



Karen's Chronicles: Nurture, Outreach, and Witness

Our Church gives us a framework for ministry and mission: Nurture, Outreach, and Witness. When we follow this flow, we prioritize Christ's call to love like he loves, to make the world better, and to share the Good News of God's saving love for all people.

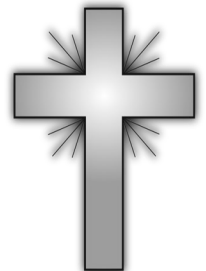
What is it like for you to be nurtured? Because of our various personalities and life experiences, we may have different responses. At its core, to nurture is to love like our Savior Jesus loves. Jesus shows us nurture includes giving people care, support, encouragement, nourishment — for their souls, hearts, minds, and bodies.

How are you reaching out through the Body of Christ to create God's beautiful dream in our world? We all have different passions, pastimes, interests, and causes that matter to us. Where do these intersect among us as a faith family? What needs in our community is the Holy Spirit calling us to focus on next?

How do you witness to the saving love of Jesus, by what you say as well as what you do? If you are a follower of the Lord Jesus, then you have a story about how he has changed your life. If you have never witnessed to people about your relationship with the Living Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit will help you get started — just by listening! You can learn to listen deeply to people: what they say and how they say it; where they are hurting and afraid; what gives their lives meaning and purpose; how they yearn for community and fulfillment.

I trust the Lord Jesus has ahead of us many opportunities for nurturing each other, starting with listening well as we share our stories.

With appreciation,
Pastor Karen



"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." ~ Jesus, John 13:34-35

Here are the servants church members voted to lead our local church for this calendar year. The full list of people serving in all missions and ministries, posted around our church home, is much longer. We appreciate all of you faithful servants, Epworth UMC.

2022 Epworth UMC Church Council

Church Council Chair	Gary Freebury
Recording Secretary	Karen Highbarger
Staff Parish Relations Chair	Sharon Young
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Deb Sapp
Trustees Chair	Jerry Scott
Finance Chair	Lew Savik
Treasurer	Carol Fontaine
Financial Secretary (Interim)	Pam Evert
Information/Tech Comm. Co-Chair	Cynthia Thorsen
Missions Chair	LaVerne Scott
Membership Sec., Lay Visitation Chair	Janet Ulrich
Education Co-Chair	Carmen Field
Education Co-Chair	Willi Leatzow
Family Activities Chair (Interim)	Hillery Eastman
Youth Leader	Hillery Eastman
Day Care Board Chair (Interim)	Nila Lauder
At Large Member	Jerry Chipman
UMW President	Robin Krogstad



Church Council meetings are open to all people. When church activities are in-person, we meet in the Cameron Room and by Zoom. If you want to Zoom in, email your request to office@kalispellumc.org.

Church Council meets the third Monday of the month at 7:00 pm, although we often skip a month or two in the summer and usually do not meet in December. When all ministries and missions are functioning well, Church Council only needs to meet once a quarter.

“The church council shall provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church.”

¶ 252.1 *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*



February is Black History Month in the USA

In the United Methodist Church it is a time to celebrate the historical contributions of African Americans to the worship life, mission and ministry of the church.

Charles Albert Tindley was born in Maryland in 1851 to a father who was a slave and a free mother. He received no formal schooling and at 17 years of age he taught himself to read. He worked as a sexton at Bainbridge Street Meth-

odist Church in Philadelphia while preparing for the ministry and later became it's pastor. He was known for his powerful preaching. During his pastorate membership grew from 130 to 10,000. In 1927 the church name was changed to Tindley Temple in his honor.

Tindley was one of the founding fathers of Gospel music and he wrote the words and music to dozens

of gospel hymns. Five of the hymns he wrote are in our United Methodist Hymnal.

Tindley was also a community leader, advocating for women's suffrage, improvement of African American women's lives and opening a soup kitchen during the depression.

- Janet Juneau, Mission Team
(Information from UMC Gen. Board of Global Ministries)

Church Council Invites You to Host Fellowship Time

We have certainly missed having a time of fellowship following Sunday's service. Getting together at least once a month is a goal as we begin 2022.

Missions Committee hosted a "Thank you" time on January 3 to highlight the Feeding the Flathead mission. On January 16, Missions hosted coffee and goodies to offer Epworth time with speakers sharing information about Human Trafficking in the valley.

February Sundays are open for individual, families, Men's Group, Circles or committees to host Fellowship Time. Our kitchen pantry has ample supplies: crackers, coffee, sugar, creamer, instant decaf, and paper goods.

