

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR AT A GLANCE 12-21-14

TODAY 8:30 AM– Worship Service – SA
9:45 AM –Sunday School- CE
11:10 AM – Worship Service – SA
11:10 AM – A Children’s Christmas Carol – SA
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM – Christmas Caroling – Meet in FH
5:00 PM – Youth Group Christmas Party – YH
7:00 PM – Longest Night Service – UGR

MONDAY 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM – 6th Grd. Girls’ Bible Study
@Harbaughs
7:00 PM – Boy Scouts – FH

TUESDAY 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting – KL
6:30 PM – Weigh to Lose
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Financial Peace – YH
7:00 PM – AARP Board Meeting – FH

WEDNESDAY Christmas Eve
7:00 PM – Christmas Eve Family Service – SA
10:00 PM – Christmas Eve Service – SA

THURSDAY Christmas Day
Office Closed

FRIDAY Office Closed

SATURDAY

SUNDAY 10:00 AM– Worship Service – SA
(12-28-14) No Sunday School
6:00 PM – Cub Scout Movie Night – FH

THE ELDER OF THE WEEK is Dean Thomas.

OUR ORGANIST THIS MORNING is Alec Chapman. Alec will be serving as our organist until his graduation from Duquesne in May 2015.

HEARING ENHANCING EQUIPMENT: If you have difficulty hearing during the worship service, please let one of the ushers know prior to the service, and you’ll be given a hearing enhancer to use during the service.

8:30 AM USHERS

Mark Connelly
Curtis Neil
Marilyn Colaizzi
Len Colaizzi

11:10 AM USHERS

Henry Tomer
Jerry Nist
Dave Jenkins
Becky Winek

SOUND TECHNICIANS

8:30 AM – Marge Cain
11:10 AM – Mike Dolan

UPCOMING SERVICE

Sunday, December 28, 2014,
One Service at 10 AM
Rev. Jason Rea preaching

CHILDREN’S & FAMILY MINISTRY

Birth – 6th Grade

*For more information on these ministries, please contact
Bethann Dolan, Elder for Children’s Ministries
at: mbergd@verizon.net or 412-492-9991*

1. CRADLE ROLL ROOM FOR AGES BIRTH THROUGH

2 1/2. The Cradle Roll room is located past the church offices and choir room. The **TODDLER/PRESCHOOL ROOM** is open during the Sunday School time and 11:10 worship hour. This is a class for children who are 2 ½ to 4yrs. of age.

2. SUNDAY SCHOOL –Our classes will begin at 9:45 and end at 10:45 AM. Children 4 years old (Pre-K) through 2nd grade will meet in the RED room of the C.E. for Kids of the Kingdom Music to start class at 9:45. Children in 3rd grade through 6th will meet in their classrooms.

3. YOUNG CHILD IN WORSHIP – For ages Pre-K through 2nd grade during the 11:10 service. Today, the children will be attending the Christmas Program at 11:10 AM.

4. CHILDREN’S WORSHIP BULLETINS are with the regular bulletins at the entrances to the Sanctuary. If your child would like one, please see one of the ushers.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

*For more information on these ministries,
please contact Jennifer Clayton at
jennifer@elfinwildchurch.org or call 412-486-5400.*

5. JAM WORKSHOP was yesterday, and the kids will be adding their music to worship for the 11:10 service. All kids are invited to join in, even if they did not attend yesterday’s workshop as we have extra props!

Please use this form to register for church events. After filling it out, you may tear it off and place into the offering plate. Thank you!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Event: _____

Number of Registrants: Adults _____ Children _____

Ages of Children: _____

Other applicable information: _____

STUDENT MINISTRIES, Grades 6-12

For more information on these ministries, please contact

Rev. Jason Rea at

jason@elfinwildchurch.org or call 412-486-5400.

6. JR. & SR. HIGH CLUB -We will resume on Sunday, January 4th, 2015. Jr. High (grades 6-8) from 4:30 – 6:00 PM and Sr. High (grades 9-12) from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. This club is a wonderful time for fellowship with other students. We play different games, have some good food and spend time in worship and study together.

7. CHRISTMAS PARTY AND CAROLING DECEMBER 21ST -Join us today at 3pm for caroling which will be directly followed by our Christmas party from 5-7pm. We will meet for caroling in Fellowship hall. The Party will be at the youth house. Even if you can't make caroling you can still come for the party (but you should try to come caroling as it will be fun). We will have dinner together at the party and each student should bring one wrapped gift (\$5 or under) for our annual gift exchange/game. We hope you will join us for this wonderful time of celebration.

ELFINWILD CHURCH NEWS

8. PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ALL CHURCH RETREAT to be held January 23-25, 2015 at the Ligonier Camp and Conference Center. The guest speaker, Saleem Ghubril, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Promise and volunteer pastor of the Mosaic Community Church, will lead us as we focus on the theme **Light of the World**. We will explore the meaning of Jesus as *the light of the world*, what His light brings to each of us, and how we may move toward becoming a light for Christ in our world. In addition to a great speaker, the retreat offers time for fellowship; fireside chats; hiking; a 1200 foot zipline; an inside climbing wall; laser tag; sledding; young child care; and lots of activities for the kids. The cost: Adults - \$75/ Children 10-17 - \$40/ Children 4-9 - \$30 (\$200 cap for families and additional financial assistance is available if needed). Registration forms available on tables outside the sanctuary and on the church website. Questions? Patty Robinson: 412-487-0413

9. BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Over the past years a faithful group of individuals has provided a light luncheon, at a small cost, for the family and friends of a deceased individual following the funeral service. This group has dwindled in size. We need your help and assistance in creating a new group of folks who can help with this ministry. If you are interested in assisting in or leading this ministry, please contact the church office at 412-486-5400 or Jim Giel, Jr. at 412-486-2774.

10. THE PRESBYTERIAN PROJECT (includes local Presbyterian churches, Calvert Memorial, Elfinwild, Fox Chapel, Glenshaw, John McMillan, Hiland and Parkwood) has a project to which you can be part of in the early winter months. Please see the green flyer on the tables for more information.

***January 26-31, 2015 – Mission trip to Norman, Oklahoma**

The Oklahoma City suburbs experienced tremendous loss of life and property from tornadoes that swept through the area in May 2013. Volunteers will work on new construction, and install in-ground storm

shelters in existing homes. There are two options for cost: - Driving in the van - \$200/person includes 1 overnight each way; Flying - \$400/person Please contact Jeff Potter (revjeff@parkwoodchurch.org) or Penny Young (youngp@fcpc.us) if you have any questions or to reserve your spot.

11. LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE – Tonight, Sunday, December 21st at 7 PM in the Upper Gathering Room. This is a special service of healing and wholeness for those for whom the Holiday season is difficult for reasons of grief or loneliness. All are warmly invited and welcome.

12. DID YOU KNOW that you can listen to the sermons on our website? Please go to www.elfinwildchurch.org and click on the link.

13. ATTENTION MEN: There are several upcoming opportunities to strengthen your relationship with God as well as be His ambassador in the community.

* A new CLC group will be starting soon and will be meeting from 6:00 to 8:00 AM on Saturdays. Mike Gaydos and Mark Connelly will be the co-facilitators.

*Dirk will be leading a small group on fatherhood which will begin on January 8th.

If you are interested, please contact Mike Gaydos at 724-272-6951 or projecteng@hotmail.com.

14. ELFINWILD MEALS MINISTRY DRIVERS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – As our snowbirds go south for the winter, we have a need for additional drivers and volunteers during the winter months. If you have a couple of hours during the week to assist in the kitchen or can assist in delivery of the meals, please contact Marion Berberich at 412-486-8000. Any time that you can provide would be greatly appreciated for this important ministry.

15. ELFINWILD MEALS MINISTRY HOLIDAY TREATS NEEDED – As you begin preparations for your holiday baking, the Elfinwild Meals Ministry would appreciate your considering baking an extra dozen of cookies or other baking items that we could include in the daily meals that we provide to our clients. These additional items mean a great deal to individuals who otherwise would not be able to enjoy the holiday treats many of us enjoy. Please leave your donation in the church kitchen marked for the Elfinwild Meals Ministry or contact Marion Berberich at 412-486-8000 to make arrangements to drop off your donation. Thanks in advance for considering making this type of addition to our meals ministry.

16. SHOULDER TO SHOULDER PITTSBURGH Alternative Gifts of Health & Organic Fair Trade Coffee For Sale – Sundays in December During Coffee Hour

Each donation comes with a lovely Christmas ornament explaining what has been purchased as well as the mission of Shoulder to Shoulder Pittsburgh. Gifts of Health will be on sale each Sunday during the month of December and on Christmas Eve. All contributions are tax deductible and 100% of donations go directly to the people of San Jose del Negrito, Honduras. Proceeds from the sale of coffee fund the education of a Honduran youth. Since 2000, twenty-four medical brigades have traveled to San Jose del Negrito. Elfinwild Presbyterian sent a mission team to Honduras during the summer of 2011 and again in 2014! As this

partnership grows, we appreciate your support. More information is available by contacting Mark & Amy Meyer, littlepine@verizon.net.

17. ATTENTION FATHERS!!! Every father knows how difficult parenting can be. If you want to find some encouragement for, support in, and guidance to being a father who loves his children with a godly type of love, we invite you to come and join us. We will begin meeting Thursday, January 8 at 7:15 pm in the Corner Conference Room. This time coincides with the Youth Choir rehearsal time. We will meet initially for six weeks through February 13th. If you have any questions or would like to confirm your place around the table, please email or call Pastor Dirk Lesnett at dirk@elfinwildchurch.org or 412-486-5400.

18. WOMEN'S BREAKFAST – The Women's Ministry Committee is hosting a breakfast and warmly invites the women of Elfinwild to attend on Saturday, January 17th from 9 AM to 11 AM. To make reservations, please fill out a form located on the tables and place in the offering plate or call the church office. Please let us know if you will need child care.

19. FRIENDS TO REMEMBER IN THIS SEASON – Located on the tables outside of the Sanctuary, is a list of members who are unable to come to Church or live out of the area. They would certainly be pleased to receive a Christmas greeting or note. Please remember them as you prepare your Christmas cards this year!

20. THE 2015 FLOWER CHART is now available! The cost for flowers in 2015 is \$44.00. Please contact the church office with any questions or sign up on the chart located in the north narthex.

21. WE EXTEND A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to the Deacons for decorating the church so beautifully for our Christmas season. We are blessed by their service.

22. YOUR 2015 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available at the rear of the Sanctuary. **ATTENTION!** If you are making direct payments via a financial institution and do not use nor wish to have envelopes, please notify the church office. In this case, you will be assigned a 600 account number. Pew envelopes remain for other giving.

23. ATTENTION LADIES – Please join us for our Monday evening Women's Bible Study! This six week study of the Beatitudes will begin on January 5th and will be held from 6:30 – 8:00 PM in the Cornerstone Conference Room. Please call the church office or fill out the tear-off to let us know of your interest so that materials can be ordered.

COMMUNITY NEWS

24. ELFINWILD VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY is in need of new members. If you're looking for a way to give something back to the community, this is a great opportunity! All training and equipment are provided either in-house or through local fire academies and schools. By making a commitment to the fire service, you can earn a FREE college degree through the FireVest program of the Community College of Allegheny County. For degrees offered or for more details, call 412-931-3158, ext. 5. Stop by the fire hall at 2807 Mt. Royal Blvd. on any Monday evening at 7:30 PM or call Dan at 412-377-5986.

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, December 14, 2014 the Session accepted the resignation of Jennifer Clayton from the position of Director of Worship and Music. Her last Sunday with us will be January 4, 2015 when, during the coffee hour in the Upper Gathering Room, we will celebrate her ministry of the past two and a half years with us and send her off with prayer and love. We have benefited greatly from Jennifer's good stewardship of her gifts and service and will miss her. She has been creative and expanded our vision of worship. Under her direction the Chancel Choir and Praise Team have grown and provided wonderful worship leadership. She and Dan, who has been a wonderful volunteer with this congregation and in this community, will continue to live in the house on Church Avenue. We will get to see them around. Please take the time to thank Jennifer and express your gratitude to her.

As I have said before, God is faithful and sovereign. The Session has had several conversations about the ministry of Christ in and through this family of faith that will allow us to address what is now two vacant staff positions in a manner that is forward looking and purposeful. I invite you to pray for these women and men who have been called by God through your election of them as elders to be servant leaders for and to this congregation. I cannot tell you how humbled I am as I sit with these elders and witness their maturity, grace and compassion in handling complex matters with great sensitivity. Your support of the process and prayers for wisdom and courage will matter and are appreciated.

In this season we are reminded that God so loved the world (that would be all of us) that He became flesh and lived among us. The Gift of Christ's birth has many dimensions to it. One that is primary is that God chose to be present with us in the daily challenges and opportunities of our lives. His presence is what brings peace, hope and joy. And there is nothing that can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus. God entered our world, in all of its brokenness and messiness. By coming in Jesus He reminds us that the Light overcomes the darkness. Let's live in and celebrate the Light.

STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Dirk Lesnett –
dirk@elfinwildchurch.org
Associate Pastor: The Rev. Jason Rea –
jason@elfinwildchurch.org
Director of Worship and Music: Jennifer Harris Clayton –
jennifer@elfinwildchurch.org
Organist: Alec Chapman
Office Manager: Cindy Neil – cindy@elfinwildchurch.org
Business Manager/Treasurer: Karen Dorsey – karen@elfinwildchurch.org
John Steinmiller – Sexton
Bob Slahtovsky – Sexton
Bob Kennedy – Financial Secretary – rgkmjk1@verizon.net
Jim Thompson – Parish Visitor
Amanda Gaydos — Web Page and CALL Editor –
amandaga@consolidated.net
Parish Associate: The Rev. Bethany Harbaugh –
harbaugh.bl1@gmail.com

Officers

Clerk of Session – Mark Riethmuller
President of Trustees – Steve Coco
President of Deacons – Tessa Connelly

MINISTRIES

Elfinwild Home Meals Ministry
Marian Berberich - 412-486-8000

Deacons' Hospitality Contact
Marilyn Colaizzi – 412-487-6071

Elfinwild Church Preschool
Carolyn Hervey, Director
Telephone – 412-486-2322

3200 Mt. Royal Boulevard, Glenshaw, Pennsylvania 15116
Telephone 412-486-5400 Fax 412-486-7080
Email: epchurch@elfinwildchurch.org

Elfinwild Presbyterian Church Financial Statement November 30, 2014

Actual Tithes & Gifts Given		\$575,790
Total Expenses	(Y.T.D.)	\$574,226
Favorable	(Y.T.D.)	\$1,564

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



The Candle of Love

WELCOME TO ELFINWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*We offer a warm welcome to every worshipper,
and a way to serve for all who are willing.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY December 21, 2014 Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:30 & 11:10 AM Worship

*You are invited to use the following Scripture for reflection
as you prepare your hearts for worship.*

**I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness
to all generations.**

**I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

Psalm 89

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Please sign the blue Friendship Pad in the pew near the center aisle.

BRINGING THE LIGHT

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE READING

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – THE CANDLE OF LOVE
8:30 – The Beck and Weber Families
11:10 – The Tegtmeier Family

UNISON PRAYER

**God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, and God of love,
You demonstrated perfect love towards us.
In the power of Your love,
teach us how to love one another
as reflections of Your light in the world.
God of promise, God of love,
into our darkness come.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 12 “People, Look East”
(stanzas 1, 4 & 5)

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

(11:10)

THE STORY OF ADVENT: LIGHT OF LIFE

Introduction Sam & Maleah Arrigo
Song “Pass the Advent Light Around” Youth Choir

*Pass the Advent light around, see the light of hope abound;
Hear the song of joy resound, let the light of love go around.
O come, o come, Emmanuel.*

*Pass the light of peace around, see the light of hope abound;
Hear the song of joy resound, let the light of love go around.*

Reading John 1:1-5 Logan Kutzer
Song “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” JAM Kids
Reading John 1:9-13 Katie Shideler

“O Come, All Ye Faithful/ O Little Town of Bethlehem”
3rd-5th Grade Sunday School Class

Reading Matthew 5:14-16 Andrew Lesnett
Song “This Little Light of Mine” JAM Kids
Reading John 8:12 Ryan Tegtmeier
Song “Follow the Light” JAM Kids
& Congregation

Congregation, please join us in singing our last song!

**Star in the sky we behold you - How could our eyes turn away?
Drawn to the light of mercy that comes to make a way
A lamp for our path that was darkness, Eternity's secret revealed
A hope to illumine these shadows, a love that was born to heal**

Chorus

**And we will follow the light, we will follow the light
Seeking the Lamb our saving love divine**

**Even the night will not shake us;
in the desert our hearts will not fear
Drawn to the hope of salvation, we wait for the sun to appear**

Chorus

**And we will follow the light, we will follow the light
Seeking the Lamb, seeking the Lamb
We will follow the light, we will follow the light
Seeking the Lamb our saving love divine**

*CCLI Song # 6401124 Marc Byrd | Sarah Hart | Trey Heffinger
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CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: John the Baptist was sent by God to announce the coming of Jesus on earth. As he proclaimed long ago, we continue to say, “Prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight paths for him in your heart.” Let us do so by confessing our sins together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of unending love,
we confess our willingness to be loved
and also our reluctance to love.
We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love
and also our refusal to forgive and love others.
As we bring our Advent preparations to an end,
and eagerly await the gift of Christmas,
fill us to overflowing with your love.
Pour out your love in and through us,
that we may be your light in a dark world.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and the promise of new life in God through Christ.
**All: Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us,
setting us free to love and serve. In Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

*RESPONSE OF THANKS No. 23 (refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

8:30

“Emmanuel”

Chancel Choir

11:10

“Amid the Cold of Winter”

Youth Choir

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever, Amen.**

(8:30)

ANTHEM

“Gloria in Excelsis Deo”

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:26-38
(page 956 in the pew Bible)

SERMON

“Nothing is Impossible with God”

Dr. Dirk Lesnett

*HYMN No. 11

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE