

THE JOURNEY

Telephone: (570) 342-8263

Email: office@elparkumchurch.org

Website: elparkumchurch.org



Rev. Mike Bealla
Senior Pastor

A Wonderful Ending and Exciting Beginning!

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Child of Bethlehem, Savior of the world!

As we close out the year of 2018, I give thanks to God for what God has empowered to do as a congregation and a church! Like any family group, we were blest with so many experiences; nurtured by a few and challenged by a couple. But through it all, Elm Park is a place where God is definitely at work!

This year has seen us receive many new members, some before we welcomed our brothers and sisters from St Paul's, and of course those who joined us after July 1. We have grown in worship attendance breaking well over the 200 mark each Sunday since October. We have seen an increase in guests as well and have made a significant impact in

becoming a more diverse congregation. And best of all, every one of you has helped welcome our newest friends with open hearts and spirit!

I continue to give thanks for all those who have worked so hard to learn and grow in leadership. Despite fewer meetings and number of ministry teams we have accomplished so much without burdening those who lead.

It's impossible in just a page or so to point to everything we have accomplished... how many lives were touched... persons embraced by mission and ministry. So rather than try to list everything, let me highlight a few of the significant accomplishments in 2018 (in no particular order of importance):

Our church council has worked hard for the last three years on

casting a vision for the future that is in line with our disciple-making mission. A conscious effort has begun to focus our efforts on two main areas... reaching out beyond our walls into the community so sorely in need of our missional presence, and on developing a "Pathway of Discipleship" through which people of all stages of faith development can find several places to either begin or continue to grow in their spiritual lives. This shift in focus and vision has already begun.

Some examples of our community outreach include owning the recently dropped "Peace Meal." Beginning on the second Saturday of January, we will re-start that meal which has served about 50 local community folks providing a meal and fellowship in a Christian setting. Other ex-

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January 2019

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amples include our growing ministry with the Congolese community and the addition of a worship service led by members of that community, our continued relationship with the Bread Basket Food Pantry, our annual Winter Coat Drive and our growing van ministry with each of our two vans making multiple trips on Sunday mornings now.

On the “Pathway of Discipleship” focus, we have recently added a class devoted to prayer led by our Lay Leader Diana Howe which will continue to be offered from time to time. I continue to love teaching our seasonal Advent and Lenten studies and will offer “Disciple 2” over the winter focusing on the books of “Genesis-Exodus and Luke-Acts.” Please feel free to pick up a brochure for more information on these and other spiritual growth opportunities.

The year of 2018 has also seen some staff changes with the retirement of long time Maintenance Director Dale McCloe in the fall. Mike Heffron has filled that slot and we welcome him warmly to our staff. Due to our change in vision and focus, Carole Mason has moved on and that position will not be filled at this point. We certainly wish her well as she leaves us. Rich Volinsky, our morning custodian has also resigned for health reasons and we thank him as well, for his time and care for us. The Staff Parrish Committee is currently planning to fill a full-time and a part-time custodial position as soon as possible.

Our internet presence, including our weekly live broadcast of our worship on YouTube and The Elm Park Journey video series continues to see a growing audience. How neat is that!?

And of course, I would be remiss to not mention our choirs, soloists, bell ringers, and Director of Music, all of whom contribute to providing transformational worship at every single service!

So, I seek your prayers as God continues to bless Elm Park! Who knows what God has in store for 2019? And finally, thanks to you for being a part of God’s work here and around the world!

Grace & Peace!

Rev. Mike Bealla





Son Seekers

Children's Fellowship
7 - 12 Year Olds
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
6:30 - 8:00

Starting January 8th, 2019 Elm Park's Son Seekers Children's Ministry will be restarting! The group is for any 7 - 12 year old's that would like to learn about everything there is to know about the United Methodist Church. We play games, learn about the stories of the bible, have a small snack, and fun! Son Seekers will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month from 6:30 - 8:00 PM.

If you have any questions feel free to call the church office at (570)- 342-8263.

- Wesley Bealla, Missy Yusinski, & Staff



YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES

Our new youth group for Teens and Young Adults from 13 years old to 18 years old is starting with a Pizza Party on January 13th at 5:00 PM in the Woodling Room. We will be having Christian fellowship, pizza, and ice cream as we talk to each other about Christ and our plans for this new and exciting Youth Group! All are Invited!

If you have any questions or need a ride please call the main church office at (570)- 342-8263 and ask for me.

- Carrie Granche, Pastoral Assistant



Join us for a night of hockey fun with our own Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins on January 19th as they take on their rival Hershey Bears!

Tickets are \$11.00 and reservations can be made by calling Marie in the main church office at (570) 342-8263 or by signing up on the sign up sheet in the rear of the Sanctuary. We need 25 folks to make the evening viable. Tickets include your seat and a hat. Remember the famous comic line... "I went to a fight last night and a hockey game broke out!"

- Rev. Mike Bealla, Senior Pastor

Join us on January 6th, on Epiphany, after the Sanctuary Service to help us take down the Christmas decorations around the church. Any and all help would be greatly appreciated!



Communications

As 2018 winds down and 2019 starts up, I wanted to talk about what the Communications Committee has done over the last year. In the last year we created, announced, and started our 2018—2020 Communications Plan, we started to upgrade our Sunday Live Stream.

We started using PowerPoint both in the Sanctuary and on the Live stream, we have started recruiting & training new media team members, and we have updated the look and feel of the "The Journey" Newsletter. We have increased in number of average views on both our YouTube videos and our Live Streams. We have more subscribers on our YouTube page and more likes and followers on our Facebook page. We have downsized our number of Facebook pages and we updated our main and now only Facebook page. Finally we are just finishing preparations on setting up online giving and setting up our new twitter page!

I am proud of all of the things we have done over the last year but I am even more excited to start working on all of the new things we have planned in 2019! Happy New Year!

- Wesley Bealla, Director of Communications & I.T.



Communications



Check out our monthly printed and emailed Newsletter "The Journey"



Elmparkumchurch.org

Our primary source for information, news and events. There's resources, staff information, and photos!



Announcements, reminders, and news sent via email from Rev. Mike.



Connecting you with news and announcements through social media.



Facebook.com/elmparkscanton

The Elm Park Journey, Live Streaming, Services, and Informational Videos.

Tinyurl.com/epumcvideos
Videos.Elmparkumchurch.org



Communications.Elmparkumchurch.org

THE ELM PARK JOURNEY

Latest Episodes

You are invited to watch our bi-weekly Web-Series entitled "The Elm Park Journey." Each episode features our Lay Leader, Diana Howe, as she interviews guests from our church about events, programs, ministries, groups, and leaders from our church.

In the newest episode, Diana interviews Dr. Bill Miller Our Church Council Chair about the Mission team and Church Council restarting Peace Meal.

In our upcoming episode, Diana will be interviewing Rev. Mike about what has happened in 2018 and about plans that we have for 2019.

If you have any ideas for future episodes for "The Elm Park Journey" contact Diana Howe, Rev. Mike, Wesley Bealla or email media@elmparkumchurch.org.

Council Chair Corner: From Piecemeal to Peace Meal

Happy New Year! - As we move into 2019, please allow me to reflect upon 2018 in our church home.

We all know that change occurs slowly (and even more so in the church) bit by bit a little at a time. This is reflective of Elm Park Church this year and previous. This last year represents the culmination of multiple years of work to 'change' our church.

Let me reassure you that I am not suggesting that a complete overhaul has occurred or even that we needed an overhaul. What I am talking about is a slow deliberate transition to a greater understanding of the mission of The United Methodist Church, which is stated in our guiding principles as follows:

¶ 120. The Mission—The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches and extension ministries of the Church provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs.

I am very proud and happy to be able to say that throughout this year the church leadership and teams haven't wavered in their support of the church and its mission. Let's take a look at some of the highlights of what our teams have done:

- Church Council has continued to set the church vision and support the van ministry.
- The Trustees continue to work diligently to safeguard the church's investments and upkeep our magnificent church building.
- SPRC has worked hard to fill positions on our maintenance staff that occurred due to retirements and illness.
- The Finance team has led another successful stewardship campaign.
- The Education team continues to provide meaningful 'Sunday School' opportunities for young and old alike.
- The Mission team dedicated both time and funding to a number of community causes in our community and abroad (including our Sierra Leone Initiative) and had taken the important step of 'adopting' the monthly Peace Meal.
- The United Methodist Women continue to support vital community programs such as The Women's Resource Center.

These are but a few examples of what "Elm Parkers" have done in 2018. Many more examples exist. If I missed your team, please send me a 'shout out', so I could include what you have done.

I am calling out one other accomplishment from 2018. The leadership team will recognize the following as it (with a few tweaks) is from an email I sent them a few weeks ago. However, it applies to the entire Elm Park family:

...I think how lucky I am to be your Church Council Chair, and I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to each and every one of you for your hard work in 2018. It has been a great year here at Elm Park. Yes, like all organizations, we have had our struggles, and we will have more. However, together we will overcome any obstacles that will come our way.

I also want to comment on how privileged I feel to be part of the church family that has so graciously opened its door and accepted those who previously worshipped at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. It is a true testament to what it means to be "United", and it has given us a fantastic opportunity. We have the great fortune to expand our membership in a very special way. Even though I don't want to call out a specific group because we are all "Elm Parkers", it is important to recognize the gifts that all of these individuals and families have brought into our church. We can capitalize on those gifts and use them to continue to grow our congregation and show the community what it means to be "United".

Thank you all for a great 2018 and keep up the great work. I look forward to 2019.

Dr. Bill Miller,
Church Council Chair

Soup & *Lenten* Sermon



18
Amazing Year!



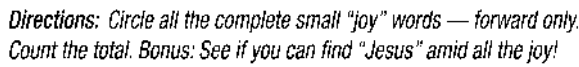
ark
Methodist Church



THE ELM PARK JOURNEY



Our Mission: Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

[illegible]

TOTAL JOY=_____

Answer: 36 (10 in the J, 15 in the Q, 11 in the Y); Jesus is at the bottom of the large Q



THE JOURNEY

Any and all articles for “The Journey” Newsletter are now due on the **20th of each month**. We are looking for announcements, upcoming event details, and/or stories of how the church has impacted you or someone else’s life that you know.

If you have an article you want to send in please email them to

thejourney@elparkumchurch.org or give them to Marie Priblo in the Main church office.

If you have any questions please speak to or email Marie Priblo or Wesley Bealla in the church office.

JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS**CHAPEL READERS**

06 Bill Miller
 13 Robert Pearson
 20 Marianne Wolf
 27 Brian McChesney

SANCTUARY READERS

06 Joan Pilosi
 13 Youth Assigned
 20 Carole Anderson
 27 Sara Cooper

ACOLYTES

06 Elm Park Youth
 13 Elm Park Youth
 20 Elm Park Youth
 27 Elm Park Youth

RECEPTIONIST

06 Andrew Sucheski
 13 Elizabeth Swartz
 20 Lacey Stanton
 27 Marcy Jesse

CHAPEL GREETERS/USHERS

06 Doug Allen/Alan Cunningham
 13 Don & Cindy Fisch
 20 Connie Dempsey/ Mary Gordon
 27 TBD

SANCTUARY GREETERS

06 Joan Pilosi/Ron Stewart
 13 Elm Park Youth
 20 Tina Kohanski and Volunteer
 27 Jill & Meghan Eidenberg

HOSPITALITY HOST/HOSTESSES

06 Warring Family
 13 Andrea & Larry Mulrine
 20 Betty, Kim Lee, & Betsy Miller
 27 Pabst Family

SANCTUARY USHERS

06 Bill Miller, Jane Miller, Sarah Cooper, Ron Stewart, Leigh Redmon, Joan Pilosi, Rick Bevins
 13 Elm Park Youth as Assigned
 20 Leigh Redmon, Harold Hiller, Larry Mulrine, Tina Kohanski, Hank Jones, Maureen Jones
 27 Jill Eidenberg, Sean Eidenberg, Megan Eidenberg, Tara Stevens, Lauren Stevens, Jill Luczak, Sharon Keen

**JANUARY ALTAR FLOWERS**

All Sundays in both January and February are open.

Please contact Marie at 570-342-8263 if you are interested in purchasing altar flowers. Thank you!



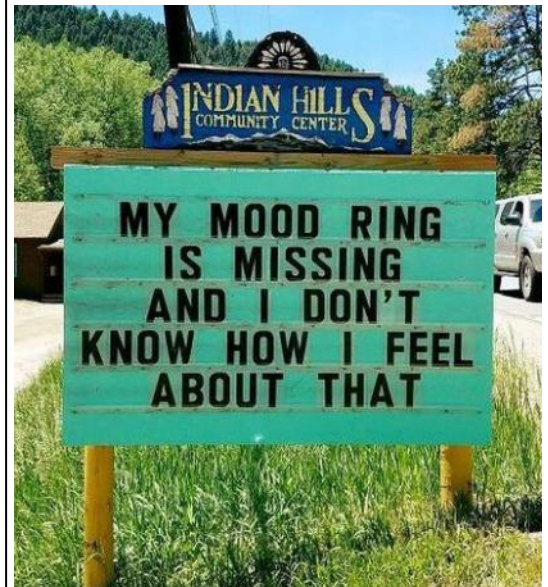


01 Catherine Guzik
 01 William Jones Jr.
 02 Karen Ceccacci
 02 Camden Miller
 02 Marissa Nasiatka
 02 Camiryn Peoples
 02 James Rogers III
 04 Christopher Fitch
 04 Gia Ongkingco
 05 Nathan Anderson
 06 Gabrielle Reese
 07 Justus Bronson
 07 Jim Casella
 07 Kristin Davis
 07 Howard MacKay
 08 Gale Dixon
 08 Hugh MacDerment
 08 Mary Ann Murray
 08 Eric Pabst
 09 Nancy Ross
 09 Dylan Smith
 10 Laura Salmons
 11 Robert Gordon
 11 Elizabeth Loughney
 11 Janet Wenzel
 12 Erica Dee
 12 Christopher Smith
 13 Gary Eckrote
 13 William Jones
 13 Verna Leuthe

13 Philip Scotch
 14 Sharon Keen
 14 Mary Beth Magnot
 14 John Schroeter
 14 Jill Seymour
 16 Meg Harvey
 17 Eva Moretti
 17 Steven Schultz
 17 Dawn Smith
 19 Asher Howe
 19 Tatiana Klacko
 20 Beverly Jones
 20 Daniel Maciejewski
 20 Kimberly Rafalko-Goshler
 22 Victoria Kozik
 22 Benjamin Shoener
 23 Carole Anderson
 23 Butch Barron
 23 Scot Felkowski
 23 Hannah Luczak
 24 Eric Pauli
 25 Betty Lee
 27 Tanya Davis
 27 Robert Matthews Jr
 27 Christine Price
 28 David Bosley
 29 Alex Curry
 29 Melissa Kempf
 29 Jane Miller
 29 Stacy O'Connor
 30 Ruth Eckrote
 30 Rich Volinsky

30 Patricia Walsh
 31 Alexa Peters

**Signs we will
 never use!
 Sponsored by
 Betsy Miller**



This is a snapshot of Events & Activities scheduled for the month of January. A full schedule is available on our website. Should you like to schedule an activity or have questions, please contact Marie Priblo at 570-342-8263.

Weekly Events for January

Wednesday	9:00 AM	Staff Meeting (L)
	10:00 PM	Bread Basket
	6:30 PM	Westminster Ringers
	7:30 PM	Choir Practice
Friday	12:00 PM	Noon Prayer (L)
Sunday	8:30 AM	Worship in Chapel
	9:00 AM	Sunday School
	9:30 AM	Fellowship
	10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
	11:30 AM	Prayer & Praise
Saturday, 1/5	9:30 -12:00 PM	Dist. SPRC/Trustee Mtg

January
EVENTS



Rev. Mike Bealla - Senior Pastor

Phone: (570) 342-8263 Ext. 13

Email: mbealla@elparkumchurch.org
seniorpastor@elparkumchurch.org

Marie Priblo

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

Phone: (570) 342-8263 Ext. 10

Email: mpriblo@elparkumchurch.org
office@elparkumchurch.org

Carrie Granche

Pastoral Assistant & Teen Ministries

Email: cgranche@elparkumchurch.org

Mike Hefferon

Director of Maintenance

Phone: (570) 342-8263 Ext. 18

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maintenance@elparkumchurch.org

Wesley Bealla

Director of Communications and IT

Phone: (570) 342-8263 Ext. 12

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media@elparkumchurch.org

George Simmons - Music Director

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Email: gsimmons@elparkumchurch.org

In This Issue

A Message from our Senior Pastor

Council Chair Corner

2018 Recap

**A Note from our
Communicator**

Son Seeker Children Fellowship

Youth Group



Worship Times

8:30 AM Chapel Service

9:00 AM—10:00 AM Fellowship time

10:00 AM Sanctuary Service

11:30 AM Prayer and Praise Service