

Everyone had a great time at our
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*The First
Word*

Elkin

First United Methodist Church
October 26, 2017 Vol. XXXII, No. 20

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand, the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you for the foundation of the world:...I was sick and you took care of me." Matthew 25:31-34, 36b

It is extremely troubling to me that here I am, your new pastor, eager to lead and serve, and my sudden health issues have derailed that which seems so unfair to you as a congregation. I regret this to the highest degree, but thank you all so very much for your care and concern. Many of you have asked how I felt, or what the doctors say, or what must I do to care for myself. No one has seemed to ask in any self-serving way and I thank you for that. So let me explain the current situation.

This really isn't such a new problem. I have been fighting back spasms for almost 50 years. At the age of 12, my family was involved in a car accident. A car came across three lanes and hit our car just where I was seated. No seat belts in cars then, most of you will recall. I was pitched forward and back and have fought back spasms since. No doctor would treat me until about 2006 when I finally got some attention that did help, but the issue has never gone away. In September of this year, I had another spasm lasting several days (no biggie, dealt with it most of my life). One day I had to drive to University City Hospital in Charlotte and by the time I parked the car and got out, I could barely stand and walk. I am very thankful that our daughter, Rebekah, was with me and drove me back to Elkin and straight to the ER.

Many of you have witnessed my issues in worship, from preaching from a stool, to holding on to pews and having to use a cane. These problems stem from the fact that my right side is suddenly much weaker than my left and I fear that I may fall in front of you on Sunday morning. Here's my current condition: I have a ruptured disc at the L3 vertebrae; that's the new diagnosis causing the current issues that you have witnessed. I also have a bulging disc between L5 and S1 with a bone fragment floating around. Therefore, I am scheduled for outpatient surgery on November 8. The surgeon can correct the new problems of the ruptured disc, but he fears that the lower disc is such an old injury that it may have caused permanent damage to the nerve. We won't know until after the surgery.

Because of all this, the surgeon says, that for four weeks I cannot work, preach, drive or ride any long distances. I may be able to preach after three weeks, if I use the stool. I deeply regret that this will interfere with our stewardship campaign, but we have some great people covering our campaign. I also regret not being with you on Sundays that long but part of the plan is that I should be able to rejoin you for the holy season of Advent. The District Office has been notified, so between that and the great staff that we have, your spiritual and pastoral needs should be addressed quite well.

Thank you for your understanding and, again, I am deeply distressed that your new pastor must take this much down time so soon. I would like to especially give thanks for Dr. Steve Erlandson and to Larry Irwin for taking especially good care of me. It is so nice to have your doctor and pharmacist stop by your office on their way into church every Sunday to check and see if you're okay. I covet and thank you for your prayers. As you lift those up, please pray not just for me, but the surgeon and his staff, please pray for Donna and my family as they care for me at home (God did not grant me the patience to be a good patient). Please pray that I will remember to do and not do what the doctor tells me.

As I am writing this to you, our youngest daughter Amy just texted this to me from 2 Corinthians 8:18, "My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

I love and care for you all.
Pastor Mike

YOUNG AT HEART ADULTS WORK TOGETHER TOWARD THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH!



If you are 55 years old or older, some people call you senior citizens, empty-nesters, senior adults or mature adults. At Elkin FUMC, you are YOUNG AT HEART adults! You are “Helpful, Experienced, Active, Reaching-Out and Thankful” working in the church and in our community. Many of you attend Sunday School, Bible Study Classes, Sing in the Choir, Ring Handbells, are Ushers, Greeters, Lay Readers, Teach Sunday School Classes and VBS for Children, Serve on a Committee and participate in Service and Missions.

Yes, you are an “age-group,” like our children or youth, but more importantly, you are a vibrant, contributing part of this Church. HEART Adults at Elkin FUMC are devoted to spiritual growth, service, fellowship, education and living more active and exciting lives!

We are excited about what God is doing at Elkin FUMC, both in the life of our congregation and in our community.

On November 13 we are offering a time of food and fellowship from 11:30am-1pm in our Fellowship Hall. We intend on offering a Luncheon the second Monday of each month. We will also ask you to fill out a short survey to find what topics are of interest so we may provide a speaker or some sort of entertainment during our luncheon.

In addition to our monthly luncheon we will be offering a day trip monthly to a place or program of interest around our area.

YOUNG AT HEART ON THE MOVE

Billy Graham Library in Charlotte

Thursday, November 30 8:30 am-2:30 pm

Cost: FREE (bring \$10 for lunch)

RSVP before Monday, November 20

Contact: Cindy Furr

(336-835-2323 or cfurr@elkinfumc.org)

The Billy Graham Library is not a memorial, nor is it a museum. The Billy Graham Library is a ministry, prayerfully planned with the intention of communicating the unchanging, life-giving message of Jesus Christ to hundreds of thousands of visitors each year who may never attend a Crusade. The Library complex includes Billy Graham’s childhood home, built in 1927 on their dairy farm about four miles away from the Library. It has been beautifully restored and is filled with family photos and personal items of the Graham family. Retrace Billy Graham’s dynamic journey through stunning multimedia presentations, interactive kiosks, photos, and memorabilia. For lunch we enjoy sandwiches, salads, cookies, and ice cream, at the Dairy Bar located inside the Billy Graham Library.

FREE TRAINING OFFERED AT ELKIN FUMC



Connectedness in the 21st century is complicated. Statistically it is believed that the average person in the US possesses 3-5 different means of connecting to another person at any given moment.

As I look at my desk I have access to Facebook, Instagram, email, texting, and phone. However, as interpersonal access has increased, so have rates of loneliness and suicide. According to the CDC our nation experiences 121 deaths by suicide each day. Annual deaths from suicide have steadily risen from 26,846 in 1980 to 44,193 in 2015. Thusly I’m inviting you to be a part of a solution.

CareNet Counseling is hosting a one day training called “Soul Shop” in the Fellowship Hall of Elkin FUMC on Wednesday, November 1 from 8:30am-3:30pm. This training is designed to equip church leaders and members to adequately respond to persons with suicidal desperation. This training is provided at no cost to anyone in the Elkin community (donations will be accepted). For more info and to register your attendance please contact me.

- Robert Willis

336-838-1644, rawillis@wakehealth.edu

Missions

Current & Ongoing Mission Projects

BACKPACK PROGRAM SUPPLIES NEEDED

Each week teachers send home food for Saturday and Sunday for the students who can't afford or don't have access to food for the weekend. Suggested items are: flip top canned items or peel off lids (ravioli, spaghetti, soups, mac-n-cheese, fruit cups, pudding). They also need: cereal, granola bars, peanut butter, jelly, fruit gummy snacks, "Lance" crackers and juice boxes. The collection box is located in the church office entryway.

TRI-C DONATIONS NEEDED

Shampoo is the needed item for November. They are also accepting Bibles to give out to clients. Deposit Bibles and non-perishable food items or toiletries in the basket under the table at the administrative entrance.

LITTLE PANTRIES IN NEED

As the holidays approach Beanie Taylor has requested some specific items that will be given out to those in need during the holidays through the little pantries around the area. For these special items we are requesting full size items and not travel size, if possible. The items needed are: shampoo, conditioner, Band Aids, feminine hygiene products, Kleenex and hand sanitizer.

CAPS FOR NEWBORNS

Newborns at Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital during December will receive a Christmas treat: a red and white cap made with love by members of Elkin FUMC. Louise Cockerham and Mary McCrary spearhead the group which spends many hours all year long knitting these caps for the holiday time each year. Yarn and patterns are available if you would like to participate. Please contact Louise Cockerham at 336-835-2203 for more info.

YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN CARDBOARD CITY

Elkin Youth have volunteered to assume homelessness in their "box" at Elkin City Park on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 5-8pm. They hope to reach their goal of \$500.00 for The ARK. Each box represents homelessness and each volunteer "in the box" raises \$500 or more through donations for The ARK. To volunteer, donate or for more information: director@thearkelkin.org or call 336-527-1637. The ARK provides housing and supportive services for homeless families and single women in Elkin. Elkin FUMC Youth are sponsoring a box and are accepting donations after the 10:55 am Worship Service on November 5 & 12.

FUNDRAISER DINNER FOR YOUTH MISSIONS

The next youth fundraiser for missions is Breakfast for Dinner on Wednesday, November 29, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast Casseroles, grits, baked apples, biscuits & gravy, muffins and doughnuts are on the menu. Proceeds and donations will benefit the youth's mission & winter retreats.

Time to Care and Share with College Students

As the end of the academic semester and final exams approach, nothing lifts the spirits of a college student more than a care package from home. Once again, the youth are collecting goodies to go in care packages for our 27 college students from our congregation.



You are invited to help them out by bringing 27 of the same item. We will assemble the care packages Sunday, November 19 at 5 pm in the fellowship hall.

You may place your donations on the table outside of Cindy Furr's office.

Items you may consider are Rice Krispy Treats, gum, cookies, candy, popcorn packages, anything homemade, a note of encouragement, gift cards or anything that you think they would like. This is just a small gesture of our love and care for these wonderful students as they prepare for a challenging time in the semester.

OUR SYMPATHY

- † Sympathy is expressed to the Family of Ed Chappell who passed away on October 16. A celebration of life will be held at Johnson's Funeral Home on October 26 from 5-7 pm. Please keep Karen and the rest of the family in your prayers.
- † Sympathy is also expressed to the Family of Jim Cockerham who passed away on October 22. A celebration of his life was held in our Chapel on October 24. Please keep Louise and the rest of the family in your prayers.

GIVE WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER A TRY

If it's been a while since you came to supper on Wednesday you're missing out! Greta Wallace is our cook and she's doing a great job. The meals are terrific and so healthy. Each meal includes meat, fresh vegetables, rolls or some other form of bread, and a fresh salad. After the delicious meal enjoy desserts provided each week by various church members. You won't find better food for this price anywhere. And the fellowship can't be beat!

Adults: \$5 Children— Age 4-12: \$2
Under 4: Free First Time Visitors: Free

Congregational Care

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 1 - Jean Harris
 November 5 - Betsy Duncan, John Sapper
 November 6 - Marian Green
 November 7 - Mike McDowell
 November 8 - Charlotte Guyer
 November 9 - Linda Maxey
 November 12 - Jacob Bellia, Matthew Brown, Johnny Cooke
 November 13 - Steva Bledsoe
 November 15 - Ann Graham
 November 16 - Emaline Cockerham
 November 17 - Cameron Beals, Liam Cline
 November 18 - Walt Tayloe
 November 22 - Dockery Sloop, Cheryl Ventura
 November 24 - Susan Parker, Sydney Rhyne, Blythe Allman
 November 25 - Seth Crater, Paul Shumate, David Renegar
 November 26 - Henry Freeman, Alyssa Snider
 November 27 - Carol McDowell
 November 28 - Sadie Keller, Ray Parker
 November 29 - Mary Jane Jenkins
 November 30 - Thomas Eidson

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

November 12 - Rick & Sherry Caudle
 November 18 - Bern & Ellen Schumak
 November 22 - David & Mary Renegar
 November 25 - Walt & Diane Pettit

PRAYER CONCERNS

Church Family: Bliss Vanderpool, Ann Graham, Sam Tesh, Holly Gambill, Betty Tesh, Rev. Paul McCauley, Zack Trexler, Paulette McCauley, Libbi Parks, Emad Elkhayat, Ray Fencil, Larry Johnson, Walt Pettit, Hal Stuart, Bill Amburn, Ercel Carter, Sharon Harvey, Family of Ed Chappell, Family of Jim Cockerham, nursing home residents & homebound

Extended Care: Mary Cockerham, Iris Amburn, Jenny Brown, Frances Harris, Mary Neil, Linda Maxey, Dan & Sallie Park

Extended Family: Ruth Deck, John Seats, Diana Hamm, Richard Smoot, Clifford Jordan, Ronnie Ray, Nada Sheets, Emily Stewart, Ethan Spencer, Florence Leverett, Ana Garciana, Steve McLain, Betty Jordan, Linda Caudill, Jeff Miltner, Sharon and Brad Watterson, Pierce & Aishling, Priscilla Smith, Marc Bishop, Lynn & Dale Rose, Buck Freeman, Lorene Newman, Michael Hines, Dennis Stanley, Simpson Family, Robert Miller, Joan Shuford, Dr. Richard Belcher, Dr. Gladys Campbell, Mary Harper Edsall, Nan Boyd, Kallie Hollbrook, Angie Ferguson, Gus Bellia, Family of Deanna Brooks, Lonnie Snider

All of our military personnel and their families

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS on Sunday, Nov. 5. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, Nov. 4.

LYDIA CIRCLE MEETING: Lydia Circle will meet on Monday, November 6 at 11:00 am in the parlor. Following the meeting, join us for lunch. All women of the church are invited to attend.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE: Everyone is invited to the Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 19, 7 pm (location TBA). Anyone who would like to sing in the community choir should arrive at 6:15 pm for rehearsal of a simple anthem. Please bring non-perishable food items for Tri-C. An offering will be collected for Grace Clinic.

OFFICE HOURS DURING THANKSGIVING WEEK: The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, November 23 in observance of Thanksgiving.

EAGLE SCOUT CEREMONY: On Sunday, November 26 the congregation is invited to the Chapel at 12:30 pm for Henry Freeman's Eagle Scout Ceremony. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

COMMUNITY CHORUS CONCERT: Mark your calendar for this year's Community Chorus Christmas Concert. It will be held on Sunday, Dec. 31 at 4:00 and 7:00 pm at Elkin FUMC.

An Easy Way To Give To Elkin FUMC

PayPal
Giving Fund

<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/221649>

100% of your donation comes to the church

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY IS NOV. 5

In the United Methodist Church, All Saints' Day is observed on the first Sunday in November to remember deceased members of the local church congregation.

This year we will remember the lives of the following church members, who have passed away since the last All Saints' Day:

- Gene Williams—December 22, 2016
- Anne Hine—March 3, 2017
- James Harrell Sr.—March 6, 2017
- Jimmie Taylor—August 2, 2017
- Ed Chappell—October 16, 2017
- Jim Cockerham—October 22, 2017

Ministry Volunteers

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, November 5

Lay Reader: Jon Garing

Children's Church: Melissa Cline

Acolytes/Chimer: Ella Kleinheksel, Starr Morrison, Raelin Carter

Crucifer: Silas Coley

Greeters: J.L. & Jane Lowe, Mary Renegar, Tony Duncan,
Chris & Tammy Coley, Bob & Gail Midkiff

Ushers: Frank Beals, Rick Caudle, Glen Grider, Lon Snider,
Darryl Rhyne

Counters: Dave Johnson, Gardner & Lauren Meek

Sunday, November 12

Lay Reader: Suzie Andrew

Children's Church: Kristi Gaddis

Acolytes/Chimer: Grant Leeds, Grace Harrison, Reece Long

Crucifer: Eli Powell

Greeters: Tom Gwyn, Steve & Vickie Wells, Martha Maier,
Emaline Cockerham, Louise Cockerham, Andy & Ann Garner

Ushers: Steve Wells, David VanAntwerp, George Crater

Counters: Mike Powell, Andy & Ann Garner

Sunday, November 19

Lay Reader: Martha Smith

Children's Church: Charlotte Guyer, Carrie Morrison

Acolytes/Chimer: Lucas Keller, Paul Grider, Zena Petrocy

Crucifer: Ashley Hunsucker

Greeters: Steve Mackie, Jake Schot, David & Betsy Robertson

Ushers: James Freeman, David Poindexter, David Cline, Charlie
Bellia, Danny Freeman

Counters: Frank Beals, David & Betsy Robertson

Sunday, November 26

Lay Reader: Ercel Carter

Children's Church: Mary Keller

Acolytes/Chimer: Charlie & Matthew Pelkey, Raelin Carter

Crucifer: Chandler Beals

Greeters: Rob & Gina Peterson, Gambill Aldridge, Jennifer
Martin Brown, Sam Tesh

Ushers: Gary Conrad, Gerald Combs, Steve Brown, Tiger Sloop,
Randy Hunsucker

Counters: Gambill Aldridge, Margaret Tucker, Steve & Vickie
Wells

CHOIR SNACKS

4 yrs – K: Tuesday - 2:45 pm

November 7 - AmyJ

November 14 - Harper

November 21 - Brooklyn

November 28 - Johanna

1st – 6th Grade: Wednesday - 2:45 pm

November 1 - Sadie, Lucas K.

November 8 - AmyJ

November 15 - Oliva G, Ava, Emma

November 22 - *No Choir*

November 29 - Maci, Webb

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

Youth Ministry Team

Monday, November 13, 7:00 pm (Library)

Trustees

Tuesday, November 14, 7:00 pm (Library)

Missions Team

Monday, November 20, 7:00 pm (Library)

Worship Ministry Team

Tuesday, November 21, 6:30 pm (Library)

Finance Team

No November Meeting

SOLID ROCK CAFÉ

Wednesday, November 1

Menu: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans

Desserts: Powell, Harrison, Shuford, MacDonald, McDowell

Wednesday, November 8

Menu: Homemade Soup, Sandwiches, Salad

Desserts: Lowe, Sanders, Andrew, McCrary, Parker, Dent

Greeters, Ushers Play a Vital Role



Creating a welcoming and hospitable climate in our church begins in the parking lot and continues into the heart of the congregation. Greeters are on hand at every service to welcome everyone who enters our church.

Our ushers also welcome members and visitors. In addition, ushers assist in seating, providing an escort if needed, and take up the offerings during the services. They are on call for any needs of the pastor or congregation during services. They also keep track of attendance figures.

If you are interested in serving in either of these ministries, please contact Ben Wallace in the church office. It's a great way to get to know more people in our congregation!

November Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS

Sunday

8:45 am - Worship
 9:45 am - Sunday School
 10:55 am - Worship
 5:30 pm - JOY Bible Study
 - Men's Bible Study

Youth Activities (unless listed otherwise)

5:00 pm - Middle School Youth
 6:00 pm - Youth Dinner
 6:30 pm - High School Youth

Monday-Thursday

9:00 am - 1:00 pm - Weekday Programs

Monday

6:30 pm - Cub Scouts
 6:45 pm - Boy Scouts

Tuesday

9:00 am - Morning Bell Choir
 12:00 pm - JOY Bible Study
 2:45 pm - Kids' Choir (4 yrs - K)

Wednesday

2:45 pm - Kids' Choir (1st - 6th grade)
 6:00 pm - Solid Rock Café Fellowship Meal
 6:45 pm - Adult Bible Study
 Activities for Children & Youth
 Evening Bell Choir
 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

10:00 am - Adult Bible Study

Friday

Church Office Closed

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS—NOVEMBER 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|-------------------------------|--|--|--------|---|
| | | | 1 8:30 AM— "Soul Shop" Training offered by CareNet | 2 7:00 PM- Community Chorus Rehearsal | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 11:00 AM-Lydia Circle | 7 6:30 PM-Girl Scouts | 8 | 9 7:00 PM- Community Chorus Rehearsal | 10 | 11 |
| 12 12:00 PM- Covered Dish Lunch | 13 11:30 AM- Young at Heart Lunch 07:00 PM-Youth Min. Team | 14 7:00 PM- Trustees Mtg. | 15 | 16 7:00 PM- Community Chorus Rehearsal | 17 | 18 5:00 PM- Cardboard Box Fundraiser for The ARK |
| 19 5:00 PM-Youth Movie Night & Prep College Care Packages 7:00 PM- Community Thanksgiving Service (location TBA) | 20 7:00 PM- Missions Team Mtg. | 21 6:30 PM- Worship Team Mtg. | 22 | 23 Church Office Closed | 24 | 25 12:00 PM- College Students Lunch at Dodge City |
| 26 12:30 PM- Henry Freeman Eagle Ceremony & Reception | 27 | 28 | 29 6:00 PM-Youth Dinner Fundraiser | 30 8:30 AM-Trip to Billy Graham Library 7:00 PM- Community Chorus Rehearsal | | |

United Methodist Student Day

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT IS FIGHTING HUNGER AND FOOD WASTE IN HER COMMUNITY



Morgan Murdock's faith has informed every aspect of her life, from her upbringing to her education and community service to her ultimate career path. "I have been fortunate enough to grow up in a household with both parents very devoted to their faith. My parents have been involved with a church since they were children, and they made sure to keep that consistent with me," she said. Growing up in Collierville, Tennessee, Murdock's childhood wasn't without its challenges, but she said her faith helped her through even the most difficult times. "My faith was the one thing that did and still does help me through it all," she said.

