

HYLAND LAKES PARISH NEWS LETTER

November 2019

Elcho Congregational UCC/Kempster Congregational UCC

***No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you
are welcome here***

From the Interim Minister

Reverend Wanda and I had a very busy month at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. I was able to share some of that experience with you during worship on October 27th. One of the items that was of interest to a number of you was the sleeping mat for homeless made from plastic shopping bags. Printed instructions are included in this newsletter and below is a link for video instructions.

<https://youtu.be/ELO0NjhYuSg>

Wanda and I plan to go back to Back Bay Mission in 2020 from October 1st through October 15th. Pittsville UCC's workweek is from October 11th through October 16th. Let me know if you're interested in participating in that trip. We've been working with Back Bay Mission for over 20 years and plan to continue that relationship into our retirement years. We will be able to take sleeping mats and other donations every time we make the trip to Biloxi.

I will be starting a Bible study this month. Initially it will be on Friday mornings starting at 10:30 a.m. and will focus on the passage(s) to be preached on Sunday mornings. Bring your own Bible. I hope that we have a variety of versions of the Bible to enhance our discussions. I'm flexible regarding this Bible study and the day, time and topics can evolve based on the needs of those who do and who wish to attend.

The search committee has begun its work and some of you have already had opportunities to contribute thoughts and ideas. These opportunities will continue into 2020 with more small group meetings and discussions. Special efforts will continue to be made so that everyone can participate in the process.

Peace, Paul

Instructions for Sleeping Mats for the Homeless

Materials

Plastic bags (clean grocery store variety, between 500 and 700 per mat)
Scissors or rotary cutter
Size P crochet hook
Bible thought card with "God Loves You" printed on it

Preparation Directions (see photos as well)

- Place the bag in a lengthwise position.
- Fold in half; then fold in half again.
- Cut off the bottom seam and top handles. Discard or recycle.
- Cut regular supermarket bags into 2.5-inch loops.
- Connect in the following way: pick up 2 loops. Place one end through the other. Place the end of the 2nd strip through itself. Pull both ends until tight.
- Repeat steps and roll length into a large ball.
- Write a Bible thought and connect it to the mat.

Crochet Directions

- Using a size P crochet hook, make a chain 36 inches long.
- Make loops loose with space between each loop.
- Crochet one extra loop at the end of the chain for a turning point.
- Return to the 3rd loop to make row 2.
- Continue until the mat is 6 feet long.
- Crochet from front to back to avoid puckering.
(A finished mat measures 3-by-6 feet.)
- For a tie, crochet 2 rows of single loops to make an 80-inch string.
- Connect the tie to the middle top. This allows the mat to be rolled up for transporting.



To tie rings of plastic into "yarn" . . .

1. Pick up two rings
2. Loop one end through the other
3. Loop end of the second ring through itself
4. Pull until tight
5. Repeat steps adding to first string
6. Roll completed strips into a large ball



PARISH PROFILE COMMITTEE

Committee will gather information from our Members to include in Church Profile as part of our search for a “Settled Minister”.

Members of the Parish Profile Committee:

Pastor Paul Veldman, Ade Dillon, Olive Dubey, Sue Mackowski, Tina Rasmussen, Scott Spencer, Betty Tappa, Larry Anderson,

If you cannot attend meetings, please e-mail your input to:

Sue Mackowski at smack10@frontiernet.net

OR

Betty Tappa at bjtappa@aol.com

Minutes of 10/13/2019:

First meeting of the parish profile information gathering group, Sunday 10/13/19

Attending: Betty Tappa, BJ & Buzz Sundin, Bob & Sue Brautigam, Mark & Linda Klopfer, Scott Spencer, Kris Anderson, Olive DuBey, Rod & Nilah Visser, Carol Brown, Joan Sage, La Bartlett, Sue Mackowski, additional feedback from Debby Gallenberg

Questions were posed to those in attendance to gather information on how we view our church and what we're looking for in a settled pastor.

First question: How would you describe our church?

Response: small, friendly, community minded

Second question: what attracts you to this church?

Response: the people, community involvement

Third question: describe what you'd like to see as the ministry goals of a settled pastor.

Response: would like to hear “lessons” from the pulpit, teach us how to live our faith; someone who can help “grow” our church; someone with leadership skills, can address diversity in our congregation; help partner and integrate with school and community; someone who can incorporate humor into spiritual growth.

Fourth question: describe how your vision of a settled minister will have an impact beyond our church walls.

Response: this was addressed in response to the third question, but additional comments included having someone who is personable, able to interact with people.

Fifth question: when was the last time you were excited about coming to church?

Response: good discussion on whether “excitement” was the correct terminology. We want spiritual “refreshment” and contentment, and validation that we are loved from our leader and church. It was suggested that coffee and donuts before or after service might be a nice touch.

Additional feedback: potlucks or outdoor services, monthly church dinners, game night, outdoor activities (sleigh rides, picnics, etc), partnering with other churches on community activities

A handout with the following three questions was distributed for discussion to follow next Sunday’s service:

- Describe the ministry goals you envision your next minister co-collaborating with the congregation to achieve.
- Describe how your vision of the minister you are now seeking will assist the congregation in making an impact beyond its walls.
- Based on what you feel about who your church is, who your church’s neighbor is, and who God is calling the church to become, how should our next minister help us as a congregation in these areas.

