

The Messenger

JANUARY 2023



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January Mission Project – Collecting Children’s Books

For our January Mission Project, the Murdock and Elmwood churches will be collecting new and gently used children’s books for the UNL College of Law’s Children’s Justice Clinic. Murdock church member Dakota Glasshoff is taking this on as her high school FCCLA Community Service project, and we encourage church members to support her efforts.

The Children’s Justice Clinic represents hundreds of children across the state who experience abuse or neglect through no fault of their own. These books are a fantastic way for law students to connect with their child clients when they visit them at their home, foster placement or school. Your book donations will have a positive impact on children.

Books will be collected at both churches through January 15.

UPDATE ON MONTHLY MISSION PROJECT

Our December mission project was collecting blankets, socks, and other assorted goodies for the elderly and shut ins in our community. Between the two churches we handed out 17 goodie bags. I received many thank yous and hugs on your behalf. I was told that we helped bring the holiday spirit.

Congregation, you are a blessing to your neighbors and that is something to celebrate! Thank you for your continued support of our monthly missions!



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



Our normal Wednesday night Bible Study will be at Murdock on January 18th at 5:30 p.m. Our monthly fun event will be Sunday, January 8th at 3:00 p.m. We will meet at St. Paul and have a domino obstacle course. 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, January 8th at Elmwood and/or 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11th at Murdock.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, January 21, 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, January 15, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. They request that reservations be made by the Friday, January 13th.

Cost: \$8 Adults, Ages 10-3 \$5, Ages 2 & under free

SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERING HUMAN RELATIONS DAYS JANUARY 15, 2023

Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens.

UWIF CORNER

The Elmwood UWIF will meet on Monday, January 9, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at Donna Clements' house.

Murdock UWIF will have their next meeting on Wednesday, January 4, 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.



January Birthdays-Elmwood



Payton Vogt – January 3
Jacob Fleischman – January 5
Joe Bornemeier – January 6
Lynn Minch – January 10
Rick Brummer – January 11
Ken Kunz – January 12

Amanda Barrett – January 23
Arlo Fleischman – January 24
Tanner Bornemeier – January 25
Haley Fritz – January 26
Keith Wynegar – January 30
Tracy Spaulding – January 30



January Birthdays-Murdock



Sondra Buell – January 1
Hallie Mills – January 3
Dan Murdoch – January 3
Bette Backemeyer – January 4
Roselyn Vanderford – January 4

Bill Farmer – January 6
Kimberlie Hanson – January 8
Steven Olson – January 11
Lucy Backemeyer – January 14
Kim Cawley – January 21

Karey Koehn – January 21
Nick Chesnut – January 23
Wanda Neben – January 24
Kelli Brewer – January 26
Marty Zierott – January 28
Linda Lawrence – January 29

PASTOR'S PEN



Happy New Year!

I feel that I might say this every year but how is it already a new year?!? The new year always brings with it the possibility of new beginnings. It is the perfect start-over point; everyone is celebrating the new and shininess of the year. There are great hopes and expectations of what the new year could bring. This is the same excitement we get at the beginning of school years, or relationships or new jobs. The possibilities seem endless and there is hope that this year will be better than the last, even if last year has been the best year ever. When something is new, it has the possibility of being anything! We can dream the big dreams, set the big goals, imagine the craziest things happening.

When a baby is born, the parents look at this baby with such potential. They can be anything, maybe they will invent a new vaccine, or be a star athlete or become president. I wonder what Mary and Joseph really thought when Jesus was born. They knew that he was the Son of God but do you think they really knew what that meant? Do you think they knew that this baby that Mary carried in her womb for 9 months would one day give his life up for us? Did they have any idea that over 2000 years later we would still be talking about the beginning of his life? Is it ever really possible to comprehend what is going to happen next?

We are in the middle of the Christmas season and for the months of January and February we are going to look more closely at Epiphany. What does it mean? Why is it important? What really changed when the Magi came to visit the Son of God? I am excited to dig deeper into the meaning of it. This is a key piece of the Christmas season and I think one that we often don't give enough thought to.

The Gospel of Matthew introduces the Magi to us saying "They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him." For years the Magi had been looking for the sign of the prophesied King and when they saw the sign, they came. I invite us this season to look for the signs of God's presence among us. Let us dream of the possibilities of what it will mean to be in his presence and how we can effect change in the world. How are we going to make the most of this new year? I am not sure but I am excited to see what comes next. One thing I know is that with God at our side, nothing is impossible!

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

Thank You!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the generous gifts you all bestowed upon us this holiday season. We feel so blessed to be here, walking this journey with you. This community has been better than I could have ever imagined and I can't wait to see how Jesus uses us next! Thank you again, you all sure know how to make this family feel special!

Love,
Pastor Michelle, Nick, Emerson, Earl, Easton and Emmett

"Books make great gifts because they have whole worlds inside of them."
-Neil Gaiman



You have helped to give the gift of reading to many students in First Grade through Third Grade. At the end of each month I am able to let these students choose from a variety of books. I love to see the smiles on their faces as they pick out a favorite book for that month. The best part is hearing them talk about reading these books at home on their own or with a family member! I know you are making an impact! Thank you for supporting the love of reading in these students.

~Carae Oehlerking

UPDATE ON THE DOWNTOWN PROJECT

It has been one year since we set forth the main street project in Elmwood. The buildings came down, with the help of many individuals that gave of their time, their talents and their equipment. The ground was leveled and sold to the local meat locker with their plans to expand and make a storefront in that space.

We are so thankful for everyone that contributed to this project whether it was through your monetary donations, your prayers, or your gift of time and talent. Through the financial contributions that were received for the project, we were able to pay all expenses and not incur any debt at the finalization of the project.

We were able to accomplish something that seemed impossible and made the community better. Let this be an example that nothing is impossible when a community comes together to do the work of the Lord!

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day Online Worship Service	2	3	4 5:30pm UWIF – M 7:00pm Choir Practice	5 6:45pm Bell Practice	6	7
8 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E 12:00pm Confirmation – E 3:00pm UMYF - E	9 1:30pm UWIF – E 7:00pm Church Council - M	10	11 5:30pm Confirmation–M 6:30pm Choir and Bells Party at Laurel's	12 6:45pm Bell Practice	13	14
15 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E Human Relations Special Sunday	16 Martin Luther King Day 7:00pm Church Council - E	17	18 1:30pm Sew "N Sews – M 5:30pm Youth Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Practice	19 6:45pm Bell Practice	20	21 9-11:00am Food Pantry Distribution
22 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service - E	23	24	25 7:00pm Choir Practice	26 6:45pm Bell Practice	27	28
29 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service - E	30	31	1 5:30pm UWIF – M 7:00pm Choir Practice	2 6:45pm Bell Practice	3	4

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Address Service Requested



Sunday, January 1, 2023