

A Newsletter for the
Elmwood and Rock Elm
United Methodist
Churches

Meg Erickson, Pastor

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 and Rock
Elm United Methodist Church

Pastor's Piece

August 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

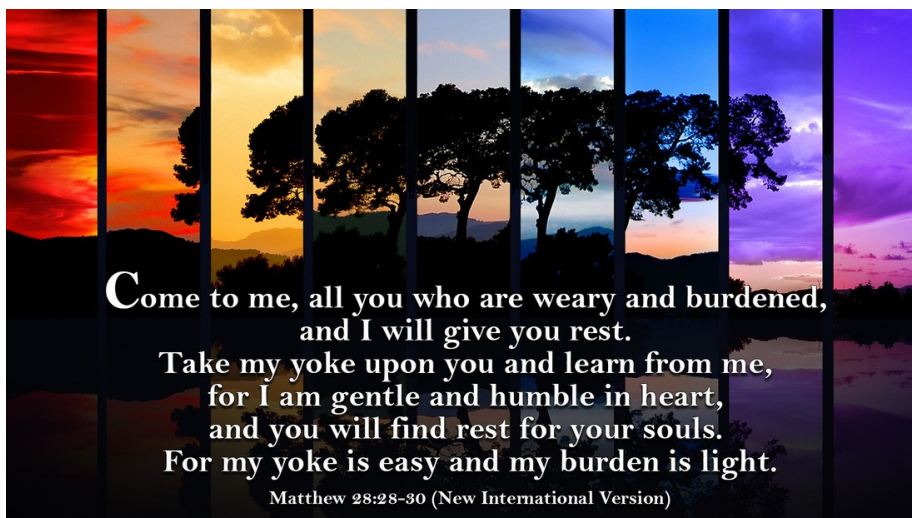
We spend at least five months waiting for the warm days of summer so that we can relax, slow down, catch-up, and bask in the sunshine. And here we are in August! I hope you were able to take some time for summer fun and rest. Our mental and physical health depends on it.

Our spiritual health needs the same. In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus invited people who were "weary and heavily burdened to come to him and he would give them rest." My hope is that you also allowed yourselves the space to care for your relationship with God through Christ. It only takes a few moments in your busy days to make the connection with the grace that Jesus assures us will make our burdens lighter and leads to healthier outcomes.

As schedules change once again, from vacations, picnics, parades and the other things of summer, to school, Sunday school and worship, I look forward to sharing time each Sunday morning with you! Sunday School is set to begin on September 10. Please mark that date on your calendars and watch for exciting news about our Rally Day event.

Here's to enjoying the remainder of our summer and building excitement for what God has in store for us this fall!

Shalom, Pastor Meg



Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Matthew 28:28-30 (New International Version)

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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



District Center North West District



Hope and Joy!

Entering into the second week in my new role, my prayers were centered around these two words: hope and joy. “O God, we are your people committed to following Jesus through and with the United Methodist Church here in North West Wisconsin. Increase hope and joy in us. Let them extend beyond us and flourish in our communities through our ministry.”

Greetings to you, my beloved and respected leaders of the United Methodist churches in the North West District of the Wisconsin Conference. I didn’t want it to take long to send my greetings to the churches after my first letter to the clergy of our district. You are important. You are appreciated. Thank you for your dedication as leaders of The United Methodist Church. Thank you for embodying God’s message of hope and joy.

I am here as your servant leader and fellow follower of Jesus Christ. You have refused to give up on our faith communities despite the challenges of declining numbers. I join you in holding steadfast to the promise given by God: “a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)”

“Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. (Romans 5:5)”

Yes! We have a reason to be hopeful, so we “rejoice in the Lord (Philippians 4:4)” and share “the reason for our hope with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15)” in our communities and beyond. We are God’s people who “rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn, living in harmony with one another. (Romans 12:15-16a)”

I am grateful for the opportunity to begin my one-on-one meetings with the clergy. Each encounter reveals the unique and diverse stories of God’s calling and the remarkable work being done through the United Methodist Church. Of course, there are challenges that must be named within our stories. However, as Henri Nouwen wrote, “As long as we have stories to tell to each other there is hope. As long as we can remind each other of the lives of God’s people in whom the love of God becomes manifest, there is reason to move forward.”

My commitment will remain unwavering to celebrate the stories that God continues to weave in us, among us, and through us. I am honored to be a mere instrument in God’s hands, joyfully writing new faith stories without fear but with an abundance of hope and joy.

Together, as encouraged with the words of Romans 12:12, let us rejoice in our confident hope, display patience amidst troubles, and persistently lift our prayers.

May the joy of trusting in God and the hope that comes from it be yours on every Sunday with your church family and friends. May such overflowing joy and hope flourish in your life every day as you walk with God.

Hope and joy!

PyungAhn “Peace”
North West District Superintendent



Ingathering Success at Annual Conference 2023

Ingathering 2023 was a huge success and we are awed by your generosity. You are people with hearts for service and love of others. The truck was jammed packed with donations. As Ingathering 2023 ended we barely had room for our drivers, Chuck and Karen's luggage, and still be able to close the door!

You brought in 1,456 Personal Dignity kits, far outdoing last year's 977. You also brought 246 Home Care kits, so many sewing machines, medical equipment, bikes, school kits, shampoo, laundry detergent, blankets & more weighing in at 15,720 lbs. In 2 days a total of \$5,161.66 was donated.



