

The Messenger

DECEMBER 2024

DECEMBER



St. Paul United Methodist Church
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Ebenezer United Methodist Church
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UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 8, 2024, 12:00 p.m. Confirmation at Elmwood UMC
Sunday, December 8, 2024, 3:00 p.m. Christmas games and treats at Elmwood UMC
Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 5:30 p.m. Confirmation at Murdock UMC
Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 5:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study at Murdock UMC



ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH WILL BE A SPECIAL SUNDAY AT ST. PAUL UMC AS THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM WILL BE PRESENTED AND WE WILL BE CELEBRATING OUR 150TH YEAR CHURCH MINISTRY.

The celebration for 150 years of ministry and service of the Methodist Church in Elmwood will include many displays of our past and current history. There will be photos and display items of events in the life of our church - St. Paul's, as well as the churches that came before - Methodist Episcopal (ME) and Evangelical United Brethren (EUB). During worship service, there will be a power point presentation of many photos that will tell the story of our church.

Thanks to the people who have contributed some information and photos.

After the worship service, you may take a trip down memory lane by looking at all the displays that will be around the church hallways. Then a dinner will be served in the fellowship hall for everyone. We are asking for members to sign up to bring either a salad or dessert. (Sign up sheet is at the back of the sanctuary.) The main meat and potatoes dishes will be provided.

Questions about the history can be referred to Myrna or Bonnie. Photos can be emailed to Bonnie Brewer at bb45231@windstream.net. If you have a photo but need assistance in scanning it, please contact her by email or at (402) 540-1662.

CHILDREN AT EBENEZER UMC WILL BE PRESENTING THEIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024, 9:00 A.M. DURING WORSHIP SERVICE. DON'T MISS IT!

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, December 21, 2024, 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 for lunch.

The Center's Breakfast Buffet will be on Sunday, December 8, 2024. Time is from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We would like to receive reservations for these meals by the Friday before Sunday serving date.

The "Grab and Go" meals will continue on Friday nights. From 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., you can come to the Center and pick up your evening meal (\$6 each) before you go to your Friday night event. First come/first served until the meals are gone. We will not be serving a noon meal on Fridays.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00 p.m. St. Paul UMC, Elmwood

6:30 p.m. at Ebenezer UMC, Murdock

Sunday, December 29th will be a joint worship service at 9:00 a.m. at Ebenezer UMC.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CORNER

The Elmwood UWF will meet on Monday, December 2, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at Donna Clements' home. Please an appetizer/finger food to share and enjoy the Christmas games.

The Annual Christmas Luncheon at Murdock will be Saturday, Dec. 7th at noon. Special entertainment will be Jolene McLaughlin portraying Bess Streeter Aldrich in a Christmas Setting.

The Elmwood and Murdock Women in Faith groups now have a loom to make plarn sleeping mats which is another Midwest Mission project. Plarn is plastic yarn made out of plastic grocery bags. The mats form a barrier for anyone sleeping on the ground. A volunteer or 2 or 3 are needed to learn the plarn sleeping mat process. We will probably schedule times that we can meet to prepare the plarn and make the mat, probably starting in January. www.midwestmission.org/loom has tutorial videos. Please let Kelli Brewer know if you are interested in helping with this project. We also need donations of grocery bags if you can save some.



December Birthdays-Elmwood



Clayton Miller – December 2
John Stephens – December 3
Carolyn Oehlerking – Dec. 5
Patricia Brennan – December 6
Gerry Wilhelm – December 6
Donna Amberly – December 8
Nicholas Brewer – December 8

Jessie Lansink – December 10
Dalton Wheeler – December 10
Rex Clements – December 15
Scott Rorie – December 17
Debra Lenz – December 18
Wayne Stubbendeck – Dec. 19
Harvey Bornemeier – Dec. 19

Evren Anstey – December 21
Dana Kollars – December 23
James Stubbendick – December 24
Gary Bornemeier – December 26
Conner Clements – December 28
Thomas Lenz – December 30
Joel Clements – December 31

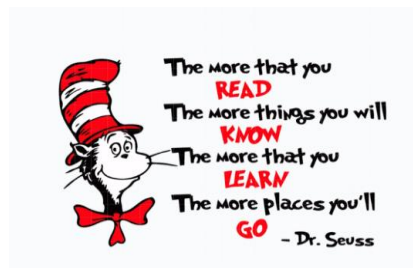


December Birthdays-Murdock



Ella Zierott – December 3
Emerson Chesnut – December 5
Jane Leadabrand – December 6
Ramona Oehlerking – Dec. 21

Haddie Zierott – December 22
Jeff Backemeyer – December 24
Harvey Mills – December 24
Cindy Mills – December 25
Cheryl Patterson – December 29



Children always want to go someplace! You have helped them to achieve that dream! Thank you for helping to provide free books for many children throughout the school year! As we place books into the hands of children, we see the joy, the excitement, and the wonder spread across their faces. You are making a difference and we appreciate your support. Thank you for donating to the Scholastic Books Mission this year!

~Carae Oehlerking, Cathy Stewart, and Courtney Baer



DECEMBER/JANUARY MISSION PROJECT

During the months of December 2024 and January 2025, we will be collecting household items for the families of Elliott Elementary School in Lincoln, NE. The months of January and February are really difficult for the families. The school does have a food market on the first Tuesday of the month and it would be great to have some household items to include in the boxes of food.

The following is a list of items that they would need:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Body Soap | Shampoo/conditioner | Toothpaste |
| Tooth Brushes | Hair Brushes | Combs |
| Deodorant (much needed) | Body Wipes | Body/Hand Lotion |
| Diaper Wipes | Paper Towels | Toilet Paper |

Anything that you can donate would be greatly appreciated!



ELMWOOD COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S DAY OF GIVING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024

Please join Elmwood Community Foundation's First Annual Day of Giving Where everyone in the community has the opportunity to support our local nonprofits.

The Elmwood Community Foundation began three years ago, and they have been able to support activities that provide civic, educational, health, human services or cultural improvements for the community of Elmwood and surrounding area. We are excited to participate in the Midlands Community Foundation's Matching Charitable Program beginning on Giving Tuesday, December 3, 2024 and ending on January 6, 2025. New contributions to the charitable funds will be matched by Midlands Community Foundation.

Donations are 100% tax deductible. There is a donation form that needs to be completed and sent to the Midlands Community Foundation along with your donation. Any board member of ECF would be willing to assist you with your interest.

Your donation of any size will be a difference maker for our community.



PASTOR'S PEN

Happy Advent! The beginning of the church year. Can you believe we have almost wrapped up 2024? It seems like we were just starting the year, wondering where it would take us and here we are about to look back and see what we have done with this time. Every year that we are given should be seen as a gift. Not that all years are going to be great, some are a real struggle, while others might seem to just float on by. If your years are anything like mine, there are usually a combination of the two. But the thing I am always left with at the end of the year, even when they don't end on a high note, is the thankfulness that I have been given this time and this life.

The other day in youth group, we did an activity where we made it rain. Maybe you have done this activity or a similar one. We sat around in a circle, first in silence, and then we started rubbing our hands, then snapping, then tapping our hands on our thighs, stomping our feet and then worked in reverse back to silence. We then talked about how it really did sound like a rainstorm, but it only sounded that way because we were all working together.

We challenged the youth group and the confirmation class last month to think about what they would like to see be different in the church. From activities to worship to how they are involved. I told them that no change was too big or too small because when the church works together, amazing things can happen. There were a couple of fun ideas that might happen such as a cupcake decorating contest. But one thing that I think is really cool is that the youth said they would like to include the older generations in their Wednesday night Bible Studies and the Sunday Fundays. So, we told them we would do that. Next year we will have a couple of opportunities to include the other folks that will be in the congregation in these activities, so being looking for those invites. The other thing that youth discovered is that when they brought up an idea, there was not a "no" in sight. Even the silly ideas were accepted in a "yeah we could probably find a way to make that work." So, with the closing of this year, I invite you to look forward to the next and ask yourself, what would I like to see change in the church, worship, activities, projects and how can I help make them happen? The church works best when it is working together and when people are passionate about what is happening. When the environment is rich with openness and willingness to make it the best place for God and His people. How can we improve and do better, as individuals and as a church? I invite you to bring me your ideas, how you want to help and get involved. Let us make it rain, love, justice, mercy and acceptance in this church and the community.

In this time of Advent and the start of the church year, let us remember that this is a time to reflect on where we have been and think about where we want to go. God put forth the North star for the Shepherds and the Magi to follow, may we use Christ as our guiding light this season to remember who we are and whose we are. 1 Corinthians 6:17 says "But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit." Let us remember to be united in Christ and with each other this holiday season.

Until Next Time,
Pastor Michelle



CHOIR SINGERS AND BELL RINGERS NEEDED

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

(except the first Wed. of month)

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

Both at Elmwood St. Paul UMC



December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9:00am Worship Service – M</p> <p>9:30am Sunday School - E</p> <p>10:35am Worship Service - E</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30pm UWF – E</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30pm Bell Practice – E</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Practice – E</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>12:00pm UWF Xmas Luncheon -M</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00am Worship Service – M</p> <p>Children’s Program – M</p> <p>9:30am Sunday School - E</p> <p>10:35am Worship Service – E</p> <p>12:00pm Confirmation - E</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00pm Church Council – M</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30pm Confirmation - M</p> <p>6:30pm Bell Practice – E</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Practice - E</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00am Worship Service – M</p> <p>10:35am Worship Service – E</p> <p>Children’s Program – E</p> <p>11:30am Dinner - E</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00pm Church Council - E</p>	<p>17</p> <p>12-6:00pm Blood-mobile at Elmwood Fire Hall</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1:30pm Sew ‘N Sews - M</p> <p>5:30pm Youth Bible Study – M</p> <p>6:30pm Bell Practice – E</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Practice - E</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9-11:00am Food Pantry Distribution</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00am Worship Service – M</p> <p>10:35am Worship Service - E</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve Services</p> <p>5:00pm – E</p> <p>6:30pm - M</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00am Joint Worship Service – M</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>

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Address Service Requested



Wednesdays, December 25th and January 1st