

The Beacon

August 2026

UWF News

United Women in Faith will meet August 11 at 9:30. Coffee and treats will be provided by Donnie Meehan.

We will start planning for our fall activities. We hope you can join us for a meeting.

*God Bless,
Celene Duley*

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

3	Jacob Glenn	12	Michelle Seipel
3	Gracie Potts	15	Chuck Johnston
3	Doreen Smith	16	Georgia Stevens
4	Marvin Shoop	16	Bill & Kay Hampton Anniversary
5	Ben Crisco	18	Kevin Shoop
5	Emmie Crisco	19	Grady Case
7	Cathy Ekstrand	23	Ethan Callister
7	Charlotte Haley	30	Piper Loveless
7	Brad & Lori Johnson Anniversary	31	Kyle Miller
9	Lydia Link	31	Alana Parm
10	Andrea Glenn	31	Tom & Angie Tracy Anniversary
11	Lisa Roberts		



Let's get fit so we can serve!

Monday – Wednesday – Friday
8am – 9am
Elmwood UMC Fellowship Hall

JOIN US! We have “changed up” our exercise routines. In addition to some of the original routines, we are following several different exercise videos. This provides extra cardio and strength moves. Come “sweat” with us!

No experience necessary! I will show you modifications for exercises to address all levels.

Questions? Please call or text Janet Vallas at 309-712-3935 or email at kvallas@mchsi.com.



We will be awarding the United Methodist Church of Elmwood's scholarship to recipients Baron and Cassidy Case on Sunday, August 9th and to recipients Addisyn Powers and Andrea Glenn on Sunday, August 16th.

Congratulations to this year's recipients!



SALSA VERDE CHICKEN CASSEROLE

Ingredients

- 2 Cups shredded rotisserie chicken
- 1 Cup sour cream
- 1 ½ Cups salsa verde, divided
- 8 Corn tortillas, (6 inches)
- 2 Cups chopped tomatoes
- ¼ Cup minced fresh cilantro
- 2 Cups shredded Monterey Jack Cheese

Directions

1. In a small bowl, combine chicken, sour cream and $\frac{3}{4}$ cup salsa. Spread $\frac{1}{4}$ cup salsa on the bottom of a greased 8-in. square baking dish.
2. Layer with half the tortillas and chicken mixture; sprinkle with half the tomatoes, all the minced cilantro and half the cheese. Repeat layers with the remaining tortillas, chicken, mixture, tomatoes, and cheese.
3. Bake, uncovered, at 400° until bubbly, 20-25 minutes. Serve with remaining salsa and toppings of your choice.

****If anyone has a recipe they would like to share, please email the office at:**
umchurch@elmwoodumc.com



Mental Health **FIRST AID**

TRAINING

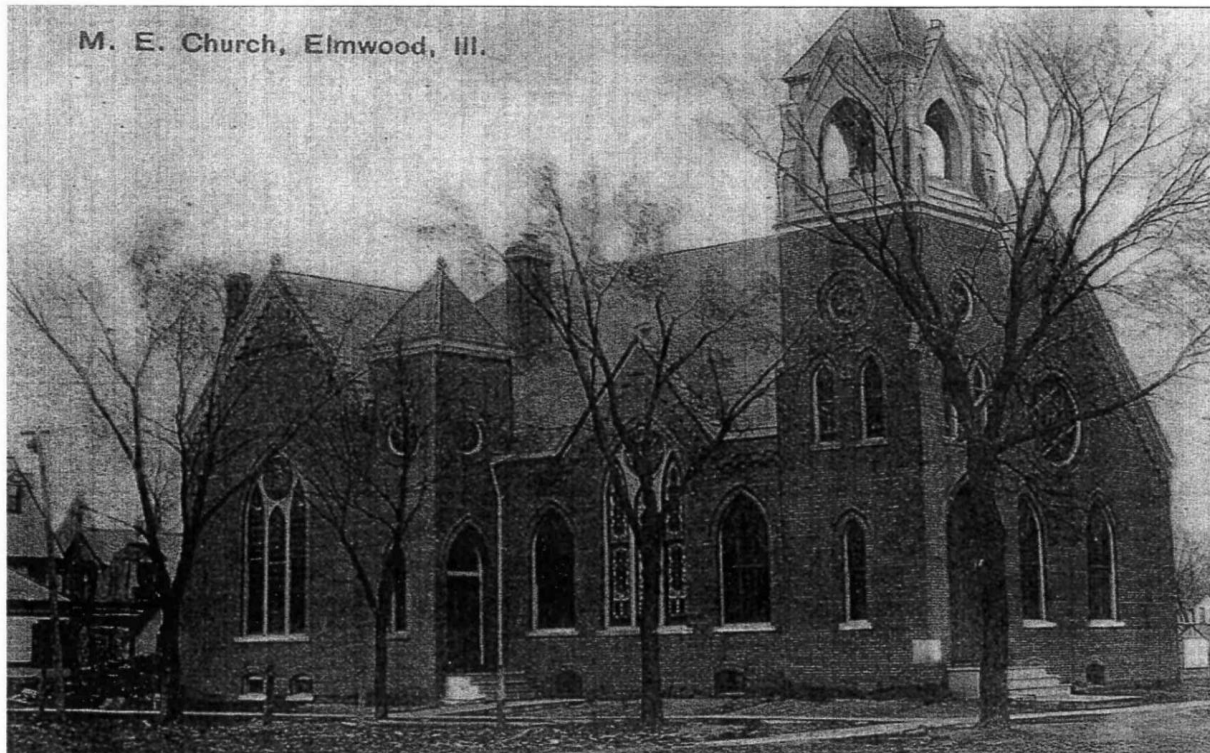
The Mental Health First Aid Training will be held on Saturday, August 22nd from 8:30-4:30 pm. We have had 14 members from our congregation sign up to participate in this valuable training. Watch for future opportunities for additional training that will be offered for our church and the community.

We thank the Endowment Fund for supporting this training!

FELLOWSHIP HALL INFORMATION

The use of the fellowship hall is free of charge to members of the United Methodist Church of Elmwood. For non-members it is a reasonable fee of \$50. There is now a “Facility Reservation Agreement” that ANYONE wishing to reserve the fellowship hall will need to read, sign, and return before their date of use.

UNITED METHODIST CHUCH
175TH ANNIVERSARY
PLANNING COMMITTEE



1851-2026

The United Methodist Church of Elmwood will be celebrating their 175th anniversary this year. A celebration is being planned for October. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for anyone wishing to help plan this historic anniversary celebration.



We have had an incredible summer, especially our VBS and the sign-ups for our Mental Health First Aid training. I am so excited to see what this church is in the progress of becoming, and the lives we will transform and maybe even save through living out our mission.

The plan has been to spend this summer working on ourselves and preparing our church to answer its calling and truly begin to live out our mission starting in this fall. That plan has been successful, with the mental health workshop being the most obvious progress made, but several other programs having the groundwork laid behind the scenes that I have been working with our admin council to get off the ground (to be announced after the Mental Health First Aid workshop; I know better than to announce five things all at once). This truly is an incredibly exciting time to be part of this church!

But these ideas are only as good as the commitment behind them.

So, we have to talk about stewardship.

I say it every time, but I hate talking about money. It feels so wrong, so impure to focus on money in church.

But I need to get over that, because Jesus talked about money all the time! Jesus talked about priorities, and investment in the kingdom. Jesus talked about how we are called to be stewards; how everything we have is temporary, only entrusted to us for our short time on earth, and ultimately belongs to God. And Jesus talked about how missions, how caring for those in need in the community, costs money.

Church, I am incredibly excited about the direction our church is going, and the commitment that we have seen to our mission.

But I also have to mention that said commitment will not be able to last if the church closes due to lack of funds.

To be clear, we are not at that level of concern, yet.

But, we did just receive a financial summary saying that our accounts are down \$12,000 from last year. We can take a couple of years like this, but it will catch up with us, sooner than later.

So, I want to encourage you, if you want this church to continue to thrive and have the impact we are building it for, prayerfully consider how much you can give, especially as we enter our stewardship campaign in late August.

This church is amazing, and we need your help to keep it going, to give it time for its mission to fully blossom, and to empower us to remain focused on building God's Kingdom here, in Elmwood.

Pastor Austin Miller



Third Thursday Prayer and Coffee

Every woman in the community is cordially invited to come to Nighthawks Coffee, 130 W. Main, just next to the movie theater, for refreshments and prayer at 1:30 on the third Thursday of every month.

No dues.

No membership list.

No obligation.

We gab with each other, buy our own drinks, catch up on life events, have a short devotion, and pray for each other and our community.

Although ladies from our church began the group, it welcomes everyone and anyone. Bring your prayer requests. Bring your sense of humor. Bring your neighbor.

See you there.

Janet Mottaz

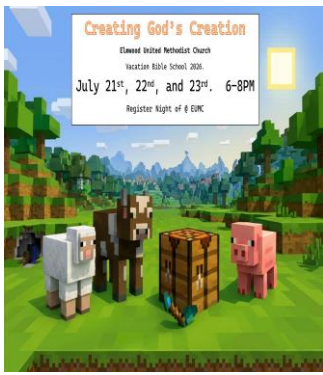




A big thank you to all the volunteers, donations, kids, and the church for a successful and fun VBS 2026. We had 46 kids attend.

Sunday School will resume classes on Sunday, August 30th.

Dayna Hart



VBS 2026

WE HAD ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF VBS. WE HAD APPROXIMATELY 46 KIDS ATTEND.

