



Announcements

January 2018

Elmhurst Presbyterian Church

367 Spring Road - Elmhurst - IL
Fax: 630-834-1974
The Website

Phone: 630-834-7750
Email Address: epc@elmhurstchurch.org
www.elmhurstchurch.org

“We are a church called by Jesus Christ to Proclaim, Teach & Serve.”

In Our Prayers Pat Kreibich, Meg March, Steve Reckley,
Jeri Salchow and Marion Young

Continued prayers for the search for our PNC (Pastoral Nominating
Committee).

There is a list on the bulletin board in the Nelson-White Room on the
“news” bulletin board. It shows the latest parishioners who are in a
health center or are hospitalized. If you would like your name added to the
board or put on the prayer list, please contact the church office.

Debbie Paton, Pastor
Susan Smentek, Director of Music
Karen Bircher, Office Administrator
Jesus Garcia — Custodian
Cheryl Kopecky, Clerk of Session
Cheryl Turek/Carol Ewert /Bill Berner/Ray Lee
Technology Assistant Sunday morning's
Frank Dattillo, Rick Rodriguez & John Venti—Sound Techs,
Sunday morning's
<http://www.elmhurstchurch.org>
Find EPC on Facebook: Elmhurst Presbyterian Church &
Find on Facebook: Elmhurst Presbyterian Church & Youth Ministries
Follow us on Twitter: @EPC_tweets

God 
Answers
Prayers

To all my friends at EPC,

It's the day after Christmas and I'm finally getting a minute to sit down and begin writing some thank you's to everyone who has so graciously been a part of celebrating my retirement with me. It's hard to believe I've been a part of your family of faith for eleven years now- officially your Associate Pastor for seven. The time has gone fast but it has been filled with so much joy, meaningful ministry and mission experiences, incredible moments in worship, deep and abiding relationships, and FUN; as well as the inevitable challenges, crisis's, and losses that come with being a church family. That's what being in community is all about- we walk together through all of life's moments with the comfort of knowing we are not alone- we have God and we have each other. And I will forever be grateful for the blessings of being able to walk through those moments with all of you these past eleven years. You are one of the most loving, dedicated, faithful congregations I've ever been a part of.

Thank you all for the beautiful celebration you gave me on Dec 17. That was quite a worship service. Thank you to all of our incredibly talented musicians who provide us with outstanding music week after week: I hope you all know how lucky you are to have these dedicated people here at EPC. Thank you Susan Smentak, Gayle Bisesi, Brian Collins, Paul Heinz, Keith Bauman, Tom Mason, and all the other musicians who do such a wonderful job in helping us to worship. A special thank you also to Jeff Deutsch for the lovely rendition of Amy Grant's "Heirloom".

I especially want to thank the ladies who gave me such thoughtful, kind tributes: Pastor Deb, Carol Ewert, Marj Schuham, Cheryl Kopecky, Kathy Thompson and Susan Smentak – thank you so much. Your words touched my heart. And to Doug Fitzgerald and Alan West who put together that remarkable Parking Attendant video- - what can I say? Once again Doug, you astound me with your hidden talents. That was incredible.

Thank you to all of you who helped watch the children during worship so that their parents could relax and enjoy the service: Ruth Schroeter, Heather Mason, Olivia Gough, Karen Fitzgerald, Faith Lee, Laurel and Lena Bauman, and Darelle and Joanne Menendie. Thank you also to those who helped with the lovely reception for me after worship- Cheryl Kopecky, Liz Johnson, Carol Ewert, Lori Woosley, Karen Fitzgerald, Mary Ellen Hayes, Ruth Schroeter, Cheryl Turek, Jen Gordon, Kathy Thompson, Suzanne Legg, Luke Gordon, Darrelle and Joanna Menendie, Laurel and Lena Baumann, Alan West, Jim Rundle, Dave Fuesz and Paula Reckley

And lastly, I want to thank Pam Fuesz for making a beautiful scrapbook of memories for me filled with pictures and kind words from so many of you. Thank you thank you!

You are a wonderful congregation and I am going to deeply miss all of you. The years I have been blessed to be your Pastor have been some of the most rewarding and meaningful years of my life. It will take some time to adjust to this new season of retired life, but I have no doubt that even if I am not officially "Pastoring" a church, God will find many places to use me to serve and be a part of God's "Shalom" in this world.

I will continue to pray for all of you at EPC as you continue in your search for a new shepherd to lead the flock. In the meantime, I know you are in capable and loving hands with Pastor Debby Paton, who has been such a gift to this community and to me personally, as colleague and friend. I also want to thank the rest of the staff; Karen Bircher, Susan Smentak, Sue McCurdy, and of course Pastor Cliff Lyda for being such wonderful people to do ministry with. We have all been blessed.

May 2018 be a year filled with hope, new beginnings, and the joy of following the One who fills our hearts with life and light.

Hebrews 6:19 "We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul,"

God Bless you my friends,
Pastor Diane

"THESE DAYS" –

Prime Time TV producers always hope their shows will air during prime time; i.e., when there are the most viewers. God vies for our attention at all hours of the day and night, but we too often are tuned in to the many and varied activities of our busy lifestyles. *These Days*, with its selected Scriptures, meditations and prayers, is a good tool for setting aside a daily prime time to listen for God's voice. In this period when we rejoice at the coming of the Christ child, *These Days* can help us to tune out the secular and tune in to the sacred. Free copies of the Jan.-March issue are on the literature table in our Nelson/White fellowship area.

Submitted by Dan McGuire

MISSION CORNER

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

This year's Christmas offering will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. They provide immediate response to national and international disasters and strengthening ongoing work such as training and development and refugee ministry. They are currently helping the people affected by hurricanes Irma and Maria.

ERIE HOUSE

Thank you to all who donated gifts for the Erie House Holiday Gifts for the Heart. Lucero, special events manager for Erie House, sent a thank you note:

Dear Friends,
Thank you for making this Holiday season a wonderful one for Erie Neighborhood House Children and families.
With your support we were able to provide gifts for over 500 children and teens in our programs, then prepare and host a holiday celebration for those families.

Our PADS guest will also enjoy the opportunity for some warm food from McDonalds with all of the gift cards that were donated.

Our church members reached out to so many children, teens and adults, who have so little and need so much..

Thank you,

Mission Committee

Worship for January and February

As we worship in this Season of Epiphany (Ordinary Time) we will be working through Gospel of Mark. It is a time for us to focus on who Jesus is? and who we are as his followers?

Jan 7 - Baptism of our Lord (guest preacher Rev Barbara Gorsky)

Jan 14 - Come and See

Jan 21 - Called to be Fisher People

Jan 28 - Learning and Healing People

Feb 4 - Serving and Praying People

Feb 11 - Transfigured People



Session Meeting Update—December 12, 2017 Meeting

1. The Session authorized the search team for the Director of Children and Youth Ministry to draft an offer letter for an identified candidate for the position.
2. The Pastor Nominating Committee has identified candidates to begin interviewing for our position.
3. New session members, Pam Fuesz and Renee Gough, were welcomed to the group.
4. With mixed feelings, the Session recognized Reverend Diane Slocum on the occasion of her last session meeting.

Leadership Retreat, Saturday, January 13, 2018, 9am-3pm.

All serving Elders, Deacons, and Trustees are expected to attend this day of training and planning. We will begin with gathering time and continental breakfast at 9am, and program at 9:30. This a time for us to evaluate the past year, to set priorities for the new year, engage in conversation about how we work together, become stronger leaders, and build a healthy church.

We are asking all of you to RSVP Pastor Debbie or Cheryl Kopecky, so we may prepare for the day and the meals.

News from The Prayer Shawl Ministry

The next time Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet will be on Wednesday, January 3rd. Time: 1:00-2:30 P.M. in the Nelson White Room.

We have a number of completed prayer shawls. If you know of someone (or yourself) who is in need of a hug from God and the warmth of a shawl to help you or someone you know face a difficult time, please let Mary or the church office know.

Pocket Prayer Shawls are also available in a basket in the Nelson White Room. Three hundred and seventy seven shawls have been given to members and friends of the congregation.

Any questions please contact Mary Mueller at 708) 547-8793.



ADULT STUDIES WITH PASTOR DEBBIE

THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT BOOK GROUP

Will begin again in the new year, Jan 10, 2018 at 7pm. We will be discussing ***The Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*** by Karen Armstrong. "In this important and thought-provoking work, Karen Armstrong—one of the most original thinkers on the role of religion in the modern world—provides an impassioned and practical guide to helping us make the world a more compassionate place." We invite you to join us. Please let Debbie know if you would like her to order a book for you, the cost is \$11.00.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

We meet from 9:15 -10am every Sunday. We have a couple more weeks in our present study of the Synoptic Gospels, as we focus on the post-resurrection stories. We will also be discussing what is next? a look at the Gospel of John, or the Acts of the Apostles, or perhaps a turn in the Old Testament. You can help us choose. There is no preparation necessary to participate, we read the text for the day, invite questions and thoughts from those gathered, and Pastor Debbie shares some insight into the historical and theological context. We end our time with prayer. You are welcome to join as your are able.

Children and Youth Ministries (CYM)

The children and youth are always welcome in worship and invited to come to the front for “the time with young disciples,” The children are also invited to leave after the music ministry for Bible Zone. On the first Sunday of the month, when we celebrate communion, the children will remain for all of worship. This will allow more teaching time with the children and youth as well as worship time with the community.

NEW YOUTH GROUP STUDY

Every Sunday morning at 9:30, students grades 7 through 12 are meeting together. On the first, second, and fourth Sundays of the month, we gather in the roof top lounge to study the book "The Case for Christ" student edition and to ask tough questions about Jesus and the Bible. On the third Sunday, we meet in the kitchen to prepare coffee and snacks for the congregation after the service. All students are welcome. It is never too late to join us!

The Yorkfield Presbyterian Church continues to invite our youth to participate in Jr. and Sr. High Youth fellowship. Middle School Youth Fellowship gathers on Wednesday nights from September—March at 5:30 p.m. at YPC. For more information check the MSYF page on YPC’s website.

Senior High Youth Fellowship meet Sunday evenings September—May at 6 p.m. at YPC.

Christmas Poinsettias

Thank you to all who donated poinsettias this Christmas season.

Andrew Anderson, In memory of Dan & Dorothy Davidovich and friends gone to soon.
Doug and Terry Beitler, In memory of Phil Beitler.
Barry and Robin Benecke, In memory of Andre Gerald Kwiatek.
Patti Berner in memory of Bob & Helen Johnston.
Clare and Brian Collins, In honor of our loving families.
Jim Davidovich, In memory of Dan & Dorothy Davidovich and In memory of Peter & Louise Davidovich; Harry & Eva Beitler.
Jim and Carol Ewert, In memory of our parents.
Douglas and Muriel Gifford, In memory of Lincoln Gifford & Nancy Farrar.
Doug and Sue Hall, In memory of, sister.
Rod and Mary Ellen Hayes, In memory of Herb A. Power & Herb M. Power.
Charlotte and Liz Johnson, In memory of Don Johnson.
Rob and Cheryl Kopecky, In memory of our parents.
Marge and Susan Leslie, In memory of all our departed loved ones.
Hal and Meg March, In memory of our parents.
Pastor Deborah Paton, In memory of Amy J. Snedekder, and In honor of my family.
Jerrie Salchow.
Lee Strouse, Rusty and Lourdes , in memory of Joan Strouse.
Joanne Toblesky, In memory of Roger Adler & Wally Toblesky.
Marion Young in honor of Jerry Bodmer.
Laurie Wilson, In memory of Dorthy, George & Rob Wilson.
Lori Woosley, In memory of John & Mary Jayne Van Vertloo and Glen Woosley.



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION, January 28, immediately following worship, for the purpose of receiving reports of the mission and ministry of the congregation, and the budget for 2018.

Reports for the Annual Report are due by Tuesday, January 2nd to the church office. Thank you.

MOVIE GROUP will meet on Saturday, January 6, 2018. Members will be notified. Contact Susan Leslie at kcleslie206@sbcglobal.net to be added to the member list. The Movie Group meets the first Saturday of the month.

MONDAY MORNING WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP will resume on January 8th. Time: 9:30-11:00 A.M. The group meets in the Tallman Room. Questions contact Muriel Gifford at 630) 510-2680.

R.O.M.E.O. Group (Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Will meet on January 24th at Hi-View Restaurant in Villa Park. Time: 1:00 P.M. Contact: Doug Hall at 630) 279-8739.

SOUND BOARD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are asking for one or two volunteers to step up to fill the void of a tech who stepped down due to his traveling work schedule. The sound board ministry isn't very complex to learn, but it is a crucial part of our worship services at EPC. Please contact Pastor Debbie Dlpaton@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping out. Thank you to John Venti who has stepped up to help for the next couple of months.

THANK YOU to Karen Fitzgerald and Liz Johnson who decorated the pots for Christmas outside EPC's church doors in memory of Joan Strouse. They look beautiful.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES can please be picked up in the Nelson-White Room. If you would like to give on "Simple Give" please talk to Jeff Waters, EPC Church Treasurer.