

# *Elm Grove United Methodist Church*



**February 26, 2023**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Welcome

Prelude

Anita Chops

## *Gathering Words*

A heart centered on God is the best gift we can give to ourselves and to God.

God calls us to return from the distractions that pull us away from our center, and to focus this day on opening our hearts wide, so that love may flow freely in our lives.

## *\*Call to Worship*

*One:* Return to God with all your heart, mind, and soul.

***All:* We turn our hearts to you, O God.**

*One:* Return to this season called Lent— a season of fasting and prayer, reflection and introspection.

***All:* We turn our thoughts to you, O God.**

*One:* Return to yourself, and to the treasure that is Christ living within you.

***All:* We turn our souls to you, O God.**

*One:* Turning and returning, with heart, mind, and soul wide open, let us worship the God of love.

*\*Hymn*

*“We Walk by Faith”*

TFWS #2196

\*Opening Prayer

**O God, you delight not in pomp and show, but in a humble and contrite heart. Overturn our love of worldly possessions and fix our hearts more firmly on you, that, having nothing, we may yet possess everything, a treasure stored up for us in heaven. Amen.**

Sharing Joys & Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer

The LORD'S Prayer

UMH #895

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Offering of Gifts, Prayers, & Tithes

Special Music

Presentation of our Gifts

\*Doxology

*"Bless Thou the Gifts"*

UMH #587

\*Prayer of Dedication

**We bring our gifts, our hearts, and our very lives to you, O God.**

**Bless these gifts, these hearts, these lives, that we offer to you and to the world in your holy name.**

**Send us forth as your holy people to bless others with hearts wide open with love. Amen.**

\*Hymn

*"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"*

UMH #402

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 6:1-4

Hymn

*"Count Your Blessings"*  
*by Johnson Oatman*

YouTube

Message

*"From Lent to Easter"*

Rev. Debra Dague

*Call to Confession*

We cannot come before God unless we are first honest with ourselves about who we are, about the mistakes we make, and about how well or how poorly we care for others.

In the spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

Prayer of Confession

**Our hearts are heavy when we turn away from you.**

**We weep for the sins that separate us from love and from one another.**

**We mourn for the lost innocence of lives gone astray.**

**Lighten our hearts, O God.**

**Cleanse our lives with your mercy, that our hearts may be restored and our lives reclaimed by your forgiveness and grace.**

**In Christ's name, we pray.**

*Words of Assurance*

This is the true treasure: Hearts that belong to God; Christ, who holds our hearts; and God, who holds our lives in the very heart of holiness.

May our hearts be light, dear friends, for in the name of Christ, we are forgiven and made new!

\*Hymn

*"Since Jesus Came into My Heart"*

TFWS #2140, v.1,2,3

\*Sending Forth

Go forth on your heart's journey, strong in the face of afflictions, speaking truth, and knowing that you are loved well by God.

Go in peace. **Amen.**

\*Postlude

Anita Chops

*"The United Methodist Hymnal" © 1989*

*"The Abingdon Worship Annual 2014" © 2013*

*"The Abingdon Worship Annual 2016" © 2015*

*"Worship & Song" © 2011*

# MISSION OF THE MONTH

## Bridge Street Middle School Food Bags

Items needed:

Individual - Microwaveable cups of Mac & Cheese  
Individual - Microwaveable cups of Mashed Potatoes

Pop-Tarts, any variety

Not ready to attend in-person worship,  
but still want to help out our mission group?  
You can mail in monetary donations to the church anytime,  
just mark the memo line of your check "Mission Group".

## **EGUMC** **"Yard" Sale**

**March 24th - 4:30 to 7:30pm**  
**March 25th - 8:30am to 4:00pm**

Tables are still available.  
\$15/table  
(\*checks payable to "Troop 29")

Sign-up in the Narthex or call the office.

*All proceeds benefit Boy Scout Troop 29*

## THINK SPRING!!!

The Stewardship Committee is running the annual plant & flower sale this year.

Vegetable & Herb plants (6-packs)

Succulent Combos (6-packs)

Landscape Flats (36-packs)

Hanging Baskets (12-inch)

Color Bowls (11-inch)

Order forms can be found on the Welcome Desk

Or

You can call the office or see Susi Whitecotton.

Sale ends April 2<sup>nd</sup>!!!

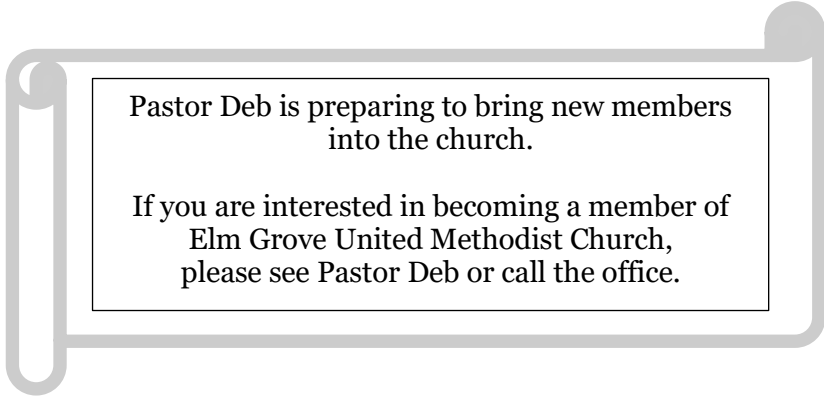
Plants will arrive between May 18-28<sup>th</sup>.



The Girl Scouts are selling yummy, scrumptious cookies again!

The order form is on the Welcome Desk

Place your order today!



Pastor Deb is preparing to bring new members  
into the church.

If you are interested in becoming a member of  
Elm Grove United Methodist Church,  
please see Pastor Deb or call the office.