

The Messenger

February 2024



St. Paul United Methodist Church
 P.O. Box 130
 400 West G St.
 Elmwood, NE 68349-0130
 Phone: 402-994-6735
 Email: stpauelmwood@gmail.com

Pastor Michelle Chesnut
 Cell phone: 402-314-7988
 Email: mchesnut@greatplainsumc.org
 Website: elmwoodmurdockumc.com

Ebenezer United Methodist Church
 P. O. Box 307
 220 Kansas Street
 Murdock, NE 68407
 Phone: 402-867-3191
 Email: murdockumc1@gmail.com

A YEAR OF SUCCESSFUL MISSION PROJECTS

Elmwood and Murdock members made a major impact in our communities and beyond through their generous support of mission projects throughout the past year. Here's a quick look at the dollars and donations raised in 2023. Thank you for your incredible support of these life-changing projects. If you have ideas for mission projects for this year, please contact kareykoehn@gmail.com.

Mission Project	Elmwood Funds	Murdock Funds	Total Funds
Lungs4Life Foundation	\$80	\$885	\$965
Bridges of Hope, Pine Ridge Reservation	\$135	\$425	\$560
Elmwood Murdock Soccer League	\$75	\$100	\$175
Elmwood Murdock School supplies <i>hundreds of items + cash donations</i>		\$61	\$61
elementary school keyboard donation	\$50	\$150	\$200
Scholastic Book donations	\$645	\$185	\$830
Tanzania mission school	\$200	\$350	\$550
Gift bags for seniors/shut ins	10 bags	12 bags	
			\$3,341

ONGOING MISSION PROJECT – COLLECTING PLASTIC FILM FOR PARK BENCHES

As part of an ongoing mission project, the Elmwood and Murdock churches will be supporting the Elmwood Murdock FBLA and FCCLA groups in collecting 1,000 pounds of plastic film. If the groups collect their goal, they will earn two recycled plastic benches for the Elmwood Park.

Plastic film will be collected at both churches until March 15. Please collect and bring these plastic film types to help earn park benches:

- plastic grocery shopping bags
 - bubble wrap and ice bags
- plastic shipping envelopes (Amazon)
- bread bags and newspaper sleeves
- cereal bags and Ziploc bags

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, February 17, 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 is happening again this month on Sunday, February 18, 2024 from 10:00am-12:30pm. Please make reservations by Friday, Feb. 16th.

Poetry in Motion Exhibit

Ribbon Cutting at Aldrich House

Featuring NE State Poet, Matt Mason on
February 2, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

FCCLA Blood Drive

Tuesday, February 27, 2024, Noon to 6 p.m.

Elmwood Fire Hall

Schedule your appointment time at 800-733-2767 or
www.redcrossblood.org

After donation, stay to enjoy a bowl of soup
and a dessert.

Cass County Transit

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

UWF CORNER

The Elmwood UWF will meet on Monday,
February 5, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. at Shirley
Bornemeier's home. Joyce Backemeyer will
have the lesson for that day.

Murdock UWF will meet on Wednesday,
February 7, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the church
and will be sharing a meal and program.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 7:00 P.M.
AT ST. PAUL, ELMWOOD

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



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



Deb Sampson – February 6
Jean Thiel – February 8
Kevin Olson – February 10

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

PASTOR'S PEN



Hello!

Let me start by giving my sincerest appreciation for your willingness to contribute to the church. In the last year we have helped support local and national charities; we have fed people that are hungry. We have provided backpacks and school supplies to those that were in need, and we have given out care packages to our elderly and shut-ins in our community. Beyond that we have been able to provide Sunday School to more than 20 kids and youth group Bible study to more than 15 youth.

Everything we are able to do is because we have a caring and generous community of givers like yourself. Your contributions help keep the lights on, update our technology to provide worship for those that can't be in person and ensure there is a place in our community for those who are looking to learn more about God.

Giving to the church has traditionally been seen as a spiritual practice and I encourage you this year to continue to be prayerful in your giving. In scripture the first tenth of the crops or earnings of an individual is to go to God. Not the last but the first, for a few reasons. It is first because it was to be given as a thanksgiving for all that God has provided. The first tenth was seen as the best, the highest quality. Secondly, giving of the first should be considered a priority. Our relationship with God is to be seen as a priority and so in giving of our gifts, graces and financial support, we are expressing our desire for a closer relationship with God. Proverbs chapter 3 says: "Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." Giving is a way of honoring God and to give thanks for the blessings in which this community continues to bring to you and others.

The church leadership takes your gifts to heart and we try very hard to honor your donation to use it to do the most with each gift. We encourage you to continue to be of a giving heart as we go into 2024 and beyond. Your generosity helps us pay the electric bill, insurance and expenses of the church building but also to be a beacon to the community as a place for them to come when they are in need.

I look forward to seeing what God has in store for us in this year and beyond. Your prayerful gifts help make all this possible. Together we can keep moving forward and providing a safe, inviting place for all to experience the love, grace and mercy of God

Sincerely,
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



FEBRUARY MISSION PROJECT

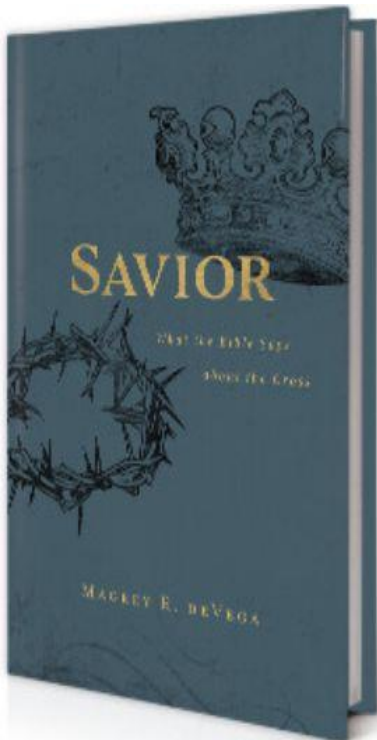
SENSORY-FRIENDLY VALENTINE'S DANCE



For our February Mission Project, the Elmwood and Murdock churches have the opportunity to support the O.N.E. Coalition Sensory Friendly Valentine's Dance. This dance is held each year for teens and adults with disabilities. It gives them the chance to practice social skills in an inclusive, sensory-friendly environment. Local and county residents will attend the dance. The dance is also supported by the Down Syndrome Association for Families, managed by Angie Willey of Elmwood. Members may make cash donations to support this annual event. In addition, members may consider volunteering as a chaperone or to serve snacks on Feb. 9 from 6-8 p.m. at St. Mark's Church in Lincoln. Contact Angie Willey or kareykoehn@gmail.com to volunteer.



LENTEN STUDY



As the season of Lent descends upon us, we will once again be offering a Lenten Study. This year we are going to follow the study "Savior: What the Bible Says about the Cross." I am excited to embark on this study and hope that you will join us. We will be meeting on Mondays starting February 19th at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul in Elmwood. Everyone is invited to join us. Please contact Carol at the St. Paul church office or Pastor Michelle to let them know that you want to join us. We look forward to having you join us for this Lenten Study.

Pastor Michelle

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3
4 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service – E 3:00pm UMYF - E	5 1:30pm UWF - E	6	7 5:30pm UWF – M 7:30pm Choir Practice	8	9	10
11 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service – E	12 <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i> 7:00pm Church Council - M	13	14 Valentine's Day 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service - E	15	16	17 9-11:00am Food Pantry Distributi on
18 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service – E	19 <i>President's Day</i> 6:30pm Lenten Study – E 7:30pm Church Council - E	20	21 1:30pm Sew 'N Sews – M 5:30pm Youth Bible Study – M 6:30pm Bell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	22 <i>Washington's Birthday</i>	23	24
25 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service – E	26 6:30pm Lenten Study - E	27	28 6:30pm Bell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	29		

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

Address Service Requested

Happy
Valentine's
Day

Wednesday, February 14, 2024