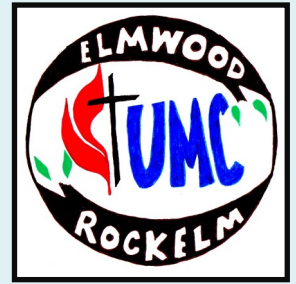




# The Good News



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

A Newsletter for the  
Elmwood and Rock Elm  
United Methodist Churches

Dear friends,

As I write this we are embarking on a New Year. The year 2020 will be infamous for many reasons and a dark chapter in our lives. The new year is always a time when we look forward to a better future and this year is no different. Lately, I have been saying, “the worst things are never the last things.” And I believe that is true. I know we all look forward to better things going forward.

I am grateful to our churches and our resiliency in times of pressure and adversity. Thank you for your faithful giving, your attendance at the parking lot church, your efforts at the Harvest Dinner, and more. Our virtual Christmas Eve Service was the most attended ever based on the number of views (124 at last count). We have completed another confirmation class. We will celebrate the confirmation of six young people this spring.

We have continued to give to our missions and to the COVID relief fund at UMCOR. We have tried new ways of worshipping and embracing technologies that we would not have imagined. I am grateful as we stay the course and walk through the valley with the light at the end of the tunnel in sight. Welcome 2021. We hope and pray for a better year.

The first celebration on the Christian calendar after the first of the year is Epiphany. Epiphany is on January 6 – a Wednesday this year – but we usually celebrate on the nearest Sunday. Epiphany is the revelation of Jesus Christ as the Son of God. The Magi of the east come and declare Jesus to be special because of what they saw in the sky and how it matched up to prophecy. This truth has held for 2000 years plus and it will continue to hold into the new year. We worship God’s son as the sustainer of the world. Jesus is with us always as it says in Matthew. Jesus will be at my side as I tackle the future and walk the path God has laid out for me. Jesus will be with you as well.

Walking the path together,  
Pastor Mike

## Sunday Services:

Rock Elm 9:00

Elmwood 10:30

Michael Weaver, Pastor  
Jeanne Friedell, Secretary

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## OF INTEREST

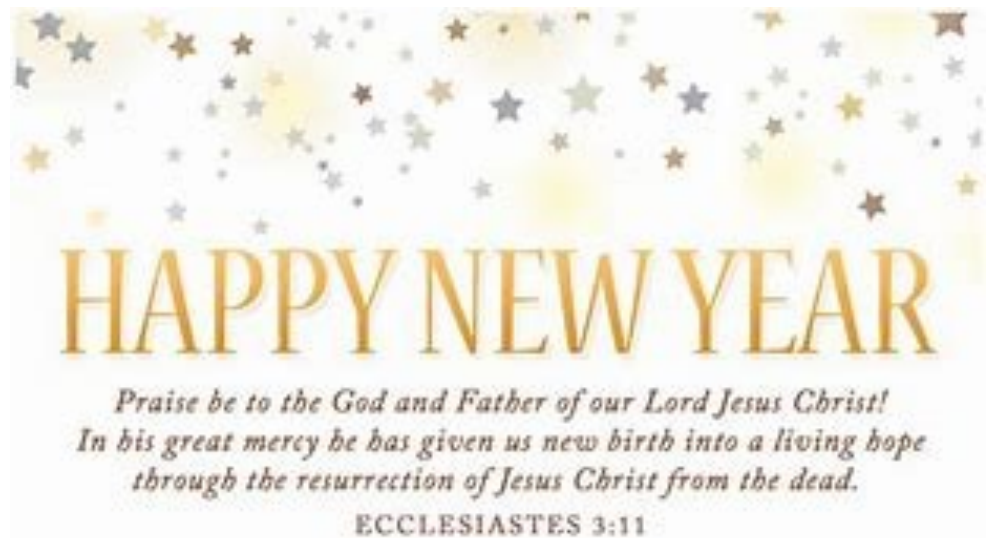
- Sunday school for elementary children during worship service
- United Methodist Women
- Contemporary and traditional music
- Open minds, open doors, open hearts

## Our Mission Statement

**Connecting** - Inviting new people, welcoming them into the life of the church with active hospitality.

**Growing** –Providing opportunities to experience meaningful worship and to grow in one's faith.

**Serving** - Risk-taking mission and service in the community.



# CONNECTING, GROWING, SERVING

How  
priceless is  
your  
unfailing  
love, O  
God!  
People  
take refuge  
in the  
shadow of  
your  
wings.

Psalm 36:7 NIV

## GIVING

Because our Giving Is Worship

*You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.* (2 Corinthians 9:1 0-12)

God established a design for worshipping when God revealed to Moses the plan for the Tent of Meeting (aka Tabernacle). Central to that worship was sacrificial giving. God required gifts of animals and grain be brought to the Tabernacle to be sacrificed and offered to God because it was pleasing to God. These gifts were the first fruits of the agricultural work of the people representing a tithe (10%) of their production.

God knew that an institution like Temple worship would require resources to be sustained. We read in the Old Testament that the people's gifts of meat and bread, cooked in a way pleasing to God, directly provided food for the priests, guards, and caretakers of the temple and the spiritual leaders of the tribes. Sharing the fruits of the harvest became the large feasts we read about in Jesus' time. In the modern Christian church, we maintain this pattern of giving designed by God. Now, people are called to give in a way pleasing to God: first fruits representing 10% of each family's productivity. Though, in modern times, it is money rather than agricultural produce.

These gifts to God, offered and dedicated in our worship services, are used to maintain the institution of the church by supporting its ministry and mission. This includes worship, congregational care, spiritual development, hospitality & outreach, and missions by way of support for clergy and staff, building maintenance and other budgetary items.

**What we can conclude from this is that we give first because it is a gift pleasing to God. As a result of our giving to God in worship, we also support all aspects of the important work of the church.**

# Birthdays and Anniversaries: January

## Birthdays-Rock Elm

- 4 Olivia Stewart
- 12 Janet Williamson
- 22 Isaac Roesler
- 28 Paul Churchill
- 30 Dan Flory
- 31 Dolly Burns



## Birthdays-Elmwood

- 3 Kadance Holcomb
- 5 Madisyn Weaver
- 6 Pat Solveson
- 7 Julie Krings
- 11 Lisa Weaver
- 12 Steve Solveson, Emma Moritz
- 17 Elizabeth DeLong
- 18 Lily Claflin, Karlee Lange
- 23 Logan Christman

## Anniversaries-Elmwood

- 10 Mike & Brandi Holcomb
- 28 Loren & Gladys Thompson

### Daily Scripture Readings

Jan. 1 Luke 9:1-6	Jan. 9 1 Peter 5:1-19	Jan. 17 Lamentations 3:19-26	Jan. 25 Isaiah 43:1-7
Jan. 2 Isaiah 40:28-31	Jan. 10 Galatians 6:1-9	Jan. 18 Psalm 145:13-21	Jan. 26 Luke 5:1-11
Jan. 3 Habakkuk 3:16-19	Jan. 11 Exodus 14:15-22	Jan. 19 Luke 13:6-9	Jan. 27 Psalm 36:5-9
Jan. 4 Psalm 103:1-8	Jan. 12 Isaiah 65:17-25	Jan. 20 Romans 10:1-15	Jan. 28 Deuteronomy 10:17-22
Jan. 5 1 Corinthians 2:9-16	Jan. 13 Psalm 34:4-19	Jan. 21 Psalm 16:5-11	Jan. 29 Genesis 12:1-9
Jan. 6 Proverbs 16:1-9	Jan. 14 Jeremiah 18:1-6	Jan. 22 Ecclesiastes 3:1-12	Jan. 30 Ephesians 4:11-16
Jan. 7 Psalm 4:1-8	Jan. 15 John 8:12-14	Jan. 23 Romans 8:18-31	Jan. 31 John 10:22-30
Jan. 8 Philippians 2:1-7	Jan. 16 Psalm 51:1-7	Jan. 24 Psalm 91:9-16	

# North West District Gathering 2021: Radical Hospitality

January 23, 2021, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Zoom Workshop via Zoom

Join us for worship, training, conversation, and celebrating our district.

Objectives for the day:

- Learn discipleship methods (in person and virtual)

- Relaunch and revision church culture in 2021

- Connect to available resources

Speakers: Rev. Rachel Gilmore, Director, Recruiting, Assessing & Training for Church Planting and Rev. Bryan Tener, Director, Contextual Evangelism, Community Engagement & Church Planting/Path 1.

Register: [eventbrite.com/e/north-west-district-gathering-radical-hospitality-in-2021-tickets-133598834711](https://eventbrite.com/e/north-west-district-gathering-radical-hospitality-in-2021-tickets-133598834711)

Apportionment dollars make this workshop possible.

# January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <u>Happy New Year</u> <u>Pastors Day off</u>	2
3 <u>10:30 AM</u> <u>Elmwood</u> <u>Live Stream</u> <u>Service</u>	4	5	6 <u>9:00 AM</u> <u>Office Hours</u>	7	8 <u>Pastors Day off</u>	9
10 <u>10:30 AM</u> <u>Elmwood</u> <u>Live Stream</u> <u>Service</u>	11	12	13 <u>9:00 AM</u> <u>Office Hours</u>	14 <u>12:00 PM</u> <u>Pastor at</u> <u>Circuit meet-</u> <u>ing</u>  <u>12:00 PM Pastor</u> <u>at Public</u> <u>Health Meet-</u> <u>ing</u>	15 <u>Pastors Day off</u>	16
17 <u>10:30 AM</u> <u>Elmwood</u> <u>Live Stream</u> <u>Service</u>	18	19	20 <u>9:00 AM</u> <u>Office Hours</u>	21	22 <u>Pastors Day off</u>	23 <u>District Virtual</u> <u>Gathering</u>
24 <u>10:30 AM</u> <u>Elmwood</u> <u>Live Stream</u> <u>Service</u>	25	26	27 <u>9:00 AM</u> <u>Office Hours</u>	28 <u>12:00 PM</u> <u>Pastor at</u> <u>Public Health</u> <u>Meeting</u>	29 <u>Pastors Day off</u>	30
31 <u>10:30 AM</u> <u>Elmwood</u> <u>Live Stream</u> <u>Service</u>						



Elmwood UMC located at:  
307 S Main Street,  
Elmwood WI

Rock Elm UMC located at:  
170th Street  
Elmwood WI

(about 6 miles west on 72)

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.

## OFFICE

Michael Weaver, Pastor

Jeanne Friedell, Secretary

ereumc@gmail.com

Website: ereumc.org

715-639-5831

Office hours are 9-1 on Wednesdays.

Follow us on Facebook [Rock Elm & Elmwood UMC](#)



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

Elmwood ~ Rock Elm United  
Methodist Churches

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE