

The Circuit Writer

April, 2021

* Apologies again for the newsletter - please see note in this Circuit Writer about issues. ~ Jenny *

Natalie's Notes:

Dear friends,

I want to introduce to you something I've been working on with the church council. Our Bishop, Mark Webb, really wants our churches to build "intentional discipleship plans" in order to help the livelihood of our churches and to help us all put our relationships with Jesus first. I've been working with our district associate--a woman by the name of Ellen Mall-John--and our lay leaders to put together our "intentional discipleship plan".

What's an intentional discipleship plan? It's something that helps us articulate how we help one another grow closer to Jesus. What do we do at our church to help one another be better followers of Christ? I'm confident that if you ask anybody at EPUMC that question, they'll have a great answer for you. This plan helps us answer that question in a more organized way. It also helps us look at our ministries at this church and ask--does this ministry help people grow closer to Jesus?

Allow me to walk you through this. In Pastor Natalie's view, there's three big steps to building your relationship with Jesus: get to know him (and our church), fall in love with him, and share that love with other people. At this church, you get to know us and Jesus through all your first points of contact with us: attending worship, looking at our website or our Facebook page, reading this newsletter, reading the midweek emails, or even seeing our sign and pride flags outside. When you grow more committed to your relationship with Jesus and this church--and you begin falling in love--you look for small groups to join: choir, book study, Circle B, Sunday School, the nursery, and the Wednesday Night Dinner when we're finally able to safely join together for a meal again. You keep filling your cup and nourishing your soul by participating in those first two steps--no matter how long you've been following Jesus, you always need to keep knowing him more, and to deepen your love for him. When you've nurtured your inward spirit and you're ready to share your love for Jesus with the world, you do that through participating in our various missions activities: Street Soldiers, Daija's Doll, Stone Soup, SICM, TOMVO, member care team, and our activities with the RMN and UNYFI.

I invite you to check this out. How can we help you grow in your relationship with Jesus? Where are you in your own personal spiritual journey? Are you tending to your soul? Are you loving your neighbor? Feel free to bring your questions to me as we travel this road together.

Eastern Parkway United Methodist Church

Intentional Discipleship Plan

Rev. Natalie Bowerman, Pastor

Updated November 18, 2020

Vision

1. Get to know us and Jesus
2. Fall in love
3. Share the love

1. Get to know us and Jesus

Worship

YouTube Sermons

Church website

Outdoor signs

Church Facebook

Church newsletter

Email updates

Pastor Blog

Bulletin Boards

2. Fall In Love

Bible Study

Choir

Sunday School

Circle B

Fellowship Hour

Wednesday Night Dinner

Harvest Dinner

3. Share the Love

Member Care Team

Daija's Doll

Schenectady Street Soldiers

Outreach activities

Youth collection

Stone soup Sundays

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT, APRIL 2021

	Budget	Actual as of 3/31/2021	Actual as % of Budget
Expenses	\$191,123	\$47,193	24.7%
Program	\$8,340	\$775	9.3%
Property	\$45,059	\$17,405	38.6%
Personnel	\$107,236	\$21,030	19.6%
Payments to Conference	\$30,488	\$7,983	26.2%
Income	\$180,083	\$53,166	29.5%
Pledges	\$128,913	\$33,113	25.7%
Trustees contributions	\$36,000	\$18,000	50.0%
Other Income	\$15,170	\$2,053	13.5%
Income Less Expenses	-\$11,040	\$5,973	

As the table shows, expenses overall are on target. Property expenses are running ahead of budget because some annual service contracts were paid in full at the beginning of the year and because of boiler repair bills incurred during the winter heating season.

Income is running ahead of budget. Many thanks to those who have faithfully paid their pledges despite the church being shut down for most of the past year. The Trustees also paid half of their 2021 pledge in March, which should maintain an adequate bank balance well into the summer.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact the church treasurer, Randy Roeser.

March contribution statements were mailed/emailed on or about 4/2. If you expected to receive a statement and did not, please contact Penelope Brunt at: finsec.epumc@gmail.com.

Young People's Collection Schedule

1st Sunday: TOMVO

2nd Sunday: Sock Project

3rd Sunday: SCM

4th Sunday: Stone Soup

5th Sunday: Circle B

Help Needed!

We are currently seeking individuals to join our EPUMC Usher Team! If you have been an usher in the past and would like to continue on the Team or you would like to join the Usher Team and be part of the schedule, please let us know. Contact:

Brenda Morrow
ballynmorrow@gmail.com
518-852-9288

EPUMC is accepting applications for a part-time (10 hours/week) Administrative Assistant. Please send resume and letter of interest to Brenda Morrow, SPPRC Chairperson: ballynmorrow@gmail.com

Our church clean-up day is going to be Saturday May 1 from 8-12:00.
(Or whenever the work gets done.)
We will likely be focusing on inside tasks.
Please come and join in the fun!

Mark your calendars for another classic EPUMC Outdoor Flea Market on Saturday May 15th and Sunday May 16th. More details to come!

Help needed from tech-savvy folks. I have been using, for about a year now, a program called Canva to do our newsletters. A few months ago, I lost all the Circuit Writer templates in my account. Canva does not have phone or chat support so I relied on email for a solution (insert snail-pace here.) I got it resolved but it has happened again. This time I am getting no reply from Canva. This is a program that I personally pay for because I use it for other things. When I look to find another program, they are too expensive. Does anyone have any

suggestions? Thanks in advance for any help!!! ~ Jenny

Outreach

2020-2021 Outreach Team Tentative Activities (events are subject to change due to COVID-19)

April

College Care packages - **DEADLINE THIS SUNDAY,**

4/18!

Let's support our EPUMC college and graduate students as they finish out this challenging school year!

We are once again looking for donations to pack in boxes to be sent in April to cheer on our students. Homemade or store-bought goodies- cookies, candy, treats are welcome. Cards and other small gadgets/gifts are also welcome. I anticipate there will be about 6 to 9 students. Our goal is to pack the boxes in mid-April. Monetary donations can also be made to EPUMC with College Care noted on the memo line. This will help with postage and additional items. Please contact Trish Roeser if you are able to provide something for the boxes and to be contacted later when plans are better defined.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Thank You!

With much appreciation from our seniors and homebound, a huge thank you goes out to our Member Care/Visitation Committee teams for sending Easter wishes with phone calls, cards and cookies.

~ Linda Shannon

CROP Walk

In 2021, Eastern Parkway United Methodist Church continues to fight against the challenges of disease, disaster, displacement and other concerns that leave people hungry. Join with us as we raise funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need today and sustainable food security for tomorrow. Use the link below to join the team, make a donation, or both!

Let's do this together!

events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/eastern-parkway-united-methodist

UPCOMING LITURGISTS

April
 18 Bob Bour
 25 Chuck Schmitt

May
 2 Madison Schmitt
 9 Randy Roeser
 16 Sue Williams
 23 Morgan Tibbitts
 30 Desiree Chaires

CELEBRATIONS!

Annie Grace Cumings Ledbetter	1-Apr
Robin Granger	1-Apr
Tom Stacy	3-Apr
Mollie Orr	4-Apr
Bob Bour	4-Apr
Jaiden Trumpler	5-Apr
Rebecca Behrendt	6-Apr
David Smith	12-Apr
George Dohring	13-Apr
Michael Puccioni	14-Apr
Jefferson Gardner	14-Apr
Morgan Tibbitts	16-Apr
Gordon Hendrick	17-Apr
Nancy Conrad	20-Apr
Dan Shannon	21-Apr
John Dohring II	23-Apr
Daniel Rexford	24-Apr
Linda Shannon	24-Apr
Benjamin Veglia	25-Apr
Rebecca Morrow	29-Apr
Susan Cumings	29-Apr

Happy Birthday!

Christopher Griffin	1-May
Jeanna Campbell	3-May
Audrionna Baker	5-May
Jane Hendrick	7-May
Debbie Pavlus	7-May
Jerry Tomisman	7-May
Andrew LeGere	8-May
Titilayo Oshinowo	8-May
Talesha Banks	9-May
Katey Griffin	9-May
Joyce Smith	9-May

Happy Anniversary!

Steve Lott and Cindy Ann Bowers April
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Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their mothers. The first boy says, 'My Mom scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, she calls it a poem, they give her \$50.' The second boy says, 'That's nothing. My Mom scribbles a few words on piece of paper, she calls it a song, they give her \$100.' The third boy says, 'I got you both beat, my Mom scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, she calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!'