

The Messenger

January 2024

Happy
New
Year



St. Paul United Methodist Church
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Ebenezer United Methodist Church
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THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for your cards and prayers
while I am taking chemotherapy.

Gene Backemeyer

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, January 20, 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, January 21, 2024 from 10:00am-12:30pm.

Please make reservations by Friday, Jan. 19th.

SPECIAL SUNDAY: HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

United Methodists celebrate on specific days to unite and make clear the commitment of the church as the people of God and to give everyone the opportunity to contribute to special programs approved and supported by the Church. On Sunday, January 14th, a special offering will be taken for Human Relations Day. We are called to make an impact in communities where our brothers and sisters in Christ lack the resources or tools to reach their God-given potentials. Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens. Each of God's children are equally important.

UWF CORNER

The Elmwood UWF will meet on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. at Shirley Bornemeier's home. Bonnie Drake will have the lesson for that day.

Murdock UWF will meet on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the church and will be sharing a meal and program.

CHURCH MEMBERS IN ASSISTED LIVING CENTERS

Roger Bornemeier, Havelock Manor, #16
6330 Platte Ave., Lincoln, NE 68507

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



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 Brewer – 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

Kim 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!

Here we are at the start of a new year. Every year I think, where did the last one go? The time goes fast and we are once again at a point where we get to decide what do we want to make of the newness this year brings. We can make goals for our health, our wealth or our overall happiness. Goals to be a better person, to be more charitable, to try new things. We can decide to give something up, smoking, drinking, or not calling your mother as much as you should.

The new year also brings the constant reminder that we are no longer writing 2023 on everything but rather 2024. I remember when we left the 1990s and everything seemed so crazy. What would the 2000s be like, living in a whole other millennium. The possibilities...I mean it helps that I was also 16 in the year 2000; the world seemed like such a mystery. I suppose in some ways it still does. There is always the question of what is around the bend. What will come next? And how will you handle it?

I like the new year. Oftentimes because there is snow but also because it feels like some of the mystery of childhood is back. I feel like the new year brings about shininess and excitement that once again anything is possible. It is funny really because the date is just a chosen date. It is just a moment when someone decided that this is the new year. That this is the moment when we should celebrate new things. And yet we all go along with it. I think it is because we are still looking for the hope that things can be better. That the world could start anew and our problems from yesterday will be gone. We continue to look outward for a problem that is often an inward problem. We need to examine what will make things better? What can bring hope for something new? Where do we go to be better?

The answer is all the same. We should be turning to God and our faith in Him. Are we turning our hope for something better towards him? Are we looking to Him for guidance of what that looks like? Christmas marks the end of the Advent season but we should not forget the point of Advent, to look towards God for hope, joy, peace and love. Through God we can find all things. 1 Corinthians 13 says that love encapsulates all these things. "Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love." What does this love mean to you? How are we using this love in the new year to bring about hope to ourselves and to each other? May the love of God be your guiding light through the mystery, hope and joy of the new year.

Until Next Time,
Pastor Michelle

Thank you to everyone that gave us gifts this holiday season. Whether it was a card, a financial gift, or a physical gift, each one touched our hearts. We are so blessed to be a part of these communities and cherish you all during this holiday season. Love, Pastor Michelle, Nick and the boys.



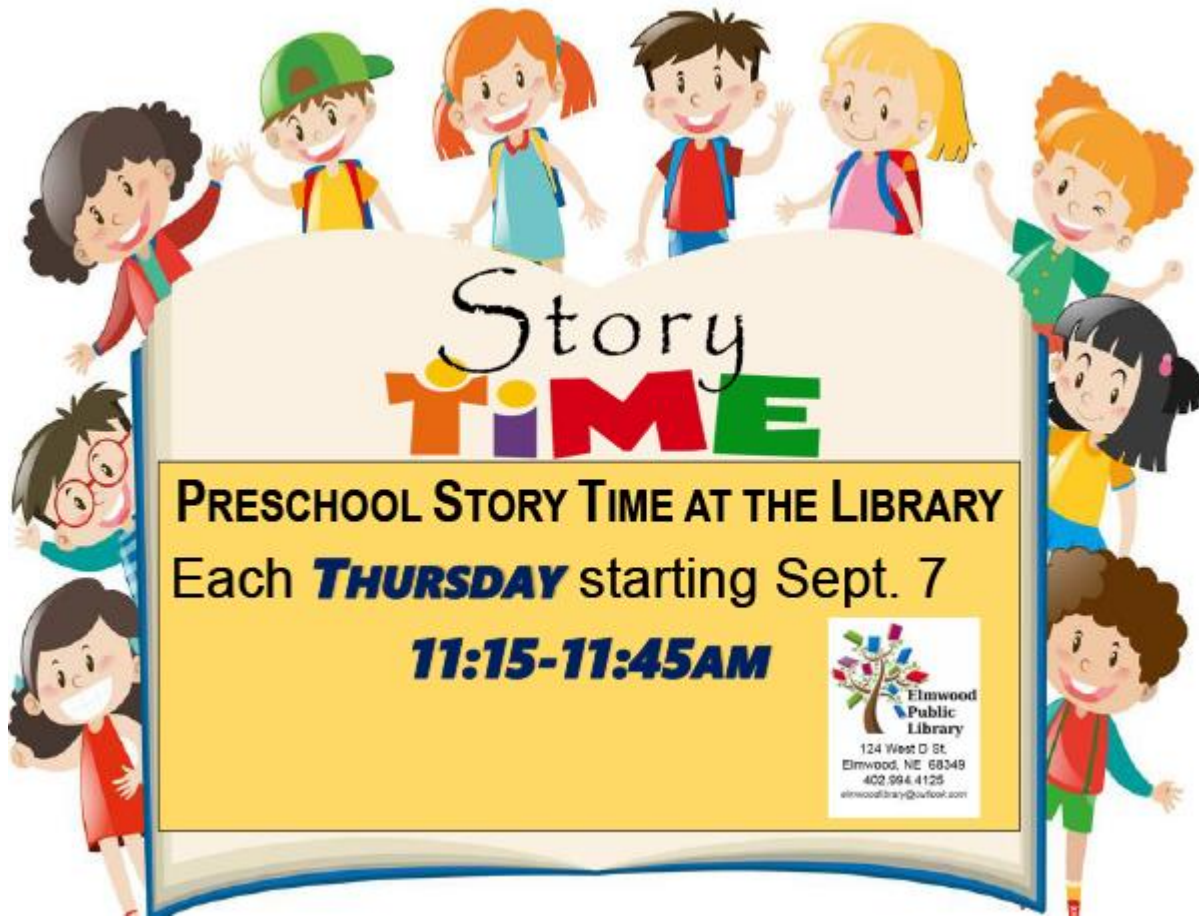
CHOIR SINGERS AND BELL RINGERS NEEDED

Bell practice starts at 6:30 p.m.
on Wednesdays

Choir practice starts at 7:30
p.m. on Wednesdays

Both at Elmwood St. Paul UMC





A PATTERN FOR THE NEW YEAR

“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.

January 2024

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

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Address Service Requested

