

Newsletter



REV. PASTOR TRACI

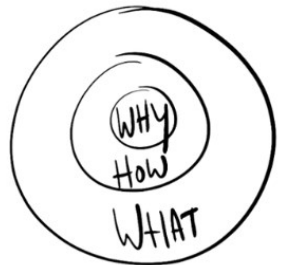
PASTOR'S + CORNER

Focus on Why

Over the past two years, the Session has been talking about priorities and vision and direction. As you know, we've circled around three important ones:

1. Welcome — All people are made in the image of God (*the imago dei*) and are invited into full participation of every area of EPC's church life and witness including the communion table, the baptismal font, and ordained leadership.
2. Matthew 25 — Christ calls us to minister to the most vulnerable among us and to provide tangible help to those he calls "the least of these" in Matthew 25 and
3. "Earth Care" - The earth is a gift given to us by God to protect and steward

These "whys" give us direction, vision and focus. When we think of the "why" we think about that which is in the center of a circle like this:



One exciting decision the Session made recently was to try to raise funds to send a shipping container full of medical supplies to Malawi through Project Cure. This initiative clearly falls within the second why on our list — to provide tangible help and support to those scripture calls the least of these. The "what" is the fundraising and, in this case, the "how" might include a gala (stay tuned for more on this!) Amazing things happen when we focus on why rather than what and how. Our *whats* and *hows* change, but our *whys* stay constant.

One of the fun parts about being a community is that we can be in dialog about our whys (and our *whats* and our *hows*, too).

This issue of our newsletter is jam packed with items right now. As you look at each one, see if you can identify which "why" it's closely aligned with. I did this exercise and I found a spot for everything.

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Have a blessed Summer!
Pastor Traci

The Golden Circle: www.simonsinek.com
Matthew 25: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>
Project Cure: www.projectcure.org

CHECK OUT PCUSA.ORG/MATTHEW25 TO LEARN MORE!



WE ARE A
MATTHEW 25 Church

Actively Engaged in the World

INSIDE

Page 2
Upcoming Events

Page 3
Upcoming Events
cont.

Page 4
Get Involved

Page 5
Get Involved cont.

Page 6
Matthew 25

Upcoming Events



Pridefest 2023

Mark your calendars for June 24th as we celebrate Pride here at EPC! A fun-filled social gathering of food, music, activities, and more.

Wish to participate? Scan the code below.



Scan this QR code to volunteer at Elmhurst Family Pridefest 2023!

New Sermon Series

We are going to be starting a new sermon series this summer in June. This 6-week series will be themed around the different images and symbolism found in the Presbyterian Seal.

All are welcome to join us for this series via livestream or in-person.



Pentecost Sunday

Join us Sunday, May 28th as we observe Pentecost Sunday during our normally scheduled worship.

Worship begins at 10:30am and will be available via livestream.



[youtube.com/elmhurstpresbyterianchurch](https://www.youtube.com/elmhurstpresbyterianchurch)

Get Involved!

Attention parents of teenagers! Join us for a time of conversation, community, and reflection as we gather around the joyful and challenging stage of parenting teens!

If you're interested in participating, please contact our church office for dates and times we are meeting.



(630) 834-7750

elmhurstpresbyterianoffice@gmail.com



We're looking for volunteers to assist on Sunday mornings with Youth classroom management and general assistance. Tasks would include supporting students and assisting with games and art projects!

No planning or curriculum building necessary, Micaiah, our Sunday School teacher, will provide you with everything you need to know.



EPC is now an official sorting location for ICDI. We are working with them to help provide clothing for the immigrants who have arrived in Chicago. ICDI provides transit assistance and housing with wrap-around care to asylum seekers, and advocates for justice for immigrants.

If you wish to volunteer at EPC, please email BOTH of the following people with how many hours you wish to volunteer and your availability.

spardo@icdichicago.org

sankunda@icdichicago.org



www.icdichicago.org

Get Involved!

EPC proudly holds an annual Pridefest to show our support. This year, this event will take place on Saturday, June 24th. Interested in volunteering for this event? Please scan the QR codes to sign up to perform or volunteer.



Scan this QR code to **volunteer** at Elmhurst Family Pridefest 2023!



Scan this QR code to **perform** at Elmhurst Family Pridefest 2023!

Our church partners with Elmhurst Pride Collective to make this event possible. To learn more about them, visit their website at:

www.elmhurstpridecollective.com

Worship Basket Upgrade!



Scan for Amazon Wishlist!

The Faith Formation Committee is hoping to upgrade our worship baskets to contain more engaging, faith-based activities for our youth to use during services. Please consider purchasing one of the items on our Amazon Wish List!

Vacation Bible School

We need volunteers for this summer's Vacation Bible School! Want to help out? Scan the QR code to sign up for various VBS jobs.

If you wish to volunteer for the children activities, you will need to undergo a background check first, which will be provided by the church.

If you'd like to donate a meal but cannot physically prepare it or attend in person, please contact Clare Collins to coordinate the details.

Sign up here!



Upcoming Events



Save the Date!

Please join us in honor and celebration of Elias Cabarcas-Arroyo's pastoral ordination and installation. This event will take place here at EPC on Sunday, June 4th at 4 PM.

All are invited to this wonderful celebration of his ministry!

Elias Cabarcas-Arroyo

Sunday,
June 4th at
4:00 PM



Elmhurst
Presbyterian
Church

Blessing of the Backpacks

Get ready for the back-to-school season and join our annual Blessing of the Backpacks service.

All are welcome! Come and bring your backpacks to worship on Sunday, August 13th to get a special blessing before the start of school!

VBS 2023!

Save the date! Vacation Bible School is back this July from Monday the 10th through Friday the 14th.

Dinner will be served at 5 PM followed by lessons and activities from 5:30-7:30 PM.

Volunteering details on page 4.

VBS registration!

