

# The Messenger

APRIL 2023



EASTER

St. Paul United Methodist Church  
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## April/May Mission Project – Bridges of Hope, Pine Ridge Reservation

In honor of Native American Sunday in April, our mission project for April and May will be to collect cash donations to support the Bridges of Hope ministry program on the Pine Ridge Reservation in Allen, SD. Bridges of Hope, led by pastors Tim and Kim Wardell of the Pass Creek Church of God, provides food, clothing, diapers, counseling, home repairs and more to Indian families in need. The mission of Bridges of Hope is to “Help Without Hurting” and the Wardells strive to teach the importance of working and helping others.

The ministry offers a 13-week summer VBS program run by volunteer teams from other churches. They are currently raising funds to build a bunk house for VBS volunteers. Bridges of Hope has a [Lakota Trading Post](#) that sells Native American art and jewelry so local residents can share their talents while earning money and offers another work program providing short term employment to Indian families. Kelli Brewer recommends Bridges of Hope as a program that accomplishes much on Pine Ridge Reservation with the resources and donations they receive. Please consider supporting Bridges of Hope during the months of April and May.

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### CHOIR NEWS

#### Celebrating 15 years as a combined Ebenezer/St. Paul Choir!

I am inviting all former and current members to join me in this celebration. We will hold a mini concert on Sunday, April 30, 2023 at both churches, showcasing some of our past anthems.

Practices will begin on Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul.

For questions, please call Laurel at 402-440-5675.

PLEASE COME JOIN IN THIS COMMEMORATION!



### 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 April 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Our monthly fun event will be Sunday, **April 16<sup>th</sup>**, time to be determined.

We will meet at St. Paul and go to Urban Air.

Come join in the fun at our last event of the school year.

Confirmation Sunday will be on Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023 at the two churches.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, April 15, 2023, 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.

*They will have a monthly breakfast buffet again on Sunday, April 16, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. They request that reservations be made by the Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Cost: \$10 Adults, Ages 10-3 \$5, Ages 2 & under free*

### Workshops at Elmwood Learning Center

221 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Elmwood

Card Making with Lea Money  
Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Wool Applique with Barbara Bond  
Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Contact Kris at [shrader1957@hotmail.com](mailto:shrader1957@hotmail.com) for more

## UWF CORNER

The Elmwood UWF will meet on Monday, April 3, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at the church. We will carpool to Lincoln for visitation to church members.

Murdock UWF will have their next meeting on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. for their usual meal and meeting at the church.

### **SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERING NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES April 23, 2023**

This Sunday recognizes and supports the contributions of Native Americans to the church and society. Part of the funds collected allow us to collaborate with existing native ministries, create programs and support seminary scholarships for United Methodist Native Americans. Fifty percent of the offerings remains in your annual conference to develop local ministries.

### **EASTER EGG HUNT AT ELWMOOD PARK**

Saturday, April 8, 2023, 11:00 a.m.  
Toddlers – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade



### **April Birthdays-Elmwood**



Maureen Vogt – April 2  
Dennis Nielsen – April 3  
Sharon Kunz – April 4  
Alex Callaway – April 4  
Matthew Rorie – April 7  
Merle Backemeyer – April 10  
Christian Brettmann – April 15

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

Levi Offner – April 27  
Jenna Kollars – April 27  
Bailey Frahm – April 29  
Burke/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  
Kate Zakaras – April 24  
Tom Lawrence – April 27  
Kaden Butler – April 29

## PASTOR'S PEN



Happy Easter!

April is here! You all know about my love for winter because I do love the way the snow makes everything so pretty but I also love spring! I love spring rains, the greening of the grass and new flowers emerging from the ground. Everything comes back to life in April which makes it a great month to also celebrate Easter.

The story of Easter is one that is so fascinating. The idea that Jesus willing goes to the place where he knows that he will be killed. Makes this huge sacrifice for not just his friends and family, but also for all of us. The magnitude of this event is staggering.

During the Christmas season there is the song "Mary Did You Know" where it is asked of Mary if she really knew what she was saying yes to when she was asked to carry God's child. I think the better question is do we know now what she was saying yes to? Have you ever just contemplated what is happening, the why and the what is next of the situation? I can't imagine being a disciple at the time and watching all the events play out in real time. Knowing the whole story and how it will play out doesn't make it any easier for me. When I put myself in the place of these disciples, watching the man that I followed, that I thought that I knew, die in possibly the worst way ever, and then to mourn his death just to find out he is not really dead?!? Does any of this make sense?

