

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](mailto:ereumc@gmail.com)

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

**Facebook:**  
Rock Elm & Elmwood UMC

**YouTube:** Elmwood and Rock  
Elm United Methodist Church

## Pastor's Piece

November 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

Once again, we have been blessed with an incredible fall, and as the seasons come and go, we are reminded once again of the majesty of our awesome God. One should never admit to boredom because in the order of God's creation, life is in constant motion, and we are invited to join the journey! Our task is to find our place, our opportunity to serve in God's kingdom.

I know that so much of what we do as a faith community is centered around raising funds to support ministry. That always includes keeping the hub of our activity running - lights, water, heat, you get it. And I am so grateful for your support. But that is a means to an end, which is to be the image and likeness of our Christ in this community and beyond.

Part of our journey is growing in our understanding of God's love and how we live faithfully in that love. So here's an opportunity! Join me via zoom, as we read and discuss Bishop Will Willimon's book, "Heaven and Earth – Advent and the Incarnation". I will have the books (\$15.00) already. Just let me know you're interested. We will meet via zoom on Thursday evenings, 7-8 pm. Our first gathering will be November 16, then November 30 and 2 weeks in December – 7 and 14.

To give you a peak into this book, here's the Introduction to the book:

"Watch out. God is on the way." "It's not within our own power to make a fresh start. If we're to have a future different from the past, it must come as a gift, something not of our devising. What we need is a God who refuses to be trapped in eternity, a God who not only cares about us but is willing to show up among us and do something with us, here, now. In Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation, Will Willimon introduces you to the God who does just that, bringing heaven to earth and changing everything. In Advent we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God is coming to us. Watch out. Get ready. God is on the way."

The only prerequisite is that you want to learn something new! No prior Bible knowledge needed! We are all learning together. Won't you join me?

Shalom,

Pastor Meg

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Piece.....	1
Devotional.....	2
Miscellaneous.....	3-4
For Kids.....	5-6
Bible Reading Plan.....	7
Calendar.....	8
Pie Sale.....	9
Authorization Form.....	10

### 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

## Remembering and Celebrating

by Rev. Scott Carlson

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith . . . (Hebrews 12:1-2).”*

All Saints Day will take place this week. It is a time for us to look to examples like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and the Saints of our lives who have walked this journey of life and be encouraged. It is a time for us to give thanks to God for the lessons we can learn from those we have loved and cared about and learned from.

Because the bottom line is that life is often a challenge. And because of the circumstances we can find ourselves in we could be easily tempted to give up or not engage in what is before us. But by looking at the examples of these saints, from the bible and from our lives we are encouraged to stay faithful, to trust God and fight the good fight of faith for our day.

This was really brought home for me as a young clergy person. While I was serving on staff at Cargill United Methodist Church in Janesville, I became Ordained as an Elder in the church, and they had a celebration for me.

During my sermon on that celebration weekend, I was talking about the challenges of serving a church today. The kind of challenges that have come because the rest of the world no longer revolves around the church. I talked longingly of a time when the church didn't have to compete with the school over Wednesday night activities. I talked longingly of when the worship on Sunday morning wasn't in competition with club sports and play productions. I talked longingly of when the blue laws closed everything else down on Sundays. I talked longingly of when clergy were well respected in communities. I ended with a challenge that basically said, “As much as I would like to go back and serve in that era, probably as much as many of our membership would like to go back to that era, God has called me and you to be in ministry now, with these challenges.”

It was a couple of days later I got a beautiful note from one of the retired clergy of our congregation. Herb Ziebarth and his wife Meta had become good friends. They were full of encouragement for me as a young pastor.

The note said something like, “Scott, thank you for your sermon. It allowed me to think back on my career. I served the church in communities where everything revolved around the church. In every community I had the privilege of serving, we were the only show in town on Sunday. We didn't compete with anything else. We were loved and respected in the church and in the community. We loved the places we lived and the people we served, and in turn were loved back.

