



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

Pressing on with Pastor Deb - PASTOR DEBRA DAGUE

“When life throws you a curveball hit it out of the park!” Author Unknown

Church, we have made it to February 2025! This month I will celebrate my second anniversary as the pastor of EGUMC and I could not be more excited about the ministry we have completed together and what God has planned for us in the future. EGUMC has been thrown its fair share of curveballs over the years. The latest one is having a coach who is still recovering from a traumatic brain injury. I am blessed to say that although I am not 100 percent, I am back in the pulpit, doing some visitation/pastoral care, and ordering the church. Recovery has been a long inning but I am still in the game and with God as my coach I am winning. I have chosen not to focus on the curveballs coming at me but at the blessings and lessons that God has brought to my life during this event and how these situations have deepened my faith and will allow me to be a more effective pastor. I am grateful for this experience.

As grateful as I am for what God has done in my life, I stand in awe at the work that God continues to do in the life of EGUMC. The leadership has shown great resilience as they continued the vision of the church while supporting the recovery of their pastor. A dedicated worship team, along with guest pastors and faithful lay servants, used their gifts to lead worship services and bring the Good News. Teams did not wait for me to get back but continued their work at fulfilling EGUMC's vision to be an inviting community who loves God and loves spreading the good news to all people. New leaders stepped up and members of the congregation identified where they could serve. Visitors were being welcomed and are feeling at home. The Shepherding Team watched over the flock. The Mission Team blessed us once again with a Mystery Dinner Theater and has increased their giving to the least of these. Iney's Boutique and Free Community Lunch continue to grow both in numbers and in service. UWIF, AMP, and Stitches

of Caring are not only a support within the church but are finding new ways to be a blessing beyond the local church. The United Methodist Men teamed up with our Evangelism Committee and breathed life into our first Live Nativity Scene. Our Hospitality Team was spotted serving up warm smiles and hot cocoa at Elm Grove's Light up Night. Finally, as I took my first steps back into the building, I found myself sharing my bench with the VBS order. The VBS Team is already planning for our children this summer. We are having a camping experience!

The trustees may sometimes feel they are camping at the church. They have had curveball after curveball thrown at them as they care for an old building, but they are getting the job done. SPRC, through holy discernment, hired an administrative assistant and custodian who fit perfectly into our mission. In 2024 our Bible Study, Sunday School Classes and Children's Church continue to be strong hubs for spiritual formation and folks are attending their opportunities for spiritual formation beyond the local church. In the summer of 2024 an Evangelism Team was established. They have been faithful to their visioning and their obedience to God's leading and are about to launch EGUMC into a new fresh expression and holy ministry. EGUMC is prayfully building a finance team. What a blessing to witness God's people see themselves as disciples who've been gifted by God to steward financial gifts. This team is a vital part of the church's spiritual health. This team is not about sking: do we have "enough" money, but how are we investing — stewarding — our God-given financial resources? Are we spending to maintain what exists or are we investing to grow the kingdom of God? Holy work! The Media/AV Team is also continuing to vision for our future.

I know I said a lot this month but I wanted you to see how you are a good church becoming an even better church. I saved for last what I feel is your greatest testimonies to who you have become as a church. The way you have loved Josiah and me in the darkest days of our lives speaks volumes to who you are as the church. That is the model of a healthy church! It is far too much to put into simple words but I stand as your coach and celebrate as I watch you hit the curveballs, fastballs, and every ball out of the park! More importantly, God sees your hearts and good works and I know is well-pleased. God has so much planned for EGUMC in 2025 regardless of my position on the team. I hope you know there is a place for you on the team! If you are thinking, put me in coach, put me in, let me know as I am a little slower than usual at coming to you. How blessed I am to feel like I am playing in the World Series everyday with EGUMC as my team. I am looking forward to following God, our head coach, and knocking ministry out of the park with all of all of you in 2025!

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.

Many Thanks!!!

Since our last newsletter most of you know my grandson, Josiah, lost his mother to a sudden health issue on her way home from work. The following day, Josiah moved in with me and I am now his legal guardian. Losing Robin has been a great loss for both of us. Adjusting to life without her and living full-time with each other has been a challenge. A challenge we could not have bared without God and our church family. I asked Josiah what he wanted when he moved in and he shared, "I just want to go to church." Before we got to church the church came to us! There are no words to express our gratitude for prayers, rides, shoulders, food, clothes, Christmas gifts, outings, and so much more. We are the church together.

