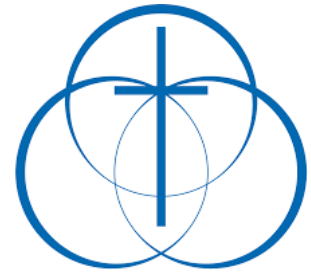


# Elmwood West Methodist Church



## Elmwood West News February 2024

### THE END OF THE LINE

*"Mama always said, dying was a part of life. I sure wish it wasn't.*

- Tom Hanks as Forrest Gump

Death. Most people ignore it. "I'll always have tomorrow", they think. Until they don't.

Death can come suddenly, or it can linger. Regardless, the result is always the same: an empty space at the table, a silent house, a void in your heart for those who are left behind.

Seems our congregation at Elmwood West Methodist Church has become reacquainted with death recently. Faces who used to be seen commonly in the pews of our church are now missing.

Death brings grief. The pain of the loss. The "what if" questions in your mind. The regret that you won't share one more day, one more hug, one more smile with the one you miss so desperately.

Jesus walked this path too. Four full days after his friend Lazarus dies, Jesus finally arrives at Bethany. He finds the sisters of Lazarus consumed with grief.

Martha lashes out at Jesus. She knows Jesus is Lord, so she approaches Him with her blame. "If you had been here, my brother would not have died".

It is a statement rooted a question:

Lord, why didn't you use your power to heal him?

Lord, you know I love you. Why are you putting me through such grief and pain?

Lord, how could you let this happen to a good man like him?

Jesus answers the unspoken question in John 11:25-26:

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Therein lies the hope that Christians have as believers. We can take comfort knowing that Jesus died but was resurrected from the dead and is seated eternally with God the Father. And if we believe in Him, we will do the same.

Lazarus' other sister, Mary, reacts differently. She is consumed with grief.

When Jesus saw her weeping, he was deeply moved in the spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?", he asked. "Come and see, Lord", they replied. Jesus wept.

Don't miss the shortest scripture in the Bible: "Jesus wept". Jesus was moved in the spirit by the pain of loss that Mary and the others were experiencing. He was stirred to the point where He wept with them.

Brothers and Sisters, this scripture provides two key concepts to comfort us when we experience the death of a loved one. First, if the loved one believed in Jesus, they live with him in eternity. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.

Second, Jesus walks with us through our grief. He has experienced the pain of losing a loved one to death. He is "moved in the spirit" by your loss as well. You are not alone in your grief.

And friends, that is good news worth sharing!

-Pastor Chris

### Circle of Faith Update

Circle of Faith will meet Thursday, February 8 at noon. We will have a quick pot luck luncheon. Program for this meeting is ideas for our mission in 2024. Some topics that have been discussed are to do a fundraiser for the roof replacement, do a sanctuary cleaning, organize church decoration, and make hygiene and shower bags for homeless.

### Outreach Projects for 2024

**In 2024 our focus will be on outreach.**

The date for our Revival will be set soon, Chris, Ricky and James are leading that project. If you would like to be a part of planning that, you can talk to one of them.

We are also working on door hangers to distribute in the neighborhood. James and I are leading that project. We are aware that many of us aren't able to walk the neighborhood. We are looking at a way to recruit youth from the neighborhood to help. We will need help making the door hangers and maybe driving group around the neighborhood.

## Wednesday Night Meals

We start serving at 5:00 and will continue to serve until 5:45.

Everyone is welcome to come and fellowship with us.

### FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

February 7—Chicken Broccoli Rice  
Casserole, Salad, Rolls, Cookies and  
Cream Cake

February 14—Beef Stew, Salad, Garlic  
Bread and Pink Stuff

February 21—Sausage Green Bean Potato  
Bake, Salad, Rolls and Brownie  
Sundaes

February 27—Roast, Ann's Famous Corn  
Casserole, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy,  
Blueberry Peach Cobbler

\$5 adult

\$4 Children and college students

Children 3 and under free

\$15 family maximum



## *Psalms 103:8*

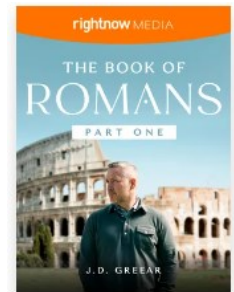
*The Lord is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.*

## Wednesday Night Bible Study

We will continue with this study of Romans through February. We are on week 3. you can jump in at any time.


### 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.




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## News from the Pantry

We served a lot of families in January and see our numbers continue to rise. To continue to serve the number of people we are serving we will need more money.

The last quarter of 2023 we were \$895 over budget. With only one month into 2024, we are about \$3500 over budget. In January, donations were down, food cost were up and electric bills were higher. Insurance has gone up and will be due soon.

We ask for prayers for grants. As our needs go up so do others. More are applying for grants and we have been denied because there are so many needs.

Our least favorite thing to do is ask for donations. If anyone has the means and ability to make a donation, please do. Even the smallest donation when combined with other small donations can make a large impact.

**Prayer Request**

Continued prayer for:

- |                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Lena Moore               | Mary Steed     |
| Martha Davis             | Carol Myers    |
| Ava Howard               | Bill Temple    |
| Doris Harp               | David Jackson  |
| Marge Vargas             | Chyrsti Martin |
| Reva Turner              | Jose Garcia    |
| Mieka Wallace            | Wanda Nichols  |
| Family of Shirley Davila |                |

*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  
slsabilene@outlook.com*

**Memorials and  
Honorariums**

In Memory of **Beverly Ridgway**

By Mailyn Queen

In Memory of **Chyrsti Martin**

By Ricky Carroll,  
Mac McCarthy, Judy Polunsky,  
Louise Hatcher



**Attendance and Giving**

**January 7**

Sunday School	12	Worship	In Person 33 Online 3
Tithe and Offering	\$5,958	Memorials	\$50

**January 14**

Sunday School	21	Worship	In Person 16 Online 5
Tithe and Offering	\$184	Memorials	\$100

**January 21**

Sunday School	8	Worship	In Person 31 Online 2
Tithe and Offering	\$1,213	Memorials	\$75

**January 28**

Sunday School	25	Worship	In Person Online
Tithe and Offering	\$1,136	Memorials	\$

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Larry Howard 2-1

Lori Kirkpatrick 2-6

Lawrence El-Attrache 2-8

Lena Moore 2-10

Dwain Pyburn 2-18



# Elmwood West Methodist Church

## February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 1:00 Prayer Group	<b>7</b> 5:00 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study		<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 1:00 Prayer Group	<b>14</b> 5:00 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 1:00 Prayer Group 4-6 Food Pantry	<b>21</b> 5:00 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 1:00 Prayer Group 4-6 Food Pantry	<b>28</b> 5:00 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study	<b>29</b>		

**Worship Service**  
**Sunday 10:00am**



**In Person and**  
**Facebook Live**