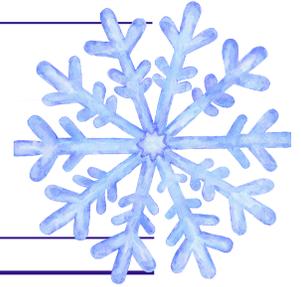




SPARKS



PRESSING ON WITH PASTOR DEB

2026: Moving Forward in Faith Together

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 3:14*

Happy New Year, Church families! As we step into 2026, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate what God has done and look forward to what God will do.

In 2025, our goal was not only to live out the vision of EGUMC: To love God and share His good news with all people, but also to embrace the vision of the WV Annual Conference: Transforming Appalachia through God's love—growing disciples, healing communities, and casting a future of hope rooted in Christ. Here's just a few examples of what that looked like at Elm Grove UMC:

Growing Disciples: Through worship and sermon series, we connected generosity to faith, revisited our vows as members of the UMC and our commitments as God's Children, and we rediscovered hope, peace, joy, and love. We offered VBS, Bible Studies, Sunday School, and membership/re-membership classes.



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.





Deepening Commitment: In November, we focused on our membership vows, prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We were challenged and identified ways to live out these vows. We recommitted ourselves to Christ's calling to the church, but more importantly to our commitment to deepen our relationship with God.

Serving Our Community: EGUMC shared Jesus with those impacted by flooding, reached out to the unhoused when Wheeling's homeless camp was disbanded, and responded to food insecurity by adding a food pantry that will continue into our Free lunch and boutique ministries every third-Saturday.

New Expressions of Ministry: We launched Embrace Ministry, creating a space for individuals with disabilities and their families to encounter God's love. And we have laid the foundation for a Pet Ministry.

Developing Leaders: Through The Collaborative Ministry with Dallas and Sand Hill UMCs, we deployed two passionate leaders, Pastor Doug Whitecotton and Pastor Rose Ealy. This ministry has already made a transformative impact. You can read more about this in The Collaborative Ministry newsletter article.

What do our goals look like for 2026:

- Build on the foundation already in place with ministries such as Embrace Worship and defining more opportunities for discipleship making and leadership development.
- Define the vision and goals God has planned for The Collaborative Ministry.
- Focus on needs within EGUMC including teaching about EGUMC and the WV Annual Conference, revisiting the purpose and effectiveness of current ministries, improving visitor retention and hospitality, and strengthening our online presence.
- Dig deeper into the foundation of generosity we set in November and developing on-line giving.
- Continue to look outward to engage our community and discover how and where we can bring God's love to all people.

(I'll share a more detailed vision soon!)

Every step forward depends on all of us working together and growing together. I invite you to be in prayer about where God is calling you to serve in 2026. Whether it's worship, outreach, hospitality, leadership or somewhere you never thought possible, your presence, gifts, service, and willingness to share Christ's love will make God's vision for EGUMC a reality. I am humbled to be called your pastor and I look forward to pressing toward the goal together!

Pressing on.....Pastor Deb

www.elmgroveumc.com





GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Mary Louise Quigley
January 2, 1928 – October 9, 2025

Irma Louise Gray
July 26, 1933 - December 1, 2025

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 2, 2025

Remembering the members of the EGUMC family who moved on to glory since

November 2024

- Barbara Morris
- Delores Jean Fogle
- Clara Rose Dangel Fletcher
- Carol Ann Forester
- Mary Lou McKain
- Virginia A Rogalski
- Mary Louise Quigley



CHOIR NEWS

Our Christmas Cantata, “*BORN IN MY HEART*” a Christmas Transformation compiled by Don Schlosser was performed on Sunday, December 21, at 11:00. The narrators, Bill Sandiford, Karen Muldrew, Evelynn Folmar and A.J. Loughman told us about “THE BLESSINGS OF CHRISTMAS”.

In January, BELL CHOIR rehearsals resume from 9:35 – 10:00 Sunday mornings starting January 10. Adult Choir rehearsals are Wednesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 starting January 7, 2026. The invitation stands for anyone to join.

Anita Chops



May these months be filled with prayer, joy, and the peace that comes from walking with God.



8:30 WORSHIP SERVICE
9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 WORSHIP SERVICE





UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men just completed a fundraiser to help the Trustees by selling Virginia Dinner Nuts. We hope to make an annual event of this effort. Currently the UMM do not meet on a monthly basis but meet to assist with projects around the Church, The Scout Troop and other requests that might be made. If you have any questions, reach out to me at 304-639-0940.
Todd Kimpel

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Our Susie Hewitt memorial sweets auction was a huge success. We not only raised \$3872 for the church, but we also had a wonderful time together. Many thanks to all who helped in any way. Our next fund raiser will be the quarter auction to be held in April for which we will be asking for donations for things to auction as well as Chinese auction items.
Stewardship Committee



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11

EMBRACE MINISTRY

Embrace continues to collaborate with our partners in ministry to those with disabilities and their friends and family. We are looking forward to launching Embrace Worship in the new year!
Pastor Deb Dague



TROOP 29

We currently have eight active scouts and six leaders. We will be going to the US Whitewater Center near Charlotte, NC, June 14-20, 2026, for our summer trip.

Upcoming events

February 1, 2026 - Scout Sunday. We will have a Court of Honor for three new Eagle Scouts during the 11:00 AM service along with details of their projects. Troop 29 Eagle Scouts that will be honored are Colin Jones, Hunter Waldron and Spencer Callahan-Custer.

March 27-28, 2026 - Spring Yard Sale. Table registration will be available beginning of February and will be on the Welcome Desk.

April 25, 2026 - We will be running the concession stand for the Quarter Auction fundraiser for the church.

May 2, 2026 - MULCH DAY. This is our Mulch fundraiser to help pay for our trip. Order forms will be available beginning of April.

Thank you to everyone who supports the Troop.

Scott Beresh
T29 ScoutMaster



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are six short months away from another fun-filled Vacation Bible School! Yikes!! There is a lot to do between now and then, so keep a look out for upcoming announcements.

Mark your calendar for the first meeting on January 19th at 7:00pm in the old fellowship hall. We will be finalizing a date for VBS, brainstorming leadership roles, setting dates for work parties, and getting a glimpse at our theme.

If you have any questions, see me!
Molly Beresh.

CONTACT US

ELM GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
125 KRUGER STREET
WHEELING, WV 26003
304-242-1206



LOIS'S STITCHES OF CARING



Lois's Stitches of Caring is taking a break. We will resume meeting on January 5, weather permitting.

Remember that if school is closed, we won't be meeting.

Thank you to all who purchased our hats, scarves and sets on November 30. We really appreciate it.

Karen Muldrew

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS

Our December meeting was our ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON. It was a covered dish with lots of great food. The hostesses for this meeting was our executive committee. We had games and prizes and caroling. It truly was a lot of fun.

We will NOT MEET IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. Next meeting on March 12, 2026, at noon. More information will follow after our program meeting.

The UWIF Executive Committee will have a program meeting on January 15, 2026, in the Old Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM.

Anita Chops and Judy Beaver

MEMORIALS TO THE TRUSTEE FUND

IN LOVING MEMORY OF LOUISE GRAY

Debra Clark

Peggy Laing

Charles and Linda Fink

Larry and Winifred Hartley

Karen and David Muldrew

Block Brothers 25 Year Club

John And Cynthia Schutz

Kathleen Comini

Grace Ann Mozingo

Susan Mozingo

Chuck Mozingo

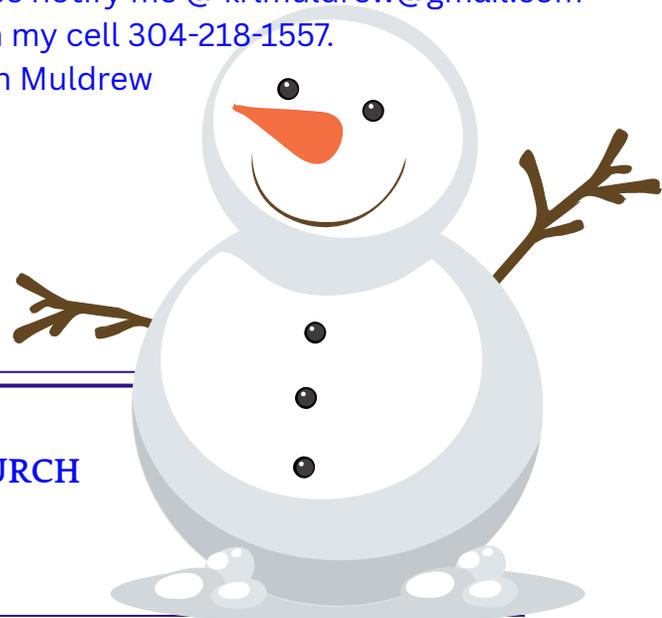
Julie Mozingo

Matt Mozingo

ATTENTION ALL VETERANS AND ACTIVE PERSONNEL

We need to update our records (name, rank, and branch of service). Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please notify me @ krlmuldrew@gmail.com or on my cell 304-218-1557.

Karen Muldrew



CONTACT US

ELM GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
125 KRUGER STREET
WHEELING, WV 26003
304-242-1206



THE COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY: A SEASON OF NEW BEGINNINGS CASTING A FUTURE OF HOPE ROOTED IN CHRIST

*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” –
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

This past year has reminded me that God is truly the God of new beginnings. There are seasons when we must reconcile, seasons when we leave things behind, and seasons when we step boldly into the plans God has prepared for us. When I look back, I don't think I could have fully imagined what God was planning when He brought Dallas, Elm Grove, and Sand Hill United Methodist Churches together to form The Collaborative Ministry.

God had been revealing His plan for months. When our District Superintendent, Rev. Leftwich, and I prayed about it, I felt an immediate peace—it was God's plan. That peace was confirmed when Pastor Doug and Pastor Rose responded: “Yes, Lord, send me!” Three churches, each in different seasons of life, three churches needing reconciliation, three churches needing one another to step into a new season, together.

In just six short months, I have walked the communities of our churches sensing the energy of new birth, the hum of conversations, the sparkles in eyes, the joys of neighbors greeting one another with hope. I have walked alongside the people of all three churches and stood in awe of the revival unfolding before my eyes. I've felt the warmth of laughter echoing through fellowship halls as hands wrapped gifts for local children in need. I smiled as I witnessed Elm Grove beginning to understand and see the fruits of their call to develop and deploy spiritual leaders. There has been no greater joy than to see all three churches radiating with excitement as they serve their communities with open hands and open hearts and to see the spiritual growth as we learn together what it means to be the Church and grow in Christlikeness.

In August, we worshipped together under the glow of summer sunlight. In October, we broke bread and shared Charge Conference around tables filled with stories, joyful chatter, laughter and smiles. And in 2026, we will share ministry together, shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart.

God knows what He is doing. We simply need to get out of His way and pray, listen, and do. When we do, God blesses us abundantly: growing disciples, loving and healing our communities, and casting a future of hope rooted in Christ.

As I reflect on this season, I hear the rustle of pages turning in a new chapter. I see hands clasped in prayer. I feel the Spirit moving like a gentle breeze, whispering: “Behold, I am doing a new thing.” Let us keep stepping forward together—because the best is yet to come.

Pastor Deb



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

On November 23, 2025, Elm Grove United Methodist Church experienced a beautiful day of celebration as we welcomed twelve new members into our church family and shared in a holy moment of grace and renewal as we celebrated the Baptism of Betty Toland and Lou Modar.

Leading up to this special day, new members were invited to participate in a membership class alongside current members who were on a journey to “re-member.” Together, we embarked on a month-long experience that included:

- Classes exploring the foundations of the United Methodist Church, our beliefs, and our membership vows.
- A Worship Experience that included a sermon series focused on our membership vows, discipleship, and Christian commitment. Weekly skits by our Amen Players helped to bring these teaching moments to life. Through these experiences, we learned about our vows as members of the UMC, discovered ways to grow as disciples, and explored how we can serve God. Words cannot fully describe the work of the Holy Spirit throughout this journey. Hearts were touched, faith was deepened, and lives were transformed.

Pastor Deb



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY! WE ARE EXCITED TO WALK THIS JOURNEY OF FAITH TOGETHER.

ROSALEAH BRILL
 HUNTER COTTRELL
 ANN DAGUE
 WILLIAM (BILL) DAGUE
 TRACEY HARTZELL
 BRAD LUCAS
 LOUIS MODAR
 MACHELLE NICKERSON
 DANIELLE (DEE) SEABRIGHT
 DOUG SHIPLEY
 JAMES SMITH
 BETTY TOLAND



WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE

	Early Service	Late Service
Nov 2	36	63
Nov 9	31	55
Nov 16	36	62
Nov 23	One Service 73	
Nov 30	39	54
Dec 7	33	57
Dec 14	SNOW DAY – Online following 86	
Dec 21	One Service 100	
Dec 24	One Service 101	



EGUMC MISSION COMMITTEE PRESENTS:
A MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

THE REUNION

125 Kruger St Wheeling WV	6:00 PM	Jan 9 & 10, 2026
------------------------------	------------	---------------------

TICKET FEE :

Adults: \$15.00	Child (under 12): \$8.00
--------------------	--------------------------------

Menu: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes,
Vegetables, Rolls, Beverages, & Dessert

INEY'S PRE-LOVED BOUTIQUE

WINTER HOURS
3rd Saturdays Only
January through April
9:00 - 12:00
FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH
11:00 - 12:00



WASH ME,
AND I SHALL BE
- WHITER -
THAN SNOW.
PSALM 51:7

8:30 WORSHIP SERVICE
9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 WORSHIP SERVICE



BIRTHDAYS

January

Cliff Gray 1/01
 James Jones Jr 1/01
 Sue Taylor 1/02
 Sharon Ward 1/04
 Becky McCullough 1/05
 Courtney Chase 1/11
 Melinda Daugherty 1/11
 Maggie Rowe 1/11
 Leona Cummings 1/13
 Dorothy Nickerson 1/16
 Kaitlyn Folmar 1/20
 Scott Beresh 1/25
 George Reed 1/25
 Joyce Zoeckler 1/25
 Amanda Kimpel 1/26
 Kathryn Ray 1/29
 Shellee Armstrong 1/31
 Molly Beresh 1/31
 Cary Posey 1/31

February

Nancy King 2/01
 Seth Feiock 2/03
 Summer Schramm 2/08
 Alison Stewart 2/09
 Christian Carey 2/12
 Henry McLaughlin 2/13
 Stacey Oliver 2/15
 Bill Sandiford 2/19
 Tanner Patterson 2/22
 Tammy Hewitt 2/23
 Tammy Feiock 2/24
 Chuck Polley 2/24
 James Suter 2/25

March

Mary Clark 3/01
 Brian McCullough 3/01
 Jeremy McClelland 3/01
 Evelyn Breiding 3/02
 Ann Dague 3/06
 Tracey Hartzell 3/07
 Zachary Oliver 3/06
 Danielle Patterson 3/11
 Courtney Schramm 3/19
 Kimberly Reed 3/22
 Mary Caldwell 3/30
 Keith McCord 3/31
 Sandy Myer 3/31

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
 Ephesians 2:10

ANNIVERSARIES

January

Hayden and Savannah Beresh 1/02
 Lou and Betzie Modar 1/24

February

Chris and Tanaka Dunn 2/06
 Mark and Jodi Prager 2/21

March

Scott and Molly Beresh 3/05
 Sam and Rose Mary Bayza 3/11
 Chris and Danielle Brown 3/12
 Dave and Judy Beaver 3/31



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mondays	Lois's Stitches of Caring (Beginning Feb)	1:00pm
	Boy Scouts	6:30pm
Tuesdays	Bible Study – Ed McCord's Home	7:00pm
Wednesdays	Choir Practice	6:30pm
Thursdays	Music Club	10:00am-Noon
	Bible Study Sand Hill UMC	9:00am
	Bible Study Elm Grove UMC (Beginning in Feb)	6:00pm
Sundays	Bell Choir	9:30am
Last Saturday of month	Warrior Women	10:00am

No UWIF in January or February

JANUARY

Jan 6	Administrative Council	6:00pm
Jan 9 /10	Mystery Dinner Theatre	6:00pm
Jan 13	Trustee Meeting	6:00pm
Jan 17	Iney's Boutique	9:00am
	Food Pantry	10:00am-Noon
	Free Community Lunch	11:00am-Noon
Jan 19	AMP	10:00am
Jan 21	Girl Scouts	6:00pm

FEBRUARY

Feb 1	Scout Sunday	
Feb 3	Administrative Council	6:00pm
Feb 4 /18	Girl Scouts	6:00pm
Feb 10	Trustee Meeting	6:00pm
Feb 16	AMP	10:00am
Feb 18	Ash Wednesday	7:00pm
Feb 21	Iney's Boutique	9:00am
	Food Pantry	10:00am-Noon
	Free Community Lunch	11:00am-Noon

MARCH

Mar 3	Administrative Council	6:00pm
Mar 4/18	Girl Scouts	6:00pm
Mar 10	Trustee Meeting	6:00pm
Mar 16	AMP	10:00am
Mar 27	Yard Sale	4:30pm
Mar 28	Yard Sale	9:00am

Sparks Team- Danielle Seabright, Bill Daniel, and Luke from RSQP Print & Design
 Please send all submissions to Danielle at dseabright@gmail.com
 by the 15th of the month prior to printing.
 Sparks prints quarterly.
 Winter Jan-Mar, Spring Apr-June, Summer July-Sept, and Fall Oct-Dec

Thank you to all our contributors, especially Sandy Beabout and Linda Beisner for labeling and mailing the newsletters,
 and Becky McCullough for placing the digital copy on the website.



SPARKS

ELM GROVE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
125 KRUGER ST
WHEELING, WV 26003

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
WHEELING WV
PERMIT #483

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

