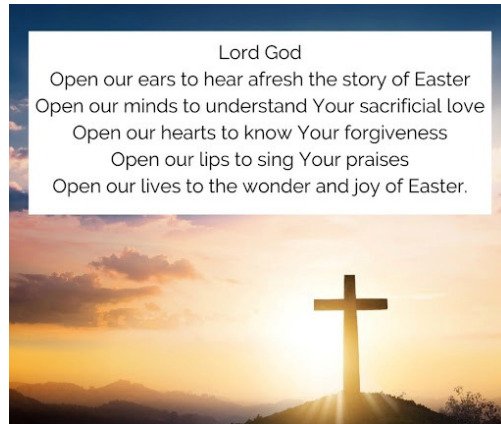


## Pastor's Piece

March 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

The days are growing longer and the journey to Easter shorter. This winter has certainly not given us any real reason to grumble, at least for those who don't enjoy snow. Maybe for this year, since Easter is much earlier than some years, the weather will be warmer. But then, this is Wisconsin!



As people of faith, we don't look to Easter merely for signs of nicer weather, and Spring. We look to the gift of new life that comes to us through the self-sacrifice of Jesus our Christ. We have spent the past days since Ash Wednesday, on a journey of self-denial, repentance and renewal. Along the way to Easter, we must continue the journey that leads to the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and then endure the deep sadness of Jesus' walk to Calvary and his death on a cross on Good Friday (Elmwood - 7:00 pm). We cannot rush through any of these events. There is no way to get to Easter without enduring Holy Week.

I hope you will plan to be present each of the Sundays until Easter as well as Good Friday. This will be the journey that leads to our **Easter Joy!**

Easter Sunday we will have a sunrise service at 7:30 am at Elmwood UMC followed by an egg hunt and a continental breakfast. Rock Elm will worship at 10:00 am (tentatively). Why not invite a friend or neighbor to join you at one of the worship services celebrating the Resurrected Christ! After all, isn't that what we are called to do as disciples of Jesus Christ---to share the Good News of God's LOVE come to us through Jesus our Christ, for the salvation of the world? Alleluia!

Shalom,

Pastor Meg Erickson



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](mailto: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**



# Soul Food

By Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

February has been a tremendous month of opportunity for the Wisconsin Conference, as we gathered for Laity Convocation, the Ethnic Clergy Retreat, and the Clergy Bishop's Day Apart. We have met together and, with that, have shared meals, sorrows, triumphs, and a vision of the hope of Jesus Christ found in our future.

The theme for the Laity Convocation and the Clergy Bishop's Day Apart was "Abundance of God - Hope for the Future." I invited us to explore the Book of Lamentations and how these Holy texts implore us to center ourselves in God's Word as we journey towards our future.

As I prepared for these critical events in the life of the Annual Conference, I was struck by how we may recognize and embrace the truth written in Lamentations: that in life and faith, we experience both loss and hope.

Consider how Lamentations 3:19-21 puts it: "I'll never forget the trouble, the utter lostness, the taste of ashes, the poison I've swallowed. I remember it all—oh, how well I remember—the feeling of hitting the bottom. But there's one other thing I remember, and remembering, I keep a grip on - it's hope" (The Message). As we move from Ash Wednesday into the Lenten season, these words speak powerfully as we look deep within and consider our sinfulness - the ideologies and practices that keep us from fully living out our faith. Yet, in and through it all, we hold onto hope.

Black History Month adds depth to our Lenten introspection, as it offers us a time to learn, grow, and advocate. When we listen to other voices, when we hear different perspectives, when we compassionately acknowledge the painful stories of slavery, emancipation without restitution, Jim Crow Laws, segregation, civil rights, and #BlackLivesMatter, we enter into a holy time with honest quests. Walking with each other - we lament what was and still is in many ways.

When we earnestly seek to love each other, we restore the wholeness as God's people. We strive not to pass over the pain of others, for that ignores the commonality in our humanness - the belovedness of God in each other.

Jesus calls us to relationships, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this" (John 15:12-13a). In such a Christ-centered relationship, we must be courageous to stand with and for each other, even when uncomfortable.

As your Bishop, I implore you to be a people of profound love that seeks justice, righteousness, and hope. Center yourself in the text from Amos 5:24, "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Find ways to learn about our American history, including our Black History; seek to understand, be compassionate to one another, and explore ways that you may be a restorative leader.

There are Wisconsin-specific events as we celebrate Black History Month. The General Commission on Religion and Race has resources: <https://www.r2hub.org/library/black-history-month-less-well-known-historical-figures> and the website for Wisconsin History has dedicated a page with events and videos to share: <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/blackhistory>. Here is our opportunity to embrace learning and putting our faith into action. May God make it so.

