Affirmation from Romans 8:35, 37-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword? No! In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us. We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Perhaps you remember the old hymn, “Count Your Blessings” which ends with this chorus:

Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your blessings see what God hath done; Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

Sometimes in the midst of our hurried lives, and even in the midst of difficult times, we need to count our blessings. Here are just a few blessings that I often think about:

- The gift of life, not just in its totality, but the gift of every day.
- The basics and necessities of life; a roof over our heads, clean water, food to eat, and clothes to wear.
- Family and friends. Just to name a few.

When Paul asks the question, ‘What shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or sword’; he was not talking about the experiences of someone else, he was talking about his own. These do not seem like times of blessing or times to be thankful for, but he was. The greatest blessing for Paul was the presence of God even in the midst of these most difficult times and that nothing could separate him or us from this love, not even death itself.

In this season of thankfulness, may we truly count all of our blessings.

Bryan
Shepherding News

Our mission for the Shepherding Team is to show care, love and support of our church members. Several times we have quoted Mother Teresa, as that was her mission as well as many others. Below is a poem found written on the wall in Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta:

Do It Anyway — Mother Teresa

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered.  
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. 
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies.  Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. 
Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. 
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten.  Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

May you and your family have a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas season. If you need a Shepherd or would like to be a Shepherd, please let me know.
Joyce Kimpel, Team Leader  (304) 232 0588 or t.kimpel@comcast.net

United Methodist Women

We will be meeting on Tuesday November 11th at 7 pm in Newmeyer hall. Alice Runkle will have the program on the World Thank Offering. Hostesses will be Mary Lou McCain and Carol McCroba.

December's meeting will be our UMW Christmas Covered Dish Dinner. The UMW will provide the chicken. Members are asked to bring a covered dish. Karen Stewart will be the Hostess. Nancy and Keith McCord will be our entertainment.

There will be no meeting in January. However, a special planning meeting will be held on January 13, 2015 at 11 a.m. at the church to plan our program for next year.

I would like to thank the members of the United Methodist Women's group for all of their support over the years that I served as president. A special thank you to Anita for all her help answering my questions, no matter how trivial they may have been. I especially want to thank Anita for taking the President's position once again. She is very busy but is willing to take over the leadership of our Elm Grove UMW group.

Karen Stewart
EGUMW President

December 9, 2014
I can’t believe that we are approaching the Advent season and Christmas. The choir and Design Team are working hard to have a beautiful and meaningful worship time together. The Advent and Christmas music is always so beautiful, and if you missed the adult choir cantata last year, Appalachian Winter, we are going to do selections from that again. We do still have some CD’s and DVD’s available in case you missed getting one.

All are welcome! If anyone would like to join the Adult Choir or Early Bird Choir on Sunday mornings, please don’t hesitate to call me at 304-242-1455.

If you missed the service on Sunday, Oct. 19th, the children’s choir was AWESOME!!!!! With their BOOMWACKERS and their singing, they made a very joyful noise. They’re a small, but MIGHTY GROUP of children. If you have children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews, or neighbors that could be in this group, and also the bell choir, you really ought to bring them to church at 9:30 a.m. for Children’s Choir and 9:45 for Bell Choir. Molly is doing a wonderful job with these children. I’m quite sure there is NO ONE QUITE AS ENERGETIC AND TALENTED AS MOLLY BERESH. She is a positive influence on our children and youth, and a wonderful mentor for children who love music.
Mission Message

Ho! Ho! Ho! You really did “Think Christmas in September!” Thanks to your generosity, the Mission Committee has provided 28 beautiful, filled boxes to the Shoebox Santa program for Appalachian Outreach this year. Come December, 28 people will be receiving one of your gifts — and it may be the first time those individuals have ever received a Christmas present!

Continuing with the monthly mission theme, in November we will ask you to support the children’s canned food collection. Listen for that “brown bag” announcement in church and look for it on the screen. By December the weather should be quite cold (and snowy?), and folks will need warm outerwear—coats, gloves, hats, scarfs, and even blankets. Therefore, our December and January collections will be to meet those needs for children and adults. They will be grateful for your help.

