



EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

...to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Connections

April 2019

Greetings!

This year Easter comes almost as late as it possibly can and it feels like we've been waiting for Easter forever. Waiting is not easy. In fact waiting is very difficult for many of us because we are an impatient people and we want things now. We also are not comfortable being in a state of anxiety feeling we have no control over things...waiting...waiting...waiting.

There are many times in our lives when we just have to wait. There is no other choice. We wait for a baby to gestate. We wait through the cycles of chemo. We wait for winter to turn to spring. We wait to save enough money for a house. We wait for the right time to downsize. We wait for retirement. We wait for grandchildren to arrive. I remember waiting for my grandparents to arrive for a visit each summer from Colorado – *I know they had to drive 1500 miles, but can they just get here already?* We wait for other people to make decisions that affect us.

Waiting itself seems passive. It seems like we are doing nothing while we are waiting. But, there are a lot of things that happen while we wait and even though much of it can be beyond our control, it doesn't mean that *nothing* is happening!

And there are things we can do while we wait, even for those things that are beyond our control. While a baby is gestating, we take care of our bodies to make sure the baby has the best gestational environment as possible; we prepare the nursery; we stock up on diapers; we plan our lives for *after* the baby arrives.

While we are waiting for Easter to arrive, we prepare our hearts and lives as we confess, repent, and seek to be more intentional about living in relationship with God. Soon, the waiting will be over: the baby will arrive, chemo will end, spring will get here...Soon, Easter will be here.

And when Easter gets here, the waiting is in the past, soon to be forgotten because this new thing that God has done in the raising of Jesus Christ from the dead is an amazing gift to each one of us. It is the promise that simply because God is alive each day will be new and different. And this gift of new life is full of possibilities beyond our wildest imaginations! You see, we believe in a God who created us because of love, who sustains us because of love, and who is faithful to us because of love – ***always!***

While we wait, I invite you to keep hope alive because the One who gives us hope is alive!

Blessings,
Deb

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LENT

Palm Sunday – April 14th @ 9:00am

Maundy Thursday – April 18th @ 6:30pm

Good Friday – April 19th @ 7:00pm

Easter Sunday – April 21st @ 9:00am

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A special prayer time will be available in the Sanctuary every Wednesday throughout Lent from 5:30-6:30pm. Lenten Potluck Dinners will follow from 6:30-7:00pm.

APRIL RAINBOW COVENANT – Lithuania In Mission Together

The In Mission Together project allows local congregations to partner with specific congregations in regions of new mission development. The hope is that a 50/50 joint partnership may be achieved through a covenant of multi-year financial support and relationship building. You can find more information on their website:

www.umcmmission.org/Get-Involved/Partnerships/In-Mission-Together

To make a donation to this month's Rainbow Covenant organization, simply place a donation marked for "Rainbow Covenant" in the offering plate.



epworth green team

Don't forget to use the USAgain bins in our parking lot entrance. They are a great way to recycle clothes and shoes. The more we recycle, the more energy and Earth's resources can be saved.

Keep recycling plastic and aluminum; please make sure all items are clean! Dirty containers cannot be recycled.

Care  Team

Thank you to all the Care Team members and caring people who are concerned about our church members. Thank you to all who send birthday cards and get well cards as well as making calls to the homebound. They are more appreciated than we know. Continue reaching out to those you haven't seen in Church for a few Sundays. As we say in Green Team, "We are all in this together".

Current & Upcoming Events

- ✓ **SPROUTS** – Join us every Friday morning @ 9:15am! Babies and toddlers spend about 35 minutes of social time where they can play and learn followed by 15 - 20 minutes of singing, movement activities, as well as story time. It's a great time for both child and parent and the perfect time to spend an hour with your little ones. You don't have to be an Epworth member to come, so invite friends, neighbors, and relatives...the more the merrier!
- ✓ **MEN'S FRIDAY BREAKFAST** - Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast, fellowship and discussion on topics of the day. We meet in M5 the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month @ 8:00am. All are welcome to attend; this is a casual group and regular attendance is not required.
- ✓ **FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY** is next Sunday, April 7th. Please bring canned fish and meat or any non-perishable food items of your choice! Donations can be placed in the Food Pantry basket outside the sanctuary.
- ✓ **FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON** - Over 55? Join us for our next Friendship Club Luncheon at 12:30pm on Wednesday, April 10th, @ Randall Pancake House (305 Randall Road, S. Elgin). A sign-up sheet is on the Epworth bulletin board in the Community Room. You don't have to be a member of the church to come. Questions, call the church office at 847-931-5400.
- ✓ **KMOTION EASTER EGG HUNT** – Our next KMOTION event will be on April 13th beginning at 11:00am. This event is open to Highland Elementary students, their families as well as Epworth family members under 12 years of age. In addition to the egg hunt, we will also have crafts and food to munch on. We will need donations of candy and plastic Easter eggs by April 7th as well as volunteers to stuff Easter eggs after church on April 7th and/or hide the eggs prior to the event on the 13th. Questions? Contact Andy Lindstrom.
- ✓ **EASTER LILIES** – We will be decorating our Sanctuary with beautiful lilies again this year for Easter. Orders may be placed online or you may complete the order form in this week's worship bulletin and placed in the offering basket. Orders must be placed and paid for by Tuesday, April 9th, @ 9:00am. No late orders can be placed.



Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know they will donate a portion of your sales to Epworth? It's a simple and super easy way for Epworth to earn a little extra money. Simply log into Amazon Smile (www.smile.amazon.com) using your same Amazon user name and password, select Epworth United Methodist Church (make sure to select our church in Elgin, IL) as the organization you want to support and place your orders. It's THAT easy!

Questions? Contact the church office to help walk you through it.

MANNA ORDERS!

Manna orders will be taken on April 7th & 21st. Order forms can be found in the attendance folder as well as on the west wall in the Community Room. Purchase gift cards to fill your Easter baskets or purchase them to use for your everyday shopping at the grocery store and/or gas station! It's an easy way to earn extra money for our church! Depending on the cards you purchase, Epworth receives 2–20% of the price you pay.



Give it a try this month! For questions, see Carole Burris or contact the church office @ 847-931-5400.

APRIL GIVING / SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

PADS - PADS of Elgin provides overnight shelter and coordinates support services for the homeless in Elgin and surrounding areas. The shelter is open 7 days a week to all individuals who have a non-felony record and can pass a breathalyzer test. For two hours one evening our servants help serve food to the residents of PADS.

When: Sunday, April 7th @ 6:30-9:00pm

Where: 1730 Berkley Street in Elgin

Please contact Andy Lindstrom at andrewlindstrom@yahoo.com for more information.

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**FOOD FOR GREATER ELGIN** - Provides food assistance to 1200 low income families (approx. 5500 individuals, 1/2 of which are children) in the Elgin, South Elgin and East Dundee areas each month.

**When: Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30-8:30pm**

**Where: 1553 Commerce Dr., Elgin**

Please click on "Food for Greater Elgin" under the "Serve" tab on our website for more information on how to serve.

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SOUP KETTLE - Provides hot meals and warm smiles to 60-100 people in need every day. Epworth Church staffs the Soup Kettle the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

When: Tuesday, April 16th @ 4:30-6:45pm.

Where: Zion Lutheran Church @ 330 Griswold St., Elgin

Those wishing to serve, please see Janina Hoffman for more information.

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**CRISIS CENTER MEALS** - Epworth Mission Team provides meals for the Crisis Center on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month. We are in need of volunteers to make a main dish to pass, a vegetable or dessert.

**When: Easter Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> @ 5:00pm.**

Please contact Mary Rees Freeman at [mrf647@hotmail.com](mailto:mrf647@hotmail.com).



### Are you on our e-mail list?

Please contact the Church Office to make sure we have your correct e-mail address or to have your name added.

## BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES



**NEW!!!**

### SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 10:15AM

CALLING ALL C.S. LEWIS FANS!

The Men's Group is inviting Science Fictions fans and C. S. Lewis fans to come together and connect. Starting on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, The Men's Group will be starting an eight-week study of the first book in C. S. Lewis's "The Space Trilogy" "Out of the Silent Planet". No need to do any pre-reading or get the book, because we will be listening to an audio version of "Out of the Silent Planet" in class as part of the study. If this goes well, we could end up doing all three books.

Questions? See Steve Meyer.

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MONDAY MORNING @ 6:30AM

Join us on Monday mornings at 6:30am at the Centre of Elgin for our Walking Bible Study. Come be part of your church community, Walk to better yourself physically and mentally and Talk to grow spiritually! Meet others at the walking track on the upper level of the Centre, you'll be glad you made the effort! Questions, ask Mary Becker or Carole Burris.

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### WEDNESDAY MORNING @ 6:00AM

You are most welcome to come and sit at the South Elgin Panera Bread on the east side of Randall Rd. in front of Jewel to converse about the scripture for the upcoming Sunday. It's always great to get into the scriptures and really find a new understanding with others!