

The Messenger

APRIL 2025



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

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



50th Anniversary Celebration

*of St. Paul
United Methodist Church, Elmwood*

Sunday, May 4, 2025

10:35 a.m.

400 West G Street, Elmwood

1975



2025

All are welcome! Plan to join us for a day of worship and celebration. Potluck meal and fellowship to follow. Church family members are encouraged to bring a dish from one of the church cookbooks available for viewing on our church website at <https://elmwoodmurdockumc.com>. Guests, please come and enjoy a traditional United Methodist feast with us.

Information: (402) 540-1662



Join us on Sunday May 4, 2025, at St. Paul United Methodist Church as we reminisce and celebrate the last 50 years. We would love to have you to be a part of this special milestone. Help us make this celebration even more meaningful by attending the Church service starting at 10:35am followed by our Potluck Dinner and sharing your favorite dish that can serve 12-15 people.

Would you like to select a recipe honoring a friend, family member or just because you like the recipe. All three UMC Cookbooks have been copied and loaded to the UMC church website: <https://elmwoodmurdockumc.com>. if you don't have a cookbook.

There is a signup sheet at the back of the church. You may also call the church 402-994-6735 and your name can be added to the list. Anyone wishing to:

- volunteer to set up (time not set yet)
- clean up
- other activities

Be sure to invite your family, neighbors and friends. This will be a wonderful time of fellowship and gratitude as we reflect on the blessings and growth of our church community over the past 50 years.

We hope to see you there and look forward to celebrating together.



FROM CHURCH NEWSLETTER OF January 1, 1973

DON'T STAY AWAY FROM YOUR CHURCH . . .

Because it rains – you go to work in the rain.

Because it is hot – so is the golf course.

Because it is cold – It's warm and friendly inside.

Because you are poor – there is no admission charge.

Because you are rich – that can be cured.

Because no one invited you – People go to the movies without being asked.

Because you have children – God loves them too.

Because you have company – they will admire your loyalty if you bring them along.

Because your clothes are not expensive – churches aren't supposed to be fashion shows.

Because your church always wants money – so does your grocer.

Because you have plenty of time to go later -- ARE YOU SURE???

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, April 19, 2025, 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.

The Center’s Breakfast Buffet will be on Sunday, April 13, 2025. Time is from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We would like to receive reservations for these meals by the Friday before Sunday serving date.

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
CORNER**

The Elmwood UWF will meet on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. at Laurel McReynolds. Joyce Backemeyer will provide the lesson.

The Murdock UWF will meet on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the church for the usual meal and lesson.

Mat Weaving sessions will be held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 1:30 p.m. at Ebenezer UMC. April dates are the 9th and 23rd.

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

THE LENTEN STUDY WILL CONTINUE FOR MONDAYS, APRIL 7TH AND 14TH AT 6:30 P.M. IN EBENEZER UMC.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025 PALM SUNDAY SERVICES AT BOTH CHURCHES

THE MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT EBENEZER UMC AT 7:00 P.M.

THE GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT ST. PAUL UMC AT 7:00 P.M.

THE EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON EASTER MORNING, SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH, 6:30 A.M. AT GRANDPA WOODS.



April Birthdays-Elmwood



Maureen Vogt – April 2
Dennis Nielsen – April 3
Alex Callaway – April 4
Janice Miller – April 5
Merle Backemeyer – April 10
Christian Brettmann – April 15

Jeff Johnston – April 18
Judy Hendrix – April 21
Taylor Vogt – April 21
Tyson Vogt – April 22
Katie Bornemeier – April 24
Brandon Minch – April 26

Linda Blunt – April 27
Levi Offner – April 27
Jenna Kollars – April 27
Bailey Frahm – April 29
Burke/Callan Vogt – April 28
Bonnie Drake – April 30
Madden Vogt – April 30



April Birthdays-Murdock



Lindsay Backemeyer – April 4
Harrison Koehn – April 11
Carter Hanson – April 11

Catherine Stock – April 11
Lance Steffen – April 16
Tom Lawrence – April 27

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP
APRIL SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 6, 2025, 2:00-5:00 p.m. UMYF, Cook-out, games and fishing at Bornemeier's pond. Meet at Dan and Myrna Bornemeier's home, 30511 Adams St.

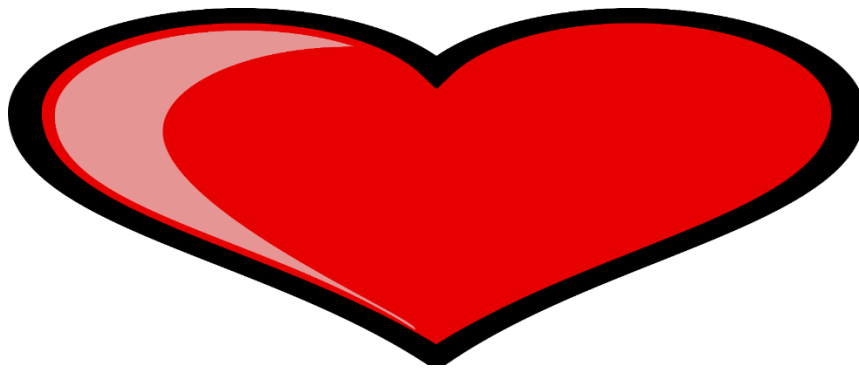
Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 5:30 p.m. Confirmation at Murdock UMC

Sunday, April 13, 2025, Confirmation Sunday at both churches

Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 5:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study at Murdock UMC

CLEAN UP DAY AT ST. PAUL UMC

CLEAN UP DAY HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH STARTING AT 9:00 A.M. WE WOULD APPRECIATE AS MANY HANDS TO HELP US DO SOME MINOR REPAIRS TO THE BUILDING AND CLEAN UP THE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH. THE MORE HANDS WE HAVE, THE LESS TIME IT WILL TAKE. PLEASE COME AND OFFER AS MUCH TIME AS YOU ARE ABLE. THANK YOU.



*Give from
The Heart*

Donate blood and
help save lives.



**Blood Drive
Elmwood Murdock Communities
Elmwood-Murdock High School**

**Thursday, April 24, 2025
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit
RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Elmwood Murdock
to schedule an appointment.**

PASTOR'S PEN



April is here already, can you believe it?? I feel like it has really snuck up on us. March was definitely "in like a lion" this year and now we are preparing for Spring and the excitement of Easter.

I have always thought that the season of Lent was an interesting one. We often think of this season as one of repentance, of sorrow, of sacrifice as we give up something for the season. But at the same time, outside the world is starting over again. It is waking from its winter time slumber. The grass is turning green, the flowers are emerging from the ground and blooming beautiful colors, gardeners and farmers are preparing the ground for their crops. To me, it has always felt like a weird dichotomy. Although maybe that is not true.

In the church the season of Lent is 40 days long; it is supposed to connect us to the stories of the Old and New Testament. It is to serve as a reminder of the days that Noah and his family watched the waters rise during the flood, the time that the Israelites wandered the desert, the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness before the beginning of his ministry. It also leads us to the end of his human life here on Earth. It is supposed to remind us that we are connected, that this is not a new story, that we are not alone in this wilderness that we have found ourselves in. In fact we are in good company.

These 40 days of Lent are supposed to serve as a time of preparation for what is to come. A time where we reset, where we wake up from our slumber. A time where we evaluate where we have been, what we have done, where we have fallen short and how we want to change that going forward.

These 40 days are supposed to serve as a time where we actually take the time, which might mean giving up something precious or that you hold too close, that is a distraction from your relationship with God. A time of evaluation, a time where we are supposed to be honest with ourselves, with our community and with God about what we have done and to focus on where we are going.

The Bible doesn't say a lot about what Jesus does in the wilderness; it says he fasted and he prayed but we don't know what exactly he prayed for but we can take some guesses. We can guess that he prayed for his ministry that was to come. That he prayed for his parents and friends that he left behind. We can guess that he prayed for strength and for God to be at his side through what was sure to be a not easy journey over the next couple of years.

We are halfway through Lent at the beginning of April this year and by the end of April we will be celebrating Easter. The question that I have been asking my Lenten study group throughout the study is what have you done to prepare yourself to follow Jesus to the cross? Although I sometimes think it feels weird to be in a time of repentance and sacrifice as we enter into Spring, it actually makes perfect sense. As the world is preparing to start anew. To wake up from the slumber of winter, we too are supposed to be preparing ourselves to awake our souls for what is to come next. This time of Lent is to remind us that God is not just calling Jesus from the wilderness to do great ministry but God is calling us also. Are you prepared? Have you taken the time, cultivated your soul so that you are ready for what God has planned? May you take this time to focus on what is important to make sure your soul is ready for the hope that will spring eternal as Jesus sacrifices himself on the cross for us this season.

Until Next Time,
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



TRIP TO UMCOR SAGER BROWN, BALDWIN, LA

The next Great Plains Conference UMVIM Trip to work in the Sager Brown UMCOR Depot is Jan. 31 to Feb. 7, 2026.

Our goal is to have 75 individuals from the Great Plains to fill up Sager Brown for the week. We can do this! Travel dates will be Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 (arrival at Sager Brown) and Feb. 6-7 (arrival back home). We will work from Monday through Thursday of that week.

The cost is \$340 per person which includes housing, meals, and a \$50 non-refundable deposit. You can hold your space by submitting your check, made payable to Great Plains Conference, on the memo line write "2026 UMVIM Trip" and mail to PO Box 4187, Topeka, KS 66604.

