



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

Pressing on with Pastor Deb - PASTOR DEBRA DAGUE

I have often heard people say that they are ready for this year to be over and to start a new year. I will admit that I have been guilty of saying these words about 2024. Many of you know that I have had many struggles to face in 2024. Hospice care and death of my bestie, complicated grief, journeying through mental health with a family member, vandalism of my home (not parsonage), and finally recovering from a traumatic brain injury (TBI). Sadly, I know that many of you have had struggles to deal with as well. The challenge for me was finding a way to face these difficult times. A challenge that became enormous when my TBI caused me to face the fact that I had a long season of healing to navigate. A healing that would require rest and patience. Two of my weakest qualities. This article will arrive just as the Christmas season comes upon us. Mary knew what it was like to struggle. Luke 1:26-30, "Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." (NKJV)

I don't pretend to compare my struggles to Mary's struggles. But I believe Mary would understand mine and your cries to God in the mist of our struggles, "God, what do I do now?" I see Mary in a different light this Christmas. Mary may have been uncertain about her future. Mary faced the fear of Joseph's rejection. I imagine like us Mary asked the question, "What do I do?" This year I hear Mary's cry more vividly, but more importantly I hear God's answer. "The Lord is with you"; "Do not be afraid";

and “you have found favor with God“. I remember being afraid while I laid in ICU at WVU Ruby with no ability to do anything but stare at the ceiling. I remember struggling to make a sentence and to take a step. Still today I worry if I will be able to process the thoughts and words in my mind onto paper and write this article. The past month I needed to hear more than ever, “The Lord is with you.” I have struggled and I needed to be reminded that God is not some uncaring, far off and distant God. God loves us and cares about us and is present in our times of struggles.

I don't know what my recovery will look like and I need to hear the words of my God, “Do not be afraid.” In this difficult time, Mary had every reason to be afraid. She faced the fear of ridicule by the public. She faced the fear of rejection by her fiancé. She faced skeptics who would doubt her story. Struggling with the mental health issues of someone you love is fearful. Opening your eyes in ICU and feeling incredible pain and the fear that you are looking at your family for the last time is fearful. There can be fear in living daily in the reality that I may not fully recover or that I may not drive or preach again. Then the angel said to Mary, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.” Mary did not let her fear paralyze her. God has that same message for us! Harry Emerson Fosdick said, “Fear imprisons, faith liberates; fear paralyzes, faith empowers; fear disheartens, faith encourages; fear sickens, faith heals; fear makes useless, faith makes serviceable—and, most of all, fear puts hopelessness at the heart of life, while faith rejoices in its God.”

In the end Mary was in God's favor, “you have found favor with God.” God chose her to be the earthly mother of God's son. Everyone faces difficult times. It is because of who we are in Christ that determines how we will answer that question of what will I do now? This Christmas Season Mary's journey will be more real and personal for me. I have a road of recovery still in front of me. But this Christmas I hear louder than ever that I am not alone, fear not. I don't know what my future looks like but I know who holds my future. I do not allow fear to bring hopelessness to my life but instead I choose faith, hope, joy, love, and peace that are in all our lives because Mary chose to push through her struggles believing God was with her. Mary's faith helped her to live out her role as the earthly mother of God's son, our Savior. So, I have chosen to follow Mary's example and to stroll through this struggle faithfully believing in what God has planned in my life and in the life of Elm Grove UMC. Yes, I am a little impatient and stubborn but I am looking forward to seeing what God has planned for us next. *Pressing on in this season of change,*

- Pastor Deb

Many Thanks!!!

Most of you know that I believe that EGUMC is in the changing and transformation business. That we are not a people who are obligated to serve Jesus but we get to serve Jesus and as a result we make a difference. EGUMC, you have made a difference in my life. On September 12th my life changed when I fell and received a traumatic brain injury. My recovery has not just taken me away from my role as your pastor but it has taken me down the road of great frustration as I deal with behavior changes, balance/walking issues, cognitive changes, and so much more. Many days I was angry or sad. I would easily skip meals and some days I would push too hard or not push at all. But everyday my church was there to meet me wherever I was. I decorated my room in the 75 plus cards I have received and the gifts and flowers that



Flowers sent to Pastor Deb from EGUMC

were sent. I eat healthy because of the food you all have given that was placed within my reach, and even though it is hard to have too many visitors, I seemed to have them at just the right moment. Your encouragement and patience has made a difference in my recovery and more importantly in my life. I cannot thank you enough for being a people and a church that makes a difference and for making that difference for me.

- Pastor Deb



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.

