



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

**March Newsletter**

252 N.W. Washington Ave.

P.O. Box 97

Elkhart, Iowa 50073

515.367.5125

[www.elkhart-christianchurch.com](http://www.elkhart-christianchurch.com)

## Come and Worship

Chancel Choir: 8:00 am - September through May

Sunday School: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Labor Day until last Sunday before  
Memorial Day

Gathering: 9:15 am-Sunday School Classes:9:30 am

Worship Service 10:30 am

Handchime Rehearsal: 4:00 pm - September through May

Men's Breakfast: Immediately following Easter Sunrise Service

Fellowship: Immediately after worship

## Worship Attendance and Offering

	<u>Attd.</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>S.S. Offering</u>
2/19	57	\$1,086.30	18.00
2/26	61	1,796.34	19.61
3/04	60	1,485.43	15.15
3/11	43	1,468.18	No SS – spring-break

Christmas Offering: \$ 45.00

Week of Compassion: \$ 185.00

Pentecost: \$ 20.00

## 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](mailto:eccsecretary@windstream.net) or contact Mary Jo at the church office. (515) 367-5125. **Please note new email address.**

**Note: Elkhart Christian Church has a Website:**

**<http://elkhart-christianchurch.com>**

**March-April 2012**

**Pastoral Thoughts—Taking My Breath Away**

Few things take my breath away like early spring flowers. The yellow crocuses on my lawn make me smile every time I see them. The lilacs in my yard and in Ewing Park in Des Moines seem to slow my heart-beat and send me into healthy-heart mode every year. The forsythia, the tulips, the daffodils....

Partly it's because I grew up in a world of perpetual summer, in the tropics. There were flowers everywhere, all year long—and they were beautiful. But I guess you can take things for granted if they're always there. The hibiscus, the bougainvillea, the frangipani, the lantana....

I miss them, but somehow they never seemed like the miracles I see around here. There's something dear and even a little sad about short-lived things. Like raspberries or the yellow plums I remember from my childhood. When something has a very short season, it's poignant just for that.

I remember when I first discovered lilacs. I was about five years old, seeing America for the first time I could remember. I was amazed that God could create something so glorious and so good-smelling. And I was saddened when I picked some, and found out how quickly they withered.

But maybe that's why I don't like plastic flowers. They don't smell good, and they don't have that sweet, fragile, short life.

God is so generous. I think of that every Spring and every Easter. God is constantly making life where there was no life.

Christ is Risen,  
Anne

## Holy Week and Easter Week Services

**Palm/Passion Sunday Service** 10:30 a.m.

Three of our young people will be baptized.

**Maundy Thursday Communion Service** 6:00 p.m.

We will hold a potluck supper, followed by a simple communion service

**Good Friday Vigil** 5:00 a.m. – 7: p.m.

Members of Elkhart Christian Church are giving their time to keep a silent prayer vigil in our sanctuary throughout the day Good Friday.

Once again, there will be a special Prayer/Meditation Walk in Fellowship Hall—created by Julietta and Roger Cory.

**Good Friday Worship Service** 7:00 p.m.

During the service, the sanctuary will be cleared of decoration until Easter morning.

**Easter Sunrise** 7:30 a.m.

The service will be held in the sanctuary, to welcome in the Light of Christ.

**Men's Easter Breakfast**

As in years past, the CMF will serve breakfast for everyone, between the two Easter Day services.

**Easter Service** 10:30 a.m.

All Sunday services are patterned after the Easter service, since we celebrate the Resurrection on the First Day of the Week. The children will present an Easter Program.

There will be **no Sunday School.**

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Laughter Sunday** 10:30 a.m.

Once again, we will celebrate the **second Sunday** of the Easter season with a time for joke-telling, laughter, and music.

### Transitions

**Ronald Ralph Cunningham**

July 28, 1950—December 13, 2011

**Phyllis Alouine Barnhill**

August 31, 1924—December 18, 2011

**Via Christmas letters and phone calls,  
these former ministers or widows were heard from:**

**Marcella Johnson**, widow of **Carl Johnson**, now lives in Sarasota, Florida. They were here 1951-1953. She would appreciate prayers for some health issues in her family.

**Wayne and Jane Ward** live in Pueblo, Colorado. They are well and Wayne reminisced quite a bit about the church and Elkhart. They were here 1962-1965.

**Charlotte Dawson** lives in Des Moines and recently had her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. They were here 1974-1978.

**Lew and Jill Novak** live in Paris, Texas. Both are looking toward retiring soon. They were here 1979-1984.

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**Milestone Birthday Signup**

If you or a loved one or friend have a milestone birthday (60, 70, 80, 90?) coming up, please fill out the following and return to the church office. Mary Herman, as the representative of the Questers group of CWF, will be sending cards.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday and year: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday and year: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Thank You

Dear Friends at Elkhart Christian Church,

Thank you for your generous Christmas gift. We may think we live in hard times, but there's much to be grateful for, and I'm grateful for all of you!

As before, I ask for another gift from you, and that is your prayers.

Blessings,  
Pastor Anne

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for the gift card. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

I enjoy sharing music for our worship together and look forward to many more meaningful worship experiences in the years to come.

In His Love,  
Brenda Dobson

Dear friends,

Thank you all for the Chili's Gift card. I enjoy playing organ at your church. You always make Craig and me feel so welcome.

