

The Messenger

MARCH 2022



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

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY

The Ash Wednesday service will be held on March 2, 2022
at the Elmwood Christian Church.

LENTEN STUDY

This weekly study will be held on Monday nights, starting March 7th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul UMC. We will be using Adam Hamilton's study on the Lord's Prayer. Please contact Pastor Michelle if you are interested in attending.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

A special worship service will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2022
at 7:00 p.m. at Ebenezer United Methodist Church.

GOOD FRIDAY

The Good Friday worship service will be held on Friday, April 15, 2022
at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul United Methodist Church.



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



UMYF will meet on Sunday, March 6th at 1:00 p.m. at St. Paul Church in Elmwood so we can go bowling.

Our normal Wednesday night Bible Study will be at Murdock Church on March 16th at 5:30 p.m. so come join us for a meal, study the scriptures and fellowship.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution
Saturday, March 19, 2022, 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.

Pancake Feed Fundraiser
Sponsored by Troop 220 Boy Scouts
Saturday, March 26, 2022, 8am to 12pm
Elmwood Fire/Rescue Station
Pancakes, Sausage, Biscuits and Gravy
Free Will Offering to benefit the
Philmont Camp in New Mexico

UMW CORNER SCHEDULING CHANGES

Due to the scheduled Lenten Study on
March 7th, Elmwood UMW will meet on
Saturday, March 5th at 9:30 a.m. at
St. Paul UMC.

Due to the Ash Wednesday service on
March 2nd, Murdock UMW will meet on
Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. for our
usual meal and meeting.

Special Giving for Legacy Fund
Wednesday, March 23rd
unitedmethodistwomen.org/150 or
phone 800-278-7771

SAVE THE DATE: Sat., April 2, 2022
For the Blue River District Spring Event at
Hallam UMC from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
with a salad luncheon. Attendees are
asked to register at
volunteersignup.org/EEK8Y. Zoom
presentation will be offered as well.



March Birthdays-Elmwood



Melissa Wheeler – March 3
Marissa Oehlerking – March 6
Lyn Kopf – March 8
Rebecca Smith – March 9
Dan Spaulding – March 10
Sharon Stewart – March 13

Tucker Oehlerking – March 16
Haley Kollars – March 16
Grace Kraeger – March 16
Brianna Poteet – March 20
Marcie Miller – March 22
Ella & Hudson Vogt – March 23

Jase Blunt – March 27
Teresa Hawks – March 28
Chad Peterson – March 29
Adam Wenzel – March 29
Brent Vogt – March 30
Carol Wilhelm – March 30



March Birthdays-Murdock



Dave Friesell – March 1
Kirstie Harvey – March 9
Mason Butler – March 9
Lawrence Smith – March 16
Thea Bornemeier – March 20
Linda Glantz – March 20

Annie Backemeyer – March 22
Justin Baumeister – March 22
Drew Backemeyer – March 23
Benjamin Harvey – March 27
Charles Schafer – March 27
Tony Synovec – March 30

PASTOR'S PEN



Happy March!

When I was growing up, I was often captivated by the concept of confessing your sins to a priest. It was a concept that I struggled with because who wants to share the worst things that you have ever done with another person? In what world does it make sense to put everything out there and then expect to not get judged by these terrible things, to think that there is a way that once a person hears it, they will be able to look past the worst of you to find the good? In fact, even now as a pastor, the concept of confession is difficult. Now in the United Methodist Church we don't believe that you have to confess to a physical human to be forgiven of your sins. But still the concept of confessing and what happens next is definitely something that leads into the season of Lent.

Lent is often seen as a period of darkness, at least for me. We are supposed to be solemn, contemplative, almost feel shameful for what we have done that has caused the necessity of what comes next. We are preparing for the death of our savior. But in the same breath we are waiting and preparing for the resurrection and salvation of our savior. Must we be downtrodden in order to be really and fully prepared for Easter morning?

The Lenten season is one that is supposed to be used to evaluate where we have been, what we have done, where we have fallen short over the last year. It is a time to prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter, the resurrection of Jesus. This time of reflection is to be used to figure out where we have failed and how we can do better. We are being given the gift of new life. To confess our shortcomings and work towards being who we are called to be. The one thing about confession that does make sense to me is that you are only supposed to confess for the sins that you are truly sorry for, the ones that you actually don't want to do again and will actively work towards not doing again. Confessing your sins is not about shame; it is about change. It is not to dredge up old hurts so that we can feel bad about them but so that we can examine what we did and then make the 180 change to not do it again.

In the Catholic church the priest is the human representation of God especially when receiving confession. I don't believe that the priest is necessary; there is no barrier between us and God, other than the ones that we put there. We do sometimes need human help to accomplish the change we need to make in ourselves; in fact the church community is built with that very thought in mind. We are charged as a church family to be there for each other, to lift each other up, to help each other over the barriers that we have put in our way, to love one another even though we are flawed. Ephesians 4 says this "Put aside all bitterness, losing your temper, anger, shouting, and slander, along with every other evil. Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ."

At this Lenten season, I pray that you are able to take the time to reflect on where you may have stumbled, faltered, failed or fell; but instead of this reflection being a time of shame, I pray that it is a time where you can ask for forgiveness and make the 180 change towards the path that Jesus has laid out before us.

