



# Methodelma

## May 2026

**Elma United Methodist Church**  
**2991 Bowen Rd. Elma, NY 14059**

**Rev. Lisa D. Taylor, Pastor**

***"We are loving,  
Spirit-led disciples of Jesus Christ  
growing in God through  
Nurture, Education, Worship, and Service."***

**Sunday Worship Service**

**In-Person Worship at starts at 9:15am**

**Church Office Phone Number: 716-652-5427**

**Pastor's Cell Phone Number: 716-341-1896**

**Church Office E-mail: [ElmaUMOffice@gmail.com](mailto:ElmaUMOffice@gmail.com)**



## Pastor's Message – Christians are Lifelong Learners!

Proverbs 1:5 tells us: “Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance”

Throughout the Bible we see examples of those who seek to learn and discover more of God as being people who grow in grace and wisdom, and those who rely on their own ideas of what is right and godly do not. In the gospels we see the examples of those who choose to follow Jesus allowing their hearts and minds to be changed throughout their experience with him on earth, and as they are instructed through one another by the Holy Spirit after his resurrection and ascension.

John Wesley was the first among the Protestant reformers to acknowledge and encourage lay leadership in the church, including having the laity preaching and teaching. This required the lay people of the church to learn and grow, to continue their Christian education throughout their lifetime, under the guidance of clergy and fellow laity who were farther along in their knowledge of the Bible and the tradition of the church from its earliest days. Quoting an excerpt from the editors of the Wesley Study Bible:

“Wesley knew that we are always tempted to confuse our desires with God’s, and thereby to confuse ourselves with God. This is at the heart of sin and a problem for all people. It is why Christians need to engage in lifelong learning and growth in holiness so that we will be faithful.”

The writer goes on to say of lay and clergy leadership that we need to be formed and educated so that we consistently attend to God rather than the gods of our own imaginations or of the surrounding cultures. The gospel calls for faithfully formed and well-educated Christians who will guide the church toward God and holiness of heart and life.

As I move into completing my second year of study toward my Doctor of Ministry degree, I am grateful for all the friends and members of Elma UMC who have encouraged my constant devotion to continuing education in several areas of coursework since I arrived in July of 2020. I am especially grateful to those who have prayed for me and for those who have willingly participated by exploring with me in workshops and the recent prototypes for Bible study and prayer projects. I hope these will help Elma UMC grow further in Christian life and ministry. And I am grateful for all who faithfully attend the prayer opportunities and studies I offer you as your pastor. These are all important parts of the ongoing Christian formation of each of you, and the church as a whole, as the Holy Spirit is leading through me as your pastor at this time in EUMC’s history.

I encourage each of you who has been engaged in these ways to continue; and those who have not to get on board and make it a regular habit to join in. The future of Elma UMC depends on your faithfulness in seeking and responding to God as God is leading us together.

Blessings, Pastor Lisa

## Pastor's Typical Weekly Schedule

Pastor Lisa is typically in Elma Sundays, late afternoon Mondays through Wednesday evenings, works from home on Thursdays, takes her Sabbath on Fridays, and has her day off on Saturdays. The schedule for Thursday through Saturday sometimes changes depending upon the needs of the church. In general, she prefers not to work past 9:30pm, although this is sometimes unavoidable. As the church is a pretty busy place, it may be best to make an appointment if you want to have time to talk with Pastor Lisa. But you are always welcome to stop by. In emergencies please use the Pastor's cell phone 716-341-1896; especially during hours when no one is scheduled to be in the office.

## Monthly Prayer Opportunities:

Wednesday, May 20th , 10-10:30am and/or 7-8pm.

Please join Pastor Lisa in a time of gathering for informal prayer for our church, our community, and personal needs. Prayer for healing with laying on of hands and anointing with oil will be available for those desiring this form of prayer ministry. You are welcome to come and pray silently with those praying aloud and to pray aloud if you are so led by the Holy Spirit. You are also welcome if you have never tried a prayer group before and want to learn, or just want to try this one.

