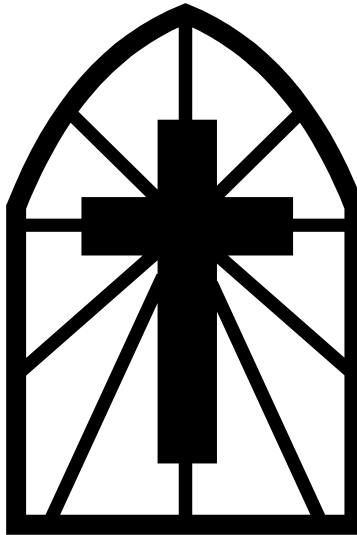


Announcements March 2019

Elmhurst Presbyterian Church

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The Website

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

In Our Prayers Dorothy Fisher, Sue Hall and 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
Tim Christopher, 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

Look Toward a Meaningful Lenten Practice This Year

“I imagine Lent for you and for me as a great departure from the greedy, anxious antineighborliness of our economy, a great departure from our exclusionary politics that fears the other, a great departure from self-indulgent consumerism that devours creation. And then an arrival in a new neighborhood, because it is a gift to be simple, it is a gift to be free; it is a gift to come down where we ought to be.”
– **Walter Brueggemann, A Way Other Than Our Own: Devotions for Lent**

Walter Bruggemann's words are so true. Lent is a time to escape that which consumes our minds and to focus on our own Spiritual depth and growth. There are many ways we can do this in our faith community, and I want to outline a few of those for you. Committing to all of the options below would be fairly ambitious, but doable. I encourage you to pick two or three from this list and stick to them.

First, start Lent on Ash Wednesday by attending our **Ash Wednesday service of healing and wholeness**. This service is Wednesday, March 6th, at 6:00 p.m. This service is an interactive service that includes dramatic readings, an art installation, and an opportunity for silent reflection. All are welcome, and I encourage you to reach out of your comfort zone and ask others to join you. **Childcare is available for preschool aged children.**

Second, **commit to a personal Lenten practice** from Ash Wednesday through Easter. We'll be providing free devotional journals for this purpose. The journals use poetry, art, and devotional reflection. If the journal we're providing doesn't seem quite right, send an email to Pastor Traci for other suggestions that might suit you better.

Third, **commit to regular worship during Lent**. Our services will focus on the theme of "Letting Go and Letting Grow." What are the things in our lives that we want to get rid of and let go of, and what are the things we want to see more of? The weekly theme is as follows:

- Week 1: March 10, Letting Go of Personal Power
- Week 2, March 17: Letting Go of Fear
- Week 3, March 24: Letting Go of Easy Answers
- Week 4, March 31: Letting Grace Grow
- Week 5, April 7: Letting Love Grow
- Week 6, April 14: Palm Sunday: Don't Keep Quiet!
- Week 7: April 21: Easter: Christ is Risen!

Fourth, **commit to a communal study, either online or on Wednesday Evenings**. The Lenten Book we'll be studying is Rob Bell's What Is the Bible?: How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform The Way You Think and Feel About Everything. The study is Wednesday Evenings during Lent, and also online, for those who can't make it to the in person study. See details inside this announcement bulletin.

Fifth, take some time out for quiet and interactive worship stations. The sanctuary will be open on Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 for this purpose. If you're attending the Wednesday study, you can head in before or after the study. If you're not attending the study and you're able to come in for a few minutes of silence and creative worship, I encourage you to do so. The dates and times the sanctuary will be open are as follows: March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3, April 10, and April 17. What will you commit to this Lent? Stretch yourself. See what God will do.

With gratitude,
Pastor Traci

MISSION

Mission would like to thank the congregation for their generosity in February. We collected \$540.25 and many cans of soup on Souper Bowl Sunday. These will be given to the Elmhurst Yorkfield Food Pantry. We also collected \$620 for Blanket Sunday. This will be sent to Church World Services to provide 62 blankets to those who need them. Thank you!!

EPC Hosts PADS March 30 and 31.
EPC provides dinner, breakfast and overnight monitoring on the 5th weekends of the month. Our first weekend in 2019 will be March 30 and March 31. Your help is needed. There are many ways to participate. It can be as simple as purchasing a gallon of milk or as much as being an overnight monitor. Even kids can help by setting up beds. For more information please contact Diana Riekse at 630-220-2269 or Pam Fuesz 630-363-9177. Sign-up sheets are in the Nelson White room.

GARDEN NEWS

*Little white snowdrops, just waking up,
Violets, daisies, sweet buttercups.
They're under the leaves and the ice and the snow,
Waiting, waiting, waiting to grow! -Author unknown*

Spring is coming!! Mark your calendars for next month's Spring Garden Work Day: 9-Noon,
Saturday, April 13, with a rain date of April 20. We'll be cleaning up the garden beds for Easter. Contact person is Ruth Schroeter (708-562-5346 or SchroeterRuth@yahoo.com).

GOOD GREETINGS MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

New members welcome! Teens also invited to attend.
Monthly Meeting starts: Thursday, March 14th @ 7pm-8pm in the Tallman Room. (We will be finishing in a timely fashion.)

Renee Gough is chairing the committee and will bring whatever Renata's Kitchen nibbles she whips up that day!

Email Renee Gough if you wish to attend and contribute any new ideas you may have to reaching out and welcoming visitors to join the EPC family: renee.gough@aol.com /
Text or call: 630-903-8465.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Please join us on the first Wednesday of the month to knit or crochet comfort shawls or lap robes. If you want to learn to do either; we can teach you. The next meeting is on Wednesday, March 6th, 1-2:30 p.m. in the Nelson-White Room. Gandhi once wrote, "the best way to find yourself is to loose yourself in the service of others." Hope to see you there! Any questions contact Mary Mueller maryway@comcast.net.

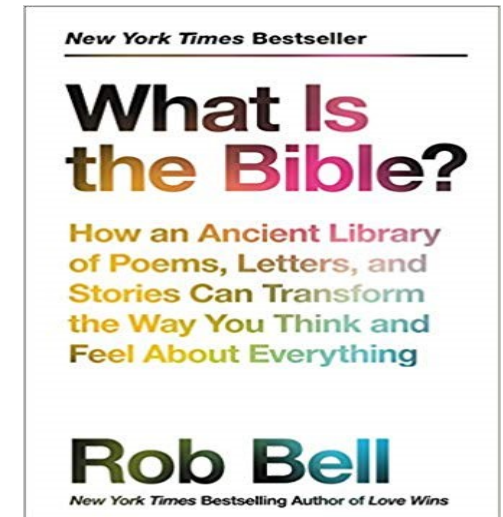
LIFT Wednesday, March 20th 5:30 – 7:30 P.M., in Calvin Hall

(Living In Faith Together)

Faith – based conversation, games and dinner. Great for ages. Come alone or with a family member or friend. Contact is Emily Culella eculella@gmail.com.

ELMHURST ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Come join the fun of the 23rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Elmhurst Parade! We'll be on our lawn, handing out hot cocoa, popcorn, treats for doggos, beads, tattoos, and fliers for upcoming EPC events! We'll be on our lawn from 11-1, interacting with our community! Set-up starts at 10! If you want to help on **March 9th**, if you want to donate popcorn or cocoa, or if you to want to help organize the supplies, see Emily Culella for details and sign-up.



Join us for a Lenten Study of Rob Bell's book "What Is the Bible?: How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform The Way You Think and Feel About Everything." There are two ways to join us for this study. The first is to come to an **in-person study at the church on Wednesday evenings**. The dates for this are: March 13, 20 and 27 from 7pm - 8pm and April 3, 17, and 24. All are invited, and you don't need to come to every Wednesday to participate. The second way you'll be able to join in on this study is to join in an **online study**. I've set up a Facebook group that can be accessed at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EPCLNT>. If you've never participated in an online study before, don't worry, it's easy! I'll post questions and thoughts every week and members are invited to come in and comment as they are able. This study is open to anyone who's interested. You need not be a member of Elmhurst Presbyterian Church to participate. Invite neighbors, relatives and friends, and participate yourself.

Books can be purchased through the church office for \$15.00 or online.

MOVIE GROUP The group will meet on Saturday, March 2nd. 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.

THE TRUSTEES will meet Tuesday, March 12th at 7:00 P.M. in the Tallman Room. Head of Trustees is Greg St. Laurent.

THE DEACON'S WILL MEET Thursday, March 14th at 7:00 P.M. in the Tallman Room. Moderator of Deacon's is Mary Ellen Hayes.

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

Will meet on Wednesday, March 27th at Hi-View Restaurant in Villa Park. Time: 1:00 P.M. Contact: Doug Hall at (630) 279-8739.

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.

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.

SESSION NOTES FEBRUARY MEETING

- Session has begun the process to become a More Light Presbyterian Church. This will help us to become a more welcoming church for the LGBTQ+ community and allow us to be part of a national community of hope and equality. In anticipation of this exciting venture, EPC has formulated a statement of inclusiveness and welcome. Go to our website, elmhurstchurch.org, to read it!
- Jim Davidovich and Tom Mason will be serving as our EPC Commissioners to Chicago Presbytery this year.
- In honor of Earth Day, our Easter Offering will be used to support our Garden Ministry.
- You will notice two new cards in the pew. One card is for prayer requests and visitor information, The other card is a flyer with instructions on how to give to EPC. It contains a QR code so you can take a picture with your smartphone and it will direct you to Simple Give for a one time donation for visitors to use. Thank you Karen Miller!

Liz Johnson, EPC Clerk of Session