



The Messenger

AUGUST 2021



St. Paul United Methodist Church
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Pastor Michelle Chesnut
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P. O. Box 307
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THANK YOU FROM ELMWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY



Dear Friends at St. Paul and Ebenezer UMC

I just wanted to extend to you a sincere note of thanks for your donation to the Elmwood Public Library. Your generosity has made it possible for us to increase and improve our collection of Leveled Readers for young children. Through these books, Elmwood-Murdock elementary students are able to work on their reading comprehension skills with the help of fun characters including those found on PBS Kids, the Marvel Universe, Star Wars and more!

Again, thank you for your thoughtfulness and support of the local library. Your work to improve our community is inspirational.

Yours in Christ,
Anne Pope
Director - Elmwood Public Library
124 West D St.
Elmwood, NE 68349
402-994-4125
elmwoodlibrary@outlook.com



5th Sunday Potluck is Back at St. Paul UMC

11:30 a.m. Sunday, August 28, 2021
Bring your favorite dish, table service and enjoy the fellowship

SPECIAL MISSION PROJECT

Kelli Brewer is gathering items for a care package to send to the Army National Guard soldiers deployed to Africa. Dan Fritz is with this group of about 200 soldiers. She's looking for magazines for them to read. Please look around & if you are done with magazines that you got within the last few months, **bring them to church this Sunday Aug 1st** for Kelli. She is mailing the package(s) the first week of August. Magazines that have been read are fine, do not buy new magazines. Another item they requested is Forever stamps so they can mail back to their family.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, August 21, 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.

Brunch and Program on Purses

Elmwood Christian Church, Sat., August 7th
RSVP Brenda 402-994-2131 or 402-429-4319
brendalvogt@gmail.com

UMW CORNER

Elmwood UMW will not meet during the month of August. Plan to get together on September 13th.

Murdock UMW will meet at the church on Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 5:45 p.m.

Elmwood Farmers' Market

Bess Streeter Aldrich Park

Saturday Mornings 8:00 – Noon

Vegetables and Produce, Baked Goods
Gourmet Coffee and Artisan Teas
Homemade Artisan Soap, Candles
Crafters and local vendors

Greg and Joyce Vogt's 40th Year Anniversary Celebration

6:30 p.m. Saturday, August 21, 2021 at
Cass County Fairgrounds, 8420 144th St., Weeping Water, NE
Taco Bar, Keg Beer Provided, BYOB your favorites
PLEASE no gifts, just come and have fun



August Birthdays-Elmwood



Barbara Leefers – August 4
Cassie Vogt – August 5
Damicka Stephens – August 7
Curt Backemeyer – August 8
Saranne Vogt – August 11
Joshua Bornemeier – August 12
Gary Wheeler – August 13

Bill Fleischman – August 15
Alan Stubbendick – August 16
Delaney Frahm – August 18
Troy Callaway – August 19
Megan Hawks – August 21
Sherryl Vogt – August 21
Joyce Vogt – August 22

Payton Frahm – August 24
Meagann Schweitzer – August 27
Lori Kerns – August 27
Jack Deibert – August 29
Austin Meisinger – August 29
Drake Spohr – August 30



August Birthdays-Murdock



Carla Olson – August 1
Spencer Koehn – August 4
Nancy Luetchens – August 5
Tom Brewer – August 6
Chesney Murdoch – August 9
Lois Oliver – August 10
Christine Schmitt – August 11

Julie Synovec – August 12
Nora Meyer – August 13
Cody Bornemeier – August 14
Sherry Farmer – August 14
Jacquelyn Miller – August 16
Angie Friesell – August 17
Brandon Luetchens – August 18

Logan Hartman – August 20
Hailey Stock – August 22
Brooke Butler – August 24
Vivian Rase – August 27
Annie Miller – August 28
Julie Backemeyer – August 29
Deb Snyder – August 29

PASTOR'S PEN



Happy August!

We are in the home stretch of 2021. Can you believe it? I feel that 2021 just started two days ago and here we are at the beginning of fall. The excitement of a new school year that is just a few days away, the return of Friday night football games, volleyball games, drama and band. One more step that makes us all feel a little more normal. At the same time, we can't deny that it is different. That is the interesting thing of all. So often in life, our worlds change because of some action, whether it be on a global scale like a pandemic or a local/personal scale like a death of a loved one. We always want what we use to have, when times were "better". We have a great desire for "the good ole days" but if we really were honest with ourselves about the "ole days", were they really that much better than where we are?

