

EPWORTH UMC

Celebrations

March 7, 2010
Weekly Edition

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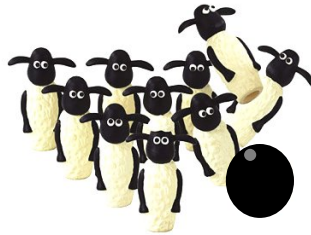
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Weekly Calendar



Third Sunday In Lent

Bowling for Sheep Today!



Come support and/or, sponsor Bowling for Sheep today at Bowlway Lanes in Elgin from 2-4pm. This is our 4th bowl-a-thon and is sponsored by our Children's Sunday School classes. All proceeds are to benefit the purchase of sheep for impoverished people around the world for Heifer International.

Entire communities depend of wool and meat from sheep.

Sheep often birth twins or triplets and can graze on even the hilliest, rockiest pastures, unsuitable for other livestock. All over the world, Heifer partners are raising sheep to advance the cause against hunger and poverty. This is your chance to make a real difference in the life of a child, here at home and far away as well.

CONNECTIONS Worship



Join in for some Family Fun Time at CONNECTIONS Family Worship on Saturday, March 13th at 5:30pm.

This month, CONNECTIONS Worship will focus on Faith versus Luck. Come and check us out, we will sing songs, learn lessons, and love each other at all ages. CONNECTIONS is designed to let everyone, the youngest to the oldest members of the family, do something fun together!

Friendship Club Luncheon



Over 55? Why not plan on attending our next Friendship Club Luncheon on Wednesday, March 10th at 12:30pm. We will be dining at The Golden Chinese Buffet located at 1500 Larkin Avenue in Elgin (Across from Larkin High School). To carpool meet at the Church at 12:00pm. Sign-up in the Community Room or contact the Church Office at 847-931-5400.

Our vision is to be a church where people's lives reflect God's passionate love in all ways ... always!

Our mission is to cultivate passionate relationships with God, each other, and our neighbors to nourish, grow and replant the seeds of God's love.

Men, Song & Fellowship a.k.a. Bucket Brigade

If you have a bucket to carry a tune, we will provide the tunes! Come and join us today, at 9:45 a.m. and have some fun. We will be continuing the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, – we'll gather around the Piano in the Sanctuary.

Epworth Mosaic Youth Group

Mosaic youth group is open to Youth in 7th Grade and older plus their friends. Invite your friends to any of the events and earn a prize



Today, March 7th - We are going "Bowling for Sheep" at Bowlway Lanes with the Sunday School classes. Get those sponsor sheets full. See you there!

Sunday, March 14th at 1:30pm - Bible Study with the Hispanic Youth Group until 2:30pm, then we will play a group game and fellowship with our newest members until 3pm.

Sunday March 21st at 1:30pm - We will meet at Laser Maxx and spend the afternoon playing laser tag and games. I will let you know cost soon, but put it on your calendars.

March Rainbow Covenant

March's ministries for our Rainbow Covenant is *Nothing But Nets*. Simply put, malaria kills. Nets can save lives. Here are some harsh realities about malaria:

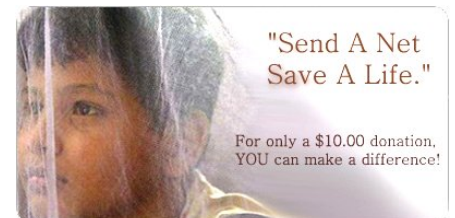


Facts:

- Malaria is preventable, but causes nearly 500 million illnesses each year and kills more than 1 million of those who become infected.
- Ninety percent of deaths caused by malaria occur in Africa, where the disease is a leading killer of children. Every 30 seconds a child in Africa dies from malaria.
- Malaria is the #1 killer of refugees in Africa. Two-thirds of the 33 million refugees worldwide live in malaria endemic countries.

So, as engaged global citizens, what can we do to help?

In the poorest parts of the world, window screens are lacking, anti-malarial drugs are expensive, and so far an effective malaria vaccine does not exist. Insecticide-treated bed nets in these areas are arguably the most cost-effective way to prevent malaria transmission.



Bed nets use a simple but effective prevention approach: eliminate contact with mosquitoes, eliminate malaria.

Sending Nets, Saving Lives

The entire process of purchasing and distributing insecticide-treated bed nets to the most vulnerable people, as well as providing education and follow-up surveying on their use, is accomplished for just \$10 per bed net. Although \$10 for a bed net may not sound like much, the cost makes them out of reach for most people at risk of malaria in Africa, where many people survive on less than \$1 per day. Nets are a simple, life-saving solution, but your help is needed to provide them to those in need.

KWWWJ (Kids Who Walk With Jesus)

In circle time last Sunday, we talked about which Olympic sports the little ones liked the most. Seemed to be the boys voting for bobsledding and the girls cheered for ice dancing! We were thinking that maybe the athletes who won were pointing toward heaven "thanking God for helping them be #1"!



We all folded our hands and prayed for our friends & family with a loud AMEN.
w/God first & giggles 2nd, Childcare Coordinator

Prayer: our direct line to God!!
And, just for grins, Smile - everyone will wonder what you've been up to!!!!



A Word from our Pastor ...

Perhaps you have noticed a powerful underlying theme to the Lenten season. This theme has to do with greater awareness, greater focus and greater recognition of God in our lives. The whole purpose of traditional "giving something up for Lent" or self-denial is to explore what it means to be less rivoted on one's own desires, wants, needs or pleasures. To put aside or deny these self-interests and self absorption is intended to redirect our attention to God – to God's creation – to all the rest of God's people.

In the midst of major natural tragedies (Haiti and Chile in particular), ongoing devastations of war, the ravishing impact of hunger, and high anxiety and loss of life from disease – we are acutely aware of our fears, our worries, our aversion to suffering, and our desire for contentment, pleasure and satisfaction. Our faith tradition invites us to know what Jesus understood better than any other human being; there is no satisfaction more lasting than engaging ourselves in the work of God, namely, helping to alleviate the suffering of others and be agents of joy, truth, love, peace and hope for others all around us.

At the end of March we enter the drama of Jesus' passion. Jesus' suffering and death were expressions of absolute commitment to the promise of life for all. The resurrection is God's declaration that even while suffering and death have asserted their most devastating force, Life cannot be thwarted. In the face of our own sufferings and impending death, God in Christ paints a picture of hope, community, life, and fulfillment. No wonder we rehearse this drama year after year after year and Sunday after Sunday after Sunday.

This is the faith to which we are invited. This is the faith that we celebrate. This is the faith that we live in confidence. Thanks be to God!

Pastor David Newhouse



Epworth Future Plans Unfold

What are your dreams for Epworth? Where would you like to see us be in 5 years? The Trustees of the Church have been presenting a wish list to various groups in the Church that include 4 proposals that start small and then increase to even considering a new Church building. What capital improvements are important to you? Do you like everything just as it is with no expansion or upgrades in the future?

You will have an opportunity March 17 (Wed.) to have your say from 5:30pm to 6:30 pm while we eat dinner at Church. We will have a Church Conference this Spring to vote on a 5 year plan for our Church and the Trustees would like everyone to have a chance to decide what you think is important for our Epworth future. After the 5 year plan has been voted on, we will be deciding on how to raise the capital for any proposed expansion or upgrade to the facility. This capital expansion plan affects everyone. Let's talk about it on Wednesday, the 17th. Hope to see you.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Palm Sunday Worship Services
 Sunday, March 28th • 8:30am / 11:00am / 1:00pm*

Maundy Thursday Service
 Thursday, April 1st • 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service
 Friday, April 2nd • 7:00 p.m.

Easter Worship Services
 Sunday, April 4th

- SonRise at 6:30am
- Easter Celebration Services at 8:30am / 11:00am / 1:00pm*

(*Denotes Spanish speaking service)



The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive, fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

Membership: We welcome new members. We are always excited to share about the many ways that United Methodist Women are involved in mission, making a difference, every day, in the lives of women, children and youth, around the world, and in our own communities.

