

MAY 2026

# LAMPLIGHTER

## *First United Presbyterian Church*

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

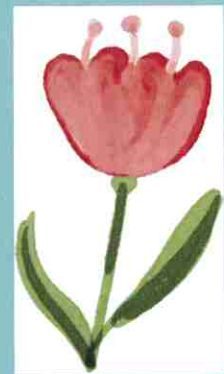
elmwoodpresbyterian@gmail.com  
rev.marla.elmwood.pc@gmail.com  
www.firstpresbyterianofelmwood.org



*Memorial day*  
Remember and honor  
🇺🇸 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 🇺🇸



HAPPY  
*Mother's Day*



Thank  
*you,*  
moms



# May 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1  Brandi out of office	2
3  Communion  9:00 AM Adult S.S. 10:30 AM Worship	4	5  Pastor COT 10:30 AM	6  Quilt Club 8 AM - 4 PM	7    Community Prayer Breakfast 7:30 AM here  Session Mtg 6:30 PM	8	9
10    9:00 AM Adult S.S. 10:30 AM Children's SS 10:30 AM Worship  Deacons Mtg	11  EBW 6:00 PM	12	13	14  Bible Study 9:00 AM  Baccalaureate Service at EHS 6:00 PM	15	16
17  9:00 AM Adult S. S. 10:30 AM Worship  Worship Cmmtt Mtg  Church reserved for Graduation Party 2-7pm	18	19	20	21  Bible Study 9:00 AM	22	23
24  <b>Pentecost</b> anointing with oil  9:00 AM Adult S. S. 10:30 AM Worship  Coffee Hour	25    office closed	26	27  Pastor EDA Mtg 12 Noon	28  Bible Study 9:00 AM	29	30
31  5th Sunday Fellowship	PEO 6:00 PM					

## Upcoming Events

### Bible Study

Thursday Mornings @ 9AM  
\*No Bible Study on May 7<sup>th</sup>

### Adult Sunday School

Sunday Mornings @ 9AM

### Children's Sunday School

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

### Out of the Office

Brandi will be out of the office on May 1st

### Quilt Club

May 6<sup>th</sup> 8AM - 4PM

### National Day of Prayer

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

### Session Meeting

May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm

### Deacons Meeting

May 10<sup>th</sup> following worship

### Baccalaureate Service

May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm at Elmwood H.S.

### Worship Committee Mtg.

May 17<sup>th</sup> following worship

### Coffee Hour

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

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

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

## Happy Birthday

May 1<sup>st</sup>

Brooklyn Beckstrom

May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Kyle Alcaraz  
Denise Hotz

May 21<sup>st</sup>

Alfred Welker

May 27<sup>th</sup>

Julie Barrett

May 28<sup>th</sup>

Steve Winslow

## Happy Anniversary

May 29<sup>th</sup>

Troy & Emily Roberts



The Church Office will be  
**CLOSED FOR**  
**MEMORIAL DAY**



Congratulations to  
Caleb Stevens on his  
High School Graduation!

Can't wait to see what the  
future has in store for you!

*"The Anointing"*



**ANOINTING WITH OIL...WHAT IS THIS?**  
It's an outward sign of an inward grace.

In the Old Testament anointing was used for designating/ consecrating a new king (King David) or prophet, or for a priest (Aaron and his sons).

In the New Testament anointing is used:

1. To set a person aside/ consecrating (such as a missionary) for lifetime or for a specified period of time,
2. for the healing (physical, emotional and spiritual sickness) of a person,
3. as a request/desire for God's protection,
4. as a request for spiritual cleansing,
5. to experience a closer relationship with the Lord.

Last year we first were introduced to Anointing with Oil on Pentecost Sunday and World Communion Sunday. I'd like to continue this tradition and offer anointing twice a year for the spiritual benefit of our congregation. People may choose to participate or not—no judgement.

## Veterans Day

Celebrated November 11th; honors anyone who has served or is currently serving in any branch of the U.S. military



VS

## Memorial Day

Celebrated last Monday in May; honors all veterans who have died in service to the U.S.





Thank you to our New 2 U Volunteers!

### YMCA Donation

*The Session invites you-- individuals and groups within the congregation-- to join them in raising \$5000 to demonstrate to our community that we, First Presbyterian of Elmwood, are interested and invested in the health and welfare of our citizens.*

*The Session has approved a donation of \$2500 and asks our members to make individual donations to the church earmarked YMCA donation. Together we can achieve this goal!*



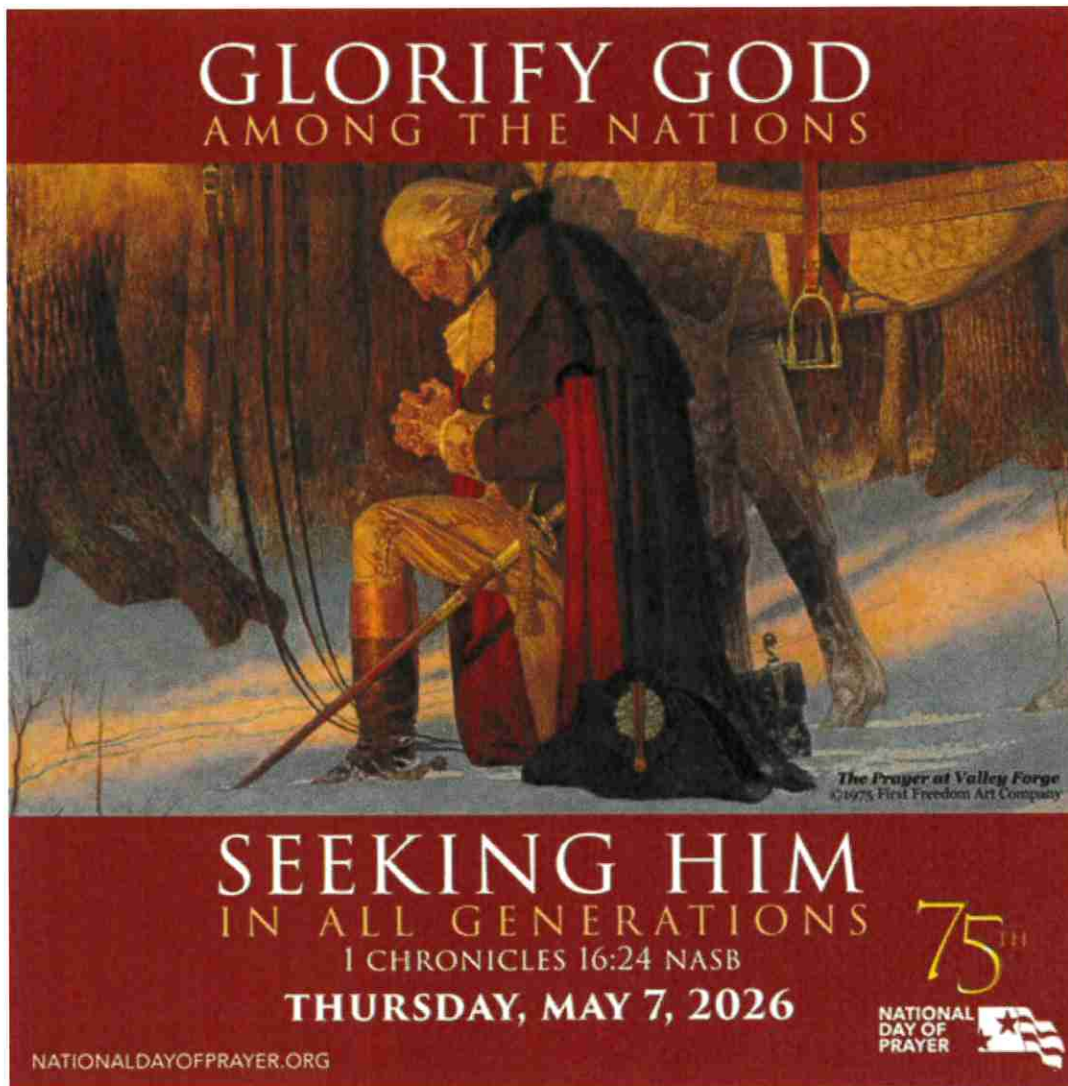
IT'S A  
girl



Congratualtions to  
Allie (Meyers) Bersell  
on the birth of her baby girl Lila.

Congratulations also goes out  
to the new grandparents  
Gregg & Janelle Meyers  
and Great-Grandparents  
Tom & Cathy Meyers!





ELMWOOD MINISTERIUM INVITES THE COMMUNITY TO

## **The First Annual Community Prayer Breakfast**

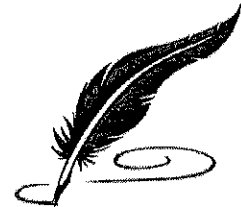
May 7<sup>th</sup> 7:30-8:30am

Featured speaker: Trent Parrish, Chaplain at Carle Health

Hosted this year by First Presbyterian Church of Elmwood (no charge)

Prayers to be led by Pastor Don Nuttall (Crossroads Assembly), Fr. Jim Panciewicz (St. Patrick Catholic), Rev. Austin Miller (United Methodist), and Rev. Marla Bauler (1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian); Music provided by Pat Vaughan

# *A Letter From The Pastor*



*May 2026*

*<sup>12</sup> For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.      I Corinthians 13:12*

Hello Dear Friends,

We welcome May into our lives with the hopes of diminished winds, less volatile storms and more sunshine and flowers! This month can also mean a time for celebrating graduates and mothers and the end of the school year. In the church world we also include the observance of Pentecost (the giving of the Holy Spirit—Acts 2). We rejoice that we have these events to commemorate.

But let me ask you this question: have you ever looked at your life (past and future) and asked O God, what on earth are you doing? Why is this happening to me/us? Why don't I know your will?

If you have, then you're perfectly normal! We know that God has promised us his presence and that he will always be with us in our journey in life-- but at times when we're in the middle of a turbulent time we question, even doubt.

The scripture above reminds us that we don't see the WHOLE PICTURE. When things are happening (or not happening) in our life, we are to remember GHAP – God Has A Plan (I borrowed this from a family in church). We don't have the privilege of seeing our lives mapped out, step by step, year by year, in a neat plan that we can “get onboard” with. We must trust him and be aware of his presence with us.

Paul describes this as the difference between looking in a mirror vs. being face to face; the difference between having partial knowledge and fully knowing the truth.

If this article touches a sensitive place with you, rest assured beloved, Jesus is with you and will never leave you. Keep your faith strong by reading your Bible & praying, attending worship and Bible Studies, and being in fellowship with other Christians.

Blessings,

Rev. Marla Bauler

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

A regular meeting of the Session of First United Presbyterian Church of Elmwood was held in the Fellowship Hall on March 12, 2026. The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Calie Stalter at 6:29 p.m.

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

constituting a quorum. Absent was Brandy Stevens and Clerk of Session, Anita Asbell. 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.

Calie Stalter was approved as Clerk of Session, pro-tem, due to the absence of Anita Asbell

Elder Training: Calie Stalter - From Sailboat Church: The Sailing Life.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

The Deacons Reports dated February 12, 2026 and March 8, 2026 were reviewed.

#### Clerk's Report

The minutes from the February 12, 2026 Session Meeting were reviewed. Approved. Motion to remove Kenneth "Hap" Howard from the Membership List due to his passing on March 6, 2026. Seconded. Approved. No correspondence to review.

#### Treasurer's Report

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

#### Pastor's Report

Pastor Marla shared a printed report which listed her monthly ministry activities. Communion was served to 27 members of the congregation March 1, 2026. In person Lenten study met for 5 weeks as we studied the book Meeting Jesus in the Psalm. A Community Prayer Breakfast (on National Day of Prayer) on May 7, 2026 is being organized by the Elmwood Ministerium, Pastor Marla and the Adult Sunday School. More details to follow.

#### Committee Reports

Personnel: Chair - Ron Cox

Our current custodian, Emily Himegarner's last day was February 28, 2026. Carol Schauble has taken over custodial duties as of March 1, 2026. Carol has been advised to contact Bonnie Beal for paychecks.

**Finance:** Chair – Emily Roberts

Ongoing financial shortfalls were discussed.

**Worship:** Chair: Calie Stalter

With nothing really coming up the committee didn't meet in February. They will be meeting this Sunday, March 15, 2026 to discuss all the upcoming services and events connected to the Easter season.

Donation and preparation of ham for Maudy Thursday dinner by Gene & Peggy Gibson. Thank you!

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

Membership: Recognition of New 2 U volunteers from our church on April 19<sup>th</sup> is planned. Pastor Marla and Peggy Gibson are compiling a list and organizing the event. The Deacons will provide refreshments.

Thank you to Diane Winslow for purchasing candy, stuffing eggs and organizing the Easter Egg Hunt for the kids

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

The Adult Sunday School class has requested that they write their own checks, however this was reviewed two months ago and no changes are to be made.

Adult Sunday School reports the following financial accounting:

\*Beginning Balance as of 2/01/2026 = \$3,230.07.

Deposits: \$250; \$144; \$48; \$220

Ending Balance as of 2/28/26 = \$3,892.07.

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

Marty is reviewing information on the upcoming 170th anniversary of our church. The committee is planning the celebration for June 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Blessing of the Bikes (motorcycles) is being planned with the help of Gene Gibson and his Christian Biker contacts for the third or fourth Saturday in April. The community will be invited to bring their bicycles as well.

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

Larry reported that the Paige's has offered to provide flowers around our church sign on the corner. Discussion followed. Motion made, seconded and approved to accept their generous offer to provide and maintain flowers around the sign once the new border is installed.

Marty passed out a comprehensive bid from Hoerr Nursery regarding upgrading landscaping, removing and replacing shrubs and trees, and adding a brick border around the church. This will be a low-maintenance plan. Session discussed three possibilities: 1) we do it all at once; 2) spread out the project over a two-year split; 3) a three-year time frame. The full bid is \$21,480. Motion made to accept the bid to do it all at once with the following exception; the flowers and mulching around the front sign not to be included. Funds will be used from our investment account(s) to complete this. Motion seconded. Approved.

**New Business**

YMCA New Facility Fundraiser - Session revisited the discussion of donating to this. [There is a minimum of \$5,000 to have our name on a donors' plaque] We like the idea of helping the community, but not by taking the \$5,000 from the Mission budget. Motion made that our church will pledge \$2,500 with a match from congregation members to reach a \$5,000 goal. Motion seconded. Approved.

There being no further business to come before the session, the meeting adjourned with a short prayer offered by Pastor Marla at 7:55 p.m.

The next session meeting is April 9, 2026 with Devotions & Prayer by Marty Tarter.

Prayerfully Submitted,

Moderator,

Calie Stalter,  
Clerk of Session pro-tem  
(bdt)

Rev. Marla Bauler