

# Announcements

## November 2017

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### 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 . . . . . Helen Cline, Steve Reckley, Margaret Schult,  
Marilyn Waters

The Miller family upon the passing of Bob’s mother.

Continued prayers for the search for our PNC (Pastoral Nominating  
Committee, and new DCYM (Director of Children & Youth).

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.

*God*   
*Answers*  
*Prayers*

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Debbie Paton, Pastor  
Diane Slocum, Associate 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—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

## This Stewardship Season.

We tend to think of stewardship as the church season between Halloween and Thanksgiving. Historically a time when the harvest was gathered in, the people gave thanks to God for the abundant blessing, and shared it with the community.

It is has become a time when we re-commit ourselves to God's work in and through the church; pledging our resources to the budget, saying yes to new leadership roles, committing our time and talents to new and ongoing programs.

We invite you to think of stewardship as more of an everyday attitude or life style; of gratitude and generosity, not because we have to, but because we can. Remembering that God's economy is not a trickle down, but an ever flowing stream, a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.

In the next week you will be receiving a letter from the session, inviting you to recommit to the mission ministry of the church, and to support our work together by giving of your time, talent, and resources. As shared at recent congregational meeting, the session believes God is calling us to attend to our children and youth with renewed energy and focus and resources. We believe this means the hiring of a fulltime Director of Children and Youth (DCYM), to envision, lead, equip, and support us in this work. With the retirement of Sue McCurdy and Diane Slocum, we see this an opportunity to refocus our staff to better fulfill the mission and ministry of this church. Those members and friends gathered affirmed this direction and intention. Now is the time to make it happen.

In this stewardship season and through the coming year, we are asking you to commit to participating and supporting the mission and ministry of Elmhurst Presbyterian Church, with your prayers, time, talents, and resources. Please complete your stewardship commitment card and return it to the church by Nov 12, so it may dedicated in worship, and help the session and trustees as they prepare the budget for next year.

May we be "like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper." Psalm 1:3 May we be people who recognize the abundance of God's promises and gifts, so that all the world might be saved and blessed. And that we have been given a part to play and a reason to celebrate.

## GARDEN NEWS November 2017

### Children's Vegetable Garden

Due to lovely warm weather in October, our vegetable garden continued to produce. As of October 20, we have been able to provide the Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry with 287 pounds of organically grown veggies and herbs (211 from EPC and 76 from members and friends of the church). Tomatoes, beans, eggplant, carrots, greens, and herbs are still going! We'll have the final count next month. Thank you, children of the church, for your help on Sunday mornings with planting, watering, and harvesting—Laurel, Lena, Nolan, Bekah, Bobby, Luciana, Adam, Luke, John, Darelle, Joanna, Anderson, Henry, Hudson, and Elizabeth. Thank you, also, to the adults who helped prepare the beds (Alan, Jan, and Sarah), fix the fence (Fred), and water and deliver food (Ted, Rita, Sarah, and Ardell).

### Beds and Borders

A big thank you to the many people who helped tend the garden beds, borders, and pots this summer—Joan Strouse, John Venti, Heather Fox, Char & Liz Johnson, Doug Hall, Phil & Cami Streuter, Mary Mueller, Mary Grittani, and Marj Schuham. Your work beautified the grounds, making the church more welcoming.

### Butterfly Garden

It's official! Our butterfly garden on the southeast end of the parking lot is now a registered Monarch Waystation. Next spring we will post the sign outside. In the meantime, you can view a display of the certificate and photos in the Nelson-White Room. See Ruth if you would like some milkweed seeds (the host plant of monarch butterflies) to plant in your home gardens.

Ruth Schroeter,  
Garden Coordinator

# MISSION CORNER

Christmas is around the corner 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 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. There will be a Mission tree in the Nelson-White Room with tags on it the week before Thanksgiving through December. Each tag has the name of a person, their age, and what they would like for Christmas. Take a tag, purchase items on the tag, limit is \$35.00, and bring your gifts back to the church by December 4<sup>th</sup>. The Holidays With Heart Bazaar will be on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Your gifts will be delivered to Erie House on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Our church also helps our PADS guests at Christmas time, giving each guest a \$20.00 gift We have not decided which store we will be asking you to purchase the cards from. 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, Pam Fuez, or Trish Waters

Pecans Pecans Pecans

Cakes Cookies Pies Snacks Bread

Think of the possibilities for using fresh pecans!  
Fresh one pound bags of pecans halves will be available very soon in the Nelson-White Room. The sale of pecans is a fund raiser for the After School tutoring program at Erie House. The pecans are being sold for \$10.00 per pound. For each pound sold, \$1.75 goes to help children with their learning skills.

## Advent 2017 “Seeing The Sacred”

*“The Word became flesh and made a home among us.” (John 1:14)*

The Advent/Christmas season is a time when the juxtaposition of the sacred and the secular sometimes feel blatantly opposed and, at other times, quite blurred. The word “sacred” points to something dedicated as “holy” and “set apart.” We all know that the busy-ness of the holiday season can overrun the sense of the sacred. So this year, we will begin our Advent journey toward Christmas by emphasizing the gift of the “now”... the gift of sacred time given to God, to family and friends and to those in need of help.

We invite you to join us on this spiritual journey, to see all things pregnant with the possibility of the holy. What would your Christmas season experience be like if you lived it looking through the kaleidoscope of the sacred?

### First Sunday of Advent (November 26- 10:30 a.m.): “Sacred Time”

*“... you know what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep.” -- Romans 13: 11-14 “In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing, ‘Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!’” -- Matthew 3: 1-12*

### Second Sunday of Advent (December 3)- 10:30 a.m.): “Sacred People”

*“Many nations will go and say, ‘Come, let’s go up to the Lord’s mountain, to the house of Jacob’s God so that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in God’s paths.’” -- Isaiah 2: “Mary said, ‘I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.’” -- Luke 1: 26-38 “When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife.” -- Matthew 1: 18-25*

### Third Sunday of Advent (December 10- 10:30 a.m.): “Sacred Space”

*“The Lord’s ransomed ones will return and enter Zion with singing, with everlasting joy upon their heads. Happiness and joy will overwhelm them; grief and groaning will flee away.” -- Isaiah 35: 1 “When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.” -- Luke 1: 39-56*

### Fourth Sunday of Advent – Paper Bag Christmas Pageant (December 17- 10:30 a.m.): “Sacred Knowing”

*“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of a messenger who proclaims peace, who brings good news, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God rules!’” -- Isaiah 52: 7-10 “The angel said, ‘Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people.’” -- Luke 2: 1-15*

### Christmas Eve (December 24)- 4:00 p.m.: “Sacred Being” (there will be no morning worship).

*“...he saved us because of his mercy, not because of righteous things we had done. He did it through the washing of new birth and the renewing by the Holy Spirit...” -- Titus 3: 4-7 “The Word became flesh and made his home among us.” -- John 1: 1-14 “She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger...” -- Luke 2: 1-20*

**Join us this Advent season as we explore the sacred in the ordinary.**

## GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Saturday, Nov. 25, 9:00-Noon. We're looking for volunteers to help with the greening of the church. Please let Pastor Diane ([djslocum@ameritech.net](mailto:djslocum@ameritech.net)) know if you are able to help. Many hands make for faster beautification of the church property. Thanks so much!

## POINSETTIAS

It has been the tradition of the church to decorate our sanctuary during Christmas with flowers ordered by our members and friends. They are then theirs to take home or share. Watch on Sunday's as envelopes/order forms will be distributed before church by Meg March. You can order this year either red or white poinsettias at \$15.00 each. Orders need to be given to Meg by Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Contact Meg March at [meg912@att.net](mailto:meg912@att.net)



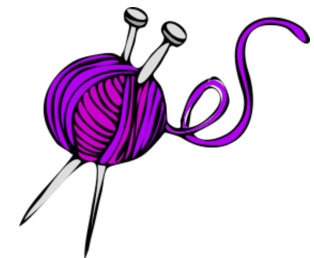
# News from The Prayer Shawl Ministry

The next time Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet will be on Wednesday, November 1st. 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.



## 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.

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.

CYM is currently interviewing candidates for the CE Director position.

We are creating a list of substitute Sunday School teachers and helpers, to step in when needed. We are looking for people who like to tell stories, do crafts, play games, sing songs, bake cookies, and most importantly love children. If you would like to know how you can help, please contact Paula Reckley, Diane Slocum or Debbie Paton.

## ADULT STUDIES WITH PASTOR DEBBIE

### REMINDER THIS WEEKEND DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS.

**Sunday morning Adult Bible Study .** We continue our study of the Gospels Parallel, looking at the passion narrative in Matthew, Mark and Luke at 9:15am in Calvin Hall.

No preparation is necessary, just come with open hearts and minds to share in the conversation and learning.

**Wednesday Evening Book Study, at 7pm in the Tallman Room.** We will engage meditations on hospitality. The group is led by Pastor Debbie.

All are welcome to join us.

### MONDAY MORNING LADIES BOOK GROUP

The group will meets 9:30 -11:00 A.M. in the Tallman Room. Questions please contact Muriel Gifford at 630-510-2680.

### ***These Days Booklet***

**Peace. Be still!** How easily Jesus calmed the turbulent sea. Would that we could so easily subdue the negative forces in our lives and the world around us. A daily quiet time for prayer and meditation can help us to focus on the positive and draw strength from God's grace even when we are agitated or distressed. The selected Scriptures, sermonettes and prayers in *These Days* provide an incentive for a special time set aside to listen for God speaking to us and ask for the Spirit's guidance to deal with each day's challenges. Free copies of the Oct.-Dec. issue are on the literature table in our Nelson/White fellowship area.

**GO ONLINE AND CHECK OUT EPC'S NEW WEBSITE!** Thank you to Karen Miller for redesigning the website. <http://www.epc@elmhurstchurch.org>.

**HURRICANE RELIEF BUCKETS** thank you to those who purchased supplies for the buckets and those who helped put the buckets together. (17 buckets were sent).

**MOVIE GROUP** on Saturday, November 4th will be hosted by Alan West. We will view the movie Maudie in DVD format at church with refreshments. 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.

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

The meeting date lands the day before Thanksgiving (22<sup>nd</sup>), so the group moved the meeting date back a week to Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at Hi-View Restaurant in Villa Park. Time: 1:00 P.M. This is for this month only that the date was moved. Otherwise the group normally meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday each month. Contact: Doug Hall at (630) 279-8739.

**PRAYER IS POWERFUL**

EPC has a Prayer Team! If you are interested in having members of our congregation pray for you or your loved ones, there are several ways to go about it:

1. Email your prayer request to [prayerplease@outlook.com](mailto:prayerplease@outlook.com). Requests sent to this email address are only distributed to EPC's Prayer Team.
2. Attach a prayer request card to the net in the sanctuary or submit a concern during today's Prayers of the People.
3. Meet with a member of the Prayer Team who will be available for private prayer every Sunday immediately following the service in the front right pew.  
Is there anything you'd like a prayer for?

**HEARTS OF GRACE (HUG)** . . . women's group will meet on Monday, November 27th 6:00 p.m. at 100 South in downtown Elmhurst. All women of EPC, including neighbors or friends are welcome to join us for an evening of fellowship, food, lively conversation and hugs! Please RSVP to Pastor Diane, [djslocum@ameritech.net](mailto:djslocum@ameritech.net).

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, DECEMBER 3, 2017**

The session has acted to call a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017 immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers, to dissolve the associate pastoral relationship with the Reverend Diane Slocum, and to hear updates from the Pastor Nominating Committee, the Director of Children and Youth Ministry search team.

**DEACON'S CORNER**

EPC will be hosting Grace Cafe on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be many ways to help for this event that reaches out to the community offering a free hot meal. Community members who are hungry, lonely, facing a tight budget or are eager to share dinner, companionship and conversation with other folks are invited to come to Grace Café. There is a sign-up sheet in the Nelson-White Room to help or email Trish Waters @ [trishwaters6@aol.com](mailto:trishwaters6@aol.com) with any questions or to sign-up.

**HELP NEEDED—TRANSPORTATION**

Long time EPC member Margaret Schult would like to attend our Sunday service once a month if possible, but is in need of transportation. Please contact Trish Waters at (630) 878-8331 if you are available to provide transportation on a rotating basis. Thank you.