The events are foretold, and then they play out and now we can look at them from the other side and still they are crazy to think about. Jesus had to be God; no regular human man is going to sacrifice himself in this way and then prove that even death is unable to conquer him. Not even death can silence his message; not even death can stop the spread of love, forgiveness and grace that he came to teach about.

Spring is the perfect time for Easter, because like Spring it is all about new birth, new beginnings, brightness and new awakenings. Where once we felt blind and left in the dark, we are afforded the opportunity to see. We are given the chance to let go of what we thought we knew and see what is really there. Jesus was not here to save our human selves. Jesus was here for something much more important. Jesus was here to save our spiritual selves.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus heals a blind man, a physical ailment but the lesson he was teaching was not about the physical but the spiritual. And although the man was physically cured, his spirit was already about to see far beyond what his eyes could. He had a faith and an awareness of God that allowed him to see through the craziness of physical life.

As we approach the celebration of Easter, I invite you to take some time to really see what is happening. Really examine the sacrifice that was made, and the reason behind it. Really look at Jesus rising from the dead and what that meant for the message that God was sending. This is so much more than what we can physically see; this is so much more than what meets the eye. This is a love that cannot be defeated, even when it appears to be beaten down and destroyed; it is greater than even death!

Until Next Time,  
Pastor Michelle



### **DON'T FORGET!**

Choir practice starts at 7:00 p.m. on  
Wednesdays  
Bell practice starts at 6:45 p.m. on  
Thursdays

Both at Elmwood St. Paul UMC



# 3B Homestead - Celebrate Easter 2023

## Organize a group and come for some fun!



The story of the cross mixed in with the freshness of Spring is worth celebrating!

This spring at the 3B Homestead, all Celebrate Easter events will be pre-arranged and privately scheduled. Every group will have their own day and time to play with the animals, hear the amazing story of what Jesus did for us on the cross, participate in hands-on activities and have a fun hayrack ride!

The 3B Homestead will be open every day from **Sunday, March 26 through Tuesday, April 4, 2023.**

Allow 1 1/2 to 2 hours for the event.

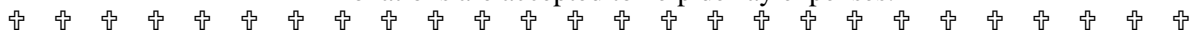
Organize a group of 15 to 50 people: families, friends, home schools, assisted living facilities, or church groups. Choose a date and time that fits your schedule, and call or text **402-867-1802** to make a reservation. Call early to get a spot.

One meaningful activity during Celebrate Easter includes *The Field of Crosses*.

**Whether or not you attend a private event, come and see the crosses at the 3B Homestead.** Everyone is invited to bring a cross in memory of a loved one or friend who has passed away and place it in the field along Highway 1. Visit the website for specific details about the crosses.

All Easter events are an outreach of the 3B Homestead, LLC and are free to the community.

Donations are accepted to help defray expenses.



Mark and Sondra Buell

The 3B Homestead LLC | 7603 298<sup>th</sup> Street, Murdock, NE 68407

Located on Highway 1 between Murdock and Elmwood, Nebraska

website: [www.3BHomestead.com](http://www.3BHomestead.com) | e-mail: [3BHomestead@gmail.com](mailto:3BHomestead@gmail.com) | cell phone: 402-867-1802

Facebook: 3B Homestead | Venmo: @ThreeB-Homestead



## SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

Maundy Thursday Worship Service, April 6, 2023, 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul, Elmwood  
Good Friday Worship Service, April 7, 2023, 7:00 p.m. at Elmwood Christian Church  
Sunrise Service, Sunday, April 9, 2023, 6:30 a.m., Grandpa's Woods Golf Course with breakfast there afterwards

Easter Sunday Worship Services, April 9, 2023, normal worship times



# April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 April Fool's Day
2 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service - E	3 1:30pm UWIF – E  6:30pm Lenten Study – M	4	5 5:30pm UWIF – M  7:00pm Choir Practice - M	6 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service – E	7 7:00pm Good Friday Service – Elmwood Christian Church	8 11:00am Easter Egg Hunt – Elmwood Park
9 6:30am Sunrise Service 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service - E	10 7:00pm Church Council - M	11	12 7:00pm Choir Practice - E	13 6:45pm Bell Practice - E	14	15 9-11:00am Food Pantry Distribution
16 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E  Time TBD UMYF	17 7:00pm Church Council - E	18	19 1:30pm Sew 'N Sews – M  7:00pm Choir Practice - E	20 6:45pm Bell Practice - E	21	22
23 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service - E	24	25	26 7:00pm Choir Practice - E	27 6:45pm Bell Practice - E	28	29
30 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E 11:30am Fifth Sunday Potluck						

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**Address Service Requested**