Forecast for January —

Murder Mystery Theater with a taste of ham! Since there won’t be another newsletter until February, we want you to mark January 9th and 10th on your calendars NOW and watch for follow-up announcements and ticket availability on the screen before our services. Listen for Announcements before each of our Sunday Services. Look for posters around the church for clues as to the content of the play, and join us for all of the fun!

Bring some friends with you, too!

Family Fellowship Committee

The Family Fellowship Committee would like to thank everyone who came out for the steak fry on September 6th. We had a great time! Proceeds from the steak fry totalled $1434.12 and will be applied toward Conference Apportionments.

Special Thanks to our Steak Fry Sponsors:

**$250 Filet Mignon Level**
Todd Kimpel / Commonwealth Financial Services, LLC
Anonymous

**$100 New York Strip Level**
Kepner Funeral Home
Anonymous

**$50 Sirloin Level**
David & Karen Muldrew
Anonymous

A Big Thank You to all of the following for donating a Chinese Auction basket:
Ben Franklin • Elm Grove United Methodist Women • Elm Terrace Deli • Family Hair Care
Fiesta Hair & Tanning Salon • United Methodist Women • Pittsburgh Pirates
Pat’s Hallmark • Play It Again Sports • Riesbecks • Washington Wild Things
Wheeling Nailers • Patty Swiger • Jenny & Emily Kimpel • Anita Chops & Garnell Butler

— Peggy Laing
Mission Committee

— Becky McCullough
Chairperson

(Continued on pg. 5)
Family Fellowship Committee

If you have an idea for something you would like to see the Family Fellowship Committee take on, please email us at familyfellowship@elmgroveumc.com. If you would like to join our committee, just email us at the above address and let us know you are interested.

Website News

Don’t forget to visit our website at http://elmgroveumc.com

Keep an eye out for a new look. Becky McCullough is in the process of revamping the church’s website and hopes to have the newly remodeled site completed within the next month. If you have an event or information you would like included on our site, please email Becky at webmaster@elmgroveumc.com.

Like us on Facebook at http://facebook.com/elmgroveumc and visit us on Youtube at http://elmgroveumc.com/youtube

Media Release Form

In this digital age, Elm Grove United Methodist Church takes many pictures. These pictures can include baptisms, worship services, special events, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, etc. We use these pictures to celebrate our church ministry through many forms of media, including, but not limited to; the church website, Facebook page, YouTube site, Sparks Newsletter, local media outlets, and others.

We understand that some people may choose not to have their photos used and we want to respect their wishes. We are providing two forms for your consideration. A minor release form and an adult opt out form. You will find these forms at the end of our newsletter. Completed forms may be returned to the church office. Thank you.

Trustee Report

The Trustees have had many projects around the Church to keep them busy. To date, the following projects have been completed in 2014:

- New sanctuary lighting above the pulpit and choir area
- An additional light installed for the parking lot
- Replaced two broken downspouts on Church building
- Renovated the Parsonage bathroom
- Painted trim and garage doors at the Parsonage
- Modified the Church fire alarm system to electronically contact the fire department if a fire is detected.
- Major upgrades to the Church office computer systems*
- And major upgrades to the Audio/visual system

*Work is ongoing to install wireless network connections in all of the church classrooms on both floors.

Members of our Board of Trustees are Bob Morgan, Tim Kimpel, Scott Beresh, John Cummings, Clyde Shook, Steve Harvilla, David Beaver and A.J. Loughman.
Upcoming Events

ATTENTION COOKIE LOVERS!!
The United Methodist Women are holding their Annual Cookie Sale and they’re ready to take your orders for Christmas! You will find an order form in this newsletter on Page 9. Order Forms will also be available at the Welcome Desk or you can contact Garnell Butler for a form. All orders should be returned to Garnell by November 30th. Cookies will be ready for pick up on December 14th.

Community Dinners are held every third Saturday at Elm Grove United Methodist Church. These dinners offer a wonderful time of fellowship and an opportunity for our church to reach out to our community in ministry. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. Please invite your family and neighbors to join us.

