

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR AT A GLANCE 12-20-15

TODAY (12-20-15) 8:30 AM – Worship Service – SA
9:45 AM – Sunday School
11:10 AM – Worship Service/Christmas Pageant - SA
3:00 PM – Christmas Caroling – Meet in FH
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Youth Group Christmas Party – YH

MONDAY 7:00 PM – Longest Night Service - CH
7:00 PM – Boy Scouts – FH

TUESDAY 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting – KL
6:30 PM – Weigh to Lose
7:30 PM – 8:30 PM – Instrumentalist Rehearsal – SA
7:00 PM – AARP Board Meeting - FH

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY 7:00 PM – Christmas Eve Service – SA
10:00 PM – Candlelight Worship Service w/Communion – SA

FRIDAY Christmas Day – Office Closed

SATURDAY 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM – CLC – YH

SUNDAY (12-27-15) 10:00 AM – One Worship Service Today – SA

THE ELDER OF THE WEEK is Bob Wegner.

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
Len Colaizzi
Marilyn Colaizzi

11:10 AM USHERS

Henry Tomer
Nicole Graco
Jerry Nist
Dave Jenkins
Becky Winek

SOUND TECHNICIANS

8:30 AM – Jim Saraceno
11:10 AM – Mike Dolan

UPCOMING SERVICE

Thursday, December 24, 2015
Dr. Dirk Lesnett preaching

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRY

Birth – 6th Grade

For more information on these ministries, please contact Emily Cooper, Director of Children and Family Ministries at: emily@elfinwildchurch.org or call 412-486-5400

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 the 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 GREEN room of the C.E. for Kids of the Kingdom Music to start class at 9:45. Children in 3rd grade through 5th will meet in their classrooms.

3. YOUNG CHILD IN WORSHIP – For ages Pre-K through 2nd grade during the

11:10 service. This week's lesson will be *Advent V – Meeting The Christ Child* and will be taught by Linda Barto, Barb Harms, Nicole Graco and Carolyn Hervey.

4. CALLING ALL KIDS—GRADES 3-5! M&MS: MESSIAH & ME

YOUTH GROUP Get ready for a year of fun, games, growing and serving in Jesus Christ. Join the fun once a month—CU there! 6:30-8pm in Fellowship Hall: January 20th. Questions? Contact Amy Meyer—littlepine@verizon.net.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

For more information on these ministries, please contact Ron Bernhardt at ron@elfinwildchurch.org or call 412-486-5400.

5. HELP US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE! You're invited to join us this Advent and Christmas season in making a joyful noise to the Lord! If you've been thinking about joining one of our groups or maybe can't make a yearlong commitment, this is a great time to add your talent to our Sunday morning worship.

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: _____

There is an ensemble for everyone:

Chancel Choir Wednesdays 7-8:30 PM
Anyone high school age and older
Worship 12/24@10:00 PM

Praise Team Thursdays 6-7:15 PM
Instrumentalists and vocalists welcome

Youth Choir Thursdays 7:15-8:30 PM
Anyone in grades 6-12
Worship 12/24@7:00 PM

Kids Choir Tuesdays 6:30-7:30 PM
Anyone in grades 1-5 for singing and ringing
Worship 12/24@7:00 PM

Handbell Choir Tuesdays 7:30-8:30 PM
Anyone high school age and older – no experience necessary
Worship

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 – Jr. High (grades 6-8) from 4:30 – 6:00 PM and Sr. High (grades 9-12) from 6:30 – 8:00 PM on Sundays. 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. Today, we are having our Christmas party from 5-7 PM.

7. JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS BIBLE STUDY – Please join Bethany Harbaugh and Kelly Simile for a Bible Study for girls in 6-8 grade! We will be talking about some big life questions...and how to find the answers through Christ. This study will be on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8:00 PM and began on September 16th at the Harbaugh house. Please let us know if you are able to attend! To contact Bethany, call 724-822-6550 or email her at: harbaugh.bl1@gmail.com. To contact Kelly, call 412-445-3562 or email her at: ksimile1@gmail.com.

8. MISSION TRIP REGISTRATION DEADLINE: TODAY, DECEMBER 20th - We have two mission trip opportunities for students in 2016. There is a Sr. High trip to Nicaragua from June 25-June 2 which costs \$800 per person. The second trip is a Jr. or Sr. High mission trip to Steubenville, OH July 17-22nd with YouthWorks which costs \$275. To sign up for either trip pick up a permission form (on the information table in the hallway or get one at club or online) and turn it in along with a nonrefundable \$50 deposit to Jason by December 20th. To find out more about these trips contact Jason.

9. JR. AND SR. HIGH CAROLING AND CHRISTMAS PARTY – December 20th Carolers (all are welcome) will meet in Fellowship Hall at 3pm and we will be back in plenty of time for the Christmas Party! The party is from 5-7 PM. Please bring one wrapped gift worth \$5 or less for our annual gift game! Dinner will be provided. If you can't make caroling you can still join us at the Youth House for the party but we hope to see you at both.

ELFINWILD CHURCH NEWS

10. THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER GATHERING for the needs and concerns of our church family is being restarted! We will be meeting in the newly renovated chapel on the first and third Wednesday of each month, 7 to 8 PM. In January, we will meet on January 6th and 20th. We will meet regularly to lift up

concerns within the church family and for friends of Elfinwild. Please come and share in this powerful ministry! Everyone is welcome to come and join us in prayer as we restart this endeavor, or come to submit a prayer request. If you have any questions or would like to request prayer, please call or text Kris Shideler at 412-480-8466.

11. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – All women are welcome to join a time of Bible Study, prayer, and fellowship on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11AM at the Youth House. This fall and winter, we will use the study, "Running Nowhere in Every Direction" by Navigators, examining what God has to say about the stress in our lives - our schedules, expectations, limits, and happiness. Together we can seek God's direction and encourage one another to run faithfully with Him. Contact Bethany with any questions at 724-822-6550. **We are taking a break, but will resume in January. Please join us in January!**

12. LADIES – MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the weekend of January 22-24, 2016 when a Women's Retreat will be held at the beautiful Ligonier Camp and Conference Center. Don't let distance or the possibility of snow scare you...transportation will be available if needed!

13. ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES – Do you sometimes feel as if you are sitting on the sidelines watching other Christians serve in Christ's church? Do you sometimes think that you don't have anything to offer God or aren't sure of what God is calling you to do? If you are interested in experiencing the joy of discerning, discovering, and deploying the spiritual gifts that God has given to you personally, join Reverend Bill Meyer in the Cornerstone Room during Sunday School hour starting on January 3rd. Come and learn about how valuable you are to God and how your spiritual gifts can be used in the work and worship of Jesus Christ our Lord.

"The Wired Word" will also be offered again starting on January 3. This class will allow participants to study current events from a Biblical perspective. The Wired Word will meet in Fellowship Hall during Sunday School hour.

14. CONTAGIOUS JOY! - Join us on Monday evenings, beginning January 11th, at 7:00pm, in the Cornerstone Classroom for a Women's Bible Study focusing on JOY! The symptoms of a joyful life are unmistakable. A twinkle in the eye. A ready smile. A skip to the step. A song in the heart. It lends a glow to the face and a lilt to the voice. Joy is the birthright of every believer, but it is sometimes so easy to lose sight of that joy. During our study, we will take a careful look at this uniquely Christian characteristic. Joy is our strength and our song. Joy is infectious, transmittable, spreadable, and catching. In a word, joy is contagious! We need to order books (\$10 each), so please call the church office to let us know you will be attending!

15. YOUR 2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available at the rear of the Sanctuary. If you intend to use envelopes and do not find yours there, please notify the church office. Each box of regular offering envelopes includes a specific per capita payment envelope. If you are using any of the "direct payment" methods and wish to pay the per capita or for any other payment, you may use the pew envelopes making sure to include your name and purpose (i.e. Per Capita). The Per Capita assessment amount for 2016 per member is \$29.10.

16. 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.

17. THE BEAUTIFUL ADVENT BANNER on display in the Sanctuary was made several years ago by our own Bev Feris. We are richly blessed by her artistic talents. Thank you, Bev!

18. SHOULDER TO SHOULDER PITTSBURGH Alternative Gifts of Health & Organic Fair Trade Coffee For Sale Sundays in December Between Worship Services to benefit the people of San Jose del Negrito, Honduras

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.

San Jose Del Negrito is in Northwest Honduras, population 1,600. The average annual salary is \$400, and 50% of village members are under 16 years of age. A typical house is made of mud bricks with a pit latrine and an open fire for cooking. Shoulder to Shoulder Pittsburgh, in partnership with the village of San Jose Del Negrito, uses the gifts of Pittsburgh area professionals, students, and churches to provide essential medical care, health education, and community resources for the most needy. Since 2000, twenty-four brigades have traveled to San Jose. 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.

19. THE PRESBYTERIAN PROJECT HAS 2 EXCITING MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU AND YOUR CONGREGATION.

2016 Mission Trips to Andrews, SC. Join your brothers and sisters in Christ as we travel to South Carolina to assist in the rebuilding from the severe flooding in SC.