“Hearing your sermon brought back so many good memories. Thank you. It was a privilege to be called to ministry in that time. But you are called to ministry in this time, to face these challenges. At the end of your journey, I pray that you will be as grateful and fulfilled as I am today.”

Herb's note was so encouraging. I have thought of it often, especially when I have faced challenges that have almost caused me to give up. Herb, who died a number of years ago, has been one of those saints who encourages me and helps me to remember that I am called. I am loved by God. God still has work to do with me.

Who helps you to remember when you have a hard time trusting? Who helps bring you back to faith when you are tempted to give up?

When challenges come our way, when we have a hard time trusting God for the road we are on, may we celebrate what the author of Hebrews reminds us, that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. May we look to these saints who encourage us to stay faithful, to carry on, to fight the good fight.

Prayer

*Loving God, thank you for giving us such great examples of those who have lived faithfully. May we learn from them and be encouraged to remain faithful. May we find ways to encourage each other to walk the path of Jesus in our world. Teach us to let your love and grace flow through us to touch this world. In the hope that Jesus offers us. Amen.*

# WINDOW DEDICATION & CHARGE POTLUCK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, ELMWOOD UMC

DEDICATION DURING THE CHURCH SERVICE AT 10:30 AM

POTLUCK AFTER SERVICE AT 11:30 AM

**POTLUCK: FRESH ROASTED TURKEY AND FIXINGS WILL BE PROVIDED, ELMWOOD CONGREGATION MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING SALADS.**

## Charge November Birthdays

November 1-Lalia Martin

November 4-Linda Vivoda

November 5-Jim Martin

November 9-Cory Holt

November 13-Michelle Moe

November 18-Hattie Pitre

November 20-Shane Meyers Jr.

November 20 David Claflin

November 22-Bailey Ginsbach

November 22-Emily Hoyt

November 27-Angie Shuman

November 30-Chad Shuman

Happy  
Birthday

## ELMWOOD COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SPONSORS

October 1.....Potluck  
 October 8.....Elizabeth Claflin  
 October 15.....Char Kerg  
 October 22.....Tovah Carson  
 October 29.....Knegendorf Family

November 5.....Potluck  
 November 12.....Flanders Family  
 November 19.....Asher Family  
 November 26.....Hoyt Family

We would like to have a coffee fellowship after worship at least twice a month. Please sign-up below. Coffee is provided by the church (you will have to make it). Bring whatever munchie you like: cake, bars, cookies, cheese & crackers, etc. Thanks!

Coffee Time



THU, NOV 2 AT 12 PM At Rock Elm UMC  
 Rock Elm Old Settlers Club Annual Meeting

## United Methodist Church Resources

- [wisconsinumc.org](http://wisconsinumc.org)
- [ResourceUMC.org](http://ResourceUMC.org)
- [UMNews.org](http://UMNews.org)
- [UMC.org](http://UMC.org)
- [wisconsinumw.org](http://wisconsinumw.org)
- [umcmmission.org](http://umcmmission.org)
- [advance.umcor.org](http://advance.umcor.org)



Hey!  
**Attention**  
 2023 Charge Conference will be  
 November 28th, (Tuesday) at 6:00  
 - 7:00 pm at the Rock Elm UMC

## A Simple Grace For Meals

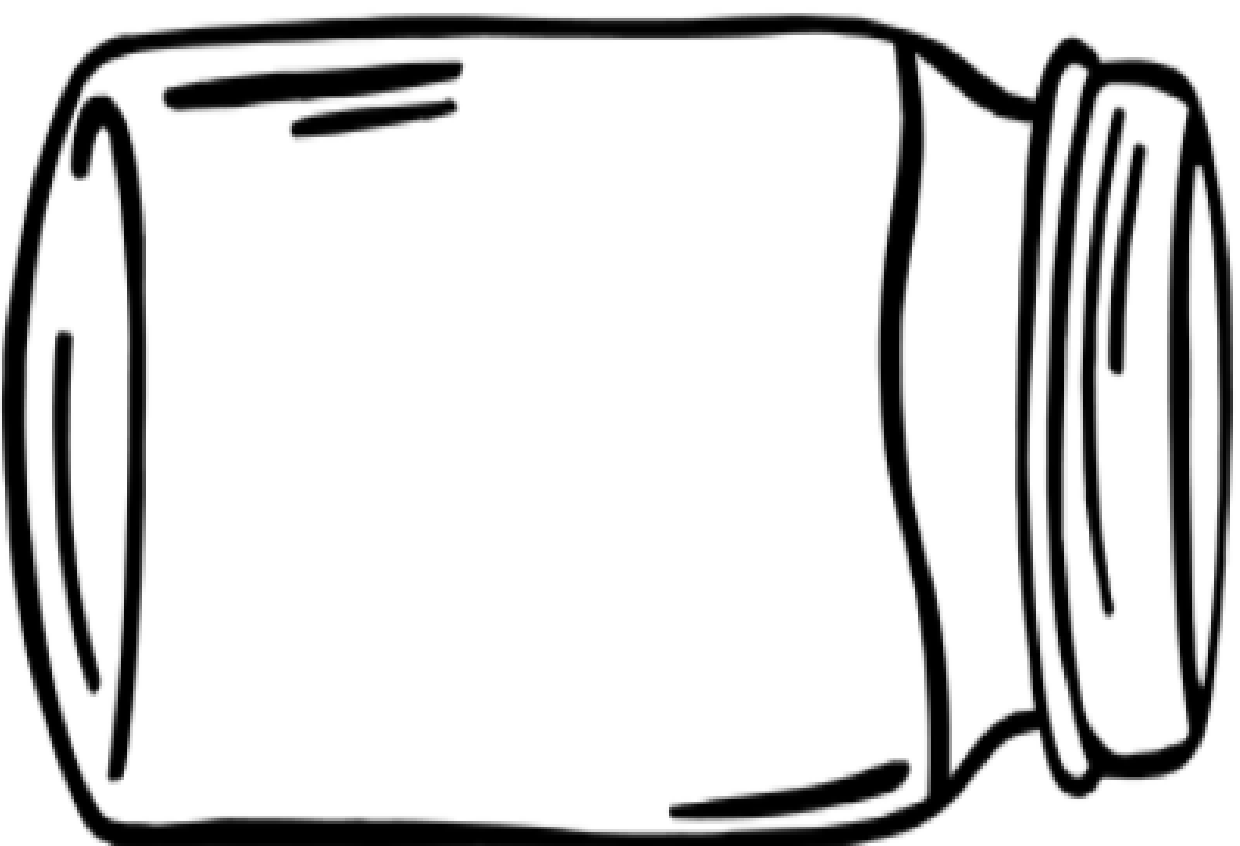
God, we thank you for this food. For rest and home and all things good. For wind and rain and sun above. But most of all for those we love.

Southern Living



GRATEFUL · BLESSED

# My Gratitude Jar



Date:  
Today I'm grateful for:

Date:  
Today I'm grateful for:

Date:  
Today I'm grateful for:

Date:  
Today I'm grateful for:

Date:  
Today I'm grateful for:

Date:  
Today I'm grateful for:

Date:  
Today I'm grateful for:

Date:  
Today I'm grateful for:

Date:  
Today I'm grateful for:

Date:  
Today I'm grateful for:

Date:  
Today I'm grateful for:

Date:  
Today I'm grateful for:

Date:  
Today I'm grateful for:

