NOVEMBER 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







ADVENT
Hope. Love. Joy. Peace.

November 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Communion **9:00 AM** Adult S.S. **10:30 AM** Worship	2	3	4 Quilt Club 8 AM - 4 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM	5 Bible Study 9:00 AM	6 Brandi will be out of office	7
8 **9:00 AM** Adult S.S. **10:30 AM** Children's SS **10:30 AM** Worship Deacons Mtg	9 EBW 6:00 PM	10 Pastor PGR Assembly 10-2 (Hybrid)	11	12 Bible Study 9:00 AM Session Mtg 6:30 PM	13	14
15 **9:00 AM** Adult S.S. **10:30 AM** Worship Worship Cmmtt Mtg	16	17	18	19 Bible Study 9:00 AM EBW set up for Purse Auction	20 EBW set up for Purse Auction	21 EBW Purse Auction
22 **9:00 AM** Adult S.S. **10:30 AM** Worship Coffee Hour	23 PEO 6:00 PM	24	25	26  office closed	27 office closed	28
29  **9:00 AM** Adult S. S. **10:30 AM** Worship	30					

Upcoming Events

Bible Study
Thursday Mornings @ 9AM

Adult Sunday School
Sunday Mornings @ 9AM

Children's Sunday School
10:30 AM on the 2nd Sunday of each month

Quilt Club
November 4th 8AM - 4PM

Out of the Office
Brandi will be out of the office
November 6th

Deacons Meeting
November 8th

Session Meeting
November 12th @ 6:30PM

Coffee Hour
on the 4th Sunday of each month
following worship

TEXT PRAYER CHAIN
The church's text prayer chain is a great way to communicate prayer needs outside of our usual Sunday prayer request times. Keep in mind that prayer texts need to be brief. Please have the person's permission to share their request (after the text goes out it is PUBLIC) so be careful what details are shared. Also, do NOT reply to the texts with questions or comments--replies are not monitored. You may contact either Pastor Marla (217-828-1866) or Anita (309-251-9537). We will do our best to get the prayer request out in a timely manner.

Happy Birthday

November 4th
Jim McGuire

November 12th
Mary Shoop

November 18th
Olivia Meyers

November 19th
Allie (Meyers) Bersell

November 27th
John Alcaraz

Happy Anniversary

November 15th
Jim & Pat McGuire

November 26th
Rev. Tim & Rev. Marla Bauler





Our office will be
Closed Thursday & Friday
for Thanksgiving Holiday.

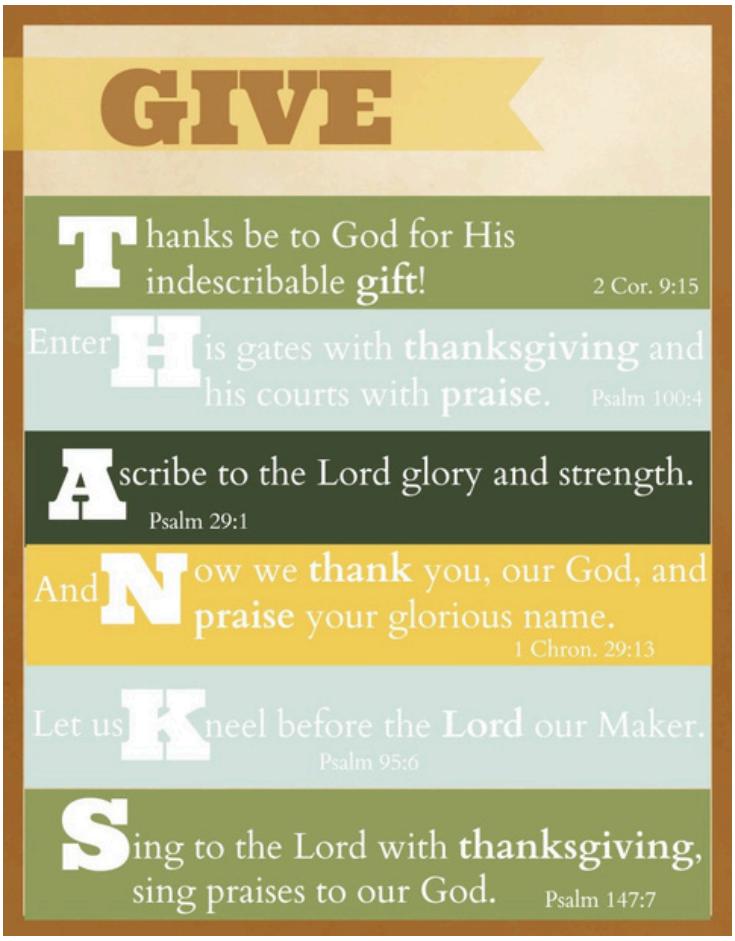
November 26th & 27th



Sunday, November 29th

The First Sunday of Advent
is November 29th.

Check your Bulletins
for information on the
upcoming Advent Study!





Thank you to everyone
who donated candy and/or
voluntered at Trunk-or-Treat

Congratulations

Cory Alcaraz and Allison Balliet were married on Saturday, October 3rd in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The weather was beautiful for an outdoor wedding overlooking Lake Michigan. The Alcaraz family has been blessed with 3 weddings in 13 months! It has been a wonderful year of celebration for all of us!





Address for Cory and Allison:
2221 N. Booth Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212

A Letter From The Pastor



[15] And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. [16] Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. [17] And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Col 3:15-17

Dear Friends,

November is the month in which we all become thankful people! We are reminded over and again that there is much to be grateful for. But let me ask you—to whom are we grateful? Are we grateful to our parents and forebearers for what we have? Are we grateful to our bosses for giving us a chance? Are we grateful to "the universe" because we "attracted" good things? Now, let's think about this because this observance is becoming less a time of thankfulness to our God and more toward human-oriented results.

Scripture is full of psalms, gospels, epistles and songs that praise the name of the Lord God. The passage from Colossians above reminds us three times to be thankful, to have thankfulness in our hearts to God, and to give thanks to God the Father through the name of the Lord Jesus. And we are called to do this on a daily basis! How are we doing with this?

Perhaps if we pause once a day—maybe it's when you drink coffee while the house is quiet and your schedule is clear, maybe when you eat a meal or when you're ready to retire for the night—and review all that has happened during the past 24 hours. I'll bet that many blessings … both great and small… will come to your mind. Some people like to keep Blessing Journals or Thank You Lists so that they can review from week to week and month to month the involvement of our Lord Jesus in their life.

Would you be able to do this for a month? Attempting to think of or write your gratitude on a daily basis? You would probably begin with the big things: salvation, freedom, family, health but as time goes by you would begin to notice the small things that are really big things.

So I challenge you to do just this for the month of November. Let's truly be grateful to the Lord Jesus and God our heavenly Father for all the blessings bestowed upon us!

Blessings,

Rev. Marla Bauler

First United Presbyterian Church, Elmwood, IL
Session Meeting Minutes September 10, 2026

A regular meeting of the Session of First United Presbyterian Church of Elmwood was held in the Fellowship Hall on September 10, 2026. The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Calie Stalter at 6:31 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. 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: Marty Tarter - From Sailboat Church: Ch 6: Is the Spirit part of our church?

The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

No Deacons Report.

Clerk's Report

The minutes from the August 13, 2026 Session Meeting were reviewed. Approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for May, June & July 2026 was reviewed. Approved.
From the investments, $10,000 was pulled and placed into the Operations account and $5,000 was pulled to pay for the new sprinklers.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Marla shared a printed report which listed her monthly ministry activities.
Communion was served to 17 members of the congregation on September 6, 2026.

Committee Reports

Personnel: Chair – Ron Cox

Have changed pay for the pianist to weekly.

Finance: Chair – Emily Roberts

Troy Roberts and Brian Card met to review all investment accounts. All accounts are continuing to grow.

Worship: Chair: Calie Stalter

The committee met on August 15, 2026 to discuss the joint worship service to be held on September 20, 2026 with Yates City.

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

Christian Ed: The Adult Sunday School continues their study of Acts.
Adult Sunday School reports the following financial accounting:
*Beginning Balance $3,189.90 as of August 1, 2026
Deposits: $129; $144; $140; $135; $134
Spent: $1,000 (Molly & Shane Copher)
Ending Balance $2,871.90 as of August 31, 2026

Membership: No report.

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

Still discussing a community outreach program to help with food insecurities within our community.

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

Tuesdays and Fridays will be watering days for the new landscaping.
Kelly Glass has been called regarding the doors where the keys are hard to use. They should be able to come out the end of September or early October.
Thompson Electric, who set up our security system, will be coming to fix the door camera/monitoring System.

New Business

Pastor's laptop has broken. After discussing whether or not to fix it or purchase a new one, a motion was made to purchase a new laptop. Seconded. Approved.

There being no further business to come before the session, the meeting adjourned with a short prayer offered by Pastor Marla at 7:17 p.m.

The next session meeting is October 8, 2026 with Devotions & Prayer by Brandy Stevens.

Prayerfully Submitted,

Anita Asbell,
Clerk of Session
(bdt)

Moderator,

Rev. Marla Bauler