Peace,  
Hee-Soo Jung, Bishop, Wisconsin Conference

**Charge POTLUCK!**

Sunday, March 3rd  
11:30 am  
Elmwood United Methodist Church

Bring a dish to pass and something to drink!  
All Welcome!

**Happy Birthday**

Charge March Birthdays  
 March 4-Brandi Holcomb  
 March 4-Char Kerg  
 March 9-Steve Holt  
 March 13-Hannah Weaver  
 March 15-Cadie Asher  
 March 19-Deb Raasch  
 March 20-Hunter Weaver  
 March 23-Bradley Claflin  
 March 27-Riley Ginsbach  
 March 30-Noah Shuman  
 March 31-Sandra Pieper

**Happy Anniversary**

Charge March Anniversaries  
 March 11-Katie and Ryan Schneider  
 March 14-Deb and Jim Moe  
 March 31-Lorie and Steve Holt

**Easter Symbols and Their Meanings**

<p><b>Easter Eggs</b></p> <p>symbolizes the resurrection of Jesus on Easter</p>	<p><b>The Easter Bunny</b></p> <p>from the pagan festival of Eostre, as the goddess was traditionally represented by a rabbit</p>	<p><b>Soft Pretzels</b></p> <p>a food eaten during Lent because it is only made with flour, salt, and water</p>	<p><b>The Butterfly</b></p> <p>symbolizes the resurrection of Jesus</p>	<p><b>New Easter Outfits</b></p> <p>from the belief that wearing new clothes to church on Easter Sunday would bring good luck</p>
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**Jelly Bean Gospel**

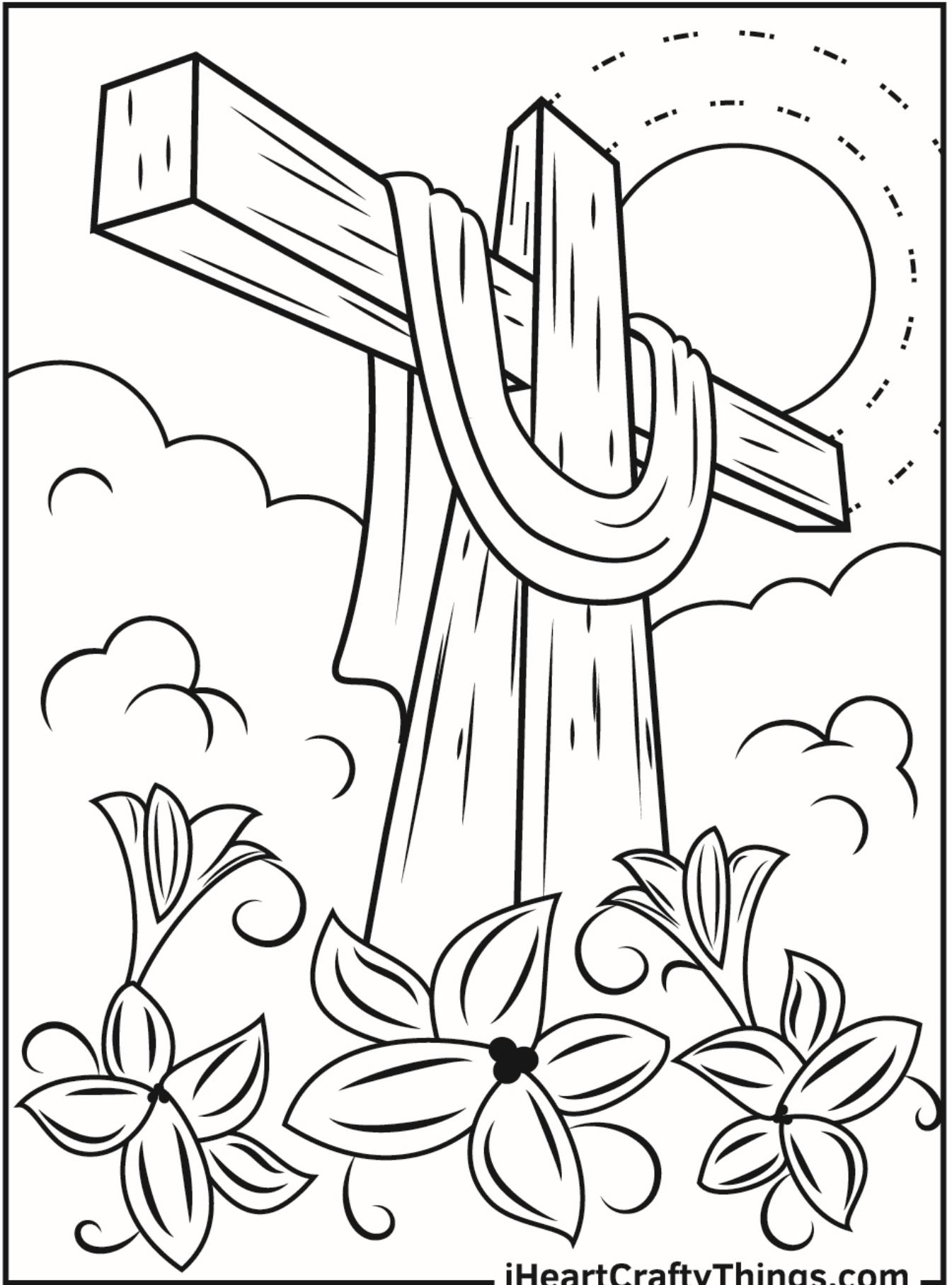
Red's the blood that Jesus shed,  
 White's the perfect life He led,  
 Black is for my heart of sin,  
 Green, new life I've found in Him,  
 Pink, for flowers near His grave,  
 Blue's the world He came to save,  
 Purple, temple veil, now torn,  
 Orange, the sky on Easter morn,  
 Yellow is my happy grin  
 To know that Jesus rose again!

I hope that you'll enjoy this treat  
 Of jelly beans, so small and sweet.  
 The news they share is short, but true:  
 Jesus died, 'cause He loves YOU.  
 So empty the bag, and when you do,  
 Remember His tomb is empty, too!

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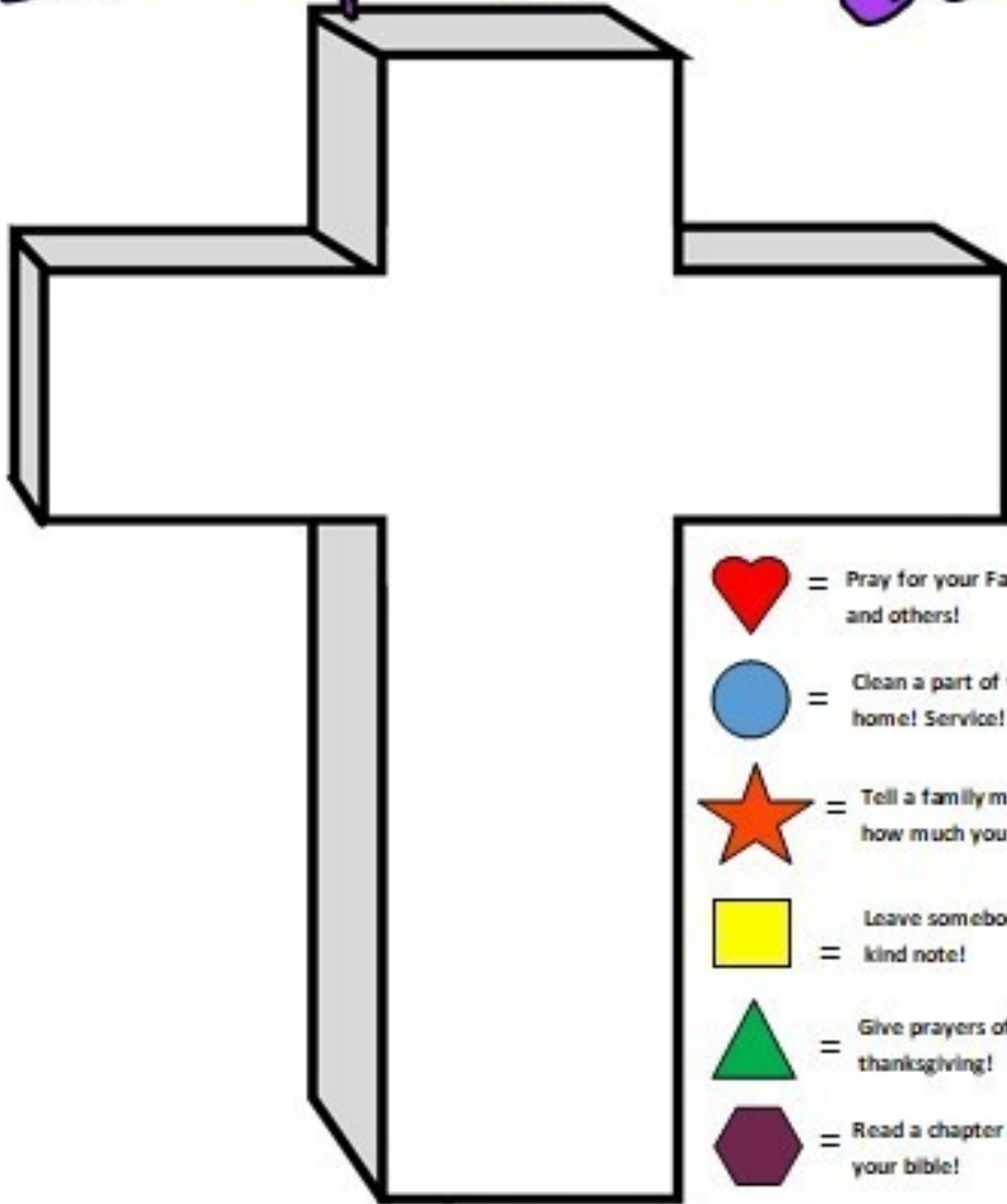
Easter reminds us that hope should never be lost for as dark the road may seem, there always lies light at the end of it. May all your prayers be fulfilled and may wonderful blessings be upon you and all your loved ones on this very special day. Happy Easter.

