



## Epworth United Methodist Church

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

# Connections

January 2018

Greetings!

As we take the Christmas decorations down for the year and put the wrapping paper out for recycling, we begin to turn our thoughts toward the new year ahead. The beginning of a new year seems to always bring hope. It's a fresh start to a new beginning. We can let go of the things we wanted to accomplish last year, but somehow never got around to. And we can begin to dream new dreams for our lives.

A new year, a new beginning. As you dream about what your personal resolutions will be for 2018, I invite you to pray for God's dream for Epworth in this next year. You'll recall in my message a few weeks ago, I shared that I wrote a check to Epworth UMC dated January 1, 2018 in the amount of \$1,000.00 – dream money for our congregation. The idea came from one of the workshops I attended at our annual stewardship event last fall. "If we had \$1,000.00 what would we do? What is God's dream for the next thing we should do?" The whole point of the workshop is to dream beyond our budget. We know we have a mortgage on our building, as well as regular maintenance and utilities, staff compensations, and missional expenses. But if we were to reach beyond our budget, what would we do with the money? What would God have us do with the money to continue God's work through Jesus Christ and the Church in our world?

I believe God wants more for us and from us than simply meeting our budget. How will we let God use us to continue God's mission of restoring shalom (peace, wholeness, well-being – the way God intends the world to be) in the world through Jesus Christ and the Church?

Because I write this letter the week before Christmas, I am still thinking of the story in Luke's Gospel of the angel's announcement to Mary that she would bear God's Son. Mary, confused by this announcement, asked, "How can this be?" Then the angel told Mary that her beyond child-bearing-age relative, Elizabeth, is six months pregnant, assuring Mary that,

***"Nothing is impossible for God."***

God gave us the greatest gift of all in God's Son, Jesus Christ, and together in the power of the Holy Spirit, Nothing is impossible for God. When God has a dream, I believe God will make it happen!

Shalom,

Deb

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## { Prayer Corner }

The sanctuary is still open on Wednesdays from 6:15-6:45pm. Those who come are praying for our church & church family. All are welcome to for as little or as long as they want to stay.

**REMEMBER: Things start changing when the church starts praying.**

### **MANNA ORDERS!**

Manna orders will be taken on January 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. 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.

epworth green team



Did you know you can get green electricity for your home? Visit [www.PlugInIllinois.org](http://www.PlugInIllinois.org) for more information. You can find all green suppliers, select fixed rates (some maybe close to or even lower than ComEd's). Please make sure to read all information carefully to avoid service contracts. Call if you have questions 847-741-7375.

Go Green for God and your neighbor!  
Thanks, Sandy Kaptain, Epworth Green Team

**Kane County Recycles** has announced that it will hold a post-holiday collection event. It will be held on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> between 8:00am – noon. This is your opportunity to recycle items such as holiday lights, books and electronics that may have been replaced and/or upgraded during the holiday season.



For more information about this event as well as other general electronics recycling questions please visit their website at <http://www.countyofkane.org/recycling/Pages/default.aspx>.



We have partnered with USagain (pronounced “use again”), a company which collects unwanted textiles and resells them here in the US and abroad. Epworth will receive 5 cents per pound of textiles collected. A collection bin has been placed along the far west driveway. If you have any unwanted clothing or other textiles, we hope you will consider placing them in the collection bin so they can be “used again”.

## *Current & Upcoming Events*

- ✓ **FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY** is next **Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**. Please bring your donation of pork & beans, dried fruit and meat or any other non-perishable food items of your choice! Donations can be placed in the Food Pantry basket outside the sanctuary.
- ✓ **MEN'S FRIDAY BREAKFAST** - Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast, fellowship and discussion on topics of the day. We meet in M5 the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of each month. 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 9:00am 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!
- ✓ **UNHANGING OF THE GREENS / SATURDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST**– Unhanging of the Greens will happen Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, @ 8:00am. Both men and women are invited to come for a scrumptious breakfast prepared by Tony Luzin and then stay to help un-decorate the church. If you have never attended one of Tony's breakfasts it is a delight not to be missed and help unhanging of the greens will be greatly appreciated. Hope to see you there!
- ✓ **FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON** - Over 55? Join us for our next Friendship Club Luncheon at **12:30pm on Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>** at Sweet Berry Café (720 N. McLean Blvd; Elgin). Please sign-up on the Epworth bulletin board in the Community Room in the next week. You don't have to be a member of the church to come. Questions, call the church office at 847-931-5400.
- ✓ **SHOEBOXES FOR SPIRIT LAKE** - It is time to start collecting items for shoe boxes. Each month we will have a theme of items to bring. For January, let's call it.... "Keep Those Kids Warm!" Bring in your donations of mittens, gloves, hats and/or blankets.
- ✓ **2018 SPIRIT LAKE MISSION TRIP** - The dates for next year's Spirit Lake Mission Trip are July 22-28<sup>th</sup>; we will leave very early on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to arrive in Spirit Lake in time for worship at 5:00pm. We will work Monday through Thursday doing whatever the Spirit Lake Nation needs done. On Friday, we will have a free day that ends with the Opening Ceremony of PowWow and the whole experience of Native American traditions. Then, we will leave early Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, to travel back home. The cost is \$350.00 per person; a \$50 deposit will reserve your spot. Deposits are due by February 1<sup>st</sup>. There are only 5 spots left so don't wait; sign up today! We will be taking a group from Cornerstone UMC with us! Questions? See Andy Lindstrom.

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**SAVE • THE • DATE**

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Our next KMOTION event will be Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 11:00am. We will have games, crafts, and food. Come spend a couple hours with our friends from Highland Elementary!

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Save the date for the Mission Team Potluck and Silent Auction. Our theme is **GRAB 'N' BRING SOME GREEN for St. Patty's Day** on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 to 7:00pm. We are looking for donations to the auction; please contact Andy Lindstrom if you have any new items you wish to donate or know of any business who may want to participate. We will have a preview of items on Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Come celebrate and help the mission team get to Spirit Lake.

## 2018 FOOD PANTRY ITEM OF THE MONTH

The first Sunday of each month we will be collecting different non-perishable food items that will be given to our local food pantries. Below is a list of the designated food items that we have selected for each month of 2018; however, please feel free to donate any non-perishable food items.



**January** - Baby Items: Formula, Baby Food, Baby Cereal, etc.

**February** - Canned Vegetables

**March** - Canned Fruit, Jell-O

**April** - Canned Meat & Fish

**May** - Rice, Boxed Potatoes, Sides, Pasta

**June** - Cereal, Oats

**July** - Condiments: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Sauces, Spaghetti

**August** - Crackers, Soups, Dried Beans

**September** - Juices, Coffee, Tea

**October** - Baking Items: Flour, Sugar, Cornmeal

**November** - Paper Goods: Toilet Paper, Plates, Diapers, Wet Ones

**December** - Pork and Beans, Dried Fruit and Meat

All food items can be placed in the designated baskets at the back of the Sanctuary before worship.

### JANUARY RAINBOW COVENANT - Pan African Rural Health & Social Services in Sierra Leon

Begun by members in northern Illinois, this agency works in Sierra Leone to provide clean drinking water, education, and to reduce poverty and hunger. It aims to provide education for the 2,800 children in the Fallay Wujah section of Sierra Leone and to increase the health and sanitation to the 7,000 residents there.

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

## 2018 MISSION OF THE MONTH

### January

Pan African Rural Health & Social Services in Sierra Leon

### February

African American Methodist Heritage Center

### March

Heifer International

### April

Facing Forward to End Homelessness

### May

Fox River Valley United

### June

UMCOR

### July

UNVIM North Central Jurisdiction

### August

Larry & Jane Kies

### September

Solar Oven Partners

### October

ChildServ

### November

Center for Changing Lives

### December

Midwest Mission Distribution Center

Full details of each mission is on our website: [www.eumcelgin.org](http://www.eumcelgin.org) under the "SERVE" tab.

Our Flower Chart is on display on the "Epworth" bulletin board in the Community Room. If you would like to purchase flowers for a Sunday in 2018, all you need to do is sign-up and pay. Someone will pick them up and deliver them to church for you. You are welcome to take your flowers home with you after service. If you would prefer to make a donation to Missions in lieu of flowers, list it as Bread and Water when you sign-up. A pitcher and loaf of bread will be placed on the altar to symbolize your gift.

To cut down on administration time we ask that you pay when you sign-up. Please place the \$10 payment labeled for flowers or bread and water in the envelopes provided and place this into the large white envelope next to the flower chart or in the offering basket. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office at 847-931-5400.



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Please contact the church office off a list of  
this month's anniversaries and birthdays  
and /or the prayer list.

## JANUARY 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, January 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30-9:00pm**

**Where: 1730 Berkley Street in Elgin**

Please contact Andy Lindstrom at [andrewlindstrom@yahoo.com](mailto: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 are available to serve at Food for Greater Elgin:

**When: Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30-8:00pm & Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30- 11:30am.**

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

**When: Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> @ 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, January 28<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm.**

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



Thank you to ALL who contributed to the Mitten Tree; filling it with hats, gloves, and slippers which will be MUCH appreciated at the Crisis Center! Thank you for ALL those who helped spread God's love at the Elgin Senior Center also as 25 gifts were purchased for those in need there!

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Thank you to all who were able to share a few hours caroling for some of our loved ones in the congregation.

We had 17 people deliver songs, cards, and cookies to 5 locations.

We received a very kind note saying:

*"Thank you for the beautiful Christmas Carols and plate of delicious cookies. I also appreciated the beautiful card made by the young people. Your visit made me feel remembered. Love to All".*

It truly is a joy to share God's love in so many ways! Merry Christmas and may 2018 open our eyes to new ways of sharing!

## 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 Burreis.

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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!

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### THURSDAY AFTERNOON @ 1:00PM

We will wrap up our current bible study on the book "Weird Church" and begin a new, short 4-5 week study on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

More information will be forthcoming. Contact the Church Office if you would like more information.