

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 40:12-26
Romans 4:18-25
(Pages 676 and 1056 in the pew Bible)
The Rev. Bethany Harbaugh & Jennifer Clayton, Lectors

SERMON

"We Waver" The Rev. Dr. Dirk Lesnett

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

***SONG OF RESPONSE HYMN NO. 379**

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" Bradbury

***BENEDICTION**

SENDING SONG

Adeste Fidelis

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

Leader: Go in peace.
All: Thanks be to God!

Our sympathy to the Hughes family on the death of Robert's Mom, and to the June Reid family on the death of Laurel Reid, and to the Hargus family on the death of Hattie Hargus.

THIS WEEK'S USHERS ARE:

8:30 am Pat Graham
Mark Connelly
Len Colaizzi
Marilyn Colaizzi
Clay Riegel
11:10 am Henry Tomer
Margaret Hartley
Don Duncan
Dave Jenkins
Becky Winek

UPCOMING SERVICES

Christmas Eve 7 & 10 PM
The Rev. Dr. Dirk Lesnett preaching
and
Sunday December 30, 2012 at 10 AM
The Rev. Jason Rea preaching

SOUND TECHNICIANS

8:30 – Marge Cain
11:10 – Jerry Nist



***Welcome to
Elfinwild Presbyterian Church***

***Inside you will find our order of service and the activities
of the church.***

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

***If you need prayer there are elders in the chapel to meet
and pray with you after the service.***

***We believe in a Triune God – Father, Son and Holy
Spirit. United by our love for God
and faith in Jesus Christ, and led by the Holy Spirit, we
will serve the Lord through...***

***...joyful worship as we glorify His name
...committed study and learning of the Word
...faithful mission to our community and
the world.***

CHILD CARE DURING WORSHIP

8:30 and 11:10 A.M.

Cradle Roll (infants)

Location – end of hall from sanctuary.

11:10 A.M. ONLY

Toddlers (ages 2 - 4) are welcomed in the Toddler Room

Location – 1st floor of church building

Discipleship for Children

(ages 4 - 2nd grade)

Location – Green Room, 1st floor C.E. Building
Children 3rd grade and up worship with their families.

Order of Worship for the Lord's Day

December 23, 2012

Eight-thirty O'clock

To prepare for worship, you may want to reflect on Scripture or pray.
*The Lord is my shepherd... Surely His goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life
and I will live in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23*

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Meizi Yuan, organist

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

(Please sign the friendship pad that is located near the center aisle of each pew.)

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Veni Emmanuel

O come, Great Shepherd, bind our hearts to Thee.
Draw all your people into unity.
With loving care, give strength and peace
And courage now to follow faithfully.
Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel will come to thee, O Israel.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2-7
(Pages 646-647 in pew Bible)

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Nicole and Natalie Graco
April and Kelly Frantz

COLLECT (UNISON PRAYER)

Eternal Father, we thank you for the light that has dawned by the gift of Jesus, our Savior. Help us to hold firm to that hope in the midst of the difficulties and chaos of life. By the power of your Spirit, help us to let go of anything that would hinder our journey of faith, and to cling to the knowledge that through Jesus, you have accomplished all we need to stand strong in faith. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 40

"Joy to the World"

Handel

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of peace, hear our prayer. In this season of Advent, we want to prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, the Prince of Peace, yet we confess that we too often block his peace in our lives. God of peace, for the times when we have wavered in our faith, forgive our unbelief. For the times when we have wavered in our love, forgive our selfishness. For the times we have wavered in our witness to the world of the Good News of Jesus Christ, forgive us our fear and timidity. God of peace, you emptied yourself of your power to become a helpless baby in order to break the power of sin and death. Teach us to empty ourselves of the things that stand in the way of running this race of faith with trust and perseverance. Through Christ our Lord, we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

"An Advent Invitation"
Chancel Choir
Ruthie Riethmuller, bass flute

Williams/Nolan

*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.

PRAYER 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

ANTHEM

"Celtic Advent Carol"
Chancel Choir

Barrett

Elfinwild Presbyterian Church

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Officers

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Deacons' Hospitality Contact

Suzanne Whitaker – 412-487-0663

Elfinwild Church Preschool

Carolyn Hervey, Director

Telephone – 412-486-2322

1. **ELDER OF THE WEEK** is Jeff Mulkern.
2. **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.

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRY, Birth-6th Grade

For more information on these ministries, please contact Rev. Bethany Harbaugh at bethany@elfinwildchurch.org or 412-486-5400.

3. **YOUNG CHILD IN WORSHIP (ages 4 - 2nd grade)** provides an opportunity for children to experience God through an age appropriate and multi-sensory worship service. The wooden figures, desert box and other materials create a visual representation of the Bible. The lighting of candles and discussion of other church traditions introduce children to the meaning of the many symbols seen in the sanctuary. The hands-on experience of the children retelling the stories by manipulating the figures helps the Bible lessons take shape in their minds and hearts. Today the children will be participating in the Christmas Pageant at the 11:10 AM service.
4. **SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR PRESCHOOL – GRADE 6** The Sunday School hour begins at 9:45 with music in Friendship Hall (ground floor of the C.E. building). At 10 AM teachers will take their children to the classroom for a lesson, activities, art, and more! All are welcome.
5. **M&ms "MESSIAH & ME"** Join us and bring a friend for Messiah & me – a youth group for 4th -6th graders! We meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8 pm in Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendar for our next meeting: January 16 (Stargazing).
6. **CRADLE ROLL VOLUNTEER NEEDED:** Once a month, on Sunday mornings, we are looking for an adult who enjoys spending time with very young children and babies. The available time slot is from 8:30-10:45 (during the early church service and Sunday School) on the 2nd Sunday of the month. We would love to have you come and care for the young children of the church.

STUDENT MINISTRIES, Grades 6-12

For more information on these ministries, please contact Rev. Jason Rea at jason@elfinwildchurch.org or 412-486-5400.

7. **JR. AND SR. HIGH CLUBS ARE ON BREAK!** Clubs will resume on January 6, 2013. Jr. High: 4:30-6 pm (grades 6-8) and Sr. High: 6:30-8 pm (grades 9-12) Our Jr. and Sr. High clubs are a wonderful time for fellowship with other students. We play different types of games, have some good food and spend time in worship and study together. We hope you will join us on January 6th!

8. **SUMMER TRIP DEPOSITS DUE SOON!** *Jr. High trip: Surf City, August 4-9th*; Sr. High Trip: YouthWorks Adirondack Mts, June 21-28. While the trips themselves are still months away we need to know who is planning to go in January! Both the Jr. and Sr. High trips require a \$50, non-refundable deposit to ensure you will have a spot for the trip. The Sr. High deposit deadline is January 13th. The Jr. High deadline is January 20th. For more information about the trips please see our Student Ministries Calendar on the church website: www.elfinwildchurch.org. *We are not guaranteed the week of August 4-9th but that is our first choice. We will most likely get that week but we won't know for sure until they let us know some time in February. The other possible week is July 28- August 2nd. However, we will do everything in our power to ensure we get the week of August 4-9th.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

9. **NEW MUSIC ANNOUNCEMENTS LINE!** If you missed rehearsal, or you didn't write down a date, just call the church office number (412) 486-5400, and dial *300 for Adult Music announcements or *301 for Children's Music announcements. You will be transferred to a recorded message containing all the pertinent information you need.
10. **PARENT'S MEETING FOR ALL CHILDREN'S (K-6TH) CHOIR, BELLS AND CHIMES GROUPS: SUNDAY, JANUARY 13** after the 11:10 AM service in the choir room. An activity and snack will be planned for the kids so parents can attend. PLEASE mark your calendars so you can make every effort to attend this important meeting.
11. **CHILDREN'S BELLS AND CHIMES CHOIRS ARE NOW ON BREAK!** First rehearsal of the new year is Thursday, January 17.
12. **ELEMENTARY AND YOUTH CHOIRS ARE SINGING FOR THE 7:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE.** Please plan to be in the choir room by 6:30 and keep in mind that parking will fill up early, so allow yourself a little extra time.
13. **CHANCEL CHOIR CHRISTMAS RECEPTION** will be held from 8:15 PM to 9:00 PM in the choir room on Christmas Eve. Come enjoy some fellowship, coffee and cookies, and thanks for your generosity of talent and time in worship to God before we prepare to sing for the 10:00 PM service.

ELFINWILD CHURCH NEWS

14. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2012 ARE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 31, 2012.** Any contributions received after this date will be credited for 2013.
15. **THE COST OF FLOWERS.** Effective January 1, 2013, the cost of flowers will increase from \$37 to \$42.

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	9:45 am	Sunday School
MONDAY	7:00 pm 10:00 pm	Preschool – NO SCHOOL Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Children's Choirs Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Communion
TUESDAY		CHRISTMAS DAY – OFFICES CLOSED
WEDNESDAY		CHRISTMAS BREAK – OFFICES CLOSED
THURSDAY	6:00 pm	Preschool - CLOSED Girl Scouts 55010 – Peach and TR
FRIDAY		Preschool – CLOSED
SATURDAY	6:00 am	CLC #4 - KL

ELFINWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Financial Statement November 30, 2012

Proposed Budget	(Y.T.D.)	\$522,667
Actual Tithes & Gifts Given		\$541,500
Total Expenses	(Y.T.D.)	\$534,065
Favorable	(Y.T.D.)	\$7,435

16. **WOMEN'S MINISTRIES** We are excited to announce that new study groups will be forming in January and February 2013. For more information pick up a flyer available on the tables at each entrance. New groups will meet on Monday evenings and Friday mornings, in addition to the existing Thursday morning weekly study and monthly Mary Circle meetings. Questions? Contact Jennifer Clayton or Kristin Coco. Watch for further upcoming opportunities for faith and fellowship together.
17. **BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY** The Bread of Life Food Pantry would especially like any type of crackers, Jell-O, puddings, baking items, such as cake mixes and cookie mixes, and condiments. All monetary gifts help the pantry to provide perishable goods such as turkey and vegetables. Thank you.
18. **100TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK** The 100th Anniversary Book is now available for pickup in the back of the Sanctuary or in the Church Office. If you signed up for a copy, please purchase/pickup your copy. (If you are picking up your copy in the back of the Sanctuary, please leave your payment in the basket provided.) If you are unable to stop by, feel free to send a check to the Church Office and your copy will be sent to you. The cost for the book is \$25.00; please add \$5.00 to cover the cost of mailing.
19. **2013 OFFERING EVELOPES** Please pick up yours on the tables at the rear of the Sanctuary. Note: Numbers have changed.
20. **THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE ELFINWILD FAMILY WHO DONATED TO THE 1ST ANNUAL FILL THE TRUCK** project for the Bread of Life Food Pantry. Your overwhelming response did in fact fill a small U-Haul box truck with food stuffs, personal items and paper and cleaning products that will go a long way in restocking the shelves at the Food Pantry. Monetary gifts given will be used to purchase other food needs from the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank needed at the Bread of Life as well as fresh meats provided to the clients each week.
Again – thanks! What started as a simple idea to possibly fill a pick-up truck with food turned into a small box truck of food. Your generosity and caring for our local community as well as beyond is unending!
21. **IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR THE CHURCH RETREAT! JANUARY 25-27, 2013** You won't want to miss this wonderful weekend retreat at Ligonier Camp and Conference Center. Relax in the beautiful setting of Ligonier valley—no cooking or cleaning, supervised activities and care for the kids (sledding, zip lines, ropes course, climbing wall, games & crafts), fireside chats & evening campfire with s'mores, movies, a quilting session, nature walks, and more. *Everyone has a story—what's yours?* Geneva College's Terry Thomas will be our speaker, leading us in laughter, biblical insight, and the sharing of our own life stories. The all-inclusive cost is \$75 for adults, \$40 kids 10-17, \$30 kids 4-9 with a family cap at \$200. A \$75 deposit is due at time of registration and the remainder payable at the event. Registration forms available at the church entrances and exits. Don't delay—send in your form today! Contact Person: Amy Meyer, littlepine@verizon.net or 412-492-9968

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