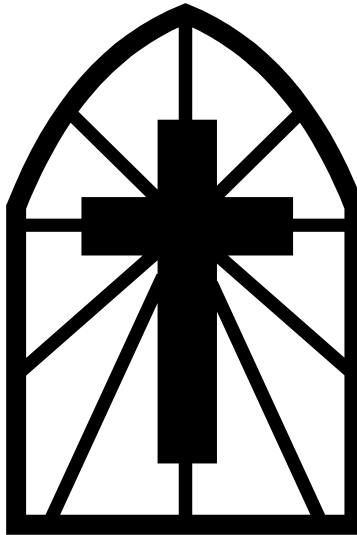


# Announcements November 2018

## Elmhurst Presbyterian Church

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

Phone: 630-834-7750  
Email Address: [epc@elmhurstchurch.org](mailto:epc@elmhurstchurch.org)  
[www.elmhurstchurch.org](http://www.elmhurstchurch.org)



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

**In Our Prayers . . . . .**

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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**Traci Smith, Pastor**  
**Emily Culella, Director of Children & Youth Ministry**  
**Susan Smentek, Director of Music**  
**Karen Bircher, Office Administrator**  
**Jesus Garcia — Custodian**  
**Liz Johnson, Clerk of Session**  
**Cheryl Turek Technology Assistant Sunday morning's**  
**Frank Dattillo & 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*

# Pastor's Corner - Rev. Traci Smith

The Three “T”s of Stewardship, Time, Talent, and Treasure!

I don’t know who coined the three “t’s” of stewardship — time, talent and treasure, but I owe that person a debt of gratitude. I love thinking of stewardship in this wholistic way: not just money, but *all* of who we are and what we have to offer. When it comes to stewardship, the first thing that comes to mind is often money. And yet, a true model of stewardship includes much more. Don’t get me wrong, Elmhurst Presbyterian Church needs plenty of money to sustain our ministries. This week we've sent out letters and brochures detailing our plans for 2019 and our hopes that the money pledged will allow us to carry out these plans. I have faith that our community can and will step up and give financially to make sure that we are able to move forward and grow in faith! My hope is that we will really pray over those financial commitments and give in sacrificial and generous ways. I believe it can and will happen.

How will we also give of our time and our talents?

Since I moved to Elmhurst less than three months ago, I have been consistently blown away by the incredible talent in our congregation. We have folks from so many different professional backgrounds that can help us in all areas of our congregation life and ministry. From finance to congregational care, building and grounds and worship and music, we have people with the skills to serve. And yet, in my conversations with session and deacon leaders and others I am hearing many say that there are many more opportunities to give time and talent. In other words: there is much work to be done. There are many reasons it's difficult to give time and talents to a church. Sometimes we don't know exactly what's needed. Sometimes we aren't able to volunteer time because our schedules don't allow it. Sometimes our availability is only at the last minute. All of these things can make it hard to volunteer time and talent to our church.

How we overcome some of these challenges and make a faithful commitment to our church in time and talent? I don't know all the answers to this difficult question, but I invite you to think about it with me and experiment with different solutions as we work toward a robust stewardship drive in areas of time and talent, in addition to treasure. This year I'm asking all of us to make a time and talent commitment in addition to a financial one. For some, this will be very easy. For others, it might be more of a challenge. Emily and I have written down many opportunities and ways to give time and talent. These ways are written down on hands of different colors and displayed in the Nelson-White room in our church. We invite you to take a look at that ideas listed and choose one that appeals to you. This will be your time and talent contribution. On dedication Sunday, November 18, we will present our time and talent offerings to God in our worship service.

My hope is that this exercise of sharing time and talent along with money the stewardship season will not be a burden, but rather a joy. In the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "It is in giving that we receive."

I can't wait to see what God does when we all put our time, talent and treasure together, just as we have been doing at Elmhurst Presbyterian Church for over half a century.

Thanks be to God! Pastor Traci

## MISSION PAGE

### CONTINUED

Our church also helps our PADS guests at Christmas time, giving each guest a \$20.00 gift card from Wal-Mart. The tags for these gift cards will also be on the Mission Tree in the lobby.

And, one more thing.....our Eire House friends and our PADS guests need warm heads, necks, and hands. Feel free to purchase hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves. Please place these items under the Mission tree.



If you have any questions, ask Marj Schuham, Trish Waters, or Pam Fuesz.

Many thanks and blessings for reaching out to so many people who have so little.

## MISSION PAGE

**PADS** - We are looking for openers and closers for our PADS shelter on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings. It takes less than an hour and we will train you. The Saturday opener shift requires turning on the lights, moving some kitchen tables, putting up signs and locking doors. The Sunday morning closer does the reverse by taking down the signs, putting tables back, turning the lights off, etc. The opener shift is approximately 5:10 – 6:00 pm and the closer is 6:50 – 7:45 am. We need your help! Please let us know if you are able contribute your time for our worthy PADS mission! You may reach out to Diana Riekse, Alan West, or Pam and Dave Fuesz or see us by the sign-up sheet in the Nelson White Room after service. Or call Diana at 630-220-2269.

### **ERIE HOUSE**

Christmas will soon be upon us and the needs of many individuals and families seem greater at this time of year. For many years our congregation has gathered gift cards, toys and clothing (all new) for the Holidays with a Heart Bazaar at Erie House. Erie House is on the near west side of Chicago that serves low-income residents, providing a wide range of community-based education programs. The Mission Committee is asking all of you to plan ahead and help the families at Erie. On **Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**, the Mission tree will be in the Nelson-White Room with red tags on it. Each tag has the name of a person, their age, and what they would like for Christmas. Take a red tag, purchase one Gift Wish and a stocking stuffer (limit is \$35.00). Bring your unwrapped gifts with the tag attached to the church no later than Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Your gifts will be delivered to Erie House December 7th.

**Please sign your name next to the red tag you have chosen.**

## Hanging of the Greens!

Come on November 24, Saturday, at 9:30 a.m. to help us deck the halls for Christmas! All are invited! Then, come back to worship on Sunday, November 25th, as we have a special hanging of the greens worship service! Fa la la la la!

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Fill the Stable! Help us Fill the Stable for the Holy Family by filling it with things our community needs. We call this reverse Advent, and it is a spiritual discipline of reaching out. This year we will remember that even as we *want*, there are plenty of people in our community who *need*. We are going to FILL THE STABLE in our community room with items that will stay right here in our community. As we do, we remember to give thanks to God for all of the things God has provided.

We will remember the Holy Family: Mary and Joseph, who travelled to Bethlehem while they were expecting baby Jesus. We'll consider what they need for their journey as they travel. Scripture tells us that whatever we do for others we do for Jesus. This is a way of making this a tangible reality.

Week one (December 2) -- What did the Holy Family wear?

Bring new socks or underwear for our PADS guests. Large and extra large sizes are always appreciated. Help keep someone's feet warm, or provide basic dignity for those in need.

Week two (December 9) -- What do they need for warmth?

Bring gloves, hats, and scarves to be donated to local clothes closets.

Week three (December 16) How do they take care of themselves?

Bring new *full sized* toiletries of any type: shampoo, soap, toothpaste, razors or sanitary napkins. These items are often needed and harder to come by at the food pantry.

Week four -- (December 23) What do they need for a baby?

Bring diapers or baby clothes for infants in need in our community. The baby Jesus didn't have much when he was born, neither do many babies in our community.

**Christmas Eve Service will be held at 5:00 P.M. in the sanctuary.**

## GARDEN NEWS November, 2018

### Thank You, Volunteers!

Our vegetable garden continued to produce in October and still has some hardy plants growing. So far, we have provided the Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry with 273 pounds of organically-grown veggies—36 more pounds than last year. Many thanks to those who watered, picked, cleaned, weighed, packaged, and delivered the food throughout the growing season: Faith Lee, Ted & Rita Steiskal, Sarah Lestina, and Jan Happel.

Thanks also to the volunteers who faithfully tended our landscape gardens this year: Pat Campbell, Karen Fitzgerald, Doug Hall, Mary Ellen Hayes, Liz Johnson, Char Johnson, Suzanne Legg, Mary Mueller, Marj Schuham, Susan Smentek, Rita Steiskal, and Ted Steiskal.

We can now all take a well-deserved rest!

Ruth Schroeter,  
Garden Coordinator



# News from The Prayer Shawl Ministry

We have a good supply of comfort shawls and lab robes. With the Holidays coming up we are looking for places to donate the extra items. Please call me or the church office if you know of a senior center, nursing home or individuals that would benefit from the shawls or lap robes.

If you knit or crochet or want to learn to knit or crochet, please join us on the 1st. Wed. of the month from 1-2:30. in the Nelson White Room. The next meeting will be on November .

Any questions, please call Mary Mueller 708)547-8793



**ADULT STUDIES** has begun on Sunday's at 9:30 A.M. in the Tallman Room. Pastor Traci will lead the study on Philippians.

**WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP** meets from 1-2:30 p.m. every Monday. Questions please contact Muriel Gifford at 630-510-2680.

**MOVIE GROUP** The group will meet on Saturday, November 3rd and will be hosted by Liz Johnson. Contact Susan Leslie at [kcleslie206@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kcleslie206@sbcglobal.net) to be added to the member list. Normally the Movie Group meets the first Saturday of the month.

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

Will meet on Wednesday, November 28th at Hi-View Restaurant in Villa Park.

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Contact: Doug Hall at 630) 279-8739.

**POINSETTIA'S CHRISTMAS EVE**

In the upcoming bulletins there will be an envelope insert to order poinsettia plants for the Christmas Eve service. Meg March & Paula Reckley will be collecting the order forms and processing the forms.

**EPC GUN VIOLENCE MEETING**

Since October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, this month's meeting of Moms Demand Action in Elmhurst featured the Executive Director of the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Woman Network. She quoted some very interesting statistics: 20 people are exposed to domestic violence every minute in the US; the presence of a gun in the house makes a murder 500% more likely; DV hotlines get more than 20,000 calls each day; 1 in 3 female murder victims is killed by an intimate partner; 20% of murder victims with protective orders are murdered within two days of them getting the order; and 44% of mass shootings involved intimate partners.

There are both federal and state of Illinois laws that take guns away from domestic abusers. But gaps in the law allow these abusers to get more guns any way. And the present laws often don't go far enough, or aren't enforced efficiently enough.

There are two things we all can do if and when someone who is threatened at home comes to us for help (and as widespread a problem as this is, the chances are good that we all know someone): 1) Support the victim - listen, believe, help out, tell him/her about the options (The Domestic Violence Hotline will refer: 1-800-799-SAFE; and 2) Work for change. We can start by voting on November 6.

**Please join us at our next EPC Gun Violence meeting: Thursday, Nov.15 at 7:00.**

## SESSION NOTES—10/23/18

You may notice some changes around the church. Buildings and Grounds is making some improvements, including some new doors, to put us in compliance with the State Fire Marshall. This will help keep us, our guests, and our renters safer.

We have accepted Lori Bresson into membership.

With much regret, Session has decided not to renew Lor-Jon Montessori School's lease. There have been many concerns in dealing with their licensure renewal process.

It's Stewardship time and a commitment of talents and time is just as important to the church functioning as money. We will be offering up ways members can share their gifts as well as pledging.

Christian Youth Education has started the new Sunday School year. Our younger students will be learning from the Deep Blue Curriculum and a class of confirmation students will be studying an innovative curriculum designed by our CYE Director, Emily Culella, and co-taught with Faith Lee.

A task force has been formed to create an LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex) inclusion policy and statement for our church. This will be posted on our website so that we can communicate to the community that we are a welcoming and inclusive church in line with the Presbyterian General Assembly.

Our Communication Committee is creating a promotional calendar for church events so that we can more proactively advertise our activities and outreach to the community. They will also be creating a Welcome Center in our lobby area as a place to greet visitors and share who we are. The Committee is also creating business cards to advertise EPC.

Pam Fuesz (chair of Mission), Pastor Traci, and Cheryl Kopecky received a tour of the Elmhurst Walk-in Assistance Network and presented them with a \$1,000 check from EPC. Mission is also giving an ongoing contribution of \$100 a month to the Elmhurst Yorkfield Food Pantry as well as purchasing \$100 worth of toiletry items to donate which cannot be bought at the Food Bank or with Food Stamps. This year's Thanksgiving Offering will be donated to the local chapter of Meals on Wheels (delivering meals to seniors). Mission is exploring other ways to participate in helping in our community. Please contact Pam Fuesz if you are interested in sharing your gifts by serving on Mission Team.

Respectfully Submitted  
Liz Johnson  
Clerk of the Session



## Children and Youth Ministries (CYM)

### TO THE WOMEN OF EPC

Once upon a time, an EPC women's group called **HUGS** (Hearts "uf" Grace) met about once a month at a restaurant for the primary purpose of fellowship and fun. We aspired to be a group of women who listened, laughed, and cared about each other without judgment or agenda.

Starting the new year, with a new pastor is a good time for women to brainstorm around two questions: 1) Do we want to create such a women's group now? And 2) How would we like to organize ourselves?

If you would like to join Pastor Traci for a meal and some brainstorming, please mark Monday, **JANUARY 28, 2019**. We'll gather at **6:00ish** at Cheryl Kopecky's, 718 S. Killarney Court, Elmhurst. A variety of beverages and dinner will be provided – just bring your ideas.

**PLEASE RSVP** to Cheryl by Wednesday **January 23**, 2019 so that adequate seating and food can be planned. Your RSVP will be appreciated very much.  
([ckopecky2@me.com](mailto:ckopecky2@me.com))

### TO THE MEN OF EPC

Would you like to brainstorm a fellowship time open to all of the men of the church? If so, contact the office or Pastor Traci at [smith.traci@gmail.com](mailto:smith.traci@gmail.com).

Starting Now: Children's Sunday School is Back! From 9:30-10:15, children learn through their own specialized lessons. From 10:45 to 11:30, Children also participate in Children's Church—learning about God through crafts, songs, plays, and more! Ages K-5<sup>th</sup> are welcome to join! See Emily Culella for details, accommodations, or questions.



### Youth News:

Join us from 9:30-10:15 as we explore faith! If you aren't confirmed (or don't even know what that means) join us in the new and transforming youth space (above Buttons and Bows) to start your journey or find out what it means! If you are confirmed, come with us to explore leadership training and questions about faith, God, and practice. See Emily Culella for details, accommodations, and questions.



### Mark Your Calendars!

December 9th, 3:00-4:30 pm, we'll meet in Calvin to sing Christmas Carols around the piano and enjoy hot cocoa and cookies! Bring your favorite instrument to play along! We'll be handing out easy tabs in the weeks before so you can practice if you want! Contact is Emily Culella ([eculella@gmail.com](mailto:eculella@gmail.com)).