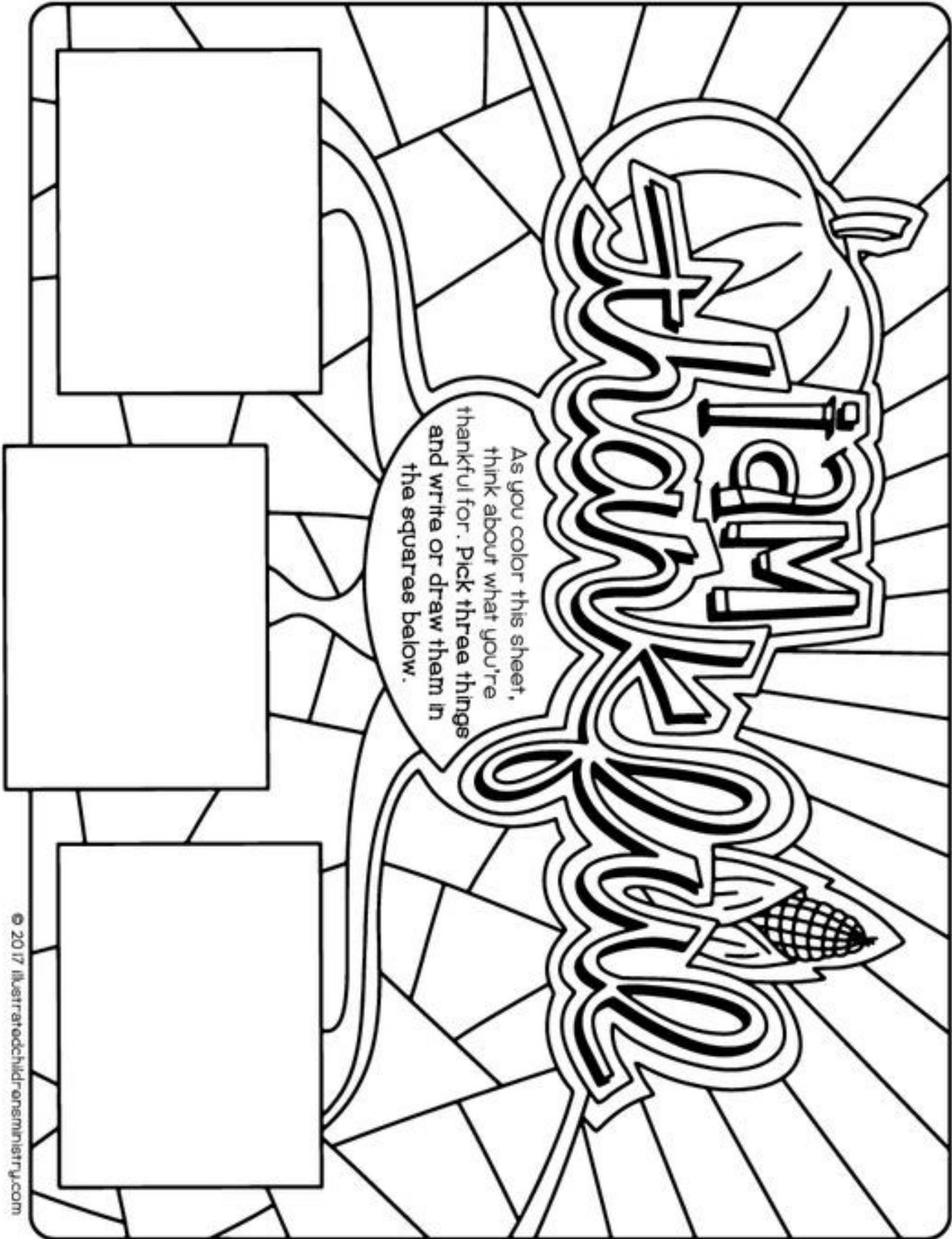
Date:  
Today I'm grateful for:



## 30-Day Bible Scripture

# CHALLENGE

<p><b>Day 1</b></p> <p><b>Colossians 4:2</b> "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving."</p>	<p><b>Day 2</b></p> <p><b>2 Corinthians 9:15</b> "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"</p>	<p><b>Day 3</b></p> <p><b>1 Thessalonians 5:18</b> "...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."</p>	<p><b>Day 4</b></p> <p><b>1 Chronicles 16:34</b> "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."</p>	<p><b>Day 5</b></p> <p><b>1 Corinthians 15:57</b> "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."</p>	<p><b>Day 6</b></p> <p><b>Psalms 106:1</b> "Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."</p>
<p><b>Day 7</b></p> <p><b>Colossians 3:15</b> "In You, O Lord, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; Deliver me in Your righteousness."</p>	<p><b>Day 8</b></p> <p><b>Psalms 100:4</b> "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name."</p>	<p><b>Day 9</b></p> <p><b>Psalms 107:21</b> "Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!"</p>	<p><b>Day 10</b></p> <p><b>Colossians 1:12</b> "...giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light."</p>	<p><b>Day 11</b></p> <p><b>Psalms 79:13</b> "So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, Will give You thanks forever; We will show forth Your praise to all generations."</p>	<p><b>Day 12</b></p> <p><b>Luke 2:38</b> "And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem."</p>
<p><b>Day 13</b></p> <p><b>Leviticus 22:29</b> "And when you offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord, offer it of your own free will."</p>	<p><b>Day 14</b></p> <p><b>Psalms 30:4</b> "Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name."</p>	<p><b>Day 15</b></p> <p><b>Psalms 35:18</b> "I will give You thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people."</p>	<p><b>Day 16</b></p> <p><b>Psalms 69:30</b> "I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving."</p>	<p><b>Day 17</b></p> <p><b>Psalms 26:7</b> "That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all Your wondrous works."</p>	<p><b>Day 18</b></p> <p><b>Psalms 95:2</b> "Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms."</p>
<p><b>Day 19</b></p> <p><b>1 Chronicles 16:8</b> "Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples!"</p>	<p><b>Day 20</b></p> <p><b>Hebrews 13:15</b> "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name."</p>	<p><b>Day 21</b></p> <p><b>Psalms 140:13</b> "Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name; The upright shall dwell in Your presence."</p>	<p><b>Day 22</b></p> <p><b>Mark 14:23</b> "Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it."</p>	<p><b>Day 23</b></p> <p><b>Luke 17:16</b> "...and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan."</p>	<p><b>Day 24</b></p> <p><b>Ephesians 5:20</b> "...giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..."</p>
<p><b>Day 25</b></p> <p><b>Philippians 4:6</b> "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."</p>	<p><b>Day 26</b></p> <p><b>Matthew 15:36</b> "And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude."</p>	<p><b>Day 27</b></p> <p><b>2 Corinthians 2:14</b> "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place."</p>	<p><b>Day 28</b></p> <p><b>2 Corinthians 4:15</b> "For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God."</p>	<p><b>Day 29</b></p> <p><b>Colossians 2:6-7</b> "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."</p>	<p><b>Day 30</b></p> <p><b>2 Thessalonians 2:13</b> "But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth..."</p>



# November 2023

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>1. <b>9:00 AM</b> Rock Elm Ad Council Meeting (Tentative time)  <b>6:00-8:00 PM</b> Confirmation Class</p>	<p>2. <b>12:00 PM</b> Rock Elm Old Settlers Club at Rock Elm UMC</p>	3.	4.
<p>5. <b>9:00 AM</b> Rock Elm In-Person Service <b>10:30 AM</b> Elmwood Live Stream and In-Person Service <b>Window Dedication</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> Charge Potluck</p>	6.	7.	<p>8. <b>6:00 PM</b> Elmwood Ad Council Meeting</p>	9.	10.	11.
<p>12. <b>9:00 AM</b> Rock Elm In-Person Service <b>10:30 AM</b> Elmwood Live Stream and In-Person Service</p>	13.	14.	<p>15. <b>6:00-8:00 PM</b> Confirmation Class</p>	<p>16. <b>7:00-8:00 PM</b> Advent Book Study via Zoom</p>	17.	18.
<p>19. <b>9:00 AM</b> Rock Elm In-Person Service <b>10:30 AM</b> Elmwood Live Stream and In-Person Service</p>	<p>20. <b>Teach In-Service Lunch served at school</b></p>	21.	22.	<p>23. <b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b> <b>Give thanks for God's many blessings!</b></p>	24.	25.
<p>26. <b>9:00 AM</b> Rock Elm In-Person Service <b>10:30 AM</b> Elmwood Live Stream and In-Person Service</p>	27.	<p>28. <b>6:00 PM</b> Charge Conference at Rock Elm UMC</p>	<p>29. <b>6:00-8:00 PM</b> Confirmation Class</p>	<p>30. <b>7:00-8:00 PM</b> Advent Book Study via Zoom</p>		





