



CIRCUIT WRITER

Newsletter of the Eastern Parkway United Methodist Church

September 2021

As a Reconciling
Congregation, EPUMC
affirms the sacred worth
of persons of all sexual
orientations and gender
identities and welcomes
them into full
participation in the
fellowship, membership,
ministries, and leadership
of the congregation.

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Natalie's Notes



Dear friends,

Happy fall! Summer is nearly over, school has started, fall sports are gearing up, pumpkin spice lattes are back in stock at Starbucks, and it's a whole new season of ministry for our church.

Regrettably, even though we began the summer mask-less and showing off our Fauci Ouchie scars, with the Delta variant spreading rampantly across the country we've needed to resume the use of masks, and the request that people who don't live together socially distance in our church. My prayers ascend for all of you as we continue to cope with the effects the pandemic has had on our world, and I grieve the loss of life.

cont.

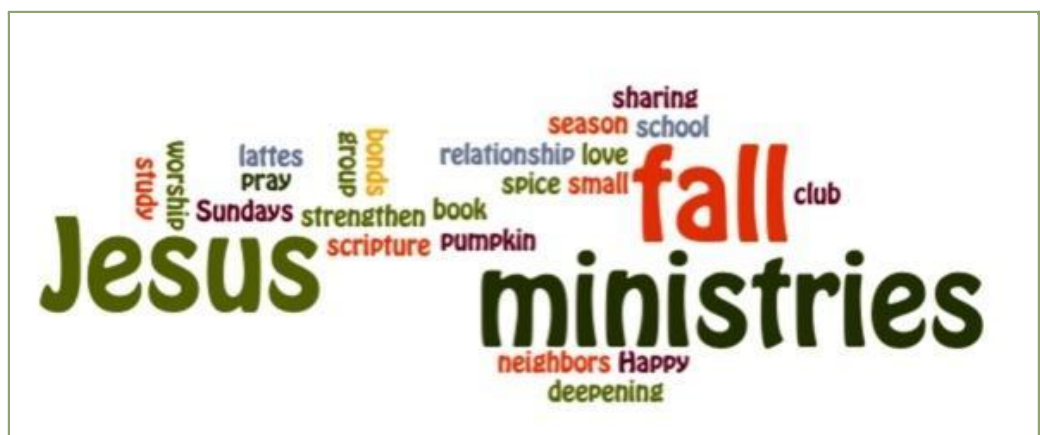
Natalie's Notes, cont.

But that said, even with a mask and while standing six feet apart, we are still plenty capable of sharing Jesus' love with our neighbors! Join us in worship at 10am on Sundays. Through September and October, I'll continue to share sermons that were requested last spring by this congregation! If you don't feel safe being out and about with lots of people I completely understand and respect that, and worship is livestreamed via Zoom every week.

I have two ministries that I hope to launch at the very beginning of October: our next book study (Title to be declared! Do you have any suggestions?) and new small group ministries. Allow me to tell you a bit about the latter: John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist tradition, believed small group ministries were very important, and during his time spent teaching at Oxford University, launched "holy clubs" amongst the preachers he was educating and training. He empowered these student preachers to gather in small groups where they'd strengthen their bonds with one another, pray together, study scripture together, and hold one another accountable for deepening their relationship with Jesus. I intend to launch three or four such groups that would meet twice a month. Now that you have something to look forward to...more details coming in the very near future!

I thank my God for every thought of you,

Pastor Natalie





Al and Carolyn Canova

Al and Carolyn Canova found Eastern Parkway United Methodist Church soon after they moved here with their young family from Massachusetts in 1960.

Or maybe, the way they tell the story, Eastern Parkway found them.

They arrived in Niskayuna with their three children after Al's employer, the Factory Mutual insurance company, named him a fire protection engineer for the region.

"We moved here, bag and baggage," Carolyn recalled during an after-church conversation in the Hearth Room.

"We had two neighbors who came to Eastern Parkway, and they both had children the same age as our children. They asked if we'd like to bring the kids to Sunday school, and one thing led to another," she said.

"Right away, we liked this church. Every part of it," said Al.

The Canova children attended Sunday School, and they soon met a little boy named Kirk Lewis. That quickly led to more friendships with other members of the Lewis family and beyond.

“When Al met David Lewis, they really hit it off,” Carolyn said. “He was also an engineer – he worked with KAPL – and he sang in the choir. So, Al immediately joined the choir.”

Al and Carolyn soon were involved in many more church groups and activities.

There were men’s groups and women’s groups – Carolyn says some of the women’s groups met in smaller clusters in people’s homes and had names that coincided with women of the Bible. She met with the “Ruth” group.

There were rummage sales and social groups, prayer and Bible study groups, picnics and potlucks, softball games and many other opportunities to enjoy friendship and fellowship.

“We were youth group advisors for many, many years,” Carolyn said. “They advised us,” Al added with a laugh.

In recent years, Carolyn has shared ushering duties and worked on the financial secretary’s Sunday counting crew. For these duties, she often is one half of a team fondly and poetically known as “Marilyn and Carolyn” with Marilyn Esmann.

Al’s resonant bass voice has been a part of the choir for decades.

The names of the many pastors who have served at Eastern Parkway since 1960 aren’t always easy to recall, but their personalities and preaching styles were usually distinctive and memorable, Al and Carolyn say.

Some ministers were very formal and dedicated to strict Methodist rules, including their first pastor, who came to visit the Canovas at their home.

“He was very old-fashioned. I had the kids all dressed up, and we all sat, very piously, waiting for the minister to come,” Carolyn recalled with a smile.

One pastor, they remembered, sternly chastised them when he learned that a church couples club had made reservations for the group and gathered for dinner at a place where drinks were served.

“He got wind of it, and he came to our next meeting and told us that we were not to go to a place where they sell alcohol and use the church name,” Carolyn said.

Another, more personable minister surprised them when he became the first to encourage members of the congregation to address him by his first name.

Al and Carolyn much prefer that casual approach.

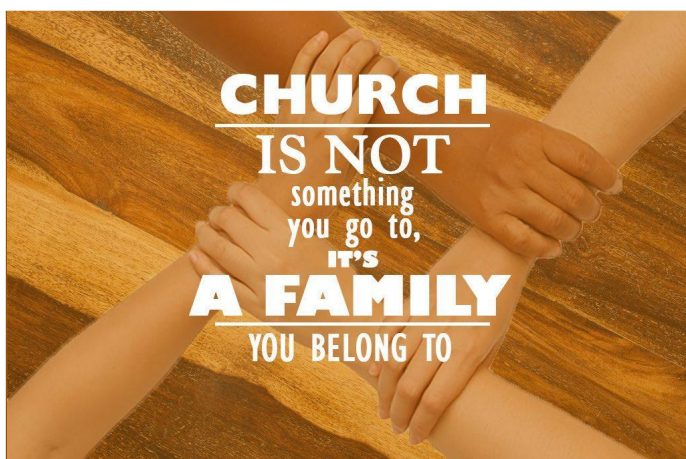
“Formality -- to me, anyway – makes for coolness,” said Carolyn. “When you say a first name, it’s warmer, more friendly. I know I like people to call me Carolyn instead of Mrs. Canova.”

Like others who have been members of Eastern Parkway for many decades, the Canovas remember a time when the congregation was much larger than it is today.

But while the congregation’s size is different, the friendliness is not, they say. And the friendliness is what has always made them want to be a part of this church.

“There was bonding right away,” Carolyn said. “One family greeted us, then another and another. It’s always been this way, even though there are different people here, now.”

“This is home,” said Al.



Church Announcements



August contribution statements were mailed/emailed on 9/7. If you expected to receive a statement and did not, please contact Penelope Brunt at: finsec.epumc@gmail.com.



Thank you to everyone who sent me cards and notes to get well and feel better calls. ~ Rebecca Behrendt



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

Teller team volunteer needed: A head teller is needed to complete our five teller teams. You would volunteer every five months for an entire month to help count the Sunday collection shortly after service ends. The head teller has a couple of additional counting duties. The position isn't complicated, and you will be provided with hands-on training and written instructions. Please note, people living in the same household or related to each other may volunteer, however, you cannot be on the same team. If you are interested, please see Penelope Brunt, Financial Secretary or contact me at finsec.epumc@gmail.com or 518-466-7204.

MINISTRY TEAMS

Liturgists:

September 2021

5 Madison Schmitt

12 Randy Roeser

19 Sue Williams

26 Sean Bowerman

October 2021

3 No Liturgist

10 Desiree Chaires

17 Sean Bowerman

24 Rick Mausert

31 Judy Lott

Young People's Collection

1st Sunday: TOMVO

2nd Sunday: Sock Project

3rd Sunday: SCM

4th Sunday: Stone Soup

5th Sunday: Circle B



The United Methodist Church is already responding to the needs in Louisiana and Mississippi after Hurricane Ida through the U.S.