HAPPY
Birthday
TO YOU

August Birthdays

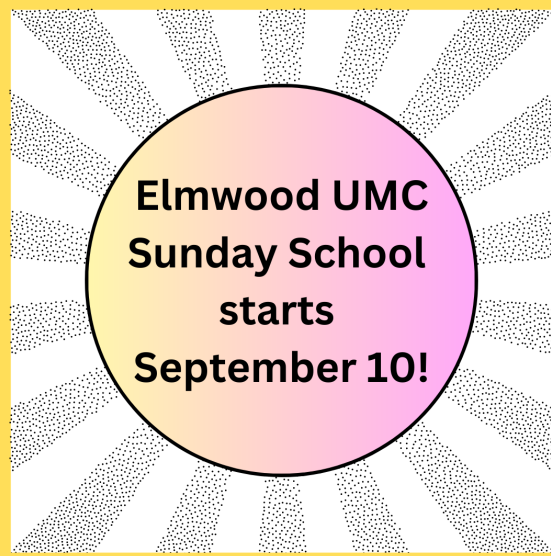
- August 3 - Sharon VandenBerge
- August 3 - Alisyn Weaver
- August 12 - Joe VandenBerge
- August 20 - Emily Herman
- August 23 - Lisa Pitre
- August 30 - Tristen Pitre

HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

- August 5 - Kathy & Mike Miller
- August 16 - Ruth & Gary Lukes
- August 16 - Sheryl & Scott Kendall
- August 22 - Lila & Butch Welch
- August 31 - Linda & Dan Vivoda



UFO days....VBS!!!



Worship, Crafts and FUN!!!!

MAKE A
JOYFUL NOISE



Outdoor Ecumenical Church Service
Elmwood UMC
Sunday, July 30, 2023
Music by: Lorn & Royce Band
We had a wonderful turnout!



FAITH FORWARD AUGUST



SUNDAY



6 Talk to God about someone you have a hard time being nice to.



13 Pray while sitting on a tree branch.

20 What one prayer request does each person have for the week ahead?

27

Pray while riding your bike.



MONDAY

7 Everyone go around the table tonight and name one person who needs prayer.

14 Let everyone share one thing they're afraid of falling at. Pray for each other.



21 Pray at a car wash.



28 Stop to just watch the sky or clouds for ten minutes today.



1 Tell God who you like playing with and why.



8 Pray in the library.



15 Pray while lying on the grass.

22 When you think about Jesus, describe what comes to your mind.



29 Pray in the rain.



TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

2 Call a friend and ask how you could be praying for them.

9 What one prayer do you wish God would answer for you today?



3 Pray on the top of a mountain or a hill.

10 Usually when we pray, we close our eyes. Today pray with your eyes wide open.



4 Pray by the window.

11 What do you think God thinks of you?



5 Pray in a restaurant.

12 Look out of your window and tell God what you see.



16 Pray underneath the stars.



17 Pray in a parking lot.

18 What is one thing you need from God right now?

19 Pray for someone whose name starts with the letter L.



23 Pray in a tent.

24 Ask God for a strong desire to love what is good and hate what is evil. - Romans 12:9



25 Pray in your bed.



30 Watch the sunrise & pray.

31 Thank God for being your HELPER!



26 Find a tree and pray to God and pray to God while you lay on the ground and look up through the leaves.

august



.....
PRAYER

challenge



1. SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER
2. FAMILY MEMBERS
3. CHILDREN
4. A HARD RELATIONSHIP
5. PERSON IN CAR BEHIND YOU
6. BEST FRIENDS
7. OUR COUNTRY'S LEADERS
8. THE WORLD
9. FAVORITE SINGER
10. SOMEONE ON INSTAGRAM
11. SOMEONE ON FACEBOOK
12. MAILMAN
13. FAVORITE ACTOR
14. SOMEONE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IN A LONG TIME
15. YOUR NEIGHBORS
16. FIRST PERSON YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU WAKE UP
17. PEACE & UNITY
18. LOVE & COMPASSION
19. TO SEE THE GOOD IN THE BAD
20. HEALING FOR THE SICK
21. FOR STRENGTH DURING HARD TIMES
22. TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT
23. TO GIVE GRACE ALWAYS
24. TO LET GO OF ANY ANGER
25. FOR ANOTHER STATE OTHER THAN YOURS
26. YOUR BOSS
27. YOUR COWORKERS
28. POLICE OFFICERS
29. FOR THE STRANGER THAT PASSES YOU BY TODAY
30. FOR FORGIVENESS
31. FOR HOPE IN THE FUTURE

Prayer changes things & it's
always acceptable to pray

August 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |
| 6. Communion Sunday 9:00 AM Rock Elm In-Person Service 10:30 AM Elmwood Live Stream and In-Person Service | 7. | 8. | 9. | 10. | 11. | 12. |
| 13. 9:00 AM Rock Elm In-Person Service 10:30 AM Elmwood Live Stream and In-Person Service | 14. | 15.. | 16. | 17. | 18. | 19. |
| 20. 9:00 AM Rock Elm In-Person Service 10:30 AM Elmwood Live Stream and In-Person Service | 21. | 22. | 23. | 24. | 25. | 26. |
| 27. 9:00 AM Rock Elm In-Person Service 10:30 AM Elmwood Live Stream and In-Person Service | 28. | 29. | 30. | 31. | | |

Submissions for the calendar and newsletter can be sent to by the 29th of each month: ereumc@gmail.com

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®

OFFICE

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Want to be on our email list? Send request to ereumc@gmail.com

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE