



**Elkhart Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**

April Newsletter

**252 N.W. Washington Ave.
P.O. Box 97
Elkhart, Iowa 50073
515.367.5125**

www.elkhart-christianchurch.com

Come and Worship

Chancel Choir: 8:00 am - September through May

Sunday School: 1st Sunday after Labor Day until last Sunday
before Memorial Day

Sunday School Classes: 9:45 am- following Children's
Moment during worship.

Worship Service 9:30 am

Handchime Rehearsal: 4:00 pm – September through May

Fellowship: Immediately after worship

Worship Attendance and Offering

	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
03/02	1,096.96	32
03/09	2,203.54	50
03/16	1,285.73	61
03/23	1,663.39	54
03/30	1,685.00	69
04/06	1,308.86	53
04/13	1,791.00	62
04/17 Maundy Thursday Potluck		30
04/18 Good Friday		19

Christmas Offering: \$ 60.00

Week of Compassion: \$ 60.00

Pentecost: \$ 35.00

DMF: \$ 20.00

Easter: \$ 33.00

Mission Statement

Elkhart Christian Church is a family of faithful Christians actively caring for the needs of others; sharing our faith through worship, education, and outreach; and providing fellowship that represents Christ's love and presence in our community and our world. Our mission is to nurture and prepare everyone God entrusts to us to become mature and dedicated Disciples for the glory of God.

If you have information for the weekly church bulletin or monthly newsletter, or if you would like to have your birthday printed and it is not already on the list, please place it in the secretary's mailbox, email it to

eccsecretary@windstream.net or contact Mary Jo at the church office.

1st Annual Toy Fair.....

This event, held on April 5, 2014, was a success! With the proceeds from the vendor sales, admissions and food sold we made a profit of \$843.00. The committee feels this is quite good, especially for the first year!

The vendors seemed happy and indicated they would be back next year. Hopefully, there will be more and we will have to find more space for tables! Some of the vendors were helpful in giving advice on where and how to advertise so we will need to evaluate the amount of money we should spend to enlarge this event. We would hope we can get more people in to shop – the vendors hope is that these people will buy!

A big share of the profit came from food sold and without the donation of desserts, meat for the beef burgers and sausage for the biscuits and gravy, from members and their help in the kitchen that would not have been possible! Leftover desserts were sold after church on Sunday which helped the total profit by \$76.50.

It should be mentioned that Brenda Dobson made her great reversible aprons (one from material with John Deere equipment) and donated them for sale – that increased our profit by a significant \$40.00!

Maybe you want to be a vendor or you know of someone who would; there are other items that could be sold, not just toys! We had a lady who had awesome corn husk dolls for sale. The more profit we can make, the more we have to put toward church upkeep and maintenance.

Thank you to all who helped in any way to make our Toy Fair a success! The committee has decided the money will be used to help with the cost of our new church sign – a project in process!

Thanks again! *Dave Kalsem, Bill Spratt, Craig Payne,*
Organizers

Syria: Compassion into Action-Week of Compassion News

Peter Makari is the Executive for the Middle East and Europe Office in Global Ministries. Peter recently returned from the region and prepared this update for Week of Compassion.

The Syrian war is now three years old. It has claimed the lives of more than 120,000 people and has forced more than 40% of the Syrian population (over 9 million people) from their homes—they are living either as internally displaced persons, or as refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and several other countries in the Middle East. Many of the refugees are children—some of whom will never see family members again. The tragedy is of an incomprehensible magnitude, yet global attention to the crisis has not nearly been adequate to meet a portion of the needs.

Church partners in Syria and neighboring countries have been involved in offering humanitarian assistance—food and water, clothing, shelter, and medical assistance—as well as support for programs such as interfaith peacemaking. Dr. Mary Mikhael is an ordained elder in the National Evangelical [Presbyterian] Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL). She is helping to coordinate the NESSL's response to the crisis, and asks us to “pray for peace and reconciliation and for an end soon to this human tragedy.”

Week of Compassion continues to contribute to the efforts of our partners in the Middle East directly and through global church networks ecumenically. In January, the Disciples' General Minister and President Sharon Watkins was among a gathering of Christian leaders from Syria and the around the world. They wrote in a statement that, “Our concern is for all people affected by the indiscriminate violence and humanitarian calamity in Syria. Innocent children, women and men are being killed, wounded, traumatized and driven from their homes in uncounted numbers. We hear their cries, knowing that when ‘one member suffers, all suffer together with it’ (1 Corinthians 12:26).” To act on that concern, we must continue to support relief for the hungry and thirsty, the refugee and the displaced, and the children of Syria.

Since 2012, Disciples through Week of Compassion have provided more than \$165,000 to assist the relief efforts of our local and ecumenical partners in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. Your [support](#) of WoC makes this possible. Thank you.

*Week of Compassion is sharing resources and changing lives.
Thank you for sharing your resources and helping to change
lives.*

Cartwright Joins NBA as AVP for Operations

[NBA](#) | March 17, 2014



The National Benevolent Association (NBA) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) calls the Rev. Dani Loving Cartwright as the Associate Vice President for Operations. Cartwright will direct and manage a variety of administrative and missional

activities to ensure efficiency and continuity throughout the NBA, the health and social service general ministry of the denomination.

Cartwright has served in regional and pastoral ministry for the past thirty-five years. She served most recently as the President and Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest. Prior to this, she served on the staff of the Upper Midwest Region for eight years as a Deputy and Associate Regional Minister. She has served on Regional Boards in three Regions and on the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Earlier this year, she completed her service on the board of Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas.

“We are honored and pleased for Dani to join our NBA team. She brings such tremendous leadership skills and years of ministry throughout the wider Disciples church ranging from congregational pastorates, to regional staff roles, and denominational leadership. Her expertise will help us coordinate our missional initiatives and goals as well as ensure that all the important details of implementation and evaluation of our processes can be achieved,” reflects Mark D. Anderson, NBA President and CEO.

In her role as Associate Vice President of Operations, she is a strategic partner with NBA’s senior management and directs the NBA’s operations related to the execution of the strategic plan, human resource activities, proper management and retention of organization records, and implementation of effective tools related to program performance and evaluation.

“My commitments and love for the church are foundational to who I am. As I begin this position with the NBA, I am so excited for opportunities of vital ministry in so many places and among an

incredible array of ministry partners. It is with joy and anticipation that I join the NBA,” states Cartwright.

About the National Benevolent Association

The National Benevolent Association (NBA) serves as the health and social services general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The NBA is about advancing the direct care provided for and with those in need and working collaboratively with partner ministries and Disciples-related health and social service organizations.

April 2014—Pastoral Thoughts Joy and Hope

I often find myself humming Christmas hymns in preparation for Easter, and Easter hymns in preparation for Christmas. I guess it's because both times of year—Lent and Advent—are times of waiting and hoping, and both Christmas and Easter are times of joy.

What is the greater miracle—that God became one of us, going through everything we go through, or that God defeated death, and offers the same promise to all human beings?

Tell the truth: what is your favorite holiday, Christmas or Easter? I think most people in this country would say Christmas. But I wonder why. Could it be that the birth of a baby is much more understandable to us than the resurrection? Or is it all those Christmas presents?

And maybe we don't have to feel completely guilty about that, if we just realize that those presents are also more understandable than the resurrection. We can touch them, and see them, and use them, and be glad for the person(s) who gave them to us. Or, if you're more likely to give presents than to get them, you can still be glad about the whole process, and the joy of it.

“Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.” (1 Corinthians 15:51) Paul tells us that the whole promise of resurrection is a mystery. But he also tells us in 1 Corinthians 15 that, in comparison to what we will be, our current self looks like a seed, and that resurrected self will look like something glorious. Maybe that's why we love flowers at Easter—they're so amazingly different from the seeds that were their beginning.

Whatever hope or joy we have now is just the beginning.

Blessings,
Anne

April Birthdays

- 1 Jolene (Spratt) Praska
- 2 Mary Ann Mathis
- 3 Arlys Hall
- 4 Coral Sorenson
- 5 Rob Owen
Tate Owen
- 8 Austin Albaugh
- 9 Lindsey Elmore
Ron Adams
- 11 Elaine Cory
Rachel Reinke
- 12 Dennis Kaltenheuser
Mary Bevington Ralls
- 13 Johanna Hill
- 14 Zach Mihalovich
- 15 Shannon Snyder
Audrey Miller
- 16 Courtney Parsons
- 17 Adam Bean
- 18 Nancy Schweiger
- 19 Janice Cory
- 20 George Butler
Luke Cory
- 21 Dani Cartwright
Anne Gregory
- 22 Spencer Cory
- 23 Brenda Dobson
Amy Stupka
- 23 Bruce Carney
- 26 Janet Cory
- 29 Evan Albaugh
- 30 Carl Van Gorp
Avaaree Smith

May Birthdays

- 01 Amanda Passmore
- 02 Kay Hall
- 03 Jodi (Ahlman) Hyde
- 04 Nancy Edler
Norma Wright
Kane Olesen
- 05 Don Owen
Julie Cory
- 08 Lorraine Campbell
Lee Ann Scott
Jamie Van Gorp
- 09 Laura Sellner
Chris Mathis
- 10 Cheryl Russell
- 12 Joshua Smith
- 13 Donna Percy

May Birthdays, cont.

- 14 Lori McHone
David Cartwright
- 15 Heath Jamison
Tanner Jamison
- 18 Russ Dobson
Gary Parisho
- 20 Kim Sorenson
- 24 Amy (Cory) Dougherty
Tammy(Cory) Floyd
- 25 Betty Hurd
- 27 Janette Owen
- 29 Bob Franzen
Mitch O'Neel
Autumn Grismore
Corbin Mathis
- 30 Pat Nelson
- 31 Krista Ellyson Koster

June Birthdays

- 02 Michelle Anderson
- 07 Jessica Voshell
- 08 Sandra Parmenter
- 10 Hunter Hykes
- 11 Randy Sorenson
Amy Finchum
Hannah Oldham
- 12 Hollis Scott
- 14 Julie Morris-Parisho
- 18 Krista Van Gorp
- 19 Elizabeth Peterson
- 20 Dave Anderson
- 24 Michelle Sledge
- 28 Aimy Cory
Kenneth Sledge
John Ralls
- 29 Tara Owen

"Launch out into the deep..."

L u k e 5 : 4 a

River of Life

It is a bright October morning as we climb aboard a bright blue boat with red trim for a journey down the Congo River. It looks like a small house set on four hollowed-out tree trunks. Written in red letters across her front is "Bateau Ambulance"—ambulance boat. The river is breathtaking, life-giving. At scheduled intervals, the river carries a medical team from the Bolenge Hospital, a Global Ministries partner, to villages along its shore that are otherwise cut off from health care. The entire village is at the river's edge to greet us. Getting up the riverbank is tricky, but we manage, encouraged by the warmth and joy of the people.



ELIZABETH
CLEMENT

Following the river for some yards are dwellings and a small chapel/school. The villagers have given up their homes for the hospital while the medical team is in town.

Next to the chapel is a tent, a surgical theatre tent where they have been operating since 3:00 AM with the most basic equipment and what sterilization they can manage. They will be there until they can see to the line of patients waiting most of the day under a large tree.

We are introduced to Dr. Yoursen Bosolo Ekula, the Congolese physician who coordinates medical services from the Bolenge Hospital, including the ambulance boat and other Bolenge clinics throughout region. Later, in a video interview, Dr. Bosolo Ekulaw offered these words of thanks:

"We are grateful and thankful to Global Ministries, and pray that our God will bless you. And that Global Ministries will continue to have the necessary funds/ means to help us complete our dream that this hospital and health center become an important teaching resource in this region of the Congo. God bless you, Global Ministries, and thank God for your partnership in this dream."

Rev. Elizabeth Clement recently traveled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo for Global Ministries. She served as French translator and interpreter for seminary pastors from Haiti visiting the Congo who were there exploring a collaborative partnership.



You make the difference...

The prayers and help you provide through your local congregations make possible the work and witness of GLOBAL MINISTRIES, which is supported by Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ.

WWW.GLOBALMINISTRIES.ORG

Elkhart Christian Church
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Elkhart, IA 50073
(5125) 367-5125

Church Staff

Ministers: The Congregation
Pastor: Rev. Anne E. Gregory
Board Chair: Dave Kalsem
Church Sec.: Mary Jo Ward
Pianists: Brenda Dobson
Robin Luke
Organist: Sharon Payne

"Sharing Our Faith and God's Love"

"Address Service Requested"
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