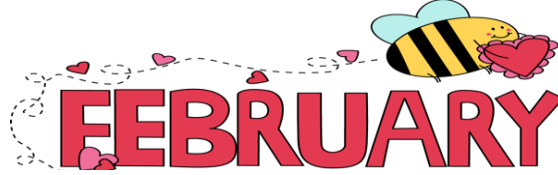


# The Messenger

FEBRUARY 2025



St. Paul United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 130  
400 West G St.  
Elmwood, NE 68349-0130  
Phone: 402-994-6735  
Email:

Pastor Michelle Chesnut  
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Ebenezer United Methodist Church  
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220 Kansas Street  
Murdock, NE 68407  
Phone: 402-867-3191  
Email: [murdockumc1@gmail.com](mailto:murdockumc1@gmail.com)

## UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

*Sunday, February 2, 2025, 3:00 p.m. All Church Youth Group  
Everyone is invited to come to play Bunko (game of dice) and have pizza with the United  
Methodist Youth Fellowship.*

*Sunday, February 16, 2025, 12:00 p.m. Confirmation at Elmwood UMC*

*Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 5:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study at Murdock UMC*

*Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 5:30 p.m. Confirmation at Murdock UMC*



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

St. Paul United Methodist  
Church

**Sunday, May 4, 2025**  
during worship service

We covered the first 100 years of our 150 years of ministry and service in Elmwood during the celebration on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Now we need your help so we can finish “the rest of the story” - the 50 years since moving into our church building. If you’d like to be involved in the planning or have ideas, photos, memories, or artifacts to share, please contact Bonnie Brewer (402-540-1662) or Myrna Bornemeier (402-429-1729). We will hold an organizational meeting in January to start planning.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, February 15, 2025, 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Location: Old Village Town Hall Building  
113 West E Street, Elmwood

### Elmwood Community Center

The Center is open for meals at noon or the weekday lunches can be delivered upon request or can be picked up at the center. Call 402-994-2145 to make a request for lunch.

The Center's Breakfast Buffet will be on Sunday, February 9, 2025. Time is from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We would like to receive reservations for these meals by the Friday before Sunday serving date.

The "Grab and Go" meals will continue on Friday nights. From 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., you can come to the Center and pick up your evening meal (\$6 each) before you go to your Friday night event. First come/first served until the meals are gone. We will not be serving a noon meal on Fridays.

For people who like to play cards, Pinochle game is played on the third Monday of each month, starting at 12:30 p.m.

A Pitch game is played every Friday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Come and have some fun and laughter.

## **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CORNER**

The Elmwood UWF will meet on Monday, February 3, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. at the Elmwood Community Center.

The Murdock UWF will meet on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. for the usual meal and lesson.

The Elmwood and Murdock Women in Faith groups now have a loom to make plarn sleeping mats which is another Midwest Mission project. Plarn is plastic yarn made out of plastic grocery bags. The mats form a barrier for anyone sleeping on the ground. A volunteer or 2 or 3 are needed to learn the plarn sleeping mat process. We will probably schedule times that we can meet to prepare the plarn and make the mat, probably starting in January. [www.midwestmission.org/loom](http://www.midwestmission.org/loom) has tutorial videos. Please let Kelli Brewer know if you are interested in helping with this project. We also need donations of grocery bags if you can save some.

We will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 1:30 p.m. February dates are the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.



### **February Birthdays-Elmwood**



Cathy Stewart – February 2  
Kaye Gakemeier – February 6  
Hayden Ernst – February 6  
Kevin Huxhold – February 13  
Greg Vogt – February 13  
Dorothy Pointer – February 14

David Ernst – February 14  
Serena Romero – February 16  
Tifanie Vogt – February 16  
Margie Nielsen – February 18  
Dale Kunz – February 23  
Jennifer Brettmann – February 23

Laurie Jones – February 23  
Lisa Wenzel – February 26  
Leanne Rorie – February 26  
Robert Fleischman – February 28  
Joyce Backemeyer – February 28  
Vera Vogt – February 28



### **February Birthdays-Murdock**



Debby Sampson – February 6  
Jean Thiel – February 8  
Kevin Olson – February 10  
Steve Henk – February 15  
Anita Zierott – February 15



*Give from  
The Heart*

Donate blood and  
help save lives.



**Scholarship Blood Drive  
Elmwood Murdock Communities  
Elmwood Fire Hall**

**Tuesday, February 25, 2025  
12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit  
RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Elmwood Murdock to  
schedule an appointment.**

Give Blood and help earn student scholarship funds.

Questions: Contact Lisa Hynes at [lhynes@emknights.org](mailto:lhynes@emknights.org)

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.  
If you are an eligible type O, B – or A – donor, consider making  
a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most  
commonly transfused blood component.

## PASTOR'S PEN



I attended the funeral the other day. I was trying to think when the last time I had attended a funeral rather than performed a funeral was. It has been a while and in all honesty, I am really okay with that fact. Every time I get to preside over a funeral service, I feel honored that I get to be a part of this time in a family's life. It is an honor to be a part of a celebration of a life, whether it is at the beginning of their life with a baptism or the end of their life with a funeral. These are events that tie us together, whether we attend the same church or any church at all. People come to celebrate these events that are centered around our connections with God.

As I was at this particular funeral, however, there was a portion of the service that reminded us in attendance that if we were not members of this church or had not "properly prepared" ourselves, we were not welcome to receive communion. Now I understand what the thought behind being prepared to receive the gift of communion is. I understand that there should be some reverence to what is being presented. When we receive communion, we are saying that we want a relationship with God. We are saying that we know that Jesus is our LORD and that we want to more closely follow his way. This is not something that should be taken lightly. However, it is also not something that we can judge others on their preparedness.

The more of this life that I live, the more I see how often we work to keep others out, rather than invite them in. We set up exclusive clubs or put parameters around things to make sure that we are only including a certain type of people. Whether it is rules about what people look like, or their talent levels, or their beliefs or where they live. We as humans have done this all of time. Some scientists say we have to do this because if we don't put people into categories, our minds would get overwhelmed with the vastness of it all and we would not be able to function. Maybe that is true, but is there not even one place where we can say it does not matter where you came from, who you are, what you have done, you are welcome?

When I read the Last Supper account, and the Gospels in general, the thing that often strikes me as interesting is that Jesus did not care if the people that he was with were rich or popular or came from a certain area. What he cared about was surrounding himself with people that were in need, that were hungry for God, that were open to receiving new information that sometimes went against what society had taught them. Jesus does not put parameters on who could come to him, in fact when the disciples try to stop children, Jesus rebukes them and tells the children to come. When the Samaritan woman meets Jesus at the well, she is not turned away but included. When the sick man is lowered from the roof begging for healing, he is not turned away but healed. Jesus was not looking for the perfect candidates, he wasn't looking for the most educated, he was looking for those that had spirits ready to receive wherever they were. It is one of the reasons I love the United Methodist Church. We celebrate an open table communion. It does not matter who you are or where you have been just if you have the hunger for something more, bigger and greater than what you have seen so far. He wants your spirit to be hungry for a relationship with him. So, the question is, are you hungry? Do you desire a love that is greater than anything you could imagine, a forgiveness that knows no bounds when asked for, a guide that wants to literally walk every step of this crazy journey with you? Then you are invited to come and receive the gift of communion, a symbol of the love and sacrifice that Jesus made for each and everyone of God's children. No exceptions!

Until Next Time,  
Pastor Michelle



### **CHOIR SINGERS AND BELL RINGERS NEEDED**

Bell practice starts at 6:30 p.m. on  
Wednesdays

(except the first Wed. of month)

Choir practice starts at 7:30 p.m. on  
Wednesdays

Both at Elmwood St. Paul UMC



# February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E</p> <p>3:00pm All Church Youth Group - E</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>1:30pm UWF – E</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>5:30pm UWF – M</p> <p>No Bell Practice</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Practice - E</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service - E</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>7:00pm Church Council - M</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>1:30pm Mat Weaving – M</p> <p>6:30pm Bell Practice</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Valentine's Day</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9-11am Food Pantry Distribution</p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p>9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E</p> <p>12:00pm Confirmation - E</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>7:00pm Church Council - E</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>1:30pm Sew 'N Sews – M</p> <p>5:30pm Youth Bible Study – M 6:30pm Bell Practice</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service - E</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>12-6:00pm American Red Cross Bloodmobile</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>1:30pm Mat Weaving – M</p> <p>5:30pm Confirmation-M</p> <p>6:30pm Bell Practice</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	



St. Paul United Methodist Church  
P. O. Box 130  
400 West "G" Street  
Elmwood, NE 68349-0130

Address Service Requested



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025