

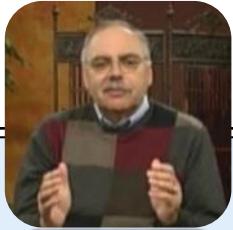
THE JOURNEY



Telephone: (570) 342-8263

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Website: elmparkumchurch.org



Rev. Mike Bealla
Senior Pastor

Welcome to this February edition of "The Journey." The months seem to really fly by between editions and sometimes writing my article is easier than other times. It's a bit early to highlight the upcoming Lenten/ Easter seasons and we are moving well passed the New Year celebration of 2019.

I would count this article among those that are difficult to write but not just because of the time of year. On the contrary, I find it more difficult to write this piece due to the challenge our great United Methodist Church is trying to resolve. It will happen this month at the special session of General Conference when delegates representing our annual conferences from around the world gather in St. Louis.

By now you are probably aware that our great church has become somewhat polarized over the LGBTQ issue. After averting a

motion to dissolve the church at the last session of General Conference, our Bishops formed "The Way Forward Commission" to develop a way for the church to move forward and make decision as to whether LGBTQ folks should be welcomed in the church and be able to serve as pastors.

This issue is not new, and it was felt that after years of frustration and painful debate it was time to make up our minds.

Three main plans have been offered as solutions to our current situation.

The "One Church Plan" seems to be the most favorable plan for our Bishops and many conferences. This plan would leave the decisions about inclusiveness to the local church in consultation with our Bishops. The plan would basically allow for unity of mission and purpose while allowing for diversity at the same time.

Another plan suggested is called the "Traditional Plan" which would retain the exclusion of LGBTQ folks in ministry and prevent pastors or churches to conduct same gender marriage. In reality, this plan goes beyond the current limiting language of the Book of Discipline.

A third plan would have conferences and jurisdictions choose their guidelines based upon preference. This plan is quite confusing and seems it would cause more hardship and division than it would help.

All three of these plans can be found described on our conference website at www.susumc.org. Click on The Way Forward tab to read or print this information.

When the delegates meet in St Louis to wrestle with adopting a plan for moving forward,

(Continued on page 2)



February 2019

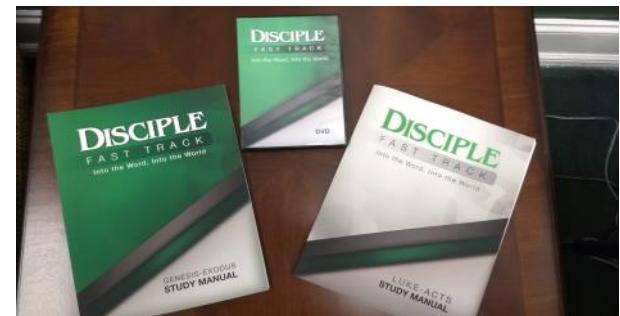
(Continued from page 1)

we need to pray for our future together. While the issue is certainly important, it would be a tremendous loss for the world if we buried our church's mission over a single issue. Those who want to condemn the LGBTQ lifestyle see it as a sin. Others point out that sin is sin and even if the lifestyle could be considered a sin, those same people probably also sin in other ways which they seem to close their eyes to seeing.

For me, I ask myself, "Who would Jesus choose to include or exclude from his body, the church?" I will honor and love all of God's children, not based upon any particular practice, but by the grace of our forgiving and loving God. Whatever decision is made at this vital General Conference special session, I pray God will be there and God's will is accomplished. Let us all pray for God's will.

Rev. Mike Bealla

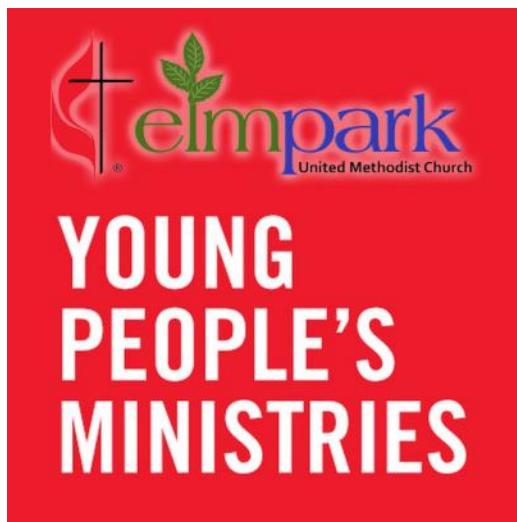
Join us for a Life Enriching
Study of God's Word
BEGINS (Tuesday) FEBRUARY 5th



I invite everyone to consider joining us in this second installment of Disciple Fast Track Bible Study Two. This comprehensive study will meet at both 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm on Tuesdays beginning February 5.

