

The Messenger

APRIL 2026



St. Paul United Methodist Church
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Ebenezer United Methodist Church
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220 Kansas Street
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**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**

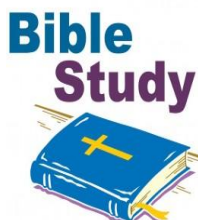


**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH
Regular times for worship services**



UMYF NEWS

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



Our last Wednesday night Bible Study will be at Murdock on April 15, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. for the usual meal, Bible study and fellowship.

Our next monthly fun event will be on Sunday, April 12, 2026; meet at Bornemeier's at 2:00 p.m. for end-of-the-year cookout, games and fishing. Be sure to put this fun event on your calendars.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, April 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 be on April 12, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Please make reservations no later than Friday, April 10th 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, April 1, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. We will be visiting people in assisted living facilities and shut-ins.

The Murdock UWIF will meet on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at the church for their usual meal and lesson.

The Mat Weaving sessions are continuing again in April. The dates are April 8th and 22th at 1:30 p.m. You can come late and leave early, depending on your schedule. The second mat has been completed so come and see how it is removed from the loom.

CPR/AED CERTIFICATION

A class for this certification will be held at St. Paul UMC on Saturday, April 18th from 9:00 a.m. to noon with lunch provided afterwards. Please indicate on the sign-up sheet your interest in attending this special class.



April Birthdays-Elmwood



Maureen Vogt - April 2
Brody March – April 2
Dennis Nielsen – April 3
Alex Callaway – April 4
Janice Miller – April 5
Merle Backemeyer – April 10
Christian Brettmann – April 15

Topanga Hawks – April 16
Jeff Johnston – April 18
Judy Hendrix – April 21
Taylor Vogt – April 21
Courtney Baer – April 21
Tyson Vogt – April 22
Katie Bornemeier – April 24

Brandon Minch – April 26
Linda Blunt – April 27
Levi Offner – April 27
Jenna Kollars – April 27
Burke/Callan Vogt – April 28
Bailey Frahm – April 29
Bonnie Drake – April 30
Madden Vogt – April 30



April Birthdays-Murdock



Lindsay Backemeyer – April 4
Harrison Koehn – April 11
Carter Hanson – April 11

Catherine Stock – April 11
Lance Steffen – April 16

PASTOR'S PEN



April is here! I am not sure where the first few months of this year have gone but it is a quarter through and here we are entering the Easter season. We often think that Easter is one day but in the church Easter is not a day but rather a season. It starts on Easter morning when the tomb is empty but lasts until Pentecost. Seven weeks of Easter season. The time where we celebrate the empty tomb, and Jesus walking among us until he ascends into Heaven.

When I think about the Gospel story, I sometimes get jealous of the disciples. Have you ever had that experience? Certainly, I am not jealous of the conditions they lived in, I mean we all know that I am not a warm weather girlie. I have great appreciation for air conditioning, running water and electricity. What I am jealous of is that they got to actually witness Jesus here, literally walking with them. I wonder if they really knew what was happening? Did they know how making the decision to follow along with this man that called to them would fully change their lives? Did they know what they were getting into or were they just young men and women that were willing to say yes to a crazy adventure that for sure their parents were not excited about?

But still they went, and did they know what they were getting into? More importantly when I think about the disciples, I want to know what they thought as they were experiencing the things they witnessed. People that were sick healed, those that were blind, now able to see, those that were dead brought back to life! Do you think they ever walked away thinking that it was getting to be too much or were they all in?

And then it ends rather suddenly. When Jesus is arrested, beaten, and sentenced to a death on the cross. A death that when we are really honest, was not special. The Romans were killing "common" criminals at an everyday rate in this way. And when this happens to Jesus, where does it leave the disciples? Some went and hid, others stood by and watched it happen, some denied having knowledge of who Jesus was. This is also not the part I am jealous of.

The part that when I really think about it, I am jealous of the disciples is what happens after Jesus is killed. They lay him to rest and for three crazy days they think he is dead, and this is all over. We know that is not what happens but I wonder at the moment if they had any idea. We know that they are going to find the tomb empty and then even more unbelievable, Jesus is going to show up again. This is where I get jealous, I want to know what that felt like! What was the room really like when Jesus just appears in the locked room where the disciples were? Do you not have 1 million questions but at the same time are awestruck but something so impossible? We get to read and know the story in its entirety. We get to know what happens next but then again do we? I think sometimes that the story is done, it has been written and that is all it is. We forgot that we are a part of the story. It is not done; Jesus is still here. God is still working through us, has called us to be his current day disciples to heal the sick, to help the blind see, and to bring those that are dead back to life. It might not look the way that it does in the gospels and in many ways, I am thankful for that, again AC! 😊 But it is still happening and we have the opportunities to see the presence of Jesus if we are open to it. As we celebrate this Easter season, may we be ready to receive Christ as he appears, ready to take the mission forward and be his current disciples.

Until Next Time,
Pastor Michelle

You are invited to Marissa's Graduation Celebration!
Graduation: Saturday, May 9th at 3:00 PM - EM High School



Celebration: Saturday, May 16th at 6:00 PM - Oehlerking Shed

The church family has been and continues to be an important part of my life. Your support, love, and prayers have helped me along my journey. I ask that you continue to send your prayers my way as I graduate high school and start the next chapter of my life at Bryan School of Nursing.

Thank you for everything! ~Marissa

PUBLICITY IS FUNDED IN PART BY CASS COUNTY TOURISM, VISITCASSCOUNTY.COM

BESS STREETER ALDRICH FOUNDATION

UPCOMING EVENTS For SUMMER

**MAY
26-29**



HISTORY CAMP

Campers will take tours, study their ancestry, meet historical characters, and view the past through artifacts and the stories of our ancestors.

Grades 3-6.

**JUN
8-12**



WRITING CAMP

Enjoy fun-first learning and engaging activities that turn "writing practice" into a storytelling journey.

Grades 3-6.

**JULY
6-9**



ART CAMP

Using the new mural as inspiration, campers will study fine art techniques, with an emphasis on nature, to apply to daily projects.

Grades 3-6.

**JULY
TBA**



THEATRE CAMP

An immersive, age-appropriate training in acting and staging for children and teens, culminating in public performances.

Grades 3-6.



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO SIGN UP!

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CHECK WWW.BESSSTREETERALDRICH.ORG
OR CONTACT BECKY COSTELLO (308) 529-3356
BECKY.J.COSTELLO@GMAIL.COM

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 April Fool's Day 1:30pm UWIF – E 5:30pm UWIF – M 7:30pm Choir Practice - E	2 Maundy Thursday service – 7:00pm - E	3 Good Friday – 7:00pm Christian Church	4
5 Easter 6:30am Sunrise Service 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	6	7	8 1:30pm Mat Weaving – M	9	10	11
12 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E 2:00pm UMYF	13 7:00pm Church Council - M	14	15 1:30pm Sew 'N Sews – M 5:30pm Youth Bible Study	16	17	18 9-11:00am Food Pantry Distribution 9am-noon CPR/AED certification - E
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	23 12-6:00pm Bloodmobile, High School	24	25
26 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	27	28	29	30	1	2

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Address Service Requested



SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026