November Dinner November 15th December Dinner December 20th January Dinner January 17th

Bragging Rights

Congratulations to Ruth Ellen Fise and Patty Jewett! Both ladies won ribbons for their beautiful quilts at this year’s Ohio County Fair, held October 2 - 5 at Oglebay Resort in Wheeling.

Lois’ Stitches of Caring

Lois’ group has been knitting up a storm and they deserve some recognition! The group produced 106 scarves, 41 hats, 2 pairs of slippers, 12 pairs of mittens, and 7 bibs and donated them to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. In addition, the group produced 17 lap robes and presented them to the Eastern Star to distribute to our Veterans. And Karen Muldrew single-handedly produced 20 preemie caps for Eastern Star. We are proud of this group and the loving work that they do.
**Our Church Membership**

**Celebrating Baptism**

**September 21, 2014**  
Corbin Scott Dentz, son of Christina & Scott Dentz

**October 12, 2014**  
Lillian Paige Huff, daughter of Jennifer & Wesley Huff

---

**Marriages**

**November 1, 2014**  
*Amanda A. Levasseur & Benjamin D. Kimpel*

---

**In Loving Memory. . .**

*To Conference Apportionments in Memory of Lois Stobbs*

Sharon and Dick Cameron

---

**Worship Service Attendance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>8:30 a.m.</th>
<th>11:00 a.m.</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>September 7, 2014</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 14, 2014</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 21, 2014</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>144</td>
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<td>September 28, 2014</td>
<td>33</td>
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<td>October 5, 2014</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 12, 2014</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 19, 2014</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 26, 2014</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
November Birthdays
1. Shalyn Beisner, Emery Curto
2. Ron Hanke
3. Travis Rigby, Suzi Whitecotton
5. Keri Griffith, Sandra Nisperly
7. Jonathan Samaroo
9. Dolly Blowers, Colbie Carroll, Rose Ann Jones, Clay Prager
10. Kelsie Meintel, Ruth Ridgely
12. Ed Stewart
13. Hollee Armstrong, Erika Martin, Ellena Pottersnak, Fawn Quick, Rebecca Quick, Joshua Rigby
14. Benjamin Blowers, Gary King
16. Kailee Bandy, Olivia Dickman, Courtney Hackett, Isaac Hines, Jeff Jones, Isaac McCoy
17. Hilary Curto, Mason Hastings, Douglas Nolte
18. Frank Davis, Carlton Ferrell, Douglas Lucas, Katie Ward, Douglas Whitecotton
19. William Estep, Irene Jordan
20. Marissa Meintel, Kaitlyn Pottersnak
22. Josephine Vosvick
24. Michelle Depto
26. Westyn DiBartolomeo, Brandy Morgan, Randy Morgan
27. Ronald Ross, Jr.
28. John McCord, Joshua Taylor
29. Lyle Higley, Jr., Sherry Nolan
30. Adreanna Lemasters

December Birthdays
1. Judy Beaver
2. Wendy Kelly, Myra Musser
3. Christine Farmer
4. Mary Kay Dean, Donna Folmar
5. Paula Kappas, Don Martin, Jr., Kole Prager
6. Marguerite Wharton
7. Robert Bailey
8. Jerry Williams
9. Brenda White
11. Merrick Miller, Milan Vosvick, Jr.
13. Angeline Musser Mozer
14. Jill Beabout, Autumn Waseman
15. Alyssa Dickman, Mildred Turek
16. Kenin Gaston, Rodney South
18. Sean Geer, Dylan McCullough, Alice Runkle
19. Frank Bland
20. Brian Gardner, Arch Norman
21. Kayla Henderson, Ben Stout, III
23. Tanaka Dunn
24. Brooke Doran
25. Amanda Breiding, Ellsworth Richmond
27. Bruce Gardner, Benjamin Kimpel
28. Dorothy McCausland
29. Evelyn Folmar, Matthew Forester, Jillian Griffin
30. Alexander Oliver
31. Sandra Behrens, Jim Maggi, Matthew Musser

