



EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Connections

January 2017

Greetings!

Happy New Year! Have you made your New Year's Resolution?

January 1st marks a new beginning in time. We're coming down from our Christmas celebrations and as we look back reflectively over our 2016 resolutions, we evaluate what worked, what didn't work, and resolve what we will do differently in 2017 to achieve our goals. What have you resolved to do differently?

Our New Year resolutions are typically either: finance related – such as, pay off the credit card, or like John Wesley's sermon regarding money, '*gain* all you can, *save* all you can, then, *give* all you can'; or health related – such as, walk 30 minutes at least 5 days a week, or like John Wesley's sermon regarding a life leading to a deeper love of God and neighbor, '*get enough sleep, pray every day, transact your daily work with diligence* pleasing to God, *thank God for nourishing food and conversation* at meals that refresh our minds and our bodies, spend our *leisure* time on activities that are meaningful learning and serving activities, and as always, the proper use of money.

Can you believe John Wesley actually wrote about all of this in the 18th century???!!!!!! Experts today in the 21st century are telling us that these are the benefits of living a healthier, balanced lifestyle – well, at least the sleep, eat, and exercise part. But as Christians, our whole being is centered on the Great Commandment. **Jesus said, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself."** (Matthew 22:37-39). It seems to me, then, that God has given us our New Year's resolution: to continue growing in our love for God and growing in our love for neighbor and ourselves. And it seems to me that John Wesley has helped point to the way in his two sermons, *The Use of Money* and *The More Excellent Way*, referenced above.

As I think about this in my own life and resolve to lose a few more pounds through healthy eating and exercise, I realize that this is only one small piece of the Great Commandment. Honestly ask: How'd I do last year? Did I love God with all my heart, with all my being, and with all my mind? Did I love my neighbor as I love myself? Where did I fall short? I thank God for the God's grace of forgiveness when I messed up and God's grace that will keep me learning and growing. And then, ask: How is God calling me to be more faithful and obedient to The Great Commandment in 2017?

My prayer for you in this New Year is that the abundant grace of God will fill you love, faith, hope, joy, and peace!

Blessings,

Deb

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UMW Corner



January Meeting

Wesley UMW will be hosting Epworth UMW for one of our joint meetings on Wednesday, January 18th at 12pm noon for a potluck lunch. Wesley United Methodist Church is located at 1070 South St. in Elgin. Please bring a dish/dessert to share and enjoy a program that will encompass the global vision and missions of UMW.

Save the Date!

Epworth's 10th annual Women's retreat will be held Saturday, March 11th, 2017. This year's theme is entitled "Serving with Joy". More information will follow soon.

Gingerbread Bazaar

WANTED: 2-3 individuals to co-chair the Gingerbread Bazaar!! The bazaar is the largest fund-raiser for UMW throughout the year and proceeds from the bazaar go to support PADS, Elgin Crisis Center and Salvation Army. Please prayerfully consider stepping up to help with this important event. Interested parties can contact Robin Luzin at rluzin@sbcglobal.net or 847-652-5834.



Here are the top 11 things you can do in your home to GO GREEN and save energy and decrease greenhouse gases, and climate change.

1. Plug air leaks: around windows and doors: caulk, weather stripping. 10% savings
2. Upgrade appliances: Energy Star: esp. frig & clothes dryers. 10% savings
3. Install ceiling fans: turn OFF when a leaving room. 10% savings
4. Thermostats: programmable if possible. Set to 68 in winter, 78 in summer. 10% savings
5. Wash clothes in cold water: air dry if possible (racks, clotheslines). 10% savings
6. Eliminate phantom loads: do power strips or just turn stuff off. 5% savings
7. Turn off lights: when not in use and use CFLs or LEDs. 2-25% savings
8. Love your frig: clean the coils every 6 months, upgrade to 1993 or later. 4-35% savings
9. Turn down water heater: 10° or more if possible. 1-3% savings
10. Air dry dishes: skip pre-rinse, use a full load or program to run at night. 3% savings
11. Go meatless 1+ days a week! 7+% per day

We meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month in U1 @ 1pm. Contact Sandy Kaptain @ 847-741-7375 for more information.



Current & Upcoming Events

- ✓ **FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY** is next Sunday, January 1st. Please bring your baby items (diapers, wipes, formula, etc...) donations of or any non-perishable food items of your choice! Donations can be placed in the Food Pantry basket outside the sanctuary.
- ✓ **“HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS” POTLUCK DINNER** - The holiday potluck dinner has been rescheduled due to inclement weather. The new date will be Sunday, January 8th @ 5:00pm. It will be great fun to celebrate the New Year with a Christmas / Winter theme, carols and fun.

Please take the time to let us know if you plan to attend. You can RSVP by signing up again using the online form or you may call or email the church office. Please remember to let us know if you wish to host a table AND how many places will be open at your table for others to sit with your family.

Questions? Please contact Robin Luzin at 847-652-5834 or rluzin@sbcglobal.net or Lisa Eby at 847-695-5197 or leby@wowway.com
- ✓ **FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON** - Over 55? Join us for our next Friendship Club Luncheon at 12:30pm on Wednesday, January 11th @ Randall's Pancake House (305 Randall Rd in South 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.
- ✓ **SPROUTS** – Have a little one at home? Getting cabin fever as we head into the cold winter months? Join us at Sprouts on Wednesdays and/or Thursdays mornings @ 11am! 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! We will begin meeting again on Wednesday, January 18th.
- ✓ **MEN'S FRIDAY BREAKFAST** - Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast, fellowship and discussion on topics of the day. We meet in M5 every Friday @ 7:00am. All are welcome to attend; this is a casual group and regular attendance is not required.
- ✓ **2017 SPIRIT LAKE MISSION TRIP DATES HAVE BEEN SET** - Its official! Our 2017 mission trip to Spirit Lake will be from June 25th – 30th. If you enjoy construction, painting and playing with children, this is the trip for you! The trip costs \$300.00 per person, but a \$50.00 deposit will reserve your spot. Deposits are required by March 1, 2017. Please contact Andy Lindstrom if you have any questions regarding the trip or interest in going at andrewlindstrom@yahoo.com.
- ✓ **CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES FOR SPIRIT LAKE** – We did a remarkable job last year with sending shoe boxes to Spirit Lake! Thank you to everyone who donated items, gave time wrapping and filling the boxes. In hopes of sending more boxes this coming year, we will begin collecting items. Like last year, we will concentrate on specific items every month:
 - Jan: Winter-ware (gloves, hats, mittens, etc...)
 - Feb: **SMALL** stuffed animals
 - Mar: Toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs & brushes
 - Apr: All things Boys (cars, trucks, action figures, yo-yos, balls, etc...)
 - May: All things Girls! (Jewelry, nail polish, ribbons, headbands, etc...)
 - Jun: Books and coloring books
 - July: Baseball hats, sunglasses, socks
 - Aug: School Supplies
 - Sept & Oct: Anything & everything

We always need shoeboxes, tape and wrapping paper.

Another great idea is to donate a gift card and let us do the shopping for you! And if you purchase the card through MANNA, Epworth will receive a little something extra too!

JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH - Children's Fund

The United Methodist Children's Fund for Christian Mission fund enables children to learn about children in other parts of the world, the importance of mission, and opportunities for mission giving. The Fund also supports projects around the world that are in ministry with children.

It's easy to participate in Epworth' "Mission of the Month"! All you have to do is purchase a container of M&M's next Sunday morning in the Community Room and enjoy your treat. Fill the empty container up with quarters and return it when you are done.

2017 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 2017; 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.



2017

MISSION OF THE MONTH

January

Children's Fund

February

Lee Memorial

March

Imagine No Malaria

April

Heifer

May

Midwest Missions

June

Emergency Outreach

July

Sager Brown

August

PADS to HOPE

September

Grace Hospital

October

Mark & Rebecca Smallwood

November

Soup Kettle

December

El Mesias

Full details of each mission is on our website: www.eumcelgin.org under the "SERVE" tab.

MANNA ORDERS!

Manna orders will be taken on January 1st & 15th. 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!

For questions, see Carole Burris or contact the church office @ 847-931-5400.

Our Flower Chart is on display on the "Epworth" bulletin board in the Community Room. If you would like to purchase flowers for one of our Sundays, 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.



Altar Flowers

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Please contact the Church
Office for a copy of the prayer
list and a complete list of
January birthdays and
anniversaries.



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 1st @ 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 are available to serve at Food for Greater Elgin:

**When: Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30-8:00pm and Saturday, January 21<sup>st</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 3rd Tuesday of each month.

When: Tuesday, January 17th at 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 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 5:00pm.**

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



### Bible Study

Bible Studies provide an excellent opportunity to continue to learn more about His Word throughout the week and are available to everyone!

#### MONDAYS -

**Walk the Talk Bible Study** - Join us at 6:30am as we hit the walking track at the Centre downtown Elgin. Continue your day & week connecting and growing through scriptures, empowering you to share God's love and Word & we learn about being Christ's hands & feet. We will walk for about an hour.

#### AND / OR

**WEDNESDAYS** - At Panera Bread in South Elgin at 6am. Share in the word, break bread, sip a beverage as we connect over the scriptures, grow in our understanding and prepare ourselves and others to go out and serve.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

### Kane County Recycles has

announced that it will hold a post-holiday collection event. It will be held on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> between 8:00am – noon. This is your opportunity to recycle items such as holiday lights 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/electronics.aspx>.



Don't forget to continue using [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) for all your Amazon purchases and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate up to 0.5% of eligible purchases to Epworth. If you haven't already done so, simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and log on by using your same Amazon user name and password. Follow the instructions to set-up the charitable organization you wish to support as Epworth UMC in Elgin, IL and proceed to shop as you would at Amazon.com. It's that simple. But you have to remember to place your orders at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) for your purchases to qualify for a donation! Questions? Contact the church office to help walk you through it.

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