

The Messenger

APRIL 2021



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SON SHINE CHILD CARE CENTER



Happy St. Patrick's Day from Son-shine! St. Patrick's Day was our theme this week. Toddlers made rainbows with pots of gold and preschool made handprint shamrocks. With Easter just around the corner, we are planning lots of activities and crafts for one of our favorite holidays! We are also all looking forward to some warm and dry weather so we can go outside, which is a favorite thing of all the children at the center.

UMYF NEWS

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

Sunday, April 18, 2021

Fishing and Cook Out at Bornemeier's Pond



GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Will be held at St. Paul UMC at 7:00 p.m.
Friday, April 2, 2021.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, April 17, 2021, 9:00–11:00 a.m.
New Location: Old Village Town Hall Building
113 West E Street, Elmwood

Elmwood Community Center

The Center is open for noon meals 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 on weekdays.

On April 26, 2021, we will have Monday Night Out meals between 5:00-7:00 p.m. Our menu will be Mexican cuisine. Eat In or Take Out

UMW CORNER

Elmwood UMW will not be meeting in April 2021.

Murdock UMW will meet at the church on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

UMW Blue River District Spring Event on Saturday, April 17, 2021, in person or via Zoom, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., see page 4 for details.

Elmwood will have an all-church meeting, Sunday, April 11th at 11:30 following Sunday service. We will be following up on our discussion on the downtown project and vote on the matter. If you are not able to join us in person, a zoom link will be provided before the meeting. It is important for as many people as possible to be present and involved in this meeting. Please let Pastor Michelle know if you have any questions.



April Birthdays-Elmwood



Maureen Vogt – April 2
Dennis Nielsen – April 3
Sharon Kunz – April 4
Alex Callaway – April 4
Frank Leo Stephens – April 4
Merle Backemeyer – April 10
Alexis Bacon – April 15

Christian Brettmann – April 15
Natalie Hoffman – April 17
Jeff Johnston – April 18
Judy Hendrix – April 21
Taylor Vogt – April 21
Tyson Vogt – April 22
Katie Bornemeier – April 24

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



April Birthdays-Murdock



Lindsay Backemeyer – April 4
John Butler – April 7
Harrison Koehn – April 11
Lindsey Mills – April 11
Stacey Murdoch – April 11
Carter Hanson – April 11

Catherine Stock – April 11
Mark Luetchens – April 13
Lance Steffen – April 16
Brenda Bornemeier – April 23
Kate Zakaras – April 24
Tom Lawrence – April 27
Kaden Butler – April 29

PASTOR'S PEN



April brings us into the Easter season this year and I think that is so fitting. April here is a time where we start planting seeds in our gardens and clear off the leaves from the flower beds. We watch new life enter as the trees bloom, the grass green up and beautiful scents of flowers in the air. According to our calendars, Spring begins in March but I think April is when it really comes to life.

The Resurrection of Christ falls in line with the change of season. Christ died to bring new life for us all. The feeling of sorrow that we might feel on Good Friday, might pale in comparison to how the disciples that witnessed the hanging of Christ on the cross but it doesn't make it mean less. Every year we watch the leaves fall off the trees, we watch the grass brown, we watch the Earth be put to bed with winter. If we don't know about the seasons, we might think that as all this is happening, it is the end. It is the death of the trees, of the grass, of the flowers that we watched grow all summer. If we didn't know that Spring was around the corner, imagine the devastation that you would experience.

I imagine that the disciples felt the same way on Good Friday. They watched their hope die. They had probably spent years, watching this man, Jesus Christ, build a following, teach people about God, giving them hope for the future. Giving them the promise of new hope, a hope of being saved. Then Jesus is arrested, and put to death! Their hope would be gone, this person they believed in is dead; everything they thought they had been working for is gone; it died on Good Friday. Can you imagine the thoughts would instantly go to "Now What??" What was the purpose of all of this?

The thing is, just like when winter comes, and the plants around us go to sleep, Jesus died. And if we didn't know that Spring was around the corner, holding the promise of new life, we too would be like the disciples. We would be panicked; we would worry about what was going to happen next; we would be wondering if we did all the work through the summer only for it all to die. But much like winter is not the end of the story, neither is Jesus's death. We get the advantage of knowing more of the story; we know that three days later that Jesus will rise from the dead, bringing new life for not just himself but for us as well. When winter is so dark and we think that there is no hope for the snow to all melt or the Earth to not look brown for forever, the sun appears, melts the snow and cold away and brings new life.

On Easter the Son appeared and brought new life. He restores hope, bring salvation and paves the way to the Father for us. The new leaves on the trees, the sprouts of new plants breaking the ground paves the way for summer for us. The seasons and the story of Christ mirror each other for us in the Northern Hemisphere and I think that works to our advantage to understand what is happening.

John 11:25-26 says: "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." The Son has returned and brought with him new life. Happy Spring, let the sun shine, the plants sprout and bring new life as we follow the path of Christ.

Until Next Time,
Pastor Michelle

Blue River District of the United Methodist Women 2021 Spring Event ~ The Ripple Effect



You are invited to a
Cool Refreshing
Blue River District
UMW Spring Event!

When: Saturday, April 17th, 2021

What time: 9:30 am to 11:00 am

Where: The event will be presented by Zoom. There will be an option for in-person attendance at the St. Paul Elmwood United Methodist Church, 400 West G Street, Elmwood, NE. Masks will be required for in-person attendance.

The Spring Event will be a perfect time to Refresh your soul; Share some fun; Witness some really good work going on in UMW; Learn something new about the Ripple Effect.

For the worship service, you will want to have available a piece of bread,
juice, and a small bowl of water.

Reservation deadline for both in-person and Zoom attendance is April 10th.

Register on-line at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4ea8aa28abf49-blue1> or

Call Sondra Buell at 816-830-5580.

No lunch will be served. In-kind giving will be for The Big Garden. See you on April 17th!

April 2021 Mission Project to Support Elmwood Public Library

The April 2021 mission project is to support the Elmwood Public Library by providing donations to purchase Leveled Reader books. The Elmwood Library serves readers of all ages from Elmwood, Murdock and Eagle. Library director Anne Pope shared that in the summer especially, there is a high demand for Leveled Reader books that allow beginning readers to learn to read by themselves at their own level. The books are colorful, fun and include a lot of popular characters. The library currently has 100 Leveled Reader books, but some are 40 years old and only about half of the books are in good condition. Ann would like our church members to provide donations to purchase 50 new Leveled Reader books for our community's children at a cost of \$300. To learn more about the Elmwood Library and their need for Leveled Reader books, view this three-minute video: <https://youtu.be/6oBh3ksMzpU>

Church members may support the Elmwood Library's request for new Leveled Reader books by making a donation any time during April. Please be sure to indicate that your donation is to be used for the Elmwood Library Mission project. If you have questions about this mission project, please reach out to Anne Pope at elmwoodlibrary@outlook.com or Karey Koehn at kareykoehn@gmail.com.

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 April Fool's Day	2 <i>Good Friday</i> 7:00pm Worship Service - E	3
4 <i>Easter</i> 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service - E	5	6	7 6:30pm UMW - M	8	9	10
11 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School-E 10:35am Worship Service – E 11:30am All Church Meeting - E	12	13 7:00pm Church Council – M	14	15	16	17 9-11:00am Food Pantry Distribution 9:30am UMW Blue River District Meeting at St. Paul UMC
18 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School-E 10:35am Worship Service – E 3:00pm UMYF	19	20 7:00pm Church Council - E	21	22 Earth Day	23	24
25 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School-E 10:35am Worship Service - E	26	27	28	29	30	

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Address Service Requested



*Christ
is
Risen!*