

Newsletter

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF ELMHURST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PASTOR'S + CORNER

REV. TRACI SMITH



As I've shared with many of you, I recently joined the band again. My journey away from playing my flute in a band or orchestra is a long story, but I found my way back through a professor friend at Elmhurst University. As it turns out, the director of the band is my former High School band director. Full circle. Amazing. Playing in the band is spiritual nourishment for so many reasons. My brain works in new ways. The phone is off and put away. There are few words. It's individual, and also communal. My family is happy and inspired. It's been great, all around. I've also noticed how there are lessons for life, love, and faith in band rehearsal as I watch the conductor, play with my fellow flutists, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. Sometimes the conductor (a former and now *current mentor!*) will say something that resonates on a level that applies to more than just the band. One of these things is the phrase "I'll take that." The director, Mr. Heath, says this often. It'll happen when we tune. He'll call for the pitch, turn his head one way or the other, call a person or two out for being sharp or flat, and then ask for it again. He'll do it a few times until he sort of shrugs and says "I'll take that."

Another time he says it is when we're working through a difficult section of a piece. He'll work on it a little with us, dissecting who is playing what part. Maybe the flutes need to be a little smoother. Maybe the trumpets need to raise their bells a little higher. Maybe we're not together. Maybe we're not listening to one another. Maybe we *think we're playing it soft enough, but he thinks it could be much softer. We practice it a few times and then, sometimes he nods and says, "Yeah! I'll take that!"*

I love the way he says it, because it means so many things depending on how he says it. Sometimes "I'll take that" means "It's not exactly right, but we're moving on" It also means "It's good enough for now, because we'll come back and refine it later." Sometimes it means "Nothing's perfect, but this is pretty great." Sometimes, I think it means, "This is the best this band can do with the ability they have, and I'm happy with that and accept it."

I've been thinking about how to apply "I'll take that" to some of the things that are constantly "in progress" in my life. Prayer. Gratitude. Relationships. Forgiveness. Work. Play. Writing. Music. Sometimes a fear of not doing something perfectly keeps me from taking the flute out of the case and playing anything at all, and that's a tragedy. Sometimes I get stuck on a part in the song I think should sound differently and I play it over and over and over again when what I *should do is move on and say "I'll take that."*

As you move through Lent, perhaps you're working on almsgiving, or prayer, or simplicity, or fasting, or forgiveness. Perhaps you started a Lenten practice and then you fell away from it. Perhaps you're not happy with it and know you could do better. Keep practicing, to be sure. And yet, have grace with yourself and know that perfection is seldom attainable. Do your best to stay in tune and say to yourself "I'll take that."

With gratitude,

Pastor Traci

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Elmhurst Presbyterian Church
Sundays @ 10:30 am

Live
Stream



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



Spring 2023

www.elmhrustchurch.org

Upcoming Events



Maundy Thursday

All are welcome on April 6th, Thursday evening, to celebrate the last supper in this special service filled with Communion. Worship will begin at 7 pm.

Don't know if you can make it? Check out our church livestream!



Lent at EPC

Lent is often described as a journey. A journey with Jesus towards Easter, as the days get longer, and growing closer to God. Join us for this sermon series that will continue up to Palm Sunday.

Pick your coffee cup up at church to collect funds for Days for Girls. We will bring our cups back and tally our totals the week after Easter.

THE JOURNEY A LENTEN SERMON SERIES



Palm Sunday

We will be observing Palm Sunday on April 2nd during our regularly scheduled 10:30 am worship service. Invite your family and friends to partake in a service of celebration and welcoming.

This event will be available via livestream.



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! We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at Brewpoint Craft from 9:30 - 10:30 am. All are welcome!



Registration in advance is encouraged. To register, please scan the QR code.

Brewpoint Cafe is located at 124 W Park Ave, Elmhurst, IL 60126



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, Emerson, our Youth Leader, will provide you with everything you need to know.



Scan to sign up!

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

Upcoming Events



Storytelling Event

Join us for this special event at EPC on Good Friday, April 7th at 7pm! This storytelling event, Lost and Found will feature prominent author Mark Yaconelli. You won't want to miss this special experience around the power of story. Save the date! Wish to learn more about the author?

Visit his website at: markyaconelli.wordpress.com



Easter Sunday

Invite your family and friends as all are welcome to join us as we come together to celebrate this Easter Sunday in 2023! Worship will take place as regularly scheduled at 10:30am.

This event will be livestreamed as well.

📺 youtube.com/elmhurstpresbyterianchurch

Easter Egg Hunt

Get excited for the annual EPC Easter Egg Hunt! It will begin after worship on Sunday, April 9th outside by the garden. If weather conditions are less than favorable, we will move indoors to Calvin Hall.

Baskets will be provided! All kids aged 0 to 13 are encouraged to join in!



Upcoming Events



SAVE THE DATE!
 Vacation Bible School to be held at EPC 7/10-7/14.
 Dinner will be served at 5 pm, followed by lessons and activities from 5:30-7:30.

Pridefest 2023

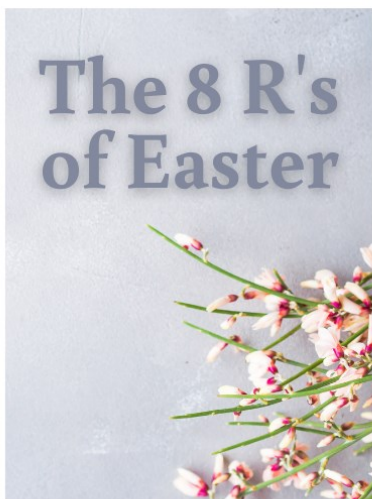
Mark your calendars for June 24th as we celebrate Pride here at EPC! A fun-filled social gathering of food, music, activities, and more.

Wish to participate? Scan the code below.



The 8 R's Series

We will be starting a new sermon series on Sunday, April 9th. This 8-week series will be covering the season between Easter and Pentecost which can be a time of rich spiritual growth and renewal. This sermon series will take us from resurrection to revival with many steps along the way!



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.



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.



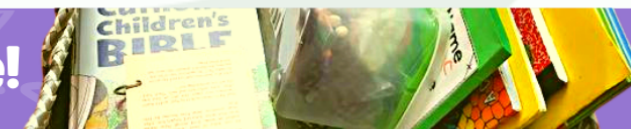
Scan this QR code to **volunteer** at Elmhurst Family Pridefest 2023!



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!

Days for Girls' mission is to prepare and distribute sustainable menstrual health solutions to girls who would otherwise miss school during their monthly periods. Want to participate?

Pick up your coffee cup at church and fill it with funds throughout Lent. We will bring our cups back and tally our totals the week after Easter.



www.daysforgirls.org