



Epworth United Methodist Church

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

Connections

September 2019

“I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:26

Fresh off the heels of our worship service on August 25th as we heard from Ezekiel about this valley of dry bones, I am writing this letter to all of you here at Epworth UMC. What a Sunday? What a message from God! In case you were not able to be in worship that day, you can search out the video on our YouTube channel, or you can find it on the “grow” tab on our website at www.eumcelgin.org.

Something that I want to make sure everyone is aware of, because transparency is incredibly important within the church, is what direction we are headed. The *New Hope Team* met recently, and I listened to how Epworth arrived to this particular place. I heard about the long meetings, painful discussions, and prayerful discernment about the future of Epworth church. I was encouraged by the dedication of this special team and how they struggled to find a path to continue serving God with all of their spiritual gifts.

I know that there were two options which many of you agree upon, one of revitalizing and creating a ministry center and another of revitalizing and continuing on our own here at Randall and Highland. While creating a ministry center here is a viable option, I feel that God is calling us to something a little different, but yet maybe the same. I truly believe God is calling Epworth UMC to revival! There is so much life within this congregation and we are positioned to do great things for the Kingdom of God right where we are. What this will look like will be revealed to us as we pray, worship, study, and listen for God’s call. During the “Listening Tour” which is now beginning, I will be asking many questions about your experiences with Epworth church. I want to know your hopes and dreams as well as what you might be afraid of. Please sign up for one of the listening tour stops, or let me or Carole Burris know if you want to host one.

Some of the questions that we will be discussing are:

What brought you to Epworth UMC?

What keeps you worshipping here at Epworth UMC?

What are your hopes and dreams for this church?

What are you afraid that I (as your new pastor) will do? What are you afraid I will not do?

This is a day of new beginnings. This is a journey of new life. This is the time which we’ve been called to serve God in all we say and do. I look forward to this journey with all of you as we connect with each other and our neighbors, as we grow in our faith and knowledge of God, and as we serve within our communities and the world around us, being the hands and feet of Jesus. It’s time to rise up!

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Jarrod

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Open, Trustees Chair –**Please contact Pastor Jarrod or the church office if you are interested in filling one of the open ministry team positions!**

As summer winds down and we move towards autumn and cooler temperatures, it is time for another update on our financial situation. As we noted before, the Northern Illinois Conference has stepped up their support for Epworth. They truly want us to not just survive, but to thrive on this corner of Randall Road. They are paying Pastor Jarrod's insurance payments for three months and have waived the principal portion of our mortgage payment through the end of the year.

Last year, one of our members left the church \$41,000 in her estate. This generous gift helped Epworth through some tough times. *Not including* this donation, here is a comparison of how we are doing through July.

	2019	2018	difference
Income	\$ 116,000	\$135,000	(\$19,000)
Expenses	\$ 117,000	\$149,000	\$32,000
Balance	(\$1,000)	(\$14,000)	\$13,000

So even though we are in the middle of the summer doldrums, our income is almost covering all our expenses. Without the large memorial gift last year, we would have been in a deep hole.

The reason for the large difference in expenses is that we have not paid our conference apportionment this year. This was acceptable in the short term but as a connectional church, we will need to reestablish our commitment to our denomination in the future.

Not included in the above figures is the almost \$2,200 given to specific missions. This money comes into the church and then is distributed to the recipient.

A very heartfelt thank you to everyone whose generosity has kept our church active through these troubling financial times, especially those of you who have increased your giving for you truly believe in the mission of Epworth Church.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions please feel free to contact me anytime.

God Bless our Church and our Church Family,
David Kellenberger, Treasurer



Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know they will donate a portion of your sales to Epworth? It's a simple and super easy way for Epworth to earn a little extra money. Simply log into Amazon Smile (www.smile.amazon.com) using your same Amazon user name and password, select Epworth United Methodist Church (make sure to select our church in Elgin, IL) as the organization you want to support and place your orders. It's THAT easy!

Questions? Contact the church office to help walk you through it.

Current & Upcoming Events

- ✓ **MEN'S FRIDAY BREAKFAST** - Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast and fellowship. 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.
- ✓ **FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON** - Over 55? Join us for our next Friendship Club Luncheon at 12:30pm on Wednesday, September 11th, at **Village Squire (480 Randall Rd, South Elgin, IL 60177)**. Please sign-up 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.
- ✓ **SUPER SERVICE SATURDAY** is coming up quickly. Join us Saturday, September 14th, from 9:00am to 4:00pm. The Mission Team has planned several events for the day, volunteer to serve where you can! Serving opportunities will include:
 - Operation Christmas Shoebox @ 8:30am to 4:00pm.** Packers & wrappers are needed! The more boxes that are wrapped, the more boxes can be packed. Boxes can be taken home prior to the event to get a head start. Contact Andy if you are interested. We will also need help setting up for this event.
 - Feed My Starving Children – 15 volunteers needed to help pack meals at the Schaumburg location from @ 2:00-4:00pm.** We will be departing Epworth around 1:15pm.
 - KMOTION @ 11:00am-1:00pm.** Volunteers are needed beginning at 10:30am to help greet children and their families. We will be doing a craft, packing shoeboxes and serving lunch.
- ✓ **SPROUTS** – All children 0-36 months are invited to join us this fall for SPROUTS! We will meet on Friday mornings **beginning in October**, 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. You don't have to be a member of Epworth to participate so invite friends and family to join you!

FACEBOOK

Are you on Facebook? Have you liked & followed our page? If not, check it out! We have been and will continue to increase our social media presence by posting parts of our Sunday worship service along with the daily scripture readings found in each week's Compass Guide. We also provide a link to the weekly NIC e-newsletter. Feel free to "like" and "share" posts. This is an easy way to help spread the Good News and promote all the new, exciting changes happening here at Epworth!

SPIRIT LAKE INFORMATION

- **Christmas Shoeboxes** - In September & October we will continue to collect any item you wish to donate to this project. Don't feel like shopping? Purchase a Target gift card from MANNA and let us do the shopping for you!
- **New Food Pantry & Library** - Spirit Lake has received a large grant which they are planning to build a food pantry and library for their children. Let's help them build up their library. Please bring in new or slightly used books to take with us in October when we deliver Shoeboxes. Books should be appropriate for preschoolers through teens.
- **The 2020 Spirit Lake Mission Trip** has been scheduled for July 12-17th. Please sign up with Andy or Jenny Lindstrom. A \$50.00 reservation fee will be due by January 2020.
- **Gas & Truck Rental Fees** - We will be renting a truck and driving the Shoeboxes up to Spirit Lake in October. We need approximately \$1,200 for gas and rental fees. Please see Andy Lindstrom if you are interested in making a donation or write a check to Epworth and note on memo line "Spirit Lake Travel".



Connect Groups



Connect Groups Begin Next Sunday, September 8th. See where YOU want to CONNECT!

Sunday Mornings

- **Kindergarten - 5th grades** meeting in L3 led by Mary Becker, assisted by Paul Burris. Using the Deep Blue Cokesbury materials, they will be exploring "Loving God, Loving Neighbor" learning scripture and how it teaches us to live our lives today.
- **6th -12th grades** meeting in U6, led by Greg Cherry. This group will be deciding together what direction they want to go.
- **Current Events Class** meets in M5 led by Mary VanSlyck. The focus is discussing current issues, such as immigration or the opioid crisis and considering what is our response to these issues. Mary generally brings newspaper articles to spark discussion. We don't necessarily know how to fix problems, but it is interesting to consider responses. Class begins with joys and concerns and a scripture reading. We are reading through the New Testament starting in Mark. We close with prayer. We have many different political viewpoints represented therefore we all accept everyone's viewpoint. All are welcome.
- **Men's Connect Class** meets in M3 led by Steve Meyer.

Weekly Connect Groups

Monday Morning 6:30 - 7:30am meets in front of the parsonage (2024 Torino Dr) to walk a couple wonderful nature trails nearby while the Upper Room devotion booklet is used as our guide. A scripture is read followed by the connected story with questions provided for group discussion. This is a wonderful way to begin your week with exercise and conversation. The pace is slow enough to be able to walk, read, and talk! In October, the group will move indoors to the Centre walking track downtown.

Wednesday Mornings 6:00-7:00am meets at the South Elgin Panera Bread on Randall Rd led by Jim Eby. We 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



Small Group Study Opportunity! Rev. Terry Galagher is an environmental minister from Aurora who has put together a 6 part series, "Sowing Seeds of Climate Hope". Each session is approximately 30 minutes long and has a discussion guide. Some biblical references include Genesis 1:2 in which He creates wind. Wind can be translated into "breath" and/or "spirit". You can find out more at www.sustainingcreation.org.

If you are interested in participating, contact Sandy Kaptain at sakaptain@gmail.com or 847.741.7375.

SEPTEMBER RAINBOW COVENANT -

United Methodist Global AIDS Fund—UMGAF (#982345)

The UMGAF funds Christ-centered HIV & AIDS projects throughout the world. Advocacy for prevention, care, and treatment has been a consistent focus of UMGAF since its founding in 2004. Of the total given, 25% is kept in each Annual Conference for programs combatting HIV & AIDS in their region and/or in other global connectional projects.

If you are interested in making a donation, please place in the offering baskets during worship; please mark for "Rainbow Covenant".

Care Team

Care team meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 1:00pm in U1. All are welcome to join us. If you can't make meetings but would like to help, please let Sandy Kaptain know. Visits, calls, card to members of our Church family who are ill, homebound or in a nursing home are very important and meaningful for our members.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

¹⁰ EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS.
1 PETER 4:10



USHERS & GREETERS serve visitors, guests, and church family, helping each person to find a place that meets their needs, offering a warm welcome, friendly handshake and a worship bulletin. Our purpose is to serve those in attendance. If you are interested in learning more or signing up, please see Steve Meyer (ushers) or Mick Hoffman (greeters) or contact the Church Office.

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**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, September 1<sup>st</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 time is available to serve at Food for Greater Elgin:

When: Monday, September 16th @ 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** - Epworth serves the Soup Kettle on the third Tuesday of each month. Recently many folks have asked how it works and how to help! Well here's the dish...we usually serve a green salad, main dish, vegetable, bread, desserts.

4:00-5:00pm: process the veggies from Klein's, make salads, slice desserts, & set the tables

4:30-5:30pm: finish cooking, prepare drinks & get ready to serve

5:30-6:30pm: serve guests the meal and beverages

6:00-6:30pm: wash dishes, clean tables, and carry out trash bags

If your schedule doesn't allow for you to come for the entire time, that's ok! Com'on by whenever is convenient and lend a hand.

**When: Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 - 6:30pm.**

Those wishing to serve, please see Mary Rees Freeman for more information.

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CRISIS CENTER MEALS - Epworth Mission Team provides meals for the Crisis Center on the 4th Sunday of every month. We are in need of volunteers to make a main dish to pass, a vegetable or dessert.

When: Sunday, September 22nd @ 5:00pm.

Please contact Mary Rees Freeman at mrf647@hotmail.com.

MANNA ORDERS!

Manna orders will be taken on Sunday, September 1st and 15th! NEW 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.

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