Read, Love and Learn



iHeartCraftyThings.com

# Lent Cross!



Fill in the Cross with your lent activities! Each time you do one of the activities draw and color the shape associated with that activity in the cross! Fill it up by Easter!



# It is Finished

## Lent/Holy Week Bible Reading Plan Video devotionals and free resources

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. John 1:1-18       | 21. Psalm 34       |
| 2. John 1:19-24      | 22. Psalm 23       |
| 3. Isaiah 6:1-7      | 23. Exodus 15:1-21 |
| 4. Psalm 139         | 24. Isaiah 61      |
| 5. Revelation 4      | 25. John 4: 1-26   |
| 6. Psalm 19          | 26. John 8 :1-11   |
| 7. Isaiah 11:1-10    | 27. John 12:1-19   |
| 8. Psalm 27          | 28. John 12:20-50  |
| 9. Lam. 3: 19-26     | 29. John 13:1-20   |
| 10. Psalm 30         | 30. John 14: 1-13  |
| 11. Psalm 51         | 31. John 14:15-31  |
| 12. Matthew 4:1-11   | 32. John 15:1-17   |
| 13. Matthew 5:1-11   | 33. John 16:1-15   |
| 14. Psalm 42         | 34. John 16:16-24  |
| 15. Matthew 5:13-16  | 35. John 16:25-33  |
| 16. Matthew 6:19-24  | 36. John 17        |
| 17. Matthew 6: 25-34 | 37. John 18        |
| 18. Job 38:1-11      | 38. Matt. 26:36-46 |
| 19. Isaiah 55        | 39. John 19        |
| 20. Psalm 16         | 40. John 20        |

michellediercks.com



# Lent Scripture Writing Plan

Each of the scriptures below takes ten minutes or less to copy out. Commit to spending ten minutes each day listening to God's voice as you simply copy these texts out of your Bible.

- Day 1- Joel 2:12-14
- Day 2- Matthew 6:16-18
- Day 3- Philippians 3:10-11
- Day 4- Mark 1:12-15
- Day 5- Isaiah 58:6-7
- Day 6- Mark 9: 1-6
- Day 7- Mark 9: 7-13
- Day 8- John 12: 1-5
- Day 9- John 12: 6-11
- Day 10- John 12: 12-18
- Day 11- John 12: 19-24
- Day 12- John 12: 25-30
- Day 13- John 12: 31-36
- Day 14- John 12: 37-41
- Day 15- John 12: 42-45
- Day 16- John 12: 46-50
- Day 17- Mark 2: 18-22
- Day 18- Ezekiel 18:21
- Day 19- Genesis 3:19
- Day 20- 1 Peter 5:6

- Day 21- Matthew 4: 1-5
- Day 22- Matthew 4:6-11
- Day 23- Psalm 91: 1-6
- Day 24- Psalm 91: 7-11
- Day 25- Psalm 91: 12-16
- Day 26- Luke 18: 9-14
- Day 27- John 17: 1-8
- Day 28- John 17: 9-19
- Day 29- John 17: 20-26
- Day 30- Daniel 9: 3-10
- Day 31- John 4: 19-23
- Day 32- John 4: 24-27

### HOLY WEEK:

- Day 33- Luke 19: 41-48
- Day 34- Mark 11: 12-25
- Day 35- Mark 11: 26-33
- Day 36- Mark 12: 1-12
- Day 37- Mark 14: 12-25
- Day 38- John 19: 38-42
- Day 39- Isaiah 53:4-6
- Day 40- Matthew 28: 1-10

