

The Messenger

DECEMBER 2022



St. Paul United Methodist Church
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Pastor Michelle Chesnut
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Ebenezer United Methodist Church
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SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2022
5:00 P.M. AT EBENEZER UMC, MURDOCK
6:30 P.M. AT ST. PAUL UMC, ELMWOOD



December Mission Project

The mission project for December will be to provide holiday gift bags for the elderly and shut-ins in our community and affiliated with our churches. Now, we are asking church members to recommend recipients for these holiday gift bags. If you know of someone who would appreciate a holiday gift bag, please share their name with Pastor Michelle or send it to kareykoehn@gmail.com. Once we have a list of recipients and know how many gift bags we will be preparing, then we will begin collecting these items:

Warm Throw Blankets

Large Print Puzzle Books

Adult Coloring Books

Colored Pencils

Sugar Free Candy

Fuzzy Socks

Thank you for your assistance in making the holidays a little nicer for some very important people!



UMYF NEWS

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



Our normal Wednesday night Bible Study will be at Murdock on December 21st at 5:30 p.m. Our monthly fun event will be Sunday, December 4th at 3:00 p.m. We will meet at St. Paul to decorate Christmas cookies. Come join in the fun.

Confirmation is now being offered the second week of each month at two different times: 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 11th at Elmwood and/or 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14th at Murdock.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, December 17, 2022, 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.

There will be a special Christmas dinner on Tuesday, December 20th so please make your reservations early.

Living Nativity at 3B Homestead

Will continue during the weekends of December
(See page 5 for more details)

Special Soup Supper at E/M School

Cross-Country Team serving soup and sandwiches
On December 5th and 6th from 4:30-7:00 p.m.
During the JH basketball games.

UWIF CORNER

The Elmwood UWIF will meet on Monday, December 5th at 12:30 p.m. at Laurel McReynolds' for our annual Christmas potluck luncheon.

Murdock UWIF will have their annual Christmas luncheon and program on Saturday, December 3, 2022 at noon.

The Elmwood UWIF collects the Best Choice labels and submits them for a small refund. We would appreciate receiving any of these labels that you might have. They can be found on certain food items at Russ's Market and Super Saver grocery stores. You can give the labels to any UWIF member or there is a box on the bookcase in the entry way of the church. Thank you for the donations.

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!!

Christmas celebrates God's gift of Jesus to us all.



December Birthdays-Elmwood



Clayton Miller – December 2
Karen Howard – December 2
John Stephens – December 3
Carolyn Oehlerking – Dec. 5
Patricia Brennan – Dec. 6
Gerry Wilhelm – December 6
Donna Amberly – December 8

Nicholas Brewer – December 8
Jessie Lansink – December 10
Dalton Wheeler – December 10
Rex Clements – December 15
Scott Rorie – December 17
Debra Lenz – December 18
Wayne Stubbendeck – Dec. 19

Harvey Bornemeier – Dec. 19
Dana Kollars – December 23
James Stubbendick – Dec. 24
Gary Bornemeier – December 26
Angelo Leone – December 28
Conner Clements – December 28
Thomas Lenz – December 30
Joel Clements – December 31



December Birthdays-Murdock



Emily Zakaras – December 1
Ella Zierott – December 3
Emerson Chesnut – December 5
Jane Leadabrand – December 6
Asha Murdoch – December 15
Thad Bornemeier – December 16

Ramona Oehlerking – Dec. 21
Haddie Zierott – December 22
Jeff Backemeyer – December 24
Harvey Mills – December 24
Cindy Mills – December 25
Tim Schmitt – December 26

Steve Cawley – December 27
Whitney Koehn – December 27
Tara Bornemeier – December 28
Melissa Meyer – December 28
Cheryl Patterson – December 29

PASTOR'S PEN



When I was pregnant with Emerson there was so much excitement. We had been trying to have children for years and finally here we were. He was also due December 21st so the idea of a Christmas baby was also fun and exciting. There was great anticipation as there is with each baby that is born. Questions about what he was going to be like, how big, what he would look like and if he would be a cranky baby or a quiet one. But there were also questions about what kind of parents we would be. Strict, lenient, happy or stressed, organized or a hot mess...let me answer that one for you, the answer is hot mess. ;-) There were also questions about how we were going to set up the nursery, what room to use, what theme to pick, what kind of crib,...let's not even get started on the whole naming thing. The point is there were months of planning, setting up, decisions, questions and anticipation of what was to come. Not really fully understanding how our lives would change irreversibly forever! I mean sure we understood, there was great responsibility in having a child and we had heard many people talk about how having a baby changes your life. But we never really fully understood what that meant until he was finally here.

I often wonder what went through Mary's mind as she was preparing for the birth of Jesus. I mean she was a young woman, preparing to marry Joseph and live a simple life as a carpenter's wife and suddenly she has a new label, mother of Jesus. I wonder if she knew what she was getting into just being a mother. I wonder if she knew what would happen once she gave birth. I wonder if she ever questioned her abilities as I did and still do on a daily basis. The Bible tells us that Mary accepts this challenge of motherhood with amazing strength and faith that God knew what He was doing. He obviously did know what He was doing. Luke chapter 1 shows us this interaction with the angel that came to Mary. "Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her."

And maybe the middle part, the many months of pregnancy are not that important to the story. Just as when I was pregnant with my boys, although I loved being pregnant, that was not the end goal, the end goal was to have a beautiful and healthy baby. But when the story of Jesus' birth goes from the pregnancy notice to the birth and not the agonizing months in between, we miss the story of the anticipation of what was to come. I think we miss a bit of the excitement that a new baby brings; we miss the time of preparation.

The weeks of Advent are built in time for us. It is an invitation to prepare, to anticipate, to get excited for this new baby to arrive. We are to use this time the best way we know how, preparing a place in our hearts and our lives for a baby that is going to change everything. And so, as we approach the time where the stockings are hung by the chimney with care, it is important to remember what it is really all about. The birth of a baby, a new beginning, a whole new way of life. One that we have been charged to prepare for but know what once it arrives our lives will never be the same.

I wish you all a safe, healthy and happy Christmas.

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



FOOD BANK COOKIE TRAY TRADITION

We have been providing cookie trays for our Food Bank Families for many years and they will be distributed to the participants again this year on Saturday, December 17, 2022.

We have a blast putting them together, but this only happens with your help.

If anyone would like to bake some homemade cookies or make some candy, your donation would be greatly appreciated.

Those goodies can be dropped off at the Food Bank on
Friday Dec. 16th, between the hours of 4:30pm - 6pm.
Saturday Dec. 17th, (early hours this time) 7:30am - 8:15am
Other arrangements can be made by contacting Linda Blunt.

Thank you for helping to make the Christmas season shine with kindness.

Thank You!

The Elmwood Christian Church wants to send a thank you for all the goodies the St Paul UMC ladies brought to the Holiday Extravaganza Candy Cane Lane. We cleared \$620 for Operation Santa!

Thank you, Kris Shrader

SERVING AT ELMWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL

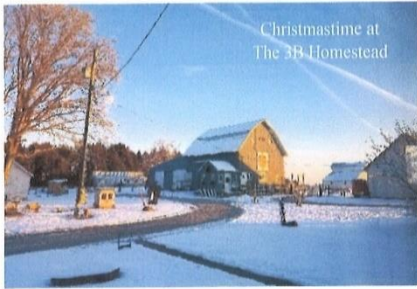
E-M Cross Country Team serving from 4:30pm – 7:00pm
Soups (Chili, Chicken Noodle) Pulled Pork Sandwich
Cinnamon Rolls and Desserts
On two dates in December

Monday December 5, 2022 Jr High Boy's BB VS Palmyra Game
Tuesday December 6, 2022 Jr High Boy's BB VS Lincoln Christian Game

Proceeds to fund needed Cross Country equipment



The Living Nativity 2022



Looking for a fun, inspirational and family-friendly tradition for you, your family, and your friends at Christmastime? You're invited to
The 3B Homestead
for the 7th annual event of
The Living Nativity

The Living Nativity is not a nativity "scene", but a unique and untraditional presentation of the words from Luke 2. Real stable animals: donkeys, Jacob sheep, goats, cattle, rabbits, poultry, a horse, and more help tell the real meaning of Christmas.

An *in-the-barn* experience is held every weekend between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Guests walk through the barn and experience the animals close up as they hear The Story.

November 26, 27 December 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18 ... 2:00 to 5:00 pm.

A *drive-through-the-homestead* experience is held on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Guests stay in their car and listen to a podcast while they drive through the homestead to view the animals.

December 24, 25 ... 2:00 to 5:00 pm.

Arrangements for *weekday private tours* for homeschools, preschools, assisted living facilities, and other groups can be made by contacting Mark and Sondra Buell. Contact information is below.

Plan about one hour for the event. While you are there, enjoy cocoa, music and the Stable Store where you'll find t-shirts, cookies, books and gifts.

The Living Nativity is held in rural Murdock, NE in a grand 1888 barn located on Highway 1 between Murdock and Elmwood at 7603 298th Street. It is a 35 to 40 minute drive from both Lincoln and Omaha. It is a free community outreach of the 3B Homestead, LLC. Donations are accepted to help defray expenses.

Mark and Sondra Buell

The 3B Homestead LLC | 7603 298th Street, Murdock, NE 68407

Located on Highway 1 between Murdock and Elmwood, Nebraska

website: www.3BHomestead.com | e-mail: 3BHomestead@gmail.com | cell phone: 402-867-1802

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





Sunday, December 25, 2022

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 12:00pm UWIF Luncheon -M
4 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E 3:00pm UMYF - E	5 12:30pm UWIF - E	6	7 7:00pm Choir Practice - E	8 6:45pm Bell Practice - E	9	10
11 9:00am Worship Service – M Children's Program 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E 12:00pm Confirmation - E	12 7:00pm Church Council - M	13	14 5:30pm Confirmation – M 7:00pm Choir Practice - E	15 6:45pm Bell Practice - E	16	17 9-11am Food Pantry Distribution
18 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E Children's Program	19 7:00pm Church Council - E	20	21 5:30pm Youth Bible Study – M 7:00pm Choir Practice - E	22 6:45pm Bell Practice - E	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 5:00pm at Murdock 6:30pm at Elmwood
25 <i>Christmas</i> 9:00am Worship Service – M No Sunday School 10:35am Worship Service - E	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

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Address Service Requested



Sunday, January 1, 2023