



CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 118:24; 34:3

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.  
People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**  
Leader: O magnify the Lord with me.  
People: **Let us exalt His name together!**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 150 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION Isaiah 30:15, 18

In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; He rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is God of justice.  
Blessed are all who wait for Him!!

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace, we confess that we have elevated the things of this world above You. We have made idols of possessions and people and used Your name for causes that are not consistent with You and Your purposes. We have permitted our schedules to come first and have not taken the time to worship You. We have not always honored those who guided us in life. We have participated in systems that take life instead of give it. We have been unfaithful in our covenant relationships. We have yearned for, and sometimes taken, that which is not ours, and we have misrepresented other's intentions. Forgive us, O God, for the many ways we fall short of Your glory. Help us to learn to live together according to Your ways through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Psalm 147:2-3, 5

Leader: The Lord builds up His Church; He gathers the outcasts of His people. He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.

Friends, receive and believe the Good News of the Gospel.

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.**

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

"Revelation Song" David Angerman  
Youth Choir and Chancel Choir  
*Mr. Ryan Meyer, Cello*

\*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.**

ANTHEM "Jesus Freak" Heimermann/McKeehan  
Youth Choir

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ezra 1  
(page 442 in the pew Bible)

SERMON "Returning Home" Dr. Dirk Lesnett

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT No. 210 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "When In Our Music God Is Glorified" Karrin Ford

*The Elder of the Week is Mark Connelly*

*Special thanks to our liturgists:  
8:30 – Samuel Baird 11:10 – Rev. Jeff Powell*

I was thinking ... of what it means to live in the community of Christ with one another. And I have also reflected on the humble privilege I have as one called to pastoral ministry to share in all the different aspects of life in community with you all. This week I have had the privilege of holding a baby as he was baptized and also holding the hand of a mother whose son died. I have prayed with sons whose mother has passed after a long life and prayed with a mother who is under hospice care. I have reconnected with someone who knew me as a child in our home Church and have had the joy of a former seminary intern and my fraternity little brother from college, both of who are serving Christ in full time church ministry, reach out to me. I have texted with a child of God who is struggling with addiction and in a terrible place right now, and with others who are recovering from successful surgeries or procedures. I officiated at two funerals and one wedding within two days. All these experiences reflect what it means for us to live in community with one another. There are beautiful celebrations and times to give thanks to God and there are other times when life is hard and we cry out in pain and lament our circumstance. The hope we have in Christ is that we are not alone through these valleys and mountain tops. God is with us, and so often we experience that presence of God through the presence of our Christian and Church family!! The sacredness of life is captured in the "moments" of triumph and struggle. Thank you for the privilege of sharing in those holy "moments" with you all. I hope that each of us can recognize the invitation of God to walk with one another every day and be the instrument of God's grace by being present with and for one another. Sharing life with one another in Christian community is a gift! Thank you for being the Church of Jesus for one another!!



**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS: TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE**  
"Christian stewards seek the heart of God in faithfully, joyfully and gratefully managing all the gifts God has given."  
*Anonymous*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**29. 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!

**30. 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.

**31. SHALER AREA HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL "LES MISERABLES"**  
Performances will be 7 PM on Friday and Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, and 2 PM on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at the high school auditorium, located at 381 Wible Run Road. There also will be a free performance for senior citizens at 5 PM on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Tickets are \$10 for reserve seating or \$7 for general admission. Residents with a Silver Titan Pass receive general admission tickets for free. Tickets will be sold in advance and at the door. For more information, contact the high school activities office at 412-492-1200 Press 8 and ext. 1530.

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR AT A GLANCE 2-26-17

<b>TODAY</b> (2-26-17)	Student Ministry Leaders' Retreat 8:30 AM & 11:10 AM – Worship Services – SA 9:45 AM – Sunday School 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM – Jr. High Club – YH 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Sr. High Club – YH
<b>MONDAY</b>	No Preschool- Staff Workshop- CE 5:00 PM – Brownies – PR 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM – Act One – FrH 7:00 PM – Stephen Ministry Training Session – CCR 7:00 PM – Boy Scouts- FH
<b>TUESDAY</b>	7:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Preschool– CE 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting – KL 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM – Pancake Supper – FH 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM – Act One – FrH 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM – Praise Team – SA 6:30 PM – Weigh to Lose 7:00 PM – AARP Board Meeting – CCR
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	7:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Preschool– CE, UGR 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Mom & Me – PR, TR 5:45 PM – 7:30 PM – Lenten Dinner and Bible Study for all ages- FH 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM – M&M's – FH 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM – Confirmation Class – YH 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM – Wednesday Night Prayer Gathering – CH 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM – Chancel Choir – CR
<b>THURSDAY</b>	7:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Preschool– CE, UGR 8:00 AM – Men's Bible Study – PS 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Mom & Me – PR, TR 5:30 PM – Daisies – Purple and Yellow Rooms 5:30 PM – Brownies & Jr. Girl Scouts – YH 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM – Elementary Choir – CR 7:00 PM – Webelos II – PR 7:00 PM – Handbells – CR
<b>FRIDAY</b>	7:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Preschool – CE, UGR 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Mom & Me – PR, TR 10:00 AM – Mission Team Meeting – KL 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Den 8 Wolf Cub Scouts – TR
<b>SATURDAY</b>	6:00 AM – 8:00 AM – CLC #6 – YH 8:00 AM – CLC Next Steps #1 – KL 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Act One – FrH
<b>SUNDAY</b> (3-5-17)	Communion 8:30 AM & 11:10 AM – Worship Services – SA 9:45 AM – Sunday School 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM – Jr. High Club – YH 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Sr. High Club – YH

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS THIS MORNING** are given in loving memory of Clara and Rex Peery by Ann and Jay Ritter.

**THE ELDER OF THE WEEK** is Mark Connelly.

**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 USHERS**

Len Anderson  
Bill Stadler  
James Young  
Tim Keenan

### **11:10 USHERS**

Scott Muszynski  
Don Grau  
Kelly Simile  
Jennifer Callahan  
Shane Callahan

### **SOUND TECHNICIANS**

8:30 – Marge Cain  
11:10 – Jerry Nist

### **UPCOMING SERVICE**

Sunday, March 5, 2017  
Rev. Jason Rea preaching

## **CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRY**

### **Birth – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

*For more information on these ministries, please contact Emily Cooper, Director of Children and Family Ministries at: [emily@elfinwildchurch.org](mailto: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 1/2 to 4yrs. of age.

**2. SUNDAY SCHOOL** – Children 4 years old (Pre-K) through 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 5<sup>th</sup> will meet in their classrooms.

**3. YOUNG CHILD IN WORSHIP** – For ages Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. This week's lesson will be *Jesus and Bartimaeus* and will be taught by Sue Anderson, Donna Rea Thompson, 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. Our next meeting will be March 1, 2017 at 6:30 PM in Friendship Hall. Please join us!

## **MUSIC MINISTRIES**

*For more information on these ministries, please contact Ron Bernhardt at: [ron@elfinwildchurch.org](mailto:ron@elfinwildchurch.org) or call 412-486-5400.*

**5. JOIN US!** – You are invited to join our music ministry ensembles. Everyone is welcome so please come out to a rehearsal and give it a try!

**Praise Team** – Tuesdays 6-7:30 PM

**Chancel Choir** – Wednesdays 7:30-9:00 PM

**Elementary Choir** – Thursdays 6-7:00 PM

**Handbell Choir** – Thursdays 7:00 PM

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 \_\_\_\_\_

## **STUDENT MINISTRIES, Grades 6-12**

*For more information on these ministries, please contact*

*Rev. Jason Rea at: [jason@elfinwildchurch.org](mailto:jason@elfinwildchurch.org) or call 412-486-5400.*

**6. REGULAR CLUBS** – Jr. High (grades 6-8) meets from 4:30-6:00 PM and Sr. High (grades 9-12) meets from 6:30-8:00 PM on Sundays at the Youth House. We hope to see you there!

**7. JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS' BIBLE STUDY** – During Lent, we will not be meeting at Bethany's home, but are encouraging the girls to attend the Lenten dinner and Bible Study in Fellowship Hall at 5:45 PM. We hope you will come and bring a friend!

**8. FAMILY DINNER NIGHT** ...Sizzling sausages, fluffy pancakes and the smell of warm maple syrup... offered by Student Ministries at the Annual **PANCAKE SUPPER**. Served on Tuesday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30 to 7 PM. The donation of \$6/adult or \$4/child is greatly appreciated by our students to help defray the cost of mission trips and retreats.

**9. ELFINWILD CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP FUND** – The Elfinwild Presbyterian Church Scholarship Fund annually grants scholarships to students enrolled in a college or other post-high school education program. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of service to the Church, financial need and community service/extracurricular activities. Applications are available in the Church office or from Jason, and the deadline for submission is Friday, April 14, 2017. For information about applying for a scholarship or about making contributions to the Scholarship Fund, please contact Jason or the Church office.

## **ELFINWILD CHURCH NEWS**

**10. 2017 CHANCEL FLOWERS** – Flowers for the Chancel are \$48 per week for two vases, or \$25 per week for a single table arrangement. Please call the church office to place an order or sign up on the flower chart in the back narthex. **If a table arrangement is desired, you MUST notify the church office prior to the week you have chosen** as the weekly standing flower order is for two vases.

**11. LENTEN DINNER AND STUDY** – Please join us on Wednesdays, beginning on March 1, 2017 through April 5, 2017 at 5:45 PM in Fellowship Hall. Dinner begins at 5:45 followed by Bible study for all ages at 6:30 PM. Please bring a dish to share. Drinks will be provided.

**12. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING...** Our Wednesday Night Prayer Gatherings will continue in the chapel on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, **starting at 7:30 PM**. We 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 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.

**13. BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY** – The Bread of Life Food Pantry is located at Calvert Memorial Presbyterian Church in Etna, PA. The pantry is open the first three Wednesdays of each month - with stocking of the shelves the 1st three Tuesdays. Volunteers are always welcome to assist with stocking, sorting and assisting our clients with shopping. Bread of Life serves over 120 families each month. If you or any group to which you belong are interested in the outreach ministry of Calvert (supported by Elfinwild and our neighboring churches at Glenshaw, Parkwood, Fox Chapel and Glenshaw Valley), please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Vickey Trader at 412-782-5742 for more

information. Items the Pantry is in need of are: Side dishes with noodles (no rice), Side dishes with potatoes, Jelly - any flavor, Canned whole potatoes, Boxed meals like Hamburger Helper, Boxed mac & cheese, Jars of spaghetti sauce, Canned chili or stew, Broth & gravy - chicken, turkey & beef, Large bottles of juice, Pudding & Jello premade or to be made, Cake & brownie mixes, Pancake mix & syrup, Bags of flour & sugar, Cooking oil, Boxes of Crackers, Salad dressing & ketchup, Napkins & tissues, Paper towels, and Baby diapers.

**14. GLUTEN FREE COMMUNION BREAD** – For those with gluten sensitivity, a gluten free option is provided whenever Communion is offered. You will find it in the center of the bread plate, in a separate bowl. Measures have been taken to prevent cross contamination.

**15. AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRL NEW TROOP FORMING** – Elfinwild Church is starting a new American Heritage Girls troop. The troop is open to girls ages 5-18. Please feel free to contact Pam McKern with any questions at: [pamela\\_mckern@hotmail.com](mailto:pamela_mckern@hotmail.com) or 412-512-3461.

**16. SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** – September through May

\* The Story taught by Dr. Dirk Lesnett (Fellowship Hall)

\* “The Wired Word” (Cornerstone Room)

**17. COMING TO THEATERS FOR ONE INSPIRING NIGHT**

It's the story that shook the world ... and challenged the faith of those who lived through it. Now, the amazing true story of how Samaritan's Purse staff trusted God in the midst of the devastating Ebola crisis in Africa is coming to theaters for one night. Plan now to see **FACING DARKNESS** on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> only. **Tickets Are Now Available!** You can find a preliminary list of theaters and tickets can be purchased online from participating theaters at [facingdarknessmovie.com](http://facingdarknessmovie.com). Don't miss out on the ministry movie event of the year.

**18. ELFINWILD PRESCHOOL** is now accepting applications for the 2017-18 school year. For information about the weekday preschool or to register for next year, please call the school office at 412-486-2322. We love to share information about the program. Learning and growing in God's love provides a wonderful opportunity for us to share Christ's love and welcome families in the community.

**19. COFFEE, TREATS AND FELLOWSHIP** We gather after the 8:30 AM. Worship Service and before Sunday School Classes start. Volunteers prepare and serve coffee, juice and treats. **Volunteers are needed on Sundays for clean-up.** Would you like to volunteer? Contact: Tessa Connelly, at [connthree07@gmail.com](mailto:connthree07@gmail.com) or by phone at 412-600-1452.

**20. HOSPITALITY MEAL MINISTRY** – Did you know that members of your Elfinwild Family will provide a meal for you and your family if you are in need? For example, perhaps you or a family member are recovering from surgery, just had a baby or are too ill to prepare dinner for a few days. We sign up and deliver meals to you. Do you need a meal? Would you like to prepare and deliver a meal Contact: Tessa Connelly, at [connthree07@gmail.com](mailto:connthree07@gmail.com) or by phone at 412-600-1452.

**21. HELP US REBUILD IN GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA!**

We were unable to get into the Carolina's in February, so we are going a little farther north where they are prepared for help with rebuilding. The residents in Eastern WV are still recovering from last fall's flooding. Please help us get them back into their homes. **The Presbyterian Project**, a partnership of 5 area churches, is taking a group of workers March 12-18, 2017. Cost is \$350/person, with scholarships available if needed. Contact Penny Young at 412-818-7118 or [youngp@fcpc.us](mailto:youngp@fcpc.us) if you would like to be part of this outreach. Thank you.

**22. HOSPITALITY MEALS** – Thank you to those that have been signing up to bring our Elfinwild Family meals. I wanted to mention that in order for you to be able to sign up you need to receive the email from the direct link that I set up. You cannot forward my email as the link connects with the emails that I allow access to. Please email me if you need to be added or if you have questions. Thank you, Tessa Connelly [connthree07@gmail.com](mailto:connthree07@gmail.com).

**23. YOUR 2016 STATEMENTS OF GIVING** are available in the back of the Sanctuary. Please pick yours up.

**24. STEPHEN MINISTRY** informational brochures and the upcoming class syllabus are available in the Gathering Room, on the windowsill. Also, for folks experiencing difficulty at this time of year, a number of "Surviving Christmas" articles are there for the taking! If you have any questions, please contact Ruthie Riethmuller, Stephen Leader at 412-487-3421 or [mrdd1@comcast.net](mailto:mrdd1@comcast.net).

**Verse of the Week- “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” John 15:12**

**25. SAVE THE DATE!** The Women's Ministry Annual Ladies Tea is on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at 11:00 AM. Think about being a hostess and setting a table, there will be chances to win prizes. More information will be coming soon.

**26. ELFINWILD HOME MEALS MINISTRY** – The winter season sees many of our loyal volunteers either unable to get to the Meals Kitchen or go to warmer climates for the winter months. The Meals Ministry serves over 70 clients each day with nutritious, well-balanced meals. Volunteers are needed for this important ministry everyday either to assist in the delivery of the meals to our clients or to assist in the preparation of the meals. If you have any time during the hours of 8:30 AM - 12 noon to assist, please contact Marian Berberich at 412-486-8000.

**27. ELFINWILD PRESBYTERIAN AND FRIENDS OF SAN JOSE DEL NEGRITO, HONDURAS, MISSION TRIP - JUNE 17-24, 2017**

Could this be your year to join a church-wide mission trip to the mountains of Honduras? We are excited to be able to partner with the community of San Jose del Negrito to improve homes of the most needy by painting, light construction, cleaning, and working “shoulder to shoulder” with homeowners. We will also conduct a 2 day Vacation Bible School program as well as one evening worship service for the community at large. Trip expenses are approximately \$1200-1500. In addition, immunizations at the ACHD (\$200-400) and a passport will be required. Some financial assistance may be available through Elfinwild's Mission Team.

**28. 2017 PER CAPITA** – For anyone who uses auto pay or ACH, this is a notification that you did not receive a Per Capita envelope for 2017. You may pay your per capita by placing it in a pew envelope and making sure that your name and the words “Per Capita” are written on the envelope. **Per Capita Apportionment** is the fee assessed on all churches of the Presbyterian Church (USA) based on the number of its communicant members. The 2017 Per Capita Apportionment for churches in the Pittsburgh Presbytery is **\$31.50 per member**. Elfinwild is required to make payments each quarter in 2017 to pay this assessment.

1 Member	<u>\$31.50</u>	3 Members	<u>\$94.50</u>
2 Members	<u>\$63.00</u>	4 Members	<u>\$126.00</u>