Methodelma
June 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
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

Pastor's Page

Pastor Lisa Taylor

"The centerpiece of a church's architecture usually reflects the centerpiece of its worship…" - *Spirit and Sacrament: An Invitation to Eucharismatic Worship* by Andrew Wilson

When I walk into the Sanctuary at Elma UMC, the first things I see are the white Communion table and the brass cross. They are the things in the center, the symbols that represent what is central to our transfiguring, empowering Christian practice as United Methodists. They both represent/re-present, the very present Son of God among us who seeks to inhabit us and re-make us into the people God intended us to be before sin entered the world and broke us.

The primary practice that forms Christians is the worship service. This is because of the nature of the participation a worship service calls us to. It is unique among all other forms of worship and/or spiritual practices in the world because in it and through it we acknowledge and celebrate the real presence of God-with-us. We re-discover each week that Jesus is a person and Christianity is first and foremost a personally and corporately experienced relationship with Him. Many Christians, knowingly or unknowingly, understand their faith as a collection of propositions about God that God calls us to live by. But the propositions without the person, the teachings without the teacher, can only exist as far as human beings can live by them out of mere human will. Without true relationship with the person of Jesus, we don't stand a chance of living holy lives. It is by God's Spirit that we enter into relationship with God's Son, thereby responding to Him as the God He truly is, not the god we perceive Him to be. It is together in worship that we offer Him our deepest thanks (Eucharist), and by grace receive His gifts and empowerment (Charismata). It is from and through worship that we go into the world as Christ calls and equips us.

In the bread and the juice, we remember what Jesus did for us on the cross. We affirm "…in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us…" that by the Holy Spirit the gifts of bread and juice (wine) become for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ in the world. We are together to receive Christ's Spirit afresh, that we may be made one with Him, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world (Service of Word and Table, UMC). The center of serving God is first the Communion of the saints together with Jesus in His body and blood. We become the church, are sustained as the church, and minister in the world through continual re-connection with our origin in baptism - Jesus.

Pastor's Typical Weekly:

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, June 17 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 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!

2025 Church Conference Book:

The 2025 EUMC Conference Book is completed. If anyone is interested in receiving a copy please let Jilliane know in the office and she will print you a copy.

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 22 – May 28 th -June 3 rd : Titus 1-3; Job 1-25
Week 23 – June 4 th -10 th : Job 26-42; John 1-11
Week 24 – June 11 th -17 th : John 12-21; Numbers 1-18
Week 25 – June 18 th -24 th : Numbers 19-36; 1 Corinthians 1-10
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

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 Upcoming Events:

May 31 st – **Pre-Planned Hymn Sing Sunday** – Music and God's Word in Worship!
June 7 th – **Town Hall 11am**
June 14 th – **Celebrating Christian Education in Worship** followed by an Introduction to the UMC Social Principles during Education Hour at 11am
June 21 st – **9:15am Worship Celebrating our Graduates! And Happy Father's Day!**
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 an opportunity for teens and adults who want to **"Dive Deeper" into the week's Scripture passage** and sermon following the service, while younger children play on the playground.

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.

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.

Scholarship News:

A Special Church Conference, held at Elma UMC on April 26 th , resulted in the approval of expanded eligibility for receiving financial support from the Scholarship Fund portion of the church's Invested Funds. The announcement was made during Sunday worship and via email to all for whom we have email addresses, so that everyone who is interested in applying, or knows someone who might be, could meet that deadline for 2026 applications.

In addition to the usual undergraduate scholarship awards, the following new financial support is now available:

- Eligibility should be expanded to include students pursuing post graduate degrees and to students enrolled in accredited trade/vocational schools.

- Eligibility should be expanded to include church employees and their immediate family members, provided that they are actively involved with their home church. Employees who work more than 1040 hours per year (half time) would be eligible for the full scholarship amount. Those employees working less than 1040 hours per year would be eligible for $1,000 scholarships.

- Eligibility should be expanded to include students who have graduated within the past five years and have college loan debt. These scholarships would be limited to $2,000 per applicant. Applicants would have to provide documentation of their loan debt.

- Eligibility should be expanded to include children attending United Methodist Church camps. Camping scholarships should be limited to one half the cost of the camp fee, with a maximum of $250.

The church's Board of Trustees is the custodial authority overseeing all the church's Invested Funds. Their recommendations need to be approved by the Leadership Team and, if so approved, a Church Conference must be held for final approval. Church Conferences may only be held with the approval of the District Superintendent and presided over by a UMC Elder appointed for that purpose by the District Superintendent. If at any stage of this process a recommendation is not approved, it returns to the Trustees for further consideration. This process was appropriately executed. The Scholarship Team attends to the details of executing the creation and evaluation of the applications, and the decisions concerning the scholarship awards. All scholarship applications are held in the strictest confidence, and decisions of the Scholarship Team are final.

The team is currently made up of: Pastor Lisa (ex-officio), Rose Shiesley (Lay Leader), Bob Pierce, Dorothy Hake, Shirley Schildkamp, and Donna Smith.

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 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 concluded. Thank you Peter Buechi, Sam Coatsworth, Martha Horohoe, Belle Sank, and Carrie and Ryan Schmitz for your willingness to serve the church in this important work! 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 the true position of the whole body is faithfully discerned. Please make participation in the process a priority this fall, once we move beyond the planning stage.

Scholarship Team Meeting:

Monday, June 15th 1pm in the Library.

Danny's Helping Hands:

Saturday, June 6th

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

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

Membership Classes:

June 16th and 23rd 5-6:30pm in the Library

Pastor Lisa will be holding a 2-part Membership Class for anyone interested in learning more about the UMC and how we are the church here in Elma. Anyone interested in exploring what it means to be a member of the church, and those who are already members who would appreciate a "refresher," and be an encouraging presence to those who may be interested in becoming a member may attend. Attending the class does not imply that you are intending to become a member. If you are intending to join the church you must attend both sessions. Come one, come all! In order for Pastor Lisa to prepare enough materials, please call or email the church office by June 14th to let her know you will be coming.

Christian Education News

Summer will be here soon! Remember to make time in your busy schedules to spend time reading your Bible and growing your Faith.

June 7 Town Hall meeting in the Fellowship Hall 11:00 – 12:00

June 14 Christian Education Sunday, CE celebration for all ages

June 16 & 23 New Member Class (see Pastor Lisa for details)

June 28-30 Youth Work Camp

Mark your calendars:

July 30 Church Family Fun Night

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

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 5th – 8th grade*****

Save the date for another fun Youth Work Camp.

June 28-June 30

*** Church Family Fun Night details coming soon! ***

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 Jennifer Fuer
Carrie Schmitz Samantha Vidal Sue Brunner

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Worship Volunteers	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		1 Leadership Team MTG 7pm	**2** 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Wool Gatherers
Ushers: Dave W & Randi D **Liturgists:** Violet Trombley **Greeters:** Wendie Stockton **Fellowship:** Sue Brunner	7 8:45am Fellowship Time 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship Time 11am Town Hall	8 12:30p Lunch Bunch	9 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Wool Gatherers **6:00 PM United Women In Faith Dinner**
Ushers: D. Green & R. Shiesley **Liturgists:** Steve Buechi **Greeters:** Dave Wainwright **Fellowship:** Pam & Hank Thauer	**14 Christian Ed Sunday** 8:45am Fellowship Time 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship Time 11am Christian Education 11am Choir Practice 11am Trustees Meeting	15 **METHODELMA ARTICLES DUE** 1pm Scholarship Team Mtg	16 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Wool Gatherers 5-6:30pm Membership Class
Ushers: A. Nolan & M. Bessey **Liturgists:** Sue Brunner **Greeters:** Pam & Hank Thauer **Fellowship:** Darlene Green	21 **Father's Day & Graduation Sunday** 8:45am Fellowship Time 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship Time	22	23 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Wool Gatherers 5-6:30pm Membership Class
Ushers: S. Brunner & D Wainwright **Liturgists:** Ella Vidal **Greeters:** Laura Buechi **Fellowship:** DeNies Family	28 8:45am Fellowship Time 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship Time Mini Youth Work Camp today thru June 30	29 Leadership Team Mtg 7PM Mini Youth Camp	30 Mini Youth Camp

2026

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 3:30 PM Online Devotion 6:30 PM Book Club	4	5	6 Danny's Helping Hands 10am-noon
10 3:30 PM Online Devotion	11	12	**13**
17 10am Monthly Prayer Gatherings 3:30 PM Online Devotion 7pm Monthly Prayer Gatherings	18	19	20 9:00 AM Church Work Day
24 3:30 PM Online Devotion	25	26	27
	Outdoor Worship begins July 5th-September 6th **In the Prayer Garden**		

Creation Care Sunday:

Sunday, May 3, 2026

We had a wonderful Creation Care Sunday, celebrating Creation Care and feasting on a delicious meatless potluck luncheon.

We took time to give thanks to God for sustaining us through the natural world. Andrew Hartley gave us a brief update on the activities of the Annual Conferences Creation Justice Team, along with how EUMC & every other congregation can use them as a resource.

We had a time of sharing in a "Solutions Circle", taking time to share, gain inspiration and knowledge to that we may care better for Creation. The Solutions Circles uplift the many viable programs and policies that advance environmental healing and protection across the United States and throughout the world. In this time of climate emergency and ecological destruction, knowing what works is as important as knowing about the problems. By exploring the stories of local communities that are already implementing these, we can help our community recognize that we could do the same. Our Solutions Circle was very inspirational with many great ideas and realistic possibilities for Elma UMC. We hope to pursue some of these ideas in the near future.

Thank you to all who participated! We are a loving church serving a loving God!

Giving Garden 2026 Update:

Sue Brunner

After thoughtful consideration, we have decided to convert our Giving Garden into a native pollinator garden. According to Pollinator Partnership, pollinators—including bees, butterflies, moths, birds, and bats—are essential to human survival and ecological health because they enable the reproduction of over 75% of the world's flowering plants and over 1,200 food crops. They ensure biodiversity and facilitate the production of fruits, vegetables, nuts, and seeds that make up one out of every three bites of food we eat.

The Girl Scout troop that uses our church has offered to provide the native pollinator plants AND help with planting. Keep an eye on our garden space as the transformation begins sometime in June.

Youth Grades
5th - 8th

Sign up now!

Be in mission together!

Serving and caring for others!

YOUTH WORK CAMP

Devotions/worship, work, play, fun activities, food, group sharing

Love is the Evidence

This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples – when they see the love you have for each other.

John 13:35

June
28-30

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Leadership Team:

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

Annette DeNies opened our April meeting discussing the book "Discerning God's Will Together" as we continue to understand the discernment process. The Leadership Team is committed to spiritual discernment, and we invite you to read this book (which can be found on the table outside Pastor Lisa's office) and hope you will join us in the discernment process, because we want everyone to be part of the process.

Even though our numbers are small, we continue to be an active, vibrant church with so many great ministries going on. We are so grateful to all of you for that. We couldn't do it without you.

Our visitation team has reformed and is out visiting our shut-ins. If you know someone who would appreciate a visit, please reach out to Jilliane in the office and she can let the team know.

The Our Way Forward team is still forming and will begin work soon. This initiative, established after the 2020/2024 General Conference, aimed to resolve deep divisions over LGBTQ+ inclusion and the Book of Discipline. The goal of this team is to maintain unity while navigating conflicting views on homosexual marriage and clergy ordination.

We are still working on forming a Good NEWS team, a combined team to collaborate in pursuit of our common mission, as related to program teams

All UNYAC 2025 reports have been submitted and Jilliane is working on the Annual Church/Charge Conference End of Year Report.

Back in March, many of us were able to attend the District training that we hosted here at Elma UMC for about 60 people from area churches. There were 3 sessions: Stewardship – the importance of aligning stewardship with our mission, Trustees – we recognize and appreciate what a great job our trustees have done over the years, they do an outstanding job understanding their role and fulfilling their responsibilities, and SPPRC – now that our LTeam is following the Simplified Accountability Structure, this session helped to clarify our role regarding SPPRC

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, June 1 at 7:00pm. ALL are welcome to attend.

Town Hall meeting with the Leadership Team
Sunday, June 7 @ 11:00am (during Fellowship Hour)

Please join us for an open discussion with our Leadership Team. We invite you to submit questions or topics of interest prior to the Town Hall so that we can discuss what's important to you. Please submit your questions or topics to Jilliane via email elmaumoffice@gmail.com OR drop a note in the office befor June 1st.

We hope that you can all attend and participate in the conversation. May our time together be informative and productive as we listen and share lovingly and respectfully. See you there!

Book Club:

Shirley Schildkamp

THINGS IN JARS by Jess Kidd is the book that we will be discussing at our Wednesday, June 3 meeting. We meet at 6:30 in the Church Youth Room. This is a good time to join us because at this meeting we will be taking suggestions for our next book selections. We don't meet during the summer, but will start again in September. Happy reading.

United Women in Faith:

Cheryl Buechi

All women invited!

ANNUAL JUNE DINNER

Sponsored by Elma United Women in Faith (UMW)

TUESDAY, June 9th, 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Cost: $15 per person which includes catered dinner.

Speaker: Nichole Barrett of Rural Outreach Center in East Aurora

The wish list for Rural Outreach Center in East Aurora includes Body soap (liquid & bar), Men's & Women's deodorant, Women's feminine products, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, large size diapers & pull ups, gas & grocery gift cards (Crosby, Speedway, Aldi, Tops)

Purchase tickets before/after church service till May 31st. or contact Cheryl Buechi

Music News:

LIFTING GOD UP

Have you experienced a situation where you pray, think, and plan, but nothing seems to change? You know God can intervene, but you don't see a way out yet.

The threat is real… And you feel so under pressure that praising God seems impossible right now.

After all, we usually only give thanks after we receive something, like help.
Judah found itself in exactly this kind of situation in 2 Chronicles 20. Three enemy armies wereapproaching! Militarily, it was hopeless.

And this is where Jehoshaphat prayed:

"For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." (2 Chronicles 20:12, NIV)

Jehoshaphat was still in the middle of the battle, under pressure, not really in a position to praise God yet. But then something happened that defies all human logic. He put singers at the front of his army, saying:

"After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the LORD, forhis love endures forever.'" (2 Chronicles 20:21, NIV)

Wow! and that was the decisive moment!

Not after God intervened…. Not when victory was visible.

But while they lifted God up, something happened:

"As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon, Moab, and MountSeir… They were defeated." (2 Chronicles 20:22, NIV)

Doesn't this encourage you? To decide that even if nothing is visible yet—I will lift the name of God!

Because today we learn that God doesn't wait to intervene until everything is good. He acts while His name is being lifted!

Yes! When God receives His rightful place, you create space for His intervention!

Oh, rejoice! Because truly, everything is possible for Him!

In His Victory,
Nan Keller
Worship Music Minister

Andrew Hartley
https://www.umccreationcare.org

Caretakers of God's Creation

Don't it Make Your Green Thumb Blue? (Apologies to Crystal Gayle)

How's your 2026 gardening going? When I plant anything, I'm reminded of our dependence on the soil, which is just one element of the amazing creation God uses, every minute of every day, to feed us, clothe us, and keep us warm. The creation, you might say, is God's life support system for us, although it's precious to God even beyond what it does for humans. It is said, "you can't care for something you don't love, and you can't love something you don't know." Gardening can indeed help us know, love and care for creation, in a way that an afternoon mall-hopping or a meal at "Mighty Meat Burgers" restaurant cannot.

Does it trouble you, though, that so much of our soil—umm, let's make that GOD's soil—is contaminated with microplastics? People produce over 990,000,000,000 (that's nine hundred ninety billion) pounds of plastic annually. That plastic doesn't last forever, but doesn't become soil, either; rather, it breaks apart into fragments, many of which float in the air or the water and, eventually, end up in soil. Or in our lungs, blood and even brains. This contamination has been linked to a range of adverse health effects, like dementia, Parkinson's disease and reproductive disorders. The soil God meant as a blessing becomes a curse. Doesn't that remind you of the ground of Genesis 3 that, because of sin, now produces thorns and thistles?

We are not powerless, though. One step, at least for gardeners not allergic to something in the soil, is to reduce the use of plastics in gardening. For instance, some gardeners use those blue vinyl gloves to keep their fingernails clean. Vinyl can easily shed plastics; latex, nitrile and washable cotton gloves are safer. As an even better option, consider scraping your bare fingernails over a bar of soap before working in the soil. Not only will your thumbs be greener, but the soap fragments will keep your fingernails clean and, I'm told, can even strengthen them.

Vinyl gloves are a minor problem, though, compared to the plastic bags and pouches many gardening products are sold in. So, as another step, look for products sold in reusable or compostable containers instead, or buy those goods in bulk.

Those steps are small, but they can provide a little joy and even lead to more impactful actions. A good next step? I urge you to visit beyondplastics.com and learn about government legislation being considered that would reduce plastic pollution. Then, moved by your love of God's creation and pure soil, you might find yourself reaching for the phone, calling your elected officials, and encouraging them to support those laws.

In all this, we might more responsibly steward God's amazing Earth.

References:

Plastic Pollution - Our World in Data

Is It True That There Are Microplastics in Disposable

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

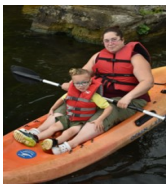
ages 13-18

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.

Garage Sale:

Elma United Women in Faith &
Elma United Methodist Pre-school

Thank you to all who helped with the garage sale: donating, pricing, sorting, working at the sale and doing clean-up afterwards, and delivering remaining items to Goodwill.

Fish:

Brittany Wojnar

June's FISH item is peanut butter (and July is soup). Though any non-perishable food item is accepted and appreciated.

BIRTHDAYS

6/02—Cheryl Buechi
6/02—Cindy Erhardt
6/04—Dustin Fuer
6/05—Kiarah Vera
6/5—Donald Langreck
6/06—Alyssa Stockton
6/09—Cheryl Kowalski
6/12—Robert Gradwell
6/13—Charlotte Buechi
6/14—Sue Brunner
6/18—Arlene Schneckenberger
6/19—Jackie Moyer
6/19—Alexandra Robillard
6/21—Michele Setzer
6/22—Darlene Green
6/24—Mark Pitman
6/27—Rose Shiesley
6/28—Chad Reimer
6/29—Jane Copeland
6/29—Bonnie McGoldrick

ANNIVERSARIES

6/05—David & Judy Smith
6/08—Jerry & Toni Felber
6/17—Stephen & Laura Buechi
6/20—James & Brittany Wojnar
6/21—Ryan & Carrie Schmitz
6/23—Hank & Darleen Schmidt
6/25—Romney & Pastor Lisa Taylor
6/28—Chad & Candace Reimer

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!**

Elma United Methodist Church

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Elma, NY 14059