Disaster Response and Recovery program of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Perhaps some of the hygiene kits that we donated in January will find their way to persons affected by this disaster. If you would like to support UMCOR's efforts financially, you may (a) make a donation [online](#) or (b) write a check payable to EPUMC, note Advance #901670 on the memo line, and bring or mail the check to the church. 100% of your donation will go to UMCOR's response and recovery efforts, with no administrative overhead.

Thank you for your consideration.

~ EPUMC Outreach Team



School Supply Collection

We will be collecting School Supplies for the Schenectady City School District from Aug. 1 until Sept. 30. Supplies can be dropped off at church in the donation bin labeled School Supplies and they will be taken to SCSD buildings during the month of September. Many Thanks to all for this important Community Outreach.



Volunteer Opportunity

On Saturday, October 16th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., there will be a group of EPUMC friends working at the Northeastern Regional Food Bank near Albany Airport. We have been working there as a “top rate” volunteer team for the past six or seven years. We invite you to join us! We are responsible to have 8 volunteers each time so sign up early to get a spot! This is a chance to help sort and/or repack donations to the Food Bank from individuals and businesses. You never know what you will be sorting! Make sure to wear shoes that protect your feet (no sandals). All school age children are invited with an adult. At this time, masks are required.

Please sign up at church or contact Trish if you are able to help out. First come, first served! Please note future dates will be Nov. 13, 2021, Jan. 22, and Mar. 12, 2022. We hope you will consider offering a few hours of your time to help a very worthy organization! Contact Trish Roeser for more information (951-5553 or patriciaroeser2@gmail.com).

Mission arises from the heart of God
Himself and is communicated from His
heart to ours. Mission is the global outreach
of the global people of a global God.

John R.W. Stott

quoteency



Please join the EPUMC Outreach Team's efforts for the upcoming school year!
Share God's Love through your hands and hearts!
Here is the tentative plan. Please jump in and help when you can!
Note: Schedules may change due to the pandemic.

September- School Supply collection for Schenectady City School Students

October 16 from 1-3pm- Volunteer at Regional Food Bank (sign up at church)

November 2- Prepare Election Day treats for voters (pre-bagged, store-bought items due to COVID- i.e., granola bars, cookies, clementines, bananas). We would need donations of these items and volunteers to bag them on the preceding Sunday, October 31.

November 13 from 1-3pm- Volunteer at Regional Food Bank (sign up at church)

December 5- Make and send Christmas Cards for seniors, also purchase Alternative Gift Cards

January 2022- Help EPUMC assemble Hygiene Kits for UMCOR

January 22 from 1-3 pm- Volunteer at Regional Food Bank (sign up at church)

February 6- Make Valentines for our shut-ins and seniors

March 12 from 1-3pm-Volunteer at Regional Food Bank (sign up at church)

April 3- Assemble College Care packages

May 15- Assemble Blessing Bags

One week in July/August - Volunteer with the SiCM Summer Lunch Program

Thanks in advance for your participation and support of these projects!
Questions, please contact Trish Roeser (518) 951-5553



Celebrations!

Birthdays

Mackenzie Chapman	9/1	Paula Griffin	9/22
Richard Reitz	9/2	Justin Chaires	9/22
Edward Miller	9/3	Julien Overton	9/23
Faye Dohring	9/8	Jeff Faulkner	9/24
Eric Miller	9/9	Joy Dohring	9/24
Steve Lott	9/10	Evan Relation	9/27
Emily Hebert	9/10	Jeremy Kerr	9/29
Holly Rexford	9/11	Ruth Bredlau	10/2
Eric Garis	9/14	Carl Veglia	10/2
Sue Penny	9/14	Cathy Woodruff	10/2
Louise Labombard	9/17	Justin Tomisman	10/3
Tris Roeser	9/18		

Happy Anniversary!

Rick and Kathy Mausert 9/11
Ed and Julia Miller 9/20
Bill and Lois Wilson 9/20
Paul and Connie Trigger 9/23
Gary and Jan Gridley 9/23



Inspiration and Smiles

"I AM ONLY ONE, BUT STILL
I AM ONE. I CANNOT DO
EVERYTHING, BUT STILL
I CAN DO SOMETHING;
AND BECAUSE I CANNOT
DO EVERYTHING I WILL
NOT REFUSE TO DO THE
SOMETHING THAT I CAN DO."

Helen Keller

Aleteia

– do you see the man
running into the woods
or do you see a dog 🤪



The Circuit Writer

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JOIN US FOR
WORSHIP
Sundays at 10am

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