



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

Pressing on with Pastor Deb - PASTOR DEBRA DAGUE

Spring is often the time I think of new beginnings. I can say that this Spring the thoughts of new beginnings have been very different. I am happy to say that seven months after my TBI, I spent Easter Sunday behind the pulpit bringing the Good News to the people of Elm Grove United Methodist Church. I thank God every day for this miracle and the opportunity for this new beginning in my life.

My accident has changed me in many ways. It has especially changed my understanding of my limitations and boundaries. I have always worked hard in ministry and lived these words of Heri Nouwen, "My own desire to be useful, to do something significant, or to be part of some impressive project is so strong that soon my time is taken up by meetings, conferences, study groups, and workshops." If there is one thing I have learned the last few months is that my TBI has left me with limitations that has challenged me to better boundaries and new ways of doing ministry. In my Chaplain role I would often write in my reports that I offered the ministry of presence to my patients, but it wasn't until my TBI that I really understood the depth and power of this ministry. Being confined to my home, struggling with my limitations and emotions I do see more clearly how I needed to receive ministry. I learned what I needed and what many people need is the comfort that does not necessarily come from words but from the assurance that we are not alone. When we read the Gospel, we actually see Jesus sitting in fellowship. The people Jesus sits with didn't need to know how much Jesus knew, but they needed to know how much Jesus knew them. Most importantly they needed to know how much Jesus loved them.

I continue on my recovery but the truth is my brain no longer spits out the history of the New Testament with the snap of the finger and I often struggle with the ability to engage in a deep theological discussion. But my desire to love God's children has not changed. My accident has validated the value of the ministry of presence and that I could do better in this ministry. Going out for walks and greeting people, doing some porch sitting, going into people's homes, shooting a few hoops, knowing people by name, listening to their stories, telling my own stories, and letting people know with words, a peace sign, and hugs that I do not simply like them, but truly love them goes far. This is the ministry of presence that I received, and I am still receiving. I've got a long way to go in living such a ministry of presence but in this season of new beginnings I am making it a goal to do my best as I attempt to do what Jesus has called us to do, to offer the love and compassion of Jesus through our presence.

My last day on this earth could have been September 12, 2024. Where would my power, or title, or position gotten me that day? How would I have answered this question, "Did I live a life that pointed to Jesus?" This experience has motivated me to take this season of new beginnings and commit to a life and ministry that allows people to know that I love them, I cared for them, and more importantly, my love and care are just mere extensions of Jesus' greater love and care for them.

I am looking forward to a true ministry of presence. After all, on each individual soul there is another story of God's grace and goodness being written. I am looking forward to sharing my story and listening to your story! What changes will you make in your life in this time of new beginnings?

Pressing on in this season of change,

- Pastor Deb

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

Mission Statement: To make disciples of Jesus Christ.



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 you ever can."

Choir Notes - ANITA CHOPS

HALLELUJAH! JESUS IS RISEN! We had a wonderful Holy Week of services. Maundy Thursdays covered dish meal, and the Last Supper program was beautiful and meaningful. Good Friday's Tenebrae Service could not have been better. The choir participated in both, and did a fabulous job. The Easter Service was so meaningful with the choir singing "Lamb of God, Agnus Dei" by Russell Mauldin. Then we had a Lazarus Drama and a message by Pastor Deb. All the dramas, and decorations for Holy Week were beautifully done by Wayne McCord. We have such talented people in our church, and we're thankful.

For the rest of April and May, we are providing standard, beautiful services. The choir will be singing at 11:00 a.m. services with Molly Beresh singing on Mother's Day and Brian McCullough singing on May 18. Anita's very accomplished student, Ian Sincovich will be accompanying those two services. The whole choir will return on May 25 to finish out the Spring. I hope those of you out there that enjoy singing will think about joining the choir in September. We will start rehearsals on September 3rd at 6:30 p.m. All you need to do is call Anita Chops, the Choir director, at 304-551-1414.

Those who don't wish to sing, perhaps you would like a try at playing bells. Not the brass bells, but bells that are like tuning forks. It is not difficult to do at all. Please let Anita know if you wish to participate. We wouldn't perform every Sunday, just occasionally, as we practice and get better. It's a lot of fun. Talk to Anita and she will tell you all about it.

