

The Messenger

MARCH 2026



Sunday
March 8, 2026
2:00 a.m.

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

Pastor Michelle Chesnut
Cell phone: 402-314-7988
Email: mchesnut@greatplainsumc.org
Website: elmwoodmurdockumc.com

Ebenezer United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 307
220 Kansas Street
Murdock, NE 68407
Phone: 402-867-3191
Email: murdockumc1@gmail.com

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

The Lenten Bible Study will be continue on Mondays at St. Paul United Methodist; the time will be 6:30 p.m. for the balance of the 6-week study.



PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH

Anyone is welcome to bring Easter lilies for the altar to celebrate this holy day!!

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE, APRIL 2ND
ST. PAUL UMC, ELMWOOD, 7:00 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE, APRIL 3RD
ELMWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 7:00 P.M.

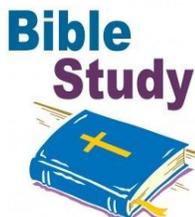
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE, SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH
GRANDPA WOODS, 6:30 A.M.
With breakfast served afterwards

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH
Regular times for worship services



UMYF NEWS

(UMYF is for all 7th-12th graders.)



Our normal Wednesday night Bible Study will be at Murdock on March 18, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. for the usual meal, Bible study and fellowship.

Our next monthly fun event will be on Sunday, March 1st starting at 1:00 p.m., meeting at St. Paul UMC. We will be going bowling. Be sure to put this fun event on your calendars.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, March 21, 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 be on March 8, 2026
from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Please make reservations no later than Friday, March 6th by calling the Center.

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 Bloodmobile Dates

Time is 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. for all dates.

Thursday, April 23rd, Murdock High School

Thursday, June 25th, Elmwood Fire Hall

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CORNER

The Elmwood UWIF will meet on
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.
at Laurel McReynolds' home. Laurel will
have the lesson regarding Lent. Please
make note of revised date.

The Murdock UWIF will meet on
Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at
the church for their usual meal and
lesson.

The Mat Weaving sessions are
continuing again in March. The dates
are March 11th and 25th, at 1:30 p.m. You
can come late and leave early,
depending on your schedule. We are
working on our second mat for the
homeless.

5th Sunday Potluck at St. Paul UMC

Sunday, March 29th is the 5th Sunday of the month.
We will have our traditional potluck dinner after
worship service that day. Bring your favorite dish
to share and enjoy the fellowship with others.



March Birthdays-Elmwood



Melissa Wheeler – March 3

Marissa Oehlerking – March 6

Brooklyn Dowding – March 6

Lyn Kopf – March 8

Rebecca Smith – March 9

Genine Hovick – March 9

Dan Spaulding – March 10

Sharon Stewart – March 13

Tucker Oehlerking – March 16

Haley Kollars – March 16

Grace Kraeger – March 16

Elliott Baer – March 16

Wynn Anstey – March 18

Marcie Miller – March 22

Ella & Hudson Vogt – March 23

Jase Blunt – March 27

Teresa Hawks – March 28

Chad Peterson – March 29

Adam Wenzel – March 29

Brent Vogt – March 30

Carol Wilhelm – March 30



March Birthdays-Murdock



Dave Friesell – March 1

Kirstie Harvey – March 9

Mason Butler – March 9

Thea Bornemeier – March 20

Linda Glantz – March 20

Annie Backemeyer – March 22

Drew Backemeyer – March 23

Benjamin Harvey – March 27

Charles Schafer – March 27

Tony Synovec – March 30

PASTOR'S PEN



Have you ever moved before? Most likely the answer is yes. Maybe you moved to college or to an apartment or maybe just across the street, but most likely you have moved at least once. When I think about my life and how many times I have moved, I have to ask questions like does it count as a new move every time I went back to college for a new year? I never lived in the same room, so I suppose yes it does. Does the month I spent in New York count as a move, or a business trip...probably business.

The reality is that I have moved a lot of times, like maybe 2 dozen times in my 42 years of life. Even typing that seems kind of excessive. That is a move every 1.75 years of my life! Who does that? Maybe you too are in this boat of excessive moves.

In approximately 2012, we moved my Grandparents from their home in Columbus to Bellevue to live with my aunt. They had lived in their home for almost 60 years! It is hard to think about being in the same place for that long. And let's be honest, for me to gain that kind of longevity in one community I now need to live to be over 100! Anyway, as we were cleaning out their home, we of course found all kinds of treasures. I mean they hadn't had to pack and throw stuff away for so long, things could just be where they put them 20 years ago. It was a fun treasure hunt. And really every time I pack, I feel that same sense of adventure. You always find things that you had forgotten about or misplaced.

Just today I was unpacking a box that we had packed before we moved to Murdock. It was knick knacks that I just never put out in Murdock. It was kind of fun to see the things that were in those boxes but at the same time, it had me asking Nick if we really needed these things anymore. His response "you really do not have attachment to things, do you?" I think he meant it as an insult but I was not offended because he is right. I have very few items that I have physical attachment to. I hang on to letters, cards, emails and texts that are personal and a few other things but really I don't find connection to things very often. Things don't carry a spiritual connection to me very often. If they do for you, that is cool, nothing wrong with that but those things don't sing to my soul.

I am much more likely to go on a spiritual journey listening to songs. I can often tell you where I was or what was happening in my life when I first heard a song. I have no idea how many millions of songs are stored in my head, but I like it that way. It is a way that I have found connection with people, places and experiences. It is a way that I have found connection with God as well.

During the season of Lent, we are invited to find ways to connect with God. Often, we give things up that are distracting us from our relationships with God but what if we instead take this time to find a new way to connect to God? What if we really explore what feeds our spirit, whether it be items or music or movies or activities? We are invited to move forward with God, whether that is a physical move or a spiritual one is up to you and God, but may you find that connection this season. May we be open to being moved by the spirit as we prepare for the return of Jesus!

Until Next Time,
Pastor Michelle



CHOIR SINGERS AND BELL RINGERS NEEDED

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

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

(except the first Wed. of month)

Both at Elmwood St. Paul UMC



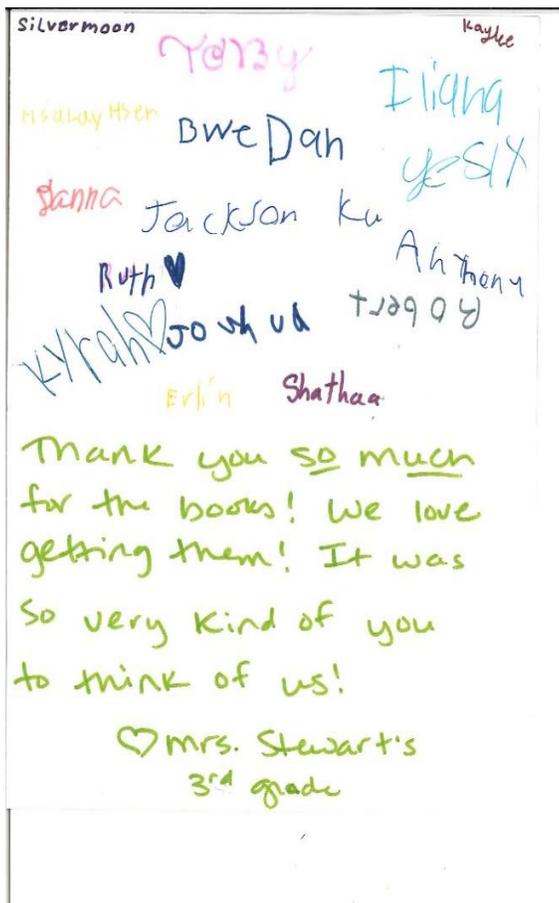


**CARD
SHOWER
FOR
CHARLIE**

Charlie Schafer will be 95 on March 27th this year. Let's wish him a Happy Birthday by sending a card to:

**Charlie Schafer
P. O. Box 163
200 Liberty Circle
Murdock, NE 68407**

**THANK YOU NOTE FOR
SCHOLASTIC BOOKS**



**YOU ARE INVITED TO
“CELEBRATE EASTER”
AT 3B HOMESTEAD
7603 298th Street
Murdock, NE 68407**

The 3B Homestead (known for “The Living Nativity” at Christmas time) is announcing its 7th annual “Celebrate Easter” event. It’s much more than a typical easter egg hunt. It’s a place where you’ll get to:

- * See more of The 3B Homestead as you drive through and to the animal pens
- * Walk through the 1888 barn and view, hold and play with baby farm animals
- * Learn how farm items help us understand happenings of the last week of Jesus’ life
- * Visit a prayer garden and the Last Supper Table
- * Nail your sins to a cross
- * Ride a special farm “hayrack” out to an awesome and meaningful “Field of Crosses”
- * Release a butterfly and experience the importance and beauty of the Resurrection
- * Learn about a “white” egg

Dates and times of the “Celebrate Easter” events:
One Saturday and two Sundays – March 22, 28, 29 and
Maundy Thursday - April 2
Good Friday - April 3
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E 1-4:00pm UMYF	2 6:30pm Lenten Study – E	3	4 5:30pm UWIF - M	5	6	7
8 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	9 6:30pm Lenten Study – E 7:30pm Church Council - M	10	11 1:30pm UWIF – E 1:30pm Mat Weaving – M 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir - E	12	13	14
15 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	16 6:30pm Lenten Study – E 7:30pm Church Council - E	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir - E	19	20	21 9-11am Food Pantry Distribution
22 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	23 6:30pm Lenten Study – E	24	25 1:30pm Mat Weaving – M 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir - E	26	27	28
29 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E 11:30am Potluck Dinner - E	30 6:30pm Lenten Study – E	31	1 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir - E	2 7:00pm Maundy Thursday - E	3 7:00pm Good Friday – Christian Church	4

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

Address Service Requested



TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026