

August 2017



The Circuit Writer

Newsletter of Eastern Parkway United Methodist Church

"We are a faith community striving to be, to nurture, and to send forth disciples of Jesus Christ."

Mark's Musings

These first three weeks at Eastern Parkway United Methodist Church have been quite the whirlwind. Many names still elude me. I've bungled a moment or two, maybe three, during worship service, and I've been lost several times making my way about Schenectady. But one thing has remained constant. The love this community has for the church, for one another, and for doing the work of Christian discipleship. I am humbled to be a part of your community. My contribution to the monthly newsletter will be a bit more reflective in the months ahead. For the August newsletter I wish to be a little more informational about how we can work together to continue the strong faith community that you have built. Some of this information may be repetitive, so please bear with me if that's the case.

My cell phone number is 478 960 0140, and my home number is 518 439 1829. Please call me anytime you need me or if you know of someone in our community who needs me. I can also be reached at mark.epumc@gmail.com. This is a personal email address that provides a confidential space for us to have exchanges about church life and personal issues. I will return your call and/or your email.

My day off is Friday. This allows us to add Monday as a meeting time in the evening. Our committee work is important to the mission and vision of our church. I've already seen the hard work of committee members who work with joy and efficiency to see that the life of our church community, both within its walls and out-

side its walls, is productive and beneficial for all of God's children. But, do not hesitate to contact me on Friday when you need me. I am your pastor 24/7. Our love for one another has no "time" boundaries.

At the moment, I have no set office hours. Please call or write, and we will make a time to gather in my study, a coffee shop, or in your home. If we find in the days ahead that particular office hours will benefit our community, I will happily make a time each week that you can find me in the office. Also, please let me know if people go into the hospital and/or have an emergency and need their pastor to be there.

I'm thrilled to have Richard on staff as the church's administrative assistance. He has been wonderfully helpful as I transition into my new role as your pastor. Don't hesitate to contact him with information that you need to have passed on to me!

I look forward to our ministry together, and I look forward to your suggestions for what I can do to help EPUM continue on its path of Christian discipleship. Each of you is a gift to our community, to God's greater community. See you Sunday!

Love and Peace,

mark

"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."

Greetings from Your Church Council

July is a time of change within the United Methodist Church; pastors retire, pastors accept new charges, committees within the church select new leadership and accept new members. We are experiencing all of that at EPUMC with Mark Ledbetter joining our community as our pastor as we sent Alan off with a bang to enjoy a joyful retirement after many years of faithful service.

Our Church Council is responsible for strategic planning, leadership development and oversight of our committees and teams. The Council deliberates and votes on critical issues brought to us from our various teams and determines if a particular issue should be brought to a Church Conference for deliberation and decision. The Council is made up of the leaders of all of our teams:

Lay Leader –

Member to Annual Conference – Bob Bour

Financial Secretary – Diana Carter

Church Treasurer – Jan Kountz

President Trustees – election will take place at their 8/3/17 meeting

Chair SPPRC – Brenda Morrow

Chair Finance Committee – Julia Miller Chair

Communications Team – Cathy Woodruff

Education Team Leader – Barb Lewis

Youth Leader –

Member at large – Robin Gill

Visitation Team Chair - Judy Lott

Ex Officio Member – Pastor Mark Ledbetter

Chair CC – Sue Williams

As you can see we have a few openings in our leadership. I think we are at an exciting point in the life of our church family. We have new opportunities for growth with our potential new tenant in TSL children's after school program joining us. There is no question that we all lead busy lives. I am putting out this invitation for each of us to search our hearts and listen to where God is calling us to service within our church and to the broader community. **Council meetings are open to all.** Join us in helping to set the direction for our church. **Next meeting Tuesday, 8/15 at 7 pm.**

God Bless,

Sue

Our June 2017 Gifts

- Total gifts received (not including dedicated funds): \$13,896.58
 - Sock Project: Bethesda House: \$113.88
 - SICM Food Pantry: \$105.65
 - Mile of Pennies: \$16.50
 - Peace with Justice: \$180.00
 - Bethesda House Mission: \$10.00
 - SICM Mission: \$10.00
 - Things of My Very Own: \$35.00
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For August

Liturgists:

06: Tymesia Nabors

13: Cheryl Gerstler

20: Chuck Schmitt

27: Diana Carter

Usher Team:

Brenda Morrow and Gary Hebert

Teller Team:

Bill Gerstler and Sam Thompson

Chancel Committee:

Marilyn Esmann and Carolyn Canova

OUR PRESENCE

--07-02 40

--07-09 49

--07-16 51

--07-23 69

--07-30 55

August 2017

Eastern Parkway United Methodist Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1. BF 10-1 CB	2. Circle B 9:30 BF 10-1 CB	3. FP 11:30-1	4. OA 6-7 pm (CB)	5. ATC 11-1 (FH)
6. <i>Communion</i> <i>TOMVO Collec- tion</i> KS 4-6:30 pm (HR) FH 12-6	7. AA 8 p.m. (HR)	8. SPPRC 7 pm	9.	10. BF CR 10-11 FP 11:30-1 Finance 7 pm	11. OA 6-7 pm (CB)	12.
13. <i>Sock Project</i> ATC 2-4 KS 4-6:30 pm (HR)	14. AA 8 pm (HR)	15. Church Council 7 pm (CB)	16. BF 10-1 CB	17. FP 11:30-1 KS 6-8:30 (HR)	18. OA 6-7 pm (CB)	19. ATC Car Wash 10 -1 ATC Chicken Din- ner 12-6 (FH)
20. <i>SICM</i> KS 4-6:30 pm (HR)	21. AA 8 pm (HR)	22.	23.	24. FP 11:30-1	25. OA 6-8 pm (CB)	26.
27. <i>Stone Soup Sandwiches</i> KS 3:30-6:30 pm HR	28. Newsletter Dead- line AA 8 pm (HR)	29.	30.	31. FP 11:30-1		
CB =Circle B Room CR =Conference Room EW =Education Wing FH =Fellowship Hall HR =Hearth Room N =Narthex S =Sanctuary SHYR =Senior High Youth Room		ABS =Aerobics ADAH =Eastern Star AA =Al-Anon ATC =Al Tabari Court Girls' Youth Club BF =Berkshire Farm CS =Choral Society FP =Farm Produce pick up KS =Kingfisher Sangha MT =Music Together OA =Overeaters Anon. SHYG =Senior High Youth Gr. WND =Wednesday Night Dinner PANS =Park Avenue Nursery School: renting space in the Education Wing Tuesday-Thursday from Sept. -June; classes: 8:30-noon.				