2 Different Options available, but act now, filling up fast!

1. January 24-29, 2016 (Sunday-Friday)
 - Cost \$400 includes travel, meals (except 2 meals out) and accommodations
 - Cost \$150 includes mini-bus travel, meals (except 2 meals out) and accommodations
2. February 7-12, 2016 (Sunday-Friday)
 - Cost \$400 includes travel, meals (except 2 meals out) and accommodations
 - Cost \$150 includes mini-bus travel, meals (except 2 meals out) and accommodations

If you are interested contact your church Presbyterian Project representative or Jeff Potter (revjeff@parkwoodchurch.org), Penny Young (youngp@fpc.us) or Sharon Lee (slsouthernatheart@gmail.com)

COMMUNITY NEWS

20. ATTENTION SENIORS – The Senior Center North located at Nativity Lutheran Church in Allison Park is looking for seniors to come out and join other seniors looking for fun and companionship Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Come enjoy bingo, crafts, Wii bowling, cards, trips to the grocery store and mall and lunch for a \$1.00 donation. Have a cup of coffee and good conversation. Please call Meg at 412-486-6426 for more information. Hope to see you soon!

21. 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.

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Bob McGee

POSTLUDE "Angels We Have Heard on High" Humphrey Turner

Special thanks to our liturgist:
Diane Hart

STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Dirk Lesnett –
dirk@elfinwildchurch.org
Associate Pastor: The Rev. Jason Rea –
jason@elfinwildchurch.org
Director of Children and Family Ministries: Emily Cooper –
emily@elfinwildchurch.org
Director of Music: Ron Bernhardt – ron@elfinwildchurch.org
Office Manager: Cindy Neil – cindy@elfinwildchurch.org
Business Manager/Treasurer: Karen Dorsey – karen@elfinwildchurch.org
Sextons: John Steinmiller, Bob Slahtovsky, Javier Rodriguez, Karl Ringler
Financial Secretary: Bob Kennedy – rgkmjk1@verizon.net
Parish Visitor: Jim Thompson
Web Page and CALL Editor: Amanda Gaydos –
amandaga@consolidated.net
Parish Associate: The Rev. Bethany Harbaugh –
harbaugh.bl1@gmail.com

Officers

Clerk of Session – Mark Riethmuller
President of Trustees – Mike Radich
President of Deacons – Ron Park

MINISTRIES

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

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



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

WELCOME TO
**ELFINWILD
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
THE LORD'S DAY**

December 20, 2015

8:30 AM Worship

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

**“A voice of one calling: ‘In the desert prepare the way for the Lord;
make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley
shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground
shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord
will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of
the Lord has spoken.’” Isaiah 40:3-5**

PRELUDE “Light of the World” Matt Redman
Praise Team

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH
Please sign the blue Friendship Pad in the pew near the center aisle.

Elfinwild Presbyterian Church Financial Statement October 31, 2015		
Actual Tithes & Gifts Given		\$492,175
Total Expenses	(Y.T.D.)	\$488,820
Favorable	(Y.T.D.)	\$3,354

INTROIT "Prepare the Way of the Lord" Jacques Berthier

CALL TO WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE READING John 3:16-21

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – THE CANDLE OF JOY
The Ron Bernhardt Family

UNISON PRAYER

Eternal God, through generations You prepared a way in our world for the coming of Your Son, and by Your Spirit you are still bringing the light of the gospel to darkened lives. Renew us, so that we may welcome Jesus Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE "Here I Am to Worship/O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
hope of a life spent with You.
So here I am to worship,
here I am to bow down,
here I am to say that You're my God,
and You're altogether lovely,
altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.**

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold Him,
born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
all for love's sake became poor.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exaltation,
sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

**And I'll never know how much it cost to see
my sin upon that cross.
And I'll never know how much it cost to see
my sin upon that cross.**

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

CCLI Song # 3266032 Tim Hughes

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*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Leader: O God, you give us your good news and call us into a new covenant relationship with you. Help us to prepare the way of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let the valleys be lifted up!

People: Draw us away from degrading thoughts and actions, and lift from us depressions and worry.

Leader: Through humble people, prepare your world, O God. Let the mountains be leveled off!

People: End our pride and take away our arrogance; save us from false hope and unwarranted presumption.

Leader: Through faithful people, prepare your world, O God. Let the crooked be made straight!

People: Forgive our sin, and pardon our wrongdoing; defeat evil and overcome the power of death.

Leader: Through saved people, prepare you world, O God. Let the rough be made smooth!

People: Help us grow in understanding, and give us wisdom to discern that which is good and true.

Leader: Through sanctified people, prepare your world, O God. Let all people see the salvation of Our God.

People: Redeem your world, and make all things new, and bring us into your holy and perfect presence, now and for all eternity.

Leader: Keep us humble and faithful. Save us and sanctify us, O God.

People: For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Psalm 85:9-13

Leader: Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

People: In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has come.

Thanks be to God.

*RESPONSE OF THANKS No. 23 (refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Silent Night" Traditional
Jen Callahan and Eric Hegerle

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:57-66
(Page 957 in the pew Bible)

John 1:6-23
(Page 992 in the pew Bible)

SERMON

"John the Baptist" Dr. Dirk Lesnett

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT No. 22 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

*BENEDICTION