



8:30 Worship Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service

## *Pressing on with Pastor Deb* - PASTOR DEBRA DAGUE

The church universal has moved into a post-pandemic reality. The interruption of in-person services brought on by the pandemic seems to have accelerated a pattern of decline in many church's attendance that has been measurable for some time. We have experienced changes in culture, technology, and demographic trends that challenges the church to look for different methods of evangelism, to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our first year together at EGUMC has been a good year. We have seen a growth in attendance and membership but more importantly we are making disciples. These are a few of the things we celebrate at EGUMC. To fulfill our "Mission Statement" to make disciples of Jesus Christ, EGUMC needs to step into a different way to reach people outside the walls of our church.

The West Virginia Conference launched a new initiative in 2023 called New Places • New People. This initiative is about engaging with our community in their spaces. It would mean we would go out into the community and meet people in their space. Our goal would not be to get people to our Sunday Worship or even to our church, but to introduce them to Jesus. It could also mean inviting people to our space, church, but that space could also look much different. For example, a church gathering during the week for families in the Fellowship Hall with food, fellowship, learning etc.... EGUMC will continue to be the loving, accepting, and forgiving church we already are to each other. We all need someone to walk alongside us in our journey with Jesus. Our mission remains the same, the only difference is that we are expanding the way we carry out our mission and fulfill the EGUMC Vision Statement: Elm Grove United Methodist Church is an inviting community who loves God and loves spreading the good news to all people.

In July, the EGUMC Administrative Council voted Rose Ealy as the team leader of our “Evangelism Team”. Our sermons have challenged us to be in prayer and to discern where God is calling us to serve God. If you feel God is calling you to this team reach out to Rose or me. I am looking forward to our next year of carrying out God’s plan for EGUMC together.

*Pressing on in this season of change,*  
- Pastor Deb

## *Pastor Cindy Pettit Boggs*

Submitted by: Pastor Deb Dague

Many thanks to the people of EGUMC for your support in hosting the Memorial Service for Rev. Cindy Boggs on July 6, 2024. Pastor Cindy fought a courageous battle with cancer before she moved on to glory on May 22, 2024. Pastor Cindy served EGUMC from July 1, 2022 to Dec 31, 2022.

Sept. 29th – 5th Sunday – One Service at 11am



My favorite picture of Pastor Cindy and me!

*Mission Statement:* To make disciples of Jesus Christ.

*Vision Statement:* Elm Grove United Methodist Church is an inviting community who loves God and loves spreading the good news to all people.

*We Are ELM GROVE UMC.....*

The United Methodist Church is dedicated to helping all of God’s people and to making disciples. The UMC is about caring for the marginalized people. The UMC is about advocating and enacting justice. Do any of us fully agree with everything about this or any church for that matter? Probably not. But that does not change the bottom line of who we will be as a Christian and as EGUMC. We will continue to be a loving, accepting, and forgiving church who is an inviting community who loves God and loves spreading the good news to all people.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, put it well:

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”



## Choir News - ANITA CHOPS

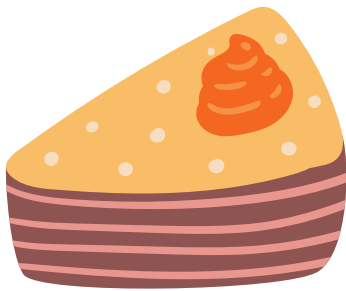
Thank you to all that sang in our Summer Song Series. These individuals were so giving of their time and talents. These individuals include **Brian McCullough, Colleen Polley, Molly Beresh, Suzanne McCormick, Ruth Beckdolt, Sandy Loughman**, the VBS Choir including **Molly Beresh, Pastor Deb, Alice Runkle, Peggy Laing, Sandy Loughman, Jan Coffee, Wayne McCord, and Anita Chops**. We also had as soloists: **Susan Hollis, Rosie Brill, Rose Ealy, Ian Sincovich, Barbara and Ryan Gibson, Jane Gracey, Todd and Joyce Kimpel, and Bob Wolfe**. I also want to thank **Dave Waddell** for filling in for me while I was recuperating from knee surgery.

There are so many giving people from our church. Which brings me to the start of a new season. Choir rehearsals will start on September 4 at 6:30. We'd love to have more people join us. If there is anyone who wishes to participate, please give Anita Chops a call at 304-551-1414. I would love to hear from you. We also have vacancies for soloists for our 8:30 services. Please call and let me know that you are interested!!!!

## Stewardship - SUSI WHITECOTTON

- Chicken dinner is September 27
- Susie's Sweets Auction is Sunday November 24

- Susi Whitecotton and  
The Stewardship Committee



## Boy Scouts - SCOTT BERESH

We currently have 10 active scouts for the 2024-2025 Scout Year.

Our weekly Monday meetings will begin on Monday, August 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

Fall Indoor Yard Sale will be October 3-5. Table rental sign-up sheets will go out at the end of August and can be found at the welcome table or call the church office. \$15 per table rental cost, no maximum amount of tables a person can rent. Make sure to sign up early as tables go fast. The Troop will once again be operating a full concession stand with Soups, Chilli, Sandwiches, Burgers and other items. Your support of Troop 29 is greatly appreciated and will help fund our summer trip in 2025.

Thanks,  
Scott



## Mission News - WAYNE McCORD

Another busy quarter for the Mission Committee! We've collected for the Blessing Box, Bridge Street Middle School, and House of the Carpenter.

In April we collected 13 bottles of body wash, 7 bottles of shampoo, 5 bottles of conditioner, 45 bars of soap, 2 bottles of hand soap, 11 deodorants, and 1 gallon bag of assorted mini shampoos & conditioners.

For the merry month of May we collected 20 t-shirts, 4 pairs of shoes, 24 3 ring binders, and 216 pencils. All will be delivered to Bridge Street School.

June was busting out all over with basic cooking necessities for House of the Carpenter! A total of 32 boxes of shelf stable milk, 23 bottles of cooking oil, 21 bags of flour, and 5 bags of sugar.

The Mission Committee is beginning a new adventure! AMP (Active Mission Prep) has been collecting plastic bags to be turned into mats! The next step in preparation is a sort of assembly line to assist in cutting and preparing the plastic bags to be turned into mats. Another part of the assembly line will be cutting material for canvas bags.

We are also collecting and recycling canvas bags to be used by the community that accesses the food pantry of the House of the Carpenter. So far, 143 recycled bags have been donated! The plan is that on the third Monday of each month the team will meet from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, stopping for lunch. At 1:00 pm the Stitches of Caring group will join in! Time will tell what may develop out of this collaboration! We will keep you posted!

## Sunday School - ROSELLA EALY

**Hello from the Asbury class!**

We have some exciting news to share with you!!

Starting in August, we'll be studying the Book of Acts.

The class has also taken on a mission project this fall... We will be packing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.... Please join us. We have extra shoe boxes for anyone who wants them. Boxes are broken down into gender and then ages. No sure what to pack? Here is a place to start:

**FUN**—includes a “wow” item and other quality toys

**FULL**—packed to the brim with additional school supplies and personal care items

**PERSONALIZED**—prayed over and contains a note and photo, which are often the child's favorite items!

National Collections week is November 18-25, 2024

More information to come about packing, donating, etc. ....

What else is the class doing? We are sending cards... get well, thinking of you, encouragement, just to name a couple. This fall we will be sending birthday cards to all the children who attended VBS or volunteered at VBS this year.

Finally, would you please join us in praying for Skylar, a little girl who is battling cancer...If you would like to send her a fun card of encouragement/get well.... Please contact the Asbury class and we will share her address with you. Jesus also said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder

them! For the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these". (Matthew 19:14; Mark 10:15; Luke 18:16).

