

**ELKHART CHRISTIAN CHURCH,  
Disciples of Christ**

**PROGRAM BOOKLET**

**July 1, 2025—June 30, 2026**

252 NW Washington

P.O. Box 97

Elkhart, Iowa 50073

[www.elkhartcciowa.com](http://www.elkhartcciowa.com)



Logo Created by Gabrielle Butler

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Secretary: Mary Jo Ward  
[elkhartccsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:elkhartccsecretary@gmail.com)  
Church: (515) 367-5125  
Pastor Lisa Cell: (412) 951-6964.

+ + +

**Note: If you find errors in this booklet, please notify Mary Jo Ward**

08/28/2025

|                                                                |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>MISSION STATEMENT .....</b>                                 | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>VISION STATEMENT .....</b>                                  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT .....</b>                      | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>LOGO .....</b>                                              | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>CHURCH SCHEDULE .....</b>                                   | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>CHURCH PUBLICATIONS .....</b>                               | <b>6</b>  |
| ANNUAL REPORT .....                                            | 6         |
| CHURCH PICTURE DIRECTORY .....                                 | 6         |
| PROGRAM BOOKLET .....                                          | 6         |
| THE SECRET PLACE .....                                         | 6         |
| <b>SERVICES &amp; IMPORTANT DATES .....</b>                    | <b>6</b>  |
| OTHER SPECIAL SERVICES .....                                   | 6         |
| <b>GENERAL CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION .....</b>                | <b>7</b>  |
| BUDGET .....                                                   | 7         |
| CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER .....                    | 7         |
| CHURCH BULLETIN .....                                          | 7         |
| GREETERS .....                                                 | 7         |
| OFFICE HOURS FOR THE CHURCH .....                              | 7         |
| SCHOLARSHIPS .....                                             | 7         |
| USHERS .....                                                   | 7         |
| WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS .....                                     | 7         |
| <b>PROPERTY MAINTENANCE &amp; IMPROVEMENT PROCEDURES .....</b> | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>CWF .....</b>                                               | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>BUILDING USE POLICIES AND COSTS .....</b>                   | <b>10</b> |
| CLEANING DEPOSIT .....                                         | 10        |
| KITCHEN ETIQUETTE .....                                        | 10        |
| KITCHEN USAGE AND RENTAL .....                                 | 9         |
| <b>GENERAL BUILDING USE POLICIES .....</b>                     | <b>11</b> |
| <b>RECEPTION INFORMATION .....</b>                             | <b>12</b> |
| <b>COMMITTEES .....</b>                                        | <b>13</b> |
| EDUCATION COMMITTEE .....                                      | 13        |
| FUNERAL FOOD COMMITTEE .....                                   | 13        |
| MEMBERSHIP / EVANGELISM COMMITTEE .....                        | 13        |
| MEMORIAL AND SPECIAL GIFTS COMMITTEE .....                     | 13        |
| PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE .....                             | 13        |
| PERMANENT FUND COMMITTEE .....                                 | 13        |
| RECEPTION COMMITTEE .....                                      | 13        |
| STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE .....                        | 13        |
| WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE .....                                 | 13        |
| WORSHIP COMMITTEE .....                                        | 13        |
| <b>BOARDS .....</b>                                            | <b>14</b> |
| CHURCH BOARD .....                                             | 14        |
| ELDERS .....                                                   | 14        |
| DIACONATE .....                                                | 14        |
| JUNIOR DIACONATE .....                                         | 14        |

|                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| TRUSTEES .....                   | 14        |
| YOUTH GROUP .....                | 14        |
| PIANIST / ORGANIST .....         | 14        |
| FLOWERS .....                    | 14        |
| HISTORIAN .....                  | 14        |
| CUSTODIAN .....                  | 14        |
| SECRETARY .....                  | 14        |
| <b>COMMUNION HOSTESSES .....</b> | <b>15</b> |

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Elkhart Christian Church is a family of faithful Christians actively caring for the needs of others; sharing our faith through worship, education, and outreach; and providing fellowship that represents Christ's love and presence in our community and our world. Our mission is to nurture and prepare everyone God entrusts to us to become mature and dedicated Disciples for the glory of God.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

"Sharing Our Faith and God's Love"

## **OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT**

"As an open and affirming Disciples congregation, we are striving to become a people of grace and welcome to all God's children regardless of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, physical or mental ability, political stance or theological perspective; and we affirm the faith, baptism, and spiritual gifts of all Christians regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, for neither is grounds for exclusion from fellowship or service within the church, for we celebrate that all are part of God's good creation."

## **LOGO**

**Created by Gabrielle Butler, 2015**



## CHURCH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ..... 10:00 am

**Communion is available to the homebound, ill or those in care centers.**

**Please contact one of the Elders or the Pastor if communion is desired.**

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL (as needed) ..... - inactive at the present time ..... 9:15 am

Sunday after Labor Day until Sunday before Memorial Day

ADULT BIBLE STUDY ..... .. Schedule Changes; check church calendar for current offerings

CHANCEL CHOIR ..... Seasonal

ADULT HANDCHIME CHOIR ..... Seasonal

CHRISTIAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (CYF) (grades 6-12) .....Inactive at the present time .....6:00-8:00 pm

SIXTY-PLUS GROUP..... in active at the present time..... 2:00 pm

Everyone in Elkhart and surrounding communities is welcome

FOOD PANTRY.....First Saturday of the month – 9-10 am; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday – 6-7 pm

CHURCH BOARD MEETING..... 3rd Sunday of each month ..... 11:00 am

The Official Board consists of the elders, deacons, deaconesses, trustees and committee chairpersons. Others are welcome to attend as well.

ANNUAL MEETING ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of July

## CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

**ANNUAL REPORT** which is published after the Annual Meeting. The Report contains a year-end summary of each committee's work, the treasurer's year-end report, and the Pastor's year-end report.

**CHURCH PICTURE DIRECTORY** which includes addresses and phone numbers of our church families and friends.

**PROGRAM BOOKLET** (which you're holding), identifies important dates; groups; committee board officers; Elders, Diaconate, and Building Use Policy.

**THE SECRET PLACE** a devotional booklet purchased by the church and placed quarterly on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Anyone is invited to take a copy.

## SERVICES & IMPORTANT DATES

|             |                            |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| July 20     | Annual Meeting             |
| October 1   | World Vegetation Day       |
| October 5   | World Communion Sunday     |
| November 1  | All Saints Day             |
| November 27 | Thanksgiving               |
| November 30 | Advent Begins              |
| November 30 | Peace Sunday               |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve              |
| January 18  | Week of Laity/Laity Sunday |
| February 8  | Boy Scout Sunday           |
| February 18 | Ash Wednesday              |
| February 22 | Week of Compassion         |
| March 29    | Palm Sunday                |
| April 2     | Maundy Thursday            |
| April 3     | Good Friday                |
| April 5     | Easter Sunday              |
| April 19    | Earth Stewardship Sunday   |
| May 10      | Mother's Day               |
| May 24      | Pentecost                  |
| June 21     | Father's Day               |
| July 4      | Independence Day           |

## OTHER SPECIAL SERVICES

- Pastor's Classes for Baptism are held on an "on demand" basis. Simply let the pastor know that you would like to be baptized and it will be arranged for you to discuss the "basics of the faith" together.
- Special services that are planned as needed include Infant Dedication Services, Advent and Lenten Devotionals/Studies, and Recognition of High School and College Graduates.

## GENERAL CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION

**BUDGET** The church operates on an annual July - June budget year. The budget is established to set guidelines for expenditures during the year.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER** Please notify the church office or simply update via your Realm account.

**CHURCH BULLETIN** is printed on Thursday. If you have an announcement or a prayer request for the bulletin, please contact the church office by Thursday morning.

**GREETERS** are recruited from the membership of the congregation. Their responsibility is to welcome worshippers to Church on Sunday morning and during special worship services. They also count the persons present at the worship services.

**OFFICE HOURS FOR THE CHURCH** As of the updating of this program booklet, we are in between pastors. Our Interim at this time is Lisa Grace. She does not have regular office hours, but you may reach her at (412) 951-6964.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** Our church pays a one-half scholarship for young people who attend our region's summer camp program. Any young person who participates in our church program is eligible to receive this scholarship. We also have a scholarship fund established for women attending Metanoia (at Newton Conference Center in October) through CWF funds.

**USHERS** are recruited by the Worship committee. Their responsibilities are to help seat visitors and provide extra chairs when needed.

**WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS** Please contact the church office to make wedding arrangements and to make appointments for pre-marital conferences. There is a "Wedding Guidelines" form.

## **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT PROCEDURES**

- It is the intent of the trustees to maintain, repair and improve the church property based on decisions made by the Church Board. All changes, repairs, and improvements must have the approval of at least one trustee before any purchases have been made, equipment and supplies ordered, estimates requested, or services acquired.
- All projects in excess of \$500.00 must be reviewed and approved by the Church Board. The board meeting provides an opportunity for concerns about projects to be raised and discussed. Projects costing less than \$500.00 must be approved by the trustees and do not require board action.
- When subcontractors are hired to complete work on the church property, they will work at the direction of the trustee in charge of the project. Subcontractors will be informed that their progress will not be impeded or redirected by anyone else. Members of the congregation with concerns about specific projects should contact a trustee to discuss their concerns.
- If a problem arises such as plumbing or electrical malfunctions, members of the congregation are encouraged to take appropriate action by interrupting the services to avoid further damage and to advise a trustee immediately.

### **Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF)**

It shall be the purpose of the Christian Women's Fellowship to provide opportunities for spiritual growth, enrichment, education, and creative ministries to enable women to develop a sense of personal responsibility for the whole mission of the church of Jesus Christ. All women of the church are welcome to belong to CWF.

We appreciate your support for the yearly Fall Fundraiser and other CWF functions.

#### **CWF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

|                         |                 |                                   |                |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| <b><u>Co-Leader</u></b> | Connie Passmore | <b><u>Secretary/Treasurer</u></b> | Coral Sorenson |
| <b><u>Co-Leader</u></b> | Mary Jo Ward    |                                   |                |

Every year in the CWF coordinates a church fundraiser. The proceeds go toward Church and Parsonage upkeep. We also contribute to missions such as Dorothy's House, military care packages, and distributing school supplies to families.

**BUILDING USE POLICIES AND COSTS**  
Effective 01/09/22 (Participating Members)

For members and participants of Elkhart Christian Church, the fees for sanctuary and fellowship hall usage have been waived, but a custodian fee of \$75.00 made payable to Craig Ellyson will be required for rental. Use of the building for weddings, receptions, and large gatherings can be scheduled through the office, provided the building is not previously scheduled. To secure use of the building for your event, on the date you desire, a \$100.00 cleaning deposit is required and payable in the office. Responsibility for the care and cleaning of the facilities will be with each group or member sponsoring the event. Damage or breakage will also fall under that same responsibility.

**CLEANING DEPOSIT**

The \$100.00 deposit is a refundable deposit available after the designated church representative and/or pastor has approved the clean-up.

For any occasion or event at the church, it is recommended that the persons contracting for the building usage designate someone to be responsible for organizing the clean-up and securing the approval and deposit from the designated church representative.

For non-participating members the building use policy is as follows.

Use of the Sanctuary - 4 hours (half day) - \$100.00 – 8 hours (full day) - \$200.00  
in addition to a \$75.00 custodial fee made payable to Craig Ellyson  
Use of the Fellowship Hall - 4 hours (half day) - \$100.00 – 8 hours (full day) - \$200.00  
in addition to a \$75.00 custodial fee made payable to Craig Ellyson

**KITCHEN ETIQUETTE**

After kitchen use, please clean the kitchen. This will include removing trash, washing all used dishtowels and cloths and returning them to the church as soon as possible, removing all leftover food and drink from the refrigerators. Please report any breakage or non-working appliances to the CWF President. All kitchen dishes and small appliances are available for use but please do not remove them from the premises.

**KITCHEN USAGE AND RENTAL**

If you are planning on using the kitchen facilities or equipment (appliances, dishes, pots, pans, trays, etc.) for your gathering please notify the church office when you secure the date for your event. The CWF charges for kitchen usage (the charges help to stock and replace needed kitchen items). This charge is payable at the church office when the cleaning deposit is paid.

**Kitchen rent for participating members**

|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Large group gathering (50 or more) | 50.00   |
| Small gathering (up to 50)         | \$25.00 |

**Kitchen rent for non-participating members**

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Large gathering (25 or more) | \$100.00 |
| Small gathering (up to 25)   | \$40.00  |

(A member of the kitchen staff will serve as liaison with the designated person from the party using the building.)

## GENERAL BUILDING USE POLICIES

1. Food and drink are not allowed in the sanctuary.
2. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on church premises.
3. No smoking is allowed in the church building.
4. Furniture, fixtures, and accessories may be moved, but not removed from the building for non-church activities.
5. Dishes, pans, coffee pots, roasters, etc., may be taken out of the church for church activities only.
6. When you use the kitchen, please clean it! Please report anything not working to a trustee or CWF Board Member. Any items left in the kitchen that are not for kitchen work will be removed.
7. When you use dishtowels and cloths, please wash them and bring them back as soon as possible.
8. If it is necessary to move the communion table, chairs, or pulpit in the sanctuary they must be returned to their previous position after use.
9. Please clean the tables in the fellowship hall after use.
10. Please make sure the lights, fans, and the window air-conditioners (seasonal) are turned off before leaving the building
11. Please do not adjust thermostats.
12. All trash is to be placed in garbage bags and taken to the dumpster just south of the church.
13. Extra garbage bags are in the closet between the kitchen and bathrooms.
14. Decorations for the sanctuary and fellowship hall must be approved by the minister or designated person. The purpose of this is to prevent harsh adhesives on the finished pews, candle wax on the floor or other potential damage.
15. Bird seed and rice are not allowed on the church premises. This also includes confetti and other similar substances such as glitter and glittered decorations.
16. Tables, chairs, kitchen utensils, etc. are not to be removed from the church property. Use is confined to on-premises functions.

## RECEPTION INFORMATION

Any group that would like to have the Reception Committee serve a wedding reception, rehearsal, anniversary, or other large gathering they may contact the church office at (515) 367-5125. The group using the facilities must provide all food and beverage.

### **The following fees are set for the CWF's Service:**

#### Serving for participating members

|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Large group gathering (50 or more) | \$50.00 |
| Small gathering (up to 50)         | \$25.00 |

#### Serving for Nonparticipating members

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Large gathering (25 or more) | \$100.00 |
| Small gathering (up to 25)   | \$40.00  |

\*A member of the kitchen staff will serve as liaison with the designated person from the party using the building.

\*\*Kitchen Rent for Participating and Nonparticipating members must also be paid in addition to Serving Charge.

## COMMITTEES

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Meets as needed

Members:

### FUNERAL FOOD COMMITTEE - As Needed

For information on your wishes and our services offered, contact: Cathy Handley at 515-964-1544; No charge, but donations accepted.

### FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE - Meets as needed

**Chair: Brenda Dobson**

Members:

|              |
|--------------|
| Russ Dobson  |
| Mary Jo Ward |
| Bekah Ward   |
| Robyn Stall  |
| Lil Stall    |

### MEMORIAL AND SPECIAL GIFTS COMMITTEE - Meet in March, June, September and December

|                      |                |                |                                |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Board Chair:         | Perry Anderson | CWF Co-Chairs: | Mary Jo Ward & Connie Passmore |
| Appointed Secretary: |                | Pastor:        | Lisa Grace, Interim            |
| Worship Chair:       | Cathy Handley  | Trustee:       | John Burrigh                   |

### PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE - Meets January, April, July and October

Pastor – Chair: - members will stay on until end of year and new search committee is found

Members: 3 Year Terms

|                            |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>July 2022-June 2025</b> | <b>July 2023-June 2026</b> | <b>July 2026-June 2029</b> |
| <b>Diann Burrigh</b>       | <b>Mike Luke</b>           | <b>TBD</b>                 |

### PERMANENT FUND COMMITTEE - Meets as Needed

It shall be the function of this committee to receive and administer wills and bequests for the long range good of the church.