## Church News and Announcements

Typically everything you need to know about what's happening at Elma UMC can be found in the Methodelma via hard copy that's mailed to those on the Methodelma mailing list, emailed copy that's emailed to those on that list, or the copy posted on the website. There is always hard copy available at the church to pick up as well.

For Current Announcements, check out the Announcement Board positioned near the coatroom.

All Methodelma submissions are due to Jill by the 15 th of each month. Thank you!

# COMING UP

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 3rd – 9:15am Worship Creation Care Sunday! with Education Hour and a Meatless Potluck meal to follow!

May 24 th – 9:15am Worship, 10:30am Special Event – Memorial Day Historical Walk across the street to the Elma cemetery – All Welcome!

May 25 th – Memorial Day! Join us to march in Elma’s annual Memorial Day Parade! Meet at Elma Town Library (corner of Bowen and Rice Roads) at 8:30am! We hope many of our EUMC family will join us as we join together with the whole community! AND – if you have ideas about what we can do to make our presence in the parade more special, and/or if you can donate individually wrapped, non-chocolate (it melts in the heat!) candy for us to give out to people along the route, please contact Pastor Lisa!

May 27 th -30 th – Please pray for EUMC’s Lay Representative, Andrew Hartley, and Pastor Lisa as we travel and attend this year’s Upper NY Annual Conference in Syracuse!

May 31 st - Special Pre-Planned Hymns and Worship Songs Sing-a-Long! Our worship service will be filled with songs of praise to God!!! The entire service will be immersed in praise and thanksgiving with many of our favorite Christian songs and hymns. Please let Pastor Lisa know by May 18 th what song or hymn you would like to have included so we can plan this wonderful service of praise!

## Church Events:

Church members and ministry leaders are welcome to schedule meetings and events related to their established church ministries. Please let Jill in the office know about your plans so they can be put on the office calendar and dates/times checked for potential conflicts, and so she can respond to questions those coming may call the office about. Most uses of the building that are directly related to established church/district/conference ministries do not require prior building use approval. However, use by outside groups, and special personal family events usually do. Please check with Jill and she will confirm with the church trustees.

## SAFE SANCTUARIES 2026 TRAINING:

2026 Safe Sanctuaries Training dates are out.

All clergy, laity working with children, youth, vulnerable adults, our preschool, Christian Education, Up & About room and are not Safe Sanctuaries Trained please sign up with Jilliane in the Office or email her. All these trainings are online and 3 1/2 hours long, if you would like an in person training you can reach out to safesanctuaries@unyumc.org. Online training dates are below and hanging on the announcement board in the hallway

Saturday, May 2 9am-1230pm

Saturday, August 1 9am-1230pm

Saturday, November 7 9am-1230pm

## LUNCH BUNCH

Wendie Stockton

We will meet on Monday, May 11th at The Olive Tree on Broadway in Lancaster at 12:30PM. Please sign up on the bulletin board or call Wendie Stockton at (716)998-2454 . All are welcome to attend!

***Come for food, fellowship, and fun!***



## Christian Education Update:

There is help needed from those gifted and interested in serving our young people and adults in this very important ministry area. Please reach out to Sue Brunner, Cheryl Buechi, Jill Kochmanski, or Pastor Lisa if you are sensing God nudging you to be part of it all! Rebuilding this ministry is a work in progress and many hands make light work. So please prayerfully consider what your role in Christian Education at EUMC could be.



# BIBLE CHALLENGE

Read Through the Bible in a Year by Reading 4 Chapters Each Day!

This year's sequence of readings will take us back and forth between the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and the New Testament. John Wesley believed and taught that the Bible is the most important book for Christians to read to help us know Jesus and understand Christian faith. So please make it a priority to read your Bible this year! If you are unsure about which version to use or would like to know about study helps for your reading, ask Pastor Lisa.

Paper copies of the entire year's readings are available on the table outside Pastor Lisa's office, in half and full-page sizes for you to tuck into your Bible. If you prefer to follow the chronological reading schedule, copies are also available to pick up, or Pastor Lisa can email it to you. Enjoy a blessed year in God's Holy Word!  
(read 4 chapters per day each week)

Week 18 – April 30 th -May 6 th : Hosea chapters 12-14; Romans chapters 1-16; Amos chapters 1-9

Week 19 – May 7 th -13 th : James chapters 1-5; Jude; Haggai chapters 1-2; Galatians chapters 1-6; Malachi chapters 1-4; 1 Peter chapters 1-5; 2 Peter 1-3; Micah chapters 1-2

Week 20 – May 14 th -20 th : Micah chapters 3-7; 1 John chapters 1-5; 2 John; 3 John; Deuteronomy chapters 1-16

Week 21 – May 21 st -27th: Deuteronomy 17-34; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4

Week 22 – May 28 th -June 3 rd : Titus 1-3; Job 1-25

## ANNUAL WALK TO CEMETERY:

Memorial Day Walk to the Cemetery: meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 on May 24. All ages are welcome to walk.



## ELMA MEMORIAL DAY PARADE:

Everyone is welcome to walk in the Elma Memorial Day Parade on May 25. Meet at the Elma Library at 8:30am. This is a wonderful way to let our community see Elma UMC! Come and join in on the tradition! Please let Pastor Lisa know if you can attend.





## Christian Education News

Christian education - **practically** (offering Sunday school classes, small groups, special studies, mission outings); **philosophically** (the process by which we engage in partnership with God to make disciples); and **existentially** (forming and transforming lives according to the image of Christ).

**May 3**                      **Creation Care Sunday– Meatless Potluck and program in the Fellowship Hall following Worship—All are welcome!**  
**11:00 – 12:00**

**May 10**                      **Children - What is prayer? How to I pray? - Youth Room**  
**11:00 – 12:00**              **Adults – study TBD – library**

**May 17**                      **Children – Pentecost - Youth Room**  
**11:00 – 12:00**              **Adults – study TBD - library**

**May 24**                      **Memorial Day walk to the cemetery – all are welcome!**  
**11:00 – 12:00**              **meet in the Fellowship Hall following worship**

**May 31**                      **Children – How to be a good disciple of Jesus -Youth Room**  
**11:00 – 12:00**              **Adults – study TBD - library**

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Tuesday Bible Study              **Join us in the library every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.**  
*When Christians Get It Wrong*

Wednesday, May 20 Prayer Time    **10:00 – 10:30 AM & 7:00 – 8:00 PM**

Wednesday Online Devotion – 3:30pm on Facebook

**\*\*\*Calling all youth 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade\*\*\***  
**Save the date for another fun Youth Work Camp.**  
**June 28 – June 30**

**\*\*\* Stayed tuned for information about our VBS Family Fun Night.**  
**Watch for the sign-up sheet so we can gauge interest and availability. \*\*\***

We are always looking for help with Christian Education activities.  
Please see a CE team member if you would like to help in any way.

### Christian Education Team

Cheryl Buechi    D'Lynn Zurek    Samantha Vidal  
Sue Brunner    Jennifer Fuer    Carrie Schmitz

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**



The Elma United Women in Faith and the Elma UMC Preschool are holding a garage sale on Saturday, May 2 from 9-12 There will be a \$2bag sale at 11:30.

Items for the sale may be brought to the church at any time. Please make sure that any boxes with books, any soft/cloth items are taped shut to keep mice out and if possible please wait till April to bring items over to the church. Donations of all items except clothing (shoes, belts, purses may be donated) are greatly appreciated.

Help with set up and pricing is needed the week before the sale; help with cashing and bagging, as well as cleanup after the sale, is needed on May 2. Pizza will be provided for workers on the 2nd.

## GIVING GARDEN :

As we look forward to another growing season in our Giving Garden, I would like to invite and encourage you to participate in this ministry. I have been in charge of the Giving Garden for the past 5 years and have been abundantly blessed by this ministry. However, I find myself in a position where I don't feel I can give the garden the attention it needs/requires. **If anyone is interested in taking over the Giving Garden, please see Sue Brunner or give me a call at 716-982-8924.** I will be happy to help and share information about the garden. It is a wonderful ministry providing nutritious, fresh produce for local families served by FISH of East Aurora.

"A church garden can meet many needs—feeding the hungry, educating children, healing addicts, beautifying derelict property, overcoming racial divides, and more. And it can be more—a blessing, even long after the immediate needs are met."

I hope you will prayerfully consider how you can support the Elma UMC Giving Garden and the needs of our local community.



# Danny's Helping Hands

**Danny's Helping Hands**  
**(Satellite Church)**  
**FOOD MINISTRY**



EUMC will be open the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. – Noon  
Donations of non-perishable items or monetary gifts are needed. Jesus reminds us that one of the fundamental measures of our lives will be how we cared for people in need:

“For I was hungry and you gave me food” Matthew 25:35  
If you would like to serve (volunteer) contact Brittany Wojnar

## FISH:



Brittany Wojnar



**May's FISH item is 100% Juice or Juice boxes** Though any non-perishable food item is accepted and appreciated.

## BOOK CLUB:

Shirley Schildkamp

The Elma Page Turners will meet on Wednesday, May 6 in the Youth Room at 6:30.. We will discuss **BRIAR CLUB** by Kate Quinn. The discussion usually lasts an hour and everyone is welcome. The book for June is **THINGS IN JARS** by Jess Kidd.








# May

| <b><u>Worship<br/>Volunteers</u></b>   | <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>Monday</b>   | <b>Tuesday</b>   |
|--|---|---|--|
|  | 26<br><br><b>Garage Sale Set up 12pm Set up tables and bring items inside</b>   | 27<br><br><b>Garage Sale sorting &amp; pricing 9:30 AM-1:30 PM and 6:30-8:30 PM</b>           | 28<br><br><b>Garage Sale sorting &amp; pricing 10:45-1:30pm and 6:30-8:30 PM</b>             |
| <b>Ushers:</b> Ryan & Carrie Schmitz<br><b>Liturgists:</b> Annette DeNies<br><b>Greeters:</b> Jane Beyer<br><b>Up &amp; About:</b> We need 2 People<br><b>Fellowship:</b> Cheryl Buechi    | <b>3 Creation Care Sunday</b><br>8:45am Fellowship Time<br>9:15am Worship Service<br>11am Discipleship Hour & Meatless Potluck to follow<br>11 am- Trustee Meeting<br>11am Choir Practice | 4   | 5<br>8:45-1145 AM Preschool 3 & 4 yr olds<br>9:30 AM Bible Study<br>10:30 AM Wool Gatherers  |
| <b>Ushers:</b> Peter & Cheryl Buechi<br><b>Liturgists:</b> Steve DeNies<br><b>Greeters:</b> Dar Schmidt<br><b>Up &amp; About:</b> We need 2 People<br><b>Fellowship:</b>                   | 10<br>8:45am Fellowship Time<br>9:15am Worship Service<br>10:30am Fellowship Time<br>11am Christian Education-<br>11am Choir Practice   | 11<br>12:30 Lunch Bunch   | 12<br>8:45-1145 AM Preschool 3 & 4 yr olds<br>9:30 AM Bible Study<br>10:30 AM Wool Gatherers |
| <b>Ushers:</b> Steve & Laura Buechi<br><b>Liturgists:</b> Randi Dressel<br><b>Greeters:</b> Cheryl Buechi<br><b>Up &amp; About:</b> We need 2 People<br><b>Fellowship:</b> Stockton Family | 17<br>8:45am Fellowship Time<br>9:15am Worship Service<br>10:30am Fellowship Time<br>11am Christian Education-<br>11am Choir Practice   | 18  | 19<br>8:45-1145 AM Preschool 3 & 4 yr olds<br>9:30 AM Bible Study<br>10:30 AM Wool Gatherers |
| <b>Ushers:</b> Tara & Ryker Piskothy<br><b>Liturgists:</b> Cheryl Buechi<br><b>Greeters:</b> Carrie & Ryan Schmitz<br><b>Up &amp; About:</b> We need 2 People<br><b>Fellowship:</b> DeNies | <b>24 Memorial Day Walk</b><br>8:45am Fellowship Time<br>9:15am Worship Service<br>10:30 AM Walk to Cemetery  | <b>25 Memorial Day</b><br><b>Elma Memorial Day Parade Meet at Elma town Library at 8:30am</b> | 26<br>8:45-1145 AM Preschool 3 & 4 yr olds<br>9:30 AM Bible Study<br>10:30 AM Wool Gatherers |
| <b>Ushers:</b> Bruce & Wendie Stockton<br><b>Liturgists:</b> Ryker Piskothy<br><b>Greeters:</b> Rose Shiesley<br><b>Up &amp; About:</b> We need 2 People<br><b>Fellowship:</b>             | 31<br>8:45am Fellowship Time<br>9:15am Worship Service<br>10:30am Fellowship Time<br>11am Christian Education-<br>11am Choir Practice   |   |  |



# 2026

| Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p>29</p> <p><b>Garage Sale sorting &amp; pricing</b><br/>9:30 AM-1:30 PM and 6:30-8:30 PM</p>                       | <p>30</p> <p><b>Garage Sale sorting &amp; pricing</b><br/>9:30 AM-1:30 PM and 6:30-8:30 PM</p>   | <p>1</p> <p>8:45-1145 AM Preschool<br/>4 yr olds Only</p> <p><b>Garage Sale sorting &amp; pricing</b> 9:30 AM-1:30 PM</p> | <p>2</p> <p>9 AM-12:00 PM<br/>GARAGE SALE</p>  <p>CHURCH<br/>GARAGE SALE</p> |
| <p>6</p> <p>3:30 PM Online Devotion<br/>6:30pm Book Club</p>   | <p>7</p> <p>8:45-1145 AM Preschool<br/>3 &amp; 4 yr olds</p>   | <p>8</p> <p>8:45-1145 AM Preschool<br/>4 yr olds Only</p>   | <p>9</p>  |
| <p>13 <b>METHODELMA ARTICLES DUE</b></p> <p>3:30 PM Online Devotion</p> <p><b>Scholarship Applications Due!!</b></p> | <p>14</p> <p>8:45-1145 AM Preschool<br/>3 &amp; 4 yr olds</p>  | <p>15</p> <p>8:45-1145 AM Preschool<br/>4 yr olds Only</p>  | <p>16</p> <p>9am– 12 noon<br/>Church Work Day</p>  <p>Work<br/>Day</p>       |
| <p>20</p> <p>10AM Monthly Prayer Gatherings<br/>3:30 PM Online Devotion<br/>7PM Monthly Prayer Gatherings</p>        | <p>21</p> <p>8:45-1145 AM Preschool<br/>3 &amp; 4 yr olds</p>  | <p>22</p> <p>8:45-1145 AM Preschool<br/>4 yr olds Only</p>  | <p>23</p>   |
| <p>27</p> <p>3:30 Pm Online Devotion</p>   | <p>28</p> <p>8:45-1145 AM Preschool<br/>3 &amp; 4 yr olds</p> <p><b>Preschool Graduation</b></p> <p>PRESCHOOL</p>  <p>GRADUATES !</p> | <p>29</p>   | <p>30</p>   |
|  |  |   |   |

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH:

United Women in Faith is hosting a catered dinner on Tuesday, June 9 at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall. All women are invited. Our guest speaker this year will be Nichole Barrett of Rural Outreach Center in East Aurora. Dinner reservations will be taken and tickets sold May 10, 17, 24 and 31st. Cost will be announced.

Donations to be announced soon will be collected at the dinner.



## Our Way Forward:

Elma UMC will be exploring Our Way Forward, Upper New York's Graceful Conversations and Covenanting Process for Navigating the 2020/24 General Conference Changes about Human Sexuality. Our conference leadership has provided process and resources for prayerful discernment that will ultimately lead to establishing a covenant that authentically reflects Elma UMC's position and practices. The Leadership Team has already affirmed the need to engage in this process, and the process for forming the team to plan the conversation sessions and covenant writing process has begun. This process involves collaboration among the pastor, Leadership Team, Our Way Forward Team, and the District Superintendent. It will take time and patience to accomplish, but the time will be well worth it to collaboratively process the Book of Discipline changes and "move forward in a manner that honors [our] members' beliefs and diversity within the United Methodist Church."

It is very important that everyone, members and constituents, participate in this process so to true position of the whole body is faithfully discerned. Please make participation in the process a priority as we move into it in 2026. Pastor Lisa now has 4 EUMC members committed to be part of the organizational team and is seeking 2 more. Please let her know ASAP if you are willing to serve. We hope to hold a planning meeting later in May.

## Leadership Team News:

Elma UMC's Leadership Team is seeking strong communication between itself and the members and friends of Elma UMC. Everyone is welcome to reach out to Team members about the church and to find out more about the new ways we get to do the administrative and visioning work. Items for consideration for the LTeam agenda must be submitted by the 10 th of each month. There are forms on the table outside the office. Meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board.

Here is your Team for 2026:

Class of 2026 – Steve Buechi, Annette DeNies (team chair for 2026), Wendie Stockton

Class of 2027 – Sue Brunner, D'Lynn Zurek

Class of 2028 – Randi Dressel, Dan Sank, Jim Wojnar

Lay Leader - Rose Shiesley, and Lay Member to AC - Andrew Hartley also serve

Pastor Lisa works with and is accountable to the Leadership Team for all program, ministry, and mission areas, and to the UNY Annual Conference for oversight of all administrative functions. In addition, your Leadership Development and Nominations Team (Pastor Lisa-chair, Rose Shiesley, Steve DeNies, Martha Horohoe, and Pam Thauer) will be working on creating new ways to help our members and friends grow in Christian discipleship, as we all discover the ministries we get to do through sharing the Good NEWS of Jesus through Nurture, Education, Worship, and Service. You can let any of these team members know what you're interested in.

Elma UMC's Board of Trustees – Peter Buechi – Chair, Steve DeNies, Randi Dressel, Greg Fuer, Dan Sank, Bruce Stockton, James Trombley, and Dave Wainwright

# Happy Mother's Day

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue." PROVERBS 31:25-26



# ASBURY RETREAT CENTER SUMMER CAMP 2026:

Registration is now open for summer camp at Asbury Retreat Center!  
Make your plans now.

Check out their website at [Asburyuny.org/programs](http://Asburyuny.org/programs)

Once again, our generous United Women of Faith will help fund camp fees.



Asbury Express by Day  
ages 7-18



Asbury Express III  
ages 13-18



Asbury Express II  
ages 10-12



Asbury Express I  
ages 7-9



Together Time:  
A Family Retreat



Silver Lake Experience  
July 30– August 1, 2026



Women's Retreat  
August 16-18, 2026

Spend some time at camp, relaxing and having fun with engaging activities and worship while you learn and grow with God.

## Scholarships :



### Elma UMC Undergraduate Scholarships



Each year Elma UMC awards Scholarships in the amount of \$4,000.00 each to undergraduate students whose applications are accepted by the Scholarship Committee. Applications must be complete, with all additional materials included, and submitted by the deadline date May 13, 2026. Check the EUMC website for complete information and to download the application. The members of Elma UMC are blessed to be able to provide scholarships for our young adult students!

## CREATION CARE SUNDAY:

Sunday, May 3, 2026

Our Elma UMC congregation will celebrate Creation Care on Sunday, May 3, 2026. The entire morning will be a time of giving thanks to God for sustaining us through the natural world, and for gaining inspiration and knowledge so that we may care better for the planet.

Pastor Lisa will lead us in a Creation Care Worship Service at 9:15am.

Following worship, we will share a meatless “fellowship dinner”. Please bring a dish with no meat (though dairy products are acceptable). If you’re feeling unsure of what to prepare, we will provide suggestions for delicious, healthy and environmentally responsible meatless dishes.

Our Elma UMC Creation Care Team will provide a short program during our Fellowship time together. We will have a time of sharing in a “Solutions Circle”. Think about Creation Care success stories that you can share, and then think about how we can create our own Creation Care success story.

A signup sheet will be circulated during Sunday morning worship services in April.

We hope you can join us for an enlightening and delicious Creation Care Fellowship Time.

# Leadership Team News:

Annette DeNies opened the meeting with prayer and “checking in”.

Steven Buechi led the Leadership Development portion of the meeting with Church finance, 2026 budget, and invested funds review.

Review Pastor’s reports.

- Our Way Forward team is forming
- New cleaner has been hired
- Hosting Niagara Frontier Leadership Training on March 28
- District Layservant Training in April
- Working on membership audit
- All UNYAC 2025 reports have been submitted

The Trustees January report:

- 9 people trained in CPR
- Working on emergency plan
- Replacing blinds and brackets
- Securing arms on pews
- Researching new phone for office
- Investments 2025 return 10.7%
- Old kitchen stove replaced
- Carpets being cleaned in March

The Christian Education Committee February report:

- Adult DH - Peter B. leading Why Christians Get it Wrong, pause for Lenten study Dialogue of Suffering
- March 21 - Youth Sleepover - Best NEWS Ever
- March 29 - Journey to the Cross for all ages
- Easter Egg Hunt - found family to facilitate
- CE work days to continue organizing materials
- Promoting Asbury summer camps
- Planning summer family fun night
- Work Camp June 28-30

Trustees have recommended changes to the Scholarship Fund

- Will require a special Church Conference to approve on April 26 @ 11:00 a.m.

Town Hall Meeting on March 1 debrief.

- Congregation comments:
  - > Opportunities/areas where people can help
  - > Request for better communication
  - > Request to post a list of committees and chairpersons
  - > Are there F/R opportunities to close the income gap?
  - > Sharing financial status and invested funds
  - > Next Town Hall June 7

Approved policy regarding EUMC political action

Our next Leadership Team Meeting will be announced via email after the April 27th meeting. ALL are welcome to attend.



5/3—Kathy Walker

5/04—Claire Denies

5/04—Dick Fisher

5/04—Winifred Tracy

5/4—Stephen Kowalski

5/10—Bruce Stockton

5/12—Gary Renn

5/12—Samantha Vidal

5/15—David Smith

5/17—Carl Plauman

5/18—Mylinda Plauman

5/21—Kathy Pierce

5/22—David Kegler

5/23—Carson Currie

5/25—Jane Rademacher

5/26—Jilliane Kochmanski



5/12—Michael & Lisa Taschetta

5/13—Gary & Sharon Renn

5/24—Gary & Joyce Budzynski

If your birthday or anniversary (or someone you know) is ever omitted, please call or email Jilliane in the church office: (716) 652-5427 or [elmaumoffice@gmail.com](mailto:elmaumoffice@gmail.com)

**Thank You!**

Ask not (just) what the Forest can Do for You, but what You can Do for the Forest

Have you noticed that, at the end of each day of creating the cosmos, God said what God made was good? Five of those days were before humans came along. This suggests to me that God values the light, seas, atmosphere, sun, moon, stars, plants and all the rest, even apart from what they do for people. Take a look, too, at how God satisfies the wild animals in Psalm 104 and Job 38, and at God's delight in the animals in Job 39. Then, notice how Paul laments the "groaning" and "futility" of creation as it awaits the revealing of the "mature children" of God (Romans 8:18-22) who will, I believe, to care for it as God intended from the beginning (Genesis 2:15).

Our denomination's Social Principles, also, affirm the worth of creation beyond the services it provides humans:

*Rather than treating creation as if it were placed here solely for humanity's use and consumption, we are called to practice responsible stewardship... We recognize the inherent worth of God's creation... We support the respectful and humane treatment of animals, who are crucial participants in God's ongoing creation and of inherent worth.*

Yet, we often think of creation care merely as protecting the support system God set up to keep us alive. This is evident in the reasons we give for planting trees ("they clean the air!"), exchanging gas-powered cars for electric vehicles ("sea level rise is inundating buildings and roads!"), banning certain pesticides ("they kill the bees we need for growing crops!"), reducing plastic waste ("microplastics end up in human brains, y'know!") and so on. I admit my errors in this respect, thinking that only the human costs of environmental degradation will motivate people to care for creation.

Let us move beyond this anthropocentrism (man-centeredness) and view God's world as God does: Precious enough to send Jesus to save it (John 3:16).

**Creation Care Tip: Proper Battery Recycling**

Most—and perhaps all—of us use batteries: In flashlights, computers, mobile phones, and on and on. Batteries enable these devices to improve our lives immensely, but with such privileges comes the responsibility of eventually disposing of them properly. When recycled, spent batteries can be made into other items like new tableware, batteries, pots and pans. When thrown in the household trash, however, they can be crushed, eventually contaminating soils and waterways, harming wildlife and possibly even starting fires at waste disposal sites. You can learn about battery disposal sites at <https://batterynetwork.org/locator/>.

In the end, no one else—besides our Heavenly Father—may know how well each of us stewarded His precious creation, but I pray that one day He will say to us, "well done."

## MUSIC NEWS:

### WORSHIP FUELS MISSION: WHY THE GATHERING SENDS US OUT

I used to think the benediction was the ending. Last song, final prayer, people slowly exiting the Sanctuary and heading to Christian Education, home, or out to lunch. But over time, I realized something: worship wasn't ending- it was releasing. The gathering was never meant to be the finish line. It is the sending point. *At its core, worship is response.*

We behold who God is- His holiness, mercy, justice, faithfulness- and we answer in song, prayer, confession, gratitude. That encounter reshapes us. It reminds us who we are and whose we are. But that reshaping has direction.

When Isaiah encountered the holiness of God, it didn't end in awe alone. It led to, "*Here am I. Send me.*" When the early Church gathered in prayer, they were filled with the Spirit- and then scattered with boldness. True worship reorients the heart toward God. And a heart oriented toward God cannot remain self-contained. The local church gathers weekly not just to recharge, but to be formed.

In worship we learn: God's heart for the nations; His compassion for the poor; His justice for the oppressed; His mercy toward sinners. Those aren't abstract ideas. They shape how we live Monday through Saturday. If our songs celebrate God's kingdom but never stir us toward participation in it, something has disconnected. Worship should enlarge our vision beyond the room we're standing in. We don't just sing about redemption- we embody it. When we hear "mission", we often think of initiatives- outreach, events, trips, strategies. Those matter, but biblically, mission flows from identity. We are a sent people because we belong to a sending God. *The Father sends the Son. The Son sends the Spirit. The Spirit sends the church.*

When the final song fades and the benediction is spoken, it's not closure. It's commissioning. The same voices that sang in church now speak hope in workplaces. The same hands lifted in surrender now serve neighbors. The same hearts softened in confession now extend grace. Worship that never leaves the Sanctuary hasn't fully matured. But worship that sends the Church into the world- steady, humble, and attentive to the Spirit- that is worship aligned with God's mission.

As we worship this Sunday, let's ask ourselves: *If our worship forms us rightly, what kind of people will we become by Monday?* Because the gathering was never meant to contain the glory of God. It was meant to reflect it.

Blessings,  
Nan Keller  
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