



Pastor's Piece

April 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

Spring has sprung!! Well, as I write this the scene outside is anything but Spring. It seems that mother nature forgot to move the season ahead. Hopefully we have experienced our last snow fall til much later in the year. But this is Wisconsin, and snow has fallen in May before!

On the church calendar, April is a continuation of the season of Easter. Our celebration of the Resurrected Christ will continue for seven Sundays until Pentecost May 19th. This is the time to consider our response to the gift of redemption and the promise of eternal life that God has given out of love for all of humanity. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is victory of light over darkness, life over death for believers. It's a time for joy and hope as we remember the deep love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

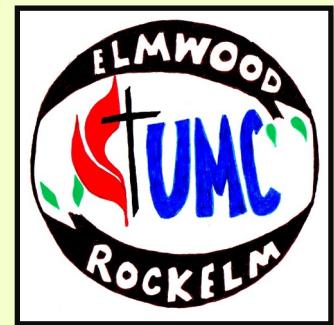
As followers of Jesus, we strive to live our daily lives as a reflection of that love. Through God's love and saving grace we are continually being made new! Praise God!

I hope you will join me as we look for meaningful ways to share the love of God in Jesus through outreach to our community and beyond. There are a couple of ways that we have been doing this – the community food pantry and the annual Bishop's Ingathering. You'll be getting more information soon about how we can continue our support for these outreach opportunities. We will also be exploring others. If you have suggestions about ministry outreach and service projects, please talk to me!

May your Eastertide journey be grace filled!

Shalom,

Pastor Meg



A Newsletter for the
Elmwood and Rock Elm United
Methodist Churches

Pastor: Meg Erickson

Sunday Services:

Rock Elm 9:00 a.m.

Elmwood 10:30 a.m.

Email: ereumc@gmail.com

Website:

<http://www.ereumc.org/>

Facebook:

Rock Elm & Elmwood UMC

YouTube: Elmwood & Rock Elm
United Methodist Church

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OF INTEREST

- Sunday school for 4K thru 8th grade during the school year
- Youth Group-6th-12th grade
- United Methodist Women
- Contemporary and traditional music



Open Minds, Open Doors, Open Hearts

Weekly Devotional

The Message of The Cross *by Ebenezer Insor*

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18

Beloved in Christ, I hope all is going well with your Lenten journey so far. Whatever our reflections have been so far, we are looking forward to a time of solemnity and the great celebration of our risen Christ. But before we get there, we have a river to cross, whose expanse cannot be overcome by our human strength or prowess. We will need a bridge to get to the other side and that bridge comes in the cross.

We as Christians are familiar with the cross and how much it means to us. It has become one of our marks of identity for what it stands for. We wear it aesthetically, hang them in our homes and churches. In fact, it is our GPS as we drive to cities looking for a church. So, what was the stigma about the Cross in Paul's time? It was an object of disgrace, shameful, despicable, deplorable, despised by society. Think about capital punishment in our day and age. From hanging, lynching, stoning, lethal injection, electric chair and firing squads. These can be likened to society's distaste and dislike for the cross.

In contrast to us, it is the message of salvation. The bridge which enabled us to get to the other side by God's grace and mercy. Why may you ask? Because he loved us so much that he gave us his begotten son, that whosoever believes in him will have eternal life. By what means could this happen? By becoming the propitiation for our sin as he carried our iniquities, infirmities, and transgressions, all the way to the cross and even death.

As He hung on the cross with the two other thieves, He bore our sins for us, and through the words on the cross will give that hope of salvation and eternity. For through those words, He echoed forgiveness for all of us, knowing that we have come short of God's glory. Then He offered salvation as He invited the thief into paradise with him. He encouraged relationships through caring for each other in connecting John and his mother Mary. The yearning and longing of our soul's thirst for living water. This often leads us to feel abandoned as he cries out feeling forgotten and forsaken. Then in exhaustion, see the suffering come to end. Finally is the reunion, which leads to the glorious hallelujahs committing His spirit in the Father's arms in eternal rest.

So beloved in Christ, remember to become faithful disciples, where we must deny ourselves and take up the cross and follow Him. As we journey through Lent, may we survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died, as our richest gain, lifting it high to proclaim the love of the world to adore his sacred name.

Loving God, we thank you for your grace and mercy manifested on a hill far away, where an old rugged cross stood as the emblem of our suffering and shame. May we be reminded of the sacrifices made for our salvation on it by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that we may deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow our calling. Amen.



Easter Blessings

By Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

March 31, 2024

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.
Mark 16:1-8

Peace and blessings of Christ Jesus be with you with the Easter Spirit! We are indeed a resurrected people!

Let us overcome the forces of darkness and death and celebrate with one another the grace of God, who has gifted us a new life and hope in Christ. Let us embrace the Easter Spirit in our daily outlook, living a life that receives strength and courage from Christ. Let us live a faith that rejects injustice and violence, pushes aside discrimination and oppression, and practices the equality and dignity of God's children in every corner of the world.

We have the power of resurrection faith, so let us eliminate our prejudices and thoroughly love others unconditionally, even if it means living a life of humility and simplicity, as our top priority. In a reality where wars still crush life and still break God's heart, let us reject that violence and military confrontations and live the value of life with the Spirit of Easter! Let us step out, not being afraid but with the conviction of knowing Jesus Christ has conquered death – and in our faithful living- Jesus will conquer all forms of non-loving in our world.

Let us awaken again through resurrection and live an enlightened life where the world of all life is protected, and God's creation is regenerated through green ecological awareness. We are God's stewards of creation and accept all as sacred and worth preserving.

Furthermore, as members of the United Methodist Church, we must break down the walls of distrust, separation, and conflict, living out social holiness by loving one another and truly sharing the kin(g)dom of God, and become a community of life that lives out the identity of the church there.

May this Easter Season inspire us to live lives transformed by the power of Jesus' resurrection – boldly, courageously, lovingly, and faithfully.

Amen.



Hee-Soo Jung

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung has served as resident bishop of the Wisconsin Annual Conference since September of 2012. Prior to leading the Wisconsin Conference UMC, Bishop Jung served eight years as bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference (Chicago area).



April 4-Tessa Asher
April 10-Mike Christman
April 10-Zoe Peterson
April 15-Jenny Bechel
April 16-Ryden Carson
April 18-Kelli Miller
April 19-Sam Hoyt
April 21-Kain Peterson
April 26-Josh Ginsbach
April 26-Dayn Lukes
April 26-Drew Lukes
April 26-Dylan Lukes
April 29-Pat Ginsbach



Oh Lord

Thank You for spring, the season of Your expression of joy! Let every bloom remind me of Your grace. Let each sunny day bring light to my soul. As I spring ahead let these months give birth to warm thoughts and kind gestures.

Amen



Prayer for Renewal

Lord, as the world around us blooms anew, renew our hearts. Fill us with new life, new hope, and new joy, just as You renew the earth with spring's light

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Coffee & Conversation



At: **The History Center**

110 S. Main St., Elmwood

First Thursday each Month at 1:30 pm



Did you know that opportunities to socialize and share memories are good for your brain health and your overall wellness?

Coffee & Conversation is an opportunity for older adults to gather and share their life experiences with others in a comfortable and engaging environment. It is a place where guests can laugh, learn, share their memories, and connect with others. All are welcome!

**There is no cost to participate. Light snacks and beverages will be provided.
Sponsored by Staying Put.**

**Memory
Café** Coffee, conversation, community

Scripture Writing + Bible Reading Plan

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Read the chapter for each day then write the specified verses. Take a moment to worship + praise God for the specific attribute of the week.

