

The Messenger

JULY 2026



St. Paul United Methodist Church
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SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE



Vacation Bible School 2026

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)
God's strength can help us face challenges. Join us for an exciting winter sports event during the summer! We will face new challenges, make friends, and learn that with God's help, we can do more than we ever thought possible!

Monday, July 20-Thursday, July 23, 2026

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Elmwood Christian Church

Pre-K4 (potty trained) - 6th grade

\$15 per child or \$20 per family

Join us on July 23rd at 6:00 for the closing program and cookies at the church.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, July 18, 2026, 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. Grab 'N Go Meals are still happening every Friday of the month from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Please call to make reservations for these meals or just stop in.

The Breakfast Buffet will not be offered during the summer months. It will start again in September.

Activities: Low-Impact Exercises at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Pitch Card Games, Fridays, 2:00 p.m.

Pinochle Card Game, 3rd Monday/Month, 12:30 p.m.

Upcoming Pie Ride Dates

Thursday, July 2, 2026, sponsored by Elmwood Christian Church, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the church

Thursday, July, 16, 2026

St. Paul UMC will be offering pie, ice cream, etc. at the Elmwood Park from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The McGovern String Band will be starting to play at 6:00 p.m.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CORNER

The Elmwood UWIF will meet on Wednesday, July 1, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Martha Ann Bornemeier's for a potluck supper. Bring your favorite dish or try a new recipe and come to enjoy the fellowship.

The Murdock UWIF will not meet in the months of July and August. Have a nice summer.

The starting of the third plastic mat will begin in September. Have a good summer and will see you in Sept.

Everyone loves pies made with fresh fruit. Since St. Paul will sponsoring the Pie Ride on July 16th, our pie makers would like to receive some delicious fresh fruit to use in the pies that will be offered to the partakers of these pies. If you will have any extra fruit that you can donate for this activity, Linda Blunt would love to hear from you.



July Birthdays-Elmwood



Ed Blunt – July 1

Michael Vogt – July 4

Christine Kunz – July 6

Claire Ernst – July 6

Thomas Rase – July 7

Faith Offner – July 7

Wayne Althouse – July 8

Donna Clements – July 9

Richard Hawks – July 10

Heath Vogt – July 15

Suzie Allgayer – July 16

Sherry Stubbendeck – July 18

Jacob Stewart – July 18

Walter Oehlerking – July 19

Barbara Miller – July 24

Spencer Stewart – July 25

Barbara Frederickson – July 28

Jim Kerns – July 29

Ellis & Olive Vogt – July 29

Marshall Vogt – July 30



July Birthdays-Murdock



Mike Hanson – July 2

Jean Baumeister – July 5

Mel Luetchens – July 5

Randy Bornemeier – July 10

Mike Koehn – July 14

Kim Streich – July 20

Nathan Miller – July 31

PASTOR'S PEN



At our house we love the 4th of July. Growing up, fireworks were not really a huge thing but once I married Nick, that all changed. Nick loves fireworks and the boys have adapted his love for the blowing up of things big and small. This year of course everything is even bigger and more pronounced because it is the 250th year of our country being a country. A really amazing accomplishment. One that many throughout history didn't think could be accomplished in the way our Founding Fathers laid it out. Yet here we are. The parties this year are bigger, the fireworks more, the advertising of each event almost over the top. And really how could it not be, 250 years! I think being married to the same person for 20 years is an amazing accomplishment, forget 250 years! Think about what has changed in those years, the technology, the views that have changed on slavery, farming, city living, the changes in medicine, and parenting. Somehow through it all the country has stayed together and it is most definitely worthy of celebrating.

At the same time, it has really gotten me thinking about faith and God. We celebrate a country that has stayed together through thick and thin for 250 years, again as we should, but do we celebrate our faith in the same way? Do we celebrate a God that has been with us on this journey far longer than 250 years? Do we celebrate a God that has wanted, worked for, and prepared for a relationship with us even when we have been on the "wrong" side of history? Do we celebrate a God that keeps desiring a relationship with us when we are on the "right" side of history? Do we celebrate our faith with as much exuberance as we are planning on celebrating July 4th?

As humans the relationships we enter into with other humans or organizations have a life cycle. Sometimes they are short relationships like my relationship with my high school boyfriend (outstandingly short 2 months) or longer like my ongoing relationship with Grey's Anatomy (22 years and counting) . I just can't give that show up. Either way there is a life cycle and it will end. Churches close, people move and all things come to an end...all things but God. God continues to be there. His presence is always there. He continues to show up even when we don't. He continues to love us even when we don't. He continues to celebrate us even when we don't. He has been there even when our human relationships fail. And when this society ends, whether it be next week (we hope not), or in another 250 years from now, as Christians we have faith that God will be there then too. Although our human creations are fallible and eventually come to a conclusion, God remains. The Psalms remind of this very thing stating "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God."

As you celebrate the 4th of July and the continuation of summer, may you remember that beyond this nation is a God that is there to see us through whatever is next. May we remember that love, compassion, grace and mercy He has for us as we traverse this crazy journey we call life. May we remember to celebrate this with the same excitement as we do the creation of this country we live in.

Until Next Time,
Pastor Michelle

2026 Pie Ride Community Fundraisers

These evenings in the Elmwood Park offer memorable food, entertainment, and fellowship while helping support many organizations in our community.

Below is this year's schedule, including dates, bands, and the organizations serving at each event.
We look forward to another wonderful season of community, music, and pie!

Elmwood Aldrich Park or other locations

Serving pies and desserts from 5pm - 8pm

Bands start playing at 6pm

Thursday June 4, 2026 Greenblatt & Seay.....St. Paul UMC

Thursday June 18, 2026 Slick Fiction.....Catholic Church

Thursday July 2, 2026.....Lighting Bugs.....Christian Church

Thursday July 16, 2026.....McGovern String band...St. Paul UMC

Thursday July 30, 2026.....Paddywhack.....Bess Streeter Aldrich

Thursday August 13, 2026.....Josh Hoyer.....Christian Church

Thursday August 27, 2026.....Daniel Christian.....Community Center



Thank you for your Support!

Thank You for Making St. Paul's First Pie Ride a Success!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our first Pie Ride a success. We truly appreciate all your efforts and support. The rain was a wonderful blessing, and we were grateful to have so many bikers travel out to join us at the Quonset. Their support meant a great deal to us.

Together, we raised \$760.00 for the Elmwood Community Center project!

Our next Pie Ride will be Thursday, July 16, 2026. A sign-up sheet will be available at the back of the church. Once again, all funds raised will go toward improvements at the Elmwood Community Center. With your continued help, we hope to see new windows and a refreshed door that will enhance and preserve this important gathering place for our community.

Thank you for your generosity and support. We look forward to seeing everyone on July 16th!

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00pm UWIF - E	2	3	4 Independence Day Celebration at Murdock
5 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service - E	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service - E	13 7:00pm Church Council - M	14	15	16 5-8pm Pie Ride - Elmwood Park	17	18 9-11am Food Pantry Distribution
19 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service – E 1:00pm Set up for VBS	20 VA	21 CATION 6:00PM	22 BIBLE TO 8:00PM	23 SCHOOL	24	25
26 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service - E	27 7:00pm Church Council – E	28	29	30	31	

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Address Service Requested

