



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

Pressing on with Pastor Deb - PASTOR DEBRA DAGUE

“Every moment is a fresh beginning.” — T.S. Eliot

I come sharing good news! Eleven months after my TBI I am still making improvements. I have grown so much from this experience including learning that the brain is an inquisitive organ and it likes new beginnings. Fresh beginnings can be exciting for many reasons. The dawn of a new beginning can serve as a reset or a division between the past and the future. A new beginning can serve as an opportunity to redefine ourselves, recalibrate our goals, and step forward with renewed courage and intention. A new beginning can inspire hope and allow us to distance ourselves from previous failures or setbacks. I have found new beginnings to be where we embrace change and use it for a steppingstone for growth and venture boldly into the unknown.

The Bible is full of stories where God brings about beginnings. These moments often mark a shift in God's plan for God's people/church. In Genesis 1 we read, “In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth.” This beginning set the foundation for all life on earth. Acts 2 marks the birth of the Christian Church and a new beginning for the Kingdom of God on earth. These moments remind us that no matter the circumstances, God is always at work, offering fresh starts and new hope. God is faithful and is always ready to restore and transform lives and churches.

How blessed are we to serve a God who is always ready to transform us. July 1, 2025, marked the beginning of one of God's transformations. That day Elm Grove UMC (EGUMC), Dallas UMC (DUMC),

and Sand Hill UMC (SHUMC) became part of a collaborative ministry. This new beginning is exciting for many reasons, but one reason is we are seeing two of EGUMC's members step into their call to ministry. Pastor Doug Whitecotton will be serving at DUMC and Pastor Rose Ealy will be serving at SHUMC. Doug and Rose will serve less than full-time and continue in their secular employment. Part of being a collaborative ministry will allow me (I am reappointed to EGUMC) to be available for pastoral care or emergent issues at DUMC and SHUMC when Doug or Rose are not available. I will also offer administrative support for needs like charge conference or statistical reports. EGUMC's office will offer clerical support including supplying bulletins. This new beginning will bring change, but it also allows each church to keep its own anatomy.

The kingdom of God is bigger than our own churches. When we partner together, we recognize our impact for Christ is multiplied. It is difficult for our churches to do ministry alone. It doesn't mean we aren't trying to grow but because of realistic limits of who we are and, in our resources, we are just not able to do everything we would like to. A collaborative ministry allows us to do far more than we would ever be able to do by ourselves. So, we step into this new beginning and venture boldly into the unknown knowing God has called us here and God will be faithful in transforming God's churches into all we were created to be. I invite you to join me in prayer for what God has next for The Collaborative Ministry!

Pressing on.....

- Pastor Deb

"They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest."

- Psalm 107:3

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:

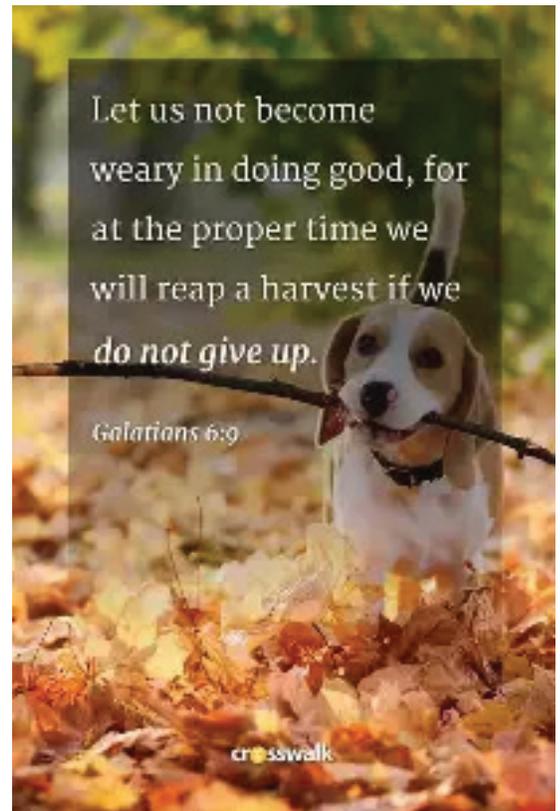
“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can.”



Choir Notes - ANITA CHOPS

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. All you need to do is call Anita Chops, the choir director, at 304-551-1414 or see her in church. I would love for you to join us. It's a lot of fun and if you're worried about reading music, I can teach you.

Those who don't wish to sing, perhaps you would like to try your hand at playing bells. Not the brass bells, but bells that are like tuning forks, they are called choir chimes. Our first rehearsal is on Sunday, August 3rd at 9:35, right after the 8:30 service in the bell choir room upstairs. 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.



Active Mission Prep (AMP) – PEGGY LAING

We are a small but active group that continues to meet on the third Monday of each month from 10:00 until 12:00. At noon several members from Stitches of Caring join us to share a time of fellowship over our sack lunches. Currently we have 19 colorful duffle bags ready to distribute to House of the Carpenter, Madison Elementary, and Crittenton Services once they are blessed in church. If you can trace a pattern, cut out a cloth piece, or iron, please come join us! If that sounds beyond your skill level, the other half of this group flattens and cuts into strips all those plastic grocery bags you have been so generously donating so that Nancy Kish can continue crocheting mats for our unsheltered people in Elm Grove and Wheeling. Watch for all of the colorful duffle bags as they are blessed in church AND consider joining us on August 18 or September 16.

Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.
- **Matthew 18:5**

Stewardship – SUSI WHITECOTTON

Our Chicken Dinner will be held on September 26. Please let me know if you can help or provide a dessert.

**Thank you,
Susi**

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 is 512-635-1035. I look forward to working with many of you here at Elm Grove UMC!

- **Carol Blankenship**

Embrace Ministries – ROSE EALY

Embrace now has two new leaders. Linda Cole and Katelyn Folmar will host a Fall Hoedown in October for people with disabilities. More information to follow.

Sunday School, Asbury Class – ROSE EALY

Currently, our class is not meeting until the air conditioning is working. The new unit has arrived, so we should be back in class soon.

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

We had a good time at Gatlinburg, TN in June for our summer trip. Attached are a couple of pictures from the week. This was by far, our most expensive scout trip we have ever taken, and it wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of this church and for that we are very appreciative.

We will start our regular meetings at the end of August with 6 registered scouts.

We will once again have our **Indoor Yard Sale** at the beginning of October.

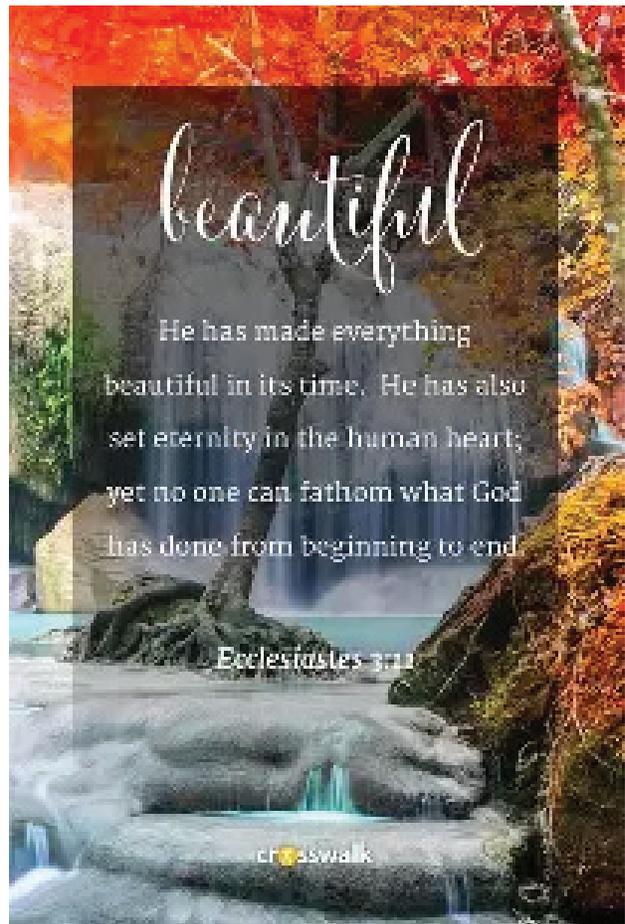
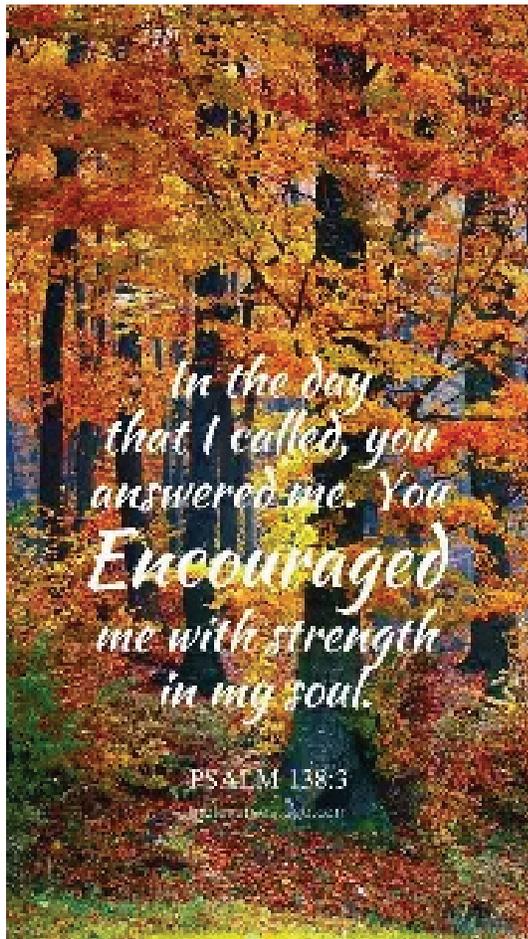
- Setup dates: Thursday Oct. 2 from 4-7 p.m.. Friday Oct. 3 from 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **Sale Dates: Friday Oct. 3 from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. & Saturday Oct. 4 from 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

As always, we will have our full Concession stand open during all the days and times. Table rental and sign-up sheets will be on the Welcome Desk starting at the beginning of September.

Thank you for supporting Scout Troop 29.

**Scott Beresh
SM Troop 29**





Mission News - WAYNE MCCORD

In the month of May, we collected pantry staples for the House of the Carpenter. We gathered 9 boxes of salt, 14 bags of flour, 7 bags of sugar, 15 bottles of cooking oil, 9 boxes of milk, and 1 box of cereal. In June the mission of the month was paper products. We collected 6 boxes of tissues, 900 napkins, large paper plates, small paper plates, and bowls along with 78 rolls of toilet paper and 10 rolls of paper towels.

In June, Mother Nature provided many challenges for the Ohio Valley. The committee has met those challenges as best we could. Pastor Deb wanted to start our own program to collect and distribute funds to the flood victims of Elm Grove and surrounding communities. The Mission Committee made a substantial contribution to start the fund. This is an example of how the funds raised throughout the year are used locally. Along with funds, Pastor Deb has organized food contributions from the congregation to provide much needed meals for the victims.

To meet another challenge brought on by the flooding in the area, the decision was made to switch our July mission to collecting items for the many animals that also lost homes. At this time, we don't have a count on the pet supplies that have been collected. Those numbers will be in the next letter!

Soon we will be collecting items for the kids to head back to school! We will start with school supplies for the classroom. Then we will move into items for the Blessing Box. As the weather starts to turn cold, hats, scarves, and socks will be gathered. Thank you all for your generosity throughout the year!

-Wayne McCord

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

Our 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.** You don't have to bring lunch for this meeting. Sandwiches, drinks and dessert are provided. **THINK ABOUT IT AND COME JOIN US!!!**

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE NORTHERN DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH'S FALL MEETING. THE THEME IS “REACHING OUT”

Please join us for the Fall Meeting on Saturday, September 13, 2025 at Elm Grove UMC in Wheeling. The doors will open with a light breakfast and fellowship time at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will end with lunch, served by our own UWIF at 12:00 p.m.

Our program for the day will be presented by WV Conference United Women in Faith Social Action Coordinator, Judi McCracken.

We will be collecting and gathering pasta, pasta sauce, can soup, and boxes of crackers for the House of the Carpenter.

The cost of registration is \$10.00 and is paid at the door. Please send your reservation to Gracie Arbogast, 304-737-2665 or gracie.arbogast@yahoo.com by Sunday, September 7, 2025, or you can give your reservation to Anita Chops and Judy Beaver, co-presidents.

Lois's Stitches of Caring – KAREN MULDREW

Lois's Stitches of Caring is still active, but we haven't been meeting this summer because of the air conditioning situation. However, we're continuing to craft our beautiful hats, scarves, and laprobes.

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 over 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 Fall or Winter donations, you can drop them off on Mondays from 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 a.m., 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

“True North” VBS was a tremendous success! We had twenty-three children in attendance, and twenty-one volunteers. It was a fun week of songs, stories, science experiments, games, and the best snacks on this side of the Ohio River!

The Adult session on Friday evening was well attended by fifteen people. We enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by our impressive snack team, and then we kicked off the rest of the evening with each of our station leaders giving a mini lesson, game, or bible story. An enjoyable time was had by all.

None of this would have been possible without the help & donations by so many wonderful people. It truly takes an army to put on a week of Vacation Bible School from start to finish, and this director is learning to ask for help. In the coming months, you will be hearing about how you can help with VBS 2026. We will appreciate any and all help you can provide or see Molly Beresh for questions.

As always, we accept monetary donations all year. We have a beautiful donation dish next to the workroom or you can always drop your donation into the offering plate and mark your check/envelope with “VBS Fund.”



**“RAINFOREST
FALLS”
COMING
JUNE 2026!**

Worship Service Attendance

Date	8:30 a.m.	11 a.m.	Sunday School
Mother's Day May 11	35	46	21
May 18	32	49	20
May 25	35	57	16
June 1	33	56	21
June 8	36	41	21
Father's Day June 15	34	34	0
June 22	35	44	3
June 29	31	60	0
July 6	32	45	11
July 13	31	40	0
July 20	29	38	0
July 27	29	34	0

New Members

If you have been thinking about joining the Elm Grove Church Family Membership please contact Pastor Deb or the church office. Church phone: 304-242-1206

Upcoming Events

Church Picnic and Worship Service

Dallas UMC, Elm Grove UMC, Sand Hill UMC

August 29

Wagon Shed Shelter – Oglebay Park (near lake/playground)

11 a.m. – Worship

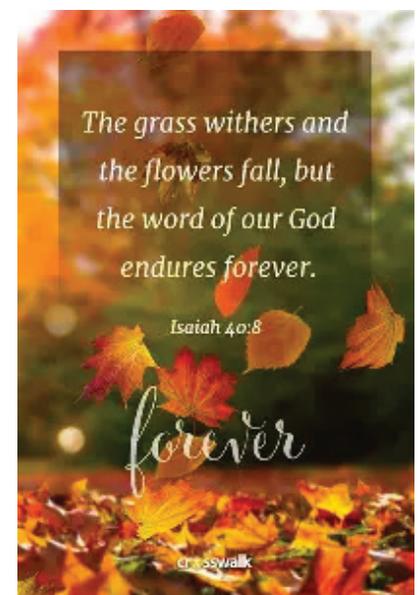
Noon – Covered Dish Lunch

👻🎃 TRUNK OR TREAT - OCTOBER (date/time TBA)

Thursday Music Club Invitation

I would like to take this opportunity to invite any woman in our church or in the community to belong to the Thursday Music Club and/or chorus. A lot of our women belong and its wonderful organization. The dues are \$20.00 a year. The meetings take place at Char House on Bethlehem Boulevard on the first Thursday each month. Lunches are \$20.00, this includes lunch, dessert, coffee and/or tea.

BUT THE BEST PART OF THE MEETING IS THE ENTERTAINMENT EACH MONTH. If you are interested, talk to Anita Chops, Peggy Laing, Alice Runkle, Susi Whitecotton, Linda Sandiford, Sandy Loughman or Judy Beaver



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

August

September

October

Tami Higley	8/2	Don Martin Sr.	9/1	T J Folmar	10/3
Dee Hicks	8/5	Karen Muldrew	9/1	Kayla Harris	10/4
Tim Kimpel	8/6	Greg Thorngate	9/2	Reese Folmar	10/7
Danielle Brown	8/8	Mark Kappas	9/6	Peggy Laing	10/9
Fred Hicks	8/10	Nancy McFarland	9/11	Daniel Muldrew	10/14
Carol McCroba	8/14	Christina Zoeckler	9/13	David Muldrew	10/14
Adam Barnes	8/16	Bob Morgan	9/29	Braxton Thorngate	10/15
Brynlee Harris	8/16	Tom Musser	9/29	Samuel Bayza	10/16
Chad Kimpel	8/18			James Estep	10/20
Gresh Laing	8/19			Sandra Beabout	10/21
Chrisr Dunn Sr.	8/20			Hailey Hastings	10/25
Linda Williams	8/24			Linda Estep	10/26
Bill Daniel	8/27			Mary Jean Gibson	10/29
Wayne Mccord	8/27				
Anita Chops	8/29				
AJ Loughman	8/29				
Logan McCullough	8/29				

Wedding Anniversaries

August

September

October

Brian & Becky McCullough	8/3	Dan & Laura Kimpel-Matthews	9/5	Lyle & Tami Higley, Jr.	10/1
Jeff & Kelly Kent	8/10	Bob & Barbara Rush	9/13	AJ & Sandy Loughman	10/26
Richard & Charlotte Beisner	8/27	Dave & Dolly Blowers	9/24		
Richard & Charlotte Beisner	8/27	William and Dawn Patterson, III	9/30		

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

Thank you!

Our Deepest Sympathy

Mary Lou McKain – EGUMC - June 14, 2025

Memorial Service

Barbara Morris – EGUMC - August 30, 2025 1 p.m.



Memorial Gifts

TRUSTEE MEMORIALS

In memory of Clara Rose Fletcher
By Karen & David Muldrew

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Mary Lou McKain
By Betty Griffin
By Deborah & Richard McIntyre

CURRENT FUND

In Memory of Mary Lou McKain
By Sandy Meyer



Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:10

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.

Church Phone 304-242-1206



SPARKS

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