

ELAM E-NEWS

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Dear Hearts and Hands Families and Families of Elam,

An exciting opportunity was brought to our attention by Skylar Austin, a parent from our Children's Day Out Program. The Eagles Autism Challenge is a 5K walk/run on May 18th, 2019, in honor of children affected by autism and autism spectrum! This developmental disorder affects many of our families and friends and is widely growing. Our home team, the Eagles, recognizes the need to support our local community and is sponsoring this challenge, where 100% of the proceeds goes toward autism and autism spectrum research.

In this holiday season of giving, the Hearts and Hands teachers have been inspired to help support this endeavor. Each participant in the 5K must raise a minimum of \$350, so a few teachers will do the actual race and others will donate towards those in the race. If you would like to donate to this cause to help our teachers participate, you can do so by putting cash, check or change in an envelope marked "Eagles Autism Challenge" and hand it to your classroom teacher. No donation is too small. Checks can be made out to "Elam UMC" with Eagles Autism Challenge on the memo line.

In addition to monetary donations, we will be selling Eagles dri-fit t-shirts for \$20. These shirts have been donated by Alan and Skylar Austin in honor of their son Giuseppe, therefore, the t-shirts are printed "Team G-Unit" on the back. 100% of the proceeds go to the cause. We have adults sizes x-small, medium, large, x-large or XXXX-large. There is a limited supply so first come first serve. For shirt orders, please contact Lori Minner at lori@elamumc.org.

We will also be raffling off a signed Eagles helmet with many of last year's Super Bowl team. Raffle tickets are 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20. A sports memorabilia fan's must have! For raffle tickets, email lori@elamumc.org. Raffle tickets must be purchased by February 1, 2019. We will pull the winner during the Super Bowl half time!

For more information, visit www.eaglesautismchallenge.org or <https://fundraisers.hakuapp.com/skylar-austin-2> for a heartfelt personal account.

Kelly, Lori and the Hearts and Hands Staff

NEW



Ladies, you are invited to attend our first meeting of the year, which will be held on **Saturday, January 19th, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.** The meeting includes a breakfast buffet, praise music, prayer and table talk. Our speaker this month is Barbara Pope, a Therapist, Pastoral Counselor and Spiritual Director. We look forward to seeing you then.

CARD WORKSHOP

Come out to learn how to make the beautiful cards you see on display on the hospitality desk in the front welcoming area. We will be holding a card workshop on **Tuesday, January 22nd, at 2:00 p.m.** at the home of Barbara Reed. Please plan to join us then. These all occasions cards are fun to make, and if this is your first time participating you will be given all the help you need to succeed.



ELAM'S IGNITE YOUTH PROGRAM for those in grades 6 to 12, has begun its winter session. The youth meet on Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the upstairs youth lounge and enjoy a half hour of gathering time, including snacks, followed by a half hour of games, then a one-hour lesson, occasionally incorporating videos. Come and enjoy fellowship and fun as well as some thought-provoking discussions on living a Christian life. Lots of events are planned for later this winter. Stay tuned for information on these. All are welcome – no need to be church. Don't forget to bring a friend. For more information, please contact Meredith Lawler, our Youth Director, at 610-459-2911 or meredith@elamumc.org.

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE CHILDREN'S CLOTHING TURNABOUT!

To consign you must register and login through Elam's website (www.elamumc.org). Go to "Info Center," then click on "Children's Clothing Turnabout" and follow the link provided. You are permitted to bookmark this site, but it is only good for this Spring 2019 season. THE LAST DAY TO PRINT TAGS IS 10:00 A.M. TUESDAY, APRIL 2ND. Instructions are available on the site where you register. The dates are as follows:

<u>What to do:</u>	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Time:</u>	<u>Place:</u>
Consign	Wed., April 3	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Pierce Family Life Center
Shop	Thurs., April 4	9:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.	Pierce Family Life Center
Shop	Fri., April 5	9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Pierce Family Life Center
Shop	Sat., April 6	8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Pierce Family Life Center
Pick up unsold items and bring ID		12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Pierce Family Life Center

Saturday only: ½ price if item marked discount; YES through registration website.

PRESCHOOL OPEN REGISTRATION

Open registration is **Thursday, January 17th, at 9:00 a.m.** For more information, please contact Kelly Forwood at 610-459-2911 or director@elamheartsandhands.com.



Blood pressure screening will be offered immediately following the 9:15 service on **Sunday, January 27th**. If you would like yours taken then, please go to Randy's office opposite the music room and a nurse will be there to do the screening.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Sheree and Keith Hall on the birth of their twin boys *Parker and Turner*, born January 9, 2019. Congratulations also to the proud grandparents Barb and Gary Nicholas, great grandmother Ellen Filer, and aunt Joyce Filer.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR GIVING UP-TO-DATE

If you are unable to attend church services due to inclement weather or for any other reason, please be sure to keep your giving up-to-date, as our expenses (electricity, mortgage, salting, snow removal, etc.) still need to be paid. **Why not consider giving electronically?** Electronic giving is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to Elam. To do so, visit our website at www.elamumc.org and click on "Online Giving". To register, click on "Create Profile" under "Create Your Online Profile."

LOOKING FOR A CLARINET?

Are you looking for a clarinet or know of someone who might be? One is available free of charge. If interested, please contact the church office at 610-459-2911 or churchoffice@elamumc.org.

REMINDERS

SAFE HARBOR

We will be packing lunches for Safe Harbor in the Pierce Family Life Center and kitchen immediately following the 9:15 service **this Sunday, January 13th**. If able to help, please join us then. Donations of water and applesauce are needed for the lunches.

LOAVES OF LOVE

The need at the moment for Loaves of Love is for Pancake Mix and syrup, facial tissues and crackers. Elam's dates for volunteering at Siloam U.M. Church are:

Monday, January 14th – morning

Tuesday, January 15th – evening

Thursday, January 17th is pick-up date from 3:00-6:00 p.m.



AID FOR FRIENDS

FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Ellen Hazelwood, the wife of Pastor Bruce Hazelwood, started an Aid for Friends (AFF) cooking group at Elam United Methodist Church in the early 1990s. Carole Davis became the cooking group coordinator in 2012. I was interested in joining when I came to Elam, but their schedule didn't match my availability. In the Spring of 2017, I asked Pastor John about the cooking group because it seemed like it was meeting less often. He said Carole's husband had health issues that forced her to step back and asked if I would take over. My first AFF group cooking was in November 2017, and it was, of course, the most complicated meal – a turkey dinner! Carole was great at helping me along. The volunteers showed up in droves after our 9:15 a.m. church service with food and willing hands to prepare and package meals. We made 119 turkey dinners with stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, yams, green beans complete with a cup of cranberry relish, dessert and a roll in the bags, on top of the foil.

Periodically around thirty of the same meals, always with colorful napkins and teabags, would appear in our freezer. I learned that a few church members live in Fox Hill farms and they had an AFF cooking group run by Rosemary Crossin. They send some meals here to Elam and others to St. Cornelius. Rosemary started with just two friends preparing a few meals, and now her group has grown to over 20 people. I invited them to come to Elam's kitchen for a change. They have returned every month since and the number of meals they put in our freezer has grown consistently.

Recently they made 112 meatloaf dinners with mac and cheese, creamed peas or spinach, brownies, focaccia bread, and their trademark pretty napkin and teabag. They had leftover mac and cheese, so we put some in soup containers and added ham that I had donated.

Since taking over at Elam, I have had Girl Scout troops making meals, Boy Scouts donating baked goods and treats, and friends and family prepping and cooking with me at my home and at Elam. We have received donations of all kinds, including eggs from a local family's chickens. I have spread the word not to waste food so that I can transform it into meals for Aid for Friends. Sometimes it feels like I am a contestant on *Chopped*. What can I create with these 4 items?

When our freezer fills up, Rich and Susan Gatchell deliver our meals to the Catholic Social Services building in the City of Chester. They haul big heavy bags of frozen meals with a smile. They have been lucky enough to meet some of the people picking up meals and have shared some heartwarming stories with me that I have passed on to others making meals.

When I started this new "job," I spoke with AFF's Assistant Executive Director, Lynn Trombetta, a few times to learn more. She invited me to the AFF facility. It was a great experience, and I have gone back every few months since then. I enjoy going to the AFF facility when I need supplies. Everyone is so warm and helpful. Special thanks to Ron Johnson for taking the time to answer many of my questions and for sharing the bounty of the AFF warehouse.

Amy Schmid, AFF Coordinator

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED to send a note or a card to our homebound, hospitalized, etc.:

Homebound:

Brenda Coupland

Hospitalized:

Dorothy Dean

John Fleming

Those Who Lost Loved Ones:

Harry Baumes & Family (Harry's mother)

*For addresses and room numbers, please contact the church office at 610-459-2911 or
churchoffice@elamumc.org.*