



Epworth United Methodist Church

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

Connections

May 2019

Greetings!

We tend to think of and celebrate Easter on one particular day of the year. We celebrate and sing, “Christ the Lord is Risen Today,” with full organ and hearty voices. And then Monday comes, and it’s over: life moves on. We put away the Easter baskets and the eggs for another year.

Yet, we are an Easter people, and the “season” of Easter actually lasts for 50 days, called “The Great Fifty Days of Easter!” The Great Fifty Days of Easter begins on Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost (the coming of the Holy Spirit). Through these 50 days, we are witnesses to several appearances of the Risen Christ to his disciples and then on the 40th day, we witness his Ascension (when Christ ascends into heaven – Acts 1:1-11).

As an Easter people, we remember the empty tomb (“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He isn’t here, but has been raised...” Luke 24:5-6), and celebrate Jesus’ Resurrection to new life. Jesus is alive!!! And because Jesus is alive, we are filled with new life and new possibilities and new hope, too. We are invited to see with new eyes the amazing things God is doing in our lives, in our congregation, in our community, and in our world.

This month of May reveals some of the amazing things God is doing:

Sunday, May 5, our brothers and sisters from Wesley UMC will be joining us for worship. While talks about a potential merger together are on-going, we believe there are things we can do together that will have a greater impact for God in our community. This is a new, first step. We are also working on a date when some of us will join Wesley for worship in their building.

Sunday, May 12 is Mother’s Day. We honor and remember the women who gave birth to us and to our God, who is “the one who created my innermost parts; you knit me together while I was still in my mother’s womb.” (Ps 139:13)

Sunday, May 19, we celebrate Confirmation Sunday. This year, we have 3 youth who will be affirming the vows made on their behalf at their baptisms by professing their faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ, through Confirmation. At this time, we will also receive new members into the life of our congregation. If you would like to become a member, please speak with Pastor Deb.

Sunday, May 26, we honor and remember those persons who so faithfully served God through serving in our military on this Memorial Day weekend.

And a sneak peak to the first **Sunday** in June – **June 2** – when we honor and celebrate graduates and present the Blankenship Scholarship for this year!

You see, we are an Easter people! We honor and celebrate all of the gifts of new life and new possibilities God has given us through the Resurrection of His Son, Jesus. God is good! Alleluia!

Blessings,
Deb

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epworth green team



Recent updates from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have warned us that in order to prevent continued dangerous rise in greenhouse gas levels we must reduce our fossil fuel usage by 50% in the next 12 years. We have seen many extreme weather events which are at least in part due to climate change. Let's be great stewards of God's earth by going GREENER. The slightest changes in water conservation and reduced energy usage has a huge impact!

Care  Team

Care Team needs YOU! Due to a few members moving, we are in need of new team members. As a member of Care Team, we visit, call and send birthday cards to members of Epworth. Attending meetings is not necessary (although helpful). If you are interested in joining our team, or have more questions, please contact Sandy Kaptain (sakaptain@gmail.com or 847.741.7375).

We NEED you.
Can you HELP?

Have you been looking for ways to get involved here at Epworth? Serving is not only a great way to witness the work God is doing but also provides an opportunity to connect and build relationships with others! We are currently looking for:

Head Usher: Assign ushers for weekly services and special occasion services. This can be done once a month or every other month.

Altar Care: We are looking for people to help with changing paraments, prepare communion and watering the plants in the Sanctuary.

Greeters: We are always looking for people to join our team! Greeters are the first people members and visitors see as they enter our building on Sunday mornings. Greeters also help identify visitors and welcome them to Epworth.

Do any of the above opportunities speak to you? Call the Church Office to sign up or to discuss other areas you may be called to serve!

MANNA ORDERS!

Manna orders will be taken on May 5th & 19th. 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 @ 8:00am. All are welcome to attend; this is a casual group and regular attendance is not required.
- ✓ **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!
- ✓ **FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY** is next Sunday, May 5th. Please bring rice, boxed potatoes, pasta, other sides or any non-perishable food items of your choice! Donations can be placed in the Food Pantry basket outside the sanctuary.
- ✓ **SPIRIT LAKE SHOEBOXES** – We will be collecting items for BOYS (balls, Matchbox type cars, action figures, yo-yos, etc..) in May as well as shoeboxes, wrapping paper, and tape. Don't feel like shopping? Purchase a Target gift card through MANNA and let us do the shopping for you!
- ✓ **KMOTION** – Our next KMOTION event will be on May 18th from 11am-1pm. We are always looking for volunteers to help with games, crafts, and/or to serve lunch! See Andy Lindstrom if you wish to lend your time.
- ✓ **FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON** - Over 55? Join us for our next Friendship Club Luncheon at 12:30pm on Wednesday, May 8th, @ The Larkin Cafe (1568 Larkin Avenue; 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.
- ✓ **CONFIRMATION & NEW MEMBER SUNDAY** – Please join us on Sunday, May 19th, as our confirmands are given the opportunity to come before the congregation to be confirmed, publicly declaring their faith and joining the church. We will also be welcoming our new members into the congregation. If you are a guest and are interested in joining the church, please see Pastor Deb.
- ✓ **GRADUATION SUNDAY** - On Sunday, June 2nd, we will celebrate during worship service those students who will be graduating this spring. 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.
- ✓ **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 of there is enough interest. Sign up today in the Community Room to express your interest!

MAY RAINBOW COVENANT – United Methodist Committee on Relief

UMCOR provides humanitarian relief and disaster response in the United States and internationally. These undesignated funds allow UMCOR to allocate funds to disasters as they arise. <https://www.umcor.org/>

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

MAY 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 a month our servants help serve food to the residents of PADS.

When: Sunday, May 5th, @ 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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**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, May 14<sup>th</sup>, @ 4:30 - 6:45pm.**

Those wishing to serve, please see Janina Hoffman 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, May 20th, @ 5:30-8:30am.

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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**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, May 26<sup>th</sup>, @ 5:00pm.**

Please contact Mary Rees Freeman at [maryreesfreeman@gmail.com](mailto:maryreesfreeman@gmail.com)



### MONDAY MORNING @ 6:30AM

The outside trails are calling us and YOU! The Monday morning Walking Bible Study will begin on Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30am meeting at the parsonage then walking the trails nearby! Currently the Upper Room devotional magazine is being used as our point of discussion. Come enjoy God's sights and sounds of nature as we share scripture and grow in our understanding of the Word. It's the perfect time to give it a try, come once and see how you feel.

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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!

Ordering altar flowers is a wonderful way to commemorate an upcoming birthday, anniversary or any other special occasion. Our Flower Chart is on display in the Community Room. If you would like to purchase flowers for a particular Sunday, 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. Special color requests can be made; please e-mail your preferences to the office. If you would prefer, you may make a donation to Missions in lieu of flowers. Please circle "Bread and Water" on the sign-up sheet and 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 your \$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.

Did you miss church on Sunday?

You can listen to Pastor Deb's sermon online. Visit our website, click on the "Grow" tab. You'll find them under "Sunday Message Podcast".