



ELDRED UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

26 Main Street, Eldred, PA 16731

Office Phone: (814) 225-4051

Pastor's Cell Phone: (412) 496-5308

Pastor's Email: jimcannistraci@gmail.com

James A. Cannistraci, Pastor

“The Days of COVID-19” - Updates at Eldred United Methodist Church – April 14, 2020

“My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Jesus Christ.” - Philippians 4:19

Dear Eldred Church Family,

We pray you celebrated the powerful love of God and the joy of the miraculous resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to bring disruption and uncertainty to our lives, we know God cares for us and makes sense of all the confusion and uncertainty.

Our church continues to love God and love and serve others in the name of Jesus. Your pastor and your church leadership team continue working together to adapt our ministry so we can share Christ's love through the crisis. ***Our leadership team meets regularly through the miracles of technology so that we can discuss our ministry and how we can continue to serve God and gather us together for meetings and Bible Study.*** In fact, we are becoming quite good at using ONLINE ZOOM Meetings, telephone conference calls, text messaging and emails to continue making our best efforts to serve God and care for you. Here is a highlight of some of the ministry we are doing:

- Our Sunday morning worship service continues to be online only. We invite folks to join us by our Church Facebook page, our Church YouTube channel, and our Church website eldredumc.org. ***We are so thankful for our talented volunteers who are assisting the pastor to prepare and record the worship service. We appreciate the gift of both their talent and their time!*** Please call Pastor Jim if you are having difficulty accessing the service.
- Our Making God Matter Team (MGM Team) and the ladies from our Circle One Group, and other volunteers are making every attempt to contact every senior citizen and vulnerable adult from our church family. We are trying to speak to everyone personally to determine how we can best be helpful. Our MGM Team is available to help anyone in our church family with shopping and errands. Please call Pastor Jim or an MGM Team member for help.
- On Monday, March 30, our MGM Team provided soup, rolls and cookies to all of the residents of the Jenny L Manor apartments. We wanted to offer our neighbors from the Jenny L. Manor a visible sign of God's love, and the care and concern of our Church Family.



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of the United Methodist Church

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- During Holy Week, very kind members of our Church Family took homemade soup to “older- yet young at heart” members of our Church Family! As well, very kind members of our Church Family “dropped off” a bag filled with “plastic Easter eggs” filled with candy and stickers and stories to the homes of the younger children of our Church Family. Parents or grandparent were able to create an “Easter Egg Hunt” sharing the meaning of Easter, and the Love of God and our Church Family.
- During ONLINE worship services, Pastor Jim (*and “Teddy”, Jim’s Teddy Bear*) spend time with the children. We continue to send a weekly “snail mail” to our Church Family children. It includes coloring and activity pages, so they see stories of God’s love and know we miss seeing them.
- We are actively using ONLINE ZOOM Meetings. So far, folks have been able to join us for a Bible Study, a Maundy Thursday worship and a Easter Sunrise worship service. Pastor Jim will continue to hold a weekly Bible Study via ONLINE ZOOM meetings. ZOOM Meetings are available for folks who have Computer and iPad service AND home or cell phone service.
- We are delighted to share with you the web address for our new church website. We will use that as another way to share updates and there will also be links on there for you to view our online worship service. Our website address is www.EldredUMC.org.

Friends, our ability to continue all these ministries is possible because of the support and generosity of the people of Eldred United Methodist Church. We appreciate greatly the offerings you have already mailed into the church office.

We know this pandemic is creating financial strain for many people. If you are experiencing financial hardship we want to do our best to help you. ***Our Church Family has a “Jonathan Fund” and our “Mission Discretionary Fund” available to provide financial assistance to members of our Church Family. Please contact either Church Treasurer Pam White or Pastor Jim and they will guide you to the assistance we have available. As well, if you want to make financial contributions to the Jonathan Fund or the Mission Discretionary Fund, Pam or Pastor Jim can help guide you to make those gifts.***

For those who are able, we are writing to ask you for your continued support of our ministry through this pandemic. Our church continues to look for ways to cut back on our expenses through this season of change, even as we are committed to continuing our ministry. Please know your offerings to Eldred United Methodist Church are crucial to keep our ministry alive, and they are greatly appreciated.

There are two ways for you to continue to give your offerings to our Church Family. They are listed below:

- Put your monthly offering/tithe check in the enclosed envelope and mail it to the church.
- If you use online bill pay, ask your financial institution to add Eldred United Methodist Church as an item to be paid. **The church’s mailing address is 26 Main Street Eldred PA. 16731.**

Thank you for your prayers and your generosity as we navigate this season of uncertainty together.

With Love and Gratitude,

Pam White
Church Treasurer

Jim Cannistraci
Pastor