|                           |                                             |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Board Co-Chairs:          | Perry Anderson – Diann Burrigh              |
| Treasurer:                | Tim Butler                                  |
| Stewardship/Finance Chair | Vacant                                      |
| At-Large Members:         | Brenda Dobson; Craig Ellyson; Cathy Handley |

### RECEPTION COMMITTEE - As Needed

|        |     |          |                      |
|--------|-----|----------|----------------------|
| Chair: | N/A | Members: | Volunteers as needed |
|--------|-----|----------|----------------------|

### STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE - Meets quarterly

|              |                |            |            |
|--------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| Board Chair: | Perry Anderson | Treasurer: | Tim Butler |
|--------------|----------------|------------|------------|

### WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE – Church is responsible for World Outreach and meets as needed.

|        |                   |
|--------|-------------------|
| Chair: | Dave & Jan Vernon |
|--------|-------------------|

### WORSHIP COMMITTEE - Meets 1st Monday of each month. Visitors and ideas are welcome.

Chair: Cathy Handley

Members:

|              |                     |             |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Tim Butler   | Robin Luke          | Robyn Stall |
| Mary Jo Ward | Lisa Grace, Interim |             |

## BOARDS

### CHURCH BOARD - Meet Monthly on the Third Sunday @ 11:00 a.m.

|                                                                  |                |                            |                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Board Co-Chair:                                                  | Perry Anderson | Treasurer:                 | Tim Butler        |
| Board Co-Chair:                                                  | Diann Burright | Financial Secretary:       | Michelle Anderson |
| Clerk:                                                           | Cathy Handley  | Asst. Financial Secretary: | Mary Jo Ward      |
| Officers, Elders, Diaconate, Trustees and Committee Chairpersons |                |                            |                   |

### ELDERS (3 Year Term)

| <u>July 2023-2026</u> | <u>July 2024-2027</u> | <u>July 2025-2028</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Connie Passmore (2)   | Craig Ellyson (2)     | Cathy Handley (1)     |
| Coral Sorenson (1)    | Mike Luke (2)         | Dave Kalsem (1)       |
|                       |                       |                       |
|                       |                       |                       |

### DIACONATE (3 Year Term)

| <u>July 2023-2026</u> | <u>July 2024-2027</u> | <u>July 2025-June 2028</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Scott Durrell (2)     | Brian Berard (2)      | Steve Fox (2)              |
| Marsha Burright (1)   | Purmon Green (2)      | John Burright (2)          |
| Robyn Stall (1)       | Lil Stall (1)         | Michelle Knoll (1)         |
|                       |                       |                            |
|                       |                       |                            |
|                       |                       |                            |
|                       |                       |                            |
|                       |                       |                            |
|                       |                       |                            |
|                       |                       |                            |
|                       |                       |                            |

(1) Designates first term of a two consecutive term maximum

(2) Designates second term of a two consecutive term maximum

### JUNIOR DIACONATE (1 Year Term)

|                  |              |  |
|------------------|--------------|--|
| Beckett Anderson | Aaron Greene |  |
|------------------|--------------|--|

### TRUSTEES (3 Year Term)

| <u>July 2023-June 2026</u> | <u>July 2024-June 2027</u> | <u>July 2025-June 2028</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Del Stall                  | John Burright              | Jake Stall                 |

### YOUTH GROUP – Inactive at this time.

Volunteer Leader:

Adult Volunteers:

| Custodian     | Flowers      | Historian | Pianist / Organist<br>(Volunteers) | Secretary<br>(Staff) |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Craig Ellyson | Mary Jo Ward |           | Brenda Dobson                      | Mary Jo Ward         |
|               | Robyn Stall  |           | Robin Luke                         |                      |
|               |              |           | Lori Cory -<br>Substitute          |                      |
|               |              |           |                                    |                      |

## **COMMUNION HOSTESSES**

Communion hostesses are recruited from the membership of the church by the Worship Committee. Their responsibility is to prepare Communion for Sunday morning worship and special services.

At the present time, we are using individual communion cups which replaces the need of a communion hostess. However, if you would like to refill the communion trays each Sunday, you may see Cathy Handley.

There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall if you are interested in helping with any of the activities. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any of the committee chairs, elders, or the pastor.