SOVEREIGN: HIGHEST IN POWER

- 1 CHRONICLES 29:11-12
- PSALM 115:3
- ISAIAH 46:9-11
- DANIEL 4:34-35
- EPHESIANS 1:11-12

OMNISCIENT: ALL KNOWING

- PSALM 147:4-5
- ISAIAH 40:28
- JEREMIAH 29:11-13
- MATTHEW 10:26, 29-31
- ROMANS 11:33-36

MERCIFUL: WITHHOLDING DESERVED PUNISHMENT

- PSALM 86:5, 13, 15
- LAMENTATIONS 3:22-26
- ROMANS 12:1-2
- EPHESIANS 2:4-7
- HEBREWS 4:14-16

IMMUTABLE: NEVER CHANGES

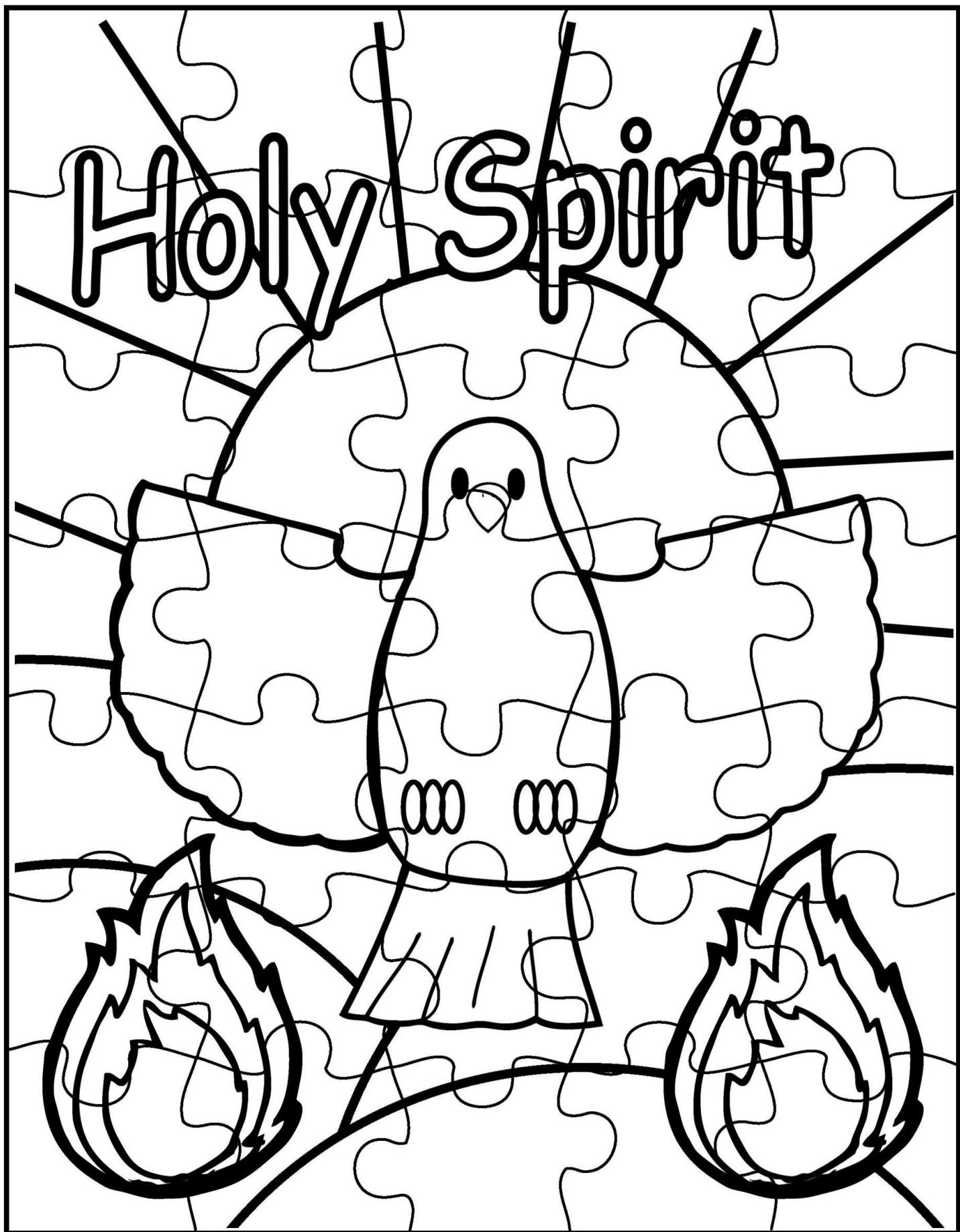
- NUMBERS 23:19
- PSALM 102:25-27
- MALACHI 3:6
- HEBREWS 13:8
- JAMES 1:17

