



# Announcements

## February 2018

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### Elmhurst Presbyterian Church

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

In Our Prayers . . . . . Charlotte Johnson.

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.

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Debbie Paton, Pastor  
Emily Culella, Director of Children & Youth Ministry  
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 Dattilo & Rick Rodriguez —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*

# Worship for February

Ash Wednesday Service, February 14 at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of reflection and repentance ( turning or returning to God). This year we will focus our attention finding our way through a season of changes. Changes is one of the constant in our lives, changes we choose, changes we find ourselves caught up in, changes in our personal and family lives, in our church and in our world, change that brings growth, and change that means letting go, change that brings blessing. We will search the stories in scripture for a road map, and seek God’s Spirit to be our compass. Let’s journey through this season of change together.

## Lent 2018

Wednesday, Feb 14	Ash Wednesday	“Rock Bottom”	John 8:1-11
Sunday, February 18	Lent 1	“That Sinking Feeling”	Matthew 14:22-38
Sunday, February 25	Lent 2	“Breaking Old Habits”	Mark 2:23-3:6
Sunday, March 4	Lent 3	“Finding the Way”	John 12:25-26
Sunday, March 11	Lent 4	“Telling Our Story”	Luke 14:7-24
Sunday, March 25	Palm/Passion Sunday	“Parade or Protest”	Mark 11:1-11

# MISSION CORNER CONTINUED

## Blanket Sunday

There is nothing we like better than our nice warm bed and blankets this time of year with all of the cold weather we have been having. We think about our PADS guests, who come into our church for warmth, food and a pad to sleep on that has sheets, a pillow, and a blanket.

When disaster strikes or there are refugees anywhere in the world, people find themselves and their families out in the cold, or getting soaked by rain, or out in the blazing sun and have no shelter.

This is the statement from Church World Service (CWS):  
“In 2017 CWS distributed thousands of blankets around the world. Your congregation can be part of an even greater response in 2018. You will reach families fleeing their homes, recovering from disaster and more.”  
Elmhurst Presbyterian Church monetary donations, 10.00 per blanket, will bring protection, comfort, security, and a lot of love. **Our donations will be collected on Blanket Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.**



**PADS – HOSTING MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>/APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>**  
EPC is the host church the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month, which only left us with two opportunities (weekends) to serve dinner and be the “host” church. This is also Spring Break and we expect it will be difficult to find volunteers for all of the shifts. If you are in town on March 31<sup>st</sup> or April 1<sup>st</sup> please consider volunteering this weekend. No experience necessary! A sign up sheet is posted in the Nelson White Room, or please Diana Riekse or Pam Fuesz.

# MISSION CORNER

We will be traveling to Houston on May 19th to assist with the Clean up and rebuilding effort in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Please contact Jeff Waters by February 28th at 630-878-9200 if you are interested in participating.

**Rovister— Supported student by EPC in Uganda update.**

We had a business run at Lacor Hospital..... and just look at who we ran in-to...Rovister!

She was bringing two young charges in for a feeding. She looked great and professional and said she was enjoying her job as a nurse intern.

Pictured are Betty, Alice (our administrative assistant) and Victor, our Ugandan Director

Thanks to EPC for making this happen in Rovister’s life. Charlie



## Session Meeting Update

On January 13, 2018, the elders, trustees, and deacons met together for the purposes of training and planning.

The group met with Emily Cullela, the new Director of Children and Youth Ministry and Emily participated in our day.

The meeting included training on our roles and responsibilities based on the Book of Order, reflections on the past year, and planning for 2018.

At the end of the day, participants expressed joy, enthusiasm and commitment to support our new DCYM and our new pastor, when identified.

Cheryl Kopecky, Clerk of Session

**Lay Leadership**

Clerk of Session – Cheryl Kopecky  
Treasurer - Jeff Waters

	<b><u>The Session:</u></b>	<b><u>The Deacons:</u></b>	<b><u>The Trustees:</u></b>
Class of 2018	Jim Davidovich Karen Miller Tom Riekse	Clare Collins Ruth Schroeter Ted Steiskal	Bill Berner Marj Schuham
Class of 2019	Doug Fitzgerald Faith Lee Rebecca Rodriguez	Barry Benecke Mary Ellen Hayes Alan West	Diana Riekse Greg St. Laurent
Class of 2020	Pam Fuesz Renee Gough Jim Rundle	Gloria Bressani Karen Fitzgerald Suzanne Legg	Jeff Hughart Tom Turek

PNC (Pastoral Nominating Committee) Chair: Doug Fitzgerald

Buildings & Grounds Chair: Marj Schuham

Mission Chair: Pam Fuesz

Worship Chair: Jim Davidovich

Hospitality Chair: Karen Fitzgerald

Communication: Karen Miller & Karen Bircher

Nominations Chair: Tom Riekse

# News from The Prayer Shawl Ministry

The next time Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet will be on Wednesday, February 7th. 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. Four hundred and eight 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** 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**

Adult Bible Study, meets every Sunday in Calvin Hall, 9:15-10am. We are studying the Gospel of John. No preparation necessary, join us when you can. We read the text together, share our questions and thoughts, explore the words, context and theology as seek to understand the text and it meaning for us. We close our time together with prayers for loved ones and the world. All are welcome, come check it out.

**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.

**Youth and Children**

In some exciting news, the youth have volunteered to do hospitality every week! What we need from you is to help clean up after the hospitality is done, or to think about bringing a healthy snack from time to time! While we are under construction, our new Youth and Children Program will be trying out a lot of new ideas. We need your help as we move forward, as volunteers, so that our youth can make a difference in their community.

This week is Souper Bowl Sunday!! Please fill your pockets with the change from your dressers, turn over you couch cushions, and bring your change jars so that we can help the hungry!

**Nursery**

We are looking for volunteers in the nursery to work with Olivia, so that new families can feel comfortable and safe dropping their kids.

To that end, we are also looking for a donation of dress-up clothes for the nursery and a short coat hanger (self-standing or wall hanging) so we can organize the clothes.

In the upcoming months, we are planning a work-day so that we can freshen the nursery with a new coat of paint, some reorganization, and some new compartmentalized play areas! We'll let you know when we need your elbow grease!

## Our Church Story, Sunday, March 11, 2018, 10:30am.

### A Worship and Fellowship Event

Join us, as together we tell the story of Elmhurst Presbyterian Church. We will create a timeline, tell stories, share dreams and enjoy lunch together.

We are looking for people who would like to share their story of EPC, for folks who would like to help with the meal, and of course others to help with set and clean up. Look for more information to come and a sign-up sheet on bulletin board in the Nelson-White Room, or contact Pastor Debbie.



**MOVIE GROUP** will meet on Saturday, February 3, 2018. Members will be notified. Contact Susan Leslie at [kcleslie206@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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** The group meets in the Tallman Room from 9:30-11:30 a.m.. Questions contact Muriel Gifford at 630) 510-2680.

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

Will meet on February 28 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](mailto: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.

**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.

### **THE PERCAPITA AMOUNT FOR 2018 is \$34.00.**

Per capital contributions cover the shared costs of governing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Through the per capita rate, the Presbytery of Chicago churches:

Help congregations with pastoral transitions.  
Train and support interim ministers.  
Care for ministers and Christian Educators and their families.  
Help prepare people for service as ordained ministers.  
Please note "per capita" on the memo line of your check.