

# DISPATCH JANUARY 2024

Dear Dunlap family and friends,

As I sit down to write to you today, I find myself thinking about one verse in the Bible in particular: Luke 2:21 “After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.” In Jewish tradition and according to the law, this is exactly what Mary and Joseph were to do with any baby boy they might have, whether he was the son of God or not. At 8 days old, no matter where they were living or however holy this child may be, he would need to be circumcised and named. The circumcision of a new baby boy was a sign of the covenant held between God and the people, and as such, the people were keeping a part of their side of the bargain.

I find the need to circumcise Jesus to be very interesting, because as the son of God, as God incarnate, I wonder if it was strictly necessary. Perhaps he would have grown up holy and dedicated to his work regardless of the choices his parents made. Perhaps if they had taught him nothing, he would have grown up already knowing all he needed to know of his faith and God. We will never know, because Mary and Joseph were specifically chosen to raise this child. One has to assume that God chose them because God knew they had the gifts and graces to raise this very special little boy, and that includes parenting him. As Jewish parents, they did all they should: circumcising him, presenting him at the temple, and making sure he was taught the Scripture. As human parents, they made mistakes and figured things out as they went along; they struggled to understand what was happening as Jesus was recognized, celebrated, and challenged as he grew.

What strikes me today is that, even though Mary and Joseph were gifted with a unique little boy, they started his life like any other first-century Jewish parents: by dedicating him to God and making a commitment to raise him in accordance to the Scriptures.

In the church, when a person of any age comes for baptism, we make a promise before God that we will pray for them and raise them up in the faith. Even if they are not yet baptized, we have a responsibility to help every child to know the love of God. On Christmas Eve morning, our children and youth brought us a beautiful pageant, sharing with us the good news of Jesus Christ. Teens and adults told the story through their actions and words. A toddler sheep explored the nativity scene. Children practiced their single lines and musical numbers and worked hard to be sure they made their way to the correct spots. Every one of them had an opportunity to explore the Gospel in a way only made possible by becoming a part of the story. With your love, they were supported as they continued to explore this faith in which we are raising them.

As we come into 2024, let us continue to follow the example of Mary and Joseph. Let us work hard to raise these children in faith, and let us help them to know the love of God in all that we do.

Happy New Year, and God bless,  
Pastor Melissa

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

January 3rd	Pam Garber
January 4th	Larry Moore
January 8th	Pastor Melissa Englehart
January 15th	Bryce Kime
January 15th	Ron Valentine
January 16th	Diana Kado
January 19th	Amy Vollmar
January 20th	Alan Kado
January 22nd	Lori Barrick
January 28th	Dave Kercher
January 31st	Ruth Kilmer

## **JANUARY ALTAR FLOWERS**

January 7th	
January 14th	
January 21st	Terri Ganger in Loving Memory of Jan Ganger
January 28th	

## **JANUARY LITURGISTS**

January 7th	Liam Adkins
January 14th	Andrea Nelson
January 21st	Jane Hunsberger
January 28th	

## **JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

January 21st	Ron & Cindy Valentine
January 25th	Stan & Jane Hunsberger

# JANUARY

# 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 	2 	3 	4	5	6
7 <i>Bible Study @ 5PM</i>	8 <i>WON @ 6PM</i> <i>Church Council 7PM</i> <i>Boy Scouts @ 6:30PM</i>	9	10 <i>Kids Club @ 5PM</i> <i>Meal &amp; 6</i>	11 <i>Cub Scouts @ 6:30PM</i>	12	13
14 <i>Bible Study @ 5PM</i>	15 <i>Boy Scouts @ 6:30PM</i>	16 <i>Preschool @ 6PM</i>	17 <i>Kids Club @ 5PM</i> <i>Meal &amp; 6</i>	18 <i>Grief Group @ 1PM</i> <i>Cub Scouts @ 6:30PM</i>	19	20
21 <i>Bible Study @ 5PM</i>	22 <i>Boy Scouts @ 6:30PM</i>	23 <i>Trustees @ 6:30PM</i>	24 <i>Kids Club @ 5PM</i> <i>Meal &amp; 6</i>	25 <i>Cub Scouts @ 6:30PM</i>	26	27
28 <i>Bible Study @ 5PM</i>	29 <i>Boy Scouts @ 6:30PM</i>	30	31 <i>Kids Club @ 5PM</i> <i>Meal &amp; 6</i>			

Dunlap United Methodist Church

23674 US Highway 33 E

Elkhart, IN 46517

# DUMC Shut In Ministry

*Some information concerning our Shut-Ins has been updated. Contact the church office for the updated copy of the Shut-In list, or pick up a paper copy of the newsletter in the church lobby on Sunday Morning.*



Dunlap United  
Methodist Church

*Growing in Christ-like Love  
through intentional Outreach  
and Worship*

23674 US Hwy 33 // Elkhart IN 46517

Church Office: (574) 875-7950

Pastor's Cell: (765) 438-4545

E-mail: [dunlapumc@frontier.com](mailto:dunlapumc@frontier.com)

Office Hours:

Mon. - Thurs.: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

(closed 12-1)

Friday: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

## Our Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Melissa Englehart
Education Director	Alice Morris
Preschool Director	Cindy Covey
Office Manager	Brianna Primm
Custodian	Laura Utley
Choir/Bell Choir Dir.	Kim Dooley
Organist	Lois Coney

## Find us online!

**[www.elkhartdunlapumc.org](http://www.elkhartdunlapumc.org)**

Want to watch a service you missed?

Need a bulletin?

Wonder what time your meeting is?

Want to pay your tithe?

All of this and MORE is available  
on our web site!



Dunlap United Methodist Church Staff would like to wish you all a very **Happy New Year 2024!**

Brianna Primm — *Brianna Primm*

Alice Morris — *Alice Morris*

Melissa Englehart — *Melissa Englehart*

Laura Utley — *Laura Utley*

Cindy Covey — *Cindy Covey*



It will be here before you know it: the Super Bowl is coming! Sunday, February 11. That means it's almost time to order your sub sandwiches! Order forms will be available Sunday, January 21. Orders need to be in by Monday, February 5, to give us time to purchase food. Sandwiches will be ready for pick-up after worship February 11. All the money raised will be used to send children and youth to summer camp. Thank you so much for supporting our kids!

Which teams will be playing? Stay tuned!



It's not too early to start saving your dollars. Remember, on Super Bowl Sunday we'll be collecting money for the Souper Bowl of Caring. You can "vote" for your favorite team by putting a dollar (or more) in your team's soup pot. The money raised will go to Church Community Services.

Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.

**Kids Club:** Please note that we are going to start having kids club at 5:00PM on Wednesday evenings starting January 10th, instead of 6:30PM.

**Preschool Chili Supper:** Please join us January 26th 5:00~6:30PM for the preschool chili supper dinner!