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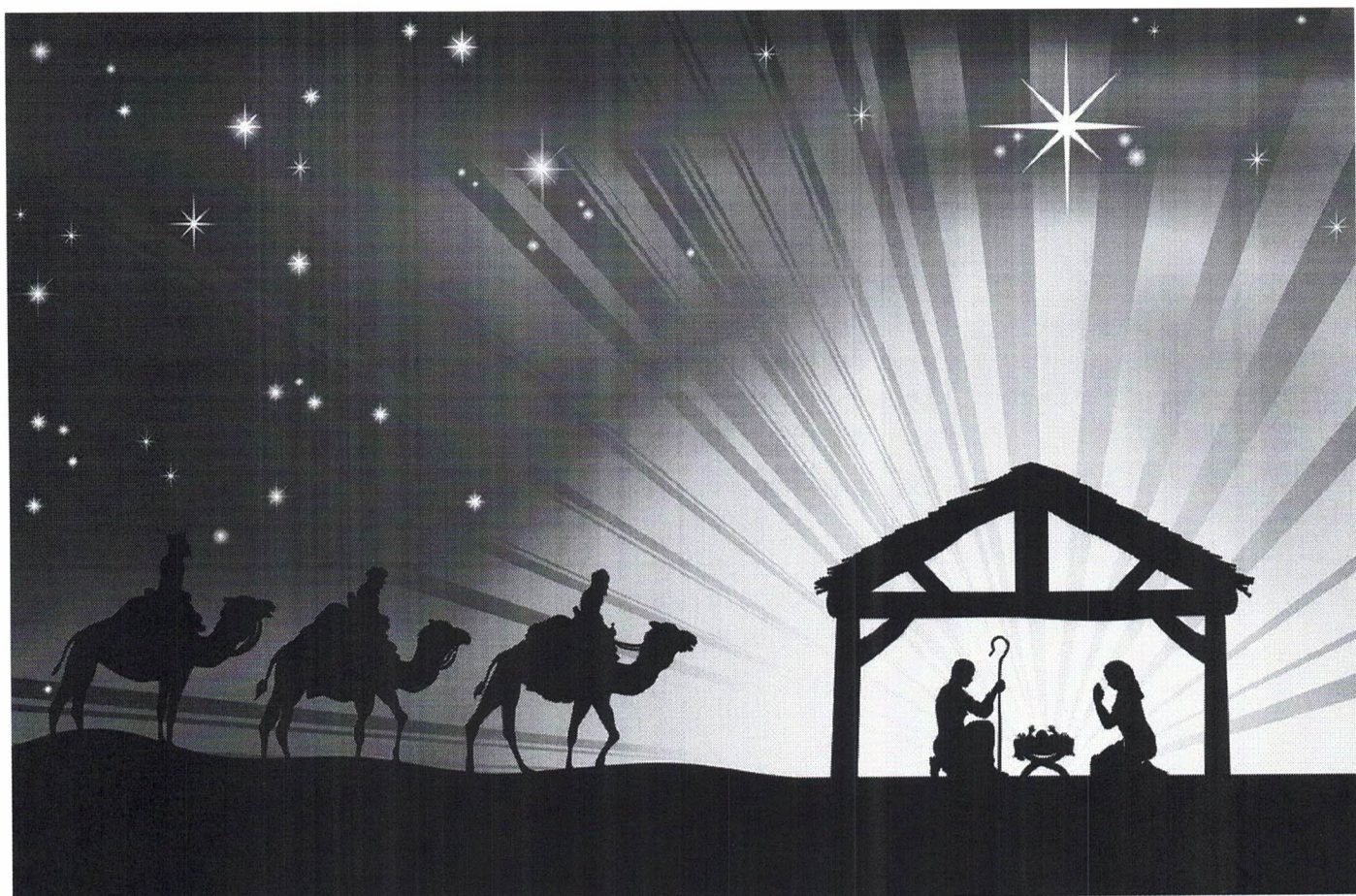
# Elmwords

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Elmwood Community Church

December 2020

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**Council Moderator's Report**  
Monday, November 16, 2020

In attendance: Cindy Gauthier, Susan Wiley, Colleen Peterson, Jerry Gray (by phone), Bill Alberti, Gail O'Connor

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm

Colleen opened the meeting with a prayer and scripture reading from 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 focusing on 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." Despite this very difficult year due to the pandemic, and the uncertainty of our future, I have been heartened by how we have all been encouraging each other and building each other up! Prayer: God, please continue to help us encourage and build each other up. Guide us into the future you have prepared for us. Help us to discern the path You have put in front of us and encourage us as we walk it. Amen.

Minutes for October were reviewed and accepted.

**Deacon's Report - Jerry Gray**

- Continued prayers for Craig Croxall who is back home and doing better. Continued prayers for Charles Shorter. Barbara T's daughter, Kara, is doing better – prayers for her continued healing. Prayers for Jerry Gray who has a cough and for Edie who is improving after a leg muscle strain.
- Indoor & online services are being done and still working out the kinks. Thank you to Maddy O'Connor who did a great job recording yesterday's service!
- Thanksgiving Sunday is this coming Sunday, 11/22. Cornucopia will be put out and the food wagon will be blessed. Susan will deliver to town hall on Monday.
- November 29<sup>th</sup> is the first Sunday in Advent. Will be serving communion – factory prepackaged juice/cracker with separate seals will be placed on tables for people to pick up as they come in either entrance. Advent wreath will be out and first candle lit. Will advertise on Facebook and YouTube for people at home to get their own bread & juice to join us. An e-mail will also be sent out to everyone.
- December 6<sup>th</sup> is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent and our Hanging of the Greens service. Will attach bows and hang wreathes on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. We need readers. Jerry B. will play a verse of each hymn that we usually sing between readings. No singing.
- Order forms for wreathes and poinsettias will be in Elmwords and Sunday bulletins. There is money in the flower fund to buy wreathes that are not donated. Mitten Tree will be set up and there will be a pink poinsettia, and in memory of Bobbie, Mason & Christine Ellison, and a red one as well.
- December 13<sup>th</sup> is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent.
- December 20<sup>th</sup> is Christmas Sunday. There will be no trumpeter and no singing. No soloists. Church will be decorated with poinsettias. Christ child will be brought up this service because there will be no Christmas Eve candlelight service this year.

- Usual ads we place in West Hartford and Newington Life papers will not be run.
- Finally got in contact with California regarding our new website. They have done some work on it as there is now a calendar page through Google calendar like what we have in Elmwords. Still need a couple of more things done before we can publish it. There will be a sign-up for people to come to services so we can keep track of numbers and keep everyone safely spaced.

#### **Christian Ed – Gail O'Connor**

- No children have been coming to church, so no Sunday School. Haven't seen Gabby so still have her bible. Haley has hers.
- We invite everyone after service 11/29 to safely make Christmas cards for the homebound.

#### **Missions -Cindy Gauthier**

- Will be preparing and delivering dinner to South Park Inn on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Cindy's friends, Victoria & Matt Bragg will be doing it for the first time along with Cindy. We will be preparing Shepard's Pie Thanksgiving style with turkey instead of hamburger and homemade cranberry sauce. Their daughter Peyton and Haley Gauthier will be peeling the potatoes. Ernestine Nobou, Jerry & Edie Gray and Wendy Leonard and Daysha Haxton will be making sandwiches. Susan will be providing the cookies.
- Cindy contacted South Park Inn for dates for 2021 but they don't have the calendar available yet. She will call again.
- Gail O'Connor has about 50 soap sacks w/soap to be dropped off at South Park.
- Susan has gotten no response from Astrid Lundgren at the Town of West Hartford Social Services re whether they are collecting mittens, etc. or doing Adopt-a-Family this year. Will keep trying.

#### **Trustees – Bill Alberti**

- Took \$10,000 out of the Endowment Fund in September and \$15,000 in October to meet expenses. Fund is now at \$170,000.
- Fresh Start sent back their new lease at \$400 a month but we are holding back returning it for now until we hear back from Grace Church.
- Parsonage has been completely painted by Judy Williams and her sister and it looks great! Layne Brown and Mark Janas replaced the rotted porch beam and also the upstairs bathroom ceiling. Mark is repairing the downstairs bathroom toilet. Thank you to Susan Wiley for the new garage door. Thank you to Cindy Gauthier for the new kitchen cabinet handles. Thank you to Judy Williams for painting the interior stairs and spindles in the parsonage as a donation to the church. Cindy Gauthier and Judy Williams will be doing the deep cleaning on the parsonage house on 11/17.
- Asked Judy Williams to paint the front stoop posts and latticework. She quoted \$250 plus cost of paint.



- Cindy will contact West Hartford Lock about replacing the deadbolt on the door from the living room onto the porch as we cannot find a key for it.
- Susan Wiley will send Bill the paperwork to sign to rent the parsonage for 12/1. All applications will be reviewed by Bill, Chuck and Dave Lamb.
- Dave Lamb will contact B&M Tree Service to remove tree in front southeast corner of property. \$800.
- There is still a refrigerator and freezer that need to come out of the basement.
- Journey Home came and took two bureaus out of the garage. Petersons will take the kitchen table. Tall bureau, bed frame and treadmill will be put on the street when no rain in the forecast. Various church grills need to be moved to the utility shed.
- Still receiving weekly complaints from renters regarding cleanliness of facility. Hiring Judy Williams to do the cleaning of the church building starting this week.
- Chuck is looking into different snow plowing services. Person we have been using is very good (came out and salted immediately on last storm) but also very expensive.

#### **Controller's Report – Susan Wiley**

- Financial Summary 2020 through September passed out. As for withdrawing funds from the Barnum Fund, we are better off than last year. Pastor Dave was still on payroll in September so YTD deficit at -\$20,844.
- No income from activities this year as no activities.
- YTD income \$88,682 vs expenses \$109,526.
- Will see what October numbers are without salary, benefits and other expenses of a full-time pastor.

**Member at Large - Wendy Leonard/Daysha Haxton** – Not present, no report

#### **Old Business –**

- Stewardship as of Friday, 11/13/20 – We are still about \$10,000 out for 2020 pledges. For 2021 there are 16 pledges in so far for a total of \$20,000. There are still 18 who pledged for 2020 who have not pledged for 2021. Of the 16 current pledges there is 1 new one, 2 increases, 12 staying the same and 1 decrease. Thank you to those who have pledged. Continuing to ask for pledges on Sundays.

#### **New Business –**

- Annual meeting - after discussions regarding how to possibly have one in light of the current pandemic, and in light of all the questions we are waiting on answers, it was decided to postpone the Annual Meeting until the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021. Further information will be provided in March.
- We are in discussions with Grace Church regarding renting our building. They gave us days, times and rooms needed. Trustees gave them a monthly rent figure. They were meeting this week to discuss. Council asked Cindy to let Dave Clymer know that we are flexible and want to make this arrangement with them work.

### **Upcoming Events –**

- November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Missions will be preparing dinner for South Park Inn
- November 29<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent – Communion. Safely making Christmas cards after service for the homebound and staff. All invited.
- December 6<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent – Hanging of the Greens – need readers!
- December 13<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent
- December 20<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Sunday – poinsettias and the Christ Child will be brought up to the creche.
- December 24<sup>th</sup> – Sadly, no Christmas Eve candlelight service.
- December 25<sup>th</sup> – A Joyous and Merry Christmas to everyone!

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm

Next council meeting scheduled for Monday, December 21, 2020 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Gauthier, Moderator

## ON A PERSONAL NOTE

### DECEMBER/JANUARY BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

#### December

03 Gabriella Nobou  
08 Nick Allgaier  
13 Adela Martinez  
13 Claudia Haxton  
19 Jerry Bilak  
20 Kelly Lincoln  
20 Daniel MacDougall  
28 Joan Gustafson  
29 Carol Alberti

#### January

04 Melissa Cunningham  
08 Patrick Nobou, Sr.  
08 Cynthia Pavey  
18 Norma Moskey  
19 Frank Nobou  
21 Rowan O'Connor  
26 Beth Gustafson  
28 Rhoda DeBonne  
Anniversaries  
19 Brian & Christine Cardalico

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### DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE CANCELLED

Bible Study  
Choir Practice  
Holiday Bazaar  
Advent Workshop

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### HANGING OF THE GREENS December 6, 2020

Join us for the beautiful service of Hanging of the Greens which we highlight some of the symbols of the season with Scripture verses, music, and readings. There will not be a Pot Luck Dinner this year due to the pandemic.



## MISSIONS

The Mission Board would like you to thank all that donated sandwiches, money and helped serve South Park Inn this year. It was greatly appreciated.

The final 2021 South Park Inn dinner is **November 22.**

Please be aware of upcoming holiday mission projects:

- **The Mitten Tree** – Collecting NEW children's hats, mittens, and scarves. These will be given to West Hartford Social Services who will distribute them to needy children in our town. The tree will be put up after Thanksgiving.
  - **Christmas Fund** – (formerly Veterans of the Cross) On Sunday Christmas Service, December 20 and Christmas Eve services on December 24, we will collect for the UCC's Christmas Fund. This collection will help retired clergy and lay employees to supplement low pensions, supplement health benefits, and provide emergency assistance.
  - **Adopt-A-Family** – West Hartford Social Services has been contacted to find a needy family, and we will be given a Holiday needs and "wishes" list. When we hear back from them, we will send out a notice.
  - **Gently Used Coats** - We will collect gently used winter coats - men's, women's, children's - for South Park Inn. The collection will go on through January 5, and coats will be delivered the week of January 6. COATS ONLY PLEASE - no other clothing of any type. Thank you, **The Board of Missions**
- .....



## ON A PERSONAL NOTE

### SOAP SACKS

Hello Church Friends,

I am looking for some help from any of our friends who knit or crochet. I would like to send some Soap Sacks with the Missions Committee the next time they send a meal to South Park Inn. (November 22nd). You may be asking "What is a Soap Sack?"

Here is a blurb from their website:

*"Stacy Wiener, Founder of S.A.C.K. (Supporting A Community with Kindness), discovered through volunteering at food pantries, that there was a lack of essential toiletries available. One key reason is that people are not able to use government subsidies, such as food stamps, to purchase them. When it comes to deciding on whether to eat vs. buy soap and shampoo, the choice becomes obvious. So, in September of 2017, S.A.C.K. was started as a grassroots effort to help address this need while connecting people from all over the world, interested in crocheting/knitting soap sacks and then donating them (with a bar of soap in each one) to homeless shelters, food pantries, relief efforts, veteran clinics and social service agencies.*

*Since starting S.A.C.K., we estimate that over 100,000 soap sacks have been distributed by volunteers in every state in the U.S., as well as Asia, Australia, Europe and Canada. The response has also been overwhelmingly positive, with over 8,500 Facebook followers. There is a definite need for toiletries throughout the underserved population.*

*While we accept donations of bar soap and crocheted or knitted sacks, we encourage you to donate soap sacks (with a full size bar of soap in its original packaging in each one) in your local area."*

The website is <https://www.soapsacks.com/>  
There are both Crochet and Knit patterns on the Website, and also templates for tags to add to the Soap Sacks. They need to be made with 100% cotton yarn. So far I have 30 Soap Sacks and the soap to fill them.

If you would like to make a few Soap Sacks or donate a few bars of individually wrapped soap, please email me, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

[oconnorg.55@gmail.com](mailto:oconnorg.55@gmail.com)

Regards, Gail O'Connor

### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of Friday, November 13, 2020 we are still about \$10,000 short of the \$42,000 pledged for 2020. Thank you to those who have met their 2020 pledging! We encourage those outstanding to please send yours in.

For 2021, there are 16 pledges in so far for a total of \$20,000. There are still 18 who pledged for 2020 who have not yet pledged for 2021. Thank you to those who have already pledged! We encourage those who have not yet to please send in their pledges so Trustees can put together a budget for next year.



The office is closed for now. Barbara is in the office a few hours a week, but otherwise working from home. You can reach Barbara at 860-978-2246.

The office will be closed Christmas Day

## ON A PERSONAL NOTE

### **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE FOR 2020**

As a way of preparing ourselves spiritually for Christmas, Elmwood Community Church offers the following worship and opportunities this coming Holiday season. Come prepare your heart and home for Christmas. Be Safe. If you can't join us in person, join with us on Facebook Live or YouTube broadcasts.