January Birthdays
1. Clifford Gray, James Jones, Jr.
2. Rebekah Beisner, Mary Quigley, Sue Taylor
3. Stephanie Benyo, Jeanie McFarland
4. Sharon Ward
5. Gloria Doyle, Becky McCullough
10. Chris Dickman, Clara Green
11. Courtney Chase, Anna Clawson, Melinda Daugherty, Norman Doyle, Maggie Rowe
13. Leona Cummings, Ruth Maclay
16. Dorothy Nickerson
19. Robert Miller, Sr., Mark Prager
20. Kaitlyn Folmar
21. Ryan Dembrosky
22. Nisa Feiock, Josie McCoy
24. Elsie Nuzum
25. Scott Beresh, George Reed, Joyce Zoeckler
27. Ed Daugherty, Charity Miller
29. Kathryn Kimpel, Seth Quick
30. Amanda Dembrosky, Terri Sonnfeld
31. Shellee Armstrong, Molly Beresh, Lisa Gaston, Lois Hinerman, Cary Posey, Linda Rafa, Joseph Samaroo

November Anniversaries
4. William & Flora Estep
23. John & Lisa Templeton
Dale & Shirley Hoffman, Sr.
27. Keith & Nancy McCord
29. Scott & Sharon Cundiff

December Anniversaries
2. Mark & Paula Kappas
15. Clyde & Dorothy Shook
21. Bernard & Sandra Nisperly
27. Robert & Charity Parsons Miller, Jr.
## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN COOKIE ORDER FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treat</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate Chip</td>
<td>$6.00 doz.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut out Cookies</td>
<td>$7.00 doz.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peanut Butter</td>
<td>$6.00 doz.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snicker doodles</td>
<td>$6.00 doz.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Tea</td>
<td>$6.00 doz.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pizzelles</td>
<td>$6.00 doz.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peanut Brittle</td>
<td>$5.00 per ½ pound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fudge Chocolate w/nuts</td>
<td>$2.50 per ¼ pound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fudge Chocolate wo/nuts</td>
<td>$2.50 per ¼ pound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fudge Chocolate w/nuts</td>
<td>$5.00 per ½ pound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fudge Chocolate wo/nuts</td>
<td>$5.00 per ½ pound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fudge Peanut butter</td>
<td>$2.50 per ¼ pound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fudge Peanut Butter</td>
<td>$5.00 per ½ pound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nut rolls</td>
<td>$10.00 each</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pumpkin Rolls (only 10 available)</td>
<td>$10.00 each</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Due

Name______________________________  Phone____________________

**Orders must be in by November 30th.**

**Please give all orders to Garnell Butler**

**Orders will be ready for pick up on December 14th.**
Just For Fun!

1 - Brown 2 - Red 3 - Green 4 - Yellow
Elm Grove United Methodist Church

Media Release

In this digital age, Elm Grove United Methodist Church takes many pictures. These pictures can include baptisms, worship services, special events, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, etc. We use these pictures to celebrate our church ministry through many places including, but not limited to; the church website, Facebook page, YouTube site, Sparks newsletter, local media outlets, and others.

We understand that some people may choose not to have their photos used and we want to respect their wishes. We are providing two forms for your consideration. A minor release form and an adult opt out form.

Thank you.

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Authorization for Media Release
Minor Child

____ I give
____ I do not give

permission for my child,________________________________________, to be photographed or videotaped while involved in activities connected with the ministry at Elm Grove United Methodist Church. I understand that these photographs or videos may be published to the church website, Facebook page, YouTube site, Sparks newsletter, publications, and others. I understand that photos will not be labeled with names.

For Use Only if the Participant is a Minor

I represent that I am the parent/guardian of ______________________________________________, who is under 18 years of age.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____________________________ Date__________________

Print Name of Parent or Legal Guardian __________________________________________________

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Media Release “Opt Out” Form
Adult Use Only

YOU NEED ONLY COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR DIGITAL IMAGE USED BY THE CHURCH.

I object to the release or use of my digital image in any photographs or videos that may be published to the church website, Facebook page, YouTube site, Sparks newsletter, publications, and others by Elm Grove United Methodist Church.

Signature ________________________________________________ Date ____________________

Print Name ______________________________________________
EGUMC is now on Facebook. Like our page at http://Facebook.com/elmgroveumc

Be sure to check our website regularly to stay current on events at Elm Grove United Methodist Church. http://elmgroveumc.com

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