We want as many voices as possible in the congregation heard. All feedback is encouraged and welcome so we have a better idea of what we’re looking for in the future.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Sunday, November 3, 2019 — After Church —

KEMPSTER

This years tree trimming Christmas party will be Wednesday December 4th starting at 10:30 am. Everyone welcome. Bring a dish to pass and a small gift for a gift exchange.

Photo below is from last year's tree trimming at Kempster.



GRIEF AND LOSS GROUP

Grief and loss are a part of life. Sometimes we think we have finished but then an anniversary comes or something reminds us of the loss again. Sue Mackowski, Bereavement Specialist and Consultant will lead the group. For additional information call her at 715-275-5399.

2019 Grief Support Schedule

11/9/19 Grief and the Holidays

12/14/19 Grief and the Holidays

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

This is what's happening with the Women's fellowship.

Monthly Meeting

Our regular meeting will be Nov. 6th at 1:00p.m. in the church fellowship hall. All are welcome.

Visit to Eastview

Nov.21st the women will be hosting the monthly Birthday celebration at Eastview in Antigo. There will be a car pool that will meet in the church parking lot at 12:30 PM. We sponsor the cake and play Elcho bingo (with prizes). We all sing "Happy Birthday" and sometimes "Jesus loves me", senior version. If we sing this, words will be provided.

Christmas Party

In lieu of our meeting, Dec.4th, we will have our annual Christmas party at noon. This is a pot luck, so bring a dish to pass and also a white elephant or a regifted "gift". This will be in the church basement. Again all are welcome, including spouses.

International Outreach



Did you know the Women's fellowship also supports a young lady from Guadalajara, Mexico through children international. She is 15 years old and her name is Alexa Sinay Gutierrez Salazar. She is our second sponsored child.

MEN'S CLUB/PAVILION NEWS

A two phase drive has been organized to gather funds to:

- #1. Pay down the mortgage principal (**Pavilion Mortgage Payoff Drive**)
- #2. Provide funding to make the monthly mortgage payments on the Pavilion (**Monthly Mortgage Drive**)

Pavilion Mortgage Payoff Drive:

A great response to the "Pay Down the Mortgage Principal Drive" has resulted in a reduction of the mortgage principal to \$75,031.78. as of November 1, 2019.

The Drive is ongoing and additional donations to pay down the mortgage will assist in this effort.

Monthly Mortgage Drive:

Again a great response to this request is assisting in paying the monthly mortgage payment of \$825. A few more pledges and the entire amount will be covered. Any amount is welcome. Many donations can be combined to cover this monthly payment.

Fish Fry:

Our next event is the fish fry on November 8th. Doors will open at 4:00 and we will start serving dinner at 5:00.



8th ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR

ELCHO COMMUNITY PAVILION

DECEMBER 7, 2019

9 AM TO 2 PM



ENTRANCE FEE: A NON-PERISHABLE
FOOD ITEM FOR THE ELCHO AREA
COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY GETS YOUR
NAME IN THE HOURLY DRAWING

ELCHO UCC CHOIR AND MUSIC NEWS



Last Sunday our Choir held its last performance of the season. Their finale was spectacular. We look forward to the 2020 season. For now, if anyone knows of individuals who would be interested in providing special music, we would more than welcome them.

ELCHO FOOD PANTRY

Chili Cook Off

Almost here.....The December 15 "Chili Cook-Off" hosted at Elcho Club House. Bring your Chili to be judged and bring your appetite and cash to purchase chili samples and raffle tickets for prizes (TV + others). Proceeds of the event support the food pantry. Enjoy the Packers vs Bears game, chili, refreshments, being with friends, and winning prizes all while supporting the Food Pantry.

Donations needed

Suggested items for the Elcho Area Community Food Pantry

Saltine Crackers	Peanut Butter (creamy)	Grape Jelly
Graham Crackers	Pancake Syrup	Hamburger Helper
Sugar – 4 lb. pkg	Honey	Dried Fruits
Canned fruits –	Sliced peaches or pears	Applesauce
Canned meat & protein	Chili, Beef Stew, Manwich	Chicken, Tuna
Chicken and Dumplings	Pork n Beans	Mac n Cheese

NOTE: When choosing donations, it is good to consider how the items need to be prepared, as not all patrons have access to all cooking means. It is our goal to provide food assistance to meet the needs of adults and children in our community. In addition to these items listed, the Food Pantry provides meat, dairy items and fresh produce through other sources when available.

GARDEN CLUB

Memorial Walk Bricks

A reminder about ordering an engraved brick to honor or memorialize an individual/event/anniversary/marriage, etc.

Order blanks are available on the table in the narthex and at the pavilion. Order blanks may be downloaded from our Church Web Site.

People can also speak with Jane Wagner with any questions.



CHURCH CALENDAR

Please check the calendar on our website:

elchokempsterucc.org