#### **November 29 – The First Sunday in Advent**

This is the start of the liturgical year. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion. During each Sunday in Advent, we will light the candles on the Advent Wreath during our worship service. Unfortunately, there will not be **The Annual Advent Workshop** this year due to the pandemic. However, we will make Christmas cards for our friends on the visitation list after the service.

#### **December 6 – The Second Sunday in Advent**

Join us for our annual “***Hanging of the Greens***” service in which we highlight some of the symbols of the season with Scripture verses, music, and readings.

#### **December 13 – Third Sunday in Advent**

Come and share the Joy of the Advent Season with us.

#### **December 20 – Christmas Sunday Worship**

Please join us for Christmas Sunday! Worship will be at 10 a.m. We will bring the Christ Child forward to the crèche during the service.

#### **December 24 – Christmas Eve**

Sadly, ***The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*** has been cancelled for this year.

### **No Annual Meeting in January 2021**

After discussion regarding how to safely hold our Annual Meeting in light of the current pandemic, Council decided to postpone the Annual Meeting until the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Further information will be provided in March as to when the meeting will be and when board reports are due. Council will continue to keep the congregation informed as we get answers to questions, and regarding financial status. Thank you for your understanding everyone, and please stay safe!



#### **Scrip Cards for Gifts!**

Scrip is starting a limited sale of small-denomination cards that are great for Christmas stockings or service providers. Order early! Susan Wiley will be putting orders in on December 2 and 16, perfect for holiday gifts.

If your holiday visiting will be limited this year, you can always send a gift card!

You can get \$5.00: Starbucks, Panera, Barnes & Noble; \$10.00: Amazon, Subway,

Bath & Body works, Dunkins, many local fast-food places

Contact Susan Wiley to order.



If anyone becomes aware of a church member that is sick or has any special needs, please call the office (860-233-8203) and leave a message.



## ON A PERSONAL NOTE

### FUN STUFF

Gail O'Connor provided links to some websites with free Nativity/Advent printables. They are primarily for children, but fun for adults, too.

<https://biblestoryprintables.com/bible-coloring/christmas-bible-coloring-pages/>

<https://happyhomefairy.com/bible-verse-advent-countdown-kids-free-printable/>



The following are suggested weekly food donation for each week of the month.

**First Sunday:** Dinner Basics: canned fish and meats (stew, ravioli) baked beans

**Second Sunday:** Kids Favorites: cereal, granola bars, mac & cheese, peanut butter & jelly

**Third Sunday:** Fruity Feast: canned and jarred fruit, dried fruit, fruit cups, jelly & jam

**Fourth Sunday:** Exciting Extras: fun stuff: coffee, tea, cooking oil, condiments

**Fifth Sunday:** Most Wanted: pasta sauce, rice, cereal, canned meat, peanut butter



*BE SURE TO LIKE*  
**ECC ON FACEBOOK**

### ✳️CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA & WREATHS

When ordering Christmas flowers this year, please fill out the form below and return to the Church Office with your payment.

Poinsettias should be ordered and paid for by **December 18**. Money for Wreaths must be in by **December 4** for the "Hanging of the Greens".

*Poinsettia Price \$8.00* \_\_\_\_\_ x \$8.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Wreaths- Price \$16.00* \_\_\_\_\_ x \$16.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed Amount:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Price may be subject to change)

If you are paying by check, please make checks payable to Elmwood Community Church and write 'Christmas flowers' in the memo field.

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*In Thanksgiving*  
*of* \_\_\_\_\_

*In Memory of* \_\_\_\_\_

*Given by* \_\_\_\_\_

*I would like the plant to go to someone on our Parish Visitation List*

*Person's Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Your Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*I would like to take the plant home*

*Your Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note: Wreaths will be hung in the church; Poinsettias can be taken home after the Christmas Service*

*Thank you for helping to provide two of the many symbols used to decorate the church this time of year.*

*Peace, Your Deacons*

## ON A PERSONAL NOTE



### INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FOR CHRISTMAS

I bring you the most joyful news ever announced, and it is for everyone! The Savior - yes the Messiah, the Lord - has been born tonight in Bethlehem!

*Luke 2:10 -11*

Jesus is God's perfect, indescribable gift. The amazing thing is that not only are we able to receive this gift, but we are able to share it with others on Christmas and every other day of the year. *Joel Osteen*

In God's sight, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas whenever we rediscover the simplicity of His love and bow down in thankfulness and worship, where we are and whatever our circumstances.

*David Jeremim*

### WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES A BLESSED AND WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS



# ADVENT



## SUNDAY KIDZ

C	L	K	D	L	L	S	R	L	S	B	V	R	E	F	X
E	I	K	J	U	V	C	C	X	A	E	U	R	J	V	S
B	F	W	K	T	F	A	B	G	V	L	R	J	O	B	Q
E	P	P	K	I	J	N	V	F	I	I	X	O	S	E	A
G	K	M	S	G	A	D	Y	L	O	E	G	I	E	N	Z
O	Y	V	B	A	V	L	K	U	U	V	L	C	P	Q	M
O	J	L	B	B	O	E	E	S	R	E	C	E	H	M	E
D	G	B	I	E	S	E	E	M	A	C	D	F	J	N	R
N	L	A	S	U	R	R	K	R	M	V	T	F	F	O	C
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W	A	K	U	V	S	I	C	K	L	W	N	F	K	A	A
S	B	J	C	R	E	S	A	M	A	R	Y	U	Y	M	L
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J	E	S	U	S	I	W	R	E	A	T	H	R	D	R	G



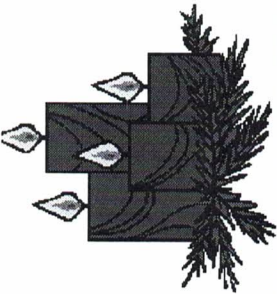
## WORDSEARCH

MARY  
ANGEL  
JESUS  
ADVENT  
CANDLE

JOSEPH  
PURPLE  
WREATH  
BELIEVE

REJOICE  
SAVIOUR  
EMMANUEL  
GOODNEWS  
ISRAEL





# DECEMBER 2020

(Some meetings are virtual)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30 pm Deacons	2	3	4 Money due for Wreaths	5
6  HANGING OF THE GREENS	7	8	9 6:30 pm Trustees	10	11	12
13 11 am Christian Ed 3rd Sunday of Advent	14	15	16	17	18 Money due for Poinsettias	19
20 9 am Missions  CHRISTMAS SERVICE	21 6:30 pm Council	22 Deadline Newsletter Articles	23	24  7 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> CHRISTMAS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)	26
27 Newsletter Published	28	29	30	31 <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>		

The Elmwood Community Church  
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Secretary's e-mail: eccsecretary@snet.net  
Pastor's e-mail: elmwoodchurch@snet.net

PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY  
DATED MATERIAL

\*\*\*\*\* IF YOU NO LONGER WANT TO RECEIVE THIS  
\*\*\*\*\* PUBLICATION, PLEASE NOTIFY ECC AT THE  
NUMBER ABOVE. THANK YOU! \*\*\*\*\*

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

THERE IS NO BIBLE STUDY OR CHOIR PRACTICE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

THESE ARE TENTATIVE DATES. DURING THE PANDENIC, MOST BOARDS ARE HAVING  
VIRTUAL MEETINGS.

DECEMBER 1	6:30 PM DEACONS
DECEMBER 4	MONEY DUE FOR WREATHS
DECEMBER 6	HANGING OF THE GREENS
DECEMBER 9	6:30 PM TRUSTEES
DECEMBER 13	11 AM CHRISTIAN ED
DECEMBER 13	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 18	MONEY DUE FOR POINSETTIAS
DECEMBER 20	11 AM MISSIONS
DECEMBER 20	CHRISTMAS SERVICE
DECEMBER 21	6:30 PM COUNCIL
DECEMBER 22	NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE
DECEMBER 24	7:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
DECEMBER 27	ELMWORDS PUBLISHED
DECEMBER 31	NEW YEAR'S EVE