# Homemade Pies

Made by the Elmwood UMW on

Sale Now

\$12.00

Apple

Strawberry Rhubarb

Rhubarb

Raspberry Rhubarb

Red Raspberry

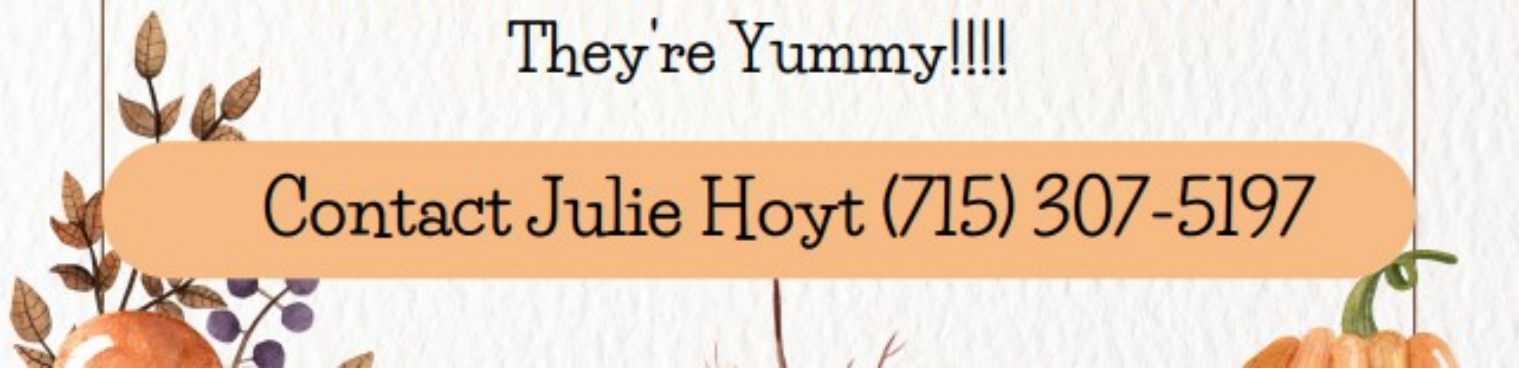
Mixed Berry

Black Berry



Want to buy one...two...or more?

They're Yummy!!!!



Contact Julie Hoyt (715) 307-5197



**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**

**Email: [ereumc@gmail.com](mailto:ereumc@gmail.com)**

**Website: [ereumc.org](http://ereumc.org)**

**Charge Office: 715-639-5831**

**Office hours: 8:00 am-12:00 pm Wednesdays or Thursdays, please call first**

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

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

**Follow us on Facebook: Rock Elm & Elmwood UMC**

**Want to be on our email list? Send request to [ereumc@gmail.com](mailto:ereumc@gmail.com)**

**Elmwood ~ Rock Elm  
United Methodist Churches  
P. O. Box 52  
Elmwood, WI 54740  
Phone: 715-639-5831  
[ereumc@gmail.com](mailto:ereumc@gmail.com)  
Website: [ereumc.org](http://ereumc.org)**



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE