

Newsletter

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF ELMHURST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PASTOR'S + CORNER

REV. TRACI SMITH



This year marks the fifth year of the annual Elmhurst Pride Festival, hosted by Elmhurst Presbyterian Church and the Elmhurst Pride Collective. In honor of this milestone, I'd like to take the Pastor's Corner to share a few thoughts about it. I hope to see you all there on DATE AND TIME!

•**Pride is about celebration** — *It's one thing to have an attitude of tolerance and quiet acceptance and quite another to celebrate. Pride is about celebrating the uniqueness of all people and the fact that God loves, accepts, and celebrates all kinds of people and all kinds of families. LGBTQIA+ siblings are routinely excluded, marginalized, ignored and kicked out of all kinds of spaces, especially churches. This is a time to let our light shine.*

•**Pride (at a church) is about reconciliation** — I was speaking to a transgender friend about this recently and asked "what percentage of LGBTQIA people do you think have been harmed by the church?" He looked me dead in the eye and said "One hundred percent, Traci. All of us. Absolutely no question. Literally everyone. Think about it? All the 'God Hates **** Signs, all of the Bible verses thrown as insults. All of the threats of hell, the protests. The church is the worst." The church is the worst. I've had those words ringing in my ears this week, and I'm motivated to do my part to help change the narrative.

•**This year, Pride is about taking ownership** — *Our former Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries, Emily Culella, really helped push the Pride Festival forward in the years she was with us. Her departure left us with a choice: should we continue forward, or should we let it go? I have been absolutely delighted to see the ways in which our community has stepped forward to say "YES" to Pride this year. The team has been working hard to secure volunteers, become clear on roles and responsibilities and to prepare for a great festival. There is still time to volunteer! Please see the bulletin board in the Nelson-White room or contact Jennifer Gordon or Pastor Traci to volunteer.*

•**Pride is about building bridges to a faith-based/sacred life** — We don't just aim to celebrate LGBTQIA+ in the parking lot, one day per year, we aim to be a community of faith where all are welcome and included in worship and our rhythm of life. This year we will be inviting all to come (or come back!) to church through the sacred rituals of marriage and blessing and the sacraments of communion and baptism. Our goal is to be a church for all the time, not just one day per year.

May God Bless EPC as we listen carefully to what the Spirit is doing in our world, today and every day.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Traci

Elmhurst Presbyterian Church
Sundays @ 10:30 am

Live
Stream

 youtube.com/elmhurstpresbyterianchurch

Upcoming EPC SUMMER

EVENTS



May
22

DuPage PADS Ministry Celebration

Join us as we celebrate over 25 years of partnering with PADS to better serve our community.

Worship Service begins at 10:30 am followed by a reception.



June
5

Pentecost Sunday

All are welcome as we come together Sunday, June 5th to celebrate Pentecost. WEAR RED!

Worship service begins at 10:30 am.

June
25

5th Annual Family Pride Fest!

Save the date as we celebrate Pride at EPC! All are invited for a day of fun with art projects, live music, tattoos, food, and more.



June
29

EPC Summer Fun!

Join us on Wednesdays June 29, July 20, and August 10 for a fun-filled gathering of faith, food, and fellowship. There will be dinner, a time of worship, and other surprises.

5:30-7:30 pm

NEWS MUSIC

BY SUSAN SMEN TEK, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

MEET THE MUSICIANS!

This month, featuring Keith Baumann.

Keith Baumann has been a professional musician and teacher for more than 35 years. In addition to playing guitar with the EPC band since 2005, he also plays banjo, mandolin and dobro. He has toured the country as a mandolinist for the Grammy-nominated Special Consensus bluegrass and teaches regularly at several national music instructional camps.

Although his roots are planted in Bluegrass, Keith also performs regularly in jazz ensembles and big bands. With his tenor banjo, he has performed at Wrigley Field with the world-famous Cubs Dixieland Band.

We are extremely grateful to Keith for taking on the entire EPC livestream technology project.



COMMUNITY PHOTOS

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAME TO HELP OUT!



UPCOMING

JOY IN JUNE 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 A family member who brings me joy	2 A color that brings me joy	3 Something in nature that brings me joy	4 A song that brings me joy	5 A taste that brings me joy
6 A stranger who brings me joy	7 A flower that brings me joy	8 An animal who brings me joy	9 A memory that brings me joy	10 A hope that brings me joy	11 A time of day that brings me joy	12 A piece of clothing that brings me joy
13 A book that brings me joy	14 An achievement that brings me joy	15 A personal quality that brings me joy	16 A hobby that brings me joy	17 Something from last year that brought me joy	18 A game that brings me joy	19 A tree that brings me joy
20 A place that brings me joy	21 A sound or sight that brings me joy	22 A dream that brings me joy	23 A body of water that brings me joy	24 A possession that brings me joy	25 The type of weather that brings me joy	26 Something from yesterday that brings me joy
27 Something from a long time ago that brings me joy	28 A friend who brings me joy	29 A number that brings me joy	30 A word that brings me joy			

Joy Every Day

Take a moment to reflect on joy every day in June and notice how you are more in tune with joy by the end of the month.

Here are some of the ways you can use the prompts:

1. Think about them
2. Write them down
3. Talk about them with a friend or family member
4. Use them as a prompt for journaling or art
5. Post about them on social media with the hashtag #joyfuljune

"When joy is a habit, love is a reflex." Bob Goff

For more information on church events:
630-834-7750 or www.elmhurstchurch.org

BY RUTH SCHROETER

Thanks:

Many thanks to the people who came to our Garden Work Days on March 26 and/or April 16: Barry Bencke, Pam Fuesz, Jennifer Gordon, Mary Ellen Hayes, Anna Lu, Tom Mason, Edward Mbewe, Zikomo Mbewe, Michelle Mueller, Suzanne Pitz, Fred Schroeter, Tom Turek, and Alan West. We picked up trash and branches, cut back perennials, raked leaves, moved cement parking bumpers back into place, and constructed and installed 5 new cedar beds for the vegetable garden! (See the photos here and more on the bulletin board in the Nelson-White room.) Thanks, too, to the Crestview Garden Club which provided a generous check to purchase the lumber.

More Gardening Opportunities:

Garden Team – To improve your garden skills, get exercise, and have fun, consider joining the garden team that meets weekly throughout the growing season. We install new plants, maintain all the garden beds (watering, weeding, fertilizing, mulching), and take care of anything else that comes up on the property. We generally meet on Tuesday and Friday mornings, but that is subject to change depending on the weather. If interested, contact Ruth and she'll add you to her weekly text messages. Teens are welcome. Come join Ruth, Faith, Mary Ellen, Mary, Karen, and Alan!

Vegetable Garden – To keep the veggies growing strongly and get them delivered to the food pantry, we need helpers to sign up for one week per month. The children of the church plant, water, and harvest on Sunday mornings, but the plants need tending during the week, too. Duties include watering, weeding, harvesting, packaging, weighing, and delivering. Training will be provided by Ruth or one of the other gardeners.

First Harvest:

Quite a few green onions over-wintered in the vegetable garden! They were harvested and delivered to the Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry at the end of April.

Lawn Care Tip:

“Raise the Blade” – For a healthier lawn, set the blade of your mower no lower than 3” and leave the clippings. When grass is cut at this taller height, it grows a deeper, stronger root system. The clippings are free fertilizer; they return organic matter and nitrogen to the soil—they do not cause thatch.

Ruth Schroeter, Garden Coordinator

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