

The Messenger

OCTOBER 2025



St. Paul United Methodist Church
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Reading Will Take You EVERYWHERE!



We want your assistance to help our students go on many adventures this year! When children are able to read 20 minutes a day, they will read 1,800,000 words per year! Reading takes people of all ages to someplace new, even when they do not have a place to go.

We would love to be able to provide one free book a month from the Scholastic Book program to the children we work with. A book would cost \$3 to \$5 each of the nine months of school. Please consider donating to help put books in the hands of children.

We have been VERY thankful for all of your donations the past few years and we LOVE seeing the excitement from the students as they pick out their new book!

Thank you again!

~Cathy Stewart

~Courtney Baer

~Carae Oehlerking

~Topanga Hawks



Bible Study



UMYF NEWS

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

Our normal Wednesday night Bible Study will be at Murdock on October 15th at 5:30 p.m.

Our monthly fun event will be Sunday, October 5th.

We will meet at Oehlerking's at 5:00 p.m. for a haystack ride, cookout and painting pumpkins.

Come join in the fun at our first event of the school year.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, October 18, 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.

Grab 'N Go Meals are still happening every Friday during the summer, from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Please call to make reservations for these meals.

The Breakfast Buffet will be on October 19th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Please make reservations no later than Friday, October 17th 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 FCCLA BLOOD DRIVES

12:00 – 6:00 P.M. EACH DATE

Monday, October 20th, Elmwood Fire Hall

Tuesday, December 16th, Elmwood Fire Hall

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CORNER

The Elmwood UWIF will meet on
Wednesday, October 1st at 1:30 p.m. at
Donna Clements' home.

The Murdock UWIF will meet on
Wednesday, October 1st at 5:30 p.m. at the
church for the usual meal and fellowship.

Mat Weaving sessions will be on
October 8th and 22nd at 1:30 p.m. at
Murdock UMC. We have started on our
second plastic mat.



October Birthdays-Elmwood



Andrew Rorie – October 2

Etta Vogt – October 3

Derick Vogt – October 9

Robert Frederickson – October 10

Jerry Fleischman – October 12

Martha Bornemeier – October 12

Barbara Minch – October 14

Renee Holland – October 14

Rebecca Brettmann – October 14

Michelle Chesnut – October 18

Karen Rase – October 19

Jeanne Spaulding – October 20

Tyler Rosenow – October 22

John Oehlerking – October 23

Shirley Bornemeier – October 25

Brayam Burrows – October 25

Owen Kunz – October 26

Ryan Rorie – October 29



October Birthdays-Murdock



Aaron Panska – October 2

Estelle Rase – October 6

Kylee Synovec – October 10

Renea Panska – October 14

Evelyn Schafer – October 14

Michelle Chesnut – October 18

Joyce Hammons – October 23

Matt Rase – October 25

Wayne Luetchens – October 29

Lane Mills – October 29

Here is a way to help you clean out your garage/storeroom/basement/attic!

Midwest Mission in Illinois has a good list of items they could use when they send needed items to some third world countries. If you have already donated these items from your “collection”, another way to find them is to go to a local auction or thrift store and purchase them for only a little!

Medical Equipment: Foldable Walkers, Wheelchairs, Crutches, Canes

Lawn Tools and Hand Tools: Metal Rakes, Hoes, Shovels, Saws

Sports Equipment: Soccer balls, Soccer Cleats, Volleyballs, Basketballs

Bicycles, Fabric (over 1 yard), Sewing Notions, Sewing Machines.

A group from Nebraska is going to Midwest Mission on October 6-10, 2025 and could take donations with us. They would be happy to take items along when they go. Kelli Brewer is the best contact regarding your contribution.



Our first completed Homeless Mat made on a loom. Holding the mat (from L to R) Sherry Farmer, Linda Glantz, Angie Friesell, and Kelli Brewer. This was a joint effort by Elmwood St. Paul UWIF ladies: Lyn Kopf, Carol Wilhelm, Laurel McReynolds, Martha Ann Bornemeier, and Joyce Backemeyer. Those helping from Murdock Ebenezer UWIF were Kelli Brewer, Debby Sampson, Sherry Farmer, Bette Backemeyer, Linda Glantz, Pastor Michelle, Cheryl Patterson, and Angie Friesell. If we have left any ladies out of this list, our sincere apologies.

PASTOR'S PEN



I was talking to a friend today. She and I don't talk often, our relationship often consists of random memes, jokes and texts expressing our extreme care for each other. But she called me today for some reassurance. She was struggling with the guy that she is in a relationship with. It is complicated as most relationships that have much substance are. She was explaining about a quarrel they had gotten into in which a boundary was set, her significant other was not happy about this boundary, and a temper tantrum was thrown.

She called me, not because she was upset about how the conversation ended, although that certainly played a part but rather, she wanted assurance that God was present and at work in what was going on. She wanted to know that things were going to work out and that she would get through whatever it turned out to be. She has deep faith that her relationship with her partner will work out, they have been working on laying out a solid foundation and trying to learn from the mistakes of past relationships. But even when we feel solid about where you are going, there is often a need to know that you will get there.

She said she wakes up each morning, thanking God for waking her up, for her kids, and for her partner and she is ready to make this day a good one. Of course, not every day is a good one and when it isn't, sometimes we just need the assurance from someone else that it will be alright. That is what she needed today. The assurance that she was not alone, not the first person that has had to deal with this and that it will work itself out.

In the end what my friend really needed was a listening ear and a little encouragement that she was on the right path. This is the reason we have faith. We believe in an ever-present God that is always there for us through all things. We believe that when we need to be shown the path, or a little boost that God is there to provide it. We don't always see it but it so often comes from the presence of someone else. And sometimes it is from the lessons that we hear from others.

This month we are exploring four conversations that people had with or about Jesus. In this series called Overheard, we are going to explore the lessons we can learn from others that have been here before us. We are not alone; we are not the first to go through it and God will work it out. It might not be how we envisioned it, but it will be how God has, if we have the faith to rely on Him. This month may we remember the importance of reaching out when we need the extra assurance and as Proverbs says "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;"

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



October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 1:30pm UWIF – E 5:30pm UWIF – M	2	3	4
5 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E 5:00pm UMYF - E	6	7	8 1:30pm Mat Weaving – M 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir - E	9	10 Feed the Farmers – E	11
12 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	13 7:00pm Church Council – M	14	15 1:30pm Sew 'N Sews 5:30pm Youth Bible Study – M 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir - E	16	17 Feed the Farmers - M	18 9-11:00am Food Pantry Distribution
19 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	20 7:00pm Church Council - E	21	22 1:30pm Mat Weaving – M 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir - E	23	24	25
26 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	27	28	29 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir - E	30	31	

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Address Service Requested



Friday, October 31, 2025