Sure, the answer might be yes; some years are certainly better than others. Like wine we cherish some years over others. I like to think that I would live the year 2006 over again. I mean I was 22, about to graduate from college, and about to embark on this amazing new adventure of being a US-2 missionary in Atlanta. I mean I was moving to Atlanta! What is not to be excited about. And when I look back at that time in my life, I do remember the great things. I remember the excitement, the joy of meeting new friends, the month I spent in New York City for training and how much fun it was. But if I am really honest with my reflection, if I really think about what all happened that year, I remember the extreme homesickness, the house I moved into in Atlanta being infested with cockroaches, my parent's house being threatened by fire, living with 4 extremely messy boys that I believe even to this day that they didn't know what a dishwasher was. It certainly was not all sunshine and roses as I like to remember it. But that is what we do, right? Our minds work hard to forget that troublesome past so that we can reflect on it fondly.

Although it might be fun to look into the past and we might believe we want to go back to the way things were, we also know that it is not a possibility. The only way to go is forward. The only true answer is to take the knowledge we have gained in our past and apply it to our future. There is no going back, there is no return to an old normal, only a new normal. The Bible has a lot to say about moving forward. Isaiah 43:18-19 states *"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."* We cannot return to the past, just have hope for our future, maybe that it will look like the good parts of our past but also that it will be even better.

I am praying for our teachers, students, administrators as we go back to school this fall that it may be a productive and wonderful year full of learning, growth and community. But also that it is a year that springs forth with great hope.

Until Next Time,
Pastor Michelle

thank you!

Thank you to all who came, worked, donated to the July 15th Pie Ride in the Elmwood Park. We ended up with a very nice evening, great food, and a wonderful turnout of people. We had a great selection of pies, brownie sundaes, root beer floats and Rice Krispies bars, all available with ice cream. We had a good time participating in this community event. Thank you again for making July 15th a great event on a summer evening!

St. Paul UMC Cass County Food Bank

The St. Paul UMC Cass County Food Bank has been in the new location for six months already. Our new location is Old Village Town Hall Building at 113 West E Street, Elmwood.

St. Paul UMC has made it possible to operate out of this space, which has been wonderful. We utilize the complete building for the food bank. The space has made the job so much easier for storage and volunteers.

We continue to serve many (24-50) families per month from the Cass County area. Our families have been mostly older people but this summer there has been an increase of family sizes. With children out of school, we are sure that the food consumption has increased at their home.

We continue to give those attending an apple box and a grocery sack filled with items like this: a box of cereal, canned vegetables, canned fruit, soup, pasta, sauce, a toiletry/health beauty item, a type of paper product/cleaning product or both, fresh fruit, fresh vegetable, bread, eggs, at least two types of protein along with a variety of other items.

We have been able to do this mission with the help from the EM school, churches, community organizations and private individuals. We are very grateful for their support that allows us the opportunity to serve the Cass County area. Over the years we have seen many families come through our doors for many reasons. They have made it through their tough times, some moved away and others have joined our Lord. We remember how we helped them and how they have helped us.

We accept all types of donations as we seem to be able to find someone who appreciates and can use the donated items. A special "Thank You" to Mark and Sondra Buell as they donated fresh farm eggs monthly to the Food Bank. ***If you have clean eggs cartons that you need a place to recycle, Mark and Sondra can put them to good use as they donate their eggs to many organizations.***

With the support of St. Paul UMC, we are making a difference for those in Cass County. Thank you for helping make the job easier with a building to function out of. It is a dream come true!

Blessings,

Linda 402-994-3295 if you have any questions.

Sunday School Kick-Off

All Church Families, young and old, children or no children, are invited to attend our Sunday School Kick-Off Fun!

Date: Sunday, September 12th

Time: Right after Church Service

Place: Methodist Church Fellowship Hall and north grass area

Food and Fun will be provided for people of all ages!
Wear your comfortable Church clothes that day!
Bring your lawn chair.



Hello United Methodist Church Members!

We would like to start by saying THANK YOU for your support last year with the helping to provide students with free books. That was a highlight for many!!! Each month we receive the Scholastic Book Club fliers to send home for students to share with their families and purchase books if they would like. Some families cannot afford to purchase books to have at home, especially at various times of the year where holidays and new school supplies spread us all thin. Year after year, our hearts smile at their excitement to take a book home and share with their family. Reading is important each year, and we want to continue to spread the love of reading with our students. Here is our idea:

Like last year, we would LOVE for each student to receive one free book each month of the school year at no cost to his/her family? Scholastic Book Club has books ranging from \$2.00 to \$15.00. We would LOVE for each of our students to be able to bring home one new book each month during the school year from September to May. Children look forward to taking something positive home that they can call their own!

Would you be interested in sponsoring a child in our class? You could sponsor a child by mailing a donation of \$20.00, or whatever amount you would like, to the church so that a new book can be ordered to take home each month! The church will then send each of us a check so we can then send in all the money to Scholastic and our Scholastic account would have a credit that we could use to order from each month. We would need at least 45 church members to volunteer! Remember, you can send your check to the church and write in the memo that your donation is to be used for ordering books for children!