ETERNAL: ALWAYS HAS + WILL EXIST

- PSALM 90:2, 4
- ISAIAH 40:8, 28
- ROMANS 1:20
- 1 TIMOTHY 1:17
- REVELATION 22:13

HOLY: PURE + PERFECT

- PSALM 96:9
- PSALM 103:1-3
- ISAIAH 6:3
- ISAIAH 57:15
- 1 PETER 1:15-16



35 Pieces

© Crafting The Word Of God



April 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Submissions for the calendar and newsletter can be sent to by the 29th of each month: ereumc@gmail.com						
	1.	2.	3. 9:00 AM Rock Elm Admin Counsel Meeting	4.	5.	7.
7. CHARGE POTLUCK Communion Sunday 9:00 AM Rock Elm In-Person Service 10:30 AM Elmwood Live Stream and In-Person Service	8.	9.	10. 6:00-8:00 PM Confirmation and Youth Group @ Elmwood UMC	11.	12.	13.
14. 9:00 AM Rock Elm In-Person Service 10:30 AM Elmwood Live Stream and In-Person Service	15.	16.	17. 6:00 PM Elmwood UMW Meeting 7:00 PM Elmwood Admin Counsel Meeting	18.	19.	20.
21. 9:00 AM Rock Elm In-Person Service 10:30 AM Elmwood Live Stream and In-Person Service 1:00 PM District Laity Meeting Midwest Mission Meal Packing	22.	23.	24. 6:00-8:00 PM Confirmation and Youth Group @ Elmwood UMC	25.	26.	27.
28. 9:00 AM Rock Elm In-Person Service 10:30 AM Elmwood Live Stream and In-Person Service	29.	30.				

AUTHORIZATION FORM

Elmwood United Methodist Church

For: Donations, Tithes and Offerings



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		ENVELOPE/DONOR #		DATE
Effective date of authorization: _____ / _____ / _____				
Type of authorization: <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation				
Last Name		First Name		
Address				
City			State	Zip
Email Address				
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: _____ / _____ / _____		FREQUENCY OF DONATION: <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – Mondays <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly – 1 st and 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th		FUNDS: <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ AMOUNTS: Total \$ _____
CHECKING / SAVINGS Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below)		Routing Number: _____ <i>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</i> Account Number: 0123-4567891234567890 		
I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.				
Authorized Signature: _____		Date: _____		

If using a checking account, please attach a voided check at the bottom of this page.

Elmwood UMC Address:
307 S Main Street,
Elmwood WI

Rock Elm UMC located at:
5591 170th Street
Elmwood WI
(about 6 miles west on HWY
72)

Rock Elm Mailing Address:
PO Box 52, Elmwood, WI
54740

Our worship style is a blend of traditional and new. We combine older hymns with praise choruses. You can come as you are, people dress from semi-casual to casual. Blue jeans are very acceptable. If you come from a church background, been away for a long time, or maybe have never been to church, you will feel welcome here.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

Meg Erickson, Pastor

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Youtube Channel: [Elmwood and Rock Elm United Methodist Church](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtPjyfzXWVgkOOGdJLwvQSw)

Follow us on Facebook: [Rock Elm & Elmwood UMC](https://www.facebook.com/RockElmUMC)

Want to be on our email list?
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HERE
STAMP
PLACE
PLEASE