

The Messenger

JANUARY 2025



St. Paul United Methodist Church
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UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP JANUARY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 5:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study at Murdock UMC

Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 5:30 p.m. Confirmation at Murdock UMC

Sunday, January 29, 2025, 12:00 p.m. Confirmation at Elmwood UMC



TO EVERYONE THAT
PARTICIPATED IN OUR
150-YEAR
CELEBRATION!!

To the Historical Team, To the Meal-Preparation Team, To the Decoration Team,
To the people who put up and took down the tables and chairs for the luncheon,
To people who contributed information and historical items,
To people who designed and made the commemorative ornaments,
To everyone who brought either a salad or a dessert for the luncheon.

TO: Jennifer Brettmann, Haley Fritz, Courtney Baer
For working with all the Sunday School children so they can perform the
Christmas program for all of us. We really appreciate the efforts and time that you
have contributed to our Sunday School program.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, January 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 for lunch.

The Center's Breakfast Buffet will be on Sunday, January 12, 2025. 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.

For people who like to play cards, Pinochle game is played on the third Monday of each month, starting at 12:30 p.m.

A Pitch game is played every Friday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Come and have some fun and laughter.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CORNER

The Elmwood UWF will meet on Monday, January 6, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. at Laurel McReynolds' and she will also be doing the lesson.

The Murdock UWF will meet on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. for the usual meal and lesson.

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.

We will start having meeting times a couple times a month to prepare the plarn and to use the loom to weave a sleeping mat.



January Birthdays-Elmwood



Payton Vogt – January 3

Jacob Fleischman – January 5

Joe Bornemeier – January 6

Lynn Minch – January 10

Rick Brummer – January 11

Ken Kunz – January 12

Amanda Barrett – January 23

Arlo Fleischman – January 24

Tanner Bornemeier – January 25

Haley Fritz – January 26

Keith Wynegar – January 30

Tracy Spaulding – January 30



January Birthdays-Murdock



Hallie Mills – January 3

Dan Murdoch – January 3

Bette Backemeyer – January 4

Rosalyn Vanderford – January 4

Bill Farmer – January 6

Kim Hanson – January 8

Lucy Backemeyer – January 14

Karey Koehn – January 21

Nick Chesnut – January 23

Kelli Brewer – January 26

Marty Zierott – January 28

Linda Lawrence – January 29



Thank You for Joining Us in Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Our Church

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us for this special occasion! It was a joy to come together as a community to celebrate 150 years of faith, fellowship, and service. We hope you enjoyed the history presentation, which highlighted our church’s rich legacy, as well as the delightful Children's Christmas Program. It was a wonderful reminder of the joy and hope that the season brings.

Thank you also for sharing in the fellowship over lunch. Your presence made this celebration even more meaningful.

Here’s to another 150 years of grace and community!

With gratitude,
St. Paul United Methodist Church



50th Anniversary Celebration

St. Paul United Methodist
Church

Sunday, May 4, 2025
during worship service

We covered the first 100 years of our 150 years of ministry and service in Elmwood during the celebration on December 15th. Now we need your help so we can finish “the rest of the story” - the 50 years since moving into our church building. If you’d like to be involved in the planning or have ideas, photos, memories, or artifacts to share, please contact Bonnie Brewer (402-540-1662) or Myrna Bornemeier (402-429-1729). We will hold an organizational meeting in January to start planning.



DECEMBER/JANUARY MISSION PROJECT

Continuing in the month of 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!

PASTOR'S PEN



Happy New Year! As we approach the beginning of a new year, I sometimes think about what all has changed in just my lifetime. From cell phones to social media to being able to stream tv and worship services. The technological world has changed drastically in the last 4 decades. And then there are things that have not really changed, my love for my family and friends being a couple important things. But even as I type, I know it is not true. Those things too have changed as I have gotten older, and sometimes wiser. There have been times where things feel simpler than others, easier than others, times with less responsibilities or less hardships. Times where we have dealt with great loss and had extreme times of joy.

I know I have typed this sentence more than once, but there is really never a time where things are not changing whether we notice it or not. We all have had those moments where we have looked at someone or something and realized how much has changed without us even being aware of the change. Our brains couldn't handle noticing all the things that change because it is constant. We don't have the bandwidth to take in every little change, so to help keep us on task and to get through this life of constant change, our brain does little tricks to fill in and show us what we need to see to get through the situation. And then sometimes, our brain does not need to compute all the things, and we take time to actually observe what is going on around us and we realize the change. It can be shocking sometimes to realize what has changed around us since the last time we took time to check it out. But once we have seen the change, we can't unsee it. The question is what do we do when we don't like the change that we now see?

I suppose this is where new year's resolutions come in. We are supposed to take some time before the new year starts to evaluate ourselves and the situation we are in. To really take some time to see what has changed and think about what we want to do about these changes if anything. The beginning of January sets a nice goal, it is the new year, we switch our calendars and have to learn to start writing a new year on our paperwork, checks (do people still write checks?), and everything we sign so why not also try to teach yourself to finally eat healthy and workout 5 days a week. Everything else is changing in a big way, why not add more?

I read once that you are only supposed to make one big change a year. So why do we try to change everything all at once? Maybe instead of starting a new exercise regimen, eating only unprocessed food and reading every night, we give ourselves a break and just pick up one of those things. Give ourselves a little breathing room and grace.

Sometimes I think we believe that the changes that God asks of us seem big and maybe they are, but what I think he is really looking for is small change. Because when we change one small thing at a time, we are more likely to stick with it. One small change at a time, soon it becomes a habit and then you can add to it and before you know it, you have made a big change. What God asks of us is to love God and love one another. Let us set the goal this year to do as Jesus commands us in John: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." If it feels overwhelming, try loving just one more person to start. May you feel the love of God so that you feel compelled to share it with others this new year.

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



January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3	4
5 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service - E	6 1:30pm UWF – E	7	8 5:30pm UWF – M No Bell Practice Or Choir Practice	9	10	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 – M 5:30pm Youth Bible Study – M 6:30pm Bell and Choir Christmas at Laurel's	16	17	18 9-11am Food Pantry Distribution
19 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E 12:00pm Confirmation - E	20 Martin Luther King Day 7:00pm Church Council - E	21	22 5:30pm Confirmation – M 6:30pm Bell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	23	24	25
26 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service - E	27	28	29 6:30pm Bell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	30	31	

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Address Service Requested

