving me. I admit, I am a little anxious about how the fall will go. But I also have a deep sense of trust that we are following God's call.

Some people have been afraid that adding the second service might divide us. It might be tempting to see a competition between the two services, to see which one will do better, or be more successful. But that is *not* where God is calling us, and that is not what this is about for our church. For us to be successful, *both* services must be inviting, inspiring and relevant. For us to be successful, we must be intentional in our efforts to connect the entire congregation in Christian community. For us to be successful, we must remain grounded in our faith and in our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

I am excited to begin this next leg of the journey with you. God is truly doing something new among us and with us. As Jim says, "Fasten your pew belts" and let's get ready for an amazing adventure together!

In Christ's Love,
Linda

VBS children and staff donated 154 pounds of food to the O.U.R. Center in August. The children learned about sharing with those in need and they gave generously! Thanks so much!



UMCOR School Kits are being assembled by our Methodist Women. UMCOR shipped 169,515 kits in 2 months to persons in need. Our goal is to complete 20 School kits! Sewers are needed to make the cloth bags for the school supplies. Thanks to all who have donated so far.

Boulder County Crop Walk is October 23, starting from First United Methodist Church in Boulder. The walk is 6.2 miles or a shorter 1 mile walk. Walkers are asked to get sponsors for each mile that they walk. The walk benefits local food banks and Hunger projects worldwide See Joanie Calhoun to sign up.

What's happening in Haiti? UMCOR partnered with Global Medic to provide 6 million water-purification packets and water filters. Rev. Jim Gulley will speak at EUMC on October 30 to tell us more about our work in Haiti.

Food Banks - still need canned goods, cereal, mac & cheese, spaghettios and soup. Let's fill up our food box in the Fellowship Hall!



International Day of Prayer and Action for Human Habitat - September 18. See: www.habitat.org/cr/day_of_prayer.aspx.

Congregational Care ... Do you know who we are? I feel blessed and excited as we approach the fall schedule and beginning two services. In the past year we have brought families meals, provided child care and respite care, helped with yard work, shoveled snow, and provided transportation. Thank you for your part in making all of this possible. As our church grows, so will the opportunities to help others through difficult times. I am looking for people to explore the possibilities to expand our outreach. If you are interested in helping with the organization and administration of Congregational Care, please contact Sandy Garcia at 303-926-6889 or kruhmingarcia@msn.com.

Biscuit Day The Historical Society needs help on Saturday, September 17, setting up, serving gravy, etc. Call the Church office if you can help and we'll refer you.

Central Conferences Pension Program In our budget there is an item to support this program. You may have wondered what that is about??? On the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall is a newsletter that explains and a 'thank you' letter for our 3 year commitment to this cause.

*A very big **THANK YOU** to Chris, Lori and Lauren Ladd; Violetann MacTavish; John Garcia; Randy Norton; George, Gen and Jo Bachelder; Jim and Joanie Calhoun; Ron Hodel; Michael Pelser; John, Thea and Nathan McAdams; Linda Freund; Suzzette Kraus; Linda Olinger; Jaffre Carter; Steve, Barbara, Michael and Madison Hughes; Shirley Fischer; Carole Craig; Marjorie Smith; Joe Lane; Jenn and Dave Moore; and Sybil Eppinger for helping to renovate the Fellowship Hall. It looks awesome!*

FELLOWSHIP

Upcoming Fellowship Activities Now that we have two worship services, fellowship activities will be very important to stay connected to each other. Here are some upcoming dates to mark on your calendars. Watch for details about the October events in the next newsletter.

- Roundup Sunday BBQ in the park - Sunday, Sept 11, 11:30 a.m. or immediately following the 11:00 worship.
- Wonderful Wednesdays, beginning September 14. See separate story for details.
- Baby Shower for Bridget Cleveland and Sonia Woodruff - Friday, September 9, 6:00 p.m.
- Fellowship Brunch and Church Meeting - Sunday Sept 25, 10:05 to 10:50 a.m.
- Young Adult Progressive Dinner - Saturday, October 15. Childcare is provided.
- Crop Walk - Sunday, October 23.
- Dinner for 7 or 8 - Saturday, November 5.

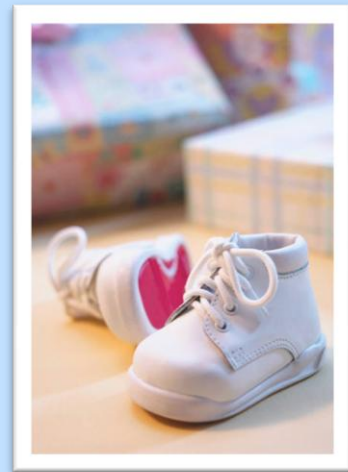


You are invited to a Baby Shower for

Bridget Cleveland & **Sonia Woodruff**

on Friday, September 9th, at 6:00 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall.

