



Epworth United Methodist Church

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

Connections

February 2019

Greetings!

On Sunday, December 30, 2018, we had our usual 5th Sunday hymn sing. We sang favorite Christmas hymns throughout the morning worship and we told stories of our life with God in our Epworth community. All of these stories came from the hearts of you who love this church: from the hearts of you who have been here for 80 or 90 years (or longer!); from the hearts of you who have been with us only a few weeks or months. The stories shared that morning were intimate and inspiring: stories of how Epworth reached out and embraced you with acceptance; stories of how Epworth was there for you and with you when you grieved; and stories of how Epworth brought joy (and still does!) to your life!

As Epworth soon begins a new chapter in our life together, we remember other stories of our faith:

THE STORY OF OUR FAITH – “In the beginning when God created...and indeed, it was very good.” “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” “And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house...all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...” The Greatest Story Ever Told!

THE STORY OF METHODISM – from a movement of spiritual reform in the Church of England by our founder, John Wesley, to a new independent denomination in America, Methodist Episcopal Church in America, sprouting from both a political crisis and a spiritual crisis occurring during the Revolutionary War.

THE STORY OF EPWORTH – from our establishment by Grace Methodist Church as Faith Mission on April 15, 1894 (yes, 125 years ago), worshiping in “a store room at the corner of Hastings and Raymond Streets on Elgin’s southeast side.” (THANKYOU, Ted Whittington for your history book, *The Communion of Saints: A Spiritual Heritage!!!*) to Epworth United Methodist Church and who we are today.

As I ponder the stories of our history, I am reminded of the challenges and the celebrations throughout the stories of all of God’s saints who preceded us. Through these stories, I am assured that God is always faithful and new life with God is not only possible, but real and abundant!

As we co-author with God our next chapter, and in honor and celebration of our 125th anniversary in April, let’s write a book of our stories of our life with God in our Epworth community! Write your stories down on paper (or computer). Tell them to someone who will write them down for you. Bring them to the office so we can compile them into an anniversary book in time for Easter. What a great way to honor the new life God has given us in Jesus Christ on the day of his Resurrection!

Blessings,

Deb

Epworth UMC Missional Giving 2018

MISSION OF THE MONTH

January	\$123.94	Pan African Rural Health
February	\$123.96	African Methodist Heritage
March	\$5,000.00	Heifer
April	\$48.94	Facing Forward to End Homelessness
May	\$98.94	Fox River Valley United
June	\$343.94	UMCOR
July	\$198.94	UMVIM North Central Jurisdiction
August	\$98.94	Larry & Jane Keis
September	\$148.94	Solar Oven Partners
October	\$185.19	ChildServ
November	\$118.94	Center for Changing Lives
December	\$273.89	Midwest Mission Distribution Center
Sub-Total	\$6,764.56	

SPECIAL SUNDAYS

	\$250.00	United Voices for Children
Sub-Total	\$250.00	

OTHER

	\$100.00	Elgin Cooperative Ministry
	\$591.46	Food For Greater Elgin
	\$1,354.18	KMotion
	\$696.62	Soup Kettle / PADS / Crisis Center
	\$70.51	Pastor's Discretionary Account
	\$150.00	South Elgin Food Pantry
	\$4,555.06	Spirit Lake
	\$1,410.05	Women's Retreat
Sub-Total	\$8,927.88	

TOTAL **\$15,942.44**

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Open, Trustees Chair –

The Mission Team would like to thank you for your continued support! Last year we were able to support missions locally, nationally and globally!

Thank you and thank God for this awesome support.

MANNA ORDERS!

Manna orders will be taken on February 3rd & 17th. Order forms can be found in the attendance folder as well as on the west wall in the Community Room. Purchase a gift card to give as a gift or purchase them to use for your everyday shopping at the grocery store and/or gas station! Epworth receives 2–20% of the price you pay. Give it a try!

Questions? Contact Carole Burris or the Church Office.

Current & Upcoming Events

- ✓ **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 at 8:00am. All are welcome to attend; this is a casual group and regular attendance is not required.
- ✓ **SPROUTS** – All children 0-36 months are invited to join us for SPROUTS! We meet on Friday mornings at 9:15am in the Nursery. Children spend about 35-40 minutes playing together and then spend the final time singing, moving and reading a story. This is a wonderful time to spend connecting with your child or grandchild. Invite friends and family to join you!
- ✓ **CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES FOR SPIRIT LAKE** – It's time to get rolling again on our Spirit Lake Shoebox project. In February we will be collecting stuffed animals and infant toys. We also need shoeboxes, wrapping paper, tape, etc...
- ✓ **FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY** is next Sunday, February 3rd. Please bring your donation of canned vegetables or any other non-perishable food items of your choice! Donations can be placed in the Food Pantry basket outside the sanctuary.
- ✓ **KMOTION** - Our next outreach event with the students of Highland Elementary School will be on Saturday, February 9th, from 11:00am to 1:00pm. We will need help with lunch and crafts. We will also be making cards for shut-ins. Come at 10:30am and find out where you fit in best. Can't be here on the 9th but want to help? We are in need of some red, pink and white hearts made prior to the event. Contact Andy Lindstrom to lend your time or for more information.
- ✓ **FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON** - Over 55? Join us for our monthly Friendship Club Luncheon! We will meet on Wednesday, February 13th, at 12:30pm. The location for this month's gathering is still to be determined. Please sign-up on the Epworth bulletin board in the Community Room next week. You don't have to be a member of the church to come. Questions, call the church office at 847-931-5400.
- ✓ **WOMEN'S RETREAT** - The 12th Annual Women's Retreat will be Saturday, March 9th from 9:00am-2:00pm. Tickets will be \$25 and will go on sale in the Community Room mid-February. This will be our final retreat so don't miss this wonderful opportunity to join us. Questions? Contact Robin Luzin.

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE GEORGE BLANKENSHIP ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP!

George Blankenship was a member here at Epworth for more than 50 years. George always appreciated the financial help he received while attending college and, in wanting to give back to others trying to further their education, the George Blankenship Endowed Scholarship Fund was created. To date, over \$67,000 has been given in scholarship money.

Applications are open to individuals who:

- Are a member or have been active in Epworth UMC for at least 6 months prior to the March 31st deadline.
- Will be attending an accredited 4 year college or university, seeking a Bachelor level degree.
- Demonstrate financial need (as calculated using the Federal Application for Student Aid).
- Have established a minimum 2.5 GPA.

Applications can now be submitted online or downloaded from our website.

Instructions can be found under the "Announcements" section on our home page. Paper copies can also be picked up in the office.

Applications and references must be submitted by March 31st.

Scholarships will be awarded by June 1st.

Please contact the church office with questions.



FEBRUARY 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, February 3rd @ 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. The following times is available to serve at Food for Greater Elgin:

**When: Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30-8:00pm.**

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 at Zion Lutheran Church the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

When: Tuesday, February 19th @ 4:30 - 6:45pm.

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: Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm.**

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

## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

You may not know what you are missing by not spending some time with others exploring the wonderful messages God shares with us through His Word!

### 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, Ginny Jensen 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!

FEBRUARY RAINBOW COVENANT – Habitat for Humanity

Members of Methodist churches support Habitat for Humanity in a variety of ways: some volunteers build, rehab and repair homes on construction sites and others support Habitat for Humanity ReStore through either donations of building items, furniture and appliance and/or as volunteers at the ReStore retail locations. In addition, Methodist members assist as volunteers and donors in behind the scenes ways and are encouraged to participate in their Neighborhood Revitalization Program as specific blocks are targeted for physical improvements and support through community action.

To contribute to this month's Rainbow Covenant mission, please place your donation marked for "Rainbow Covenant" in the offering basket during worship.

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE E-MAILS! If you haven't already done so, please make sure you are signed up to receive weekly e-mail blasts and other important e-mails. You can sign up under the "announcements" section on our home page!

Don't have e-mail? Let Robyn in the Church Office know and your name can be added to our mailing list.