November 2026 Methodelma

"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 Message:

Stewardship: Loving, Serving, and Leading in the UMC in 2026 and Beyond
The following contains excerpts from an article by Burton Edwards.
https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-the-vision-statement-of-the-united-methodist-church

Above is the full version of the vision statement of The United Methodist Church. You may more often it see abbreviated "Love boldly, Serve joyfully, Lead courageously." The vision statement of The United Methodist Church does not replace the mission statement: "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." The statement in full makes that clear. Rather, it focuses United Methodists at all levels of church life on the outcomes of our discipling work. These disciples, it says, are to "love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections." The vision statement acknowledges that these outcomes are not entirely of our own making. It is the Holy Spirit who empowers all disciples of Jesus Christ. Our role is to collaborate with the Spirit's work to foster bold love, joyful service and courageous leadership among the disciples we are part of forming. The vision statement also calls United Methodists at every level of church life to ask what we can do to foster disciples of Jesus who behave like this vision.

Love boldly - Disciples of Jesus follow his teaching to love our enemies and do good even to those who harm us (Luke 6:27-28). Loving boldly calls United Methodists to show love to one another and to all people, and to do so openly, boldly. Many United Methodists who have plenty of money find themselves in a place of privilege and are generally spoken well of. Early Methodists who were wealthy were constantly urged by John Wesley to associate with people who were poor and to visit prisoners. They offered help from their own resources.

Serve joyfully - Service in U.S. culture is often pictured as a burden one takes upon oneself. For disciples of Jesus service need not be not a burden. It is not forced upon us. Service can be an opportunity to live and work alongside those who are most blessed in God's reign, even in the midst of their great needs. So to serve joyfully requires only that we believe what Jesus said to his first disciples about who receives God's blessings in God's reign and offer ourselves in service.

Lead courageously - Leadership in U.S. culture is typically associated with individuals placed at the top of an organization or government seeking to control the situation around them to their own perceived advantage. Leadership as Jesus teaches it is the quite different. “Whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all” (Mark 10:44, NRSVUE). Leadership for disciples of Jesus involves collaboration and partnership. Leadership as Jesus teaches is it love for every neighbor. The courageous servant-leader stands alongside those God’s reign calls blessed.

Disciples of Jesus who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously are people whose lives, work, and relationships become more fully aligned with the work of God’s reign which overcomes the powers of this world. Or, in the words of Charles Wesley and the commendation of the newly baptized in the United Methodist baptismal covenant, this vision statement aims to help “perfect us in love”

This year Elma UMC’s Stewardship Campaign emphasis is about offering our whole selves in loving, serving, and leading in our church and the wider community. Offering our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness helps us grow in our own intentional discipleship even as we help others see God’s love and their need of God. Stewardship means being disciples who make disciples.

Blessings.

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 Wednesday 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. The Pastor’s cell phone 716-341-1896, may be used to reach Pastor Lisa by voicemail or text (simple text only, please); especially during hours when no one is scheduled to be in the office. Please use the Pastor’s cell only for emergencies on Fridays and Saturdays.

SUNDAY MORNINGS:

(coffee/tea/juice and conversation available every Sunday at 8:45am and following worship)

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!

Monthly Prayer Opportunities:

Wednesday, November 18 th
10-10:30am and/or 7:00-8:00pm.

Prayer is the foundation of the life of Christ's Church. Our Bishop has called all Upper NY and Susquehanna UMC's to focused prayer together as Christ's body. We are praying each week for a different set of churches in our annual conferences. In addition, please join Pastor Lisa in a time of gathering for informal prayer for our church, our community, and personal needs. 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. Prayer for healing with laying on of hands and anointing with oil will be available for those desiring this form of prayer ministry. Come, join in prayer together!

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.

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE:

Elma UMC's Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, November 14 th 12:30-3pm, at Elma UMC. It will be a regular Charge Conference to handle the necessary annual business of the church. So only the Leadership Team, Leadership Development and Nominations Team, and appointed and affiliated clergy will have voice and vote. We will hosting pastors and members of several other UM churches, and will need help with set-up, greeting, and providing coffee and snacks. How exciting to be able to connect with some of our sister churches! Look for a report on the Charge Conference in the December Methodelma.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH:

Cheryl Buechi

Help is needed for sorting and pricing Christmas room donations for the bazaar on November 30th. Set up and pricing will be scheduled during the week before the bazaar. Contact Cheryl Buechi if you can help. Help is also needed for pricing baked goods and putting together plates of cookies for the bake sale. Donations of baked goods and items for the Christmas room are greatly appreciated.

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!

Week 44 – October 29 th -November 4 th : John 5-21; Ruth 1-4; Philemon; Song of Songs 1-6

Week 45 – November 5 th -11 th : Song of Songs 7-8; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4; Titus 1-3; Jude; Lamentations 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5; 2 Peter 1-2

Week 46 – November 12 th -18 th : 2 Peter 3; Psalms 76-102

Week 47 – November 19 th -25 th : Psalms 103-130

Week 48 – November 26 th -December 2 nd : Psalms 131-150; Mark 1-8

FISH:

November item is SOUP!

ELMA PAGE TURNERS:

Shirley Schildkamp

The Elma Page Turners will meet
Wednesday, November 11, 2026
At 6:30 PM in the Youth Room

MISSIONS OUTREACH:

Brittany Wojner

Thanksgiving Food Bags for Iroquois Central School Danny's Helping Hands

Brown paper bags will be on the missions table in the hallway_. The need for families this year is greater than ever. If you can help in any way, the families of our community will be grateful and appreciative.

There are a couple of ways you can get your bags:

- You can pick them up after Worship .
- Stop by church to pick them up. Bags will be on the Christian Education table in the main hallway.
- We can special deliver the bags to your house and pick them back up after you fill them.

Once you receive your bag, we ask that you fill your bags with food items listed here:

- canned vegetables and fruits (cranberries, oranges, etc.) canned yams
- peanut butter and jelly (plastic bottle is preferred)
- boxes of cereal, 100% fruit juice
- spaghetti or pasta, spaghetti sauce (plastic bottle is preferred)
- rice
- instant potatoes, gravy
- applesauce (plastic bottle is preferred)
- Crackers, stuffing
- canned soups, canned stews, canned chili
- tuna fish

Please check the expiration dates on any food item you donate.

All bags can be dropped off to church by **November 15th** OR we can pick up the bags from your home. Please let Brittany Wojnar know if you are need of bags needing to be picked up either by email elmaumoffice@gmail.com or leave a message at church 652-5427.

ALL ARE WELCOME:

Following the November 15th – Worship Service, **EVERYONE (we mean everyone)**, is invited to help check expiration dates and pack the bags.

FOOD OF SOME SORT AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED. When we finish packing we will **PRAY** over the bags.

Leadership Team Basic Information:

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)

The **Leadership Development and Nominations Team** is currently seeking people interested in the well-being and future of Elma UMC to serve for one three-year term on each of the teams required by the UMC's Book of Discipline – Leadership Team, Board of Trustees, and Leadership Development and Nominations. Please reach out to Pastor Lisa or any LD&N member to let us know how you believe God's Spirit is leading you to serve Elma UMC. We are now forming teams for the 2027-2029 class. We are also seeking people to serve on the Christian Education Team (adults and/or children/youth), Missions, and Scholarship Teams.

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

LUNCH BUNCH

All are invited
to Lunch Bunch
Monday, November 9, 2026
At 12:30 at the Olive Tree on Broadway in Lancaster.
There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship

Our Way Forward:

Session 3 - Sunday November 8 th , 12:30-2:30pm
Lunch will be served beginning at 12:00pm for all participants.

The sessions build upon one another and will be facilitated by Georgia Whitney who currently serves in Conference level lay leadership and has experience with facilitation. **Please RSVP if you have not already so we can plan accordingly. And let Pastor Lisa or the office know if you need childcare.**

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, have created a schedule of sessions that will allow everyone the opportunity to participate.

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. 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.

Pastor Lisa's Doctor of Ministry Project:

I have greatly appreciated the support I have received spiritually and practically from all who have participated. You have been a terrific source of insight and encouragement. Peace and blessings, Pastor Lisa

Adult Christian Education

Samantha Vidal and Pastor Lisa are currently co-leading The Bible Simplified: *Learn the Story, Live the Story by Zach Windahl.* This study combines reading, video, and discussion to help us learn and grow in our knowledge of the Bible, so that when we engage in reading our Bible for study or devotional time, we will have greater understanding. This 8-week study is happening Sundays 11am-12noon, and Tuesdays 9:30-10:30am through November 24 th . Contact Pastor Lisa for more information, or just show up for class.

Advent Study: *The Star Still Beckons* by Leonard Sweet:

Five Sessions: Sundays November 29 th , December 6 th -20 th , January 10 th 11am-12pm; Tuesdays December 1 st -22 nd , January 5 th . In the chaos of Christmas clamor, The Star Still Beckons invites us to pause, breathe, and journey back to the sacred heartbeat of the season. Whether you're a "Silent Night" soul or a "Jingle Bells" spirit, this study offers sacred space to rediscover the enchantment of Christmastide. Watch for the sign up sheet or contact the church office or Pastor Lisa.

All Saints Sunday is November 1 st:

Please let the church office know the names of loved ones who have passed away in the past year who you would like to have included in remembrance during worship. We need the names by Wednesday, October 28th at the latest.

Hanging of the Greens – Sunday, November 29th:

Please watch for the sign up sheet, or reach out to the church office to join Pastor Lisa in decorating the church for the Advent/Christmas season. A light lunch will be available for those participating and then we'll get busy making everything look festive for the holidays!

DANNY'S HELPING HANDS:

EUMC is continuing to accept donations of non-perishable items or monetary gifts.

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

Looking Forward: Advent Adventure – Sunday, December 20 th 11am:

This is Elma UMC's all ages, multi-generational Education Hour event – and your help is needed! We need two people to organize and lead this special event that takes us on the wonderful journey to Bethlehem. The program is written. And we have the props, costumes, and materials. All we need are two willing people to put it all together and make it happen. There are a couple people who have led it in past years who will provide guidance and direction if you need some. So come on! Pray about it and see what God would have you do! If you will step up and take on putting this one-hour event together, may God bless you as you reach out to Cheryl Buechi, Sue Brunner, or Pastor Lisa to get started. Blessings!

Looking Forward: Annual Christmas Concert – Sunday, December 13 th after worship:

Do you sing? Do you dance? Do you have a play, or a game, or a story or poem to share? Plan to join in making Elma UMC's Christmas Concert a blessing to God and our congregation! Please let the church office, Pastor Lisa, or worship minister Nan Keller know and we'll be sure you are in the program. Please respond as soon as possible so the planning can begin.

Looking Forward: Caroling to Our Homebound Friends – Sunday, December 6th departing at 12:30pm:

Watch for the sign-up sheet, or contact the church office to let us know you're willing to sing, drive singers (and sing if you like), and/or create the schedule and driving directions. This is a wonderful gift of love Elma UMC offers each year to our homebound friends. So join us!

NOVEMBER

Worship Volunteers	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Ushers: Steve & Laura Buechi Liturgist: Randi Dressel Greeters: Amanda Nolan Communion Servers: D. Wainwright & M. Horohoe Up & About: We need 2 people to cover Fellowship: Horohoe	**1 All Saint's/All Soul's Sunday Observed** 8:45 AM Fellowship Time 9:15 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 11am Choir Rehearsal 11am Trustees Meeting **Red Bird boxes due today!**	**2**	**3** 8:45-1145 AM Preschool 3 &4yr olds 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Wool Gatherers
Ushers: Liturgist: Cheryl Buechi Greeters: Laura Buechii Communion Servers: Steve & Annette DeNies Up & About: We need 2 people to cover Fellowship:	**8** 8:45 AM Fellowship Time 9:15 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 11am Educational Hour 11am Choir Rehearsal 12:30-2:30pm Our way Forward w/ lunch @ 12	**9** 12:30 PM Lunch Bunch	**10** 8:45-1145 AM Preschool 3 &4yr olds 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Wool Gatherers
Ushers: Bruce & Wendie Stockton Liturgist: Andrea Hartley Greeters: Jane Beyer Communion Servers: Rose Shiesley & Wendie Stockton Up & About: We need 2 people to cover Fellowship: C. Buechi	**15 Methodelma Articles Due** 8:45 AM Fellowship Time 9:15 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 11am Educational Hour 11am Choir Rehearsal 1045m Packing Thanksgiving bags	**16**	**17** 8:45-1145 AM Preschool 3 &4yr olds 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Wool Gatherers
Ushers: D. Wainwright & Randi Dressel Liturgist: Violet Trombley Greeters: Mark Bessey Communion Servers: Sue Brunner & Cheryl Buechi Up & About: We need 2 people to cover Fellowship:	**22** 8:45 AM Fellowship Time 9:15 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 11am Educational Hour 11am Choir Rehearsal	**23**	**24** 8:45-1145 AM Preschool 3 &4yr olds 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Wool Gatherers
Ushers: Darlene Green & M Bessey Liturgist: Steve Buechi Greeters: Sue Brunner Communion Servers: Hank Schmidt & M. Horohoe Up & About: We need 2 people to cover Fellowship:	**29 1st Sunday of Advent** 8:45 AM Fellowship Time 9:15 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 11am Educational Hour 12pm Hanging of the Greens & light lunch 11am Choir Rehearsal	30 7pm Leadership Team Mtg	***Please Note*** November 1st daylight savings time ends. Don't forget to Set Clocks back 1 hour

2026

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 3:30PM Online Devotion	**5** 8:45-1145 AM Preschool 3 &4yr olds	**6** 8:45-1145 AM Preschool 4yr olds Only	**7**
11 3:30 PM Online Devotion **6:30PM Book Club**	**12** 8:45-1145 AM Preschool 3 &4yr olds	**13** 8:45-1145 AM Preschool 4yr olds Only	**14** LTeam, LD&N, Trustee Retreat @ Camp Asbury 9am-5pm
18 10am Monthly Prayer Gathering 3:30PM Online Devotion 7pm Monthly Prayer Gathering	**19** 8:45-1145 AM Preschool 3 &4yr olds	**20** 8:45-1145 AM Preschool 4yr olds Only	**21** 9:00AM—1130 Church Work Day Annual Charge Conference 12:30-3pm At EUMC
25 3:30PM Online Devotion	**26** **THANKSGIVING** **Office Closed**	**27**	**28**

LTeam, LD&N, and Trustees

Evening Retreat Gathering in October 30th 5:30-8:30 and Day Long Training Retreat at Camp Asbury is November 14th 9am-5pm– all current and new Team members are expected to attend

Annual EUMC Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, December 5th

9am-2pm

MISSIONS OUTREACH: **Brittany Wojnar**

Red Bird Mission

Located in Beverly, Kentucky, They provide outreach and services that minister to the whole person (spiritual, physical, social, and economic).

Spread the Love of Jesus to Red Bird Mission

Please consider being a part of this vital mission by filling a shoebox or donating items. Stop by the Missions Table for more information. Please have all donations turned in by **November 1st.**

Suggested Items for:

Adult Shoeboxes

- a comb or brush
- shampoo
- hand lotion
- a toothbrush and toothpaste
- lip balm
- a full-size bar of soap
- a washcloth
- socks
- mittens or work gloves
- winter hat or scarf
- disposable razors
- shaving cream
- nail care supplies
- deodorant

Children's Shoeboxes

- a comb or brush
- shampoo
- hand lotion
- child's toothbrush and toothpaste
- lip balm
- a bar of soap
- a washcloth
- socks
- a pair of mittens
- a winter hat
- two or three small toys
- two or three school supplies
- a small flashlight

*Please no war related items or candy. Christian bookmarks, wristbands and other spiritual items may be included in either box.

Red Bird Mission
Building on a Legacy of Faith

Red Bird Mission
Building on a Legacy of Faith

Seneca Street Christmas Shoppe

Calling Our Mission-Minded Members and Friends! Seneca Street needs YOUR help! The Holiday season is a busy time for all of us, but especially for Elma UMC's Mission Team. There are several Mission and Outreach ministries that happen at this time and our Mission Team needs help. Would some member or friend of Elma UMC be willing to organize the **Seneca Street Christmas Shoppe** this year? Someone is needed to collect and deliver the donations for that ministry. Brittany Wojnar can tell you everything you need to know. So reach out to Brittany directly or through the church office ASAP! Let's make this a blessed holiday season for Our Seneca Street friends!

Seneca Street Christmas Shoppe Items

Giving Category	Suggested Items
Children	Art kits Small toys Dolls and action figures Cars Legos Games Toiletries Hair ties, scrunchies, barrettes, Body lotion Books Stress Balls/Fidgets Sports Balls *** Please no stuffed animals***
Baby	Onesies Bibs Bottles Small toys Games Socks, hats, mittens Bowls/Spoons *** Please no stuffed animals***
Other Needs	Tape Gift name tags Tissue Paper Gift Bags Wrapping Paper Gift cards or monetary donation to fulfill last minute needs

CREATION CARE

Andrew Hartley
https://www.umccreationcare.org

When others visit our homes, how do we expect them to behave? We are unpleasantly surprised if they touch fragile items, use anything without asking permission, and so on, right? Furthermore, even after they gain permission to use an item, we expect them to be sure to understand its proper use.

A couple of years ago, I overheard a grandmother bemoan a recent visit, at her house, from a mother and the mother's child. She was shocked at the child's lack of restraint and respect for her things: dirty fingers playing the piano, grabbing delicate figurines from the fireplace mantel, and tossing a ball across the dining room table. The mother urged the child to ask permission before touching anything there, but the behavior continued. Upon the visitors' departure, the grandmother was relieved, but angry nonetheless.

We Christians say we believe the Bible, which says

> The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
> the world, and those who live in it, (Psalm 24:1)

and

> (The Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying,) "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ...the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants." (Leviticus 25:23)

So, as we live in God's world, how much do we handle "all that is in it" with reverence and restraint? Alternatively, how much do we resemble that strong-willed, defiant child?

I once talked with a parishioner (in a United Methodist congregation) about the harms of burning coal--lung diseases, mining spoiling landscapes, climate change, etc. Even now, his rejoinder rings in my ears: "If God didn't want us to burn that coal, why did he put it in the ground?" Is that an inappropriate question? God is not bound to explain everything God does and, in our ignorance about some things God has made, we are not privileged to do whatever we want with them.

God gave humans "...every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food" (Genesis 1).

"Proper use" does, then, seem to include meeting basic needs. Then, too, we must "act justly" and "love mercy" (Micah 6:8), which usually require resources. I cannot, though, see how proper use could include damaging God's creation, extracting more than our share, or polluting more than is needed--in essence, going afoul of justice and mercy.

In summary, let us use the things of this world—God's things—with reverence, always considering God's intentions for them.

Creation Care Tip

Do you order take-out food from a restaurant that comes with plastic utensils you don't need? Unfortunately, those utensils are seldom if ever recyclable. The good news (or less bad news), though, is that they could serve a purpose: Drop them at a "Blessing Box," such as the one on the East side of the church's main parking lot.

Don't forget

Day Light Savings Time!!

Set your clock **BACK** an hour

On Saturday, October 31st

Before you go to bed

Hank & Pam Thauer 11/05
Tara & Rob Piskothy 11/22
Mike & Erika Wargula 11/25
Tom & Deb Mannion 11/27

November BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY Birthday FROM YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

11/2– Darleen Schmidt
11/7—Peter Buechi
11/10– Skylar Kowalski
11/12—Rob Coatsworth
11/12—Chuck Rosenburg
11/13– Deb Mannion
11/14– Chelsea Currie
11/14– Brantley Nolan
11/15– Michael McGoldrick
11/15– Gabriel Vidal, Jr.
11/16—Shirley Schildkamp
11/16– Aubriella Vidal
11/18– Karen Atkinson
11/18– Brandon Nowak
11/26– Landon Currie
11/26– Danielle Robillard
11/27– Grant Denies
11/28– Amanda Nolan
11/28—Edward Hornung

Please note: The opinions and/or theological points of view of the authors contributing to the Methodelma do not necessarily represent those of the Pastor of Elma UMC or the United Methodist Church.

Elma United Methodist Church
Invites you to the

12th ANNUAL
HOLIDAY BAZAAR

December 5
9:00am to 2:00pm

Elma UMC, 2991 Bowen Road
Elma, NY 14059
The church in the valley between Bullis Rd & Clinton St.

Come & Shop Local Crafts for your Christmas Needs
Jewelry, home-made items, local vendors,
Christmas decorations and toys (new & gently used)
Baked goods and lunch available
Children's activities

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR:

We will once again be hosting are exciting Church Bazaar on:

Annual Christmas Bazaar is on Saturday, December 5, 2026

9am-2pm

Every year our two most popular areas are the **Christmas room** and the **bake goods table**.

However, this success is not possible without your past generosity and time.

We are hoping to once again ask for gently used or new Christmas decorations and puzzles, new Christmas cards, wrapping paper and gift bags for the Christmas room you would like to part with.

We are also looking for help with baked goods for the sale at the Christmas Bazaar. Cookies for platters are especially appreciated, also breads and coffee cakes, pies. Please drop them off by 1PM on Friday, December 4th so that we can plate them for the sale.

Thank you for your continued support and we hope to see you at the Bazaar.

Christian Education News

We hope you have joined one our education opportunities as we all learn and grow together. We're off to a fun start!

Nov. 1 11:00	Fellowship Time for all ages following worship PACKING RED BIRD SHOEBOXES
Nov. 8 11:00 – 12:00	All children – "What is prayer? Giving Thanks." in the Youth Room Adults – "The Bible Simplified" in the Library
Nov. 15 11:00 – 12:00	All children – PACKING THANKSGIVING BAGS Adults – "The Bible Simplified" in the Library
Nov 22 11:00 – 12:00	All children – "How to Pray" in the Youth Room Adults – "The Bible Simplified" in the Library
Nov 29 11:00 – 12:00	All children – "Advent Begins – What is it?" in the Youth Room Adults – Advent Study Begins in the Library

---

Tuesday Bible Study Join us in the library every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.
For the November study "*The Bible Simplified*"

Prayer Time Wednesday, November 18
10:00 – 10:30 AM
7:00 – 8:00 PM

Wednesday Online Devotion – 3:30pm on Facebook

Please consider signing up to "assist" with a children's class this Winter. A sign-up sheet will be circulated soon! We would love to have you!

Christian Education Team

Cheryl Buechi, D'Lynn Zurek, Jennifer Fuer
Carrie Schmitz, Jilliane Kochmanski, Sue Brunner

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

WORSHIP MUSIC MINSITRY:

A HEART THAT YIELDS- Part 3

Dear Elma UMC Family,

Until I took a ceramics class and watched the instructor spin a vessel, I did not understand how important water was in the process. For clay to be shaped, it has to be soft. If it's hard, it cracks, resists, and inevitably becomes unusable.

I've had seasons where my heart felt like that—hard, defensive, resistant. And the truth is, God won't shape a heart that refuses to yield. When that heart cries out to be made new and soft to God's leading, God moves close and does some of His best work!

When my heart is soft—when I'm open, humble, and surrendered—God begins to do something powerful.

Listen to this powerful declaration: *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."* (Ezekiel 36:26, NIV)

Softness doesn't mean weakness. It means responsiveness. It means I'm willing to let God change me.

The Holy Spirit is like water to clay—keeping my heart moldable in every season.

And every day, I face a choice: Will I yield to God… Or to the world? Will I allow that shaping or fight to remain the same? This is a tough question because there is no middle ground. To yield, or not to yield, that is the question. As a recovering "hard heart," I can tell you my decision.

Today, I choose to yield. Not because it's easy—but because I trust the One shaping me. I pray that you will join me in this prayer:

"Holy Spirit, soften my heart. Remove any hardness, pride, or resistance in me. Help me yield to Your work in my life. Shape me with humility and make me responsive to Your leading. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Jesus, I give you my heart!

Nan Keller

Worship Music Minister

Leadership Team News – September meeting review:

The Leadership Team continues our spiritual formation/leadership development discussion on *"Pursuing God's Will Together"* by Ruth Haley Barton. The conversation focused on "Practices for Opening to God Together". We identified our concerns as well as our hopes as we move forward as a Leadership Team. As you work on your own discernment practice, you can find this book available on loan on the table outside Pastor's Lisa office.

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

- Congregation giving statements for quarters 1-3 will be available soon
- Our Visitation Team continues to connect with our shut-ins.
- Safe Sanctuaries sessions will be available in the Fall for anyone working with children and youth.
- Fall bible study "The Bible Simplified"
- 22 people have signed up for Our Way Forward dialoguing sessions 10/18, 10/25, 11/8 facilitated
- by Georgia Whitney
- The CE Planning Team continues work on the CE plan for all ages incorporating GOOD NEWS –
- many folks have volunteered to help lead our young people this year – THANK YOU!
- Planning for confirmation class in the Fall
- 2027 Budget formation – simplifying accounts and right-sizing budget amounts

The Our Way Forward: Graceful Conversation and Covenanting led by Georgie Whitney will wrap-up on November 8. Please join the conversation! We need to hear from everyone.

Actions taken:

- Reviewed current financial reports
- Reviewed Pastor's compensation and housing exclusions for 2027
- Reviewed the Emergency Operations Plan prepared by the Trustees
- Adopted a new Guiding Principle regarding comments/concerns from the congregation
- Planned for the upcoming Stewardship Program – Love Boldy, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously,
- Give Faithfully
- Final check on UNYAC Charge Conference reports
- Planned annual conversations with all employees
- Fall retreat planning

Important dates to note:
November 1 – Fellowship following worship
November 1, 8 15, 22 – Stewardship Program in Worship
November 8, 15, 22, 29 – Be sure to check out the adult class/bible study in the library
November 8 – final Our Way Forward dialoguing session following worship
November 14 – Leadership Team retreat
November 21 – 12:30 – 3:00pm - Annual Charge Conference hosted at Elma UMC
November 22 – final Stewardship Day – pie and coffee following worship
November 30 – Next Leadership Team meeting @ 7:00pm in the library – all are welcome to attend

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.

Stewardship:

"Generosity is a matter of action, intentions, and heart. One way to describe it is the grateful outpouring of gifts to others, out of our love for God. Outpouring is a terrific description, since the priceless treasure of the gospel (and all the gifts of covenant, relationship, and life that go with it) comes from God and is meant to be poured out, through our living, upon others." (UMC Discipleship Ministries)

Stewardship is a year-long commitment and encompasses holistic Christian living – sharing our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Often, we think of stewardship as a monetary gift pledged at the end of the year. While our monetary gifts are vital to the operation of our church and our ability to fulfill our mission/vision, it is only part of our stewardship responsibilities.

As the Leadership Team explores the UMC vision statement – "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.", we recognized the similarities to our own Elma UMC Vision Statement as we strive to fulfill our unified mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

And so, as we enter into a new stewardship program, we will be focusing on these bold, joyful, courageous actions.

Week 1 – November 1 – LOVE BOLDLY
Week 2 – November 8 – SERVE JOYFULLY
Week 3 – November 15 – LEAD COURAGEGOUSLY
Week 4 – NOVEMBER 22 – GIVE FAITHFULLY (Followed by a time of celebratory fellowship with pie and coffee as we move into the new year emboldened with joy and courage, to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.)

Elma United Methodist Church

2991 Bowen Rd.
Elma, NY 14059