**We are looking for soloists to sing in the summer.
Please call Anita, she will be happy to put you on the schedule.**

Active Mission Prep (AMP) – PEGGY LAING

All are welcome to join us in the Old Fellowship Hall on the 3rd Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. We can find a job for everyone, and the fellowship is great fun! At noon we combine with some folks from Stitches of Caring for a sack lunch. The sewing part of this group has 17 colorful new bags ready to donate to Helenski Center and YSS to facilitate children's moves into or out of foster care. That means that 33 bags have been donated from September 2024 through April, 2025! The plastic bags half of this group, is harder to define since we just prepare the plarn (Plastic and yard) after cutting the plastic bags into strips. Ask Nancy Kish how many new mats for the homeless she has been able to give to the organizations serving their needs. Thank you for donating your plastic bags to make this all possible. We'd love to see you on May 19 at 10:00 a.m. - **Peggy**

Stewardship – SUSI WHITECOTTON

The flower sale was a big success, selling 171 units. We will notify purchasers of the pick-up date and we will have extra hanging baskets available. Thanks to Molly Beresh for leading the sale.

The next fund-raising event is the Quarter Auction, which will be held on Saturday, May 10. Doors will open at noon, and the auction will begin at 1:00 P.m.. In addition to the Quarter Auction, there will be a 50/50 raffle, a basket raffle, a home-made quilt, and concessions.

Donations for the auction are welcome, such as home-made candy or baked goods, plants, small new appliances, etc. Baskets are also needed for the basket auction; examples include kitchen baskets, animal care baskets, car wash items, plants, etc.

Assistance with clean-up is needed. The event is expected to end by 4:00 p.m.. If you can contribute or assist in any way, please notify either Susi Whitecotton or Sandy Meyer.

Safe Sanctuaries – CAROL BLANKENSHIP



The West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church has developed the Safe Sanctuary policy to reduce the risk of abuse to children, youth and vulnerable adults who participate in the activities of the church. As the coordinator of Safe Sanctuaries for Elm Grove UMC, I am tasked with reaching out to adults who work with our children, youth, and vulnerable adults to ensure that they have received training in the policy and procedures. There's an easy-to-follow on-line training available which can be done at home. In addition, I'm working on ways to set up in person training for those who prefer to meet together. If you are interested in working with our children and youth, such as at VBS this summer, please contact me for more information on how to complete this training. My email address is edenfieldcarol55@gmail.com and my cell phone in 512-635-1035. I look forward to working with many of you here at Elm Grove UMC! - **Carol Blankenship**

Sunday School, Asbury Class – ROSE EALY

The Asbury class is currently studying the bible in chronological order. The month of May will feature a new leader each Sunday.

We also send out Birthday, Sympathy, Get Well, and Thinking of You-cards.

There's also a text group that is used to send out prayer requests, and other important information.

That is the nuts and bolts about the class, however it is much more than that. It is a group of people from various walks of life that have come together to form a family. A family that prays for each other. A family that lifts each other up, and encourages others to step out in boldness. One that laughs, talks, and weeps for each other. A family that believes it is an honor to lift others up in prayer, and let them know that there are people who care. A family focused on God. - De Colores!

Children's Church – KATILYN FOLMAR

We are looking for volunteers to help with Children's Church. Please consider signing up once a month or once every other month. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Welcome desk.



Troop 29 – SCOTT BERESH

Thank you to everyone who supported the Troop through the Mulch Sale by purchasing mulch, having it delivered or letting us spread it for you. This is our biggest fundraiser which goes towards our Troop Summer trip to Gatlinburg, TN the week of June 8-14.

If anyone is still interested in donating to our trip, donations are always accepted throughout the year. Please see Scott Beresh if interested.

We will again have our Fall Indoor Yard Sale October 3 from 4:30-7 p.m. and October 4 from 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Sign-up tables will be available in September.

Thanks
Scott Beresh
SM Troop 29

Mission News – WAYNE MCCORD

It's been a busy winter for the Mission Team. During the cold months, the Stitches of Caring group teamed up with the Mission Team to spread warmth throughout the cold months. Knitted items were shared with the House of the Carpenter and Street Moms! 2 blankets, 7 pairs of gloves, 22 scarves, 7 hats and scarf sets, and 12 hats went to Street Moms. 23 scarves, 6 hat and scarf sets, and 12 hats went to House of the Carpenter.

In preparation for spring cleaning, items were given to the House of the Carpenter. 4, 134 oz. containers of and 5, 42 oz. containers laundry detergent. 2, 30oz. and 7, 15oz. bottles of dish soap, 1, 35 oz. body wash, and 40 bars of soap!

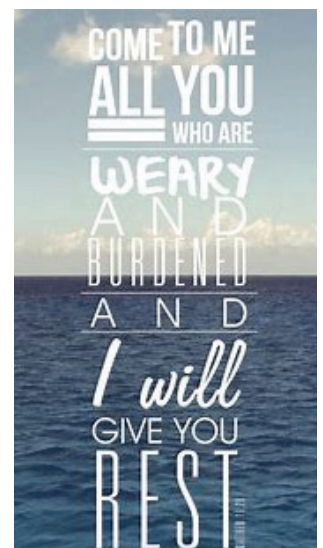
January brought the annual Murder Mystery dinner theatre! "Tis the Season" was staged, January 17th and 18th, 2025. We need to extend a thank you to all who were involved with this fund raiser. The craziness continued with a few twists. The ending was written by the audience members, and the creativity did not disappoint! And to add to the drama, we needed to turn to our audience again to join the cast at the last minute and take on a major role! We need to extend a very special thank you to Paula Lucas, and Kelly Kent for joining us on stage and adding to the fun and laughs.

Embrace Ministries – ROSELLA EALY

What does it mean when we say the word different? Do we think of it in a negative or positive cogitation? Is it something that is considered odd or unique? Something that is considered peculiar or special? Something worthless, or more valuable than gold? Is it something we shun or Embrace?

On April 5, 2025, the Elm Grove UMC launched a new ministry called Embrace Ministry. It is meant to give those who are in the margins of society a safe place to come and be themselves. An environment free of judgement and expectations. One that fosters love, smiles, and laughter. A ministry that celebrates those who are, persons of disability, and their families. Laity led, this ministry reached not just the persons of disabilities, and their families, but many others. It touched the lives of the high school students, and their teachers from Wheeling Park. It inadvertently, touched the lives of protesters that day. It also left a significant impact on the volunteers from the church.

Embrace Ministry is meant to journey alongside those who are sometimes found in the margins of society. Bringing awareness to the needs and concerns of those with disabilities. Embrace encourages us to meet people where they are and not expect them to conform to society rules. Embrace gives us a chance to see Jesus through their eyes. Once experienced, you will never be the same.





Thank you to everyone who participated in the Samaritan Purse Christmas Shoebox donations!

Our shoeboxes will be delivered to children in South Africa. The shoeboxes are delivered throughout the year.

United Methodist Men – TODD KIMPEL PRESIDENT/SECRETARY

We are studying selected essays from *A Reader in the Spirituality of Work*. Each essay shares how the writer sees their Christian mission in their daily careers.

We will be doing a work project this summer in conjunction with the Trustees.

We meet on the first Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. in the old Fellowship Hall. Please call Todd Kimpel at 304-639-0940 with any questions, and to be added to the text string.

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

The last event before summer is our **MOTHER/DAUGHTER/FRIEND LUNCHEON on Thursday, May 8 at 12:00 noon**. It will be a covered dish. So, all you need to do is sign the sheet on the WELCOME TABLE and let us know who you will be bringing and what dish you would bring. This promises to be a lot of fun. Games, prizes and fellowship. **COME AND JOIN US!!!**

We don't meet in June, July, and August. Our next regular meeting will be on **Thursday, September 11 at 12:00 noon**. **Lunch will be provided**. Sandy Meyer and Dee Hicks will be the hostesses. The program is **WHAT IS FAITHFULNESS TO YOU?** Presented by Anita Chops. **THIS IS OUR MEMBERSHIP MEETING FOR ALL TO COME! YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER, AND YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO BE FROM OUR CHURCH. WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO BE A UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH. THINK ABOUT IT AND COME JOIN US!!!**

Lois's Stitches of Caring – KAREN MULDREW

The ladies of Lois's Stitches of Caring may be a small group, but a busy bunch. We recently had a bake sale table at the Spring Indoor Yard Sale, and we sold out!

To date we have given out three lap robes to church members.

Can't knit or crochet?

Need to get out of the house for a while?

No problem, we Love to talk! Join us on Mondays in the Old Fellowship Hall from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Iney's Pre-Loved Boutique – JAN COFFEY

**1st and 3rd Saturday
Every Month
8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

It's hard to believe but the boutique has been up and running for 4 years now. We have come a long way since then. Our numbers have grown by leaps and bounds. Those coming are so appreciative of the selection and cost, but our reward is the blessing of friendship we have made with many of them.

If you have Spring or Summer donations, you can drop them off on Mondays 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Newmeyer Hall entry or bring it on Sunday and leave it at the Boutique door in Newmeyer Hall. Thank you for your support.

**Love in Christ,
Jan Coffey**

Free Community Luncheon – MISSION TEAM

Our "Saturday church family" is growing! On the 3rd Saturday of each month at 11:00 am, our group of new friends gathers 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.



Vacation Bible School – MOLLY BERESH

Who is ready for wild bible adventures, cool science experiments, and interactive bible lessons?
WE ARE!

The VBS team is busy getting ready for another fun-filled Vacation Bible School. We will sing & dance our way through fun songs, burn off some energy playing games, break for cool and creative snacks created by our "Tundra Treats" team, and so much more, while learning about "Trusting Jesus in a Wild World"!

Vacation Bible School will be **June 16-20, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** for grades K-5. **Registration is now open**, and you can register to be a volunteer or register your child at vbspro.events/p/elmgroveumc or you can scan the QR code below.

We will once again have an Adult VBS on June 20 th, 6 p.m.-8 p.m. with dinner provided. A sign-up sheet will be available soon, RSVPs are encouraged.



We are still in need of volunteers, please sign up at the web address provided or see Molly for details.

Worship Service Attendance

Date	8:30 a.m.	11 a.m.	7:00 p.m	Sunday School
February 16, 2025	33	42		20
February 23, 2025	31	49		20
Ash Wednesday			47	
March 2, 2025	32	42		23
March 9, 2025	20	50		17
March 16, 2025	27	50		21
March 23, 2025	27	63		24
March 30, 2025 (1 service)		80		Not in session
April 6, 2025	23	55		20
Palm Sunday	35	58		15
Holy Thursday			42	
Good Friday			42	
Easter Sunday	40	76		14

New Members

If you have been thinking about joining the Elm Grove Church Family Membership please contact Pastor Deb or the church office.

Wedding

Shellby Ullom May 17, 2025

Baptisms

Bobbi Sue Doyle – April 5, 2025

Raelynn Elizabeth Patterson
 Daughter of: Danielle Elizabeth Patterson
 and Kalib Thomas Patterson
 Grandparents: Dawn and Bill Patterson
 Great Grandmother: Sandy Beabout



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

May

HASTINGS, Dale	05/04
JEWETT, Patty	05/06
JONES Sr., James	05/06
KIMPEL, Matt	05/08
STEWART, Karen	05/09
WALTER, Adrianna	05/09
LAING, Gresh	05/10
FORDYCE, Betty	05/13
KIMPEL, Henry	05/13
MCCORD, Nancy	05/13
HOPKINS, Clarence (Hop)	05/16
LAING, Gresh	05/17
HASTINGS, Jacob	05/18
LOUGHMAN, Sandy	05/19
HARVILLA Sr., Steve	05/20
HUGHES, Diana	05/20
CARPENTER, Jacob	05/22
OLIVER, David	05/22
FADOUL, John	05/23
KIMPEL-MATTHEWS, Laura	05/23
CAREY, Haleigh	05/24
BOYD, Betty	05/26
GARDNER, Julia	05/27
JONES, Colin	05/27
CAREY, Joseph	05/28
RICHMOND, Amanda	05/31

June

GROVES, Brandon	06/01
KIMPEL, Aria	06/02
ESTEP, Robin	06/03
MCQUAY, Jean	06/03
CLARK, Richard	06/04
ROGALSKI, Virginia	06/07
RITZ, Anya	06/11
BROWN, Christopher	06/12
HOFFMAN, Bernadine	06/12
WARD, Lollyanne	06/14
KIMPEL, Odin	06/15
WARD, Don	06/17
SMITH, Dianna	06/18
WARD, Joyce	06/19
PARSONS, Debra	06/21
POSEY, Vicky	06/22
BERESH, Gavin	06/26
HARVILLA, Nancy	06/27
KIMPEL, Carson	06/27

July

FOLMAR, Rhett	07/03
HUGHES, Amy	07/03
RITZ, Amy	07/07
COFFEY, Janice	07/10
BEAVER, David	07/11
HODGKISS, Sally	07/11
JONES, Catherine	07/12
FOLMAR, Chelsea	07/13
SANDIFORD, Linda	07/16
SUTER, Carol	07/16
CAREY, Caroline	07/17
BEISNER, Richard	07/18
MILLARD, Ruth	07/18
BRITTON, Kayla	07/19
CHASE, Amy	07/19
WADE, Shirley	07/21
MCKAIN, Mary Lou	07/23
KRIPP, Jean	07/24
MORGAN, Sandy	07/24
APPLEGARTH, Sara	07/26
GRAY, Louise	07/26
REED, Phyllis	07/26
HASTINGS, Jennifer	07/27
SWIGER, Patty	07/28

August

CLARK, Mary Lou	08/02	HICKS, Diana (Dee)	08/05	HICKS, Paul (Fred)	08/10
HIGLEY, Tami	08/02	KIMPEL, Tim	08/06		
ESTEP, Shannon	08/04	BROWN, Danielle	08/08		

Wedding Anniversaries

May

RAY, Kathryn Kimpel and Scott	05/02
POLLEY, Charles & Colleen	5/05
HASTINGS, Dale & Jennifer	05/17
ESTEP, Jerry & Robin	05/19

June

MORGAN, Bob & Sandy	06/05
KIMPEL, Todd & Joyce	06/12
SANDIFORD, Bill & Linda	06/15
MULDREW, David & Karen	06/19
KIMPEL, Matt & Laura (LJ)	06/22
GEER, Phil & Joyce	06/30
HARRIS, Gregory & Kayla	06/30

July

HUFF, Don & Mary Sue	07/03
HARVILLA, SR., Steve & Nancy	07/04
WARD, Don & Sharon	07/16
WHITECOTTON, Doug & Tina	07/16
JONES, SR., James & Catherine	07/17
OLIVER, David & Stacey	07/22
KING, Gary & Nancy	07/26
LAING, Gresh & Kate	07/27
LAING, Peggy & Gresh	07/31

August

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

*If you see a mistake on this list, please contact the church office so we can update our database.

Thank you!



Our Deepest Sympathy

Barbara Morris
Delores Jean Fogle
Carol Ann Forester
Clara Rose Fletcher

Feb. 26, 2025
March 08, 2025
April 04, 2025
April 23, 2025

Memorial Gifts

TRUSTEE FUND

In Memory of Delores Fogle

The Muldrew Family
Carol and Randy Beach
Cynthia and Charles Sampson
Jim and Charlene Stultz

There's a new face in the church office!!!

Our previous administrative assistant Teri Helt, after several months of working in our church office decided to move into a different job more aligned to her career path. We wish her well in her new job.

Our new administrative assistant is **Denise Williamson**. She joined our staff approximately 4 weeks ago and is working hard to learn our systems and processes in the office. Welcome Denise.

SPPRC – Donna Folmar, chair



We hope you like our Newsletter!!

Your Newsletter team; Joyce Kimpel, Bill Daniel, and Luke from RSQP Print & Design

Please send all submissions to Joyce at jkimpel23@gmail.com 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!!!

Thank You:

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

Denise Williamson 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.

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304-242-1206



SPARKS

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