

# Elmwords

## PASTOR'S CORNER

"Accordingly I command all that it is unlawful to eat or drink in their company, neither should anyone accept alms from such men; not until they do penances so harsh that their tears pour out to God." St Patrick excommunicating the men who murdered and enslaved Irish Christians.

"I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity,  
By invocation of the same the Three in One and One in Three.  
I bind this to me forever by power of faith, Christ's incarnation,  
His baptism in the Jordan River, His death on Cross for my salvation."  
From the hymn "St. Patrick's Breastplate" Attributed to St. Patrick 387 - 461

No, St Patrick did not drive all the snakes out of Ireland; there never were any. Yes, St Patrick did use the shamrock to illustrate the holy Trinity. He was raised in a Christian home, although he appears not to have paid much attention to the faith. At 16 years old, he was snatched from Britain and held in slavery in Ireland for six years. Cold, wet, hungry, and under constant fear of violent abuse, he prayed "as many as a hundred prayers a day, and in the night almost as many."

One night in a vision, God told him that a ship was ready to take him to freedom. He made the 200 mile journey by cover of darkness. By his clothes anyone could see at a glance that he was a slave; and slaves could be returned for a generous reward. After a dangerous journey, he reached the harbor, and by the grace of God persuaded the captain to grant him free passage home.

After some time Patrick had another vision. This time he perceived the Irish people begging him to come and teach them about Jesus. His seminary training was difficult because he hadn't paid much attention to the faith before being carried off to Ireland, and he had missed crucial years of schooling. At last Patrick returned to Ireland; his success at conveying the Gospel was astonishing. Entire kingdoms converted; he ordained many, many priests; daughters of kings devoted themselves to serving Christ. St. Patrick was unique among Christian leaders for condemning slavery. It wasn't until the 1700s that people, even Christians, began to question whether slavery was compatible with Christianity.

Well and good. There is more to St Patrick than celebrations of St Patrick's Day that involve wearing funny green hats, drinking green beer, and speaking in phony baloney Irish accents. In St Patrick's honor, we might well ask where are those who suffer from slavery. Real slavery and sex trafficking. People are enslaved by addictions of all kinds. How might we raise our voices on their behalf?

In St. Patrick's Day, an entire island had not heard the Gospel; they knew little or nothing of God's love. In our day, there are many people who have heard very little of Jesus, or only heard a pale and feeble version. Their lives would be immeasurably blessed by coming to know Christ; the world would benefit by more folks who believe. How might we raise our voices on their behalf?

Peace,



Pastor Dave

Elmwood Community Church Moderator Notes  
February 18, 2020

In attendance: Bill Alberti, Susan Wiley, Colleen Peterson, Jerry Gray, Gail O'Connor, Pastor Dave Congdon

Pastor Dave opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. with a scripture reading from Psalm 42:1-3 and a prayer. "As a deer longs for flowing streams, my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?""

People have a desire for God, a thirst for God. Help us to know how to seek you, Lord. Help us to know that You are with us always and we need only to open our hearts to see you. Amen.

January minutes were reviewed and accepted.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Dave

- Eleanor Mitkoski is in rehab and receiving good care.
- Ginger Croxall has retired and is in the process of moving to Grove St.
- Craig Croxall is receiving weekly chemo.
- Gene Knorr is in the hospital with the flu. He is improving.
- Al Rakus is out of the hospital.
- Pastor Dave's mom had hip surgery Monday, 2/10 and is getting better. She is in rehab.
- Please keep the above-named people and Charles Shorter in your prayers.
- Anson & Ashley Brown had their little girl, Harper Rose, baptized on 2/16/2020. It was good to see the extended Brown family there. They invited the congregation downstairs for cake and goodies and coffee.

(Susan made motion. Jerry seconded. Report accepted.)

**Deacon's Report:** Jerry Gray

- Started the process for Easter flower orders. Order form will be in March Elmwords and bulletins. Easter is April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Have enough leftover bulletins covers for Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday. Picked out bulletin covers for Easter and Pentecost.
- Annual meeting luncheon was delicious with great soups, sandwiches and desserts.
- Circle 6 donation of \$282.73 is now at \$205.30 as bought more supplies. Sandy Brainard also has cups and paper plates to donate.
- St. Patrick potluck is Sunday 3/15 after service. Council will coordinate – flyer, sign-up sheets, decor. Set-up 10:00 a.m. Sat. 3/14. Congregation to bring their favorite dish.
- New website still not up and running. There are 33 websites to be done ahead of us.

(Susan made motion. Gail seconded. Report accepted.)

**Christian Ed Report:** Gail O'Connor

- Valentine's went well. Cards made over two Sundays with Haley, Gabby and Gail. This year wrote person's name in the card to make it more personal.
- This Sunday 2/23 is the Pancake Supper. Looking for a congregational activity – Pastor Dave will find something.



- Easter Sunday is 4/12. Susan asked if we could do something different from just handing out the plastic eggs – perhaps do an indoor egg hunt with them. Susan volunteered to do an Easter bonnet making activity at 9:00 a.m. and after the service. Will invite the public via a Facebook post to come to church and do an egg hunt and make a bonnet.

(Susan made motion. Jerry seconded. Report accepted.)

**Missions Report:** Susan Wiley

- No meeting this month as Board members weren't available.
- Next South Park dinner is 3/22.

(Gail made motion. Bill seconded. Report accepted.)

**Trustees Report:** Bill Alberti

- Contacted several caterers and Pastor Dave contacted local funeral homes offering Conte Hall to rent for events. No responses thus far.
- Short-term rentals: 3/21, 4/11, 5/2. Rentals are slow so far this year.
- Still looking for a less expensive snow removal person. Chuck contacted one referral but person was booked for this season. Fortunately, this month hasn't had much snow. Suggested to look on WH Friends & Neighbors.
- Had B&M Tree Service remove the large tree branch hanging over the church property. They are arborists and sent the neighbor who owned the tree a letter stating the it was rotted and needed to come down. Neighbor had the tree removed.

(Jerry made motion. Gail seconded. Report accepted.)

**Controller's Report:** Susan Wiley

- No report.
- Missed Christmas time so brought fruit baskets to Hartford Boiler and Jerry's Art-a-rama for Valentine's Day. Thank you to Susan for doing that!

(Jerry made motion. Bill seconded. Report accepted.)

**Member at Large Report:**

Wendy Leonard – Not present, no report. Daysha Haxton – Not present, no report.

**Old Business**

- Colleen ran through notes on 2/9 discussion congregation had on church financial situation and future. Notes will be available Sunday either by e-mail or hard copy for those who want a copy. Council discussed.

**Upcoming Events**

- Pancake Supper February 23<sup>rd</sup>
- St. Pat's Day potluck March 15<sup>th</sup>
- Palm Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>, Maundy Thursday 4/9 at 7:00pm, Good Friday 4/10 12-3:00 pm
- Easter Sunrise Service April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 a.m.
- Easter Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. w/ guest trumpeter

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Colleen Peterson, Church Clerk for Cindy Gauthier, Moderator

## ON A PERSONAL NOTE

### MARCH/APRIL BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

#### March

- 04 Edie Gray  
07 Eleanor Kibbe  
08 Sue McLarney  
12 Mickey Allgaier  
22 Linda Kresge  
28 Johanna Oppel (Brown)  
30 Pat MacDougall  
Anniversaries  
06 Johanna & Timothy Oppel  
20 Ellen & Robert Bucchere

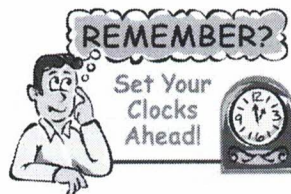
#### April

- 03 Ginger Croxall  
03 Betty Hoyt  
04 Carol Coffin  
12 Rod Tyler  
16 Kristina Wittchen  
17 Shirley P. Marshall  
22 Viola Brown  
26 Lauren Pierce Matava  
Anniversaries  
05 Cynthia & Norman Carter  
09 Brian & Cindy Gauthier  
20 Ernestine & Patrick Nobou

#### Bible Study



Bible Study is every Wednesday in the Fellowship Room at 11 a.m. Please join us!



### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME MARCH 8

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night, 3/7!



### MISSIONS

The following are the South Park dates 2020.

March 22  
May 17  
July 19  
September 20  
November 22

We are looking for donations of sandwiches or sandwich fixings. If you would like to make sandwiches, please contact Carol Alberti at [pier224@aol.com](mailto:pier224@aol.com)

Carol Alberti



**POT LUCK**



**SUPPER**  
**MARCH 15TH**

The St Patrick's Day Pot Luck luncheon will following Sunday Services on March 15<sup>th</sup>. So pull out your favorite recipes and join us for a fun event!

## ON A PERSONAL NOTE



### EASTER PLANTS



It's that time already to be thinking about ordering your Easter Plants. Easter Plant orders and **payment must be in and paid for by SATURDAY, 4/4**. If you are paying by check, please make check payable to the Elmwood Community Church and indicate Easter Flowers in the memo field.

Prices are as follows:

<u>Size</u>	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Cost**</u>
6" pot	Easter Lily	\$10.00
6" pot	Tulips	\$9.00
6" pot	Hyacinths	\$9.00

**\*\*We have not gotten final pricing for flowers. We will notify you if there is a price change for this year.**

Choice of Plant: \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to take the plant home \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

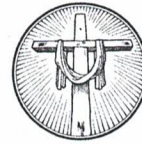
Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for helping to provide one of the many Easter Symbols used to decorate our church. Alleluia!

Peace and Love, Your Deacons

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### SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

#### **10 a.m. PALM SUNDAY - April 5**

Palm Sunday is the gateway to Holy Week. We remember the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Worship will include giving of Palms and special music.

#### **7 p.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 9**

**A Service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae.** A most meaningful and moving experience.

#### **12 Noon GOOD FRIDAY - April 10**

**to 3 p.m.** The Sanctuary will be open from noon to 3:00 pm for meditation and prayer. The Prayer Group will host. Please feel free to come and go as you need to.

#### **6:30 a.m. SUNRISE SERVICE - April 12**

A time to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ at Elmwood Community Church in the Memorial Garden.

#### **10 a.m. EASTER WORSHIP - April 12**

Easter Worship with special music by our choir, a trumpet player, and an array of Easter Flowers. The children will distribute Easter eggs.

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## ON A PERSONAL NOTE

*Thank  
You*

Norm and Cynthia Carter want to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, and phone calls. Thankfully, Norm is doing much better.

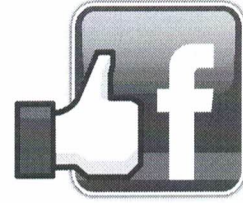
Norm & Cynthia Carter

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We also received the following lovely thank you note from the 'Adopt-a-Family' for their Christmas gifts:

'I just want to let you know how thankful I am for your awesome gifts. You really made me feel so blessed to know beautiful people like you exist. From my oldest throwing his cowboy shirt on the minute he opened it to my daughter freaking out when she saw her American Girl doll, especially all of the great stuff you got for me. I am obsessed with mermaids and fairys. I use the cup you got me every day now and I have always wished to start a crystal collection someday so I can start with your crystal. I have to tell you, I've always disliked Christmas because it's not supposed to be about gifts. I'd feel so bad and stressed out because it's so hard for me to do it all by myself. But you made me realize Christmas is about giving, keeping kids hopes alive, doing what we can for one another. I will never forget what you have done for us this Christmas and I'm forever going to feel blessed. God Bless You Always, Chelsea, Isaiah, Eliana, Josiah, Elias & Alex'

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BE SURE TO LIKE  
ECC ON FACEBOOK

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Council approved the suggestion to have a weekly focus for collecting for the food pantry. Each Sunday of the month will have a different theme.

**First Sunday:** Dinner Basics: canned fish and meats (stew, ravioli) baked beans

**Second Sunday:** Kids Favorites: cereal, granola bars, mac & cheese, peanut butter & jelly.

**Third Sunday:** Fruity Feast: canned and jarred fruit, dried fruit, fruit cups, jelly & jam.

**Fourth Sunday:** Exciting Extras: fun stuff: coffee, tea, cooking oil, condiments.

**Fifth Sunday:** Most Wanted: pasta sauce, rice, cereal, canned meat, peanut butter.

**UPDATED DIRECTORY OF  
MEMBERS & FRIENDS  
AVAILABLE IN  
THE OFFICE**

## ON A PERSONAL NOTE

### FUNERALS

We have lost a few of our long-times church members and/or their family members recently:

Larry Eddins passed away in November and a service was held at ECC for him on January 15 at 2 p.m.

Elaine Carlson passed away and her service was held at ECC on January 21 at 10 a.m. Memorial Donations can be made to Elmwood Community Church, 26 Newington Road, West Hartford 06110.

Ellen Boyne's son Stephen Boyne passed away and his service was held on February 5 at 2 p.m. Memorial donations can be made to Habitat for Humanity, 75 Charter Oak Ave, Hartford, CT 06116.

Joan Stavola passed away and her service will be held at ECC on **Saturday, March 7 at 1 p.m.** Donations made be made to Elmwood Community Church, 26 Newington Road, West Hartford 06110.

Our prayers and sympathies are extended to all the families.

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### CHRISTENING

On Sunday, February 16, HARPER ROSE was christened during services. She is the daughter of Anson and Ashley Brown, granddaughter of Kriss and Layne Brown, and great-granddaughter of Pat MacDougall. Congratulations to all.

### *Inspirational Quotes*

*May your blessings outnumber  
The shamrocks that grow,  
And may trouble avoid you  
Wherever you go  
Irish Blessing*

*May the Irish hills caress you,  
May her lakes and rivers bless you.  
May the luck of the Irish enfold you.  
May the blessings of Saint Patrick behold you.  
Irish Blessing*

*Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ  
behind me, Christ within me, Christ beneath  
me, Christ above me. Saint Patrick*

*Our prayers should be for blessings in general,  
for God knows best what is good for us.  
Socrates*

*To succeed in life, you need three things: a  
wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone. Reba  
McEntire*

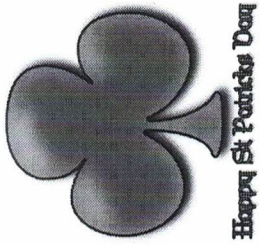
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



# MARCH 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 11 am Bible Study 6:30 Deacons	4	5	6	7 REMEMBER? Set Your Clocks Ahead! 
8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 11 am CE	9	10 11 am Bible Study	11 6:30 Trustees	12	13	14
15 9 am Missions St. Pat's Pot Luck	16 6:30 Council	17 11 am Bible Study  Newsletter Deadline	18	19	20	21
22 Missions Serving South Park Inn Newsletter Published	23	24 11 am Bible Study	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 11 am Bible Study				



**WORSHIP FACILITATORS - FEBRUARY 2020-MARCH 2020**  
**HEAD USHER: MARCH – RICK COLER APRIL - CHUCK PETERSON**

DATE	 GREETER	 LAY READER	 USHER	 COFFEE HOUR	 COMMUNION	 CRIB NURSERY
3/1/20	Rick Coler	Paul Mawn	Rod Tyler Viola Brown Colleen Peterson	Cindy Gauthier	Rod Tyler Viola Brown Colleen Peterson	Edie Gray
3/8/20	Victor Brown	Susan Wiley	Norm Carter Victor Brown	Susan Wiley		Kirsten Peterson
3/15/20 ST PAT'S POT LUCK	Victor Brown	Kirsten Peterson	Victor Brown Rowan O'Connor	Council		Carol Alberti
3/22/20	Rick Coler	Chuck Peterson	Rick Coler Frank Nobou	Edie & Jerry Gray		Kathy Barletta
3/29/20	Rick Coler	Colleen Peterson	Joan & Bob Lunden	Beth & Joan Gustafson		Cindy Gauthier
4/5/20 PALM SUNDAY	Chuck Peterson	Paul Mawn	Jerry Gray Wendy Leonard Colleen Peterson	Cindy Gauthier	Jerry Gray Wendy Leonard Colleen Peterson	Kirsten Peterson
4/12/20 EASTER SUNDAY	Victor Brown	Susan Wiley	Victor Brown Rowan O'Connor	Deacons		Edie Gray
4/19/20	Victor Brown	Chuck Peterson	Norm Carter Frank Nobou	Edie & Jerry Gray		Carol Alberti
4/26/20	Rick Coler	Colleen Peterson	Joan & Bob Lunden	Joan & Beth Gustafson		Kathy Barletta

If you are not able to serve when scheduled, please switch with or find someone to fill in for you and notify the office. If you have concerns about this, please contact Pat MacDougall at 860-529-3896 and Edie Gray at 860-521-7119 for Crib Nursery Schedule.

CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020									
Public	Month	Date	Event	Resp.	Congregation		Date	Event	Resp.
					Month				
	April	4/25/2020	Elmwood Cleanup Day	Susan Wiley	Jan.		1/26/2020	Annual Meeting	Deacons
		5/3/2020	Rain date is		February		2/23/2020	Pancake brunch	Chr. Ed.
	May	5/25/2020	Memorial Parade		March		3/15/2020	St. Pats Dinner	Council
	June	TBD	Strawberry Festival 11:30-2:00	Susan/Cindy	April		4/5/2020	Palm Sunday	Deacons
							4/9/2020	Maundy Thurs	Deacons
	July	Fri 7/24/2020	Chicken BBQ/bake sale	Cunningham			4/10/2020	Good Friday prayer vigil	Prayer Team
			4:30-7:00				4/12/2020	Easter	Deacons
							4/12/2020	Easter Sunrise Service	Deacons
	October	10/3/2020	Park Rd. Parade	Wiley	May		5/31/2020	Pentecost Sun	
	November	11/14/2020	Holiday Bazaar 9-2	Colleen/Cindy	June		6/7/2020	Choir Appreciation	Deacons
								Childrens	
	December	12/12/2020	Cookie Sale	Susan/Cindy			6/14/2020	Sun/scholarships	Chr. Ed.
					September		9/6/2020	Rally Sunday/potluck	Chr. Ed/Deacons
			South Park Inn Dinner	1/19	October		10/4/2020	Blessing/Animals	Deacons
			South Park Inn Dinner	3/22			next year	50/40 Dinner	Deacons
			South Park Inn Dinner	5/17					
			South Park Inn Dinner	7/19	November		11/1/2020	Remembrance Sunday	Deacons
			South Park Inn Dinner	9/20			11/8/2020	Veterans Sunday	Deacons
			South Park Inn Dinner	11/22			11/29/2020	Advent Workshop	Chr. Ed
					December		12/6/2020	Hanging of Greens/ Pot Luck	Deacons
							12/20/2020	Xmas Sunday at 10AM	Deacons
							12/24/2020	Xmas Eve at 7PM	Deacons



**The Elmwood Community Church**  
**26 Newington Road**  
**West Hartford, CT 06110**  
**860-233-8203 fax: 860-233-4202**  
**Secretary's e-mail: eccsecretary@snet.net**  
**Pastor's e-mail: elmwoodchurch@snet.net**

**PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**  
**DATED MATERIAL**

**\*\*\*\*\* IF YOU NO LONGER WANT TO RECEIVE THIS PUBLICATION, PLEASE NOTIFY ECC AT THE NUMBER ABOVE. THANK YOU! \*\*\*\*\***

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**BIBLE STUDY EVERY TUESDAY AT 11 AM**  
**CHOIR PRACTICE IS EVERY SUNDAY AT 9 A.M.**

<b>MARCH 3</b>	<b>6:30 PM DEACONS</b>
<b>MARCH 8</b>	<b>11 AM CHRISTIAN ED</b>
<b>MARCH 8</b>	<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME</b>
<b>MARCH 11</b>	<b>6:30 PM TRUSTEES</b>
<b>MARCH 15</b>	<b>11 AM MISSIONS</b>
<b>MARCH 15</b>	<b>ST PAT'S POT LUCK</b>
<b>MARCH 16</b>	<b>6:30 PM COUNCIL</b>
<b>MARCH 17</b>	<b>ST PATRICK'S DAY</b>
<b>MARCH 17</b>	<b>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b>
<b>MARCH 22</b>	<b>ELMWORDS PUBLISHED</b>
<b>MARCH 22</b>	<b>MISSIONS SERVING SOUTH PARK INN</b>