We are very grateful for all the support the church provides to the community. New books are always so fun and it's a great way to build a lifelong love of reading! Thank you for helping to spread the word of God each day. Let us know if you have any questions!

Blessings to Everyone,
Carae Oehlerking
2nd Grade
Elmwood-Murdock

Cathy Stewart
3rd Grade
Elliott Elementary

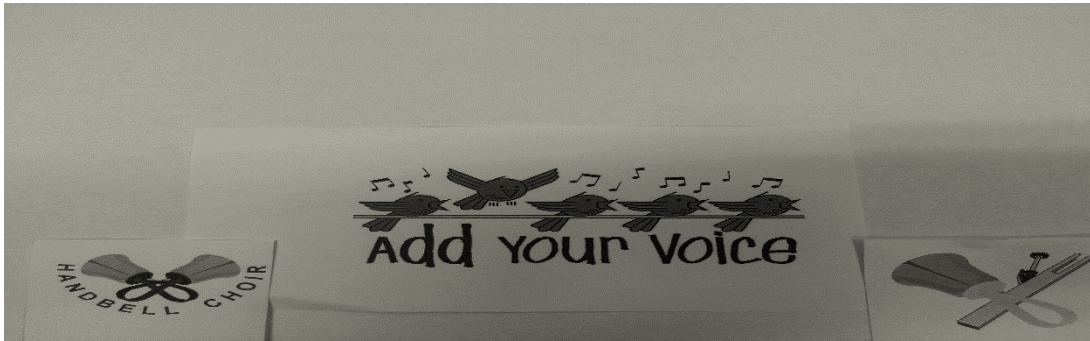


TO THE JOY SINGERS AND HANDBELLS

What a privilege it is for me to serve as your director. I thank God for everyone of you. Please be aware of how much I appreciate the love and support that I feel from each of you. Our purpose is an awesome one: to usher in the presence of God every time we stand in the sanctuary and sing or ring.

I am ready for this year of music to start. It can be our best one yet. Use what talents you possess. The woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best. Remember that practice does not make perfect; practice makes better. I pledge to you to do better and I will see the bells on September 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. and the choir at 7:30 p.m.

Laurel McReynolds



JOIN THE CHOIRS

POSITIONS OPEN: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass—no others need apply

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: Must be able to carry light, musical notes, part way across the church. Must have sufficient vision to see the director twenty feet away. Don't worry, not many in the choir have attained this requirement.

EXPERIENCE: No application accepted from persons who have not sung, hummed, or whistled in the tub or shower.

WAGES: Satisfaction and joy in God's service

FRINGE BENEFITS: Social Security—we promise you the security of social fellowship with other members of the choir

HOURS: One hour on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings, first and third, with occasional opportunities for overtime (at above mentioned wages).

VACATION: Missed rehearsals and church services are primarily a matter of conscience.

RETIREMENT: No particular age, but is generally determined by printed notes getting too small, notes too high, church too hot (or cold).

REHEARSALS: One hour a week on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. starting the first Wednesday after Labor Day and ending sometime in April.

APPLY: By attending the next rehearsal on September 8, 2021

Excuses that won't work

I can't sing: Not true, there is a very tiny percentage of people who literally cannot sing. I am not talking about being an operatic soloist.

I can't read music: That is not essential. That is what rehearsals are for.

I don't know the songs: The pleasure of singing in a group is that you can hide a bit until you are confident in singing. Just enjoy the process.

I can't join now: No worry, you can hop on board anytime!

We need handbell ringers also. Same requirements and same excuses that won't work. We practice Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service - E	2	3	4 5:45pm UMW - M	5	6	7 9:30am Brunch and Program – Elmwood Christian Church
8 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service - E	9	10 7:00pm Church Council – M	11	12	13	14
15 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service - E	16	17 7:00pm Church Council - E	18	19 First Day of Public School	20	21 9-11:00am Food Pantry Distribution 6:30pm 40 th Anniversary Open House
22 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service - E	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service – E 11:30am Potluck - E	30	31				

St. Paul United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 130
400 West "G" Street
Elmwood, NE 68349-0130

Address Service Requested

The Pie Ride
A Little Slice of Heaven!

Pie  **Brownie Sundaes**
Ice Cream **Root Beer Floats**

More than Pie! Brownie Sundaes & Root Beer Floats!
Bess Streeter Aldrich Park
Thurs - 8-5-21 - 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Variety of Homemade Pies

Slice of Pie - \$3 
A la mode (Ice Cream) - \$1 
Water - \$1
Brownie Sundae - \$3 
Root Beer Float - \$2 

Grab & Go Available!

Proceeds to benefit the Elmwood Community Center