For more information, contact Rev. Hollie Tapley, UMVIM coordinator, at htapley@greatplainsumc.org or Pastor Michelle.



Another Week, Another Two Shipments!

This week, we, once again, sent two shipments in one day!

Warehouse one was full of supplies ready to go to Maryland. Similarly, warehouse three and the loading dock were a maze of pallets, boxes, and loose items, waiting to be loaded for Honduras.

The Maryland shipment was first. Coordinated through our partner Food For The Poor, these supplies were specifically requested for an organization called Michael's Mission, based out of Metropolitan UMC in Maryland. The organization works to provide basic needs for school-age children, many of whom are homeless. Every year, we send two truck-loads of needed items their way.

This shipment included:

- 2,112 UMCOR Hygiene Kits
- 600 Blankets
- 27 Sets of pillows and sheets
- 560 UMCOR Menstrual Kits
- Cleaning Supplies
- 11 Sleeping Mats

The value was \$48,060.28.

The second shipment was sent to Honduras; the value of this shipment was \$106,061.90.



CURRENT NEEDS: You can purchase these items at your local store and take them to Midwest Mission or a Collection Site near you. You can also buy items online and have them shipped right to Midwest Mission.

Lotion
8-10 oz. bottles
Household Cleaner
56-80 oz. total (no spray bottles)
Adult Bikes
In good, working condition.

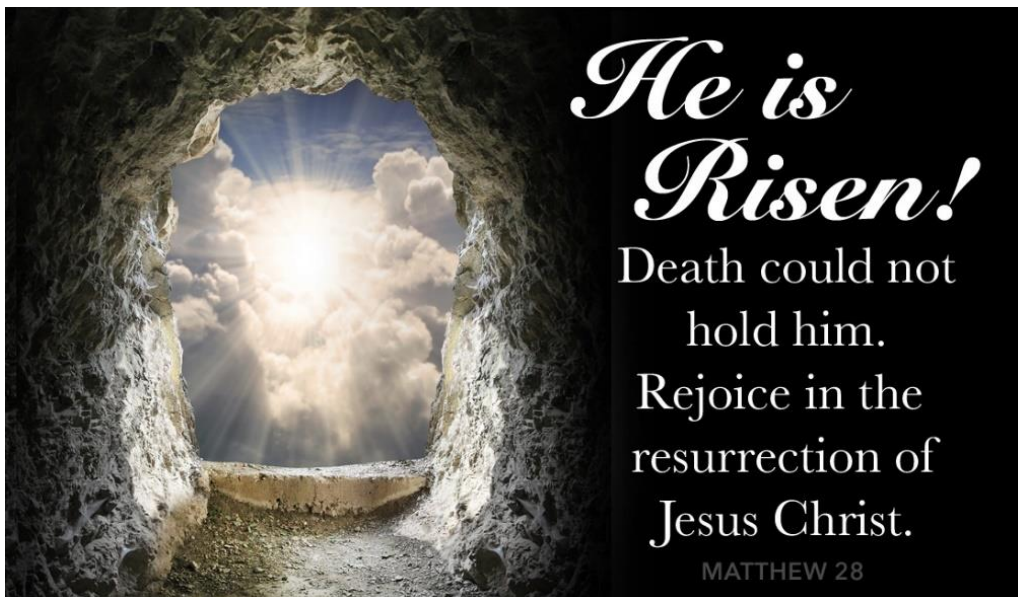
Kelli Brewer is planning a trip to Jefferson, IA and looking to take sewing machines and working bicycles to them. For more information, please contact Kelli.

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 April Fool's Day	2 5:30pm UWF – M No Bell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	3	4	5
6 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sun. School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E 2:00pm UMYF	7 1:30pm UWF – E 6:30pm Lenten Study - M	8	9 1:30pm Mat Weaving – M 5:30pm Confirmation – M 6:30pm Bell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice - E	10	11	12
13 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sun. School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	14 6:30pm Lenten Study – M 7:30pm Church Council – M	15	16 1:30pm Sew 'N Sews – M 5:30pm Youth Bible Study– 6:30pm Bell Practice – E 7:30pm Choir Practice - E	17 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service - M	18 7:00pm Good Friday Service - E	19 9-11:00am Food Pantry Distribution
20 6:30am Easter Sunrise Service 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sun. School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	21 7:00pm Church Council - E	22 Earth Day	23 1:30pm Mat Weaving – M 6:30pm Bell Practice – E 7:30pm Choir Practice - E	24 12-6:00pm Red Cross Bloodmobile	25	26 9:00am Clean Up Day at St. Paul UMC
27 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sun. School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	28	29	30 6:30pm Bell Practice – E 7:30pm Choir Practice - E			

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Address Service Requested



Sunday, April 20, 2025