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EPUMC Newsletter and Notes 2012-12-01

1 message

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Fri, Dec 1, 2017 at 5:32 PM

Newsletter and Notes December 1 2017

This Sunday

Communion
Gospel of Mark

Collection

TOMVO

Scripture

- Psalm 19
- John 1:11-14

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Saturday

Hame Gathering (Roesers') 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6

- Midweek Renewal Service 7:15-7:35
- Circle B 09:30
- Wednesday Night Dinner, 6:00 p.m.
- Choir, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 7

Finance, 7:00 p.m.

Currently Happening

Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is up! Please bring mittens, hats, caps, and scarves to decorate the mitten tree for Bethesda House and Things of My Very Own. Thanks!

Young People's Time

We continue to ask for volunteers of our Time with Young People. Thanks to all those who have participated on Sunday morning.

"Meeting with Pastor": Hosts Needed

EPUMC is looking for people to host an in home "Meeting with Pastor" during the coming weeks. At this meetings, representative age groups and constituencies of are church in terms of age and interests, will gather to get to know Mark in a more intimate setting and to talk about the various needs of our church community. If you are willing to host such a community, please contact Brenda Morrow or the church office, or volunteer on the sign up sheet in our sign up location.

Hosts Wanted for Home/Focus Meetings

We are bringing back the EPUMC practice of Home Meetings or Focus Small Group Meetings. This is an initiative of the SPPRC Team. The idea is to havegroups form based on needs and interest. For example, a group may form based on retirees, parents of college students, knitters, parents of teens, runners, parents of pre-school age children and the list goes on. The group would be open to all who would like to be a part of the group and share experiences and learn and grow together.

Since we are in the beginning planning stages of this we do need volunteers to host and begin to form groups. Groups could meet in individual homes, restaurants, church, parks etc. The idea would be to meet the needs of the group, form a small welcoming group and get to know each other better.

If you are willing to be a host for one of these meetings please let Pastor Ledbetter know and we can begin this learning process together. There is a sign-up sheet at the entrance of the education wing for interested participants and hosts.

Coming Soon

Focus Group Home Gathering

The SPPRC is happy to announce the first of upcoming Focus and Home Gathering groups.

- When: December 2, 7:00 p.m.
- Where: Roeser's, [834 Parkside Ave Schenectady NY](#)
- Focus: "People Who Love the Outdoors"

Light refreshments will be served. Additional parking can be found at the church with a short walk to 834 Parkside. Please sign-up on the sheet outside the education wing if you plan to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know Pastor Ledbetter and some of your EPUMC family that have similar interests to your own. All are welcome!

Alternative Christmas Gift Cards

Do you have a friend or relative who already has everything they could possibly want or need? How about honoring them instead with a simple Christmas/Peace Card which supports a nonprofit program?

From Sunday, December 3 until Sunday, December 17, we will be offering alternative gift cards before and after worship. This year, you can once again select which of our three mission groups to support: Bethesda House, Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM), or Things of my Very Own.

Cards will be sold with a minimum \$2.00 donation each.

Gospel of Mark

We will continue our study of the Gospel of Mark this Sunday in the Hearth Room following refreshment time. Homework is to read the first three chapters.

Help Revive the Nursery

There are some very new members of the EPUMC congregation! We are working to reorganize our Nursery space to recreate a safe and fun place for parents to leave their children during worship. While we have a regular Nursery Care person, Jenna, we need one other person each Sunday to volunteer with her. Of course, one person is not always able to care for multiple babies, and our Safe-Sanctuaries policy requires more than one person to supervise any group of children. There will be a sign-up sheet in the hallway. Thank you, in advance, for helping!

SICM Assembly

SICM Assembly will be Tuesday, December 5, starting at 6 pm with a potluck dinner, who brings what is on the invite, we welcome some musicians, service awards, fellowship. The location is Mt. Olivet Church/SICM, [1055 Wendell Avenue, Schenectady 12308](#).

All are welcome—delegates, spouses, friends, fellow congregational members, all!

Looking Ahead

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Christmas Eve Services

We will have a morning Christmas Eve Service at our usual worship time. We will also have an evening Christmas Eve service at 7:00 PM.

Christmas Poinsettias

Please order Christmas using the attached order form. Flowers are \$11 and orders are due in the office by Monday, December 11.

Volunteer Opportunity: Regional Food Bank

On Saturday, January 27 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 five or six years.

We invite you to join us and to invite your friends!

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.

Please sign up at church or contact Trish if you are able to help out. First come, first served!

Contact Trish Roeser for more information (951-5553 or patriciaroeser2@gmail.com).

Please note that the January 27 date is a revision from an earlier January 20 date

Articles

A Giving of Thanks, A Living of Thanks

Thanksgiving is a lived experience that wells within and flows without. I saw the spirit of Thanksgiving at this past

Sundayâ€™s Harvest Dinner in the Fellowship Hall of Eastern Parkway United Methodist Church. Families, friends, and visitors were happy to be with one another as we broke bread together and shared personal stories around the dinner table. Laughter filled the room. All Godâ€™s children had a second, perhaps a third, piece of pie and participated, for a fleeting moment, in Godâ€™s good kingdom. We filled up for on what it means to have reasons to give thanks. Yet for all the joy palpably apparent during our time together, I knew that by the time you got home, there would be a little hunger left. And this thought made me thankful for who you are as followers of the teachings of Jesus. This week, not everyone in our community, locally and globally, has reason to give thanks. There are people who hurt from hunger, physical and sexual abuse; there are people who are lonely and depressed, and the faith community of Eastern Parkway knows this. The people I have grown to love during our brief time together, knew to take a moment to thank God and one another for the many blessing that have come our way, and so many blessings have come our way. Sunday was a day for â€œa giving of thanksâ€ that had welled within. But you had only begun your thanksgiving.

Each of you left our fellowship hall, hungry now for â€œa living of thanksâ€ that flows without. I could see the resolve in the twinkling eyes and smiling faces as we hugged, clasped hands, and said goodbye. God wasnâ€™t finished with you yet. You needed to help somebody, by act and/or prayer, not because you wanted to hear the words, â€œThank you,â€ but because in the lived experience of Thanksgiving, helping another in need, another fleeting moment of Godâ€™s good kingdom, is â€œthanksâ€ enough.

This Thanksgiving, I am so thankful for each of you.

mark

Church Council Report

The Church Council met on November 21, 2017, with 11 members in attendance. The Council took the following actions:

- Appointed Desiree Chaires and Sue Williams as Co-Lay Leaders through June 2020. Thanks to both for stepping up to fill this important role in representing our church family.
- Approved a motion to establish a church policy regarding the use of photos on the church web site, Facebook page, and publications. It is common for folks in our church community to take photos at church events and post them on the church Facebook page or submit them for posting on the church web site. Under the approved policy, photos that contain only adults may be used without the permission of those adults. However, if a photo contains the identifiable (i.e, facial) image of a person under 18, the photo can only be used with the written permission of the parent or guardian. A form will be available in the near future for parents and guardians to indicate whether they wish to grant permission to have their childâ€™s image appear in church media.
- Approved a motion to remove the FAX machine in the church office and discontinue the second phone line that has been dedicated to the FAX.
- Endorsed a proposal from the Finance Committee to explore the reestablishment of a Stewardship Team. In recent years, Finance has assumed responsibility for running the annual pledge campaign, a duty that was previously handled by a Stewardship Team. Pastor Mark noted that the role of a Stewardship Team should be broader, encompassing the examination of how well the church is making use of its resources. If you are interested in being part of the team, please talk to Mark.
- Approved a motion to reestablish a church prayer chain.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council will take place on December 19, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. It is anticipated that the main topic of discussion will be the 2018 current expense budget. Council meetings are open to all.

Randy Roeser

Bethesda House Services

Bethesda House offers a number of services for their guests and some of them may be a surprise to you. The services were developed around the needs of our homeless population in Schenectady and have evolved and

expanded over 25 years. Guests can just come in to get in a more comfortable environment and feel safe and enjoy a cup of coffee. Many come for a specific purpose like taking a shower or to do their laundry, to get their mail, make a phone call, send a fax, get clothing including clean socks, have a meal including our stone soup sandwiches. They may come to use a computer in their job search, read the paper in their search for an apartment, receive messages, receive hygiene products, or store their belongings in a secure locker. There are two food pantries at Bethesda, one on site at the State St. building open on Tuesdays and an offsite pantry located at Yates Village open on Thursday mornings specifically for the residents of the 12308 zip code.

There is a Women’s support group that has been meeting weekly continuously since 1999. A Men’s support group is now meeting weekly as well. Several health services are available as well, regular blood pressure screening, HIV counseling and testing and the Dept. of Health provides free flu shots and PPD testing. Please note that all of these services that have been highlighted are free to the guests.

There are a number of professional services offered by the case management staff and I share more on these in the next newsletter. If anyone has any questions about Bethesda you can ask me, or our own Rick Mausert who is currently the President of the Board of Trustees.

Sue Williams

Co-Lay Leaders

Sue Williams and I (Desiree Chaires) are blessed to have been appointed Co-Lay Leaders of our congregation for the next three (3) years. The lay leaders represent the congregation. We work with the pastor to fulfill the mission and vision of the congregation.

Every person who walks through our church doors is important to us, and we’re here to help in any way we can. By growing in relationship with God through our congregation, we hope to cultivate and grow an abundance of meaningful and positive works.

Please feel free to contact us with any concerns, celebrations or just to talk.

Sue Williams-Email: swill699@gmail.com Telephone: 518 860-9287

Desiree Chaires-Email: chairesr@aol.com Telephone: 518 377-6571

December Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1. TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) OA 6-8 (CB)	2. ATC 11-1 (FH) Thursday Musical Club 1:45 (S) Home Gathering 7:00 (Roesers') Hanging of the Greens, TDB
3. <i>Communion</i> TOMVO <i>Education Forum 11:15</i> KS 4-6:30 (HR)	4. TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) AA 8:00 (HR)	5. TTA 2-6 (FH, CB)	6. Midweek Renewal Service 7:15-7:35 CB 09:30 (CB) TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) WND 6 (FH) Choir 7 (S)	7. TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) Finance 7 p.m.	8. TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) OA 6-8 (CB)	9. ADAH 12-3 (FH)
10. <i>Sock Project</i> <i>Education Forum 11:15</i> KS 4-6:30 (HR)	11. TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) AA 8:00 (HR)	12. TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) SPPRC 7 p.m. (CR)	13. Midweek Renewal Service 7:15-7:35 TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) WND 6 (FH) Choir 7 (S)	14. FP 11:30-1 (CB) TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) Trustees 7	15. TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) OA 6-8 (CB)	16. ATC 11-2 (FH)
17.	18.	19.	20.			

<p><i>SICM Collection</i> <i>Education Forum 11:15</i> Caroling 3:00 (Kingsway Village) KS 4-6:30 (HR)</p>	<p>Newsletter Deadline TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) AA 8:00 (HR)</p>	<p>TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) Church Council 7:00</p>	<p>Midweek Renewal Service 7:15-7:35 TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) WND 6 (FH) Choir 7 (S)</p>	<p>21. TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) KS 6-8:30 (HR)</p>	<p>22. TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) OA 6-8 (CB)</p>	<p>23. Tuscan Lodge 7-9 (FH)</p>
<p>24. <i>Stone Soup Sandwiches: Hot Dogs and Rolls</i> KS 3:30-6:30 (HR) Christmas Eve Service 7</p>	<p>25. Christmas TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) AA 8:00 (HR)</p>	<p>26. TTA 2-6 (FH, CB)</p>	<p>27. Midweek Renewal Service 7:15-7:35 TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) WND 6 (FH) Choir 7 (S)</p>	<p>28. TTA 2-6 (FH, CB)</p>	<p>29. TTA 2-6 (FH, CB) OA 6-7 (CB)</p>	<p>30.</p>
<p>31. <i>Circle B Collection</i> <i>Mission Forum 11:15</i> KS 4-6:30 (HR)</p>						

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|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CB: Circle B Room | HR: Hearth Room | AA: Alcoholics Anonymous | ATC: Al Tabari Court | KS: Kingfisher Sangha | TTA: T-Time Adventures |
| CR: Conference Room | N: Narthex | ABS: Aerobics | BF: Berkshire Farm | MT: Music Together | WND: Wednesday Night Dinner |
| FH: Fellowship Hall | S: Sanctuary | ADAH: Eastern Star | FP: Farm Produce (Pam Schreiber) | OA: Overeaters Anonymous | |