We used 12-cup coffee pots for recent Fellowship Time but we hope we will need our 30-cup coffee urn as attendance grows. Bob Sapp will help you use the 30-cup urn.

Let the church office know the date you would like to host.

"We are created for community, fashioned for fellowship, and formed for a family, and none of us can fulfill God's purposes by ourselves." Rick Warren USA 21st C.

**We Are United Methodists:
An Interactive Exploration of
the Heritage of the UMC**

**April 22-23, 2022 at
Lakeside Community Chapel**

Explore with people of our Flathead Five UMC's. Skits, puzzles, and more help us remember who we are and pray for who we may become after the next General Conference.

**April 22 Fri. 6:00—9:00 pm
April 23 Sat. 8:00 am—3:00 pm**

**Led by Gene Haning
UMC Certified Lay Minister**

from Colorado

719-588-7627

gene@trinityism.org

From the Education Committee: Thank you, Epworth Family!

Happy New Year!

When we look back on the end of 2021, our hearts again warm as we recall all of the special activities our Epworth family was able to share together during the Advent season. Whether it was remote or in person, how meaningful were these together times; decorating the church and "The Hanging of the Greens," the yearly Christmas Program, Holiday dinner and Auction, Christmas Eve service, and so many more.

The Education Committee thanks all who assisted with and participated in these wonderful, love-filled times. This includes the Sharing tree, through which 6 families, including 14 children received gifts and food boxes.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our Epworth family, a local elementary school also received enough food to provide Christmas dinner and other food boxes to 30 other families! WHAT a BLESSING!!

As mentioned before, plans are continuing for future activities in the coming months. These will include Valentines' Day, Palm Sunday, Easter, Mother's and Father's Day, and Vacation Bible School (VBS). Names and contact information is also being gathered for Bible presentations, High School graduation, and Epworth students who are currently in College.

As always, we THANK our Epworth family for all of their support for the children and youth!

— Education Committee Co-Chairs,
Willi Leatzow and Carmen Field



As Valentine's Day approaches, it has been tradition for youth group to send valentines to Epworth college students. Please email Hillery at eastman@centurytel.net with the names and addresses of Epworth college students you would like us to send valentines and coffee cards to. Thank you!

We Are a Safe Gatherings Congregation: Protecting Children & Youth

Safe Sanctuaries is the overall ministry of creating safe space for minors. A growing area for Epworth is creating similar safe space for vulnerable adults. Within this ministry, Epworth UMC works with an organization called Safe Gatherings. Our local church Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator is Sharon Holder

From Safe Gatherings, safegatherings.com: Safe Gatherings is a comprehensive system that incorporates an online application, online abuse prevention training, several levels of background checks, and paperless reference checks for people who volunteer or are

employed with churches, schools, and organizations that serve or work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”

~ Jesus, Matthew 19:14



From Pastor Karen: Every year the pastor reports to the Yearly Church Conference. Here is part of the report I shared at our last Yearly Church Conference, November 14, 2021.

Some people of Epworth UMC are responding to invitations for:

- discovering who they are as a faith family;
- grounding in Christian discipleship;
- practicing Christ-like communicating, relating, and coordinating;
- understanding authority, accountability, responsibility, and role boundaries;
- joining with other UMCs in the Flathead Valley for sharing the love of Jesus.

A growing area for Epworth is creating an atmosphere of trust for holy conversation, so people can explore their diverse faith perspectives, personal worldviews, and life journeys. Each person who practices guidelines for Christian conversation and the Rule of Christ (Matt. 18:15-20) brings Epworth closer to becoming a strong, healthy church.

In 2021, thirteen people participated in small groups for discipling. They became well-grounded in the Wesleyan way of the Gospel and started sharing a vision of what it means to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” These small groups offer relationship building, spiritual formation, and leadership development.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee leads the church in addressing conflict, respecting boundaries, honoring authority, and requiring accountability. In 2021, they led us to become a Safe Gatherings church, with background checks and training for all persons serving with minors and for all staff.

A growing area is Church Council’s role in creating a nurturing/shepherding ministry, to help all people who claim Epworth as their faith family relate with each other. A challenge for congregation-wide nurturing remains: discovering who is “in the fold” of Epworth UMC and how to meet the different, often contradictory, preferences for relating.

Most Epworth folks do not participate: in-person, whether for worship or other events; online with our You Tube channel; or through videoconferencing. Most people prefer in-person relating and speaking on the phone, not texting, emailing, or videoconferencing. This makes it hard to discover who Epworth is as a faith family, to create shared experiences as the Body, and to grow as a caring community for all.

For 2022, I am asking Church Council as a whole to shift their focus from physical structures to Epworth’s main need, nurturing the Body of Christ.

I am grateful to be serving the Lord Jesus with the faithful people of Epworth UMC. I trust God’s beautiful dream for this faith family and the wider community.

Rev. Karen S. McRae

November 8, 2021

From our Worship Committee
& Finance Committee:

**Thank you, Epworth UMC, for
generously giving of yourselves.**

For 2021, our average Sunday worship
attendance was:

In-person - 53. Online - 30.

By the end of the year, our giving was
only \$96.00 less than our expenses.
In another year of pandemic uncertainty,
your faithfulness blessed our church
family and community.

**The Lord continues to provide for us,
through us, and for people beyond us.**

Thanks be to the Lord!

Mission U: Four Sundays in February from 2:00 - 4:30 pm.

Enjoy this study from your own home, by Zoom, for free!

Rev. Waveland King will lead the study, based on *Climate Justice: A Call to Hope and Action*. **Register at mtnskyumw.org: Events, Mission U!**



United
Methodist
Women

Notes from United Methodist Women

“Sing unto the Lord a new song!”

As women with a Purpose, we greet the new year with joy and hope. We welcome Robin Krogstad as our incoming president and thank those on the Leadership Team who continue to serve. A recent planning session reaffirmed our vision and we will continue to be in mission to our church and our members.

Everyone is invited to a coffee hour following worship on February 13th. We will enjoy fellowship, snacks, and a display of our outreach efforts. We are planning our general meeting on March 5th as we celebrate our traditional Prayer and Self-Denial program.

Plans are already underway for our May Sunshine Luncheon and our summer Retreat. Circles continue to enjoy gathering, studying and caring for each other. We invite you to participate in any and all of our activities.

As a church we recall this month the life of Martin Luther King. His words speak to all of us: “Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

Let’s begin our new year with a new song of love and keep singing.

— UMW Leadership Team
Jean Davis, Past President

From Smith Memorial Day Care Center

Happy New Year!

We are starting a new year full of hope — for a healthy year!

We have had several families out every week due to Covid. We had the south door awning reinforced so we could use it, and we are thrilled not to be using the elevator anymore.

The Children’s Christmas Sing-a-Long Dec. 20 went really well. We are grateful for Pastor Karen and Dawn Hashley for all they did to make it happen. Having a two-year-old singing “Silent Night” was very precious!



We were able to give Epworth UMC \$20,000.00 at the end of 2021. It was a leap of faith, and after that we qualified for a grant, which will help us out this year.

Thank you to the anonymous donor for your generous gift — again. We use these gifts to help our families. God bless you!

We have always been blessed by God’s care and by yours, Epworth UMC.

— Tammy Braseth, Director,
Smith Memorial Day Care Center

Smith Memorial Day Care Center Board: Nila Lauder - Interim Chair, Carrol Bigler, Debby Deide, Patty Hagestad, Liz Hammer, Boni Stout, Diane Stout, Nancy Woodruff

Five Flathead Valley United Methodist Churches Meet Monthly

Epworth UMC hosted the last monthly meeting of our "Flathead Five" January 10, 2022. United Methodist lay people and pastors from Bigfork, Columbia Falls, Kalispell, Lakeside, and Whitefish meet monthly for support.

We focused on the work of Parker Palmer through "The Center for Courage and Renewal." We watched a video (The Primacy of the Soul), read Palmer's Touchstones for Circles of Trust, discussed Open and Honest Questions, and talked about how the process could be incorporated into our future work.

We agreed the process could help us reflect on challenges our churches are facing.

We discussed the idea of "Nurture - Outreach - Witness" as a way to think about how our

churches are functioning/growing/thriving.

We also describe this as a way to reflect our work and goals as a circuit group:

Nurture/Support: provide support to one another as UMCs in the Valley.

Outreach/Mission: share projects/resources (for example, send a joint mission team to Browning to do some repairs on their church).

Witness/Branding: explore themes to help express/share/market who we are as UMCs in the Valley.

We agreed to continue meeting the first Monday of each month from 10 am - 12 pm.

**Next Meeting: Monday Feb. 7 10 am - 12 pm
at Columbia Falls UMC.**

"Our views of reality may differ, but speaking one's truth in a Circle of Trust does not mean interpreting, correcting or debating what others say. Speak from your center to the center of the circle, using 'I' statements, trusting people to do their own sifting and winnowing." Parker Palmer USA 21st C.

FLATHEAD LAKE UNITED METHODIST CAMP JOB OPENINGS:

Full time Manager & Assistant Manager.

Manager can be lay person or clergy.

Manager home on site.

