

# DISPATCH APRIL 2024

Dear Dunlap family and friends,

As many of you are aware, the last few years have been filled with turmoil within the United Methodist Church. Many of our family and friends have left this denomination to strike out on their own or join other denominations. While the reasons for this decision are varied, the presenting issue was the ordination or marriage of those who are LGBTQ+. Our church, after much discernment, decided not to vote regarding disaffiliation. This was due to a recognition that we have a variety of opinions within our congregation, and we love each other too much to destroy those bonds we have.

In just about a month, from April 23-May 3, 2024, delegates from Annual Conferences all around the world will be gathering in Charlotte, North Carolina for the postponed 2020 General Conference. The General Conference is required by our rules to meet in person every 4 years, but due to COVID and visa issues for delegates outside the USA, it was postponed multiple times until it could finally take place next month. That means, this is the 2020 General Conference, and a 2024 General Conference will still need to be scheduled at some point in the future.

The responsibility of the General Conference is to review all the rules and statements of belief for the United Methodist Church. Only the General Conference can change these rules or statements of belief, which are found in the Book of Discipline. Proposed legislation this year concerns many things, including but not limited to: budgets for the General Agencies, breaking the denomination into regions that can have their own Books of Discipline, continuing processes for disaffiliation, theology of ordination, revise the Social Principles, and theology surrounding LGBTQ+ persons. The General Conference also elects and confirms members of the Judicial Council.

To compare the system to the US government: the General Conference is similar to Congress, the Judicial Council is similar to the Supreme Court, and we have no direct comparison to the President. The bishops are our executive branch. Members of the General Conference are elected from within Annual Conferences. There are 862 delegates elected to the General Conference: half clergy and half laity.

At this time, the most important thing we can do as a congregation is pray. Pray that God will work in this General Conference. Pray that the Holy Spirit will transform hearts and minds so that all will be done for the glory of God. Pray for those who have a very difficult task as they read thousands of pages of legislation, navigate the many special interest groups, and try to make the choices that are most faithful to Scripture. The Upper Room has provided a prayer guide, and I encourage you to use it as a resource. [https://www.resourceumc.org/-/media/umc-media/2024/03/14/16/33/guidetoprayer\\_gc24\\_english-c.pdf](https://www.resourceumc.org/-/media/umc-media/2024/03/14/16/33/guidetoprayer_gc24_english-c.pdf)

If you, like me, are interested in following the legislative processes, please feel free to watch or read more here: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020/general-conference-2020-guide>

I will do my best to keep you updated with any major developments, but it is always possible that I will miss something. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

God bless,  
Pastor Melissa

## APRIL ALTAR FLOWERS

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1st	Gavin Kercher
April 3rd	Brenda Wogoman
April 4th	Mary Hesse
April 5th	Alex Nelson
April 8th	Crystal Adkins
April 8th	Karen Newland
April 11th	Jerry Adkins
April 19th	Mike Garber
April 20th	Barbara Amick

April 7th	Kaye Scheetz In rememberance of my mom
April 14th	Patsy Hartwick in Memory of my husband Bill
April 21st	Jerry & Kay Adkins
April 28th	

### APRIL LITURGISTS

April 7th	Dave Vollmar
April 14th	Carol Robinson
April 21st	Carolyn Vollmar
April 28th	Carolyn Anderson



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Bible Study @ 5:00PM	8 Boy Scouts @ 6:30PM	9	10 SWANS @ 1:00PM Kids Club @ 5:00PM Meal @ 6:00PM Choir @ 7:00PM Bells @ 7:30PM	11 Cub Scouts @ 6:30PM	12	13
14 Bible Study @ 5:00PM	15 Boy Scouts @ 6:30PM	16 Preschool @ 6:00PM Finance @ 6:30PM	17 Kids Club @ 5:00PM Meal @ 6:00PM Choir @ 7:00PM Bells @ 7:30PM	18 Cub Scouts @ 6:30PM	19	20
21 Bible Study @ 5:00PM	22 Boy Scouts @ 6:30PM	23	24 Kids Club @ 5:00PM Meal @ 6:00PM Choir @ 7:00PM Bells @ 7:30PM	25 Cub Scouts @ 6:30PM	26	27
28 Christian Ed @ 11:00AM Bible Study @ 5:00PM	29 Boy Scouts @ 6:30PM	30				

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.	Dave Kitchell
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!

**Vacation Bible School:** VBS will be July 15th through July 19th.

“Give us this day our daily bread.” This verse reminds us that everything we have comes from God-but it also calls us to turn to God in prayer for our daily needs. Because God loves and cares for us, we, in turn, can love and care for the rest of the world. We care for others because God first cared for us. In this way the Church becomes the hands of God, ensuring that everyone's needs are met. Each session focuses on a different way God has met the needs of God's people and reminds us that God is still doing this today through

**Summer Camp!** Registration for Summer Church camp has opened. There are programs for adults to attend with children, for children entering kindergarten through teens graduating high school, and for various special interests. Look for the right program for your family! Due to generous donations, our church will help you pay for camp; find the form on the back table. For even more financial assistance and to register, check the camp website. <https://impact2818.org/>

**Chicken BBQ:** June 15th, mark your calendars!

**General Conference:** April 23rd-May 3rd

**Annual Conference:** June 6th-8th