

ADULT EDUCATION – The following adult education classes will meet each Sunday between worship services from 9:45-10:45

***Faithweaver Now for Parents-** Youth House Led by Mike and Amanda Gaydos

***The Wired Word-** Cornerstone Room- Join Mike Radich for a discussion of current events from a Biblical perspective.

***Inquirer's Class** – If you are interested in learning more about the Christian faith, what it means to follow Christ, or how to become a member of Elfinwild Presbyterian Church, this class is for you. We will begin Jan. 6 for six weeks at 10:00 AM, after the first service in Peach Room. While being present for each session is most helpful, we understand that schedules may not permit your attendance at every session. Please call the church office with any questions. 412-486-5400.

***Mission Sunday School - Fellowship Hall**

Dan Bain will be leading this class on Jan 6 and Jan 13. Dan will be teaching from the book of Genesis. Bring your Bible. This class will be offered for about 6 weeks. It will be an informal "conversational class" with the focus on Mission. There will be more leaders to be announced.

STEPHEN MINISTRY-Our sermon on 12/30/18 taught about Jesus, as an older boy being lost. Or so we thought (Luke 2:41-52). Do you ever think or feel you can't find Jesus?? The new year is a good time to look...and you need not look alone. A Stephen Minister would come alongside as you search. Please contact Ruthie Riethmuller, Stephen Leader, if you would like a "search partner". .Verse of the Month: "Your love has given me great joy and encouragement because you brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints." Philemon 1:7

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 or by phone at 412-600-1452.

ELFINWILD HOME MEALS MINISTRY – The Meals Ministry serves over 70 clients each day with nutritious, well-balanced meals. Volunteers are needed for this important ministry every day 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 8:00 AM - 12 noon to assist, please contact Dick Friedline at 412-486-8000.

YOUR 2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available on the table in the library. If you do not find yours there, please notify the church office. Each box of regular offering envelopes includes a specific per capita payment blue envelope. If you are using any of the "direct payment" methods and wish to pay your per capita or for any other payment, you may use the pew envelopes making sure to include your first and last name and purpose (i.e. Per Capita). The Per Capita assessment amount for 2019 is \$33.05 per member.

ANNUAL REPORTS from all organizations are due **by January 22nd**. Please email your reports to: cindy@elfinwildchurch.org

GIVE THE GIFT OF HEALTH! SHOULDER TO SHOULDER PITTSBURGH

Help our brothers and sisters in Christ in San Jose del Negrito, Honduras, by purchasing a gift of health this Christmas. Each gift comes with an ornament that may be placed on the Christmas tree or given as a gift in honor of a loved one. For sale in the Upper Gathering Room in December starting on 12/9. Also for sale is coffee from the El Merendon Mountains of Honduras to fund educational scholarships for teens to help end the cycle of poverty.

MENS LUNCHEON – Please join us on Tuesday, January 8th at noon. Please call the office to make a reservation.

STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Dirk Lesnett
Associate Pastor: The Rev. Jason Rea
Director of Children and Family Ministries: Amy Meyer –

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Director of Music: Ron Bernhardy
Office Manager: Cindy Neil
Business Manager/Treasurer: Karen Dorsey
Sextons: Ryan Neergaard, Eric Spryn, Jet Carrick, Jon Hughes
Financial Secretary: Peg McNeil
Web Page and CALL Editor: Amanda Gaydos
Parish Associate: The Rev. Bethany Harbaugh
Pastor Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Robert F. Tuttle

MINISTRIES

Elfinwild Home Meals Ministry
Dick Friedline – Director
412-486-8000

Elfinwild Church Preschool
Carolyn Hervey – Director
412-486-2322
preschool@elfinwildchurch.org

Stephen Ministry
Mrs. Ruthie Riethmuller
412-487-3421

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 6

8:30 AM & 11:10 AM – Worship Services- SA
9:45 AM – Sunday School
10:00 AM – Inquirers' Class – PR
12:15 PM – 2:00 PM – M&M's – FH
12:30 PM – Deacons Meeting & Undecorate
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM – Jr. High Club – YH
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Sr. High Club – YH

Monday January 7

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Preschool – CE
5:30 PM – 8:30 PM – Act 1 – FrH, CE
6:00 PM – 8:45 PM – Pack 157 Comm. Mtg. – CCR
7:00 PM – Personnel Comm. Meeting – KL

Tuesday, January 8

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Preschool – CE
10:00 AM – Staff Meeting – KL
12:00 PM – Men's Lunch – FH
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM – Elementary Choir – CR
7:00 PM – Trustees Meeting – CCR
7:00 PM – AARP Meeting – FH
7:00 PM – Stephen Ministry Meeting – KL
7:00 PM – Financial Peace – YH
7:00 PM – Praise Team – SA

Wednesday, January 9

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Preschool – CE
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM – Handbells – CR
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Jr. High Girls' Bible Study @ the Harbaugh's
7:00 PM – Sr. High Guys Bible Study – YH
7:00 PM – Children's Ministry Meeting – KL
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM – Chancel Choir – SA

Thursday, January 10

8:00 AM – Men's Bible Study – PS
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Preschool – CE
6:00 PM – Lions Club – CCR
6:00 PM – Praise Team – SA
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Preschool Child Evaluation Process Meeting – FH
7:00 PM – Stewardship Meeting – KL
7:15 PM – Youth Choir – CR

Friday, January 11

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Preschool – CE
6:30 PM – 8:45 PM – Den 8 AOL – CCR

Saturday, January 12

6:30 AM – All In #7 – KL
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Joint Board and Staff Meeting – FH

Sunday, January 13

Installation and Ordination of New Officers
8:30 AM & 11:10 AM – Worship Services – SA
9:45 AM – Sunday School for All Ages
10:00 AM – Inquirers' Class – PR
4:30 PM – 6:30 PM – Combined Jr. & Sr. High Clubs – YH
7:00 PM – Session Meeting – CCR

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WELCOME TO ELFINWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
January 6, 2019

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

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

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

Order of Worship

PRELUDE "What Star Is This?" Lani Smith

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

CALL TO WORSHIP John 8:12

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come,
People: **Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."**

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

People: **The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!**

*HYMN No. 66 "We Three Kings of Orient Are" THREE KINGS

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION John 3:19
The light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. Let us confess our sin to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION
God of grace, you have given us Jesus, the light of the world, but we choose darkness and cling to the things that hide the brightness of Your love. Immersed in ourselves, we have not risen to new life. Baptize us with Your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may preach Your Word to the nations and tell of Your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our light forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON John 1:9, 12

Leader: The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. To all who have received Him, to those who believe in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. Friends receive and believe the Good News of the Gospel!

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

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY (8:30) "The Splendor of His Holiness" Tom Fettke Chancel Choir Ruthie Riethmuller, Flute (11:10) "Jesus Messiah" Carson, Tomlin, Praise Team Cash & Reeves

* 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

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into Hell; On the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. 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 Matthew 2:1-12 (page 902 in the pew Bible)

SERMON "The Strange Palace of the King" Dr. Dirk Lesnett (11:10) ANTHEM "Communion Invitation" Larry Shackley Chancel Choir Ruthie Riethmuller, Flute

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER Words of Invitation Prayer of Consecration Words of Institution Receiving the Bread+ (Gluten free wafers are in the bowl in the center of the plate) Receiving the Cup+ Prayer of Thanksgiving +(please hold each element until all are served)

*HYMN No. 63 "As with Gladness Men of Old" DIX

*BENEDICTION *POSTLUDE "Echo Alleluia" Richard Blake Special thanks to our liturgists: 8:30 – Mark Connelly 11:10 – Kevin Hart The Elder of the Week is Nicole Graco

NOTICE OF 2019 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING The 2019 Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2019, in Fellowship Hall at 12:30 p.m. A soup and potato bar lunch will be served. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Janell Haygood, President, Board of Trustees Mark S. Riethmuller, Clerk of Session

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in celebration of what would have been Donna Rea Thompson's 80th birthday by her children.

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 Michael Radich John Hart Ron Park Dwight and Joanne Pearson

11:30 USHERS Don Pritchard Bob Mankey Jim Giel Dick Friedline

SOUND TECHNICIANS 8:30 – Dennis Kriek 11:10 – Ken Volle

UPCOMING SERVICE Sunday, January 13, 2019 Dr. Dirk Lesnett preaching

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Birth – 5th Grade

LOVING CHILD CARE FOR OUR YOUNGEST FRIENDS

All adults working with our children have full security clearances. Sundays 8:30AM-12:30PM Infant Nursery (Birth-2 Years), Sanctuary Level Staffed by "Miss Holly" Schreiber, Church Members & Youth Assistants Toddler Room (2-4 Years), Basement Staffed by "Miss Tracey" Hegerle & Youth Assistants

We are looking for adult volunteers to partner with our child care coordinators. If you love spending time with babies and toddlers, please consider helping in this area of ministry. Contact Amy Meyer at 412-486-5400 or amy@elfinwildchurch.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL for Ages 4 Years (Pre-K) to 5th Grade: Christian Education (CE) Building, 9:45-10:45 AM –An hour of learning about God through the bible, games, stories, art, and music directed by loving and knowledgeable teaching teams. Pre-K/K: First Floor, Red Room with Mrs. Nist and Mrs. Thompson Grades 1-2: First Floor, Blue Room with Mrs. Graco, Mrs. Laing, and Mrs. Dierker Grades 3-5 Second Floor, Purple Room with Mrs. Dolan, Mrs. Connelly, and Mrs. Alexander.

YOUNG CHILD IN WORSHIP – During the 2nd Worship Service. Meet in the Green Room, first floor of the CE Building, for a time to experience and learn about God in a worship space designed specifically for young children. Children who attend Sunday School may be dismissed directly to YCIW with a parent's permission. This week's lesson is "The Boy Jesus" and will be taught by Elaine Jans, Linda Barto, and Barb Harms.

M&MS (MESSIAH AND ME) PROGRAM – For kids in grades 3-5 from 12:15-2pm in Fellowship Hall. Starting with a light lunch, children dive into a time of games, activities, prayer, and lessons to build each child's walk with God. Upcoming sessions are: January 6th, February 3rd and 17th, March 3rd and 17th, April 7th, May 5th and 19th. Questions? Contact Tessa Connelly 412-600-1452 or connthree07@gmail.com

MUSIC MINISTRY

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS! – If you are interested in joining our chancel choir, elementary choir, youth choir, praise team or handbell choir, please join us at rehearsal – ALL ARE WELCOME! You may join at any time.

2018-2019 MUSIC SCHEDULE

Elementary Choir - Tuesdays from 6-7pm Chancel Choir - Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm Praise Team – Tuesdays from 7-8:30pm Youth Choir – Thursdays from 7:15-8:30pm Handbell Choir – Wednesdays from 6-7pm

STUDENT MINISTRIES, Grades 6-12

JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS' BIBLE STUDY – Please join Bethany Harbaugh and Kelly Simile for a Bible Study for girls going into 6-8 grade! We meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday to play games, ask questions, share life together, and learn how to live as followers of Jesus Christ. We always have a fun time together, so we hope you will come and bring a friend! This study will be from 6:30 – 8:00 PM at Bethany's house.

SENIOR HIGH GIRLS BIBLE STUDY will meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the Harbaugh's house from 6:30-8PM. We will be studying Rachel and Leah and learning from them about how to combat comparison. Please let us know if you plan to come so we can order a book for you.

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.

ELFINWILD CHURCH NEWS

2019 PLEDGE CARDS If you have not returned your 2019 Pledge Cards, please prayerfully consider what you are able to pledge so that the many programs and everyday activities of the church may continue and grow. In order to meet our building expenses and for our programs to continue we ask that you return a Pledge Card. We need to know what is available through our pledges so we may generate a balanced 2019 budget.

2018 DONATIONS/GIFTS FROM STOCK SALES & IRA DISTRIBUTIONS

Many individuals have taken advantage of the tax benefits of giving through the transfer of stocks to the church or through IRA distributions directly to the church. These transactions often take additional time to process, and so we encourage those interested in such giving options to make them by early December. This will help to ensure that the transactions are completed and captured in 2018. If you have any questions, please contact either Karen Dorsey (week days 412-486-5400) or Peg McNeil (evenings/weekends 412-486-7364).

PLAN TO ATTEND ELFINWILD'S ALL CHURCH RETREAT! JANUARY 18-20, 2019

This would make a great Christmas present to your household. We will gather at Ligonier Camp and Conference Center for a winter weekend of fellowship, good food, crackling fires, relaxation and refreshment, and lots of laughter. Get to know your church family better and enjoy words of wisdom from Jean and Herb Kolbe who will lead us in a discussion about "Growing Together as The Body of Christ." Online registration available through the church website and via paper forms in December's church bulletins as well as in the church office. WE WANT Y-O-U! Sponsored by the Family Ministry Team.

OUR MONTHLY EVENING PRAYER gathering has changed to the first Thursday of the month. We will meet at 7 PM in the Chapel. Please prayerfully consider joining this powerful ministry.