Happy Holidays,  
Sharon Payne

Warm thoughts can make the sun a little brighter, the sky a little bluer, the world a little nicer."

ECC—thanks for remembering us with the Christmas goodies.

Sincerely,  
Wayne & Nadine Zimmer

Dear Members of Elkhart Christian Church,

My mother wants you to know what a fun surprise and treat you sent her when you made the tray of goodies and most special card! She really appreciates your kindness and thinking of her.

Blessings to you with wishes for a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Sincerely,  
Debbie (Breen) Odgaard

Elkhart Christians,

Thank you to all who spent time volunteering to make the goodies on my Christmas tray! It was shared with a lot of family, and appreciated very much.

Thanks again,

God bless you all,  
Elaine Cory

Dear Friends in Christ,

What a wonderful and tasty surprise you sent. I so enjoyed every morsel.

I really miss not being able to attend church anymore and seeing all of you.

Pastor Anne's sermons always gave me such a lift.

May God bless you all.

Carolyn Welch

Ward Mally sent verbal thanks for the tray at Christmas. He was so happy to be remembered.

**A Thank-you from the family of Maxine Long:**

Thank you for being with us at Mom's burial/memorial at White Oak cemetery. We appreciated your words of comfort and God's promises.

Please thank the Elkhart Women's Club for their gift.

Mom always enjoyed her friends in Elkhart.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Weinhold

Daughter of Maxine Long

**Youth Group Update**

THANK YOU to everyone that ate and donated money to our spaghetti dinner! We served 75 people Saturday night, March 3, including the kids and adult helpers. Our profit was \$508.00. We also sold dinners the next day after church services. The count for that day is unknown, but the free will offering brought in another \$170.00. Our total profit as of now is \$678.00 to help pay for youth group members to go to camp, assemblies, and other fun activities. Thank you also to John & Arlys Hall, the following Ankeny businesses: North Fareway, Hy-Vee, Olive Garden and Papa Johns for their donations, discounts, and gift certificates. **THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!**

**60+ Group**

The next meeting for the 60 + group will be on April 12<sup>th</sup>. We are changing our meeting time for this meeting to 12:30 as we are having a beefburger lunch. Also, please bring a childhood photo of yourself to share (we will not keep them-you will get them back)

## **Global Ministries Update: April 2012: Hope Through Resurrection**

Written by Jeffrey Mensendiek  
April 1, 2012

*By God's great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ... 1 Peter 1:3b*

Each day of the week prior to the March 11 anniversary, the newspapers carried articles related to the disastrous earthquake and tsunami in Japan. At the Emmaus Center, our mission church partner in Sendai, we planned a simple opening ceremony for a new base of operations in the village of Shichigo. The villagers invited us to be a constant presence there, and have gifted us with a base of operations. Many of the volunteers who worked through the Emmaus Center returned for the anniversary. At 2:46 in the afternoon we all held hands for yet another minute of silence in remembrance. Lost lives, lost homes, lost livelihoods, lost community, lost relationships, lost security of life. Yet in the midst of all this loss we celebrated that we had come together in a way we had never come together before.

This was a simple way to witness to the HOPE that is newly resurrected within our hearts. I read that 260,000 people are still displaced and that only 5% of the debris left from the tsunami has been disposed. The number of volunteers at any given time last summer was 100,000, in the month of January it was 5000. The needs are greater now than ever, and yet interest is declining. Here at the Emmaus Center though, we have a constant number of volunteers coming to help. There are schools, churches and individuals who have benefited through their experience with us who come back to help. To date we have had 1750 volunteers. It has been an incredible year. It has been a blessing to be at the heart of a relief effort so genuine and fruitful.

Our prayer today is for the peace that comes with patience, time and understanding, bringing hope even in hopeless situations.

*Global Ministries missionary, Jeffrey Mensendiek, serves the Council on Cooperative Mission in Japan. He is assigned to the Emmaus Center in Sendai where he had worked as director of youth activities, and has now become coordinator of volunteer recovery efforts.*



### March Birthdays

- 02 Nathan Fitzgerald
- 07 Randy Franzen
- 13 Greg Cory
  - Jean Bean
  - Earl Parsons
  - Paul Reinke
- 14 Peggy Ault
  - Dave Kalsem
- 16 Vickie Swartout
- 18 Rusty Cory
- 19 Chip Mathis
- 20 Drew Owen
- 24 Connie Passmore
  - Brian Edwards
- 25 Jonann Cornelius
  - Derek Carney
- 27 Ron Meeker
- 29 Karen Vos
  - Davis Albaugh

### 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

### April Birthdays Con't.

- 21 Dani Cartwright
  - Anne Gregory
- 22 Spencer Cory
- 23 Brenda Dobson
- 23 Bruce Carney
- 26 Janet Cory
- 29 Evan Albaugh
- 30 Carl Van Gorp
  - Avaree Smith

### May Birthdays

- 01 Amanda Passmore
- 02 Kay Hall
- 03 Jodi (Ahiman) 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
- 14 Lori McHone
  - David Cartwright
- 15 Heath Jamison
  - Tanner Jamison
  - Amy Stupka
- 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'Neal
  - Autumn Grismore
  - Corbin Mathis
- 31 Krista Ellyson Koster

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(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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