This study is for everyone whether they are new to the scriptures or a long time student of God's Word. It would be especially helpful for those in leadership to participate as well.

There is a sign up sheet on the Welcome Table in the rear of the church. You can also call the church office and reserve a spot. I promise you will grow in your understanding of scripture and continue to grow on your faith journey!!



Our youth group for Teens and Young Adults from 13 years old to 18 years old is meeting again on February 17th at 5:00 PM in the Woodling Room. We will be having Christian fellowship and dinner as we talk to each other about Christ! All are Invited!

If you have any questions or need a ride please call the main church office at (570)- 342-8263 and ask for me.

- Carrie Granche, Pastoral Assistant

A MESSAGE OF *love*

Make this valentine for a family member or friend.



What you need:

- 10 wooden craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers
- A photo and glue (optional)
- Craft knife (and adult help)
- Ribbon or a rubber band

What you do:

1. Set the sticks side by side. Secure with two tape strips.
2. Flip the sticks over. Draw (or glue on) a picture or write a message or Bible verse. If using glue, let dry.
3. Flip the sticks again and remove tape. If you glued on a photo, have an adult help cut the sticks (and photo) apart.
4. Secure the sticks with ribbon or a rubber band.
5. Deliver the gift and invite the recipient to assemble the puzzle.

Confirmation Class



The Confirmation Class is going on a retreat at Upper New York Annual Conference's camp, Sky Lake. We will be leaving on February 9th—February 10th and the retreat will consist of 11 Confirmands and 5 adults. During the retreat we will have worship, do crafts, talk about what the United Methodist Church's mission means, and we will reflect upon what it means to become a full member of Christ's Church.

Staff



Please welcome our newest maintenance staff member when you are in church this month. Mr. Steve Ruane began his full time position as our custodian a few weeks ago. Steve comes to us with a strong background in maintenance and custodian work. He will be working Sunday through Thursday each week from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Steve joins our Director of Maintenance, Mike Heffron on the staff and together they will help care for this large building and the ministries their work enables. Please be sure to welcome Steve as he gets to know all of you in the coming months.

A special thanks to our Staff Parish Relations Committee (our equivalent to a Human Resource Team) in filling this role and guiding our staffing needs as we move into the future. Many prayerful hours go into this work. Be sure to thank a member of the Committee when you have a chance!! - Rev. Mike Bealla, Senior Pastor





As part of the Communications Plan to get ready for 2020, starting in the next few weeks we will be setting up online giving here at the church, We will be using the company Vanco, who is a partner of all UMC Churches, and their software/app GivePlus.

So you might be asking, "How does this help me?" Well it does in a few ways. First, it will make it so if you are not here on a certain Sunday you can still give to the church via the online interface or via the GivePlus Giving App! Secondly, it will make it so if you have a credit card that makes you "points" or gives you money back you can hook it up to run through that card weekly, monthly, or even quarterly. Lastly, GivePlus gives you a chance to start making your life a little easier by making it so you won't need to worry about bringing you money or checkbook.

We will explain more of how this all will work via an upcoming episode of "The Elm Park Journey", an announcement video for it, and in the coming weeks in church.

- Wesley Bealla, Director of Communications & I.T.

The screenshot shows the Elm Park Communications website. At the top is the church's logo and the word "Communications". Below it is a section for "The JOURNEY" newsletter, featuring a thumbnail of the newsletter and a link to "Check out our monthly printed and emailed Newsletter 'The Journey'!". The next section is for the website "Elmparkumchurch.org", showing a thumbnail of a computer screen displaying the site and a link to "Elmparkumchurch.org". Below that is a section for email announcements, showing a thumbnail of an email and a link to "Announcements, reminders, and news sent via email from Rev. Mike.". The following section is for social media, showing a thumbnail of a laptop displaying the website and a link to "Facebook.com/elmparks cranton". At the bottom is a section for live streaming, with a link to "Tinyurl.com/epumcvideos" and "Videos.Elmparkumchurch.org". The footer contains the text "Communications. Elmparkumchurch.org".

THE ELM PARK JOURNEY

Latest Episodes

You are always invited to watch our bi-weekly Web-Series entitled "The Elm Park Journey." Each episode features our Lay Leader, Diana Howe, as she interviews guests from our church about events, programs, ministries, groups, and leaders from our church.

In the newest episode, Diana interviews Dr. Bill Miller Our Church Council Chair about the Mission team and Church Council restarting Peace Meal.

In our upcoming episode, Diana will be interviewing George Simmons, our Director of Music about our music program.

If you have any ideas for future episodes for "The Elm Park Journey" contact Diana Howe, Rev. Mike Bealla, Wesley Bealla or email media@elmparkumchurch.org.



the Methodist society in the “new world.”

1760s Anne Schweitzer, a black woman, becomes a founding member of the first Methodist society in Maryland. Two years later, another black woman, known to us only as Bettye, is one of five persons to attend the Methodist services inaugurated by Philip Embury in New York City. When the John Street Church is built in 1768, the names of several black subscribers appear on roster.

1784 The Christmas Conference in Baltimore founds the Methodist Episcopal Church. Among those riding out to issue the call for the conference is “Black Harry” Hosier. Born a slave about 1750, Hosier receives a license to preach in 1785 and becomes one of the best preachers and most effective early circuit riders.

1790 Drawn by the Methodist Episcopal Church’s anti-slavery stand, blacks (slave and free) make up 20 percent of the 57,631 American Methodists.

1791 John Wesley dies. His last letter is one written to anti-slavery crusader William Wilberforce, urging him to “Go on, in the name of God and in the power of his might, till even American slavery (the vilest that ever saw the sun) shall vanish away before it.”

1794 Increasing segregation within churches causes Richard Allen to form the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. In 1796, blacks walk out of John Street Church in New York and eventually build the Zion Chapel. Similar movements occur in other communities.

1805 The African Union Church is formed.

1816 The African Methodist Episcopal church is formed in Philadelphia. Richard Allen becomes its first bishop.

1819 John Stewart is named as the first missionary to the Wyandot Indians. A black man converted in 1814, he was engaged in this ministry for several years before obtaining a license to preach in 1819.

1821 The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is formed in New York. James Varick is elected as first general superintendent.

1844 Rising tensions over slavery come to a head in the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church when Bishop James O. Andrew of Georgia is told to desist from the exercise of his office until he frees slaves passed down from his wife’s estate.

1845 In a break along regional lines, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is formed in Louisville, Ky.

1858 The Liberia Conference elects Francis Burns as bishop. The first missionary bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, he had served as a missionary to Liberia for 24 years.

INSIGHT

Timeline: Methodism in Black and White

1866 A group of black Methodists within the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, petition the General Conference for their orderly dismissal from that church.

1870 Those former members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, found the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in Jackson, Tenn.

1902 Susan Collins goes as a missionary to Angola where she is welcomed as “one of us” and serves 29 years.

1920 The Methodist Episcopal Church elects Robert E. Jones and Matthew W. Clair Sr. as bishops.

1939 The Methodist Episcopal Church; the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and the Methodist Protestant Church unite to form The Methodist Church. Blacks are segregated into a separate Central Jurisdiction.

1956 The General Conference, meeting in Minneapolis, Minn., adopts Amendment IX, allowing transfers of churches and conferences out of the Central Jurisdiction into geographical jurisdictions.

1968 The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church unite to form The United Methodist Church. As part of the plan of union, the Central Jurisdiction is abolished and formal segregation ended. Roy C. Nichols becomes the first African American to be elected bishop by a regional jurisdictional conference in the new United Methodist Church. Black Methodists for Church Renewal is organized. The General Commission on Religion and Race is formed, with Woodie White as the first African-American to head a United Methodist general agency.

1976 Mai Gray becomes the first African-American president of the Women’s Division, General Board of Global Ministries.

1977 Trudie Kibbe Preciphs becomes the first African-American member of the secretariat of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

1984 Leontine T.C. Kelly becomes the first African-American woman to be elected bishop.

1990 Charlotte Ann Nichols (Peninsula-Delaware Conference) and Joethel Jeannette Cooper Dicks (West Ohio) become the first African-American women district superintendents.

