

The Messenger

April 2024



St. Paul United Methodist Church
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APRIL/MAY MISSION PROJECT

REPLACE ELMWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER CABINETS



THE CABINETS AT THE ELMWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER HAVE SEEN BETTER DAYS!

Your donations during April and May can help replace these broken cabinets that are used for community meals and events.

Your support will be greatly appreciated!!



UMYF NEWS

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



Our normal Wednesday night Bible Study will be at Murdock on April 17th at 5:30 p.m.

Our monthly fun event will be Sunday, **April 7th**.

We will meet at St. Paul at 1:00 p.m. and we will go bowling.

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

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, April 20, 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.

Our Breakfast Buffet will be April 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thanks for your support.

Cass County Transit

Southeast NE Community Action is providing public transit for Cass County, only by Appointment,
Call 402-852-8313

Native American Ministries Sunday, April 14, 2024 SPECIAL OFFERING

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 U.M. Native Americans. Fifty percent of the offering remains in our annual conference to develop local ministries. The conference committee on Native American Ministry administers these funds.

UWFAITH CORNER

The Elmwood UWF will meet on Monday, April 8, 2024 at 1:30 a.m. at Joyce Backemeyer's. We will have a special guest speaker.

Murdock UWF will meet on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the church and will be sharing a meal and program.

The Blue River District's Spring Spiritual Retreat will be held on Saturday, April 20th at South Gate UMC in Lincoln from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with a salad luncheon at noon.

CHURCH MEMBERS IN ASSISTED LIVING CENTERS

Marcie Miller, Bailey Point
7208 Van Dorn St., Lincoln, NE 68506

Steve Henk, Louisville Care Center,
410 W. 5th, Louisville, NE 68037

Wanda Neben, Legacy Estates, #51
7202 Van Dorn St., Lincoln, NE 68506

Joyce Hammons
Good Samaritan Society, #115
1622 Walnut Street
Syracuse, NE 68446



April Birthdays-Elmwood



Maureen Vogt – April 2
Dennis Nielsen – April 3
Alex Callaway – April 4
Janice Miller – April 5
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 Staffen – April 16
Kate Zakaras – April 24
Tom Lawrence – April 27
Kaden Butler – April 29

MIDWEST

disaster relief • education



MISSION

health • micro business

SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

The mission statement of Midwest Mission is “Bringing the hearts and hands of God’s people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief”.

Kelli Brewer wants to share information about Midwest Mission Distribution Center, that recently rebranded to the name of Midwest Mission - IL and Midwest Mission - IA. They have opened a second location in Jefferson, IA which is only 164 miles away from us. It’s an easy 2 ½ hour drive. The biggest warehouse is in Pawnee, IL which is close to Springfield, IL.

WHAT WE (Midwest Mission) DO: We are a logistical conduit for Christ's ministry. We receive a request from trusted nonprofits; then prepare items we have and ask our supporters for items we need. Volunteers process, revitalize, and assemble the donated items. Then, donations are shipped to our trusted partners to distribute to those in crisis. In times of crisis internationally and in the United States, Disaster Relief, Health, Education and Micro Business supplies are freely given through trusted partner nonprofits. We are funded 91% by donations. We rely on volunteers to assemble kits and rice meals, inventory, load trucks, repair bikes & sewing machines, make desks from bleacher wood, donate medical equipment (crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, canes, etc.), write thank you’s, and collect anything discarded that can be redirected or repurposed. Our excess can make a huge difference to someone that has lost everything in a fire or tornado.

We will share more about Midwest Mission in future newsletters. Or contact Kelli Brewer for information. ANYONE can volunteer at Midwest Mission if you want to be Jesus’ hands & feet. There are tasks for those that need to sit. If you need a nap, take one. Fellowship with others is a great benefit.

MMDC is now Midwest Mission. Visit their website for more information. WWW.MidwestMission.org

CURRENT NEEDS: You can purchase these items at your local store and take them to Midwest Mission or a Collection Site near you. You can also buy items online and have them shipped right to Midwest Mission.

Lotion
8-10 oz. bottles

Household Cleaner
56-80 oz. total (no spray bottles)

Adult Bikes
In good, working condition.

PASTOR'S PEN



Happy April!

Here we are at the beginning of the Easter season. Lent flew right by and we have now entered into the season where the risen Christ roams the Earth for 40 days. He shows up a few times in the scriptures post resurrection and this is the time where we celebrate that before the ascension to Heaven.

I think we often think about Easter as a one day affair like Christmas. But in the reality of the Church, Christmas is not a one day thing, and neither is Easter. Really the Easter season is longer than the Christmas season even. The Easter season kicks off with Easter Sunday but it continues on. There are 40 days where Jesus roams the Earth, appearing to his disciples and continuing to share the good news. The good news that the revolution did not die with the death of Jesus' human body but rather lives on as Jesus does.

I don't know that we are able to fully comprehend what happens on Good Friday. The despair of the people, the thought that all hope was lost...or maybe you can. Maybe you have lived a life that was lacking in hope, a life where you thought there was no reason to go on because the one thing/person that you had hope in is now gone. When Jesus dies, his disciples hid, they ran away, they denied that they even knew him. The person they thought was going to change everything just died and nothing.

But then Easter Sunday comes, the women go to the tomb and the tomb is empty and this is supposed to be great news! And so we celebrate it in church on that Sunday morning. We have the benefit of knowing the whole story but what if we didn't? What if we were one of the disciples who had seen Jesus die on Friday and come Sunday, there is no body? And they are saying that angels are telling them that Jesus was risen? How is this good news? It sounds like craziness to me, like a ploy to get me out of hiding. And it is like Jesus knew, that he could not just rise from the dead and disappear. He knew that the disciples were not going to believe it right away, or were not going to understand what was really going on. He knew that he would have to explain it to them, to prove to them that he does in fact live. And so there are the 40 days of the Easter season where in the scriptures Jesus appears to the disciples, explaining what is happening, helping them see that the revolution they were hoping for is not gone but that it does not look like their version of a revolution. It is a revolution of the spirit, not a revolution of the flesh. It is a revolution that is bigger and better than any the disciples or we could come up with.

So we celebrate the beginning of the Easter season, we continue to look for signs of hope, knowing that Jesus defeated death. Knowing that Jesus is indeed the start of a revolution, a revolution that grants us a gift of freedom from our sins, freedom over the power that our sins hold over us, a freedom that allows us to break the chains of our humanness. A freedom that asks us to share it with others. Jesus leaves the disciples in Matthew with the challenge, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age." Are you ready? Let us take time this month to celebrate the wonders that are the Easter 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



April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 April Fool's Day	2	3 5:30pm UW Faith – M 7:30pm Choir Practice - E	4	5	6
7 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service – E 1:00pm UMYF - E	8 1:30pm UW Faith – E 7:00pm Church Council - M	9	10 6:30pm Bell Practice – E 7:30pm Choir Practice - E	11	12	13
14 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service – E	15 7:00pm Church Council - E	16	17 1:30pm Sew 'N Sews – M 5:30pm Youth Bible Study - M	18	19	20 9-11am Food Pantry Distribution
21 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service – E	22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service – E	29	30				

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Address Service Requested

