



Epworth United Methodist Church

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

Connections

June 2019

Greetings!

Last week in worship we celebrated three confirmands along with two new families into the life of our congregation. Next week in worship we will celebrate those in our congregation who have recently graduated. A few weeks ago, you heard in worship that I will be leaving you as your pastor (Sunday, June 16 will be my last Sunday) and by the time you read this letter, you will have heard the announcement introducing your new pastor.

We think about these events and remember all of the transitions of our lives. Sometimes these transitions are painful and sometimes these transitions are exciting! But they are what they are: a movement *from* something to something. While we focus on the transitions in life that we experience, like from high school to college, or from working to retirement, or from one congregation to another, or from one pastor to another, our transitions are also part of a bigger picture. We may leave high school or work or one congregation or one pastor behind us, but these experiences are still a part of us and part of our life's story and always will be.

In an even bigger picture are the stories of transition in the Bible: the Hebrew people's transition from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the "land of milk and honey;" the transition from Jesus' death to his resurrection; the transition from life with Jesus on this earth to life in the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and so many other stories of transition we know and love.

It is in this larger story, full of transitions of God's faithful (and, yes, sometimes even not so faithful) people that we find our place in life because it is the story of our always faithful God who authors our story because, ultimately, it is GOD's story!

While writing this last newsletter letter to you, my head wants to leave you with a last word of wisdom to help you through the transitions that Epworth continues to navigate, but my heart wants to leave you with one of my favorite Scripture verses:

I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me.
(Jeremiah 29:11-13)

I leave you with a heart full of gratitude that our stories became one, even for a short time. Epworth will always be part of my story as I will always be part of your story. My prayer for each of you and for Epworth is a future filled with hope, simply because God is a God of new life!!

Peace,
Deb

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Confirmands

Gabriel Dass

Steve Dass

Jayden Meyer



New Members

Ranjit Singh & Minakshi Dass
Gabriel Dass, Karishma Singh, David Singh

Parmjit Singh & Shifali Dass
Steve Dass, Simran Singh

Jason & Lorrie Young



Blankenship Scholarship Winner

Cassandra Meyer



Class of 2019

Valerie Brown
Illinois State University
Major in Public Relations; Minor in Family & Consumer Science

Lisa Eby
Elgin Community College
Associates in Liberal Arts

Cassandra Meyer
Elgin High School

Jayden Meyer
Kimball Middle School

MANNA ORDERS!

Manna orders will be taken on June 2nd & June 16th. Order forms can be found in the attendance folder as well as on the west wall in the Community Room. Purchase gift cards to give as gifts 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.

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 @ 7:00am. All are welcome to attend; this is a casual group and regular attendance is not required.
- ✓ **FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY** is next Sunday, June 2nd. Please bring cereal, oats, and/or any non-perishable food items of your choice! Donations can be placed in the Food Pantry basket outside the sanctuary.
- ✓ **GRADUATION SUNDAY** - Next Sunday, June 2nd we will celebrate during worship service those students who have graduated this spring. If you have not already done so, please contact the church office (office@eumcelgin.org or 847-931-5400) with names of immediate family along with where they are graduating from and plans for their future so we can include them in our service. On this special day we will also be awarding the **Blankenship Endowed Scholarship**.
- ✓ **FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON** - Over 55? Join us for our next Friendship Club Luncheon at 12:30pm on Wednesday, June 12th, @ I-Hop (101 S. Randall Rad in 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.
- ✓ **7-11 CLUB** - Enjoy new experiences? We all know Seven - Eleven is a food stop! How about a 7-11Club? One of the things we all have in common is eating! We'd like to explore your interest in breaking bread with others. Some may be excited to go out to eat with others, some may like to eat at home. We'd like to form groups of 7-11 people who will share a meal together maybe once a month, either rotating between each other's' homes or going out to a different restaurant once a month. The groups will change 3—4 times a year. We can have groups for both if there is enough interest. Sign up today in the Community Room to express your interest!



More and more we are hearing of loved ones, friends and acquaintances who are either dealing with or helping care for someone with dementia. It can be a difficult time for everyone.

Dementia Friendly America (DFA) is a nationwide network of communities, organizations and individuals looking to ensure that communities across the country are prepared to care for people living with dementia as well as their caregivers. Dementia friendly communities nurture the ability of people living with dementia to engage and thrive in both their communities as well as day to day living.

We are hoping Epworth might be able to become one of these communities. We will be looking for people to participate in a brief training. Be on the lookout for more information about training dates, times, etc... If you are interested in participating, please contact Sandy Kaptain.

JUNE RAINBOW COVENANT – Albert Willicor

Dr. Albert Willicor is a native of Liberia and has been the Chief Medical Officer of Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Ganta, Liberia for over a decade. A distinguished surgeon and hospital administrator in Liberia, Dr. Willicor also has experience as a leading OB/GYN in the Republic of Guinea. He serves with his spouse, Angeline, who is a nurse at the hospital in Ganta.

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

JUNE 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, June 2nd @ 6:30-8:30pm

Where: 1730 Berkley Street in Elgin

Please contact Andy Lindstrom at 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 time is available to serve at Food for Greater Elgin:

**When: Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30-8:30pm.**

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, June 18th @ 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, June 23<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm.**

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



A big thank you to everyone that helped with KMOTION this year. We had the joy of meeting 48 families and 76 children. A special thank you to the mission team for putting up with my crazy ideas and supporting them 100%. I am looking forward to a bigger and crazier 2019/2020 school year.

~ Andy Lindstrom

## 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 AT 6:30 AM -

Come walk and talk the scripture for about an hour as we head to the trails outside starting at our parsonage (2024 Torino Drive; Elgin). Park on the street, gather with folks and head on out. They're easy paths to walk and we take a slow pace. If it is raining or below 50°, we will walk at the Centre downtown Elgin.

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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!



epworth green team

Recent International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports show more warming and 'climate crises' is a more appropriate term for our earth-home. The Earth has a fever and the impact on our lives, other mammals and life as we know it is catastrophic. While the 6th mass extinction has begun, it doesn't mean we can't make changes to slow the process and lessen the impact. It's up to us! Simple, easy changes have a huge effect. Just by using less energy and switching to a renewable energy (go to www.PlugInIllinois.org) you are halfway there! GO GREEN!