©www.swtblessings.com



## MARCH BIBLE READING PLAN



### JESUS HEALS

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Day 1: MARK 7:32-37        | Day 17: LUKE 6:20-23      |
| Day 2: ISAIAH 53:5         | Day 18: LUKE 17:15-19     |
| Day 3: JAMES 5:15          | Day 19: JEREMIAH 17:14    |
| Day 4: 1 PETER 2:24        | Day 20: PSALMS 107:20     |
| Day 5: PSALMS 147:3        | Day 21: GENESIS 20:17     |
| Day 6: MATTHEW 4:23        | Day 22: PSALMS 6:2        |
| Day 7: PROVERBS 3:7-8      | Day 23: MATTHEW 8:2-3     |
| Day 8: LUKE 6:17-19        | Day 24: LUKE 5:29-32      |
| Day 9: PSALMS 103:3-5      | Day 25: 2 CHRONICLES 7:14 |
| Day 10: PROVERBS 4:20-22   | Day 26: PSALMS 6:2-9      |
| Day 11: MALACHI 4:2        | Day 27: ISAIAH 57:18-19   |
| Day 12: MATTHEW 8:7-11     | Day 28: MARK 11:23        |
| Day 13: JAMES 5:16         | Day 29: 2 KINGS 5:10      |
| Day 14: PROVERBS 12:18     | Day 30: MARK 1:41         |
| Day 15: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:9 | Day 31: ISAIAH 38:20      |
| Day 16: MATTHEW 10:7-8     |                           |





# March 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Submissions for the calendar and newsletter can be sent to by the 29th of each month: <a href="mailto:ereumc@gmail.com">ereumc@gmail.com</a></b></p>						<p>2. Northwest District Youth tubing at Trollhaugen All youth are free!</p>
<p>3. <b>CHARGE POTLUCK</b> <b>Communion</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Rock Elm In-Person Service <b>10:30 AM</b> Elmwood Live Stream and In-Person Service</p>	4.	<p>5. <b>7:00-8:30 PM</b> Lenten Book Study #3 via Zoom</p>	<p>6. <b>6:00-7:30 PM</b> Confirmation and Youth Group @ Elmwood UMC</p>	7.	8.	9.
<p>10. <b>9:00 AM</b> Rock Elm In-Person Service <b>10:30 AM</b> Elmwood Live Stream and In-Person Service</p>	11.	<p>12. <b>7:00-8:30 PM</b> Lenten Book Study #4 via Zoom</p>	<p>13. <b>9:00 AM</b> Rock Elm Admin Counsel Meeting <b>6:00 PM</b> Elmwood UMW Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Elmwood Admin Counsel Meeting</p>	14.	15.	16.
<p>17. <b>9:00 AM</b> Rock Elm In-Person Service <b>10:30 AM</b> Elmwood Live Stream and In-Person Service  <b>St. Patrick's Day</b></p>	18.	<p>19. <b>7:00-8:30 PM</b> Lenten Book Study #5 via Zoom</p>	<p>20. <b>6:00-8:00 PM</b> Confirmation and Youth Group @ Elmwood UMC (Practice for Good Friday/Easter-Bells)</p>	21.	22.	23.
<p>24. <b>9:00 AM</b> Rock Elm In-Person Service <b>10:30 AM</b> Elmwood Live Stream and In-Person Service  <b>Palm Sunday</b></p>	25.	<p>26. <b>7:00-8:30 PM</b> Lenten Book Study #6 via Zoom</p>	27.	<p>28. Maundy Thursday</p>	<p>29. <b>7:00 PM</b> Good Friday at Elmwood UMC</p>	30.
<p>31. <b>7:30 AM</b> Easter Sunrise Service at Elmwood UMC Livestream <b>10:00 AM</b> <b>Tentative time</b> Easter Sunday Service at Rock Elm UMC Easter Sunday</p>						

# 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 donation date <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 <sup>st</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 <sup>st</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 <sup>th</sup>	FUNDS: <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	AMOUNTS: \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____  Total \$ _____
<b>CHECKING / SAVINGS</b>	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: _____ <small>0125, 30769   013 423, 30, 0001</small> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100px;"> <span>Routing Number</span> <span>Account Number</span> <span>Check Number</span> </div>
	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®**

## OFFICE

Meg Erickson, Pastor

Katie Schneider, Secretary

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Youtube Channel: [Elmwood and Rock Elm United Methodist Church](#)

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE