# The Messenger

## OCTOBER 2026

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**CHURCH CONFERENCE FOR BOTH CHURCHES WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026 AT EBENEZER UMC, MURDOCK. ALL CHURCH MEMBERS AND YOUTH ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS.**

**Pastor will meet with our District Superintendent from 5-6:00 p.m.**
**At 5:30 p.m. we will partake in potluck supper. The main dish will be provided but please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share.**
**At 6:00 p.m. we will have our Church Conference, presided by our District Superintendent David Livingston.**

## UMYF NEWS

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

Our normal Wednesday night Bible Study will be at Murdock on October 21st, 5:30 p.m.
The youth will participate in our annual Church Conference held in Murdock.
Our first monthly fun event will be Sunday, October 4th, starting at 2:00 p.m. in Elmwood.
We will meet at St. Paul and do our own Crazy Elmwood Scavenger Hunt.

Confirmation is now being offered at two different times: 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 25th at Elmwood and/or 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28th at Murdock.

**UPCOMING HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA, NOVEMBER 28, 2026**
**St. Paul UMC will be hosting the Candy Cane Lane this year from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Be thinking about preparing some cookies, candies and other treats to be sold from the Elmwood Community Center.**

## *UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS*

**Cass County Food Pantry Distribution**
Saturday, October 17, 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.

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 Bloodmobiles**
Monday, October 19th, 12-6:00 p.m. E/M High School

Tuesday, December 15th, 23-6:00 p.m.
Elmwood Fire Hall

**Holiday Extravaganza, Elmwood**
Saturday, November 28, 2026 All Day Events

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CORNER

**The Elmwood UWIF will meet on the second Wednesday of October 7th at 1:30 p.m. at Donna Clements' home with Laurel providing the refreshments and Martha Ann will provide the lesson.**

**The Murdock UWIF will meet at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 7th at the church for the usual meal and lesson.**

**We have begun the third plastic mat so weaving has been scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. October dates are 14th and 28th.**

**CALLING ALL CHOIR MEMBERS AND BELL PLAYERS**

Practices are on Wednesdays (except the first one of the month)
6:30 p.m. for Bells and
7:30 p.m. for Choir
At St. Paul UMC

## October Birthdays-Elmwood

Andrew Rorie – October 2
Etta Vogt – October 3
Derick Vogt – October 9
Robert Frederickson – Oct. 10
Jerry Fleischman – October 12
Martha Bornemeier – October 12
Barbara Minch – October 14
Renee Holland – October 14
Rebecca Brettmann – Oct. 14
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

# PASTOR'S PEN

As I sit to write this note, I can almost smell Fall in the air. Almost because of course there will be another round of summer, it is almost guaranteed. But guarantees are interesting right? Especially the almost kind because I have found when things are almost guaranteed, they actually almost always don't work out. Like I could almost guarantee that my kids will not come home with homework today. It is a Thursday; they won't have spelling because they had a test today so it should be an easy evening. However, I know that even as I write this, put it out in the world, they will come home tonight with a mountain of homework and I will be playing the "who needs help next" game for 2 hours after they get home. It is also an almost guarantee that I will fall asleep on the couch this evening while trying to watch a little TV before going to bed.

They say there are only things in life that are guaranteed are death and taxes. And while that makes for a good saying, we know that it is not really true. It is guaranteed that I will find my kids' socks in the strangest places. It is guaranteed that the frost will come, harvest will get done (not a guarantee on when, but it will get done). It is a guarantee that the Huskers football team will give us a little bit of hope and then destroy us right when we think they are actually going to be good this season. 😀 A much more important guarantee and one that is even more certain than death and taxes is the love and presence of God in our lives.

I think sometimes when things are guaranteed, we have a way of not thinking about them. Sure, we are faced with paying taxes on a yearly basis and it is hard to forget about them during that season; but have you thought about taxes this week before I started talking about them here? They are most likely not at the forefront of your mind. Same with death. Sure, there are times where it makes a bigger presence and we are often faced with it in times that we were not expecting but most likely you are not thinking about your own death on a daily basis.

If we are not thinking about those guarantees all the time, why would the love of God and his presence in our lives be any different? I would argue that in reality, it probably is not unless we are really working at it. If you are like me, you are busy running around like a chicken with your head cut off, just trying to remember where you are supposed to be and when. There is not time to be thinking about God's love when I have to figure out what to make four "starving" kids for dinner. So it goes by the wayside, to be picked up at a different time, much like taxes and death.