Much love,
Pastor Deb and Josiah

Lent and Easter Services

Ash Wednesday – 7pm

Maundy Thursday – Time TBA

Good Friday – 7pm

Easter Services – 8:30am and 11:00am

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."

Bragging Rights

Magna5, a trusted provider of cybersecurity, managed IT, and cloud services, proudly announces the promotion of **Matt Kimpel** to **Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)** effective January 1. In this new role, Matt will lead the company's cybersecurity initiatives, ensuring protection against the latest threats as well as facilitating regulatory compliance for clients in various industries. Matt is the son of Todd and Joyce Kimpel and lives in McMurray, PA with his wife, Laura (LJ) and sons, Archer and Henry.

New Membership Class

Pastor Deb will be offering a new membership class in the spring. If you are interested in becoming a member at EGUMC, contact the office or Pastor Deb.

Congratulations and Thank You!

Jan Coffey, our custodian for 23 years, retired at the end of 2024. Jan strove to provide a safe and clean church and always exceeded her job description. She will continue to operate Iney's Pre-Loved Boutique. A party was held February 2 to honor Jan Coffey for her years of dedication as church custodian.



Jan and Pastor Deb Dague celebrating Jan's retirement.



Jan received a beautiful flower arrangement.

Asbury Class - ROSE EALY

The Asbury Class will be focusing on reading the Bible in a year. All are welcome to join us as we read the scriptures daily, then come together on Sunday and discuss them at 9:45 in the Board Room. There are a few extra bibles if anyone is interested.

Choir News - ANITA CHOPS

The Christmas season is over and the services were beautiful. The choir did an excellent job on their Cantata, "Candles and Carols". Now, we are preparing for the Sundays leading up to Lent and Easter. Ash Wednesday is March 5th and the first Sunday of Lent is March 9th. Palm Sunday is April 13 and Easter is April 20.

As you all know, we have a very dedicated group of choir members, but we can also add to our group. If anyone out there is feeling like you want to join a fun loving good group of singers, please let me know. I would be happy to work with anyone that's interested. Just call Anita Chops, 304-551-1414.

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

The United Women in Faith are going to start their meetings March 13 at noon. Because we have had snow on every planned day for the Executive Committee meetings, we can't tell you what is scheduled for the meeting in March. However, look for notices to appear in the Sunday bulletins. The meeting for April is scheduled for the 10th and the Mother/Daughter/Friend luncheon is May 8. We look forward to our members returning and would love to have some new members. Of course, we are known as the UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH, so everyone from any denomination is welcome.

**COME ONE, COME ALL!!!
COME AND JOIN US!!!**

United Methodist Men - TODD KIMPEL, PRESIDENT

The UMM at their December meeting elected:

TODD KIMPEL as PRESIDENT

FRANK DAVIS as SECRETARY/ TREASURER

We reviewed our projected calendar for 2025. We will have regular meetings other than March when we will attend a Nailers Hockey Faith Night game, a work project for our Church for May, a community project for the June meeting, attend a Wild Things Faith Night game in September, and a work project for our Church in October.

If you have any questions, please call Todd at 304-639-0940.

*But Christ has been raised to life! And he makes us certain
that others will also be raised to life. Just as we will die because of Adam, we will
be raised to life because of Christ.*

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

Stewardship - SUSI WHITECOTTON

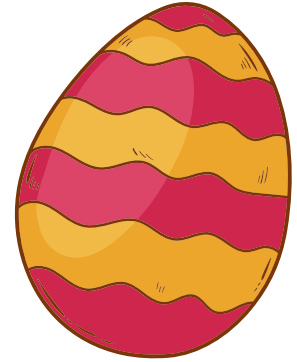
Before Easter, we will have a non lily sale. On Good Friday, April 18, there will be a take out fish fry and on Saturday, May 10, we are having a quarter auction. We will be asking for help with items to auction and for Chinese auction items. Thank you for your support.

Girl Scout Troop 10128

Girl Scouts meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6pm.
It's cookie season! Be on the look out for cookie booth information in March!

Boy Scout Troop 29 - SCOTT BERESH

- Spring Yard Sale March 28 & 29.
There are table sign ups at the welcome desk or you may call or text Scott at 304-780-7056.
- Annual Mulch Sale. We will start taking orders on March 31.
Call or text Scott at 304-780-7056.
MULCH DAY IS MAY 3.
- Scout Summer Trip to Gatlinburg, TN on June 8-14.
We have 16 people going.
If you would like to donate to help cover costs, please contact me.



