Methodelma

July & August 2026

"We are loving, Spirit-led

disciples of Jesus Christ growing in God through

Nurture, Education, Worship, and Service."

Elma United Methodist Church
2991 Bowen Rd. Elma, NY 14059
Rev. Lisa D. Taylor, Pastor

Sunday Worship Service
Outdoor Worship July 5th– September 6th at 9:15am

Church Office Phone Number: 716-652-5427
Emergency Phone Number: 716-341-1896
Church Office E-mail: ElmaUMOffice@gmail.com

The following message is excerpts from, The Greatest Story Never Told: Revive Us Again by Rev. Dr. Leonard Sweet.

Prayer is breath. Prayer is the breath that connects us to God who breathed duvets of dust into "human" being. Jesus prayed twenty-one original prayers in the Gospels, and every one he began with "Our Father." For Wesley, prayer was to the soul what breath was to the body. "Prayer may be said to be the breath of our spiritual life. He that lives cannot possibly cease breathing." That meant that Wesleyans were proud to be known as "praying people." "A Christian prays always, at all times, and in all places, and with all sorts of prayer, public, private, mental, vocal." There is a one-sentence, four-mark summary of the life of a dynamic church: "faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood (koinonia), to the breaking of the bread, and to prayers." A church windy with prayers is alive and spirited. A church whose prayer life winds down increases its chances of asthma attacks, with pneumonia looming on the horizon. For Wesley, prayer was the number one sign of the visible church; a living, praying faith. A living faith empowered by prayer.

There is an old German legend about a farm community that was troubled with poor harvests. Consequently, the farmers gathered together and began to pray: "Lord God Almighty, we are in desperate need of a good harvest. Therefore, we want you to promise that during the coming year, you will give us exactly what we ask for. When we ask for rain, promise us we will have rain. When we ask for sunshine, promise us we will have sunshine." To this God agreed, according to the legend. When the farmers asked for rain, God sent them rain. When the farmers asked for sunshine, God gave them sunshine. And the cornstalks grew tall. And the wheat grew thick. And the farmers rejoiced. But when harvest time came, their joy turned to sorrow because the cornstalks had produced no corn and the wheat stalks had produced no grain and the thick-leafed trees had produced no fruit. "Lord God Almighty, you have broken your promise," the farmers cried out in dismay. "No, my children," God replied, "I gave you exactly what you asked for." "Why, then, do we have no kernel, and no grain, and no fruit?" the farmers asked. God answered, "Because you did not ask for the strong north winds."

Without the winds, there was no pollination. Without the breathings of prayer, there is no reproduction.

For Wesley's Methodists, holiness was when all of life – eating, sleeping, loving, playing – was a prayer offering to God, a "Lord's Prayer." A disciple who breathed out a prayer would breathe in a blessing. (pages 45-47)

Friends, our Bishops have called us to regular disciplines of prayer, together as the body, and privately in our own time. Prayer led by the Holy Spirit, in unity with God's will for God's church, is the most important thing we need to participate with Jesus in bringing new life into our midst. This summer's sermon series centers on prayer. And I pray you will all join me for as we pray together.

Blessings, Pastor Lisa

Summer Sunday Mornings:

(coffee and conversation available every Sunday at 8:45am before worship)

July 5 th Summer Outdoor Worship Begins – 9:15am in the Prayer Garden! July 5 th -September 6 th our Sunday Worship Service will be held outdoors. In the event of rain, we will move into the Fellowship Hall around tables for a more informal, relaxed, summery setting indoors.

We will have some chairs available for those who need them. But we're asking most people to please bring your own lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on. We will also follow the service with a time of fellowship outdoors (the coffee will be inside, but you can bring it out). There will be a Summer Study for Adults offered from 10:45-11:45am, while younger children play on the playground. (See article on *"A New Vision, A Shared Calling: Embracing a New Era of Ministry as United Methodists")* Sessions will be held July 12-August 2 and August 16-23.

The Sanctuary will be open for prayer each Sunday 8:45am-12:00noon for anyone who wishes to take time to pray before or after the service. There will be a couple prayer stations, or feel free to pray on your own, walking or seated, or even kneeling at the kneeler. And the Prayer Labyrinth is always there for your use. On Sundays Pastor Lisa will have some prayer materials available to guide your prayer as you walk the labyrinth if you choose to use them.

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, July 15 th , 10-10:30am and/or 7-8pm.

Wednesday, August 19 th 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 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.

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!

Bible Challenge:

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

This year's sequence of readings takes 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 26 – June 25 th -July 1 st : 1 Corinthians 11-16; 2 Corinthians 1-13; Ephesians 1-6; Jonah 1-3

Week 27 – July 2 nd -8 th : Jonah 4; Nahum 1-3; Philemon; Ezekiel 1-23

Week 28 – July 9 th -15 th : Ezekiel 24-48; Revelation 1-3

Week 29 – July 16 th -22 nd : Revelation 4-22; Psalms 1-9

Week 30 – July 23 rd -29 th : Psalms 10-37

Week 31 – July 30 th -August 5 th : Psalms 38-65

Week 32 – August 6 th - 12 th : Psalms 66-75; Matthew 1-18 (beginning the second time through the New Testament for this year)

Week 33 – August 13 th -19 th : Matthew 19-28; 1 Chronicles 1-18

Week 34 – August 20 th -26 th : 1 Chronicles 19-29; 2 Chronicles 1-17

Week 35 – August 27 th -September 2 nd : 2 Chronicles 18-36; Nehemiah 1-9

Confirmation Class:

In response to a couple inquiries, Pastor Lisa is prayerfully considering offering a Confirmation Class for our young people at Elma UMC entering grades 7 and up. The Church office will be reaching out to schedule an introductory meeting for parents and potential confirmands. We will need to meet in August so plans for beginning in September can be made, and everyone seeking to participate will need to be present. The structure of the confirmation program will depend upon the number of young people participating. We hope this will be a wonderful experience for EUMC young people, and are looking forward to creating time and space for deep and meaningful spiritual growth for all involved.

Summer Study:

"A New Vision, A Shared Calling: Embracing a New Era of Ministry as United Methodists" Sundays - July 12 th -August 2 nd and August 16 th -23 rd 10:45-11:45am; and/or Tuesdays – July 7 th -14 th , 28 th , and August 11 th -25 th 7-8pm.

This study resource was written by our own Bishop Héctor Burgos-Núñez. It is being distributed through Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church, so it is recommended to the entire denomination as we journey forward in our faith and practice as United Methodists. The introduction to the study cites the new vision of the UMC: "The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ, who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections."

It notes that "The people of the United Methodist Church are stepping into a new era of ministry, rooted in our rich Wesleyan heritage, grounded in God's love, and propelled by the leading of the Holy Spirit. As disciples of Jesus Christ, God calls us to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously, spreading Christ's hope in our communities and the world." This six-week study describes and challenges us to grow in Christian discipleship as Christians in the United Methodist tradition. This study will also be offered on the fall for those unable to participate during the summer months.

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

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.

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 a process and resources for prayerful discernment that will ultimately lead to establishing a covenant that authentically reflects Elma UMC's position and practices. The Organizing Team: Peter Buechi, Sam Coatsworth, Martha Horohoe, Belle Sank, and Carrie and Ryan Schmitz, are working on creating a schedule of sessions that will allow everyone the opportunity to participate. The basic plan is to hold the three specified two -hour sessions during September and October to receive input from the congregation. The sessions build upon one another and will be facilitated by a trained person from outside Elma UMC who will be assigned by our District Superintendent. If you have any questions about this process, please reach out to Pastor Lisa, any of the organizational team members, or a member of the Leadership Team.

It is very important that everyone, members and constituents, participate in this process so the true position of the whole body is faithfully discerned. Please make participation in the process a priority this fall.

Wednesday Summer Parking Lot Ministry:

Reach out to the people who attend the Wednesday evening summer concert series in the park, July 1st -August 26th . Our goal is simply to meet the people who choose to park in EUMC's parking lot when they come to the concerts. We'll be available to say hello, point out the church, and hand out information about service times and special events. We may even offer some free snacks and an opportunity for prayer. Come on the Wednesdays you can. We'll meet at 6:00pm so we can be in the parking lot as people are arriving. We'll park in the handicapped spaces on the north side of the building, since it's unlikely that handicapped people would park there to attend the concert. That will leave more spaces in our main lot for visitors. So come on out on Wednesdays in the summer and greet some visitors! Sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board outside the fellowship hall. ***Note, if no one is signed up to help out on a particular Wednesday then it will not happen that week. ***

Summer 2026 Community Events Town of Elma

All Band Concerts Start at 6:30PM

Friends of the Elma Public Library will be doing root beer floats and sundaes on July 29, August 5, 12 & 19

- **Monday, May 25th - Memorial Day Ceremony (9:00 am)**
  Elma Town Hall - Parade starts at the Elma Library and finishes at the Town Hall
- **Wednesday, July 1st - The Fishercats (Popular Covers)**
  Elma Village Green Park - Elma Kiwanis - hot dogs, chips & drinks
- **Saturday, July 4th - Annual Fireworks Display - At Dusk**
  Iroquois High School - ***Parking will be available at the school parking lots***
- **Wednesday, July 8th - Terry Buchwald (Elvis)**
  Elma Village Green Park - ITAC - pizza & drinks
- **Wednesday, July 15th - Lancaster Town Band (Instrumental)**
  Elma Village Green Park - Elma Seniors - hot dogs, chips & drinks
- **Wednesday, July 22nd - Hep Katz (60's & 70's)**
  Elma Village Green Park - Buffalo Dance Center Booster Club - pizza, drinks & snacks
- **Wednesday, July 29th - Yank the Cover (Classic Rock)**
  Elma Village Green Park - Girl Scout Troop 34319 - hot dogs, chips & drinks
- **Wednesday, August 5th - Boys of Summer (Rock, Country)**
  Elma Village Green Park - Iroquois Intermendiate PTO - Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Nachos & drinks
- **Wednesday, August 12th - The Boneshakers (Blues)**
  Elma Village Green Park - Elma Seniors - hot dogs & hamburgers, chips & drinks
- **Wednesday, August 19th - Nashville North (Country)**
  Elma Village Green Park - Elma Historical - hot dogs, sausage, chips & drinks
- **Wednesday, August 26th - Brass Chance (Brass Music)**
  Elma Village Green Park - Elma Fire Companies - hot dogs, hamburgers, chips & drinks
- **Saturday, October 17th - Pumpkin Festival - 11am to 2pm**
  Elma Village Green Park - Bring the kids out for an afternoon of fun !!!

ARTS SERVICES INITIATIVE OF WESTERN NEW YORK, INC.
NYSCA

* *Program is funded by the New York State Council on the Arts, administered by Arts Services Initiative of Western New York, and in part by the Town of Elma.*

Christian Education News

Summer is upon us! We hope you will continue your discipleship journey at home while we take a break from classes at church for the summer.

Thursday
July 30

Church Fun Night
Come enjoy this fun evening for all ages – fellowship, games, bible stories, food, music, fun activities, and a campfire

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Tuesday Bible Study— Join us in the library every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Time— Wednesday, July 15 & August 19
10:00 – 10:30 AM
7:00 – 8:00 PM

Wednesday Online Devotion – 3:30pm on Facebook

Christian Education Adult Summer Study— Join us for our Summer Study *"A New Vision, A Shared Calling: Embracing a New Era of Ministry as United Methodists"* Sundays July 12th-Aug 2nd, Aug 16th-23rd 10:45-11:45am and/or Tuesdays July 7th-14th, 28th, and August 11th-25th 7-8pm

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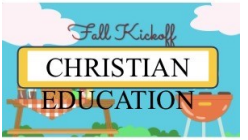
Sept 13



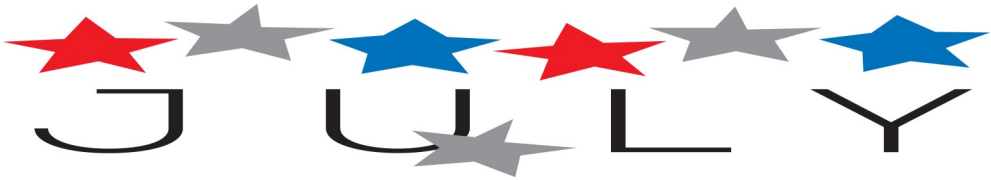
We are always looking for help with Christian Education activities. If you would like to help in any way, please see a CE team member. We would love to have you!

Christian Education Team

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Elma UMC
BIBLE STORIES, FELLOW-SHIP
MUSIC AND GAMES
CHURCH
FUN NIGHT
FOOD AND TREATS
FUN AND FELLOWSHIP FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
CAMP FIRE
BRING YOUR OWN CAMP CHAIR
THURSDAY, JULY 30TH 5PM - 9PM
Elma United Methodist Church
2991 Bowen Road. Elma NY. 14059
Made with PosterMyWall.com



Worship Volunteers	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
			1 9:30 am 1,2,3 John Bible Study 10:30 AM Wool Gatherers
Ushers: Ryan & Carrie Schmitz **Liturgists:** **Greeters:** Peter Buechi **Up & About:** Not till Sept. **Fellowship:**	**5** 8:45 AM Fellowship Time 9:15 AM Outdoor Worship Service 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 8:45am-12pm Sanctuary open for Prayer with prayer stations	6	7 9:30 am 1,2,3 John Bible Study 10:30 AM Wool Gatherers 7PM Summer Study
Ushers: Cheryl & Peter Buechi **Liturgists:** Martha Horohoe **Greeters:** Steve Buechi **Up & About:** Not till Sept. **Fellowship:**	**12** 8:45 AM Fellowship Time 9:15 AM Outdoor Worship Service 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 8:45am-12pm Sanctuary open for Prayer with prayer stations 11 AM Trustee Meeting 11am Summer Study	13 12:30p Lunch Bunch	14 9:30 am 1,2,3 John Bible Study 10:30 AM Wool Gatherers 7PM Summer Study
Ushers: Steve & Laura Buechi **Liturgists:** Annette DeNies **Greeters:**Darlene Green **Up & About:** Not till Sept. **Fellowship:**	**19** 8:45 AM Fellowship Time 9:15 AM Outdoor Worship Service 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 8:45am-12pm Sanctuary open for Prayer with prayer stations 11am Summer Study	20	21 9:30 am 1,2,3 John Bible Study 10:30 AM Wool Gatherers
Ushers: **Liturgists:** Laura Buechi **Greeters:** Amanda Nolan **Up & About:** Not till Sept. **Fellowship:**	**26** 8:45 AM Fellowship Time 9:15 AM Outdoor Worship Service 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 8:45am-12pm Sanctuary open for Prayer with prayer stations 11am Summer Study	27 LT Meeting 7pm	28 9:30 am 1,2,3 John Bible Study 10:30 AM Wool Gatherers 7PM Summer Study

2026

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 3:30 PM Online Devotion **6 PM Parking Lot Ministry** 	2	3	4
8 3:30 PM Online Devotion **6 PM Parking Lot Ministry** 	9	10	11 Danny's Helping Hands 10am-12 noon
15 10-10:30 Monthly Prayer Gathering 3:30 PM Online Devotion **6 PM Parking Lot Ministry** 7p Monthly Prayer Gathering 	16	17	18
22 3:30 PM Online Devotion **6 PM Parking Lot Ministry** 	23	24	25 9:00 AM Church Work Day
29 3:30 PM Online Devotion **6 PM Parking Lot Ministry** 	30 Church Fun Night 5pm-9pm 	31	

August

Worship Volunteers	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Ushers: Bruce & Wendie Stockton **Liturgists:** Steve DeNies **Greeters:** Mark Bessey **Up & About:** Not till Sept. **Fellowship:**	**2** 8:45 AM Fellowship Time 9:15 AM Outdoor Worship Service 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 8:45am-12pm Sanctuary open for Prayer with prayer stations 11am Summer Study 11 AM Trustee Meeting	3	4 9:30 am 1,2,3 John Bible Study 10:30 AM Wool Gatherers
Ushers: R. Dressel & R. Green **Liturgists:** Cheryl Buechi **Greeters:** Jane Beyer **Up & About:** Not till Sept. **Fellowship:**	**9** 8:45 AM Fellowship Time 9:15 AM Outdoor Worship Service 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 8:45am-12pm Sanctuary open for Prayer with prayer stations	10 12:30pm Lunch Bunch	11 9:30 am 1,2,3 John Bible Study 10:30 AM Wool Gatherers 7PM Summer Study
Ushers: R. Shiesley & A. Nolan **Liturgists:** Randi Dressel **Greeters:** Sue Brunner **Up & About:** Not till Sept. **Fellowship:**	**16** 8:45 AM Fellowship Time 9:15 AM Outdoor Worship Service 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 8:45am-12pm Sanctuary open for Prayer with prayer stations 11am Summer Study	17	18 9:30 am 1,2,3 John Bible Study 10:30 AM Wool Gatherers 7PM Summer Study
Ushers: M. Bessey & S. Brunner **Liturgists:** **Greeters:** Dar Schmidt **Up & About:** Not till Sept. **Fellowship:**	**23** 8:45 AM Fellowship Time 9:15 AM Outdoor Worship Service 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 8:45am-12pm Sanctuary open for Prayer with prayer stations 11am Summer Study	24 LT Meeting 7pm	25 9:30 am 1,2,3 John Bible Study 10:30 AM Wool Gatherers 7PM Summer Study
Ushers: Ryan & Carrie Schmitz **Liturgists:** Violet Trombley **Greeters:** Cheryl Buechi **Up & About:** Not till Sept. **Fellowship:**	**30** 8:45 AM Fellowship Time 9:15 AM Outdoor Worship Service 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 8:45am-12pm Sanctuary open for Prayer with prayer stations	31	

2026

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Danny's Helping Hands 10am-12 noon
5 3:30 PM Online Devotion **6 PM Parking Lot Ministry** 	6	7	8
12 3:30 PM Online Devotion **6 PM Parking Lot Ministry** 	13	14	15 9:00 AM Church Work Day
19 10-10:30 Monthly Prayer Gathering 3:30 PM Online Devotion **6 PM Parking Lot Ministry** 7pm Monthly Prayer Gathering	20	21	22
26 3:30 PM Online Devotion **6 PM Parking Lot Ministry** 	27	28	29

Leadership Team News:

Our Leadership Team continues to work toward our main goal - aligning our ministries with our church mission and vision.

We opened our May meeting with a recap of Upper New York's recent Annual Conference.

Pastor Lisa led the team in leadership development discussing Dr. Aaron Bouwens (UNY Director of Missional Excellence) work on the Simplified Accountability Structure. Biblical context: 1 Corinthians 2

As we acknowledge the on ongoing work of the church, we are pleased to share the following:

Membership Class in June
Baptism in July
Pastor Lisa is considering a Griefshare group as needed.
Our Visitation Team continues to connect with our shut-ins.
Safe Sanctuaries sessions will be available online in the Fall for anyone working with children and youth.
The Leadership Development & Nominations Committee is beginning the annual membership audit
The Parking Lot ministry will continue during the summer concert season – ALL are welcome to participate
The CE Planning Team continues work on the CE plan for all ages incorporating GOOD NEWS

Town Hall meeting June 7 notes:

We opened with a **discernment discussion and practice**. We shared a letter from Bishop Hector Burgos-Nunez about a new district-wide prayer initiative. He opens with, "Prayer is the heartbeat of the Christian life" and ends with "A renewed life of prayer will be the foundation as we form disciples who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously so that lives and communities are transformed through Christ's healing and liberating love."

Discernment is a great way for our church to check itself, to become attuned to hear God's voice guiding us, and to plot a realistic path to the future. The Leadership Team is committed to a renewed life of prayer, and we hope you will join us in with your own commitment.

Information was shared regarding the **Our Way Forward: Graceful Conversation and Covenanting**, a resource helping United Methodist congregations engage in respectful dialogue on human sexuality and ministry with LGBTQ persons. Commissioned by the Northeastern College of Bishops, the resource fosters unity, trust building, and understanding of the 2020/24 Book of Discipline update. The tool will help our church embrace unity in diversity and strengthen our shared mission to transform

Leadership Team News Continue:

We hope you all can participate in this work and invite you to sign up for 3 sessions in the Fall to discuss and develop a covenant. Thank you to those who have already signed up!

Our meeting minutes and a list of the current committee members are posted on the bulletin board just outside the church office. Take a look if you're ever wondering what we're up to.

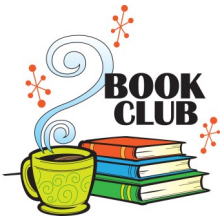
Our next Leadership Team Meeting will be Monday, July 27th & Aug 24th at 7:00pm. ALL are welcome to attend.

Elma Page Turners Book Club:

Shirley Schildkamp

The Elma Page Turners selections for September through December are:

September 2 THEO OF GOLDEN by Allen Levi
October 7 THE WAYWARD GIRLS by Susan Wiggs
November 4 THE CORRESPONDENT by Virginia Evans
December 2 WISH YOU WERE HERE by Jodh Picoult.
The club meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 in the Youth Room. Everyone is welcome. The discussion usually lasts an hour.



FISH:

The **FISH** item for **July** is **canned fruit/or soup** and **August** is **Macaroni and Cheese**. The need is great and **any** non-perishable food item is gratefully accepted and appreciated.

Church Retreat for Adults :

October 9th -11th

at Camp Asbury, Coordinated by

Faith UMC of Lancaster and Pendleton Center UMC.

Please pick up a brochure at the church for more information. Pastor Jean Edmister is an experienced retreat leader for adults and this will be a wonderful time away to learn more about and connect more deeply with God! Registration is limited because of available space, so if you want to go, you should get your registration form and deposit in!

Lunch Bunch:

We will meet on Monday, July 13th and Monday, August 10th 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!***

Scholarship Team News:

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to congratulate the following young adults who received Elma UMC Scholarship Awards as of June 15, 2026.

Hans Brunner
Charlotte Buechi
Peter Buechi
Lillian Kochmanski
John McCarthy
Roselyn McCarthy
Leah Schmitz

It is such an honor to read the personal statements of these fine young people. We are so pleased that we are able to support them in their collegiate endeavors. May God bless them with wisdom, peace, and success on their journey. We love them so much!

Giving Garden:

Our pollinator garden has been planted! Thank you to Peter Buechi for getting and planting bulbs from the Arbor Day Foundation. And thanks to Girl Scout Troop 30110 for providing native pollinator plants and planting 2 of our beds. The rest has been donated by church members or moved from other locations on property. Please be patient as our garden gets established. And keep an eye open for bees, butterflies, moths, and beetles hard at work in our garden!

Youth Work Camp:

Love is the Evidence

Our EUMC youth teamed up with First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora for a fun, hard-working couple of days at Camp Asbury. The Youth enjoyed time being in mission together serving our local community as well as our beloved UMC Camp Asbury. As they serve and care for others, there's plenty of time for devotions/ worship, fun & games, and lots of yummy food. It's always an inspiring time together.

Thanks to the many adult volunteers who make this Youth Work Camp possible. We appreciate all you do for us!

Be sure to check the CE bulletin board for fun photos coming soon!!!

[Jesus said,]. "This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples – when they see the love you have for each other." John 13:35

Creation Care:

Andrew Hartley
https://www.umccreationcare.org

Caretakers of God's Creation

Lyme, Ticks and Climate

Each June, many Western New Yorkers start enjoying the warm late-spring weather: Gardening, fishing, hiking, hunting, camping and so on. We are blessed with so much natural beauty and rejuvenating, fun outdoor activities. You might use care, though, as you explore; the woods and tall grasses are not the same as they were 40 to 50 years ago, when I was growing up in and around East Aurora: Ticks are now active most of the year, and more of them carry pathogens that can change your life for the worse. Without proper precautions, these areas are much less safe.

Most of us have heard about lyme disease for years, but did you know that, between 1992 and 2022, annual cases of lyme per 100,000 people in America increased almost 400%? Plus, not only lyme disease is of concern, but also babesiosis, anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted fever, hard tick relapsing fever and Powassan encephalitis.

The US Environmental Protection Agency says several factors have increased the prevalences of ticks, and the diseases they carry; however, "[s]tudies provide evidence that climate change has contributed to the expanded range of ticks, increasing the potential risk of Lyme disease, such as in areas of Canada where the ticks were previously unable to survive. The life cycle and prevalence of deer ticks are strongly influenced by temperature."[1]

As with most problems caused, or worsened, by climate change, both adaptation and mitigation measures are appropriate for those of us who want to protect our families and future generations from threats like tick-borne diseases. Adaptation refers to managing the damages to the climate we cannot prevent; it includes measures like treating clothing and skin with tick repellents, avoiding tall grass, and shifting outdoor activities to the winter. Mitigation, though, means reducing the damage we cause, by eating less meat, shifting to environmentally responsible transportation (small cars, bicycles, walking,…), insulating our homes better, and so on.

One way to understand adaptation vs. mitigation: Adaptation happens mainly due to our love of ourselves and our families; mitigation happens due to our love of all God's creatures, as it benefits all living things.

To learn more about adapting to increasing lyme risks, visit https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/ from the New York Department of Health.

[1] https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/climate-change-indicators-lyme-disease

Music News:

Dear Elma UMC Family,
I am re-posting this devotion from 2024 since it's been on my heart lately. I pray it blesses you as much as it does me.
Blessings,
Nan Keller, Worship Music Minister

YAHWEH

There was a moment when Moses had the nerve to ask God what his name is. God was gracious enough to answer, and the name he gave is recorded in the original Hebrew as ***YHWH.***
Over time we've added an "a" and an "e" to get YaHWeH.
But scholars and Rabbis have noted that the letters YHWH represent breathing sounds, or aspirated consonants. When pronounced without intervening vowels, it actually sounds like breathing.
YH (inhale): WH (exhale).
So a baby's first cry, his first breath, speaks the name of God.
A deep sigh calls His name – or a groan or gasp that is too heavy for mere words.
Even an atheist would speak His name, unaware that their very breath is giving constant acknowledgment to God.
Likewise, a person leaves this earth with their last breath, when God's name is no longer filling their lungs.
So when I can't utter anything else, is my cry calling out His name?
Being alive means I speak His name constantly.
So, is it heard the loudest when I'm the quietest?
In sadness, we breathe heavy sighs.
In joy, our lungs feel almost like they will burst.
In fear we hold our breath and have to be told to breathe slowly to help us calm down.
When we're about to do something hard, we take a deep breath to find our courage.
When I think about it, breathing is giving him praise. Even in the hardest moments!
This is so beautiful and fills me with emotion every time I grasp the thought. God chose to give himself a name that we can't help but speak every moment we're alive.

All of us, always, everywhere.
Waking, sleeping, breathing, with the name of God on our lips.

JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

7/02—Adam Nowak
7/9– Mark Kowalski
7/15– Jerry Felber
7/20– Aurora Dustin
7/20– Emmett Dustin
7/21– Johanna Kegler
7/21– Trevor Plauman
7/22– Jane Beyer
7/22– Erinn McGoldrick
7/27– Alicia Wollen
7/28– Deacon Deb Coatsworth
7/29– Wendie Stockton

7/10—Douglas & Michele Setzer
7/11—Bruce & Wendie Stockton
7/14– Gabriel & Samantha Vidal
7/20- Peter & Cheryl Buechi
7/23—Edward & D'Lynn Zurek
7/24- George & Jane Copeland
7/26—Dennis & Deborah Dustin
7/29- Chuck & Kristen Rosenburg

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

8/12– George & Jane Beyer
8/17– Steven & Annete DeNies
8/22– Michael & Bonnie McGoldrick

8/01- Ryker Piskothy
8/05– Tyler Nicholson
8/06– Laurie Hoertz
8/06– Abigail Kegler
8/11– Michael Wargula
8/12– Sam Coatsworth
8/12– Amanda Hartman
8/12– Colin Rosenberg
8/14– Laura Buechi
8/14– Jack Lawrence
8/14– Tara Piskothy
8/17– Melissa DeGraff
8/21– Carrie Schmitz
8/22– Cole Schmitz
8/24– Judith Erhardt
8/26– Madeline Erhardt
8/27– Hank Schmidt
8/29– Mike Brunner

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

Thank You!

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

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

Asbury Express by Day

ages 7-18

Asbury Express III

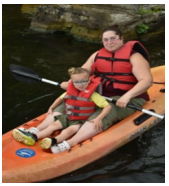
ages 13-18

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.

Elma United Methodist Church

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