In addition to participating in sports and theater, Murdock was very involved with the Collierville United Methodist Church choir and youth groups. Her time at church also sparked her passion for community service. "The United Methodist Church engrained in me from an early age that working with your community is very important in spreading Christian love and, ultimately, the Gospel."

In high school, Murdock served breakfast to the homeless each month at a church downtown, exposing her to the needs in her community. When she got to North Carolina State University in Raleigh, she sought out similar work. The civil engineering major cofounded a local chapter of the Food Recovery Network, a program that works with the school's dining hall to take leftover food to a homeless shelter near campus. "We are working to fight hunger as well as food waste through this organization, and we are planning to expand this to several dining halls and shelters in the area," she said.

Receiving the Gift of Hope scholarship helped Murdock pay for her education and also encouraged her to apply for other grant and scholarship opportunities to further her community service endeavors. "One great item that I ended up receiving was a grant to afford more bins to serve a greater amount of food to the homeless," she said. That same money also helped fund a trip to Atlanta to work with the Medici Project, which connects students with community service groups and encourages them to think about the roots of poverty.

"I was exposed to issues with the elderly, the homeless, the Hispanic community, and inner-city elementary school children. There was so much need in the area, and I realized that education is the core of many issues of poverty. From this, I have valued my education more, encouraged more of my friends to appreciate their opportunities, and helped tutor others in the community," she said.

Murdock urges congregations to continue their generous giving on United Methodist Student Day to support the education of young United Methodists.

"Through giving on this day, you are reminding and encouraging students of all majors and walks of lives to remain constant in their faith and to continue to uphold the great qualities that The United Methodist Church has instilled in us. The church has shown me so much unconditional love over the years in many forms, and this was a very meaningful form of that love. I was encouraged to pursue more in my community and remember the church that helped make me who I am," she said.

- Julie Dwyer, general church content editor, United Methodist Communications

United Methodist Student Day calls the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. The special offering provides scholarships for qualified United Methodist applicants.

Please consider a donation to the UM Student Day offering being collected on Sunday, November 26. Please make checks payable to "Elkin FUMC" with the memo "UM Student Day."



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Church Office: 336-835-2323

Fax: 336-835-8035

Website: www.elkinfumc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/elkinfumc

Email: office@elkinfumc.org

Church Staff:

Rev. Michael A. Shuford, Pastor (mshuford@elkinfumc.org)

Cindy Furr, Director of Discipleship (cfurr@elkinfumc.org)

Amy Johnson, Director of Music/Children's Ministries (ajohnson@elkinfumc.org)

Benjamin Wallace, Parish Life Coordinator (bwallace@elkinfumc.org)

Beth Darnell, Director of Weekday Programs (bdarnell@elkinfumc.org)

Pat Trexler, Custodian (ptrexler@elkinfumc.org)

George Brown, Assistant Custodian (gbrown@elkinfumc.org)

Submit articles/photos to the Church Office or email office@elkinfumc.org

To receive *The First Word*, send an email to office@elkinfumc.org with *The First Word* in the subject line. In the body, please indicate your method of receiving it: email only, postal mail only or both. Remember, email copies save the church postage and are good stewardship of God's resources.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Estimate of Giving Cards

Stewardship letters and Estimate of Giving cards were mailed to FUMC members on October 4. Our season of considering our Estimate of Giving is a sacred time of personal and congregational reflection on what God is calling us to do. Through our offering of our Estimates, our finance team can project what we can financially afford in the service of sharing God's love in this community and the world.

If you did not receive an Estimate of Giving card you may pick one up in the Narthex or on the table outside of the Church Library. You may also submit your 2018 Estimate of Giving online at www.elkinfumc.org/stewardship.

Commitment Sunday

Our commitment Sunday is scheduled for November 12 as we approach the Thanksgiving season so that we might be reminded of what truly makes us thankful in our relationship with God and one another. During the worship services everyone will be asked to bring their Estimate of Giving cards forward and place them on the altar.

Covered Dish Lunch

After the 10:55 am Worship Service on November 12, you are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall for our annual covered dish lunch. You are invited to bring food of your choice to share, drinks will be provided by the church. You may bring your food to the Fellowship Hall prior to the 10:55 am service so that our kitchen helpers can have the table spread and ready for everyone at noon.