

# The Messenger

## JANUARY 2020



# January

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

Pastor Michelle Chesnut  
Cell phone: 402-314-7988  
Email: [mchesnut@greatplainsumc.org](mailto:mchesnut@greatplainsumc.org)  
Website: [elmwoodmurdockumc.com](http://elmwoodmurdockumc.com)

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

### WORSHIP HELPERS FOR JANUARY

#### ELMWOOD

##### January 5

Greeters: Keith and Max Wynegar  
Ushers: John Oehlerking Family  
Scripture Reader: John Oehlerking  
Communion Servers: Linda Blunt

##### January 12

Ushers: Dave and Drake Spohr  
Scripture Reader: Lori Spohr

##### January 19

Greeters: Tyson and Cassie Vogt  
Acolytes: Madden Vogt, Tegan Stephens

##### January 26

Greeters: BJ and Kristy Burrows

### UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### Shop at Bits and Pieces

Sunday, January 12, 2020, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

#### Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, January 18, 2020, 9:00-11:00 a.m.  
Elmwood Community Center

#### Pancake Feed at Elmwood Community Center

Saturday, January 25, 2020  
7:30 a.m. to Noon  
Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage,  
Biscuits and gravy  
Free Will Offering

## UMYF NEWS

(UMYF is for all 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders.)



Meet at St. Paul UMC for Make Your Own Pizza  
and Play Bunko  
Sunday, January 19, 2020, 3-6:00 p.m.

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Murdock's Church Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

The Elmwood's Church Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.



### Three Wise Women . . .

Would have asked directions

Arrived on time

Helped deliver the baby

Brought practical gifts

Cleaned the stable

Made a casserole

## UMW CORNER

### Next Meeting - Elmwood

Monday, January 13, 2020—Visitations

*Meet at St. Paul's parking lot at 9:00 a.m. and will go to various places to visit some of our church family. Then we will have lunch somewhere TBD.*

### Next Meeting - Murdock

*Because New Year's Day is on the first Wednesday of the month, UMW will meet on the second Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 p.m. for our regular meeting.*



### January Birthdays-Elmwood



Roberta Bornemeier – January 1  
Payton Vogt – January 3  
Jacob Fleischman – January 5  
Joe Bornemeier – January 6  
Lynn Minch – January 10

Rick Brummer – January 11  
Ken Kunz – January 12  
Tasha Cox – January 13  
Dwight Clements – January 19  
Izzie Schweitzer – January 21

Amanda Barrett – January 23  
Arlo Fleischman – January 24  
Tanner Bornemeier – January 25  
Keith Wynegar – January 30  
Tracy Spaulding – January 30



### January Birthdays-Murdock



Hallie Mills – January 3  
Dan Murdoch – January 3  
Bette Backemeyer – January 4  
Rosalyn Vanderford – January 4  
Bill Farmer – January 6  
Steve Olson – January 11

Lucy Backemeyer – January 14  
Alysia Harvey – January 14  
Kim Cawley – January 21  
Karey Koehn – January 21  
Nick Chesnut – January 23

Wanda Neben – January 24  
Kelli Brewer – January 26  
Arlan Neben – January 26  
Marty Zierott – January 28  
Linda Lawrence – January 29

# PASTOR'S PEN



Happy New Year!

The new year is here. It is always a time where people think now is the time to start new things, to lose those extra 20 lbs., to make better choices, to actually stick with going to the gym. People set resolutions every year and every year the resolutions that were set, fall to the wayside. They say to actually make change you should not set a huge expectation like “I will go to the gym every day” but rather a series of small goals, like “In January I will go to the gym three times.” Experts say that when we set goals like “going the gym everyday”, the goal is often such a large shift from where we currently are that it is almost impossible to reach.

I think that this happens to Christians in our spiritual life as well. We are challenged to love everyone, enemies and all. That is an almost impossible goal. But what if we set a goal to just love one person that we didn't love before? What if we set a goal to meet one new person this year? These are goals that are more feasible. This month we are doing a sermon series called 20/20 Vision. It is of course a play on it being the year 2020, as it should. When you have 20/20 vision you see perfectly. So how do we gain 20/20 spiritual vision? That is what we are looking at this month. We will explore the importance of the new year/new beginnings, our families, our spirit and our Sabbath practices.

I read a devotional the other day from the Upper Room, that talked about us being a blank canvas every day. That our actions paint our canvas every day; that when we follow the path that God has for us, that our canvases are bright and colorful and when we are not following God's path our canvases are dark and gray. Every day we have the choice on how we want to color our canvas because God is giving us a blank canvas every day. 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 says “Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. Truth: God continually makes us new. Every moment of every day brings a fresh beginning.” We get to restart every day not just once a year. Every day is a new set of choices, every day we get to set out our visions for the day. I am excited to set the 20/20 vision for the church with you all. For through God there will never be a time where we will see clearer.

Blessings,  
Pastor Michelle Chesnut

*A Pattern for the New Year By Helen Steiner Rice*

*“Love one another as I have loved you”*

*May seem impossible to do but if you will try to trust and believe,*

*Great are the joys that you will receive.*

*For love makes us patient, understanding, and kind,  
And we judge with our heart and not with our mind.*

*For as soon as love enters the heart's opened door,  
The faults we once saw are not there anymore,*

*And the things that seemed wrong begin to look right  
when viewed in the softness of love's gentle light.*

*For love works in ways that are wondrous and strange  
And there is nothing in life that love cannot change,*

*And all that God promised will someday come true  
When you love one another the way He loved you.*

**SUGGESTED NEW YEAR'S  
RESOLUTIONS FOR 2020**

- Carve out me time.
- Make new friends
- Create a budget
- Declutter your home and work
- Manage stress with meditation and or exercise
- Catch up with family
- Nurture true friendships
- Give back to charity organizations and non-profits
- Travel to a destination you have always wanted to go
- Prioritize health
- Seek culture with museums and galleries
- Spread kindness
- Drank more water
- Give up a bad habit
- Practice optimism
- Be thankful
- Spend more quiet time with the Lord

*Thank  
you*

A special **Thank You** to everyone who provided cookies/candies for the December Food Bank cookie containers. The containers were lovely and well received.

**Thank you** to the many volunteers for helping with the St. Paul United Methodist Church Food Bank Distribution mission in 2019. We couldn't do it without you!

Blessings,  
Linda Blunt

*I want to sincerely say thank you for the gift from the church. Beyond thankful and my heart is overwhelmingly at peace. Thank you for giving me some maternity leave to be with my family to heal and enjoy the holidays.*

*God Bless, Montana Bean*

The Board Members of the Elmwood Community Center want to thank the St. Paul UMC for your generous donation to the Center from the Christmas Eve service's offering. We really appreciate your support!

**REMINDER:** The church monthly newsletter is being sent out via regular mail or email addresses. If you have not been receiving the newsletter and would like to start receiving it, please contact the church office and indicate the method you prefer.

# January 2020

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri | Sat  |
|---|---|--|---|---|-----|--|
|   |   |  | 1<br>New Year's Day   | 2   | 3   | 4  |
| 5<br>9:00am<br>Worship<br>Service-M<br>9:30am<br>Sunday<br>School-E<br>10:35am<br>Worship<br>Service-E                              | 6   | 7<br>1-5:00pm<br>Church<br>Office<br>Hours-E   | 8<br>9:00am-<br>3:00 pm<br>Church Office<br>Hours-M<br>5:45pm UMW-<br>M<br>6:15pm Bell<br>Practice<br>7:30pm Choir<br>Practice          | 9<br>1-5:00pm<br>Church<br>Office<br>Hours-E  | 10  | 11   |
| 12<br>9:00am<br>Worship<br>Service-M<br>9:30am<br>Sunday<br>School-E<br>10:35am<br>Worship<br>Service-E<br>1:00pm<br>Confirmation-E | 13<br>9:00am<br>UMW-E<br><br>6:30pm Cub<br>Scouts | 14<br>1-5:00pm<br>Church<br>Office<br>Hours-E<br><br>7:00pm<br>Church<br>Council -M  | 15<br>9:00am-<br>3:00 pm<br>Church Office<br>Hours-M<br>1:30pm Sew 'N<br>Sews-M<br>6:15pm Bell<br>Practice<br>7:30pm Choir<br>Practice  | 16<br>1-5:00pm<br>Church<br>Office<br>Hours-E | 17  | 18<br>9-11:00am<br>Food Pantry<br>Distribution |
| 19<br>9:00am<br>Worship<br>Service-M<br>9:30am<br>Sunday<br>School-E<br>10:35am<br>Worship<br>Service-E<br>3-6:00pm<br>UMYF-E       | 20<br>Martin<br>Luther King<br>Day                | 21<br>1-5:00pm<br>Church<br>Office<br>Hours-E<br><br>7:00pm<br>Church<br>Council - E | 22<br>9:00am-<br>3:00 pm<br>Church Office<br>Hours-M<br>6:00pm<br>Confirmation-M<br>6:15pm Bell<br>Practice<br>7:30pm Choir<br>Practice | 23<br>1-5:00pm<br>Church<br>Office<br>Hours-E | 24  | 25   |
| 26<br>9:00am<br>Worship<br>Service-M<br>9:30am<br>Sunday<br>School-E<br>10:35am<br>Worship<br>Service-E                             | 27<br>6:30pm Cub<br>Scouts                        | 28<br>1-5:00pm<br>Church<br>Office<br>Hours-E  | 29<br>9:00am-<br>3:00 pm<br>Church Office<br>Hours-M<br>6:15pm Bell<br>Practice<br>7:30pm Choir<br>Practice                             | 30<br>1-5:00pm<br>Church<br>Office<br>Hours-E | 31  |  |

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

Address Service Requested



***NEW YEAR PRAYER:***

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.  
Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty,  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.  
Amen.

**The Daily Bible Verses**  
<http://thedailyverses.blogspot.com> - [www.facebook.com/thedailybibleverses](http://www.facebook.com/thedailybibleverses)