Until Next Time,
Pastor Michelle

February/March Mission Project: Get Growing with The Big Garden in Omaha

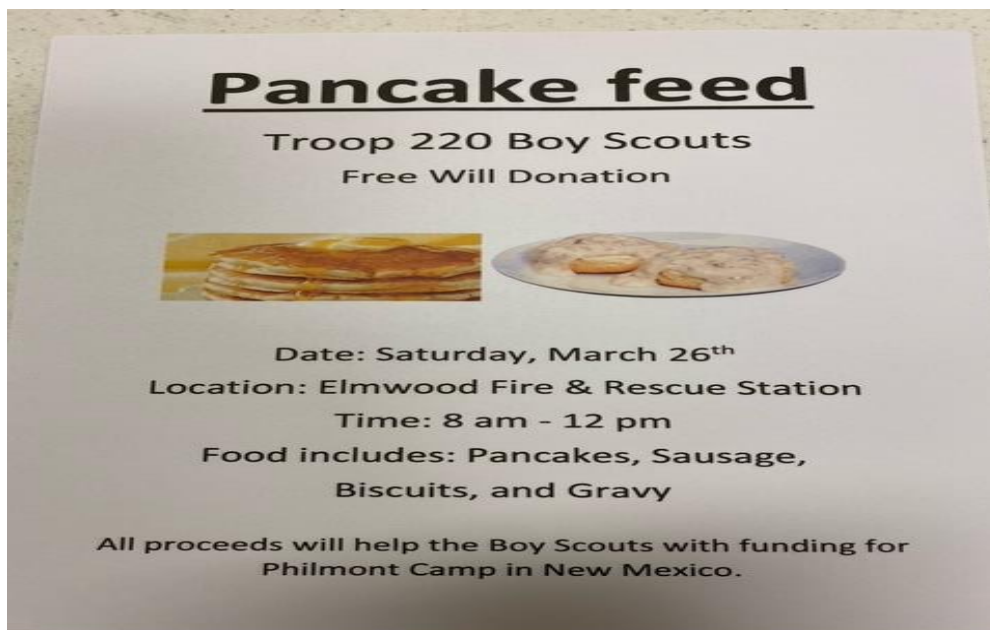
The Big Garden in Omaha grows healthy food, healthy kids, and healthy communities. They do that by building gardens; teaching children to grow, cook, and preserve their own food; and providing education to address hunger in communities. The Big Garden partners with schools, faith communities, non-profits and other organizations to start community gardens. The Big Garden provides seeds, technical support and volunteers to make the community gardens a success and they've helped to start 160 community gardens in Nebraska, Kansas and Southwest Iowa. The Big Garden also receives funding from the United Methodist Church Great Plains Conference. Learn more about The Big Garden here: <https://biggarden.org/what-we-do>.

For our February and March Mission Project, we will collect cash donations to purchase seeds for a new community garden. It costs \$150 to purchase seeds for nine new raised garden beds. Elmwood and Murdock church members are encouraged to donate funds for new community garden beds. Then, this summer we hope to offer an opportunity for church members to visit and volunteer at The Big Garden in Omaha and learn more about how they address hunger locally. Contact kareykoehn@gmail.com with questions about this mission project.

MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Kelli Brewer is going to the Midwest Distribution Center on March 14-19, 2022 with the Great Plains UMW group. The Distribution Center is located in Springfield, Illinois. There is room for others to go. We leave Monday morning, work Tues - Thursday and drive back on Friday, usually arriving home about 5:00 p.m. Cost for this fun filled week of fellowship and easy work is about \$200. The Murdock church or UMW might even pay your way. There are jobs for everyone. Talk to Kelli if you have questions. If you want to go, CALL/TEXT Teena Faubel ASAP 402 217-3775.

Kelli will take small items to MMDC. If you want to donate items for her to transport, bring them to church no later than Sunday, March 13th. The MMDC website (www.midwestmission.org) tells you what items are in the kits. Kelli knows that they can always use medical items such as kids' crutches, fold up walkers, (black) orthopedic boots & shoes, elastic bandages. MMDC uses every donation! They are really good at reusing and repurposing.



March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 8:00pm Choir Practice	3 5:30pm UMW – M	4	5 9:30am UMW - E
6 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E 1:00pm UMYF	7 7:00pm Lenten Study - E	8 7:00pm Church Council - M	9 6:30pm Bell Practice – E 7:30pm Choir Practice - E	10	11	12
13 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	14 7:00pm Lenten Study - E	15 7:00pm Church Council - E	16 1:30pm Sew 'N Sews – M 5:30pm UMYF – M 6:30pm Bell Practice – E 7:30pm Choir Practice - E	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 9-11:00am Food Pantry Distribution
20 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	21 7:00pm Lenten Study - E	22	23 6:30pm Bell Practice – E 7:30pm Choir Practice - E	24	25	26 8:00am- 12:00pm Boys Scouts' Pancake Feed
27 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	28 7:00pm Lenten Study - E	29	30 6:30pm Bell Practice – E 7:30pm Choir Practice - E	31		

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

Address Service Requested



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

March 2, 2022 at Elmwood Christian Church