Upcoming Event: Mark your calendars for our upcoming event. On Thursday, March 18th at 6:30pm we will have a presentation on Sudan.

UMW is a fun and exciting group of the women of our church family! All Women are welcome to attend any of our events. Questions, please contact the Church Office at 847-931-5400.



Sermon Seeds for March 14th

Luke 15:21-24

²¹Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." ²²But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

Don't forget to sign up online for the Sermon Seeds E-Blast by going to www.epworthumcelgin.org and clicking on the Community link, or follow [epworthumcelgin](#) on Twitter and Facebook.

Soup Kettle

Epworth helps at the Soup Kettle the third Tuesday of each month. The next date is this Tuesday, March 16th at Zion Lutheran Church, 330 Griswold from 4:30 - 6:45 p.m.

Our agenda is as follows:

- 4:30 - 5:30pm we will be preparing the meal and setting up the dining room;
- 5:30 - 6:30pm we will serve the meals to the guests;
- 6:15 - 6:45pm clean-up and reset the dining room.

Lots of people are needed for this wonderful and important ministry. For more information, contact the Church Office at 847-931-5400.

Pads Of Elgin

Epworth supplies volunteers to help the second Wednesday / Thursday each month. The next date is Wednesday, March 10th / Thursday, March 11th. If you are able to give the gift of time, please contact the Church Office at 847-931-5400.

Fun 'n Frolics returns *Saturday, March 13th at 3 pm* with its amazing blend of talent. On display in this fantastic variety show will be vocal and instrumental choirs, comedians, dancers, pianists, string players, and surprises galore. *While the show is free, please bring an item for the Elgin All Peoples' Interfaith Food Pantry as your entry ticket.*

Wesley United Methodist Church at the corner of Alfred and South Streets in Elgin has hosted this popular event since 1991. Relax, laugh, enjoy the show! And stick around for a wonderful potluck supper following the entertainment. There truly is something for everyone at *Fun 'n Frolics!!*

Wednesday Evening Dinner /

C.H.O.W. (Celebrate Hump Day Our Way)



This Wednesday, March 10th we will be serving a variety of casseroles along with side salads and fruit. This free-will offering dinner is served each Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:45pm.

You can eat whenever it's convenient for you. Come and enjoy this special fellowship opportunity! Questions, contact the Church Office at 847-931-5400.

Giving Through Your Last Will and Testament

What is a bequest? A bequest is a gift one makes after death via the Last Will and Testament.

If you'd like to include Epworth UMC in your will or testamentary trust, there are four or five different types of bequests that one could make:

1. **Outright Bequest:** this type of request involves 1a) a specific dollar amount or 1b) a specific piece of property that is to be distributed after death.
2. **Percentage Bequest:** this type of bequest involves giving a specific percentage of the estate. The Bible teaches us to "tithes" or give 10% to the church. The Percentage Bequest is an easy way to honor that teaching.
3. **Residual Bequest:** this type of bequest usually involves a percentage of the estate that is left after all financial obligations, and all other bequests are satisfied.
4. **Conditional or Contingent Bequest:** These types of bequests occur only if some other condition is met first. For example: "If my spouse predeceases me, then I bequeath (dollar amount, percentage, etc.) from my estate to the church.

It is important to remember that each type of bequest can be designated for a specific purpose within our Church; a bequest can also be undesignated. With undesignated gifts, expenditure of the asset received is to be determined by the appropriate authorities within Epworth UMC at the appropriate time.

Membership at Epworth UMC has grown each year, as more people recognize the importance of providing future support for the ministries and programs of our Church. If you choose to name Epworth UMC as a beneficiary, please let us know of your plans. This will enable us not only to show our appreciation for your generosity, but also to include your support in planning for the future of Epworth UMC.

We are here to help you as you plan. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Church Office.

Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget that Daylight Savings time begins on March 14th. Please remember to spring forward your clocks one hour before bed on Saturday night. We don't want anyone to miss church or UM Men's Monthly Breakfast because of the time change!

UNITED METHODIST



Men's Friday Breakfast

At 7:00 a.m. every Friday morning, a group of men gather for breakfast and devotions. Why not start your weekend off by joining in!



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

Nothing is wonderful
when you get used to it.

A Thank You From Our District Superintendent...

So many of us have again been stunned and deeply saddened as results of another powerful earthquake that this time rocked Chile in the early morning hours on Saturday, February 27th. As many of you know our District Superintendent, Rev. Oscar Carrasco was born and raised in Chile. Below is a recent letter that we have received from Rev. Oscar Carrasco thanking everyone and also updating us on the current state in Chile. Please continue to pray for all of the people that have recently been affected by the earthquakes in Chile and also in Haiti.

Dear Partners in Ministry,



Thank you for your prayers, calls and concerns for our family in Chile. My hometown, Curacautin, is located approximately 60 miles SE of Concepcion. My family was awakened by the power of the quake. My mother, Sara, will be 95 in May. She was thrown from her bed, but quickly taken to the backyard by a nephew. The other family members who live with my mother were in a state of emotion. According to my mother, she calmed them all down and told them to all pray. My sister, Judith, lives next door to my mother. Her family likewise escaped the house as everything was falling and shaking around them. At other points in the town, family members were doing the same.

Joyce and I were not able to reach our family in the initial 48 hours. We depended on Facebook communication from a nephew living in northern Chile. He was able to connect by cell phone for a short time just after the quake hit. It was through his call that we were assured of the safety of our family. Basic services were cut off. The family spent the first two nights in the backyard in make-shift tents. Each accounts the amazing bravery of my mother! She kept them in prayer. She calmed their nerves and nurtured their spirits. She assured them of God's love. She has been their guiding light in God's love.

The damage of their homes is now being assessed. My sister, Judith, will rebuild her house. My mother's home is standing structurally sound but will need windows, roof, and interior walls repaired. Other family members will begin the cleanup of their homes and move forward. The tasks of day to day returns. Dim electricity lights the homes. Water is flowing, but not potable. They remain united in helping the neighbors around their homes.

The bridges in and around Curacautin have either collapsed or are impassable. Securing day to day provisions is difficult for all of Curacautin. Thankfully there have been no reports of wide-spread looting in this little town. Instead, the citizens are working together in a spirit of cooperation.

Our Methodist Church has been damaged. The Sanctuary was built over a period of several years in the late 1990's by VIM teams from the Oaklawn UMC in the southern district. Reports are that windows are broken and the entry portico collapsed. I am expecting pictures within the next few days so that I can get an idea of what will be needed for the repair.

Our family sincerely appreciates your prayers and support. I am planning to travel to Chile as soon as non-essential travel is allowed. The winter is fast approaching in the southern hemisphere and I need to help my family repair my mother's home to ensure that the house is prepared for the difficult weather in the Andes.

This week, I am in a working retreat with the Bishop, extended cabinet and NIC Lay Leaders in Detroit, Michigan. The need is great here due to the dismal economic conditions. I am happy to be able to contribute in the repair of an amazing downtown UMC that serves the poor and needy. God's blessings!

Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. Oscar N. Carrasco
Elgin District Superintendent

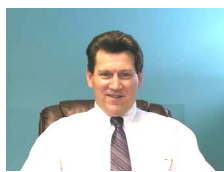
Items to be included in the Sunday Bulletin need to be in by Wednesday at Noon.

Epworth UMC

37W040 Highland Avenue
Elgin, IL 60124

Phone: (847) 931-5400

E-mail: office@epworthumcelgin.org



Pastor David Newhouse

His Office Hours are:
Mon/Tue/Wed/Fri
8:30 – 1:00
Day Off – Thursday

Cell Phone: 847-263-8621
Email: NAD1126@JUNO.COM



Assistant Pastor
Nancy Vidad

Her Office
Hours are:
Tue/Thur/Fri
10:00 - 2:00pm

Cell Phone: 847-922-1203
Email: navidad1225@yahoo.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.epworthumcelgin.org

Welcome Guests / First Time Attendees

Welcome Packets are available for all visitors. The green packets are located on the Worship Center Table in the Sanctuary (as you enter/exit the Sanctuary). Please take the information home to read and fill out. Response cards can be returned in the offering basket on Sundays, or mailed directly to the church office. There is also a variety of materials, about UMC beliefs and activities and events at Epworth UMC, available at the information kiosk in the Tower entrance. And please feel free to ask the Greeters and Ushers for any additional information you may require.

Fellowship Time

Please enjoy Christian hospitality in the Community Room, directly behind the Sanctuary, with service starting between services. Have a cup of

coffee, juice and/or a snack.

Sunday Nursery

Parents are welcome to take their children, Kindergarten and younger, to the Nursery Care Room. An Infant Soothing Room/Nursing Room for parents is adjacent to the nursery. A closed-circuit television enables your Worship experience to be uninterrupted. Greeters and Ushers are always glad to assist in locating these rooms and the professional staffing. The Childcare spaces are available each Sunday morning from 8:15am - 12:00pm and from 1:00pm-2:30pm. Qualified and experienced adults and support staff are eager to meet you and your special little ones!

Children's Worship Resources

Children are always welcome in Worship. Coloring resources and age appropriate coloring

bulletins as well as other activity supplies may be found on the back bookcase in the Sanctuary or may be secured from the Ushers.

Hearing Devices

Hearing devices are available from the ushers. If anyone wishes to purchase their own device to go with our current system, submit your request to the ushers or the church office.

Safety First

As a loving congregation, we must support legal guardians and parents in limiting all unsupervised movement by children and/or youth in the church facilities. Our goal is always to provide safe, secure, loving, and responsible accommodations and spaces for all. Together we must be alert to situations that present risk and help to ensure that supervision and security are uncompromised.

This Week's Calendar At A Glance:

Sunday, March 7

8:30am - Traditional Worship
9:45am - Sunday School for all / Lenten Book Study
9:45am - Men, Song & Fellowship
11:00am - Praise Worship
1:00pm - 3:00pm - La Luz de Cristo Worship
1:30pm - 2:30pm - Sunday School
2:00pm - 4:00pm - Bowling for Sheep for All!
3:00pm - 5:00pm - Discipleship Study, Upper Conf. Room
6:30pm - 7:30pm - Scout Troop #127, Community Room

Monday, March 8

7:00pm - Boy Scout Troop #128
6:30pm - New Creations Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 9

6:00am - Walking Bible Study at The Centre in Elgin
6:30pm - Praise Band Rehearsal
7:00pm - Community Outreach Team Meeting, U5

Wednesday, March 10

6:00am - Bible Study at Panera Bread, South Elgin
5:00pm - 5:30pm Alleluia Choir
5:30pm - 6:45pm - Evening Dinners

Wednesday, March 10 (Continued)

6:00pm - Nothing Special Productions Rehearsals / Discovery Club / Hospitality Team Meeting / Youth Choir / Lenten Book Study
6:15pm - PADS, contact J Fazel to give the gift of time
6:30pm - The Light of Christ Voice Lessons, M5 / Trustee's Meeting
7:00pm - Adult Choir

Thursday, March 11

7:00pm - 9:00pm - WUSU Study Group

Friday, March 12

7:00am - Men's Breakfast
10:00am - Lenten Book Study
6:00pm - Boy Scouts Troop Lock-In

Saturday, March 13

Boy Scouts Troop Lock-In
5:30pm - CONNECTIONS Worship

Sunday, March 14

Girl Scout Sunday
Special Offering: One Great Hour of Sharing / Manna Orders Taken
8:30am - Traditional Worship
9:45am - Sunday School for all / Lenten Book Study
11:00am - Praise Worship
1:00pm - 3:00pm - La Luz de Cristo Worship
1:30pm - 2:30pm - Sunday School

Don't forget to Spring forward your clocks one hour before you go to bed tonight!