## Abiding Care Team (ACT) - JAN COFFEY AND PEGGY LAING

The exciting news for our church is that our congregation of believers continues to expand! That means that the 6 active members of the ACT outreach need to be busier than ever. If you would like to help us continue to keep our members who can no longer be with us in person feel loved and included, we would welcome your participation. Pastor Deb does an incredible job of visiting and maintaining contact with our hospitalized or homebound folks. However, just as we enjoy hearing from more than one person, I'm sure our members would like to be remembered with visits, phone calls and cards from you. In fact, Jan has a large stack of cards just waiting for you to ask for them!

Here are the contact numbers for the first 6 months of 2024: **cards sent = 650; emails sent = 35; phone calls made = 194; and visits total 72** (55 to hospitalized or shut-ins and 17 funerals. That is a total of **951 contacts**. The more people we have on our team, the more we can show love and care for our members who miss being with us in person.

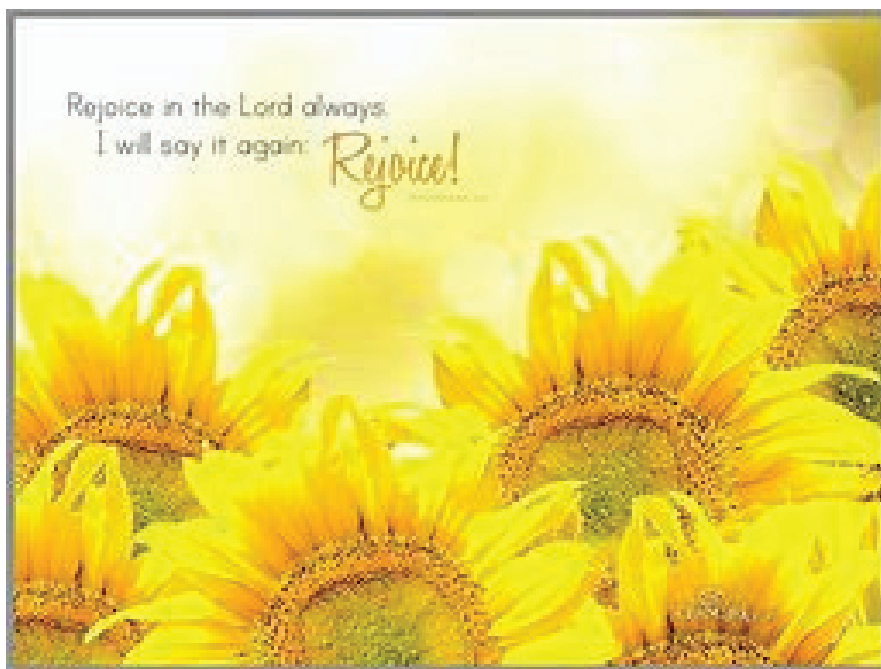
## Shepherding Team - JOYCE KIMPEL

Our team is busy keeping up with new members, baptisms, and transfers into our congregation. What an exciting time for our Church Family.

Please let me know if you need a Shepherd or if you need contact information for your Shepherd.

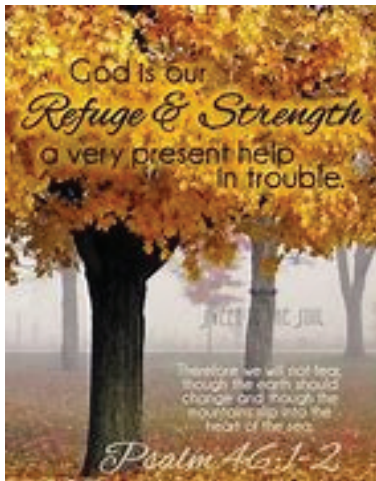
Also, remember that although our team stays in touch with you, your Shepherd would like to hear from you as well.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (304) 639 0588 or [t.kimpel@comcast.net](mailto:t.kimpel@comcast.net).



# Evangelism Team - ROSELLA EALY

Evangelism is defined as: the spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness. It is so much more than this. It is about building relationships, creating new spaces / opportunities. Reaching out to people and spreading the word of Christ. It is about opening doors for Christ to enter. Recently, the Evangelism Council voted to change their name and allow for the formation of an Evangelism team. What does this team look like? I don't know. Yet it is with eager anticipation that I look forward to the challenge and opportunities ahead.



This is a leap of faith, with endless possibilities. Would you like to share Jesus with others, but are not sure where to start? Do you have ideas? Do you feel God calling you to go in a new direction with ministry?

This is truly a blank slate, a fresh start, a new perspective of ministry outreach. Are you curious? Would you like to sit in and see if this is for you? Please reach out to Pastor Deb or myself as we move forward and start brainstorming on ideas and where to start.

Blessings,  
Rosella Ealy  
Rernac@gmail.com  
724-931-5496

# United Methodist Men - TODD KIMPEL, PRESIDENT/SECRETARY

*The Group meets the 1st Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Old Fellowship Hall with an approximate 1-hour timeframe.*

The United Methodist Men will be focused on Bible Study, work projects, and social events for the men. We are considering attending a Wild Things Baseball Game and will be talking about a possible trip to one of the Classic Car Auctions as a future event.

Currently, we have 6 members in regular attendance. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the text chain, please contact Todd Kimpel at 304-639-0940.

# Free Community Luncheon - Mission Team

Our "Saturday church family" is growing! On the **3rd Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m.**, our group of new friends gather in Newmeyer Hall to shop at Iney's Pre-Loved Boutique and share time and a meal with each other.

Questions? Want to help or provide food?  
Contact Nancy McCord at 304-312-2938 or Sandy Loughman at 304-312-8713.

# United Women of Faith - ANITA CHOPS & JUDY BEAVER, CO-PRESIDENTS

*The Purpose of the United Women in Faith is to be a community of women whose PURPOSE IS TO KNOW GOD and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.*

Joining this group of committed women is a unique opportunity—no matter who you are or where in your life you are at this moment—to move in harmony with other women who have been responding to this Purpose for over one hundred years.

**WE INVITE YOU TO:** “Grow spiritually through worship, bible study, and prayer, celebrate the person you are becoming in Jesus Christ, develop meaningful and lasting relationships, and share who you are and your gifts, take action, and make a difference in your community and world”

We meet in Newmeyer Hall the second Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon excluding January, February, June, July, and August.

On September 12 our program is **FOOD JUSTICE**. Our presenters are **BIG MIKE** and **Peggy Laing**. Our hostesses are **Dee Hicks** and **Susi Whitecotton**. We are asked to bring flour and oil for the House of the Carpenter.

Our October 10 meeting's theme is **FOOD OF THE EARTH**. It is our **CALL TO PRAYER AND SELF DENIAL/ COMMUNION** program. Our presenter is Nany McCord and Pastor Deb Dague. Our hostesses are Karen Muldrew and Karen Stewart. **BRING YOUR FAVORITE SALAD WITH THE RECIPE.**

Our November 14th meeting is our **WORLD THANK OFFERING AND PLEDGE SERVICE** presented by Alice Runkle and Judy Beaver. Our Hostesses are Judy Beaver and Kris Yost. We are asked to bring our World Thank-money boxes to that meeting.

Our December meeting will be our **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**. We are asked to bring a **COVERED DISH TO SHARE WITH ALL THAT ATTEND**. We will have singing, games, and fun with a **special guest** at our meeting. We hope all of you will come.

## Lois' Stitches of Caring - KAREN MULDREW

While we are a small group, we continue to make a lot of hats, scarves, lap robes, and prayer shawls for those in need. Pastor Deb blessed all of our items on June 3rd.

We are making hats and scarves for the December mission and will have them for sale. Look for more information in the next Sparks.

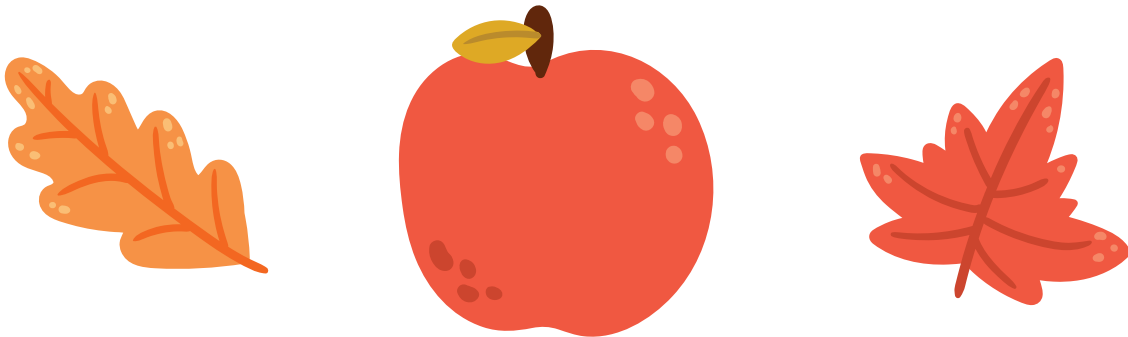
Are you lonely and would like to be part of a group in the church? Why not join us on Mondays from 1 to 3 p.m. Can't knit or crochet? No problem. We like to visit as well. See you Monday!

- Karen Muldrew



# Worship Service Attendance

<b>Date</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>11 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
April 28, 2024	32	50	21
May 5, 2024	30	47	n/a
May 12, 2024	33	49	20
May 19, 2024	30	48	21
May 26, 2024	30	38	10
June 2, 2024	32	50	25
June 9, 2024	30	59	21
June 16, 2024	25	53	21
June 23, 2024	35	42	19
June 30, 2024	60		
July 7, 2024	29	53	21
July 14, 2024	33	46	26
July 21, 2024	29	49	11



## THAT'S A WRAP!

SCUBA Vacation Bible School 2024 was a huge success!!

We had 31 children registered (that is up from the 12 we had last year) and 24 volunteers. The children sang songs, learned lots of fun things in "Imagination Station", played games, heard colorful and imaginative stories in "Bible Adventures", and experienced a new interactive station, called "Sticky Scripture", and we certainly cannot forget all the wonderful treats!

On the last day of Vacation Bible School, we had 27 adults experience SCUBA VBS during an evening session. We began by sharing a meal, cooked and prepared by our wonderful kitchen crew, then led everyone through a fun-filled evening of music, stories, imagination, and games.

This entire event could not have been achieved without the many, many volunteers that sacrificed their time and energy: Anita Chops, Wayne McCord, David Ealy, Karen Stewart, Jan Coffey, Sandy Loughman, Pastor Deb, Addison & Syndey Mlodzik, Scott Beresh, Alice Runkle, Mia Holmes, Nancy McCord, Kris Yost, Peggy Laing, Tammy Richmond, Maggie Rowe, Amanda Richmond, Braeden Dembrosky, Carson Kimpel, Ma'Kyjah & Tawvier McKean.

A special thank you to Thoburn UMC for allowing us to borrow their decorations, and for the HOC for lending their truck & drivers to help us haul it. Thank you to everyone who made monetary donations to help us offset our expenses, we appreciate you! Stay tuned for VBS 2025, we are headed to "True North", the Alaskan wilderness. We will continue to accept donations all year as we prepare for the next VBS experience!

~Molly Beresh

## Vacation Bible School





# Elm Grove U.M.C. Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries

## August

CLARK, Mary Lou	08/02
HIGLEY, Tami	08/02
ESTEP, Shannon	08/04
HICKS, Dee	08/05
KIMPEL, Tim	08/06
HOFFMAN, Shirley	08/07
BROWN, Danielle	08/08
PRICE, Kathleen	08/09
HICKS, Fred	08/10
MCCROBA, Carol	08/14
BARNES, Adam	08/16
HARRIS, Brynlee	08/16
CAREY, Julie	08/18
KIMPEL, Chad	08/18
LAING, Gresh	08/19
DUNN, Sr., Christopher	08/20
WILLIAMS, Linda	08/24
CUNDIFF, Sharon	08/25
DANIEL, William	08/27
MCCORD, Wayne	08/27
CHOPS, Anita	08/29
LOUGHMAN, Terry	08/29
MCCULLOUGH, Logan	08/29
CLARK, Stacey	08/31

## September

MARTIN Sr., Don	09/01
MULDREW, Karen	09/01
MCFARLAND, Brian	09/02
THORNGATE, Greg	09/02
WILLIAMS, Lillian	09/04
KAPPAS, Mark	09/06
CLARK, Debra	09/07
KIMPEL, Archer	09/07
LAING, Rory	09/08
MCFARLAND, Nancy	09/11
ARMSTRONG, Haylee	09/13
ZOECKLER, Christina	09/13
BERESH, Hayden	09/14
HARRIS, Gregory	09/14
WARD, Stacy	09/15
WHITCOTTON, Tina	09/27
CUNDIFF, Scott	09/28
ESTEP, Daniel	09/29
MORGAN, Bob	09/29
MUSSER, Tom	09/29

## October

GEER, Marcus	10/01
HARRIS, Kayla	10/04
WARD, Jeremy	10/06
FOLMAR, Reese	10/07
HUFF, Don	10/07
LAING, Peggy	10/09
BERESH, Savannah	10/12
MULDREW, Daniel	10/14
MULDREW, David	10/14
THORNGATE, Braxton	10/15
BAYZA, Samuel	10/16
ESTEP, James	10/20
BEABOUT, Sandra	10/21
CARPENTER, Beverly	10/21
HASTINGS, Hailey	10/25
CALDWELL, Sandra	10/26
CARPENTER, Bryan	10/27
JONES, Jennifer	10/29
GRAY, Brian	10/31
ROWE, Elizabeth	10/31

## November

BEISNER, Shalyn	11/01	DENTZ, Corbin	11/12
HANKE, Ron	11/02	STEWART, Ed	11/12
WHITCOTTON, Susi	11/03	ARMSTRONG, Hollee	11/13
KENT, Kelly	11/06	MARTIN, Erika	11/13
BLOWERS, Dolly	11/09	KING, Gary	11/14

\*If you see a mistake on this list, please contact Molly so we can update our database. Thank you!

# Wedding Anniversaries

## August

MCCULLOUGH, Brian & Becky	08/03
FOLMAR, Reese & Samantha	08/06
KENT, Kelly & Jeff	08/10

## September

KIMPEL-MATTHEWS, Laura & Dan Matthews	09/05
RUSH, Bob & Barbara	09/13
SUTER, James & Carol	09/16
FARMER, Doug & Christine	09/22
BLOWERS, Dave & Dolly	09/24
PATTERSON, III, William & Dawn	9/30

## October

HIGLEY, JR., Lyle & Tami	10/01
JONES, Jeff & Tammy	10/16
LOUGHMAN, Terry & Sandy	10/26

## November

KIMPEL, Ben & Amanda	11/01
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# Bragging Rights

\*\*Scottie and Katie Kimpel Ray welcomed their first child, a son, Charles Victor Ray on March 28th. Charlie is the grandson of Todd and Joyce Kimpel.



\*\*Gresh and Peggy Laing's grandson, Jacob Laing, married Grace Braunlich on July 4, 2024



## Our Deepest Sympathy

With heavy hearts, we acknowledge their death...

Rev. Cindy Boggs May 22, 2024

*Our thoughts and  
prayers are with you  
in your time of grief.*

## Memorial Gifts

### TO THE CURRENT FUND

In memory of Betty Coulling  
Sally Marple

In memory of Doris Harvilla  
Sally Marple

In memory of James Jewett  
Sally Marple

### TO THE TRUSTEE FUND

In memory of Rev. Cindy Boggs  
Sandy Meyer  
C. Sampson

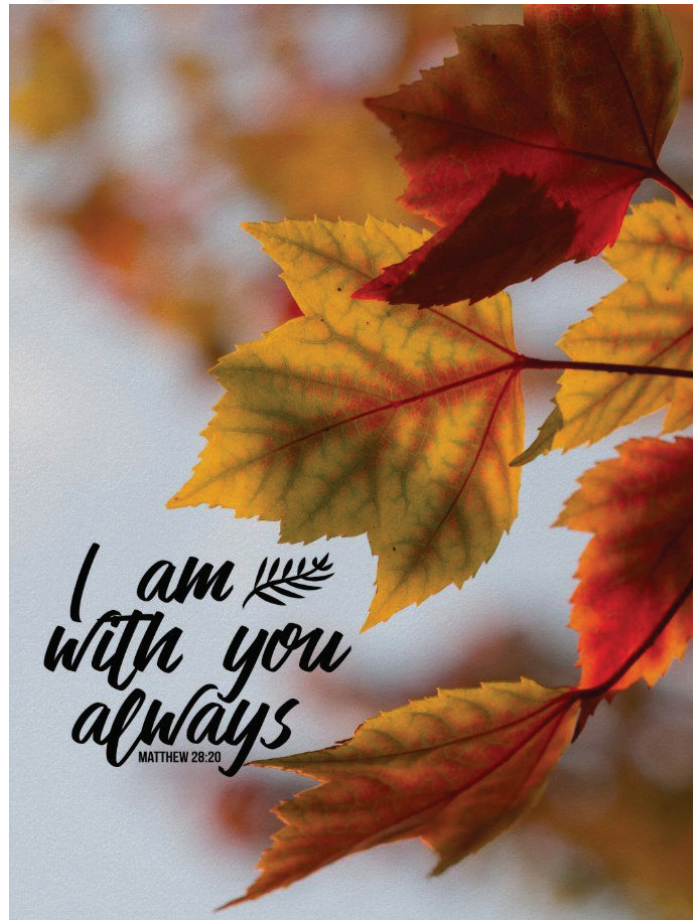


# *Iney's Pre-Loved Boutique* - JAN COFFEY

The word has been spreading about our boutique, and it is flourishing! We have new people coming every time we are open and it is a blessing.

However, we are in need of some specific sizes for both men & women. For the women, we are looking for 2X, 3X tops, and slacks. For the men, we need sizes 34, 36, 38 pants, and shorts. If you have any of these items or know someone who does, please call the church Mon. – Wed., 9:30am - 1:00pm to arrange a drop-off time.

This outreach has been a blessing to all who have visited, and we continue to appreciate everyone who helps us sort, restock, & donate items for this boutique. God Bless!



## *We hope you like our Newsletter!!*

**Your Newsletter team; Joyce Kimpel, Bill Daniel, and Luke from Rich and Shirley's Quickprint**

**Please send all submissions to Joyce at [t.kimpel@comcast.net](mailto:t.kimpel@comcast.net) by the 28th day of the month prior to printing. We will print quarterly, November 15, February 15, May 15, and August 15 unless we have so much news we need to print more often!!!**

## **Church Phone 304-242-1206**

**Thank You to...**

**Sandy Beabout and Linda Beisner for labeling and mailing the Newsletters**

**Molly Beresh for printing the labels and getting the Newsletter to bulk mailing**

**Becky McCullough for placing the digital copy on the website**

**All of our contributors**





## SPARKS

Elm Grove Methodist Church  
125 Kruger Street  
Wheeling, WV 26003

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# SPARKS

ELM GROVE U.M.C. NEWSLETTER

## 2024-2025

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