Except that God's love and presence is not the same as death and taxes. It can and should play a part in our daily lives. We are challenged to invite God into all of our decisions, to allow his presence to actually have a presence in our lives. He should be playing a part in how we interact with people and ourselves as we navigate this world. We should be reminded of God's presence when we interact with his creation. We should be thanking God for allowing us to have to figure out what to make for dinner. And we should thank God for having a presence even when we are faced with death and taxes.

Are we allowing the guarantee of God's love to play a part in our everyday lives or have we pushed Him to the wayside, thinking we can do this all on our own? We are supposed to face this world unafraid because God is with us. Joshua says this: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." May we be reminded of his presence this month and be grateful for his guaranteed presence.

Until Next Time,
Pastor Michelle

**DONATIONS TO MIDWEST MISSION**

**Kelli Brewer and Debby Sampson are going to Midwest Mission (MM) in Pawnee IL with the Great Plains UWIF group OCTOBER 12-16. We are taking Ramona Oehlerking's sewing items she has made for MM kits. Here is a list of other items used by MM to bless others. If you have small items, let Kelli know by OCT 8. We will take what we have room for to MM. If you have bigger items, please let Kelli know. They can also be taken to the MM collection site at First UMC in Nebraska City.**

**<u>Medical Equipment and Supplies</u> - Items accepted:**
**folding walkers, crutches, canes, wheelchairs, knee scooters, shower chairs, hospital beds, and orthopedic supplies.**

**We do not accept: commodes, electric scooters, electric wheelchairs**

**<u>Emergency Equipment and Gear</u>**
**Used fire and emergency gear in working condition — jackets, pants, boots, helmets, other personal gear, jaws of life, etc. We accept fire equipment, firetrucks, and ambulances. The fire equipment can be expired and will be sent outside of the United States. For more information, see MidwestMission.org/collect-donate**

**<u>Tools</u> - Items accepted:**
**New and gently used, non-electric tools and tarps. Commonly requested: garden (heavy-duty) rakes, shovels, brooms**

**<u>Sewing Machines and Sewing Notions</u>**
**Electric machines must be in good, working condition. All treadle machines are accepted. We do not take electronic machines.**

**We also accept some sewing notions that are quality and in good shape.**

**New or used: bias tape, bobbins, buttons, elastic, needles (hand and machine) needle threaders, pins, pincushions, safety pins, scissors, seam rippers, sewing clips, snaps, tailor's chalk/fabric pencil/ tracing wheels, tape measures, thimbles, thread, thread snips, velcro, zippers**

**New fabric (one yard or more): flannel, cotton/quilting cotton, heavy duty fabric for one-handled bags, knit, polyurethane laminate (PUL)**

**<u>Bicycles</u>**
**We accept bikes in good, working condition with minimal to no rust. We do not accept bikes with thin tires. (Many 10 speeds have too thin tires for the terrain they go to.)**

**<u>Bleacher Wood</u>**
**We use wood from old wooden bleachers to make our Midwest Mission Desks. If you know of a school or church that is getting rid of their inside wooden bleachers, see if they will donate the wood to Midwest Mission.**

# October 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4<br>9:00am Worship Service – M<br><br>9:30am Sunday School – E<br>10:35am Worship Service – E<br><br>2:00pm UMYF - E | 5 | 6 | 7<br>1:30pm UWIF – E<br><br>5:30pm UWIF - M | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11<br>9:00am Worship Service – M<br><br>9:30am Sunday School – E<br>10:35am Worship Service – E | 12<br>Columbus Day<br><br>7:00pm Church Council - M | 13 | 14<br>6:30pm Bell Practice – E<br><br>7:30pm Choir Practice - E | 15 | 16 | 17<br>9-11:00 am Food Pantry Distribution |
| 18<br>9:00am Worship Service – M<br><br>9:30am Sunday School – E<br>10:35am Worship Service – E | 19<br>12-6:00pm Bloodmobile<br><br>7:00pm Church Council - E | 20 | 21<br>5:30pm All Church Potluck Dinner<br>6-7:00pm Church Conference - M | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25<br>9:00am Worship Service – M<br><br>9:30am Sunday School – E<br>10:35am Worship Service – E<br>12:00pm Confirmation - E | 26 | 27 | 28<br>1:30pm Mat Weaving – M<br><br>5:30pm Confirmation – M<br><br>6:30pm Bell Practice – E<br><br>7:30pm Choir Practice - E | 9 | 30 | 31<br>Halloween |

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

**Address Service Requested**

# Halloween, Saturday, October 31, 2026