Mission News - WAYNE MCCORD

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Fall into Winter has been a busy time for the Mission team. We continued our tradition of collecting gift cards for our veterans. This is a project that is very dear to the hearts of the members of the mission committee. As always, the congregation of EGUMC came through. As the colder months set in, our focus was on hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves. Our collection for the winter months went to the House of the Carpenter. As the cold weather continued, we've also extended our generosity to Street Moms.

We've also continued to collect self-stable food items for the Blessing Box. Food has been collected, sorted, and boxed up for delivery.



Members of the Mission Committee serve hot chocolate at Christmas in the Grove.

From left front are Sandy Beabout, Karen Joseph, Cathy Jones, Becky McCullough, Judy Beaver, Nancy McCord, Anita Chops, Tanaka Dunn, and Nancy King.

Lois's Stitches of Caring - KAREN MULDREW

We have donated 18 lap afghans to Trinity/First English Lutheran Church for their December Community Event; 18 lap afghans to Liza's Place; and 18 lap afghans to Middle Creek Elementary School. A purple lap afghan was donated to Relay for Life, plus four more were given to Church members.

On December 8, 2024, our group sold 22 hats, 9 scarves, and 16 hat & scarf sets that were either used for Christmas gifts or were donated for the Mission Committee's manager.

We may be small in number, but boy can we make items!

Shepherding - JOYCE KIMPEL AND KELLY KENT

After over 20 years of leading the Shepherding team Kelly Kent has agreed to be the new leader and I am thrilled to pass the torch. Kelly is a newer member with lots of energy and creativity and will be a great addition to the team. Please welcome Kelly when you see her.

- Joyce Kimpel



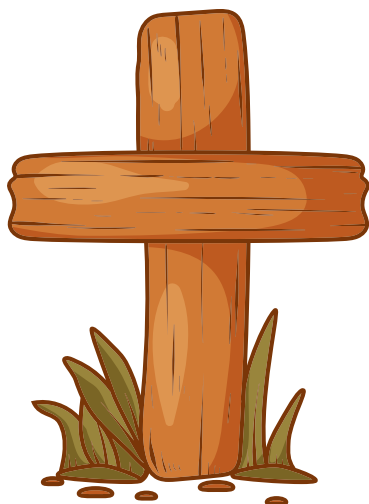
The first Live Nativity Scene was held at EGUMC this past Christmas season.

Sitting are Kansas Ealy and Todd Kimpel.

Standing from left are Rosella Ealy, Judy Beaver, Wayne McCord, Colleen Polley, Chuck Polley, and the Polley's dog, Blue.

ACT (Abiding Care Team) - PEGGY LAING

Our church ACT folks should be the Post Office's favorite customer! In 2024 our 8 members sent 1741 cards and notes to our church family! We also kept in touch via emails/texts 105 additional times. Our phone calls accounted for another 387 contacts and our 163 visits, which included 33 funeral visits, let our members know we care about them. What an amazing accomplishment! Think what we could accomplish if you would join each of us for a visit to our shut-ins or hospitalized members. I will personally attest to the eagerness with which these folks greet each of us and the great feeling of joy you will get as you smile your way home after a visit or phone call. Contact Jan Coffey or Peggy Laing if you would like to join our Team. Pastor Deb is a perfect role model, but the expression, "Many hands make light work" would certainly let the folks we contact very happy to renew friendships and feel remembered more often.



*For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten Son
that whosoever believeth in him
should not perish,
but have everlasting life.
- John 3:16*

Worship Service Attendance

Date	8:30 a.m.	11 a.m.	Sunday School
October 27, 2024	33	35	15
November 3, 2024	35	53	18
November 10, 2024	43	43	24
November 17, 2024	39	42	18
11/24/2024 (one service)	83		
December 1, 2024	34	29	22
December 8, 2024	33	52	22
December 15, 2024	34	53	22
12/22/2024 (one service)	86		10
12/29/2024 (one service)	51		4
January 5, 2025	30	46	20
January 12, 2025	33	39	15
January 19, 2025	22	34	16
January 26, 2025	33	58	23

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

February

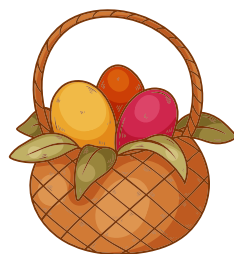
Nancy King	02/01
Seth Feiock	02/03
Summer Schramm	02/08
Alison Stewart	02/09
Christian Carey	02/12
Henry McLaughlin	02/13
Stacey Oliver	02/15
Bill Sandiford	02/19
Tanner Patterson	02/22
Tamara Hewitt	02/23
Tammy Feiock	02/24
Charles Polley	02/24
James Suter	02/25
Delores Fogle	02/27

March

Mary Clark	03/01
Brian McCullough	03/01
Jeremy McClelland	03/02
Evelyn Breiding	03/03
Zachary Oliver	03/06
Danielle Patterson	03/11
Courtney Schramm	03/19
Kimberly Reed	03/22
Mary Caldwell	03/30
Keith McCord	03/31
Sandra Meyer	03/31

April

Charles Elliott	04/01
Carrie Carey	04/02
William Patterson Iii	04/04
Jerry Genther	04/06
Linda Beisner	04/07
Christina Dentz	04/07
Kate Laing	04/10
Todd Kimpel	04/12
Russell Beabout	04/13
Alverna Carnahan	04/14
Dawn Patterson	04/16
Melanie McFarland	04/19
Benjamin Barnes	04/20
Joyce Kimpel	04/20
Laura Larue	04/25
Lynn Welsh	04/30



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

Wedding Anniversaries

March

Scott & Molly Beresh	03/05
Samuel & Mary Rose Bayza	03/11
Christopher & Danielle Brown	03/12
David & Judy Beaver	03/31

April

Michael & Sherry Nolan 04/02

May

Charles & Colleen Polley 05/05



SPRC is happy to announce that Bill Daniel accepted the position of Custodian here at EGUMC as of Jan. 1. He has been a very active member of our church for many years and we are thankful for his ongoing dedication.

*But the angel said to the women,
“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus
who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.
Come, see the place where he lay...”
Matthew 28:5-7*

Memorial Gifts TO THE TRUSTEE FUND

In Memory of Emily Kimpel
Roanne & Harold Burech
Jean Ann (Loth) Wear

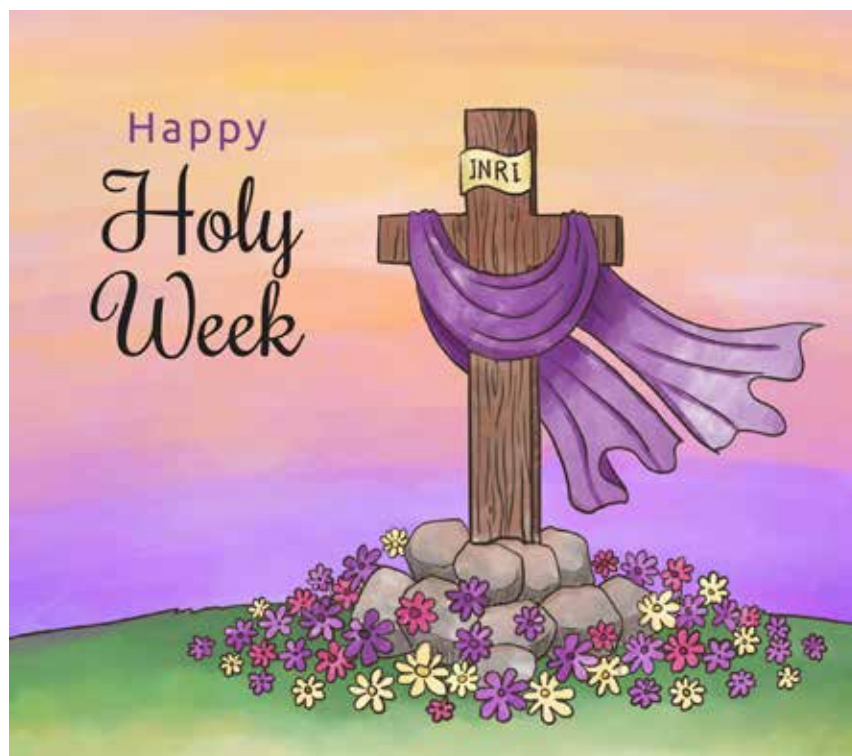


*He said to them, “This is what is written and so it must be:
The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,
and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name
to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem...”
Luke 24:46-47*

Iney's Pre-Loved Boutique & Free Community Luncheon - JAN COFFEY

The boutique is open the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of every month, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

We welcome everyone who likes to eat, wants to find some good deals, likes to socialize, or just wants to get out of the house to come join us. The food is always good, but the company is even better! Check our Facebook page for more information!



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

Terri Helt 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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SPARKS

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2025

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