

# The Messenger

NOVEMBER 2025



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## THANK YOU for Donations to Scholastic Books

“A book is a gift you can open again and again.”  
—Garrison Keillor



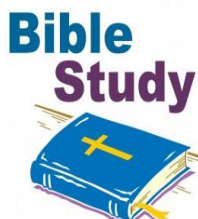
You have helped to give the gift of reading to many students! Each month we are able to let students choose from a variety of books to help build their home library. When students receive their new book, the smiles begin to flow and we know that we have made an impact on their lives. The church family is helping to make that impact as well! Thank you for supporting the love of reading for our students. We appreciate all that you do to make this possible!

~Cathy Stewart                      ~Courtney Baer  
~Carae Oehlerking                ~Topanga Hawks



### UMYF NEWS

(UMYF is for all 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders.)



Our normal Wednesday night Bible Study will be at Murdock on November 19th at 5:30 p.m.  
Our monthly fun event will be Sunday, November 2nd. We will meet at Grandpa Woods to play a round of golf. If the weather does not permit an outside activity, we will meet at St. Paul for games and fun.



## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, November 15, 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 November 9th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Please make reservations no later than Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday/ Month, 12:30 p.m.

### UPCOMING FCCLA BLOOD DRIVE

12:00 – 6:00 P.M.

Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, Elmwood Fire Hall

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CORNER

The Elmwood UWIF will meet on Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at Donna Clements' home. Lesson is World Thanks Offering so bring your boxes.

The Murdock UWIF will meet on Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the church for the usual meal and fellowship.

Mat Weaving sessions will be on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at Murdock UMC.

### Elmwood

**American Legion Post 247**

**Veterans Day**

**Pancakes & More!!!**

Saturday, November 8, 2025

7:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Elmwood Fire Hall

Free-will donation – Take-out available  
Proceeds to American Legion programs including the

Elmwood G.A.R. Hall Veterans Museum and E-M Legion Baseball

A unique opportunity to support local veterans and youth at the same event!

Enjoy delicious **pancakes** and brunch items – **biscuits & gravy, fruits, breakfast pastries, sausage, breakfast casseroles** – and much more!!

*"Honoring the sacrifices many have made for our country in the name of freedom and democracy is the very foundation of Veterans Day."*

American Legion Post 247 is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization  
For information: Bonnie Brewer  
American Legion Post 247 Commander  
(402) 540-1662



### November Birthdays-Elmwood



Harvey Vogt – November 1  
Marilyn Reed – November 3  
Nancy Vogt – November 4  
Megan Tiedeman – November 4  
Brooklynn Romero – November 4  
Dakota Anstey – November 6

Ronnie Schwartman – Nov. 6  
Onalee Schwartman – Nov. 7  
Susan Ernst – November 12  
Jayden Kollars – November 13  
Pam Bornemeier – November 15  
Mariann Fleischman – Nov. 16

Lindsey Hansen – November 16  
Susan Rorie – November 20  
Tammy Brummer – November 20  
David Spohr – November 22  
Charlotte Fritz – November 25  
Doug Frahm – November 28



### November Birthdays-Murdock



Diane Mills – November 2  
Dakota Glasshoff – November 17  
Barb Livers – November 23

Earl Chesnut – November 23  
Tiffany Glasshoff – November 24  
Liz Murdoch – November 28

# ADVENT STUDY

Our class this year will feature the short book, *On the Way to Bethlehem*, by Rob Fuquay, Pastor at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, IN. Featuring the geography and history of four towns, Fuquay takes us from Rome through Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem and, with the Wisemen, back to Persia. Each location comes alive with an essential aspect not only of the Christmas narrative but also of its meaning in our lives.

Join us for study and discussion on Monday evenings, 7:00-8:15 pm, St. Paul UMC. starting December 1 through 22. Books will be available.

Mel Luetchens

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## HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

is an all-day event on Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> in Elmwood. The schedule of events wasn't finalized in time to be included in this newsletter but watch the Elmwood-Murdock Merchants Association (EMMA) Face Book page or their website ([www.elmwoodmurdock.com](http://www.elmwoodmurdock.com)) for the complete schedule and updates for the events throughout the entire day. Some of the events will be Candy Cane Lane, a magician at St. Paul Church, Meet Santa at the Fire Hall, Lighting of Christmas Tree at the Park, and Soup Supper at the Elmwood Community Center plus many more events. Bring your family and friends and enjoy the day.



**The Elmwood Christian Church**  
**is hosting the Candy Cane Lane at this Holiday Extravaganza**  
**on Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025 at the Elmwood Community Center**  
**from 9:00am–Noon. All proceeds will be donated to**  
**Operation Santa. Bring your family and friends to Candy Cane**  
**Lane to make a container of delicious treats for the Holiday**  
**season to enjoy.**

**If anyone would like to make a sweet treat to donate for this event,**  
**you can bring them on Saturday morning Nov. 29th by 8:30am to the**  
**Community Center. These items will be displayed individually.**

**Candy and Cookies are 50 cents each unless specified.**

**Please remember the 50 cents price when making your items.**

**Thank You for sharing your talents while helping a good cause!**

## PASTOR'S PEN



Have you ever thought about the true definition of the words we use? I can say that it doesn't happen often but on occasion I will think about the words that we use as synonyms and wonder if we are really using them in a more efficient manner. As we approach the beginning of November, I started thinking about just this. We often talk about how thankful we are for things but we also use the word grateful almost interchangeably. But are they really? Have you ever thought about the definition of the two words and if they really mean the same thing or if we can be one without the other?

I looked up the definition of both words. Thankful according to the Oxford dictionary means "pleased, relieved." When I read this, if I am being honest, I was a little surprised. I don't know that I have ever thought of thankful as pleased...it makes sense but it is just not the word I would have put on thankful. Then again to fully explain what thankful means, pleased is a good word. When I am thanking people for something, I am usually pleased about it. So, then I looked up grateful. The Oxford dictionary says this about grateful: "feeling or showing an appreciation of kindness; thankful." Oxford says, yes, they are kind of the same but I think I like being grateful for this season more than being thankful.

The more I think about it, I am wondering if we can be grateful without being thankful. Sometimes, it is hard to be pleased about something but I think we can show appreciation without being pleased...right? When my kids do the laundry, I am grateful, I appreciate their attempt in doing the laundry but when it leads to more work, a messier result of unorganized chaos, I can't say I am really pleased with that. So, which is more important, to be grateful or thankful?

I suppose both have their place and it is important to experience both and more importantly to acknowledge both. There is a time to be grateful and a time to be thankful. There is a time to be pleased and a time to be appreciative. And really these two things do go hand in hand often but sometimes it is hard to find anything to be thankful for. The schedules get busy and family can be a stressor, you are being pulled in many different directions and feeling pleased with anything can seem impossible. It might be easier to feel appreciation, to be grateful for what we have instead of thankful.

This month we are discussing being thankful and grateful in worship through prayer. Where is the difference, where are the similarities and how it all relates to our relationship with God and with each other. I am excited to explore this topic deeper this month and I pray that you will join us. In a season that can be difficult for many, I pray this for you all this month from 2 Corinthians: "May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed! He is the compassionate Father and God of all comfort." May you find comfort, gratitude and thankfulness in God this month.

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



# November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<div>2</div> 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:30am Worship Service – E 2:00pm UMYF	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> 1:30pm UWIF – E 5:30pm UWIF – M 6:30pm Bell Practice - E	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div> 7:00am to 12:30pm Veterans Day Pancakes and More
<div>9</div> 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:30am Worship Service – E 10-12:30 Breakfast Buffet at Comm. Center	<div>10</div> 7:00pm Church Council - M	<div>11</div> Veterans Day	<div>12</div> 1:30pm Mat Weaving – M 6:30pm Bell Practice – E 7:30pm Choir Practice – E	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div> 9-11:00am Food Pantry Distribution
<div>16</div> 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:30am Worship Service – E 2:00pm Charge Conference - Tecumseh	<div>17</div> 7:00pm Church Council - E	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div> 1:30pm Sew ‘N Sews – M 5:30pm Youth Bible Study - M 6:30pm Bell Practice – E 7:30pm Choir Practice – E	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div>
<div>23</div> 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:30am Worship Service – E	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div> 1:30pm Mat Weaving – M No Bell or Choir Practices	<div>27</div> Thanks giving Day	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> Elmwood’s Holiday Extravaganza – All Day
<div>30</div> 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:30am Worship Service – E						



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**Address Service Requested**



**Thursday, November 27, 2025**