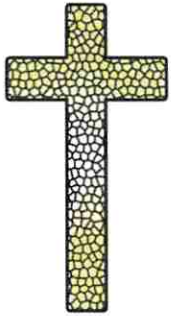
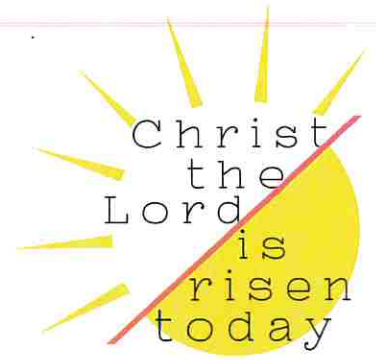


First United Presbyterian Church
201 W. Evergreen St.
PO Box 259
Elmwood, IL 61529

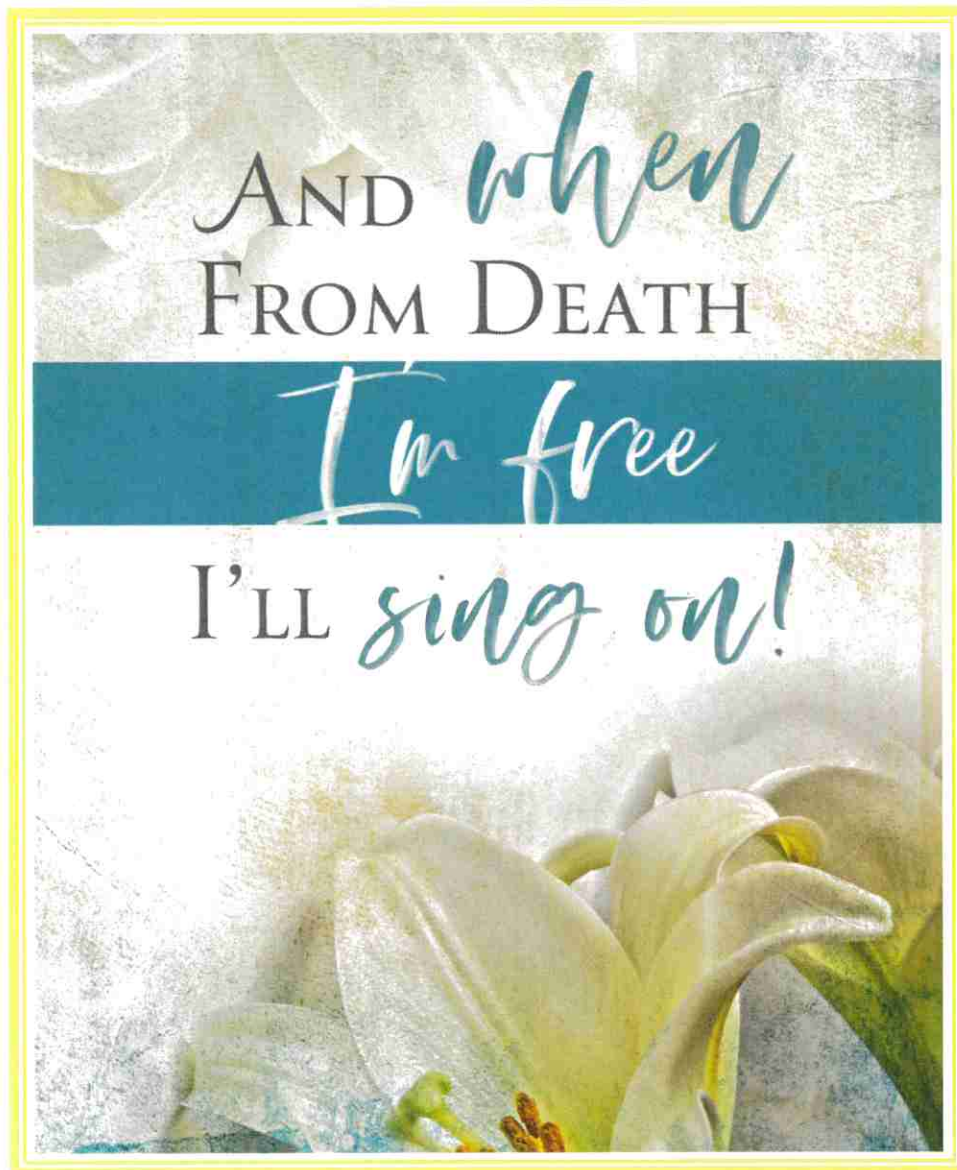
elmwoodpresbyterian@gmail.com
rev.marla.elmwood.pc@gmail.com

Lamplighter

April 2025



HAPPY
EASTER



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CALENDAR



April 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>HAPPY EASTER</p>		<p>1</p> <p>7 Deadly Sins: LUST</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Quilt Club 8AM-4PM</p> <p>Lenten Study #4 @ 7pm at Yates City</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Prayer Group 9:00 AM</p> <p>Pastor's COM @ United PC Peoria</p>		
<p>6</p> <p>Fifth Sunday in <i>Lent</i></p> <p>Communion</p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service</p>		<p>8</p> <p>7 Deadly Sins: GLUTTONY</p> <p>PEO Noon-5pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Lenten Study #5 @ 7pm at Yates City *last one</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Prayer Group 9:00 AM</p> <p>Session Meeting 6:30 PM</p>		
<p>13</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY</p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Kids Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>Deacons Meeting following Worship</p>	<p>14</p> <p>EBW 6:00 PM</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7 Deadly Sins: SLOTH</p>	<p>16</p> <p>New 2 U Board Mtg at St. Pat's 1:00 PM</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Prayer Group 9:00 AM</p> <p>MAUNDY THURSDAY</p> <p>Meal @ 6pm Service @ 6:45pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p>Service @ 7pm at Crossroads Assembly of God</p>	
<p>20</p> <p>EASTER <i>Sunday</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Easter Egg Hunt following worship</p>			<p>23</p> <p>Quilt Club 8AM-4PM</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Quilt Club 8AM-4PM</p> <p>Prayer Group 9:00 AM</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Quilt Club 8AM-4PM</p> <p>Brandi will be out of the office</p>	
<p>27</p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship</p> <p>Worship Cmmitt Mtg. following Worship</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PEO 6:00 PM</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Presbytery Mtg 10am-3pm here</p>	<p>30</p>			

April Elder

Marty Tarter

Elder to be Liturgist & Assist Treasurer

April 6th Anita Asbell
 April 13th Calie Stalter
 April 20th Marty Tarter
 April 27th Brandy Stevens



1st: Zach Carter	10th: Roger Kepple
2nd: Caleb Stevens	18th: Pat Althiser
5th: Elizabeth Shoop	23rd: Kevin Lueschow Richard Schrimp
6th: Steven Cox	25th: Cathy Meyers
9th: Dylan Pash	27th: Cathe Carter



25th: Hap & Nancy Howard
 27th: Wayne & Anita Asbell



Thursday morning Bible Study & Prayer Group
 Thursday's @ 9am in the Fellowship Hall.
 We are just beginning the book of Judges.
 Come join us!



Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School meets
 Sunday Mornings @ 9:00am
 Everyone is Welcome!



Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School
 for ages 5 and up meets on the
 2nd Sunday of each month @ 10:30am

LENTEN STUDY

@ 7pm at the Yates City Church

April 2 - Eyewitnesses to the Resurrection-
 what the eyewitness accounts reveal
 about the accuracy of the biblical narrative
 April 9 - Review, study and discuss the upcoming
 events of Holy Week using the gospel of John



Session Meeting
 April 10th @ 6:30pm



Deacons Meeting
 Sunday, April 13th
 following worship

PRESBYTERY MEETING

We are hosting the Presbytery Meeting
 on April 29th from 10am-3pm.
 Come sit in on the meeting to listen and learn!

out of office

Brandi will be out of the office April 25th



Holy Week

Palm Sunday ~ April 13th
 Worship Service @ 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday ~ April 17th
 Meal around the tables @ 6pm
 Service @ 6:45 pm

Good Friday ~ April 18th
 Community Service
 at Crossroads Assembly of God
 Fellowship @ 6:00pm
 Service @ 7:00pm

Easter ~ April 17th
 Service @ 10:30am
 Easter Egg Hunt following Worship

Hello



This is Judy Groeper. I became a member of this church last year. As a child I came here for Sunday School and was married in the old Presbyterian Church in 1961.

My husband, Bob, and I were married 62 years before he passed in February 2023 of dementia. We had a daughter and a son. I have 4 grandsons and 3 great granddaughters. We hobby farmed 6 acres and I helped by doing everything but planting. Loved combining. Have a love for flowers so spend my summers keeping them weeded.

I was a member at Brimfield United Methodist Church until it closed for over 50 years. Also was an amateur organist for 27 years.

Your members and Pastor Marla have made me feel very welcome here.

FROM ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT,
 JOEL SCHMIEG:

I recently attended a Superintendent Conference in Springfield and student transportation was a major discussion point. The entire state seems to be short on bus drivers for students and Elmwood is no different. I'm reaching out because several other districts suggested that we reach out to the religious leadership in town to ask if any of their members would consider driving a bus (2 hours in the a.m. and 2 hours in the p.m.) for supplemental income. Our starting rate for 2025-26 is \$21.15 / hour and our school will pay for the entire certification process. I also ask that you help spread the message of our school being down 2 bus drivers currently and could need more next fall. If you're interested in exploring this opportunity, please call (309) 742-8464.



Dear Congregation,

Since I had this accident it's given me time to reflect on how caring and supportive this congregation is. Everyone has been so good to me and have kept my spirits up throughout this difficult time. I am blessed to be a part of this special church family!

Thank you,
 Mike Shissler



EST. 1854

ELMWOOD

THE PIONEER CITY

CITIZEN OF THE SEASON

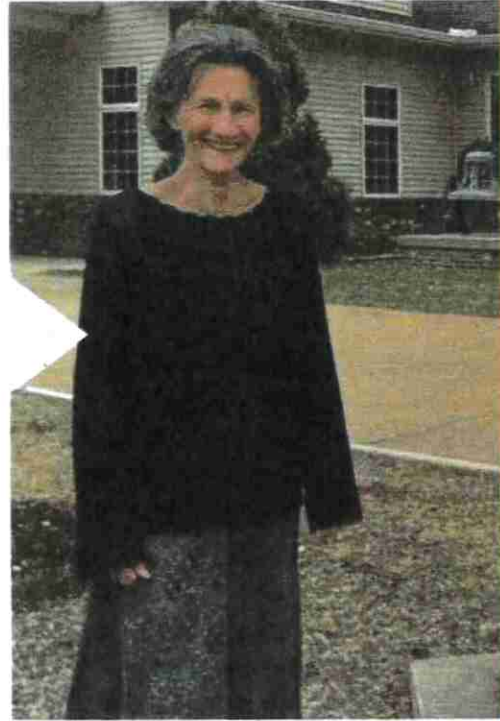
MARY BETH HITCHCOCK

Citizen of the Winter

Many of you may recognize Mary Beth from her welcoming smile at the gym doors or the gate of the football stadium, where she has proudly served as Elmwood's very own ticket master for over 20 years. She continues helping out, after her retirement from the Elmwood School District 12 years ago. Mary Beth began her journey in the Elmwood School three decades ago, swiftly finding her niche in the Jr/Sr High Office, a helpful and knowledgeable presence, she was greatly valued. A woman of many talents, she shows no signs of slowing down.

Mary Beth serves as a deacon at the Presbyterian Church where she and Denise Hotz keep things decorated for every season. Mary Beth is also a helping hand at Kiwanis events, volunteers at the New2U Thrift Store, and she was the president of the Elmwood Women's Club, helping to keep the plantings and our downtown beautiful.

Mary Beth moved to Elmwood in 1968, engaged to Charles Hitchcock, with whom she shared a loving and lifelong journey. His family goes back generations in Elmwood and were the proprietors of Edson Smith & Sons Hardware Store. Mary Beth and Charles raised three daughters in Elmwood and the fun continues with 10 grandchildren who often spur even more volunteer hours for Mary Beth as she loves to help with their activities and organizations.



Thank You Mary Beth!

You will find her at the Elmwood Festival for this very reason or at school blood drive, she is always willing to support her grandchildren and the community. Arriving in Elmwood, Mary Beth was immediately impressed by the town's neatness and cleanliness, describing it as a well-rounded community where "people were friendly from the moment I stepped into Elmwood." You may spot her strolling through town with her dog Buggs, admiring the well-kept homes. The only recommendation she has is that everyone would have house numbers, in case they need to call emergency services. That is the only thing she would add to her community with "A Norman Rockwell Setting".

We are truly fortunate that Mary Beth chose Elmwood in 1968 and has become such an integral part of our community and that she continues to inspire us all with her unwavering spirit and dedication.

Easter

Word Search

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

F M V N O M A L A M B B F A M I I L L Y J S S P
 A D B U T N A O C D D C U C K L I N G S L C
 I B S S C M A T R P D H D P V W T R L G I P
 T L P R I I O R S S E O B I H C G M S D C
 H D R O K T R R B B K H E C L H D D P R D O V
 A I I S S A S R R H C B B M P P O P S E T N F K
 V S N S S E I A Y I O C A N L S R U M F N
 M P P G S S W R C K H U P E L L U A B O L A G
 M A B B N S S H P G C O S S F R L L H T E W D I
 S B P A U C F U S I T R U C C O G E H P E
 T A S H E S A U T R I E O R P S S R A C M P
 A S I B E V L M B L A B T D H A E S V T A A U R
 E K D Y J E A B T D H A E S V T A A U R
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 T T E L O R O N Y E L F A A I N P I E K
 J N N E N N U R R N N D M D C M D V N L Y
 I U E J C U N F L J D N S W A A N T V T
 A P E L B H G H W Y U D B R S O O W E Y
 E T A R B B E L E C S J L C F B B M A O B
 G D Y E G I R G E A S T E R B B D L A B D

WORDS

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| APOSTLES | HIDDEN |
| BASKET | JELLYBEANS |
| BONNET | JESUS |
| BUNNY | LAMB |
| CANDY | LENT |
| CARROT | MARSHMALLOW |
| CELEBRATE | MIRACLE |
| CHICK | PEEP |
| CHOCOLATE | PRAYER |
| CHRISTIAN | RABBIT |
| CHURCH | RESURRECTION |
| CROSS | RISEN |
| DAFFODILS | SAVIOR |
| DUCKLINGS | SPRING |
| EASTER | SUNDAY |
| EGGS | TOMB |
| FAITH | TREATS |
| FAMILY | WORSHIP |



FROM THE PASTOR

April 2025

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb³ and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

Mark 16:1-4

Greetings, my dear friends!

April is drawing near and that means crocuses and daffodils are beginning to push up from the earth, the trees are budding and there is more sunlight! It also means that the Lenten Season is almost complete and we're ready to welcome the Joy of Resurrection Morning!

But don't jump the gun, now! We have two more Sundays in Lent, then Palm Sunday and Holy Week before we celebrate. Although it's tempting to gloss past the weeks of Lent, they are important. They teach us the solemn discipline of thinking deeply about the great sacrifice that our Lord Jesus gave on our behalf. Sometimes it's not easy to think deeply about this because it's a series of awful events that he goes through. People revile him, shout and insult him, the disciples try to understand but they mess it up and then there's the whipping and the crucifixion. (Last week in the Lenten study, Pastor Lee Strobel went in depth on this means of punishment and death.) These are heavy, horrific and sad things to dwell on. But we must. We must be aware of the great love that pours from Jesus' life into ours by taking on these punishments.

This helps us to see our own sinfulness and draws us ever closer to our Lord. For we realize that we are a mere speck in the entire universe that God has created, but has chosen to redeem us through his son, Jesus. So, bear with us as we complete our Lenten study and the Sundays in Lent. Soon, the stone will be rolled away and we will rejoice in the gift of love that has been made ours.

Blessings,

Pastor Marla Bauler