

The Beacon

October 2026

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

A special thank you for all who participated in the UWF Sunday. United Women in Faith will meet October 13 at 9:30 am. Coffee and treats will be provided by Diana Ladd. We will prepare for guest night. Our Women's Guest Night, where we get together and have a meal and fellowship with neighboring church women, will be held on October 15 at 6 pm. If you would like to join us, there is a sign up in the narthex.

We will finish up this year with our sale of soup and Maidrite's on November 7th.

We hope you can join us for a meeting.

*God Bless,
Celene Duley*

Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	Terry Schulz	18	Bob & Kim Paige Anniversary
2	Ryan Potts	19	Dennis Whitehurst
5	Debra Gasparovich	20	Curt & Doreen Smith Anniversary
5	Garrett Webster	23	Larry Ennis
5	Dave & Celene Duley Anniversary	23	Lawrence Kane
8	Vic Ewalt	24	Jonathan Bryant
8	Brandon Provence	25	Alex Davis
9	Carolyn Webel	26	Carol Kemper
11	Bill Seipel	26	Greg Holloway
11	Chuck Johnston	27	Vic & Chris Ewalt Anniversary
14	Rylee Hayworth	27	Brooks Cummings
14	Lucas Kosowski	28	Austin Glenn
15	Mike & Leann Sweeney Anniversary	28	Ryan & Rachel Potts Anniversary
17	Jeremy Dalton	29	Dick & Gayla Taylor Anniversary
		31	Sheri Kosowski



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! You will be shown modifications for exercises to address all levels.

Questions? Please call or text Janet Vallas at 309-712-3935 or email at Jvallas54@gmail.com.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat is scheduled for Saturday, October 31st from 3:30-5:00 pm. We will be collecting bags of candy to help supply those that will be decorating a trunk and handing out candy. Please bring the candy to the church and put in the bin marked for candy.



CHEESEBURGER PIE

Ingredients

- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 Pound lean ground beef
- ½ Cup chopped yellow onion
- ½ tsp. kosher salt
- 1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- Nonstick cooking spray
- 2 Large eggs
- 1 Cup whole buttermilk, room temp
- 1 Tbsp. salted butter, melted
- ½ Cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 Cup shredded cheddar cheese

Optional: Pickle slices, ketchup for serving, burger sauce.

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400°
2. Heat a large skillet over med. heat. Add olive oil, ground beef, onion, and salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, until meat is browned and crumbly and onions are softened, 8-10 min. Drain any excess fat from the pan, if you like. Add the Worcestershire sauce and cook until absorbed, about 2 minutes.
3. Spray a 9-inch pie plate with nonstick cooking spray. Transfer the meat mixture to the pie plate.
4. Whisk together the eggs, buttermilk, and melted butter in a med bowl until smooth. Add flour and baking powder; whisk until smooth. Pour over the hamburger mixture in the pie plate.
5. Sprinkle all over the cheese. Bake until top is browned and center is set, about 25 min.
- 6.. Serve the pie in slices with pickles, ketchup, and/or burger sauce, if you like.

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

FROM THE PASTOR



Who are you dressing up as for Halloween?

Halloween is a holiday that we celebrate by dressing up in costumes. The costumes can be scary, silly, or anything in between. But the costumes themselves are not the point. The costumes are a means to an end. The costumes are a way to get candy, or, if we are really invested, a way to win costume contests.

It's all lots of fun for everyone.

But is this really the only time that we put on a costume; that we pretend to be someone else in order to gain a reward?

Our sermon series this month is titled "The Masks We Wear", and is all about how all of us are constantly putting on faces, pretending to be people who we are not, because that is what society tells us we should do.

We live in a "fake it 'til you make it" society. And for some things, that works. But the most important thing for us is a healthy, growth-inspiring relationship with God. This is something that can only be accomplished by authenticity. And authenticity is the one thing that I know for a fact that you cannot "make it" by "faking it".

So, this month will be about acknowledging the masks that we all wear, and tearing them off together. The most faithful, life-embracing thing that we can say to God is "I am who you say I am". Nothing more, nothing less, just an acknowledgment that God knows our innermost being and loves us. And a statement that we trust God enough to acknowledge that God is right about us, even when we ourselves feel oh so wrong.

This will not be easy. Society says we need these masks. That we need these masks to be safe, to be accepted, to be admired, and to be loved. But God says that we are already exactly who God made us to be. That we don't need to hide behind a mask to be safe, to be accepted, to be admired and to be loved. Indeed, our masks serve to get in the way of the authenticity that makes our connection to God even more joyful!

So, I hope you all will join me in working to take off your masks and encouraging and loving those in our church who are working to take off their own mask.

We are all God's masterpiece. We don't need to hide that behind anything.

Let's get to work.

Pastor Austin Miller

ELMWOOD MINISTERIAL OF PASTORS
Presents

OUR FAMILY FRIENDLY

TRUNK OR TREAT

★ SATURDAY ★
OCTOBER 31ST
3:30 - 5:00 PM



FREE ENTRY



FOOD & DRINKS



CANDY



PRIZES

Fun For All!



**HOT DOGS/
CHIPS/
HOT-COCOA**
(WHILE THEY LAST)

AT THE
ELMWOOD CENTRAL PARK SQUARE



October is Pastor Appreciation month. Cards will be sent around during the service for members to sign and leave little notes expressing your personal appreciation of the Pastor.

Monetary donations for gifts to be purchased can be placed in the cards or dropped off at the Church office.

COMMUNITY SERVE IMPACT



Come Put Your Faith In Action



LEAVES RAKED



WINDOWS WASHED



A FRIENDLY FACE
WITH SOME COOKIES

≡ **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25** ≡



Submit names for anyone who needs small tasks completed.

Leaves raked, windows washed, a friendly face with some cookies.



Our annual Community Service Impact (CSI) day is scheduled. Come and put your faith into action by serving the community. We will meet in the sanctuary at 9 am for a blessing ceremony and then head out. We will have tasks for every age. Submit names to the church office 309-742-7221 for anyone who may need small jobs done. Let's live our Mission Statement "*Followers of Jesus Christ, pouring our lives into serving others...*"

You Are Cordially Invited!



CANDLELIGHT BUFFET



Hosted by the United Women in Faith



* **Date:** Thursday,
October 15, 2026

* **Time:** 6:00 PM

* **Location:**
Fellowship Hall, United
821 W. Main, Elmwood, IL 61529



* **Followed by a**
special program in the
Sanctuary featuring
Linell Shepard
from Princeville.

Reservation Details

Please pass this invitation along to the women in your circle! Space is limited. Please submit your reservations by Friday, October 9, 2026.

 Celene Duley: 309-368-8765  Church Office: 309-742-7221

****Special Note: There is no charge for the buffet or program.****

 **United Methodist Church of Elmwood**
821 W. Main, Elmwood, IL 61529

In Concert At

ELMWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Wednesday, October 21st • 6:00 p.m.

821 W. Main Street • Elmwood, IL

ERNIE COUCH & REVIVAL



Follow Ernie, Memphis and Jason on Facebook  and at www.erniecouchandrevival.com

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS
1851 - 2026
OF FAITH, TRADITION, & SERVICE.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
175th OF ELMWOOD
ANNIVERSARY

**POTLUCK LUNCHEON &
CELEBRATION**



**SAVE
— THE —
DATE**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
AT NOON

LOCATION: United Methodist Church of Elmwood
821 W. Main; Elmwood, IL
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:00 AM

SHARE YOUR HISTORY: We invite you to bring a photo or memory to share!

ALL ARE WELCOME! JOIN US!
umchurch@elmwoodumc.com • 309-742-7221

Fried chicken and ham will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

Come for the service, stay for the fellowship!