



Elm Grove United Methodist Church

Summer 2026

SPARKS



VISION STATEMENT

Elm Grove United Methodist Church is an inviting community who loves God and loves spreading the good news to all people.

MISSION STATEMENT

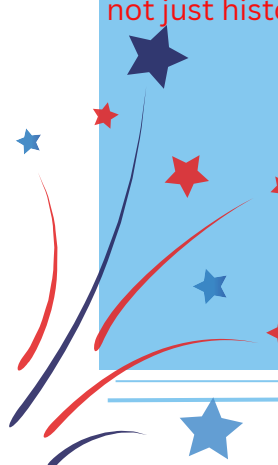
PRESSING ON WITH PASTOR DEB

To make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Elm Grove UMC enters into the summer season taking time to pause, reflect, celebrate, and listen for where God is leading us next as we gear up to celebrate an extraordinary milestone: 140 years of ministry.

One goal of EGUMC's for 2026 is to evaluate the life of the church, its strengths, its traditions, and the ways God has used us to make disciples and impact our community. For generations many of us, and generations before us, learned the stories of God in Sunday school classrooms, gathered for Bible studies, singing and laughing during Vacation Bible School, and through experiencing the quiet, faithful love poured into our every stitch through ministries like Lois's Stitches of Caring. These weren't just programs - they were places where people were loved and drawn closer to Christ. But our legacy is not just history; it is also the living story we continue to carry.

In this season, EGUMC is also seeing God do new things among us. One of the clearest examples is Embrace Ministry, which has already become such a joyful, Spirit-filled space for individuals with special needs and their families/staff. It reflects who we believe God is calling us to be, an inviting community that loves God and loves spreading the good news to all people. We're seeing it, too, in our homemade bags ministry, where simple acts of care become tangible reminders that people are seen, valued, and not alone.



www.elmgroveumc.com

These ministries may look different from what the church did 40 or 100 years ago, but they carry the same heartbeat of loving our neighbors in real, practical ways. These ministries and others remind us that EGUMC is not static. It is always growing, always responding, always becoming.

That's what's been so meaningful about this season of evaluation and visioning. We're not trying to become a different church, but we're trying to be a faithful continuation of who we've always been, while also courageously stepping into who God is calling us to be next. If 140 years teaches us anything, it's this: God has always been faithful to EGUMC.

Through every season, every change, every new chapter God has led the way. So, as we celebrate this anniversary, it's not just about honoring the past it's about standing right here, in this moment, and recognizing that God is not finished with Elm Grove UMC yet. There is more love to share, more people to reach, more stories to be written, and we get to be part of it TOGETHER!

So this summer, I invite you to remember where we've been, celebrate what God has done, lean into what God is doing now, and pray boldly for what comes next because the same God who started this work 140 years ago is still guiding us forward and I, for one, can't wait to see where that leads.

Pressing on.....Pastor Deb

SAFE SANCTUARIES

Reminder – If you are volunteering for VBS or another program at Elm Grove United Methodist Church, Safe Sanctuaries is a policy of the United Methodist Church to train volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults in the church. Please contact Carol Blankenship at edenfieldcarol55@gmail.com or 512-635-1035.

Carol Blankenship

EMBRACE MINISTRY: WORSHIP FOR EVERY BODY!

EMBRACE MINISTRY is going strong! There is a place for EVERY BODY!

Worship Service for those with special needs and their family, staff, and friends.

3rd Thursday of each month, 5 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Deb

MEMORIALS TO THE TRUSTEE FUND

In Loving Memory of Nancy McFarland:

Embrace Ministry

Greg & Lynn Totterdale

Trustee Memorial

Fourth St UMC	Jim & Charlene Stoltz	Alice Runkle
Clarence Hopkins	David & Karen Muldrew	Robert Totterdale
Karen Stewart	Lou & Betzie Modar	Judy Gaus
Bob & Sandy Morgan	Pleasant Hills UMC	
Todd & Joyce Kimpel	Dale & Lois Naegele	

In Loving Memory of Josh Taylor:

Iney's Boutique

David & Karen Muldrew	Bob & Sandy Morgan	Karen Stewart
Bill & Linda Sandiford	Nancy Ferns	Donna Lucas & Tom Musser

If anyone needs their contribution statement, contact Susi Whitecotton or Sandy Meyer.





IN LOVING MEMORY

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.'" John 11:25

With faith in this promise, we remember with love and gratitude those who have entered into eternal life:

Nancy Day McFarland
September 11, 1932 – May 10, 2026

Joshua Allen Taylor
November 28, 1983 – May 23, 2026

Michael Kurensky
September 13, 1967 - May 28, 2026

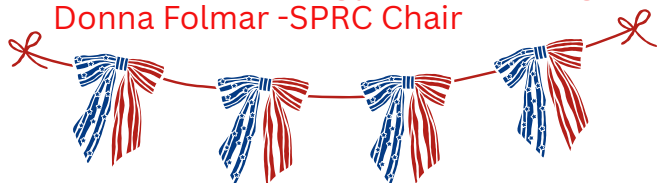
Stephen Arthur McFarland
July 28, 1955 – March 30, 2026

CHOIR NEWS

I can't thank our Chancel Choir enough for their dedication this past year. There are 9 members in our choir, and they are so kind to come each Wednesday evening from 6:30 – 7:30. Of course, they and I would love to have others join us. Currently we have 4 sopranos, 2 altos and 3 men. We have a new soprano, Leah Burky that has joined us and you will get to hear her when she does a solo this summer. So many people say they can't read music. Truly that is not an excuse, because I am more than happy to work with you to sing along. The fellowship and hard work to prepare the music each Sunday for the Glory of God is truly a gift. Consider joining us on September 9 on our first practice for the fall season, and if you or someone you know would like to sing on a Sunday this summer, please let me know. Anita Chops

SPRC TEAM

The SPRC team is delighted to welcome Kelly Kent as our new part time office support. She is such a great asset for EGUMC. Kelly started her new position in May and is currently in the office Monday and Thursday 9AM -1PM. We already know and love her, but feel free to show Kelly some love and thank her for the amazing job she is doing. Donna Folmar -SPRC Chair





UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS

UWIF had a spectacular time at our first Theme Party on Friday, May 29. There were 80 guests. The ladies that set the tables beautifully were appreciated by all that attended. We had a drawing on a nice patriotic basket, that was supplied by all of the UWIF members. We raised \$750 for our budget which goes mostly to church and mission projects. Thank you to all who participated. We look forward to doing something special in May 2027.

Our next meeting will be on September 10, 2026. The program will be REORIENTING OURSELVES. The presenter will be Susi Whitecotton and the hostess is Judy Beaver. We would like to encourage all ladies of the church to become members. We have a wonderful time sharing and great fellowship.
Anita Chops and Judy Beaver, co-presidents

LOIS'S STITCHES OF CARING

Lois's Stitches of Caring continues to meet in the Old Fellowship Hall on Mondays from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. We are currently working on a project for our veterans, and all visitors are welcome to join us.

Karen Muldrew

BEREAVEMENT LUNCHES

Thanks to everyone who has donated food or their time to help in any way. We couldn't do it without everyone's help and support.

If you would like to help, please feel free to reach out to Jan, Sandy Morgan or Karen Muldrew. Any help is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Karen Stewart

Iney's Pre-Loved Boutique

Third Saturday of the month

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Iney's Pre-Loved Boutique

Please stay and join us for

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Food Pantry

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Free Community Lunch

Jan Coffey

TROOP 29

We went to the US Whitewater Center in Charlotte, NC the week of 6/14-6/20 as our last trip for Troop 29. I will include some pictures from our trip in the next newsletter. I will be resigning as ScoutMaster for Troop 29 September 1 after 20 years of serving in scouts in our church. As of now, there is not anyone interested in taking over the troop. Thank you to this congregation for all the support you have given this Troop for over the 80+ years that we have been part of this Church.

Respectfully,

Scott Beresh - ScoutMaster Troop 29

Attention all Veterans

We need your help! In order to update our records, please contact me with your name, rank, branch of service and the years of service (ex 1972 to 1976).

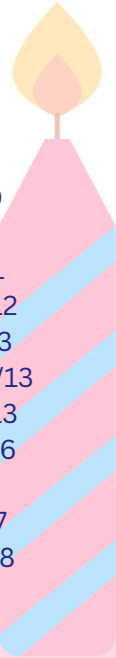
304-277-2921 or 304-218-1557 or you can email me at krlmuldrew@gmail.com

www.elmgroveumc.com



JULY

Rosaleah Brill 7/2
Amy Hughes 7/3
Rhett Folmar 7/3
Amy Ritz 7/7
Louis Modar 7/8
Janice Coffey 7/10
David Beaver 7/11
Sally Hodgkiss 7/11
Catherine Jones 7/12
Chelsea Folmar 7/13
Robert Helmbright 7/13
Elizabeth Modar 7/13
Linda Sandiford 7/16
Carol Suter 7/16
Caroline Carey 7/17
Richard Beisner 7/18
Kayla Britton 7/19
Amy Chase 7/19
Shirley Wade 7/21
James Geer 7/22
Jean Kripp 7/24
Sandy Morgan 7/24
Sara Applegarth 7/26
Liam Dentz 7/26
Louise Gray 7/26
Phyllis Reed 7/26
Jennifer Hastings 7/27
Cooper Curto 7/28
Patty Swiger 7/28



BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST

Tami Higley 8/2
Dee Hicks 8/5
Tim Kimpel 8/6
Danielle Brown 8/8
Fred Hicks 8/10
Carol McCroba 8/14
Minndy Palumbo 8/14
Adam Barnes 8/16
Julie Carey 8/18
Chad Kimpel 8/18
Christopher Dunn, Sr 8/20
Linda Williams 8/24
Sharon Cundiff 8/25
William Daniel 8/27
Brad Lucas 8/27
Wayne McCord 8/27
Anita Chops 8/29
AJ Loughman 8/29
Logan McCullough 8/29
Stacey Clark 8/31



SEPTEMBER

Don Martin, Sr 9/1
Karen Muldrew 9/1
Greg Thorngate 9/2
Mark Kappas 9/6
Archer Kimpel 9/7
Rory Laing 9/8
Haylee Armstrong 9/13
Christina Zoeckler 9/13
Hayden Beresh 9/14
Gregory Harris 9/14
Machelle Nickerson 9/22
Tina Whitecotton 9/27
Scott Cundiff 9/28
Bob Morgan 9/29
Tom Musser 9/29

ANNIVERSARIES

JULY

Nancy & Steve Harvilla, Sr 7/4
Tammy & Wayne Feiock 7/16
Sharon & Don Ward 7/16
Tina & Doug Whitecotton 7/16
Catherine & James Jones, Sr 7/17
Stacey & David Oliver 7/22
Nancy & Gary King 7/26
Kate & Gresh Laing 7/26
Peggy & Gresh Laing 7/31



AUGUST

Becky & Brian McCollough 8/3
Kelly & Jeff Kent 8/10
Carrie & Joseph Carey 8/11
Charlotte & Richard Beisner 8/27



SEPTEMBER

Laura & Dan Matthews 9/5
Barbara & Robert Rush 9/13
Carol & James Suter 9/16
Dotty & Dave Blowers 9/24
Cathy & Greg Thorngate 9/28
Dawn & William Patterson 9/30

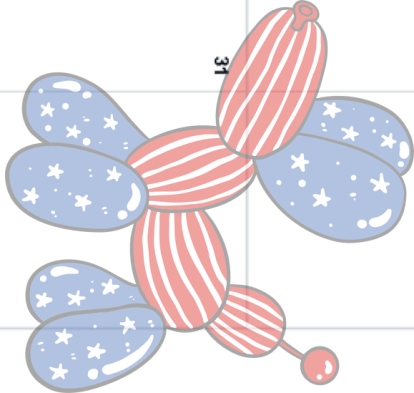




July 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Bible Study	2 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Bible Study	3 4
5 8:30 am – 9:30 am Worship Service	6 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Lois's Stitches of Caring	7 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Administrative Council	8 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Bible Study	9 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Bible Study	10 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Vacation Bible School	11 8:30 am – 12:00 pm Iney's Pre-Loved Boutique
9:45 am – 10:45 am Sunday School						
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Worship Service						
12 8:30 am – 9:30 am Worship Service	13 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Vacation Bible School	14 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Vacation Bible School	15 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Vacation Bible School	16 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Vacation Bible School	17 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Vacation Bible School	18 8:30 am – 12:00 pm Iney's Pre-Loved Boutique
9:45 am – 10:45 am Sunday School	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Lois's Stitches of Caring			5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Embrace Worship	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Adult VBS	10:00 am – 12:00 pm Food Parnty
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Worship Service				6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Bible Study		11:00 am – 12:00 pm Free Community Lunch
19 8:30 am – 9:30 am Worship Service	20 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Lois's Stitches of Caring	21	22	23 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Bible Study	24	25
9:45 am – 10:45 am Sunday School						
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Worship Service						
26 8:30 am – 9:30 am Worship Service	27 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Lois's Stitches of Caring	28	29	30 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Bible Study	31	
9:45 am – 10:45 am Sunday School						
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Worship Service						



JULY 2026

AUGUST 2026

August 2026

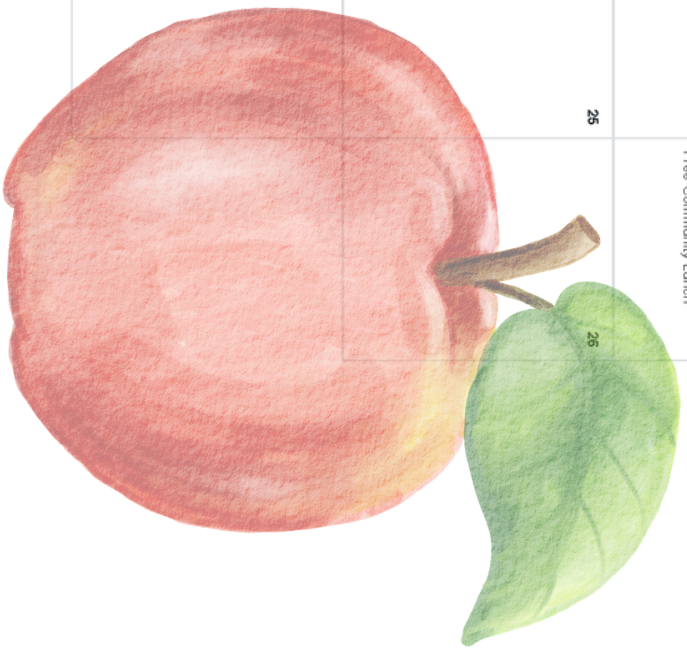
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						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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9:45 am – 10:45 am Sunday School						
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Worship Service	10	11	12	13	14	15
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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9:45 am – 10:45 am Sunday School						
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Worship Service						
30	31					
11:00 am – 2:00 pm Collaborative Ministry Church Picnic - One Service	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Lois's Stitches of Caring					



SEPTEMBER 2026

September 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Administrative Council	2	3 6:30 pm – 7:00 pm Bible Study	4	5
6 8:30 am – 9:30 am Worship Service 9:45 am – 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Worship Service	7 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Lois's Stitches of Caring	8 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Choir Practice	9 10:00 am – 11:00 am United Women in Faith 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Bible Study	10	11	12
13 8:30 am – 9:30 am Worship Service 9:45 am – 10:00 am Bell Choir Practice 9:45 am – 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Worship Service	14 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Lois's Stitches of Caring	15 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Choir Practice	16 10:00 am – 2:00 pm OCAR SE 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Embrace Worship 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Bible Study	17	18	19 8:30 am – 12:00 pm Iney's Pre-Loved Boutique 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Food Pantry 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Free Community Lunch
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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Grades K-5

Registration is open!

Participants and volunteers can register online by scanning the QR Code or visiting our registration portal; https://vbspro.events/p_early/e80b53

Volunteers are still in HIGH demand for VBS Week, and WE NEED YOU! See Molly for details. *High School students can accumulate up to 15 volunteer service hours during this week. See Molly.

We will be transforming the church into "Rainforest Falls" July 6, 7, and 8. 9AM-12PM, and 6:30-8:30PM. Please enter through the ramp door on Center Ave.

ADULT VBS: July 17 6PM-8PM, dinner provided. A sign-up sheet will be available beginning June 28.

**Remember, you can donate to Vacation Bible School ALL YEAR. Be sure to mark your check and offering envelope for VBS if doing so.

Molly Beresh



JULY 13-17, 2026

9 AM-12 PM

GRADES K-5

*PRE-REGISTRATION BEGINS
MAY 1

Celebrating 140 Years of Ministry!

Elm Grove United Methodist Church will celebrate 140 years of ministry on October 24 from 5 PM to 7 PM and 25 at 11 AM. We invite you to join us for this special milestone as we give thanks for God's faithfulness through the years and look ahead with hope to the future.

More details about the celebration will be shared soon!

Interested in helping plan this meaningful event? Please contact the church office or sign up at the welcome desk.

NEXT MEETING: TBA July at 6PM

Connect With Us Online!

Did you know we have a Facebook, YouTube, and Website presence?

Stay up to date with services, events, and church news.

The entire Worship Service can now be experienced on social media.



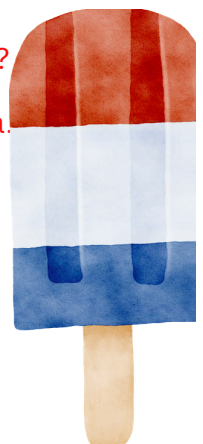
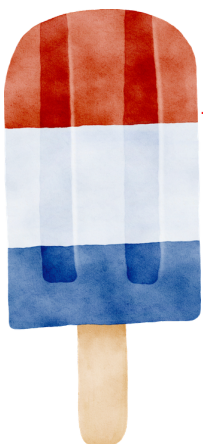
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SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Sermon Series: "Standing Firm" Ephesians 6 The world is full of chaos. Are we living with spiritual resilience and standing firm in our faith?

July 12 - VBS Sunday - One Service at 10AM

August 30 - Collaborative Ministry Church Picnic – One Service 11AM at Valley Grove Community Park. Covered Dish Luncheon with Dallas UMC and Sand Hill UMC to follow (No Worship at the EGUMC Building on Aug 30)

September 13 - Pastor on Vacation

September 20 - UWIF Sunday

October 24 & 25 - Celebration 140 Years of Ministry

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE

April 2	38	Holy Thursday
April 3	44	Good Friday
	8:30	11:00
April 5	44	70 Easter
April 12	30	46
April 19	34	50
April 26	25	49
May 3	27	59
May 10	20	52 Mothers' Day
May 17	30	54
May 24	29	55
May 31	70	One service
June 7	32	47
June 14	33	40
June 21	35	46 Fathers' Day

CELEBRATING BAPTISM AND NEW MEMBERS

The EGUMC family rejoices in a beautiful moment of grace and renewal as we celebrate the Baptism of Charles Pottersnack. In this sacred act, we give thanks for God's love poured out in Charles' life.

We also joyfully welcome several new members into our congregation. Please extend a heartfelt welcome to:

DONNA JEAN HOWELL GRAHAM
EARL RONALD HOWELL
KAREN JOSEPH
PAUL PALUMBO
CHARLES POTTERSACK
KRISTIAN RAFIAN

In addition, we celebrate with gratitude the reinstatement of Mindy Palumbo's membership. We are delighted to welcome her back into active fellowship and look forward to continuing in ministry together. As a community rooted in love, we give thanks for each person who chooses to walk in faith together. May we continue to grow together, support one another, and share the good news of Christ in all we do.
Pastor Debra Dague



8:30 WORSHIP SERVICE
9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 WORSHIP SERVICE



MISSION NEWS

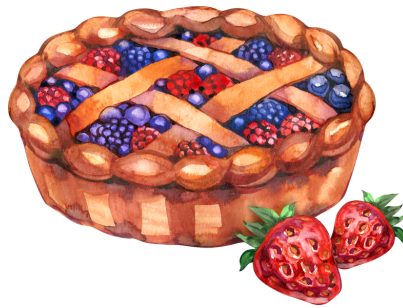
The Mission Committee has been busy collecting items for outreach! We cleaned up in March with a collection of soaps and detergents. 27 bottles of dish soap, 11 containers of laundry detergent in various sizes, and 23 bottles of bath & body wash. April items went to House of Hagar and YWCA. 6 large bottles of body wash, 21 bars of soap, 2 large bottles of conditioner, 7 bottles of shampoo, 12 small shampoos, 8 regular size deodorants, 21 small deodorants, 1 can of shaving cream, 4 packages of razors, 40 small toothpastes, and 18 wash clothes.

May's goal was baking basics. 3 bottles of cooking oil, 3 bags of flour, 1 bag of sugar, and 1 box of baking soda.

In June we collected monetary donations to assist the Boy Scouts for their camping trip and other projects. The Mission team provided concessions at the Toy and Train Museum for their annual toy convention. Watch for the following collections over the summer and into the fall: July is our annual animal shelter collection, August will be school supplies, and September we'll be looking at more food staples. Detailed lists will be coming soon!

Wayne McCord

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A MESS...WE MEAN, A DIFFERENCE!



A huge THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our "Pie in the Face" Fundraiser for VBS! Together, we raised approximately \$950.00. A special "congratulations" (and lots of paper towels) to Doug Whitecotton, who earned the honor, and we do mean honor, of being the crowd favorite to receive a pie to the face. We are so grateful for our brave contestants: Molly and Scott Beresh, Doug Whitecotton, Brian McCollough, and Todd Kimpel. Somehow Brian escaped unscathed. We're still suspicious.

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing auction bakers: Karen Muldrew, Nancy McCord, Kayla Henderson, Mary Caldwell, Tina Whitecotton, and Judy Beaver. Shout outs to Kelly Kent, Wayne McCord, and Rosie Brill for helping with the auction and keeping things running smoothly even when things got a little... sticky.

To our money counters: Susie Whitecotton and Sandy Meyer. And Becky McCullough for doing more than I could list. It truly takes a church family to pull off something this fun (and messy).

Thank you all for your generosity, laughter, and willingness to step into the splatter zone for a great cause!

Pastor Deb

PASTOR DEB'S SCHEDULE

AVAILABLE MONDAY-THURSDAY 9:30 AM-3:30 PM AND 5:30 PM-8 PM

FRIDAY SABBATH

SATURDAY DAY OFF BUT MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR MINISTRY EVENTS

Sparks Team- Danielle Seabright, Bill Daniel, and Luke from RSQP Print & Design
Please send all submissions to Danielle at dseabright@gmail.com
by the 10th of the month prior to printing.

Sparks prints quarterly.

Winter Jan-Mar, Spring Apr-June, Summer July-Sept, and Fall Oct-Dec

Thank you to all our contributors, especially Sandy Beabout and Linda Beisner for labeling and mailing the newsletters, and Becky McCullough for placing the digital copy on the website.



SPARKS

ELM GROVE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
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