

Newsletter

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF ELMHURST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PASTOR'S + CORNER

REV. TRACI SMITH



Every time we celebrate the Lord's Supper (communion), I offer an *invitation to the table*. There are several standard ones in the Book of Common Worship that we can use. One of them begins this way "Friends, this is the joyful feast of the **people** of God! They **will come from east and west**, and from **north and south**, and sit at table in the kingdom of God."

The joyful feast of the kingdom of God. It is, indeed, a joy to sit at the table together.

This month we'll be looking at communion and celebrating it every week in our worship service. Why are we doing this? A few reasons:

- It will give us an opportunity to experience what it's like to celebrate communion weekly. What does it feel like to come to the table week after week, rather than waiting a month in between?
- There is a rich theology around the Lord's Supper that we will be able to explore in our sermons and reflection time.
- Celebrating for a few weeks in a row allows us to experiment with different ways of celebrating!

I'm looking forward to seeing what it feels like from my perspective as well as I celebrate every week with you. I look forward to seeing what the Spirit shows us!

The Lord's Supper enacts and seals what the Word proclaims: God's sustaining grace offered to all people. The Lord's Supper is at once God's gift of grace, God's means of grace, and God's call to respond to that grace. Through the Lord's Supper, Jesus Christ nourishes us in righteousness, faithfulness, and discipleship. Through the Lord's Supper, the Holy Spirit renews the Church in its identity and sends the Church to mission in the world. When we gather at the Lord's Supper the Spirit draws us into Christ's presence and unites with the Church in every time and place. We join with all the faithful in heaven and on earth in offering thanksgiving to the triune God. We reaffirm the promises of our baptism and recommit ourselves to love and serve God, one another, and our neighbors in the world. The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding. If some of those who come have not yet been baptized, an invitation to baptismal preparation and Baptism should be graciously extended. Worshipers prepare themselves to celebrate the Lord's Supper by putting their trust in Christ, confessing their sin, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another. Even those who doubt may come to the table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

Let us come to the table of grace every week in October!

With gratitude,
Pastor Traci

INSIDE

PAGE 2
Upcoming Events

PAGE 3
Upcoming Events
cont.

PAGE 4
Music News

PAGE 5
Garden News

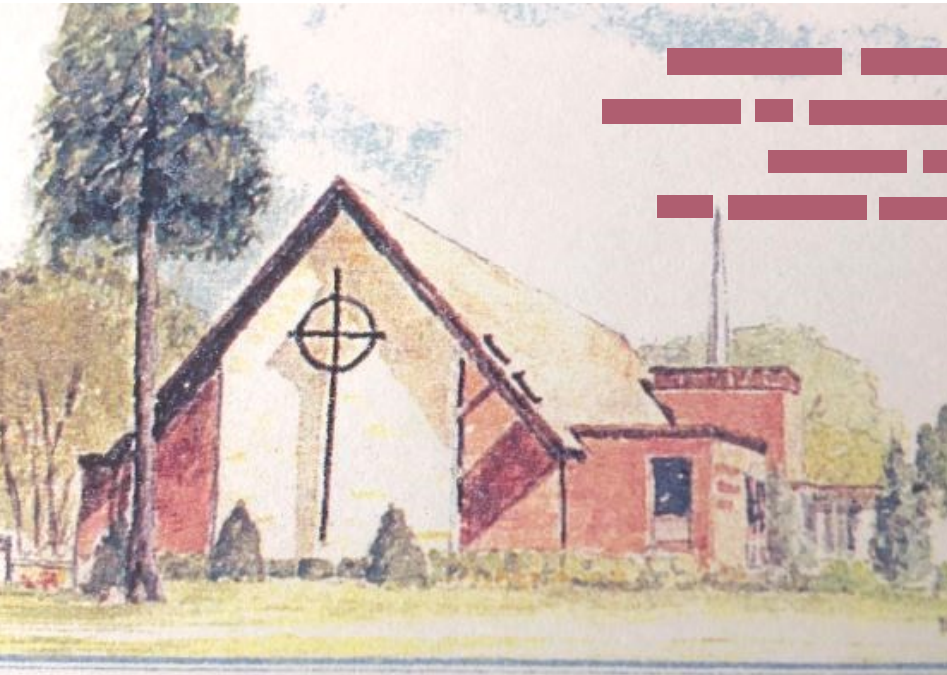
PAGE 6
Worship Livestream
Information

Elmhurst Presbyterian Church
Sundays @ 10:30 am

Live
Stream



 youtube.com/elmhurstpresbyterianchurch



EPC HAPPENINGS

In October we will be beginning a five week sermon series on Communion. We'll be featuring different types of bread and table coverings from around the world. If you're able to bake a bread or bring a table covering from another country, please let Pastor Traci know!

Join us October 8th at the circle drive as we bless all of our animal friends. We will have a special moment of remembrance for pets who have died as well. Contact Pastor Traci if you wish for your pet to be included in this remembrance prayer. **All of our pet friends must be on leashes or in cages, please.**

Check out our Blessing of the Animals display in Calvin Hall as well! We are collecting donations for the West Suburban Humane Society animal shelter throughout the month. If you wish to donate, please check the list of needed items on the display and put the items in our Blessing of the Animals house!

Come and enjoy a hot bowl of soup, salad, and fellowship on October 9th after worship! If you wish to come or even bring you own dish, please sign up at bit.ly/EPCSoupForYou or scan the QR code!



The Table of Grace

Communion Sermon Series
Beginning October 2nd

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 8th
4:00 PM

We've Got Soup For You!

Sunday, October 9th
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

***Sign up down below!**

Growing Old Gracefully

Sunday, October 23rd
Lunch at 11:30 am
Program starts at 12:00 pm

***Registration is required!**

BY RUTH SCHROETER



Children's Vegetable Garden

We're having another amazing year in the vegetable garden! As of September 19, we have delivered 410 pounds of produce to the Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry, including scallions, radishes, lettuces, spinach, tomatoes, tomatillos, beets, sweet peppers, hot peppers, bush beans, pole beans, carrots, cucumbers, zucchini, patty-pan squash, and butternut squash. Harvesting will continue until the first frost ends growth sometime in October. Thank you to the children of the church who helped with planting, watering, and harvesting on Sunday mornings, and to the adults who cared for the garden during the week and made deliveries to the food



Beds, Borders, and other Gardens

This year we planted zinnias around the electronic sign and in the Memorial Garden and were rewarded with many colorful blooms that also provided nectar to pollinators. The Butterfly Garden continued to amaze us with its beautiful native plants that provide food and shelter to bees, butterflies, and birds. Thank you to Alan West and Barry Benecke for amending the soil around the electronic sign before we planted. Also thank you to the many people who helped weed and water throughout the landscape this summer: Connie Nestler, Susan Smentek, Berlirce Chetgna, Mary Ellen Hayes, Mary Mueller, Faith Lee, Karen Fitzgerald, Alan West, Suzanne Springate, Ted and Rita Steiskal, and anyone else that I may have forgotten. You are all faithful stewards of God's Creation.



Ruth Schroeter,
Garden Coordinator

Assistance for Ukraine Refugees

BY SUSAN SMENTEK, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Hello, EPC!

Many of you have heard me talk about my family’s involvement with assisting refugees from the war in Ukraine. My sister’s family is sponsoring and hosting a Ukrainian family of four from a village in the Ternopil region of the country. The family arrived on August 27th through the Uniting for Ukraine Humanitarian Parole program, and will be living temporarily with my family in Eureka, Missouri while awaiting employment authorization permits. The permits can take a few months to arrive, thus extra support is especially needed during this time.

The family consists of Parents ages 43 and 38, and 2 children. The boy is 18 and a high school graduate, the girl is 13 and attending 8th grade. They have a cousin and niece currently living in Schaumburg, IL and have plans to join them once stabilized. Items that are especially helpful to them include gift cards for Aldi, Walmart and Schnucks grocery stores and gas cards for BP, Kwik Trip or Circle K. They would appreciate any

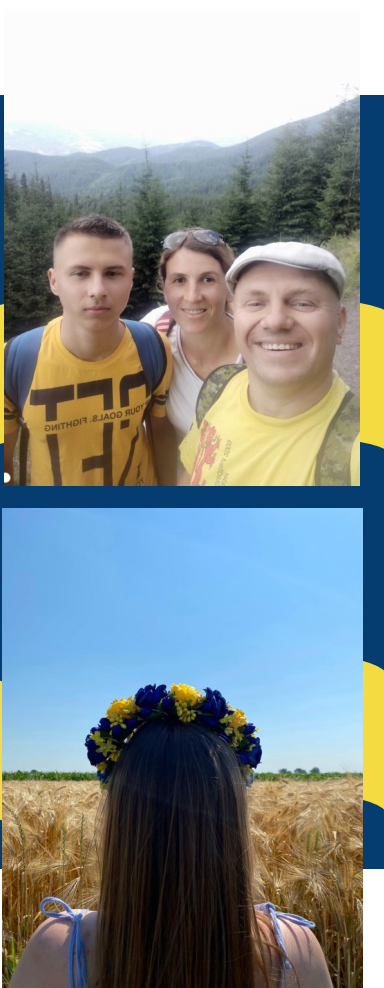


In addition to this family, we are hosting and are reunited with our former exchange student children, Polina and Viktor. Plus, Ivan, an accomplished scholar who had been employed as an English teacher in Kyiv. These refugees are staying with my family in Iowa as they await work permits and practice for drivers licenses. Polina is also continuing her studies online with her University in Ukraine. Walmart, Aldi, Target and gas gift cards would be very useful to them.

If you would like to help us welcome, care for and support these refugees, please see me on Sunday morning at EPC or contact me via email:

sirensinger@comcast.net

I would like to send any donations to them by November 1st. Thank you!



« « « HAPPENING THIS FALL

EPC’s Trunk or
Treat

Sunday, October
30th
12:00 -1:30 PM
(After Worship)



Thanksgiving
Potluck Lunch

Sunday, November
20th
(After Worship)

Beginning of
Advent!

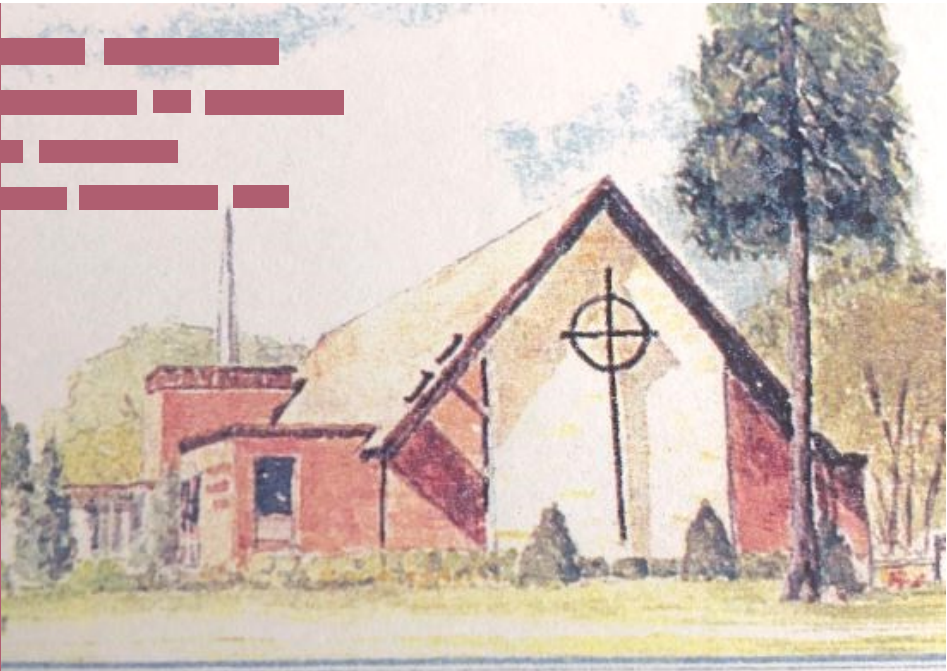


Sunday, November
27th
Worship at 10:30 AM

Hanging of the
Greens



Sunday, November
27th
(After Worship)



EPC HAPPENINGS

Join us on October 23rd for this Growing Old Gracefully seminar as experts share their knowledge about living life with grace. Topics covered include: financial advice and planning, remaining in your home, and emotional and spiritual wellness. **Lunch is provided for those who pre-register!**

If you wish to sign up for Growing Old Gracefully, you can register at bit.ly/EPCEventRegistration or you can scan the QR code below.

Join us as we wrap up October sweetly with EPC’s Trunk or Treat! Prepare your Halloween costumes and get ready for a fun afternoon of candy, pizza, and fun spooks!

Thanksgiving is a time to show our thanks for one another. Join us as we gather together to enjoy a delicious meal and share our favorite Thanksgiving side dishes with each other. Look out for sign up sheets to come.

Growing Old Gracefully Sign Up!

