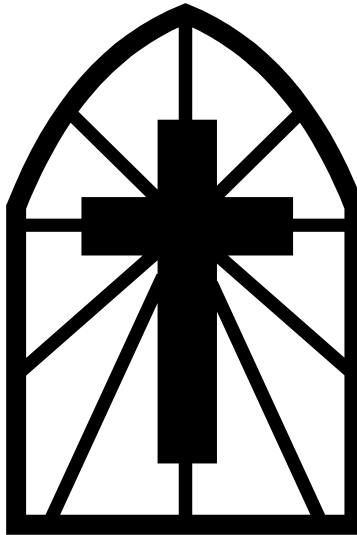


Announcements January 2019

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 Sally Schult.

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.

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

January 2019
Celebrating 60 Years of God’s Grace at Elmhurst Presbyterian Church

**Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come.
We have only today. Let us begin. - Mother Teresa**

Last week, as we were in the thick of things for Christmas Eve service, I stopped to look through a bulletin someone had given me from January, 1959. This wasn’t just any bulletin, though, it was a bulletin celebrating the dedication of our church building, exactly 60 years ago this month. Not many of our current membership was present for that service, though a few were. The bulletin has a liturgy for blessing our church building as well as a detailed description of some of the features of our sanctuary — the symbols of the windows, and the symbols carved in to our communion table. As I flipped through the bulletin and pointed it out to some of the members of our congregation, it looked both familiar and dated. There were names of some of the pillars of our church: men and women who have given time, talent, and treasure to EPC for years. As I looked through that dedication bulletin I wondered “What would the people who were here for that dedication service think of our congregation today?”

Certainly many things are different now, 60 years later. The music is different (no more organ). The language is different (very few “thee”s and “thou”s.) And yet, things are very much the same. We still preach the gospel of Jesus. We are still bound by community, grace, mission, and God’s word. We still love each other, deeply, and aim to share that love with the world.

I wonder what things have been tried and failed in the past 60 years of our congregation’s life on the corner of Spring Road and St. Charles Road? Awhile ago I came across a funny article on the website “NeatoRama.” The article was called “10 Foods that (Thankfully) Flopped.” Among the failed experiments were: The Chicken Dinner Candy Bar, Coffee Flavored Jell-O, and Baby Food for Adults. It’s funny to think of the marketing execs who dreamed up these silly ideas. At the same time, there are other wild and crazy food items that have really taken off: spray cheese, vegetarian buffalo wings (I love those!) and deep fried butter. My point is that sometimes you don’t know if something will be a hit or a miss until you try it.

I know that as we move forward into the *next* 60 years of ministry at EPC, things will look different for those who come after us. The best we can hope for, though, is that we continue to try new things and move forward in faith, bravely.

January is a time of new beginnings and goals. In just a few weeks, the session will be meeting to talk about our goals for 2019 and beyond. We will be looking at our finances, our building, and our ministry objectives. How will God work and move through us to bring the good news to our neighbors? A faithful look into the future will always seek to look at the past by examining where God has led us this far. That idea reminds me of Kierkegaard’s great quote: **“Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.”** Happy New Year, Friends!

With gratitude,
Pastor Traci

MISSION PAGE

PADS

The PADS shelter is always in need of volunteers. Opening and closing the site, sorting donations, and donating gently used adult clothing are examples of how you can help.

Please contact Diana Riekse with questions.
630-220-2269.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Recently DuPage PADS arranged for 13 new apartments to help the homeless get from a pad on the floor to a key in the door. In the spirit of “Filling the Stable,” this year’s local Christmas offering will be given to DuPage PADS for items needed for these apartments.

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News from The Prayer Shawl Ministry

Like to knit or crochet? Want to learn to knit or crochet? Please join us for an afternoon of laughter and conversation as our fingers create warm fuzzy shawls and lap robes. We also have pocket prayers, located in a basket on the counter near the coffee pot. They can be placed in an envelop for easy mailing.

We meet the first Wed. of the month from 1-2:30 in the Nelson White room. The next meeting will be Jan.,2nd.

These items are always available for those needing a comfort shawl or lap robe for a friend or loved one.

Mary Mueller at 708-547-8793.



LIFT (LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER)

Family fun night featuring:

- Faith-based conversation
- Games
- Dinner

Great for all ages.
Come alone or with a
family member or friend.

Wednesday, January 30th
5:30-7:30 p.m.

 367 Spring Rd.
Elmhurst, IL 60126
elmhurstchurch.org
630.834.7750

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)

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.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES can be picked up in the Nelson-White Room. If you would like to give on Simple Give please contact Greg St. Laurent or Jeff Waters.

TAKING DOWN THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Come help on Saturday, January 5th at 9 A.M. to take down the EPC Christmas trees and decorations at church. Contact is Marj Schuham.

SOUND BOARD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are asking for one or two volunteers to step up to be on our sound board ministry. The sound board ministry isn't very complex to learn, but it is a crucial part of our worship services at EPC. Please contact Rick Rodriguez rodmann@hotmail.com if you are interested in helping out.

ADULT STUDIES at 9:30 A.M. in Calvin Hall each Sunday. Pastor Traci will lead on the text for that day.

MOVIE GROUP The group will meet on Saturday, January 5th. Contact Susan Leslie at kcleslie206@sbcglobal.net to be added to the member list. Normally the Movie Group meets the first Saturday of the month.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP meets from 1-2:30 p.m. every Monday. Group will start back up on Monday, January 14th. Questions please contact Muriel Gifford at 630-510-2680.

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

Will meet on Wednesday, January 23rd at Hi-View Restaurant in Villa Park. Time: 1:00 P.M. Contact: Doug Hall at 630) 279-8739.

BE IT RESOLVED As a new year begins, many Christians resolve to devote more time to Bible study or for quiet meditation and prayer. Sticking to such resolutions can be a challenge, as the new year brings no relief from the demands and difficulties of day-to-day life. *These Days* offers support in faithfully adhering to these good intentions by providing daily Scripture selections, sermonettes and prayers. Free copies of the Jan.-Mar. issue are on the table in the Nelson/White RM.

BOOK STUDY WITH PASTOR TRACI begins on January 9th – February 6th. "Becoming Wise" An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Loving. By Krista Tippett. Time: 7 P.M. in the Tallman Room.

THE PER CAPITA AMOUNT FOR 2019 is \$35.00. 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.

SUNDAY MORNING USHERS ARE NEEDED if you are interested in helping usher, please contact Tom Turek at tturek.248@gmail.com.

COUNTERS FOR SUNDAY'S OFFERING are needed, too. Being a counter is on a rotating schedule. If you would like to join a counting team contact tturek.248@gmail.com.