

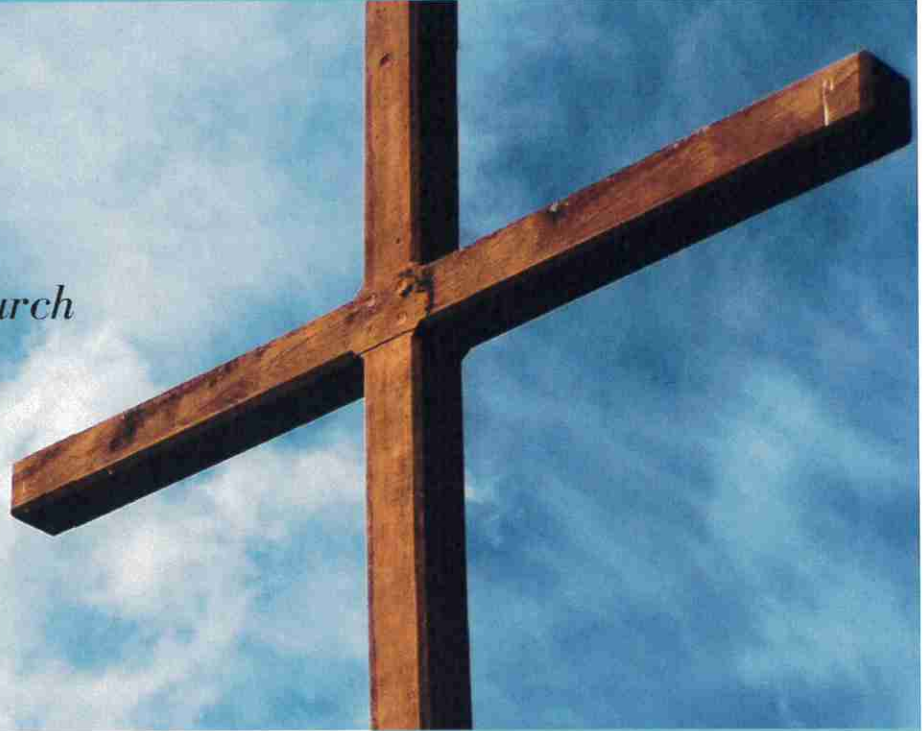
APRIL 2026

# LAMPLIGHTER

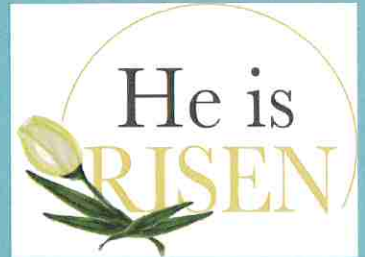
## *First United Presbyterian Church*

201 W. Evergreen St.  
P.O. Box 259  
Elmwood, IL 61529

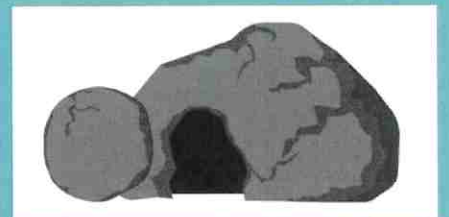
elmwoodpresbyterian@gmail.com  
rev.marla.elmwood.pc@gmail.com  
www.firstpresbyterianofelmwood.org



**HE LIVES!**  
*All glory to his name!*  
**HE LIVES,**  
*my Savior, still the same.*  
**OH, SWEET**  
*the joy this sentence gives:*  
**"I KNOW THAT**  
*my Redeemer lives!"*




the  
tomb  
was  
empty





# APRIL 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Quilt Club 8 AM - 4 PM	2 Bible Study 9:00 AM  Maundy Thursday Meal @ 6 PM Service @ 6:45 PM	3 Community Good Friday Fellowship @ 6:30PM Service @ 7 PM hosted by the Presbyterian Church	4
5 <i>Easter Sunday</i> Community Sunrise Service @ 7AM at Crossroads Assembly Communion <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship   HE IS RISEN	6	7	8	9 Bible Study 9:00 AM  Session Mtg 6:30 PM	10	11
12 <b>9:00 AM</b> Adult S.S. <b>10:30 AM</b> Children's SS <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship  Deacons Mtg	13 EBW 6:00 PM	14 Pastor Marla 12:30 PM Presbytery Mtg	15 Quilt Club 8 AM - 4 PM	16 Bible Study 9:00 AM  Quilt Club 8 AM - 4 PM	17 Quilt Club 8 AM - 4 PM	18
19 <b>9:00 AM</b> Adult S. S. <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship  Recognizing our New 2 U Volunteers Cupcake receptions following worship  Worship Cmmtt Mtg	20	21	22 Pastor Marla 12:00 PM EDA Mtg	23 Bible Study 9:00 AM	24	25 PGR Assembly 10AM - 2PM  Blessing of the Bikes @ 2pm
26 <b>9:00 AM</b> Adult S. S. <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship  Pat Althiser's Retirement Celebration & Luncheon @ 11:30	27 PEO 6:00 PM	28 Pastor Marla out of the office thru the 30th for continuing ED	29	30 Bible Study 9:00 AM  Brandi out of the office thru May 1st		

## Meeting Schedules

### Bible Study.

Thursday Mornings @ 9AM

### Adult Sunday School

Sunday Mornings @ 9AM

\*NOTE – Adult Sunday School will not meet on Easter Sunday

### Children's Sunday School

10:30 AM on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month

### Session Meeting.

April 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30PM

### Deacons Meeting.

April 12<sup>th</sup> following worship

### Worship Committee Mtg.

April 19<sup>th</sup> following worship

### Coffee Hour

on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each  
month following worship

### Quilt Club

April 1<sup>st</sup> 8AM – 4PM  
April 15, 16 & 17<sup>th</sup> 8AM – 4PM

## Happy Birthday.

April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Caleb Stevens

April 10<sup>th</sup>

Roger Kepple

April 18<sup>th</sup>

Pat Althiser

April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Richard Schrimp  
Kevin Lueschow

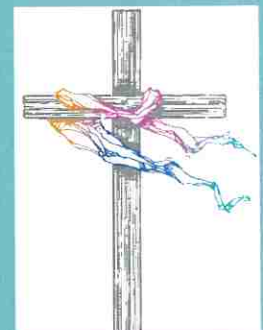
April 25<sup>th</sup>

Cathy Meyers

## Happy Anniversary.

April 27<sup>th</sup>

Wayne & Anita Asbell



## Upcoming Events

### Recognizing our New U Volunteers

on April 19<sup>th</sup> during worship  
Cupcake Reception following worship

### 1st Annual Blessing of the Bikes

April 25<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm in the parking lot  
2 wheels, 3 wheels, training wheels...  
Everyone is welcome! All Ages - All Bikes  
Follow us on facebook for updates...  
First Presbyterian Church of Elmwood

### Pat Althiser's Retirement Celebration & Luncheon

After 67 years of blessing us with her  
music, Pat Althiser has retired. We will  
be celebrating her with a luncheon on  
Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30AM

### Community Prayer Breakfast

We are hosting a Community Prayer  
Breakfast on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30AM

### 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Mark your calendars!  
We will be celebrating the 170<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of the First United  
Presbterian Church with a Luncheon  
on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> following worship.

## Announcements

### Out of the Office

Pastor Marla will be out of town  
April 28<sup>th</sup> thru the 30<sup>th</sup> for continuing Ed

### Out of the Office

Brandi will be out of the office  
on May 1st

*"He is not here, for he has  
risen, as he said. Come, see  
the place where he lay."*

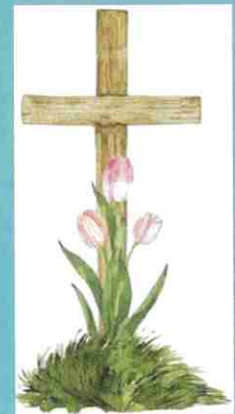
Matthew 28:6

*For this is the will of my  
Father, that everyone who  
looks on the Son and  
believes in him should have  
eternal life, and I will raise  
him up on the last day."*

John 6:40

*Jesus said to her, "I am the  
resurrection and the life.  
Whoever believes in me,  
though he die, yet shall  
he live, and everyone  
who lives and believes  
in me shall never die.  
Do you believe this?"*

John 11:25-26



## **Palm Sunday, Holy Week, & Easter Worship Services**



**Palm Sunday, March 29th 10:30am worship**

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**Maundy Thursday Service, April 2nd**  
6pm light supper, 6:45pm worship around the table

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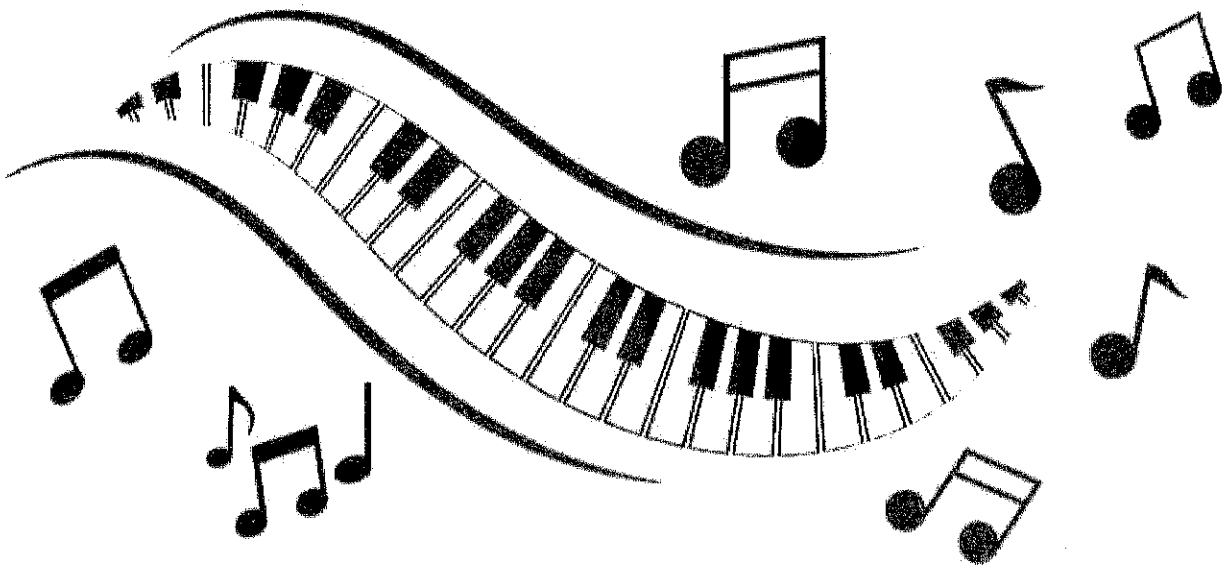
**Community Good Friday Service, April 3rd**  
6:30pm Fellowship time, 7pm Worship  
hosted by First Pres with Fr. Jim Pankiewicz preaching

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**Community Easter Sunrise Service, April 5th @ 7am**  
hosted by Crossroads Assembly of God Church  
with Rev. Austin Miller preaching.

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**Easter Service, April 5th 10:30am worship,**  
Easter Egg Hunt @ 11:30am



FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF YATES CITY AND FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN OF ELMWOOD INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE THE

*Retirement of  
Pat Althiser*

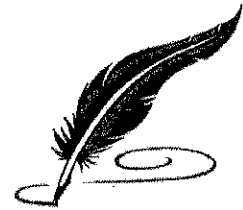
LUNCH SERVED SUNDAY  
APRIL 26TH AT 11:30

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
201 W. EVERGREEN  
ELMWOOD, IL 61529

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE  
AT 309-742-2631.

*we hope to see you there!*

# *A Letter From The Pastor*



*April 2026*

*28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. <sup>2</sup> There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."<sup>8</sup> So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."*

Matthew 28:1-10

My dear friends,

In one week we will celebrate Resurrection Day-- Easter Sunday on April 5<sup>th</sup>. It seems that Christmas-tide has flown by, and now the Lenten season has also. As we prepare for Holy Week and the busy-ness that we have in it, let's not forget that this is a solemn time of the year. In the next week, let's focus our thoughts on the greatest show of love that anyone in the world could have given to us – God's son, Christ Jesus our Lord—and how much he sacrificed and suffered on our behalf.

We were lowly, sinful creatures who lived for our own desires and selfish motives, with no thoughts for the love of our God. But in our tainted lives, Christ Jesus came and said, I will make the ultimate sacrifice so that they may live, believe and have eternal life. And then he offered us forgiveness, redemption and salvation. To God be the Glory!

And after we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, let us live as people who truly believe that Christ is our Savior, that he loves us more than we can know, and desires the best life possible for us. Let us take these things and pass them forward –share them verbally, financially and in our actions—so that others may know the joy and peace that we have.

Blessings,

Rev. Marla Bauler

First United Presbyterian Church, Elmwood, IL  
Session Meeting Minutes                      February 12, 2026

A regular meeting of the Session of First United Presbyterian Church of Elmwood was held in the Fellowship Hall on February 12, 2026. The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Pastor Marla at 6:35 p.m.

Elders present: 2026 - Ron Cox and Marty Tarter  
                    2027 - Larry Criswell and Calie Stalter  
                    2028 - Gene Gibson

constituting a quorum. Absent was Emily Roberts and Brandy Stevens. Rev. Marla Bauler moderated the meeting. The guidelines for a quorum were established at the January 8, 2026 Session Meeting as the presence of 50% of currently serving Elders.

Elder Training: Ron Cox - From Sailboat Church: Created to sail.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

Annual Statistical Report for Presbytery was reviewed. A motion was made to approve this report. Seconded. Approved

No Deacons Report.

**Clerk's Report**

The minutes from the January 8, 2026 Session Meeting as well as the February 8, 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting were reviewed. Approved.

With saddened hearts, a motion was made to remove Nancy Howard from the Church Rolls due to her passing on October 7, 2025. Seconded. Approved.

No correspondence to review.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for January 2026 was reviewed. Approved.

**Pastor's Report**

Pastor Marla shared a printed report which listed her monthly ministry activities.

Communion was served to 33 members of the congregation February 8, 2026.

Pastor Marla requested time off June 28, 2026 through July 5, 2026. A Motion was made to approve this request. Seconded. Approved.

**Report from Presbytery Commissioner**

Marty Tarter reviewed the Presbytery meeting she and Pastor Marla attended on February 10, 2026 via Zoom. Lead Presbyter, Rev. Ann Schwartz is retiring as of June 1, 2026.

## Committee Reports

### Personnel: Chair – Ron Cox

We agreed to pay Brandi Teel 56 hours of Family Leave time due to her husband's heart attack on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Brandi will be using two weeks of already scheduled vacation time beginning February 16, 2026.

Emily Himegarner has given her notice and will no longer be working here. A motion was made to give her a parting gift in appreciation of her service. Seconded. Approved. Her mother, Carol Schauble has offered to take over Emily's duties as our cleaning person working 4 hours a week at \$100 per week. A motion was made to approve Carol taking over as our cleaning lady. Seconded. Approved.

Discussed organizing a reception to celebrate Pat Althiser's retirement.

### Finance: Chair – Marty Tarter

No report other than what was reported under Treasurer's Report.

### Worship: Chair: Calie Stalter

Set up treats and treat bags for Boy Scout Sunday.

### Church Life: (Christian ED/Membership) Co-Chairs – Marty Tarter & Calie Stalter

Christian Ed: The Adult Sunday School continues their study of John.

Adult Sunday School reports the following financial accounting:

\*Beginning Balance as of 1/01/2026 = \$3,318.07.

Deposits: \$130; \$145; \$137

Spent: \$500 (Jessica Buescher for the benefit of Aylah Buescher)

Ending Balance as of 1/31/26 = \$3,230.07.

Membership: Nothing to report.

### Christian Outreach: (Missions/Marketing/Evangelism) Co-Chairs – Marty Tarter & Brandy Stevens

Marty and Brandy talked about community wide out-reach. Our church could host a Prayer Breakfast on May 7<sup>th</sup> to coincide with National Day of Prayer.

### Building and Grounds: Co-Chairs – Larry Criswell & Gene Gibson

The garbage bins are in need of new doors. A motion was made for Gene Gibson to purchase these doors with a budget of \$500 for all supplies needed. Seconded. Approved.

A request has been made to remove the broken soap dispensers from the women's restroom.

Bob Shoop mentioned that Matt Glen has been doing a fantastic job with the snow removal from our sidewalks and we agree. We will be sending him a thank you card

## Ratify Electronic Votes

E-voted taken on January 14, 2026 to approve emergency medical leave for our Administrative Assistant Brandi Teel. A motion was made to approve this. Seconded. Approved.

**New Business**

A motion was made to approve paying the Per Capita for 2026. Seconded. Approved.  
More discussion was made regarding ways to reach out into the community to try and increase our numbers here in our church.

Discussion about hosting a "Blessing of the Bikes" time in our parking lot maybe on a Saturday in April. Will include motorcycles, scooters, skates, anything with wheels! Pastor Marla looks forward to doing this.

There being no further business to come before the session, the meeting adjourned with a short prayer offered by Pastor Marla at 8:23 p.m.

The next session meeting is March 12, 2026 with Devotions & Prayer by Calie Stalter.

Prayerfully Submitted,

Moderator,

Anita W. Asbell,  
Clerk of Session  
(bdt)

Rev. Marla Bauler