Bridget is registered at Target and on Amazon.
Sonia is registered at Target and Babies R Us



CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

"Connect" worship begins "Change the World" series on September 11 at 9 a.m. On the tenth anniversary of 9/11, we begin our new worship service, "Connect," where we seek to connect with God, people and our purpose in life. As we remember the tragic events of that day, we seek healing, hope and renewal through our worship. Often we despair over problems that seem too big and too hard for us to make a difference, and are tempted to escape from them. But is that what Jesus would have us do as his followers? In this series we will explore how we can go deeper on our journey of discipleship as individuals, and how we can be even more faithful as a church in joining God at work to "Change the World." 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

Sunday School Classes begin on September 11th at 9:00 a.m. We are so thrilled that we have been blessed to have two of the three classes being offered for our children fully staffed...each with two teachers...we need just one more teacher to assist April.

- Kindergarden thru 2nd Grade teachers are: Mary Elting/Lisa Cunningham
- 3rd thru 5th Grade teachers are: April Seawell
- 6th thru 8th Grade teachers are: Theresa Pelser/Barbara Miller

The children will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 A.M. for singing, prayer time and their lessons. It is with great expectations that we welcome our children back!!!!

Adult Bible class will also be at 9:00 a.m. Due to the addition of our newly formed 6th thru 8th Grade Class, the Adult Bible Class has graciously volunteered to move into the kitchen as their meeting place. The class will begin at 9:00 A.M. and end at 9:45 A.M. under the loving direction of Marge Smith. We invite all adults to join this wonderful class and receive a special blessing each Sunday.

Nursery Updates The Nursery will be fully staffed from 8:45 A.M. to 10:15 A.M. and from 10:45 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. We want to extend a special welcome to Erica who is our new full time Nursery Caregiver. We will continue to need volunteers to be available to assist in the nursery, so please sign up on the Volunteer Sign-Up sheet posted in the Fellowship Hall just outside the Pastor's office. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Nursery, please contact with Joella Whittaker at (720-563-9293) or Vi MacTavish at (303) 666-4603. Many thanks to all who help with these precious little children.



* Grades K-5

CALLING
ALL
KIDS! *

Puppet Ministry
Starts Sunday, September 11
during the 11:00 service.

Questions?

Contact Marilyn Bundy

303.660.9213

rmbundy@me.com

YOUTH

New Friends! Erie UMC and First UMC Lafayette Joint Youth Group Calling all youth 6th - 12th grade, come and join our newly formed joint youth group. The youth of Erie UMC and the youth of First UMC Lafayette, are going to join together to make a great (and large) youth group for the upcoming school year. We will play games, get to know each other, do mission work, learn about our faith and the Bible and have a ton of fun. **Youth group will be held from 6 - 7:30 Sunday evenings. The first three Sundays of the month we will meet at First UMC, and the fourth Sunday we will meet at Erie UMC.** Throughout the year we will have meetings, retreats, lock-ins, service days, and a Mission Trip in the summer. Please join us on September 11 at our Meet, Eat and Play event (see more info below) to kick off the new year and this awesome new friendship.

Meeting the Youth Director My name is Megan Armstrong, and I am very excited to be assisting as the Youth Director for the joint youth group of Erie UMC and First UMC Lafayette. I have had the pleasure of being involved as a youth ministry leader for the last twelve years, and have been the Director of Religious Education in Lafayette for the past two years. I attended seminary at Iliff School of Theology in Denver and got a Master of Arts in Specialized Ministry with a focus in Youth Ministries. I am in the process of becoming an ordained Deacon in the church and see this joint venture as an excellent part of my calling to bridging ministries. I have a wonderful husband, Rob, and a two year old son, Jed who keeps me busy any moment that he can. I look forward to meeting the youth and members of your congregation, and growing this friendship between our churches. My contact details are: armstrong.megan@gmail.com or 303-917-5208.

Meet, Play, Eat - Youth Group Fall Kick Off Youth group is gearing up for another great year!!! We will be starting up our fall season on **Sunday, September 11 with a youth group meeting from 6-7:30pm at Waneka Lake at the Pavilion (Youth & Parents).** We will be playing games, talking about our plans for the year and our schedule for the fall. All youth who are in 6th thru 12th grade are encouraged to join us. Friends are always welcome! This will also be an important time for parents to hear about our schedule and plan and sign up to volunteer, so please join us parents.

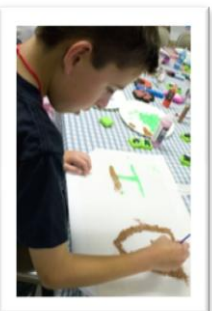
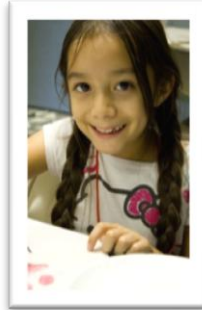
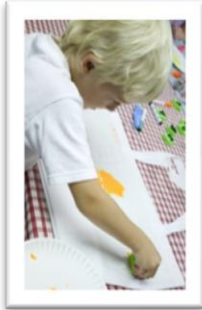
Youth Group Volunteers: Come Join Us for Some Fun! With our new youth group schedule we would like to invite the adults to join in the fun as well. Each week during our Sunday evening gathering we will need one adult volunteer to join us to help out. There is no experience required, as an adult volunteer you will be offering the youth director a helping hand. Sharing in discussion, helping with a game, or setting something up, but mostly offering your presence as a second adult. To help make sure we meet this need, we do request that each family have a parent volunteer once a quarter, the fall quarter is from Sept. 11 - Nov. 27. So, parents or adults interested in working with the youth, look over the Youth Group At a Glance Schedule and let me know when you would like to help out.



Fall Youth Retreat With fall arriving, youth group starting, and school in session it is time for the Fall Youth Retreat. So mark your calendars for Oct. 7-9, 2011. This weekend we will do some team building, and low ropes course fun, alongside some great discussion. And of course what would a retreat be without games, food, and fun. The cost is \$50/person, and one child free for any parent that volunteers to join us for the weekend. There are scholarships available, please contact Megan with questions. We will meet at the Lafayette church at 4:30pm on Friday, and plan to return around noon on Sunday. More details about where we are headed are soon to come.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School Update Vacation Bible School – The “Shake It Up Café” – was open from August 1st thru August 4th and was filled with 25 children each evening. It was a time filled with love, enthusiasm, and joy for everyone....God’s love was in evidence and shared by all the volunteers with the children. We cannot say it enough how very grateful we are to everyone who made this endeavor such a success. THANK YOU ALL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE

All Church Information Sessions and Conference in September

At the June Administrative Board meeting it was decided to hold two Information Sessions during September to get input from the congregation about their thoughts on the current state of the church and their dreams for the future. Following that discussion, Ron Hodel, Chair of the Ad Board, and Neel Pelser, Finance Chair, will present work that has been done to-date by the Building Committee and their recommended proposal to move forward. There will be time for questions and feedback about the recommendation. The two identical Information Sessions are scheduled for Thursday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, September 18 at 2:30 p.m. Then, on Sunday, September 25 from 10:05 to 10:50 we will have a Fellowship Brunch between the two worship services. During the brunch an All Church Conference will take place to vote on the proposal explained during the Information Sessions. Please make sure to attend an Information Session and the All Church Conference. The only opportunity to vote is during the All Church Conference, so don't miss it!

EDUCATION

Women's Bible Study Begins in September Are you looking to grow in your relationship with God but have trouble getting in the habit of reading the Bible? Does the idea of a small group as an intimate place to share, to get to know others, to ask hard questions and seek answers together sound good? Our weekly women's Bible study will resume at a new time: Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00, beginning September 14. Childcare is provided. Our first session will be to discuss whether we will continue with "A Year with God" by Richard Foster, or take up another study. Our 90 minutes will 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 begins on September 14 This fall we are having Wonderful Wednesday fellowship dinners each Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m., followed by a study for adults at 6:30 p.m. Child care will be provided. This is a great opportunity to connect with others in the congregation and 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" Would you like to know more about John Wesley, the father of Methodism? In this study you will learn about Wesley's early life, his inner transformation, the challenges he faced, and the legacy he left behind. 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. Pastor Jim will lead this six week study in the sanctuary from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., beginning September 14, immediately following the Wonderful Wednesday meal (at 6 pm). Childcare is provided in the fellowship hall.

Lay Speaking/Lay Ministry Training Class This class is a 'don't miss it' for all laity who plan or assist in worship leadership. One course is being offered at Trinity UMC in Loveland on Saturday, October 1, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday, October 2, 2 – 5 p.m. (registration closes September 20) and another is being offered at First UMC in Fort Collins on Saturday, October 22, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 5, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (registration Closes October 10). Contact Jim for more information.



CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

3 - Sally Whittaker
22 - Ethan Fesmire
24 - Elaine Green
25 - Scott Fesmire
28 - Richard Freund

Anniversaries

12 - Damon & Sandy Garcia
15 - Richard & Lois Oberhelman
24 - Brad & Sonia Woodruff
29 - Troy & Lisa Cunningham