



2026

Ellettsville First United Methodist Church



25^d Annual Chili Cook-Off Results

It's hard to believe that we have been gathering for the Chili Cook-Off for 25 years. We really must love Chili. Our annual Chili Cook-Off was held on February 20th with 38 in attendance who came out to enjoy good food and fellowship. 11 different chilies were available to try along with Connie's delicious homemade bread and several wonderful desserts.

Everyone in attendance voted for their favorite chili and the winners were:



1st place- Donetta Willibey
for her award-winning
White bean Chili



2nd place- Keith Clark



3rd place- Connie Frink

A free will offering of \$317 was collected to support the restoration of the Star of David Windows.

Does life ever feel heavy? Does joy seem to be far, far away? In March of 2010, two months after the horrific earthquake that shook the small, island country to Haiti to its core, then Duke University Chaplain Will Willimon described the observations of his students who had gone there on mission trips. He said the universal agreement among them was that “the most disarming thing about the country was the laughter of the children, along with their raucous singing.” Even on the evening after the earthquake, mixed in with cries of mourning was the singing of dancing Haitians. Was this escapism? Or is it the same faith that one can see in the witness of ancient Christians who would gather on Easter and tell jokes about the devil. Their faith honored the tragic but allowed their Easter Hallelujahs to rise above the rubble.



Lent is nearing its end, and Easter is upon us. The world around us is shaken, and our honest selves know that. But we are sustained by the solid hope that despair and death do not have the last laugh. It is faith's conviction that the joy of the Lord is our strength. At Ellettsville First United Methodist Church, we will gather on Good Friday, April 3, at 7:00 PM to read the seven last sayings of Jesus from the cross and enter that sorrow. Then, on Sunday, April 5, we will gather on Easter Sunrise service at 7:30, share a joyful breakfast together following, and join in the sanctuary at 9:30 to celebrate resurrection faith. Even in a shaking world, Christ is risen indeed! May this faith bless us this Easter season, and beyond.



April's Gold Can Offering is in support of UMCOR United Methodist Committee on Relief.

When disaster strikes around the globe, like earthquakes, typhoons or tornados, UMCOR is ready to respond. So many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act.

The response of UMCOR isn't something “they” do, it's something “we” do.
When You Give You Equip Christ's Body – The Church - to Serve in His Name
Because your generous giving to UMCOR it allows us to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today. It's your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes. Please give generously so UMCOR can continue to meet the needs of the children, families and communities who've experienced devastation in the wake of disaster?



APRIL 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
March 2026 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	May 2026 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1 6:30p Lions 7:30p Choir Practice	2  	3  GOOD FRIDAY 7p Good Friday Service	4
5  HAPPY Easter 7a Sunrise Service 8a Breakfast 9:30a Communion Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School	6 6p Trustees 6:30p Scouts	7 6:30p Tigers 6:30p Wolves	8 6:30p Webelos 7:30p Choir Practice	9	10 7p Movie Night	11 7a-3p Emmaus Group
12 9:30a Family Worship Sunday 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School	13 6:30p Scouts	14 6:30p Pack Committee	15 Newsletter Deadline 6-9p KDP Sorority 7:30p Choir Practice	16	17	18 8a-3p Sewing Group 10a-4p Community Tech Drive
19 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School 10:45a UWF	20 6:30p Scouts	21 6:30p Tigers 6:30p Wolves	22  6:30p Webelos 7:30p Choir Practice	23	24	25
26 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School 10:45a Finance Committee	27 6:30p Scouts	28	29 7:30p Choir Practice	30		

Some Easy Ways You Can Help

Pop Tabs

Did you ever wonder what to do with your aluminum pop tabs? Well, if you bring them to church, I will have a container down in Rogers Hall where you can place them or you can just give them to me. I collect them for Tri Kappa and give them to the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC). These pop tabs support families who stay there and generate funds for the RMHC programs. It's a quick, painless fundraiser and very much appreciated. Thank you.

Jo Anne Bowen

Bottle Caps

And rigid bottle caps? I will take them off your hands right now, too. I am not sure what group is collecting them, but there is a collection box down at the Purdue Extension Center office. So, I would be more than happy to gather them and take them down there.

Jo Anne Bowen



Do You Need a Ride?

Is your car not working? Is your usual driver not available? Well, if I am in

town, I would be willing to drive you to your appointment, whether it be in Bloomington, Greenwood, or Indianapolis.

You can text or call me at (812) 327-2401.

Jo Anne Bowen

Special Dates

- Holy Week Continues, *March 29-April 5, 2026*
- Maundy Thursday, *April 2, 2026*
- Good Friday, *April 3, 2026*
- Easter Sunday, *April 5, 2026*
- Earth Day, *April 22, 2026*
- Administrative Professionals Day, *April 22, 2026*

Bible Quiz



According to Matthew's account, something remarkable happened to the earth on the day Jesus was crucified and again on the morning when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary visited the tomb. What occurred on both days?

- A. There was a flood on both days.
- B. There was an earthquake on both days.
- C. There was a huge fire on each day.
- D. There was complete darkness on both days.

Answer: B (Matthew 27:51; Matthew 28:2)

Interactive Workshop Report

Follow-up regarding the Interactive Workshop (skills and interest inventory) held on March 1st. The Workshop was held after church on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 12:30 following a pasta lunch. Rev. Bethany Scott with Do What Is Good facilitated the 3H workshop (Heads, Hands, & Hearts). Twenty-two people participated in the workshop and feedback was requested for future planning of next steps.

During the hour each of the five groups listed and shared various gifts, talents, interests, and knowledge. Bethany prompted us to think how these interests and skills might link to community needs and opportunities for community outreach and service.

Our congregation does a lot, especially for our size. If we desire to add a ministry, then this inventory may help us identify ways we can meet a community need.

Some feedback was received during the session, and I received some feedback via email from several participants which is being shared with our planning team. We will use that feedback as we look at next steps.

On behalf of the planning (same group planning the tech help activities) I thank you for your support, participation, and feedback. Stay tuned for more.

Submitted by Penny Caudill



Nurturing Thoughts

The days are getting warmer and some of us are thinking about our yard and what needs to be done. If you are planting, think about native plants. Invasive species are bad for the environment. Here is a website to research what is a good plant for your yard to encourage pollinators - <https://finder.indiananativeplants.org/>

Another site is <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/native-shrubs-for-fall-color/>

This should get you started with your landscaping plans. Make good choices for the environment. We are the caretakers of the planet God has bestowed upon us. God Bless You my Church Family.

-Marge Clark

Prayer to say while planting... "Dear God, guide my hands as I dig in the dirt and place the roots just right so that this plant will grow as you give us the rain and sun to assist nurturing and encouraging growth. May it feel our love just as we feel your love. Thank you God for making us stewards of the Earth."

-Marge Clark

April Christian Ed News

As we continue to design programming for the children who attend EFUMC, the present focus is on creating opportunities for kids ages 3 to 11. As the Lord blesses us with future growth in Children's Ministry, we hope to expand our offerings to all age groups. Of course, doing so will require additional volunteers. Please prayerfully consider how you might be of help! Contact Connie Frink to indicate your interest in being part of our Christian Education team.

Bags and Boards is an ever-evolving part of the children's ministry at EFUMC meant to afford kids the option to personally select faith-based materials to use while sitting in the pew during the worship hour. Upon entering the building, children are encouraged to stop at the Welcome Table and select a bag into which they can put a clipboard, activity book, pencil/crayons, etc. Nametags will be placed on the handles of each bag and, after church, the labeled bags should be hung on the rack in the entrance way. Children can collect '*their worship bag*' when they arrive to attend church next time and may add any additional new materials that might be of interest. An effort will be made to restock the table regularly. Educational materials which build on the message Pastor Jimmy introduces during the Kids Moment will be provided to help the children have a greater understanding of the scripture on which that lesson is based. Often, the theme will continue during the Sunday School hour. Activities will be Bible-based and Christ-centered. Prayer, music, and special activities will make SCS attendance memorable and fun, as we grow in relationship with the Lord and one another.

"What is the purpose of Family Worship Sunday and how is that different than worship and SCS every other week of the month?" Family Worship Sunday provides an innovative option for busy families to return to regular worship. A target goal of attending church once a month seems achievable for many. It not only helps reestablish a Sabbath routine, but depending on the needs of each family, the flexible schedule allows folks to decide what attendance best fits their need. Should the family have plans to leave following church service, children will have two options on this designated Sunday: stay in church with their adults and use their Bags and Boards materials OR following the Kids Moment, go downstairs for Children's Church. When the worship hour comes to a close, adults will collect their littles and head out to their next destination, hopefully with everyone in the family feeling spiritually fed.

For those who stay for fellowship and/or to attend SCS, there will be both adult classes and programming for children. In short, Family Worship Sunday gives us the option to have an extended session with our children where we can continue to grow in faith and connection, all the while continuing the Biblical theme of the day. It also affords us the chance to do more complex art projects, learn songs, and play games.

April 12 is the next Family Worship Sunday. Donations of candy and plastic eggs are needed to have an Easter egg hunt on that day. Please bring items to the Children's Sunday School room on or before Easter Sunday. We are going to prepare for the possibility of 20 children being with us that day. Thanks in advance for your provision!

Christian Education Survey results will be shared in our May newsletter. Should you wish to participate, there are additional copies available on the table in the back of the church. Kindly fill out and return to Connie or place in the Education mailbox in the office. Your input and suggestions are very helpful in establishing goals for future programming at EFUMC.

Ladies MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our annual women's banquet is scheduled for Thursday, May 7 at 6 pm in the fellowship hall. Theme for the evening will be 'A Stitch in Time.' Attendees are encouraged, though not required, to bring a favorite homemade item to exhibit and, if feeling so led, share a little bit about the item. Any handcrafted piece will be appreciated. Suggested donation of \$15.00 adult, \$5.00 children ages 5-12, with kids under 5 free. Meal will include salad, rolled stuffed pork loin, mashed potatoes, fresh green bean almondine, applesauce, rolls and dessert. All ladies are invited to attend. Those who are mothers are encouraged to invite their children. Please make reservations by April 26 by contacting Tracy Davis (814)592-1406 or Connie Frink (812) 662-4575.

Trustee Overview to Our Church Family

We have finished reconciling and analyzing the 2025 finances. We are pleased to report that all dedicated funds comfortably ended the year in the black. Fixed cost line items in the general budget also ended in the black. The only exceptions are church maintenance and snow removal. Trustees would like the whole church family to celebrate the financial situation as it is at this time. We start 2026 on firm financial ground. At the same time, we also have some challenges that will stretch our ingenuity, energies, and assets.

Star of David Windows

This endeavor carries a \$50,000 price tag. Finance committee will keep everyone engaged in this project.

Rental Properties

Both properties are vacant by April and some work is needed, Normal wear and tear as with any household is required. In addition, we need to do some additional work on the east side rental. Nothing has been done in over 20 years so this is understandable. Church members may volunteer to lend energy and talents. Just contact Valerie DeWar to join the list of workers.

Church Roof leaks and inner wall damages

These two areas are in highly visible areas of our church. They greet us weekly. Therefore, the questions come why we seem to be doing nothing about them. We trustees do not like to see them either. Insurance, roofers, and mostly weather have complicated the whole situation. However, there is movement with definite resolution in the works this month. The goal is to be done before Easter. We expect these problems to be taken care of by professionals with insurance and finances we have available. However, some painting talent might be requested so stand by.

Electrical work

A great deal of electrical work has been done. Those who were cooking for the turkey dinner and the chili cookoff rejoiced at the lack of tripped circuits. This project was fairly major and we had funds to cover it.

Sound System.

This is a project that has been a challenge. A great deal has been done with equipment. Yet, it is not enough. We have heard your anguish. We feel it, too. Once again, finding the right expert is the challenge. Pleasantly, the finances of the project are not a challenge as we have them in place. And, yes, once again Easter is the goal for completion. We need your prayers.

Church Finance Information

Gold Can contributions: January - Midwest Missions \$358.77
February - Scouts \$351.00
March - Hannah House tbd
April - UMCOR



Star of David Windows through 2/28/2026 - \$19,102

Income	vs.	Budgeted Expenses through 2/28/2026
\$23,269.00		\$23,916.69

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

FRIDAY, APRIL 3 7:00 PM

On Good Friday evening, we will gather in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM for a contemplative service in which we are invited to reflect on the seven last words of Jesus through scripture, music, spoken reflections from individuals from our church. Our Choir, accompanied and directed by John Barnes, will lead us musically. We hope to see you.

EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

7:30 AM EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

8:30 BREAKFAST (ALL ARE INVITED)

9:30 EASTER TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE



NEW CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS FORMING

Are you interested in becoming a member, or in exploring what it would mean to be a member, of Ellettsville First United Methodist Church? We are preparing to convene a new class for membership this Spring and want to give those interested an opportunity to let us know.

Church membership is an important facet of Christian practice. In United Methodist tradition, new members reaffirm their baptismal vows, and promise to be faithful to Christ through the church, promising to participate in its ministries through their prayers, their presence, their service, their gifts and their witness.

If you are interested in attending, or just have questions about becoming a member of Ellettsville First United Methodist, please contact Jimmy Moore, or Keith Clark in the church office. When we have a sense of who hopes to attend, we will work together to find suitable meeting times.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Community Tech Drive: Repurpose Tech for Good

Hosted by Ellettsville FMC in partnership with BinaryHeart and Heartl

Saturday, April 18 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Ellettsville First United Methodist Church --- 803 W. Temperance St.



ABOUT BINARYHEART

BinaryHeart is a student-run 501(c)(3) dedicated to bridging the digital divide. They collect used laptops, desktops, tablets, and accessories, wipe their data, refurbish them, and then redistribute them to families, students, and community members who need access to technology. **Every donated device is securely wiped, repaired - *Your data privacy is fully protected.***

Our mission is to improve communities by providing access to technology and empowering people with digital skills.

ABOUT DONATION DRIVE

We are excited to host BinaryHeart for a community-wide technology donation drive. This is your chance to give your old devices a second life and change someone else's in the process.

We are accepting donations of:

- Laptops and desktops (working or broken)
- Tablets and smartphones
- Working monitors, keyboards, mice, and accessories
- Chargers and cables



EVENT DETAILS

Location: Ellettsville First United Methodist Church - 803 W. Temperance St.

Date: Saturday, April 18

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM



SCHEDULE

Time	Activity
10:00 AM	Doors open: begin accepting device donations
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Drop off your device, meet BinaryHeart volunteers, and learn about tal opportunity
4:00 PM	Collection closes

BinaryHeart is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All device donations may be eligible for a tax deduction. Volunteers will be on hand to provide donation receipts upon request.

Come by, drop off a device, say hello, or just learn about digital opportunity and how you can help.

Questions? Visit binaryheart.org or reach out to a church volunteer.



The Communicator

Ellettsville First United Methodist Church, Inc.

803 W. Temperance St.
P.O. Box 548
Ellettsville, IN 47429

Worship	9:30am
Fellowship	10:30am
Adult Sunday School	10:45am
Office Hours:	M, W, F 9am-12pm
Church Phone:	812-876-4792
Email:	efumchurch@bluemarble.net
Webpage:	http://www.efumchurch.org

April 2026