2000 General Conference delegates participate in a service of repentance for racism within the denomination.

2004 General Conference delegates celebrate the African-American witness and presence within The United Methodist Church and recognize “those who stayed” in spite of racism.

2008 16.6 percent of the U.S. delegation to the 2008 General Conference are African-American.

2009 African-American United Methodists speak at the inauguration of the first African-American U.S. president.

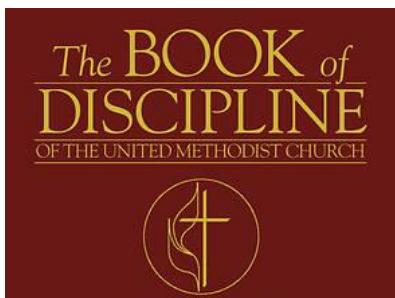
—This timeline first appeared in *New World Outlook*, May-June 1992. Adapted by permission and updated by United Methodist Communications. Photo courtesy of *New World Outlook* - Missionary Vivienne Gray (Liberia). Learn UMC.org.

What are the Committees of the Church?



The Church Council plans and implements the programs and ministry of the local church as well as oversees the administration of the church.

What Do They Do?



The Trustees are charged with the responsibility for the supervision and care of all property and equipment owned by the church. The Board is to plan and set policies for the maintenance and use of the property and equipment, and receives and administers all bequests to the local church.



Trustees



The Staff-Parish Relations Committee or SPRC works closely with the pastor and staff concerning their relationship with the congregation and the entire work of the church. This committee is in essence the personnel committee of the church. The committee is to be sensitive to the opinions and concerns of

the congregation concerning the pastor and staff. It is to confer with the district superintendent or the bishop concerning the appointment of the pastor for the church. The committee also recommends the salary for the pastor to the Charge Conference.



The Finance Committee oversees the financial resources of the church as their priority throughout the year. They plan, strategize, and implements ways to generate more resources for the mission and ministries of the church. They also oversee the yearly stewardship campaign. The annual budget of the church are submitted to the committee to be adapted and be prepared to be given to the Church Council for a final vote.



The Communications Committee works with the staff, committees and teams on communicating the mission and ministry of the church via social media, websites, printed publications, videos, and photos. They also oversee and run the Media Team, who works with the video and audio equipment of the church to record and livestream services and events each week.

The Nominations Committee or Committee on Lay Leadership meet once a year to work on nominating the most qualified people to be members of the committees and/or teams that they are most qualified for.



What are the Teams of the Church?

What Do They Do?

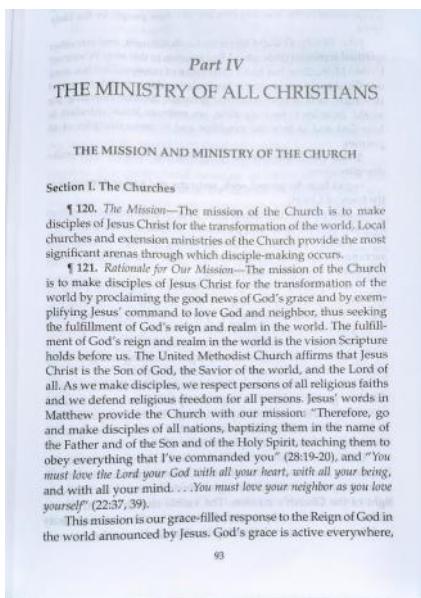


The Worship Team works to see that all aspects of the worship experience is the best that it can be. They plan music, greeters, receptionists, acolytes, and scripture readers.

The Education Team oversee Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Son Seekers, Youth Group, the library, and church Scholarships.



The Mission Team works on supporting both local and global missions like Mission Central, UMCOR, Safety Net, Exodus Prison Ministry, Sierra Leone Initiative, Bread Basket, and Scranton Rescue Mission. They also plan and go on mission trips and they oversee Peace Meal.



The Disaster Response Team focus on issues in the church to do with local disasters like fires, floods, tornados, and other types of disasters. They work closely with both the Trustees, Church Council, and Church Staff.

Our new Prayer and Praise service

is an exciting time! The leadership of the informal service is provided by members of our Congolese brothers and sisters. Several families and children of all ages are a part of the gathering, singing and praying mostly in Swahili.

Feel free to join us anytime on Sundays at 11:30 AM in the Woodling room. Also, pictured below are a few scenes from the weekly Worship over the last few weeks.



Good news for folks looking for a place to park!

We have many open parking spots in our main church lot. Now would be the perfect time to sign up for a parking spot! Cost for each spot is \$65 a month which is currently the cheapest in the city! You are able to park there at any time Monday - Saturday.

All parking money helps the church, so if you or someone you know would like to reserve a spot please contact Marie in the church office at

(570) 342-8263 extension #10.

THE JOURNEY

Any and all articles for "The Journey" Newsletter are now due on the **20th of each month**. We are looking for announcements, upcoming event details, and/or stories of how the church has impacted you or someone else's life that you know.

If you have an article you want to send in or any ideas please email them to thejourney@elmparkumchurch.org or give them to Marie Priblo in the Main church office.

If you have any questions please speak to or email Marie Priblo or Wesley Bealla in the church office.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

CHAPEL READERS	SANCTUARY READERS	ACOLYTES	RECEPTIONIST
03 Bill Miller	03 John Warring	03 Elm Park Youth	03 Renee Aston
10 Brian McChesney	10 Steve Masour	10 Elm Park Youth	10 Tina Kohanski
17 Susan Crane	17 Carole Anderson	17 Elm Park Youth	17 Andrew Sucheski
24 Rich Phillips	24 Sara Cooper	24 Elm Park Youth	24 Elizabeth Swartz

CHAPEL GREEETERS/USHERS	SANCTUARY GREETERS	HOSPITALITY HOST/HOSTESSES
03 Doug Allen/Mary Gordan	03 Joan Pilosi/Ron Stewart	03 Connie Dempsey
10 Michael & Helene Colaneri	10 Elm Park Youth	10 Andrea & Larry Mulrine
17 Jim Keller/Mary Gordan	17 Jill Luczak and Sharon Keen	17 Conrad Bosley
24 Bob Pearson/Conrad Bosley	24 Phil and Marge Scotch	24 Pabst Family

SANCTUARY USHERS

03 Bill Miller, Jane Miller, Sarah Cooper, Ron Stewart, Leigh Redmon, Joan Pilosi, Rick Bevins
 10 Elm Park Youth as Assigned
 17 Leigh Redmon, Harold Hiller, Rick Bevins, Jason Miller, Julie Miller, Camden Miller, Dave Walker
 24 Ray Ferrario, Phil Scotch, Marge Scotch, Aaron Magnot, Maribeth Magnot, Jill Luczak, Sharon Keen



FEBRUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

FEBRUARY 3 - The flowers for the worship services have been given to the glory of God in loving memory of Mary Gordan from Beulah Jenkins.

FEBRUARY 10 - The flowers for the worship services have been given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Eric Brace by Andrea and Larry Mulrine.

FEBRUARY 17 - The flowers for the worship services have been given in honor of Betsy & Jane Miller.

FEBRUARY 24 - Open

OPEN DATES FOR ALTAR FLOWERS: **March 10th, 24th, and All of April.** Please call Marie Priblo at 570-342-8263 Ext. 10 if you are interested in any of these available dates. Thank you.





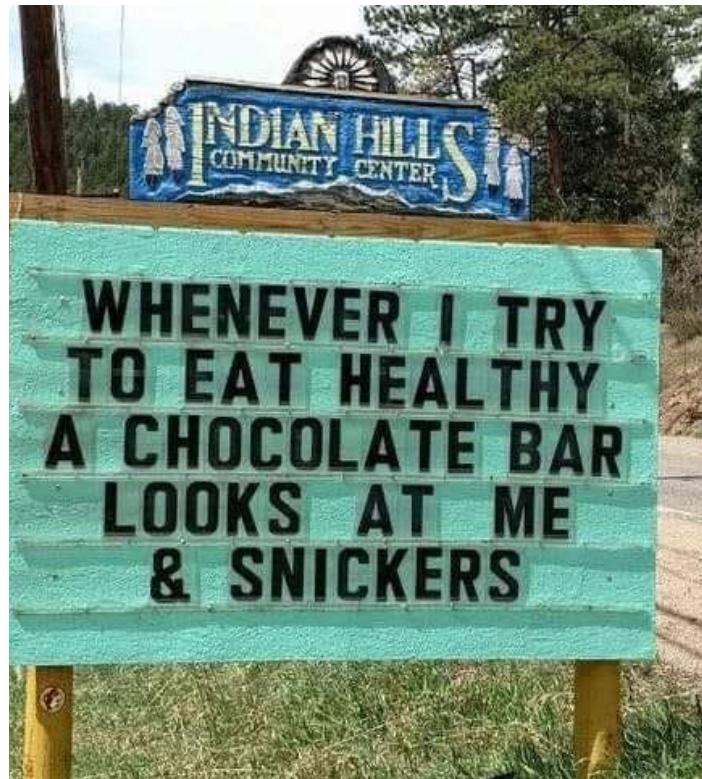
02 Daniel Roberts Jr.
 03 Allyson Fitch
 03 Sandra Hill
 04 Victoria Andres
 04 Paul Freeman
 04 Rebecca Kameroski
 04 Arthur Wilford Jr.
 05 Charles J. Rinaldi Jr.
 06 Andrew Sucheski
 07 Scott Grassi
 07 Harold Hiller
 08 Brittany Schoeter
 09 Barry Bennington Jr.
 09 Meghan Eidenerg
 09 Bryan Fisk
 09 Gregory Jones
 09 Willmon Keiser
 09 Rebecca Mikesell
 09 Charles Miller
 09 Ron Stewart
 10 Daniel Grassi
 10 Debra Swingle
 11 Jeffrey Jones
 12 Patrick Fisk
 14 Jean Barziloski
 15 Lynn Ewaskiw-Gordon
 16 Lacey Stanton
 17 Howard Gordon
 20 Helen Evans
 20 Gail Gianacopoulos
 20 Marc Refice
 20 Alona Wagner
 21 Alison Cortazar
 21 George Mansour

21 Lisa Peters
 21 Paul Stephens
 22 Michael Adomiak
 22 Maree Greenwood
 22 Jodi Griffiths
 22 Sharon Reese
 22 Barbara Roberts
 24 Jill Eidenberg
 24 Michael Serge
 25 Dorothy Bosley
 25 Joseph Cole Jr.
 25 Marie Martin
 25 Rachael Scotch
 26 Rebecca Baum
 27 Tammy Brier
 27 Jack Daubenhauser
 28 Kelsey Fisch
 28 Gayle Hamilton



Son Seekers

Children's Fellowship
 7 - 12 Year Olds
 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
 6:30 - 8:00

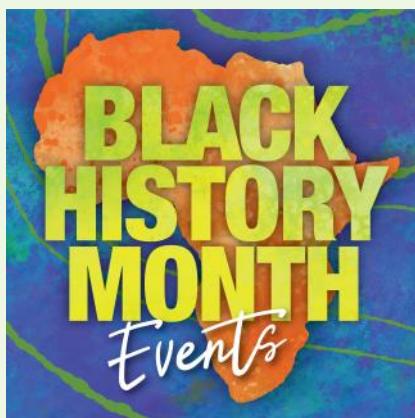


**Signs we will never use!
 Sponsored by Betsy Miller**

This is a snapshot of Events & Activities scheduled for the month of February. A full schedule is available on our website. Should you like to schedule an activity or have questions, please contact Marie Priblo at 570-342-8263.

Weekly Events for February

Monday	2:00 PM	Staff Meeting (L)
Tuesday	1:00 PM	Disciple Bible (L)
	7:00 PM	Disciple Bible (L)
Wednesday	9:00 AM	Staff Meeting (L)
	10:00 PM	Bread Basket (MPR 1)
	6:30 PM	Westminster Ringers (Bell R)
	7:30 PM	Choir Practice (Choir R)
Friday	12:00 PM	Noon Prayer (L)
Sunday	8:30 AM	Worship in Chapel
	9:00 AM	Sunday School
	9:30 AM	Fellowship
	10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
	11:30 AM	Prayer & Praise Service



Saturday, 2/9	4:30 –6:30 PM Peace Meal (D)
Saturday & Sunday, 2/9 - 2/10	Confirmation Retreat @ Sky Lake



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maintenance@elmparkumchurch.org

Wesley Bealla

Director of Communications and IT

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George Simmons - Director of Music

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Committees Do?**

Black History Month

**A Note from our
Communicator**

Youth Group

Youth Events



Worship Times

8:30 AM Chapel Service

9:00 AM—10:00 AM Fellowship time

10:00 AM Sanctuary Service

11:30 AM Prayer and Praise Service