



MARCH

2026

Ellettsville First United Methodist Church

Monthly Sunday Worship and Education Schedule

In an effort to provide **clarity and consistency** about the schedule of activities taking place **on Sunday morning at EFUMC**, the following monthly schedule will be implemented, subject to future modification as needed.

Worship Service will be held in the sanctuary from 9:30 until 10:30 am.

- **1st Sunday: Communion**
- **2nd Sunday: Family Worship Sunday with Children's Church**
- **3rd 4th and 5th Sunday: Traditional Worship**



****** The Christian Education Committee will provide various materials for children to explore while seated in the pews during church.*

Refreshments will be served downstairs in the fellowship hall following our worship service. As a gentle notice, the sound of a **bell** will signal when it's time to begin transitioning to Sunday School activities. Participants may bring refreshments along with them. Classes for both adults and children will be on offer, however, the specific course of study may be subject to modification in the future based on group interest. **Sessions will begin at 10:50 am and finish by 11:50 am.**

Methodist Women plan to meet in their room on the third Sunday of each month during the Sunday School hour. As previously noted, Adult Sunday School will also be held during that time. Those who would rather remain in the fellowship hall to socialize on any given Sunday are encouraged to do as you feel led. God calls us in to relationship with one another and the opportunities we create to gather and meet are always intended to strengthen those personal connections.

Teachers, class helpers and nursery/play supervisors are desperately needed. If you are interested in learning more about being on our rotation to volunteer with this vital ministry, please contact Connie Frink (812)662-4575 or csf430@gmail.com.

May EFUMC continue to be blessed as we continue our faith journey together.

One of the profound ironies of Lent in the northern hemisphere is that it coincides with Spring. The great poet Mary Oliver, in her poem appropriately titled, “Spring,” notices a snake emerging from its winter nap. The serpent “drags himself out of his nest of darkness,” and loops around “looking for the sun.” In very Mary Oliver fashion, the poet writes, “Well, who doesn’t want the sun after the long winter?” She adds, “I thought of Jesus, how he crouched in the dark for two nights, then floated back about the horizon.”



“Who doesn’t want the sun after the long winter?” It comes to me that Lent, for all the darkness and discipline that attend to this season of repentance, sets up in us a longing for light and holy warmth. Spiritually, it prepares the soul and the church for the glory of resurrection. It cultivates hope, and leads us to a courageous faith that can bless the world. We are not the only ones longing for a spiritual sighting of the sun.

These are sacred days at Ellettsville First United Methodist Church. Faithful and reliable energies are joining hands with new ones as we look to the future. I’m privileged to be along for the ride, and look forward to the goodness and hope God longs to bring to us.

The King No One Expected



Sometimes we speak—or even shout—the truth without realizing just how right we are. That’s exactly what happened on the first Palm Sunday.

Jesus entered Jerusalem not on a prize-worthy stallion, but on a young, humble donkey. The crowd erupted in joy, shouting, “*Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!*” They waved palm branches, symbols of peace, and hailed Jesus as their King.

Was He a king? Jesus didn’t deny it. When the Pharisees told him to silence the crowd, he replied, “*I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.*”

Later, Pilate—the Roman governor—mocked the religious leaders by saying, “*Here is your king.*” The chief priests bristled with anger, shouting, “*We have no king but Caesar!*”

When Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified, he made one last jab at the furious crowd. John 19:19 tells us he ordered a sign to be placed above the cross. Written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, it declared:

“Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

The chief priests demanded the sign be changed, but Pilate refused. “*What I have written, I have written,*” he said.

Was Jesus a king? The witnesses of His resurrection knew the answer. In Acts 17:7, the early believers were accused of “saying there is another king, Jesus.” And the book of Revelation looks ahead to the day when all creation will know the truth:

“The Lamb will triumph ... for He is Lord of lords and King of kings.” — *Revelation 17:14*



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:30a Communion Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School 12:30p 3H Workshop	2 6p Trustees 6:30p Scouts	3 6:30p Tigers 6:30p Wolves	4 6:30p Lions 7:30p Choir Practice	5 	6  World Day of Prayer	7
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins  9:30a Family Worship Sunday 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Administrative Counsel Meeting	9 6:30p Scouts	10 6:30p Pack Committee	11 6:30p Webelos 7:30p Choir Practice	12 	13 	14
15 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School Newsletter Deadline	16 6:30p Scouts	17  6:30p Tigers 6:30p Wolves	18 7:30p Choir Practice	19 	20  FIRST DAY OF SPRING	21 8a-3p Sewing Group
22 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School	23 6:30p Scouts	24 	25 6:30p Webelos 7:30p Choir Practice	26 	27 	28
29  9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School	30  HOLY WEEK 6:30p Scouts	31 6:30p Pack 129 Church Yard Clean-up			February 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	April 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

RBB Spring Break



Kid's Church at EFUMC

According to recent feedback, *Kids Church* was enjoyed immensely by all the children who attended our very first session on February 8th! Thus far, the parents or grandparents of 16 children (ages 3-10) have indicated an interest in having their kids participate in this newly developed program. Several others have said they are exploring their schedules to make future plans to join in. Once established, we will plan community outreach with goals to welcome others who may want to come worship with us.



Our lesson, an extension of the message Pastor Jimmy shared in the Children's moment, focused on Matthew 5:13-20. We learned about how God calls each of us to make a positive difference in the world—to be “salt” and “light.” Enthusiastically singing *This little Light Of Mine*, the kids lifted high the mini flashlights each was given as a welcome gift from the church. They crafted special Valentines and were encouraged “to be salt and light” by giving their card as an expression of caring and love to another. Each participant received a Valentine Card that read “Jesus loves you...the Lord will be your everlasting light” which serves as a reminder of God's love for each of us.

Moving forward, *Children's church* is scheduled to be held on the **SECOND SUNDAY of EVERY MONTH** as part of *Family Worship Sunday*. Kids will be dismissed to attend Children's Church following the Children's message. Parents will pick up their kids downstairs. Additional opportunities for Christian Ed programming for all ages are currently being explored. Special Children's projects could eventually include offerings such as a puppet ministry: the kids could make puppets, study scripture, and create their own scripts. Using their puppets, children would share their faith message with others. Innovative programming such as this would be responsive to the interests of our kids and enhance their understanding of one way they can share God's word with others. This example is just one way we could create programming that could be scheduled during the traditional Sunday School hour. A full range of options are on the agenda for our Christian Education Committee to explore. Questions, suggestions, and volunteers are always welcome.

Special Dates

- World Day of Prayer, *March 6, 2026*
- Daylight saving time begins, *March 8, 2026*
- St. Patrick's Day, *March 17, 2026*
- First day of spring, *March 20, 2026*
- Holy Week, *March 29-April 5, 2026*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 29, 2026*

Bible Quiz

In Bible times, shepherds spent most of their days with their sheep—guiding them to food and water and guarding them from danger. When a sheep was injured, the shepherd treated the wound with a special liquid. What was it?

- A. Water
- B. Honey
- C. A salt solution
- D. Olive oil



Answer: D (See Psalm 23:5)

MARCH GOLD CAN OFFERING

Our gold can offering in March is for the Hannah House, which is now referred to as **The Hannah Center**, it is an organization dedicated to meeting the emotional, spiritual, and practical needs of women and families experiencing crisis pregnancies and early parenting challenges.

What they Do

- Free Pregnancy Testing and Counseling
- Help, at No Cost, with Needed Items from the Prenatal Period through Kindergarten Age
- Gift Bags of New Items for Newborns
- Prenatal, Childbirth, and Parenting Classes
- Doula Services
- Case Management and Housing Referrals
- Grief Counseling after Prenatal, Infant, or Early Childhood Loss
- Safer Sleep Classes with the Gift of New Pack and Play
- They have several different volunteer opportunities
- Currently they are working toward the reopening of the Hannah House Maternity Home.
- Staff is needed. www.hannahcenter.org/getinvolved



Family Game Night Fun



On January 23rd the church had another Family Game Night. Twenty-Five people were in attendance. There were some fierce battles taking place as you can see in the photographs.



Financial Information



Fundraising, Finance, and Stewardship committee met on February 1, 2026. We would like to share a brief synopsis of our meeting minutes.

Star of David windows fundraising update:

Grant application: Cam Trampke in conjunction with the Val DeWar and Jimmy Moore are gathering all of the costs already incurred and anticipated future expenses so that Cam may complete a grant application to The United Methodist Foundation. The grants may are typically up to \$5,000, we are hopeful that the foundation will be generous. Every dollar helps.

The Missions Committee has decided to donate the funds received at the Chili Cookoff to the Star of David effort. We are blessed and grateful to have this support.

Additional fundraising activities will be added during 2026.

As of yearend 2025, we have received donations totaling \$17,777.

Finance report:

We ended 2025 in the black. Our income through tithes, offerings, and some of the rent money totaled \$148,640. Our expenses came in below budget at \$142,263.

Stewardship:

Through 2026 we will be discussing stewardship as it relates to Time, Talent, & Tithes. More importantly we will focus on how we are impacting our church and our community.

Thank you to Bliss Felton for gathering all of the committee members together for our first quarterly meeting. If you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact Bliss, Peggy, or Jimmy. Blessings to all who have taken the time to read this report.



Finding God in Everyday Living

This is a prayer by Brother Lawrence, a 17th century monk assigned to work in the monastery kitchen. Washing dishes was his worship.

*“Lord of all pots and pans and things...
Make me a saint by cooking meals and washing up the plates.”*

May whatever small task you find yourself in today lead you deeper into the presence of God.

Nurturing Thoughts

I can't believe Lent starts this week and we will celebrate Easter in seven weeks. I'm still recovering from Christmas and New Year's! The season of Lent is a time to go inward and reflect asking God for guidance in our lives. We are also told to give up something in our daily lives in order to experience self-sacrifice. At least that is what I have been taught from the time I was a child. I have an idea for something different this Lenten season...praying. Let's face it, most of us say we pray but how many take 5-10 minutes a day to sit in silence and really pray. My grandmother and two of my great aunts were of the Catholic faith. I grew up in the Catholic church. I remember them going to church and praying the rosary. I still have my grandmother's rosary beads. And it wasn't just Sunday Mass. No. Mass was every day. I'm not suggesting you purchase a rosary and go to a Catholic church to pray every day. I have a better suggestion.

Pick one member of our church family. Just one. Then pick someone outside of church. Again, just one. Now you have *two people*. You are going to pray DAILY for the two people you have chosen. In order to remember, write their names on a piece of paper. Keep that paper in your wallet. Every time you open your wallet, you will see their names and say a prayer. Also, write their names in dry erase pen on your bathroom mirror. Every time you look into the mirror, you will see the names and you say a prayer.

And you will **not tell** the people you are praying for them. The reveal will come on Easter Sunday when you will give them an Easter card. The power of prayer can very much transform the lives of those we pray for and even for ourselves. Who knows, maybe the person will tell you that they actually felt something positive happening. I am very excited to take part in this journey of faith. I hope you will join me as we embark on this challenge. To experience what Jesus did as he prayed to his Father.

1. *Pick two people – one from church*
2. *Write names on piece of paper and place the paper in your wallet*
3. *Write names on bathroom mirror*
4. *Every time you see their names, say a prayer*
5. *Give each person an Easter Card on Easter Sunday telling them you prayed for them each day*
6. *Prayer suggestion: "God, I lift up [name] today. I ask that you bless them abundantly, giving them strength, peace, and a closer connection to your love throughout this season".*
7. *Optional – journal your experience*

God Bless You my Church Family.

—Marge Clark

FAITH AND PERSPECTIVE

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson



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

March 2026



God's Wonderful Work