

Elmwood West Methodist Church



Elmwood West News December 2023

Christmas

'Tis the season. The time for Black Fridays, Cyber Mondays, shopping lists, cards, crowded stores, decorated trees and lighted houses. A season of celebration. A season of enjoying the ones we love and blessing them with a new pair of socks or maybe a tie.

It's the time of "advent". A time of expectancy as we count the days until December 25th. But the scriptures do not mention that being the day of Jesus' birth. So why do we celebrate in December?

Pope Julius set aside the 25th of December as the day to celebrate Christs' birth in 350 AD. Neither the Apostles nor the early Christians celebrated that day since the date was unknown to them.

The scripture does not require or advocate us celebrating the birth of Christ. But it doesn't prohibit it either.

I believe it is both proper, and important, that we celebrate the Birth of our Savior. To recount the method, the timing and the events surrounding this birth reinforces our faith and shows the validation of the prophecies of old. In my estimation, the celebration of the event is more important than the actual date itself.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

Good news of great joy that will be for all people! Christ the Lord is born! The Savior of the world came into the world to save mankind!

The heavenly hosts appeared with the angel, praising God in celebration of the birth. For the Messiah, the anointed one, had come bringing peace.

This one event has inspired countless artist renderings. It has inspired music composers for over two thousand years. For if our Savior had never been born, he couldn't have died a horrible death for our atonement.

Was Jesus born on December 25th? Probably not. But was Jesus born on this earth? Absolutely, without a doubt.

So I encourage you to join me along with the “heavenly hosts”, along with countless artists and composers, and with all the saints who have gone before us in celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior this December.

Let us celebrate this event of “good news and great joy” regardless of whether it actually happened on December 25th or perhaps on March 12th. Remember this event is much more important than the date when it happened.

I’ll see you in Church!

- Pastor Chris



Circle of Faith Update

Circle of Faith will meet Thursday, December 14 at noon.

We will have a quick pot luck luncheon. LeNell will do a program reviewing the projects we have completed in 2023 and looking ahead to 2024.

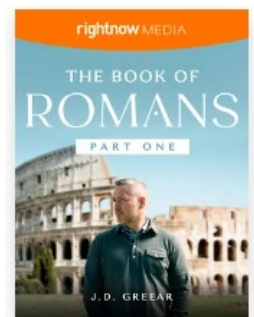
There is always room for anyone who wants to join us. The more the merrier.

Wednesday Bible Study

In January new will start a study of the Book of Romans from Rightnow Media. If you would like to preview it you can go to Rightnow Media (direction on page 3 of this newsletter).

Description

The book of Romans is considered by many to be one of the most important



books ever written on the Christian faith.

Writing to Christians, the apostle Paul defines the gospel, explores its depths, and discusses its significance and implications for the Christian life. books ever written on the Christian faith. Writing to Christians, the apostle Paul defines the gospel, explores its depths, and discusses its significance and implications for the Christian life.



The advertisement features a green border and festive Christmas ornaments at the top. The text reads: "rightnow MEDIA MERRY AND BRIGHT We've purchased unlimited access to thousands of Christian videos and are giving free access to everyone in our church." Below this is a screenshot of the Rightnow Media website interface, showing a grid of video thumbnails. At the bottom, it says "GET FREE ACCESS" and includes a QR code with the instruction: "Scan the QR code to create your free account and start browsing."

Wednesday Night Meals

We will not be having meals in December.

We will resume January 6th. We will be moving the serving time to 5:00 to 5:45.

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

You can access Rightnow Media on your computer at the web address below.

Browse their collection or click at the Elmwood West Methodist Church at the top to see our collection.

[https://
app.rightnowmedia.org/en/
library/default](https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/library/default)

You can share this link with friends and family.

Psalm 25:5 NIV

"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."

It's Christmas at Elmwood West



Thanks to some devoted elves the church is looking very festive.

This year we will only be doing snacks on Dec 17. Bring your favorite snacks to share and socialize.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Sunday, December 24 at 5 PM. Invite your friends and family to join us for the very moving service.



Methodist Food Pantry

The Month of November we were able to serve 736 families which represent a total of 1889 individuals.

We made it through another Thanksgiving. We gave out a total of 307 turkey dinners.

We can't thank every person or organization that help or donated, so we send out big thanks to all who assisted in this endeavor.

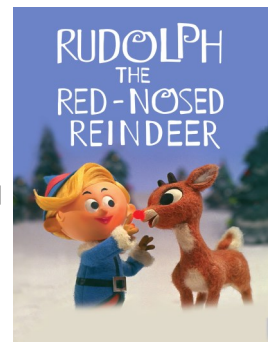
Parent Night Out Parent Night Out

Dec 9 5:30—8:00

Dinner - Crafts - Movie

Free for children age 3 thru 5th grade

Call 325-692-1173 for more information



Roof Replacement Fund Update

We have gotten \$16,029.98 in donations and memorials toward the roof replacement debt, or as Roger says we have gotten the first 15 payment.

This not a budget item and must be paid for by donation, memorial and fundraisers.

Prayer Request

Continued prayer for:

Shirley Davila	Lena Moore
Mary Steed	Martha Davis
Carol Myers	Ava Howard
Bill Temple	Doris Harp
David Jackson	Chyrsti Martin
Marge Vargas	Randle Rodgers
Reva Turner	Peggy Jackson
Jose Garcia	Wanda Nichols

Our prayer group meet on Tuesdays at 1:00.

All are invited to join.

*You can call 692-1173 with prayer concerns or
email
ewmc@elmwoodwest.com*

**Memorials and
Honorariums**

In Memory of Beverly Ridgway
By Ricky Carroll, Louise Hatcher,
Peggy Kirkpatrick, Friend
ship Class, Joe and Jen
Stephenson, Vicki Graham



Attendance and Giving

November 5

Sunday School	24	Worship	In Person 30 Online 3
Tithe and Offering	\$6,341	Memorials	

November 12

Sunday School	26	Worship	In Person 35 Online 1
Tithe and Offering	\$2,111	Memorials	

November 19

Sunday School	24	Worship	In Person 47 Online 3
Tithe and Offering	\$870	Memorials	\$315

November 26

Sunday School	16	Worship	In Person 28 Online 1
Tithe and Offering	\$1,223	Memorials	\$150

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Chuck Barker

12-12

James Potter

12-13

Mary Lockhart

12-26

Elmwood West Methodist Church

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	4	5 1:00 Prayer Group	6 6:30 Bible Study	7	8	9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	11	12 1:00 Prayer Group	13	14 Noon - Circle of Faith	15	16
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	18	19 1:00 Prayer Group 4-6 Food Pantry	20	21	22	23
24 4th Sunday Of Advent 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	25	26 1:00 Prayer Group	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship				Sunday, December 24 at 5 PM		

Worship Service
 Sunday 10:00am



In Person and
 Facebook Live