



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

July - August Newsletter

252 N.W. Washington Ave.

P.O. Box 97

Elkhart, Iowa 50073

515.367.5125

www.elkhart-christianchurch.com

July 2012—Pastoral Thoughts Change

Beginning Sunday July 8.

ECC is going to hold our worship services at 9:30 a.m.

Whew! Some folks are going to have a hard time getting up earlier on a Sunday. Other folks are going to be thrilled to begin their Sunday a little earlier. Still other folks are going to worry that it won't work out, because "we've tried this before."

I suppose nobody really likes change—unless we thought it up first!

But. Thinking theologically about this—which is just another way to say, "Where is God in all this?"—reminds me that God is always surprising us.

If you look at scripture, God's people are constantly having to adjust to something they hadn't expected. Granted, not everything was from the hand of God.... But there are too many stories to ignore. Noah building a big boat with no water in sight. Elijah asking a starving widow to feed him first, before herself and her little boy. Elisha insisting that the great foreign general bathe in the paltry, muddy Jordan River to be cured of his leprosy. The most obvious might well be Jesus himself, born to show human beings the image of God. He never was predictable—always healing the wrong people, eating with the wrong people, getting mad at the good, orderly religious people (hmmm. Could that be us?)...

Most surprising of all, Jesus showed a way of humility, of laying aside all his power and privilege, of being a servant, of paying attention to forgotten people, and finally, suffering and dying. All of that must have been shocking to the people who liked things to be under control and regulated.

Does any of that fit with our simple little schedule change? Let's just say that, any time we start to get comfortable in the church, something is going to change, and our task is to look for God in it.

Blessings,
Anne

Come and Worship

Chancel Choir: 8:00 am - September through May

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

Gathering: 9:15 am-Sunday School Classes:9:45 am

Worship Service 9:30 am

Handchime Rehearsal: 4:00 pm – September through May

Fellowship: Immediately after worship

Worship Attendance and Offering

	<u>Attd.</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>S.S. Offering</u>
5/27	41	\$2,315.50	14.01
6/03	53	\$2,159.60	No S.S.
6/10	55	\$ 812.60	No S.S.
6/17	46	\$1,375.00	No S.S.
6/24	41	\$1,143.06	No. S.S.
7/01	34	\$ 887.35	No. S.S.

Christmas Offering: \$ 70.00

Week of Compassion: \$ 35.00

Pentecost: \$ 35.00

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. (515) 367-5125. **Please note new email address.**

Note: Elkhart Christian Church has a Website:

<http://elkhart-christianchurch.com>

Memories Shared by a Long-Time Member— Irline (Spratt) Capehart

Ask, and You Will Receive (all you detectives out there—you know how long ago this was; let us know if you know who helped write it, and if you've seen it in this newsletter before!)

Irline woke up early that morning, too excited to sleep; today was the day she was going home from the Hospital! She thought of her friends at the nursing home where she worked as a volunteer; they had sent cards and get-well wishes, anxious to see her again. Irline's own mother was there in that home, her small withered body hardly visible under the sheets, yet her eyes full of the joy of the Lord. Irline yawned and stretched; a sharp twinge reminded her of her surgery a week before. She felt quite strong and alert, able to "lick her weight in wildcats," but after she washed and dressed, weakness flooded her body.

The doctor was definite: "Now remember, Mrs. Spratt, no lifting, no pushing, no straining. And no driving your car for at least two weeks. If you want to visit at the nursing home, just visit. You aren't ready to push wheelchairs yet."

Irline's volunteer work at the home had almost saved her life. Four years before, her husband had passed away, and five months after that, her beautiful little granddaughter had died in the wreckage of an automobile accident after her high school prom. The two tragic events had almost been too much. For nearly a year, Irline felt weak and helpless. Then, through her visits to her mother at the nursing home, more and more opportunities to serve opened up; God gave her work to do, and strength to do it, with a real talent for working with the elderly. They loved and accepted her; she returned their love, and she soon felt young and useful again.

Now, after this surgery, she had to slow down, but she had the doctor's assurance that she would soon feel good as new, if she followed his orders, and if she refrained from lifting or straining. Not driving her car for several weeks would be difficult but she supposed she had better heed his orders.

The nurses came to get Irline ready for dismissal. She assured them she could walk down to the exit wait for her son Tom to come, but she was mighty grateful for the wheelchair by the time she was ready to go outside. As she stepped up into the pickup, her

knees turned to rubber. The nurse grabbed her. Her purse fell on the pavement and opened. After getting Irline safely settled, the nurse picked up the purse and its contents which had spilled on the hospital driveway, and handed it to Irline before she and Tom drove off.

The days went by slowly. She stayed with Tom and Judy for a few days, her strength returning bit by bit. She managed to walk to the bank and the grocery store, and her friends and her children gave her other rides when necessary, but how she missed driving her car!

Finally, the two weeks were over. There stood the little Chevy, waiting for her. She talked to her cousin and told him, "At last I can drive again; my two weeks are up, and I can hardly wait." "Oh, Irline," he said, "I don't think you ought to drive yet. Maybe if you wait a few more days, you'll feel stronger and more able to handle it."

But she was eager to try. She reached into her purse. No keys. "Oh, I must have left them at Tom and Judy's house. And they're out of town for a few days. I guess I'll have to wait until they get home next Saturday."

Saturday she called, "Judy, did you find my car keys at your house? No? Will you look under that bed I slept in?" Judy hunted high and low; no keys.

Irline was beginning to panic. She searched her own apartment, every possible place, and some places impossible. Next time she went to Judy's house, she took a good look for herself. Still no keys. Back at her own place, she sat down on a chair. "Lord Jesus, help me find my keys. I can't do it alone," she sobbed. "I just pray, dear Lord.... You said, 'Ask, and you will receive....' Please help me, Lord."

Like a flash, she suddenly thought of that day of dismissal from the hospital—the opened purse—the contents on the pavement. "Oh no! If I dropped them on the hospital driveway, I'll never get them back—Oh, dear Lord!"

So she called Lutheran Hospital. "Yes, the security guard found some keys several weeks ago, and locked them up for safekeeping. You say, a little brown leather case with stitching? Yes, there's one like that here."

God's eye is on the sparrow, and also on a small brown key-case. Irline had waited with her driving one more week. Now she

was stronger. Now the Lord let her have her keys. And she could drive her car!
—Reprinted with Irline's permission.

Update on Jamaldeen Karim, Tamale, Ghana

In the middle of June, Elkhart Christian Church held what may have been its first international worship service. With the help of computer-savvy member Tim Butler, Peggy Cross—Karim's American "mom" and member of ECC, was able to get ahold of Karim in Ghana, and project his image onto the screen in our sanctuary during the service. Everyone (except Pastor Anne) got to watch his reactions to the service. ☺

Karim wrote some lovely Thank-yous to Elkhart Christian Church during the course of the worship service, which we were able to read aloud.

What a blessing this technological world can be!

Week of Compassion Supports Small Farmers and Sustainable Development the World Over

The Week of Compassion Advisory Committee met for their annual spring meeting from May 22-24. The Committee had the privilege of gathering in West Bridgewater, Massachusetts, at the site of our partner organization, **Equal Exchange**. For the past five years, Week of Compassion and Disciples Home Mission have together partnered with Equal Exchange Co-Op to help support fair trade efforts with small stakeholder farmers around the world. For decades, as stated in our Purpose and Priorities Guidelines, **one of WoC's priorities has been to "directly benefit small-scale farmers and the urban poor."** Through our Disciples Coffee Project, Disciples purchasing coffee or other fairly traded products through Equal Exchange (such as tea, chocolate, almonds, etc.) have been able to support small farmers directly, have enjoyed delicious and robust coffee, and have supported Week of Compassion's Food Security Fund. With every pound of coffee Disciples of Christ purchase, 15 cents comes right back to WoC's Food Security Fund so that we can support more agricultural assistance projects. The Committee was able to meet with the Equal Exchange staff, tour the facilities (including the amazing coffee roasters!), and experience an authentic "cupping" (a coffee tasting) in the Quality Control Lab. If you are not yet a part of the Disciples Coffee Project, or would like more information on Equal Exchange and fair trade in general, check the website: <http://www.equalexchange.coop/doc-fundraising-forms>

In addition to deepening their knowledge of fair trade and WoC's support of small farmers, the Committee also reviewed many proposals for **sustainable development projects** around the globe. The annual budget for Sustainable Development projects for the 2012 fiscal year is \$305,000.

The Committee approved a total of \$157,000 in projects at their May meeting. We were pleased to approve the following development programs through Global Ministries, Church World Service, and IMA World Health:

Tanzania - Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control - \$10,000

Tanzania - Combating Burkitt's Lymphoma in Children - \$20,000

South Africa - Ons Plek Girls Shelter - \$6,000

Kenya - Biamiti School Improvement Project - \$10,000

Republic of Georgia - Empowering Youth at the Tbilisi Youth House Foundation - \$18,000

Chaco Region, South America - Food Security for Indigenous Weenhayek Communities - \$18,000

Paraguay - Teko Joja Ha Pora Project (Community Development and Human Rights)- \$20,000

Israel/Palestine - Interfaith Program for Educators and Principals - \$5,000

Philippines - Organic Farming and Poultry Project - \$10,000

Afghanistan - Orthopedic Workshop and Physical Therapy Center - \$20,000

Sri Lanka - Strengthening Interfaith Relations - \$10,000

India - Emmanuel Boys Hostel - \$10,000

Week of Compassion understands sustainable development as Church World Service defines it, which is to "promote durable institutions of civil society that empower communities to ultimately become self-reliant and free from dependence on external aid." In addition to the extensive responses WoC makes to relief and emergency situations as they arise, we are equally called to respond to requests for self-help and to promote the development of people victimized by economic, sociological, educational, or spiritual privation. We also aim to fund programs which get to the heart of the root causes of poverty, hunger and injustice.

We thank you for your ongoing support which allows us to continue to channel resources to communities that offer people the opportunity to be empowered and involved in their own development.

Thanks for your courageous compassion! What a joy it is to serve with you!

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

Greeters, Ushers, Fellowship Hosts, and Worship Leaders:

We can use new blood in all these areas, particularly with hosting Fellowship time on Sundays. At this point, some people are hosting rather frequently, and could use more break time in between. Please speak to Barb O'Neel or Pastor Anne if you can help in these ways.

CWF NEWS

CWF members and many members of the congregation, we want to thank you for your great participation in hosting another successful

garage/bake sale. Without all those food donations and helpful hands in advertising, arranging food and clothing items and help with sales and serving meals, and assisting with disposal of unsold items we would be hard pressed to have been this bountiful for our church. We found a home for the clothing/shoes/handbags we had left and they will be given to those who are in need. Items remaining will make another appearance in October and then be dispensed to non-profit agencies to be given away. We thank God for an almost perfect weather weekend. It saved lots of air-conditioning.

Thank you all for buying remaining food items and donations, for which I am sure, Bible School attendees were greatly appreciative. Small tokens by many make a profound difference in many lives in areas we don't usually think of from day to day.

Ladies, we will be having another business meeting at 11:00 on Sunday, July 29th, to finalize the election of the new 2012-2013 Board Committee. We have the dates for Fall Roast Beef Dinner as well as ideas for another fund raiser item besides the quilt. Plan to stay after church this date and we will keep it short so you can get on with your day.

Thanks again – CWF Board –

36th Annual Hog & Lamb Roast

Elkhart Volunteer Fire Association's 36th Annual Hog & Lamb Roast will be held Saturday, July 21, 2012 at the Elkhart Fire Station. They will be roasting 200 lbs of lamb and 600 lbs of pork. Serving time is from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm. Ticket cost is \$7.00 Adults - \$2.00 Children 5-10 years. Everyone can serve themselves. They will also serve potato salad, and baked beans. There will be lemonade, orange drink or tea to drink. Proceeds will benefit the Elkhart Volunteer Fire Association. In 2010 \$15,000 was given to the City of Elkhart to help with the purchase of our new 1500 gallon tender. Elkhart Community Betterment will have a parade through downtown Elkhart, starting at 3:00 pm. Music and Games will follow the parade till DUSK – when fireworks are scheduled. Additional donations are appreciated. Checks may be made payable to Elkhart Volunteer Fire Association. P.O. Box 20, Elkhart, IA 50073. We thank the Northern Polk County residents that have supported our past roasts. Elkhart Fire Department members "serve our community with pride".

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness and patience..."

Colossians 3:12

Compassionate Caring

Alejandra has a dream. Every day she seeks to make a difference in someone's life even if it is in a small way. The dream began when Alejandra was a toddler and bumped into a kerosene stove while playing. Within a few seconds she had suffered burns on most of her abdomen, leg and arm. She spent many days throughout her early childhood in the hospital recovering from multiple operations. At a very young age, Alejandra decided she would find a way to help other people.



ELENA HUEGEL

On the morning after the February 2010 earthquake and tsunami in Chile, Alejandra, now a nurse and first aid facilitator at the Shalom Center, went to Dichato, a fishing and tourist village where her father pastors a church. Climbing over mounds of debris, carefully avoiding pits of water left by the five immense waves that flowed one after the other over Dichato, she found the little mission church still standing among the piles of cars, washing machines, beds and refrigerators. None of the homes of the members of the church remained.

Later that day, Alejandra was finally able to find the sisters and brothers of the church. They were up in the hills preparing to camp, not only homeless but fearful of the constant earth tremors. Alejandra went right to work. First she organized the church to provide aid in the immediate needs of dry clothing, food, clean drinking water, first aid, and shelter. Then, Alejandra began to think about how to care for the emotional trauma of not only of those from Dichato but also in the other towns and villages in the area. Alejandra had been certified in trauma healing and resilience just a few weeks before the earthquake, but she wanted to find a way to connect her medical training as a nurse to the spiritual and emotional wounds of the people around her.

Thanks to a scholarship provided by the Shalom Center and the Brookfield Institute, Alejandra was able to travel to Massachusetts for two weeks of specialized training in massage and trauma healing. She returned to Tomé and Dichato and is ministering to many children, youth and adults that continue to suffer the long term effects of the disaster. Alejandra is fulfilling her dream. She is making a difference.

We pray that our dreams of making a difference can be made our life's reality and that our example, like Alejandra's will let others know of our faith in our God of love.

Elena Huegel, Global Ministries missionary, serves the Pentecostal Church of Chile (IPC) as an environmental and Christian education specialist at the Shalom Center and to other Latin American countries.



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

Save the Date

Saturday, August 25



School for Congregational Learning

TOOLS

In the Footsteps of "The Carpenter"

2 Locations:

West Des Moines Christian Church

Minneapolis

July Birthdays

- 02 Timothy Goforth, Jr.
- 04 Keith Batson
Kristin Van Gorp
- 05 Rachel Hall
- 06 Chad Mathis
- 08 Ellie Owen
- 11 Jill Myers
Lisa Spratt
Mike Luke
Julietta Cory
- 13 Ruth Anderson
- 14 Donna Lee
Tom Cory
Dustin Ralls
- 16 Melody Hannagan
- 18 David Ralls
- 19 Dale Owen
- 21 Thomas Scott
- 23 Dave Mathis
Carren Voshell
Chandler Parsons
- 24 Gayle Adams
Timothy Cory
Jeanne Williams
- 26 Lori Grismore
Sarah Luke Enos
Ben Hall
- 28 Jessica Cory
Danielle Albaugh
Karen Kaltenheuser
Maxine Pierce
- 30 Marty Bussanmas
Carley Snyder

August Birthdays

- 01 Jami Edler
- 02 Douglass Cartwright
- 03 Ned Cory
- 04 Lester Morris
- 05 Aimee Grismore
Teresa Kaltenheuser
- 06 Penny Howard
- 07 Jim Mathis
- 08 Kristi Blair Balentine
- 10 David Passmore
Rebecca Lahai
- 12 Wrigley Reynolds
- 13 Brian Ault
- 16 Aaron Reinke
- 17 Lanette McHone
- 18 Rachel Owen
- 20 Laura Thomas
Riley Owen
- 22 Sherri Sorenson
- 23 Brody Caswell
- 24 Anna Edwards
- 25 Bekah Ward
- 27 Zach Brown
- 30 Eric Hall
Michelle Brown
- 31 Janet Albaugh

Elkhart Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
252 N. W. Washington
P.O. Box 97
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"
Dated Material - Do Not Delay

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #1
ELKHART, IA 50073