Contact: Trustee Chair Rev. Su DeBree:

su.debree70@gmail.com 406-422-3302

for job descriptions, information, applications.

Applications due by Feb. 1.

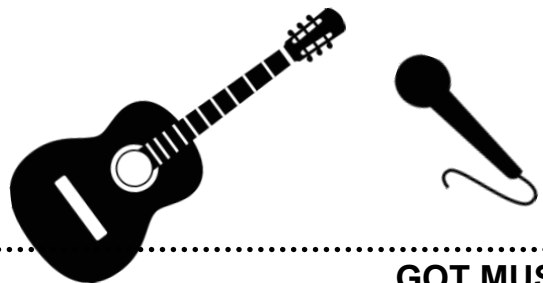
Position begins April 1.

Lead Cook & Assistant Cooks

Contact: medowlark@msn.com

406-396-7618 for information applications.

\$15—\$18/hr plus room and board



GOT MUSIC?

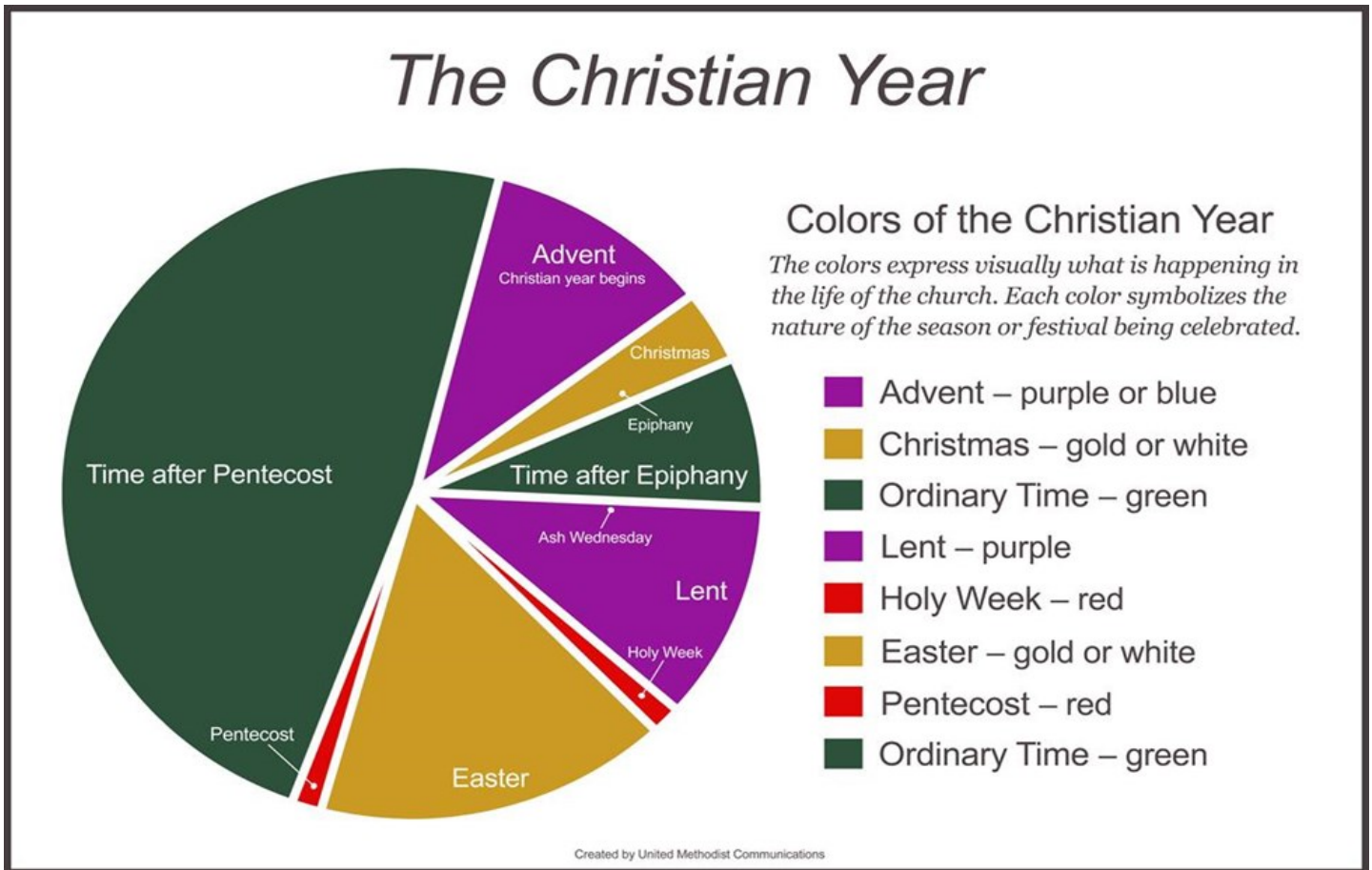
If you like to sing or play an instrument and are interested in sharing your musical gift with our church family, please contact our Music Director musicdirector@kalispellumc.org or the office office@kalispellumc.org. Your family guests and visitors are also welcome to share their music.



Make a Reservation

You are invited to reserve a Sunday to be an Epworth Greeter. What an opportunity to welcome each person, introduce yourself, and show God's love to all. Contact Worship Committee Chair Deb Sapp 756-7937 or robert285@centurytel.net

UMC Liturgical Colors / Parament Colors (from umc.org & UM Comm., used with permission)
"The Christian year has two cycles: the Christmas Cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and the Easter Cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost). Within each cycle are a preparatory season symbolized by the color purple and a festival season symbolized by the color white. After each cycle there is an ordinary time of growth symbolized the color green. Thus there is a sequence of seasons using purple, white, and green in that order twice each year." *United Methodist Book of Worship*



Purple, representing both royalty and penitence, is traditionally used during Advent and Lent.

Blue symbolizes hope and may also be used during Advent.

White and gold are used at Christmas and Easter to symbolize joy and festivities.

Red symbolizes the color of fire to represent the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. During Holy Week red represents the blood of Christ. Red is also used for ordinations, church anniversaries and civil observances.

Green represents growth and is used during Ordinary Time, seasons after Epiphany and after Pentecost.

Church Council Minutes — January 17, 2022

Gary Freebury opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes of the November meeting were approved as printed.

Pastor Karen presented the suggested flow for ministry from The Discipline: Nurturing Committees, Outreach Committees, Witness Committees. She stated the average worship attendance has been 53 in person and 30 on-line.

Reports:

Trustees: Jerry Scott was reelected Chairman. Sandon Construction will submit a bid for completion of the front steps. The rest of the sidewalk on the southside may not be finished until it is warmer. Imagine If Library has used VandeMark Hall Tuesday morning and will also use it one Thursday afternoon a month for older children. The group head Imagine If staff person has a key.

Finance: Lew Savik reported income in December was \$18,551 with expenses of \$12,773, with a positive balance of \$5,761. January to December 2021 income was \$197,070 and expenses of \$197,166 with a negative balance of \$96.00. The 2021 budget was \$223,416. The preliminary budget for 2022 is \$220,144. The budget will be finalized at the February council meeting.

Missions Committee: LaVerne Scott reported that the responsibility for the 22 planned projects have been divided up among the seven members. The first Feeding the Flathead meal is coming up.

Membership Secretary/Lay Visitation: Janet Ulrich reported that 35-40 Christmas gift bags with pre-wrapped goodies were given to shut-ins.

Worship Committee: Deb Sapp stated Sunday greeters are needed. February 6 communion will be pre-packaged elements given as the congregation leaves. Services are being planned for Wednesdays in Lent, which begins March 2. Appreciation was expressed for those who helped take down Christmas decorations.

Staff Parish Relations Committee: Sharon Young reported they have received applications for a new church secretary and hope to have that vacancy filled by February 1.

Education Committee: Carmen Field reported that six families with 14 children benefitted from the Giving Tree. Eight food boxes were given. There was enough money for a local school to give \$100 each to 26 families for food. VBS will be in June.

Information/Tech Committee: Cynthia Thorsen stated the web site is doing well. Five have been trained to run the AV booth.

Financial Secretary (Interim): Pam Evert would like to make offering plates more visible and still keep everyone safe. It was decided to put offering envelopes back in the pews.

Memorial Committee: Pat Freebury reported that \$2300 was spent on security for the north door. There is a balance of \$8630. Suggestions for using the funds are welcome.

Music Director: Dawn Hashley reported that the choir went caroling at three homes.

UMW: Jean Davis stated the Leadership Team had a planning session in December. Plans were made to go forward as if this would be a normal year, but changes may need to be made.

Family Activities (Interim): Hillery Eastman reported that the holiday dinner for the church was a success. The floor in front of the fireplace in the Clifford Room needs to be completed.

Youth Group: Hillery reported that Friday and Saturday there will be well-mannered frivolity at the Lock-in. A ski trip is planned for February. They would like to do camp clean-up this spring.

Pastor Karen closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Highbarger



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office@kalispellumc.org

Website: kalispellumc.org
You Tube Channel: Epworth UMC Kalispell, MT



*Lent begins
Ash Wednesday
March 2, 2022*

The Visitor
February 2022