

# The Messenger

## FEBRUARY 2023



St. Paul United Methodist Church  
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Ebenezer United Methodist Church  
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## FEBRUARY AND MARCH MISSION PROJECT

Ten years ago, Leah Pauli Bochnicek was diagnosed with lung cancer. Her family started a foundation to support lung cancer research at the Buffett Cancer Center in Omaha. From Murdock, Leah raises funds for a local solution to a life-threatening problem.

Please financially support the Lungs4Life Foundation in their efforts during February and March.

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### UPDATE ON THE JANUARY MISSION PROJECT Children's Justice Clinic Book Drive

- Our communities collected 691 children's books.
- Dakota Glasshoff delivered the books and presented her community service project at FCCLA districts - earning a silver medal and qualifying for state competition

The Children's Justice Clinic was grateful - *they are now representing 150 abused and neglected children across the state*

**Thank you for your support of this important mission project!**



### 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 February 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Our monthly fun event will be Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

We will meet at St. Paul and have a Pre-Super Bowl Party and Minute-to-Win-It games.

Please bring a snack to share and 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, February 12<sup>th</sup> at Elmwood and/or 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at Murdock.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, February 18, 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 starting Sunday, February 19, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. They request that reservations be made by the Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Cost: \$8 Adults, Ages 10-3 \$5, Ages 2 & under free

### Unadilla UMC – Groundhog Lunch

Saturday, February 4, 2023  
Serving lunch 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Sandwiches, Soup, Desserts, Drinks  
Free Will Offering

## UWIF CORNER

The Elmwood UWIF will meet on Monday, February 6, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at Shirley Bornemeier's house. Joyce Backemeyer will have the lesson on Call to Prayer and Self-Denial with a special offering.

Murdock UWIF will have their next meeting on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. for their usual meal and meeting at the church.

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.



### February Birthdays-Elmwood



Cathy Stewart – February 2  
Anna Struble – February 5  
Kaye Gakemeier – February 6  
Hayden Ernst – February 6  
Kevin Huxhold – February 13  
Greg Vogt – February 13

Dorothy Pointer – February 14  
David Ernst – February 14  
Serena Romero – February 16  
Tifanie Vogt – February 16  
Margie Nielsen – February 18  
Dale Kunz – February 23

Jennifer Brettmann – February 23  
Laurie Jones – February 23  
Lisa Wenzel – February 26  
Leanne Rorie – February 26  
Robert Fleischman – February 28  
Joyce Backemeyer – February 28  
Vera Vogt – February 28



### February Birthdays-Murdock



Debby Sampson – February 6  
Marvin Oehlerking – February 8  
Jean Thiel – February 8  
Kevin Olson – February 10

Steve Henk – February 15  
Anita Zierott – February 15  
Helen Luetchens – February 18

## PASTOR'S PEN



February is often thought of as the month of love. Valentine's Day is right in the middle of the month and so the whole month is surrounded by the need to find a person to show a massive outward sign of your love.

When I was in grade school of course the excitement of Valentine's Day was really just around getting candy, as it so often is as kids. As I got older and shed the excitement of classroom parties and getting little premade paper cards, I had decided that there was really no point to Valentine's Day. Looking back, my hate and angst against the day had much to do with my lack of a boyfriend. -)

Even now though I think of Valentine's Day as a little silly. I fall into the "if you really love someone, why are you waiting for a specific day to share the love" camp; but at the same time you sometimes need special occasions to remind the person that you love them or show them in a new way.

Love is an interesting word, and one that fails us as English speakers. There are so many types of love. There is the love I feel for chocolate; there is the love I feel for my friends; there is the love I feel for my kids, my family, my husband, my community, for God. They are all different kinds of love and yet we only get one word that is supposed to encompass it all. The Greek language has 7 different words for love. They knew that one word was not enough because there are so many varieties of love. Yet so often, especially in February the focus is on just one type of love, the romantic type.

The Bible talks about love more than any other thing. But it is not just one type of love. There is reference to what it means to love God, to love your neighbor, to love your family, to love your community and your friends. When Jesus says love your neighbor, he is not talking about a romantic love...most likely anyway. He is talking about a love that is caring, watchful and kind. What if instead of buying the giant bouquet of flowers for one person, we focused on loving our neighbors, on loving ourselves? Maybe this is a time where the schools have it right. When the kids take Valentine's to school, they take one for each child in their classrooms. Not necessarily because they all are the best of friends, it is an inclusion thing but what if we take the time to talk to our kids about how we can use this opportunity to show love to our neighbor? And if you don't have kids, how can you show love to those around you? What if we loved our neighbor this month, as a way to celebrate Valentine's Day?

This month we continue to talk about the ways Jesus showed those around him who he was, what epiphanies were present and how we continue to see them today. Matthew 5:8 says "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." May you be pure of heart this month. Remembering to love your neighbor as God has loved you.

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





**THE ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON FEBRUARY 22, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. THIS WILL BE A JOINT SERVICE WITH EBENEZER, ST. PAUL AND ELMWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH.**

**A Lenten Study will be offered again this year, beginning Monday, February 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Ebenezer UMC. If you would like to attend, please inform Pastor Michelle so books can be ordered.**



**OUTREACH WAYS THAT WILL BRING CHEER TO OTHERS**

1. Make a quilt for homeless shelter
2. Just a phone call to a friend
3. Take some groceries to a family in need
4. Take an elderly neighbor to visit a relative in a nursing home.
5. Have a widow come over for a meal
6. Take a friend into the hospital for a medical treatment
7. Bake some cookies for friends and/or neighbors
8. Donate needed items to homeless shelter
9. Clean out clothes and donate items to Goodwill
10. Prepare a meal for a busy mother
11. Offer to babysit for a friend one afternoon
12. Send an encouragement/appreciative card to someone
13. Go for a walk with a friend
14. Send an anonymous gift to someone
15. Offer to do some shopping for someone who cannot get out

# February 2023

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue                          | Wed   | Thu   | Fri | Sat   |
|--|---|------------------------------|---|---|-----|---|
|  |   |                              | 1<br>5:30pm UWIF – M<br>7:00pm Choir Practice   | 2<br><i>Groundhog Day</i><br>6:45pm Bell Practice | 3   | 4<br>11am-1pm Groundhog Lunch at Unadilla UMC |
| 5<br>9:00am Worship Service – M<br>9:30am Sunday School – E<br>10:35am Worship Service – E<br>3:00pm UMYF - E  | 6<br>1:30pm UWIF - E                                      | 7                            | 8<br>5:30pm Confirmation – M<br>7:00pm Choir Practice                                 | 9<br>6:45pm Bell Practice                         | 10  | 11  |
| 12<br><i>Lincoln's Birthday</i><br>9:00am Worship Service – M<br>9:30am Sunday School – E<br>10:35am Worship Service – E<br>12:00pm Confirmation - E | 13<br>7:00pm Church Council - M                           | 14<br><i>Valentine's Day</i> | 15<br>1:30pm Sew 'N Sews – M<br>5:30pm Youth Bible Study - M<br>7:00pm Choir Practice | 16<br>6:45pm Bell Practice                        | 17  | 18<br>9-11am Food Pantry Distribution         |
| 19<br>9:00am Worship Service – M<br>9:30am Sunday School – E<br>10:35am Worship Service - E  | 20<br><i>President's Day</i><br>7:00pm Church Council - E | 21                           | 22<br><i>Washington's Birthday</i><br>7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service - M        | 23<br>6:45pm Bell Practice                        | 24  | 25  |
| 26<br>9:00am Worship Service – M<br>9:30am Sunday School – E<br>10:35am Worship Service - E  | 27<br>6:30pm Lenten Study - M                             | 28                           | 1<br>7:00pm Choir Practice  | 2<br>6:45pm Bell Practice                         | 3   | 4   |

St. Paul United Methodist Church  
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Address Service Requested

♥ happy ♥  
*Valentine's*  
♥ day ♥

Tuesday, February 14, 2023