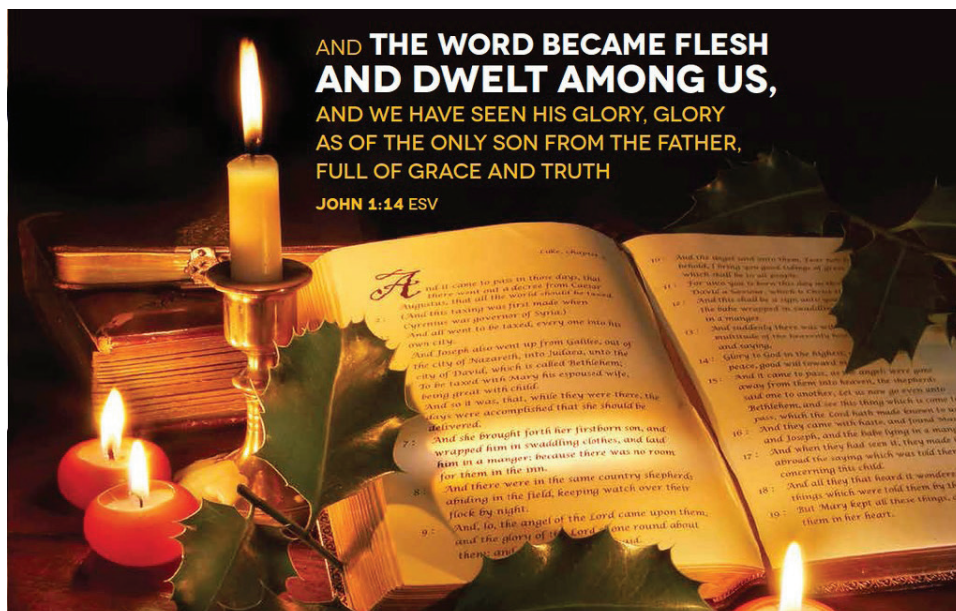
John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, put it well:
"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

Choir News - ANITA CHOPS

The Chancel choir has some special music prepared for Advent starting December 1. It is a service of CANDLES & CAROLS with music by Mark Hayes and Pamela Martin. It is a service that celebrates the traditional themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, culminating in the birth of Christ. I think everyone will enjoy the ability to sing traditional Christmas Carols throughout.

Then on Christmas Sunday, December 22, we will do a Christmas Musical, "A THRILL OF HOPE" by Joel Raney. This production is filled with an array of familiar carols and hymns, all arranged in a wide variety of moods and musical styles to create a riveting re-telling of the Christmas story. Raney states that he was, "delighted to discover that the tunes and lyrics of many of our favorite carols can be combined in surprising, unexpected ways." The scripture, underscore, and thoughtful narration by Rev. Rich Davis, transform this work into what he believes will become, "a truly meaningful Christmas worship experience."

The Choir and I hope that you won't miss this extraordinary Advent experience. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices!



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

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 as well as our lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. 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. A reservation list will be placed on the welcome table for you to sign. Please list what you will bring and how many guests you plan to bring.

There will NOT BE A MEETING IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY.
COME AND JOIN US!!!

United Methodist Men - TODD KIMPEL, PRESIDENT/SECRETARY

UMM continues to meet on a regular basis. We participated with the Trustees to stain the deck at the parsonage. We will have our regular meeting in November and will have election of officers for 2025 at the December meeting.

Boy Scouts - SCOTT BERESH

Troop 29 meets Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8 in the church basement. For more information, visit one of our meetings or call 304-242-1206 or 304-231-7545.



Mission News - WAYNE McCORD

All creatures great and small. For the month of July, the Mission committee helped out our four-legged friends by collecting items for the Ohio County Animal Shelter. We collected 9 small bottles of bleach and 3 large bottles of bleach, 24 leashes, 17 containers of floor cleaner, 7 dog bowls, 2 toys, 2 containers of cat food, and 1 box of dog biscuits.

August was back to school month and school supplies were sent out to get many young students off to a great start for the new school year.

To wrap up the summer and jump back into the school year, snacks were the goal of September. We collected 11 boxes of cereal, 20 boxes of crackers, 29 jars of peanut butter, and 10 jars of jelly.

An update on the progress of the AMP (Active Mission Prep) team --- The team has collected 65 cloth grocery bags and 5 backpacks for the House of the Carpenter. For the Appalachian Christmas, people brought in 7 2025 calendars, 7 preschool backpacks, and 5 string backpacks. People also made generous contributions of Christmas cards and notepads.

As always, we are thankful for your generosity!

SPRC - DONNA FOLMA

The SPRC team has been working hard the last few months focusing on new staff hires. Molly Beresh's last day as administrative assistant will be 10/30/2024. We are thankful to have found a very well-qualified replacement. We encourage everyone to welcome Terri Helt as our new Administrative Assistant. Terri's hours will be Mon.-Fri. 09:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Also, we want to thank Molly for years of service in her role as the Administrative Assistant here at EGUMC. We will be celebrating Molly on Sunday November 10, 2024 with cake and punch between the 8:30 and 11:00 service.

Jan will be retiring from her position as EGUMC Custodian on 12/31/2024. The position for EGUMC Custodian has been posted on our Website and Facebook page. We wish Jan all the best with her retirement and thank her for her many years of service!

Psalm 7:17
I will praise you, Lord!
You always do right.
I will sing about you,
the Lord Most High.



Asbury Class - ROSELLA EALY

The Asbury class is collecting for Operation Christmas Child. Ways to donate are to fill a shoe box, donate items, or money. There will be a table set up in the back of the Sanctuary starting November 1. National collection week is November 18-25. Each box costs \$10 to ship. Our goal this year is 30 boxes... Please join us in this wonderful ministry.

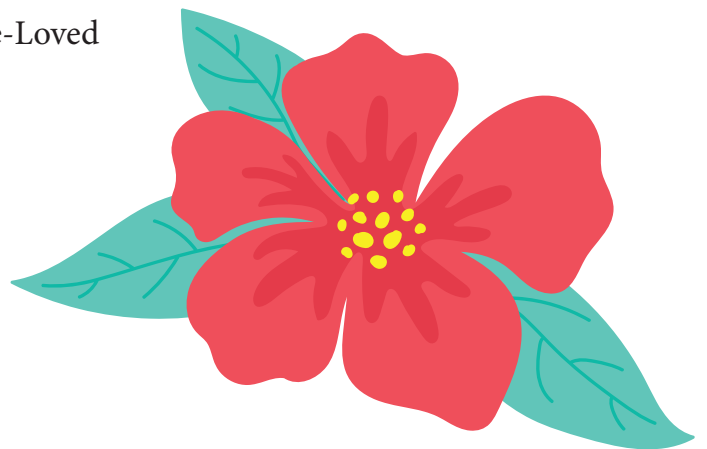


Merry Christmas

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.



Worship Service Attendance

Date	8:30 a.m.	11 a.m.	Sunday School
July 28, 2024	30	51	17
August 4, 2024	32	44	22
August 11, 2024	29	60	19
August 18, 2024	29	52	18
August 25, 2024	27	48	23
September 1, 2024	36	46	20
September 8, 2024	26	60	19
September 15, 2024	30	53	20
September 22, 2024	29	50	20
September 29, 2024 (one service)	60		
October 6, 2024	35	37	16
October 13, 2024	35	43	21
October 20, 2024	30	53	18



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

November

BEISNER, Shalyn	11/01
CURTO, Emery	11/01
HANKE, Ron	11/02
WHITECOTTON, Sharon	11/03
KENT, Kelly	11/06
POLLEY, Colleen	11/08
BLOWERS, Dolly	11/09
DENTZ, Corbin	11/12
ARMSTRONG, Hollee	11/13
MARTIN, Erika	11/13
KING, Gary	11/14
CURTO, Hilary	11/17
HASTINGS, Mason	11/17
DAVIS, Frank	11/18
WHITECOTTON, Douglas	11/18
WILT, Paige	11/20
HELT, Terri	11/22
HIGLEY Jr., Lyle	11/29
NOLAN, Sherry	11/29

December

BEAVER, Judy	12/01
FOLMAR, Donna	12/04
RUSH, Barbara	12/04
ESTEP, Jerry	12/05
KAPPAS, Paula	12/05
MARTIN Jr., Don	12/05
ESTEP, Doug	12/07
WHITE, Brenda	12/09
BAYZA, Rose Mary	12/11
MCCULLOUGH, Dylan	12/18
RUNKLE, Alice	12/18
HENDERSON, Kayla	12/21
KIMPEL, Benjamin	12/27
FOLMAR, Evelyn	12/29
OLIVER, Alexander	12/30

January

GRAY, Clifford	01/01
JONES Jr., James	01/01
QUIGLEY, Mary	01/02
TAYLOR, Sue	01/02
WARD, Sharon	01/04
MCCULLOUGH, Becky	01/05
CHASE, Courtney	01/11
DAUGHERTY, Melinda	01/11
ROWE, Maggie	01/11

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

Wedding Anniversaries

November

KIMPEL, Benjamin & Amanda	11/01
HICKS, Fred & Dee	11/21

December

MCCORD, Keith & Nancy	12/27
CUNDIFF, Scott & Sharon	12/29

January

BERESH, Hayden & Savannah	01/02
KAPPAS, Mark & Paula	01/02

Our Deepest Sympathy

With heavy hearts, we acknowledge their death...

Emily Christine Kimpel August 18, 2024

Ed Stewart August 20, 2024

Jill Ann Beabout August 27, 2024

Shirley Louise Hoffman September 17, 2024

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

Memorial Gifts

TO THE CURRENT FUND

In memory of Emily Kimpel

Asbury Class
Keith & Nancy McCord
Todd & Joyce Kimpel
Susi Whitecotton
David & Karen Muldrew
Sandy Meyer
Anita Chops

In memory of Ed Stewart

Karen & David Muldrew
Asbury Class
Keith & Nancy McCord
Susi Whitecotton
Todd & Joyce Kimpel

TO THE TRUSTEE FUND

In memory of Emily Kimpel

Bob & Sandy Morgan
Liberty Distributors
Pat & Ed Helal
The Kimpel Christman Family
Tom & Doris Gibson
Mike & Christy Wade
Cindy Hildebrandt
Rise Gibson
Jim & Charlene Stultz
Sharon & Robert Combs
Jane Kryston
Fred Rentschler
Greg Thorngate
Paul & Susan Turner
John & Marsha Roth
Wayne Junkins
Glenna Gibson
Donna Folmar
Betty Griffin

In memory of Ed Stewart

Jim & Charlene Stultz
Betty Griffin
In memory of Shirley Hoffman
R. Anthony Cook

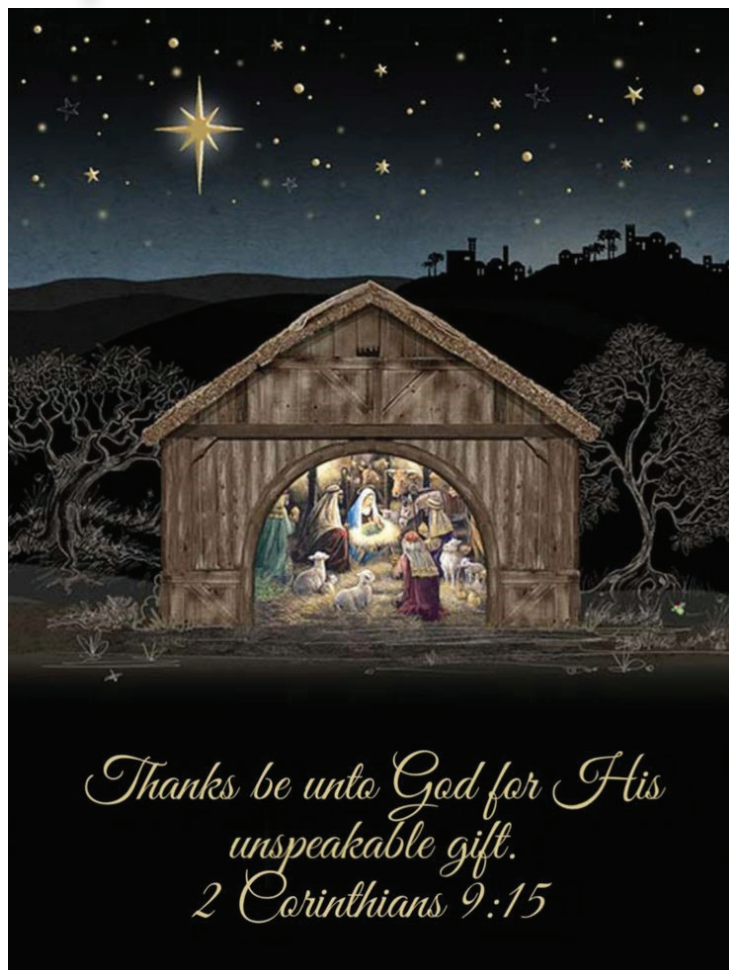


Iney's Pre-Loved Boutique - JAN COFFEY

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 and women. For the women, we are looking for 2X, 3X tops, and slacks. For the men, we need sizes 34, 36, and 38 pants and shorts. If you have any of these items or know someone who does, please call the church Mon. – Wed., 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 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, and donate items for this boutique. God Bless!



We hope you like our Newsletter!!

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

Please send all submissions to Bill at 17wida@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!!!

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

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