



Karen's Chronicles: April 2022

Well into Lent, we are exploring the complexity of a family who struggles to relate. Luke 15:11-32. This is the story Jesus tells when the religious leaders gossip about him. Those in power criticize Jesus because he shares fellowship and food with people others reject. Luke 15:1-3.

Jesus tells a couple stories before this one, about a shepherd finding a sheep who wanders away and a woman finding a coin that was lost. Luke 15:4-10. They lead into this longer story, where it is not an animal or an object that is lost. Instead, it is a person – or two? or three? – maybe the whole family.

Jesus embodies his message that everyone belongs as he creates a space for all people: God's grace is available to all. God leaves it up to each of us to respond as we will. He loves us so much that he preserves our freedom of choice.

The story Jesus tells shows the younger son and the older son exercising their freedom of choice. Near the end of his telling, Jesus raises our curiosity about what the three men in this family will do next. As people are inside rejoicing with the younger son, the father goes out and encourages the older son to join the party. He tells the older son: "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." Luke 15:31-32.

What will the older son do next? What will the younger son do? And the father? We shared our views a few days ago in our Wednesday Lenten Gathering. Each of us is free to choose the next step for this scene, just as we choose the next step in all our relationships.

As Lent becomes Easter this month, we praise God who runs across a field to embrace us with open arms. He forgives us while we are yet sinners: "God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." Romans 5:8.

I see forgiving as a first step for this family. I imagine the older brother rejoicing with his younger brother and father. Then, I expect they have some long conversations ahead – about how they might repair their relationships, restore mutual trust, and move toward reconciliation. I picture them experimenting with new ways of sharing roles and responsibilities. I envision them creating safe space to relate with each other heart-to-heart, becoming the people God dreams they can be. What a resurrection that is!

With appreciation,
Pastor Karen

Stephen Ministries

A Care Receiver's Heartfelt Thanks:

"I thank God every day for leading me to my Stephen Minister. When we began our caring relationship, I was slowly coming out of the numbness I felt after the shattering of my marriage. Her patience, her listening ear and her willingness to serve have completely changed the trajectory of my life."



Wed. April 6 1:00-5:00 pm Montana District Livestream workshops in the Cameron Room. Join other Flathead Valley United Methodists for one of the 45-minute workshops.

- Security & Safety– ret'd law enforcement officer Rick Hunt
- Laity worship training– Rev. Patti Agnew, Montana East Congregational Resource Minister
- Cultural Competency– MSC staff Rev. Betty Nguyen
- Technology needs in post covid age– Russ Dornish

From the Flathead Lay & Clergy Circuit: Epworth UMC will pay for you to participate in **We Are United Methodists: An Interactive Exploration of the Heritage of the UMC.** **Fri. April 22 6-9 pm & Sat. April 23 10am-5pm at Lakeside Community Chapel's Gathering Place.** Led by Gene Honing, UMC Certified Lay Minister from Colorado 719-588-7627 gene@trinityism.org. Contact him with questions. Register: layservantraining.org/MethodistRegistration.html

Finance Committee

	<u>February</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$13,626	\$30,701
Expense	\$14,893	\$38,817
Deficit	(\$1,265)	(8,116)

Our deficit is getting larger There are sufficient funds in the checking account as of March 1st of \$58,848. Most of the deficit is from paying all of the churches taxes and insurance for the year of \$8,116. The finance committee will be holding a meeting on Wednesday March 30 at 12:15 to review our saving accounts including Epworth's Emergency Fund. Hopefully March will show improvement in income. Lew Savik, Finance Chair

Epworth 2022 Budget

			2022 Revised Budget		2021 Actual Expenses
Mountain Sky Conference			23,500.00		23,799.00
Missions			13,500.00		3,194.00
expected donation			-10,000.00		
Admin.			1,000.00		651.00
Worship			1,270.00		72.00
Worship and Technology			2,000.00		0.00
Church School			200.00		0.00
Finance			200.00		0.00
Annual conference			0.00		0.00
Office			5,000.00		4,714.00
SPRC		Pastor	104,508.00		101,244.00
		Paid Staff	25,400.00		22,742.00
		Pulpit Supply	300.00		0.00
Trustees		Improvements	6,400.00		298.00
		Independent Contractor Janitor	13,320.00		0.00
		Maintenance	6,600.00		15,454.00
		Utilities	14,000.00		12,929.00
		Taxes	10,000.00		9,754.00
		Trustees Savings	5,000.00		0.00
Steven Ministries			200.00		200.00
Youth			200.00		0.00
Family Activities			500.00		577.00
Total			\$223,098.00		\$195,628.00

Smith Memorial Daycare Center

We had fun on Saint Patrick's Day with a hunt for a mischievous leprechaun in the church. Maybe you saw the sparkly trail of evidence on the playground, or the overturned chairs and tables from the playful elf. Kids woke up to green on their noses and even gold coins in their shoes.

Spring break was low with numbers. The sunny weather has been fun for everyone and adds to the excitement each day.

Thank you to someone for the anonymous donation from our church family. All of you are always so kind .



Director

Smith Memorial Day Care Center, a mission of Epworth United Methodist Church, is accepting applications for a Director. The Director will manage the daily operations and also teach a class. Must be able to be certified as a director per the MT Dept of DPHHS. Submit application materials to applications@kalispellumc.org.

When applying, please provide the following:

- Cover Letter
- Resume
- Three professional references
- Certification for Day Care Director from Montana DPHHS

College Sophomores and High School Seniors this message is for you!

Epworth United Methodist Church would like to award our active youth with scholarships to help further their education. Please email a letter of application that outlines your involvement at Epworth and your future goals along with a resume that includes your activities and employment to Lynette Johnson at johnson6tl@gmail.com. The application deadline is May 1 and the scholarships will be awarded at a senior brunch on May 15.



Worship Committee

Do we need fellowship to grow our faith?

If you are a Christian, you do need other believers. God expects believers to grow in their faith and to do so by growing together in God's Word. The growth and protection Christians need to experience occurs as believers assemble together as a local church- it won't happen by individuals or families attempting to do it on their own. Christians and Christian families need each other to grow in their Christian faith.

The principle of spiritual companionship is clearly present throughout the Bible. For example, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 says: "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor; for if they fall, the one will lift up his companion."

The Lord neither expects nor wants us to live the Christian life all by ourselves. Regardless of our stage in life, we all need companions so we can pray, fellowship, and pursue Christ together. If we don't yet have a companion, we can ask the Lord to help us find at least one. We can pray for one another and bear each other's burdens. In this way, we help each other rise up and go on even in difficult situations

You are invited to grow your faith by participating in Lenten Christian conversations on these Wednesdays: March 30, April 6, and April 13. Come join in the fellowship of music, scripture, and conversation at 6pm in the Cameron Room.

Eastertide

Worship Committee invites you to celebrate Eastertide by remembering and/or honoring people in your life who set you on your path to be more like Jesus. Forms will be in bulletins/ attached with electronic bulletin information or you can contact the church office no later than Monday, April 10. Donations are welcomed and encouraged to replenish our Flower Fund. Please make checks payable to Epworth UMC and write "flower fund" on the memo line.

In honor of	In memory of	Flowers given from
_____	_____	(Your name)
In honor of	In memory of	_____
_____	_____	
In honor of	In memory of	_____
_____	_____	

Smith Memorial Daycare Center

We had fun on Saint Patrick's Day with a hunt for a mischievous leprechaun in the church. Maybe you saw the sparkly trail of evidence on the playground, or the overturned chairs and tables from the playful elf. Kids woke up to green on their noses and even gold coins in their shoes.

Spring break was low with numbers. The sunny weather has been fun for everyone and adds to the excitement each day.

Thank you to someone for the anonymous donation from our church family. All of you are always so kind .



Daycare Director/Part-Time Teacher

To coordinate, budget and manage the daily successful operations of Smith Memorial Daycare Center of Epworth United Methodist Church. We are looking for an individual with good knowledge of Montana childcare guidelines and state licensing requirements. Must be able to be certified as a director per the MT Dept of DPHHS. Be able to manage a budget, implement programs, supervise and mentor staff. Strong communication skills required. As a part-time teacher, provide the children with the skills they need to succeed in school and in life. Smith Memorial Daycare Board provides support and accountability to further your success.

When applying, please provide the following:

Cover letter

Resume

Three professional references

Email applications to:
applications@kalisPELLUMC.org

College Sophomores and High School Seniors this message is for you!

Epworth United Methodist Church would like to award our active youth with scholarships to help further their education. Please email a letter of application that outlines your involvement at Epworth and your future goals along with a resume that includes your activities and employment to Lynette Johnson at johnson6tl@gmail.com. The application deadline is May 1 and the scholarships will be awarded at a senior brunch on May 15.



UMW Call to Prayer and Self Denial Offering:

It is not too late to contribute to the UMW Call to Prayer offering! You can send a check to Janet Ulrich, drop it off at the church office, mail it to the church, include it in the Sunday offering, or give it to your circle chairperson.



United Methodist Women are looking forward to hosting the traditional Sunshine Luncheon honoring women in our church over the age of 75. We encourage all women who feel comfortable in this group setting to join us in the fellowship hall May 5 at 11:30.



You are my sunshine, my only sunshine
You make me happy when skies are gray!

Family Activities is planning an Easter Egg Hunt with candy, treats and prizes. If you would like to help out, we would love to have donations of:

- Pre-wrapped, loaded plastic eggs with candy inside
- Cash/check made out to Epworth (Family Activities) that can be used for small treats and prizes

We plan to hold separate hunts for youth group kids and third grades/younger. Thanks for always supporting our kids!



Flathead Lake United Methodist Camp Summer 2022

Age level camps:

TWEEN CAMP

Youth entering Grades 4-6

June 26 - 29 \$199

MIDDLER CAMP

Youth entering Grades 7 - 9

June 19 - 24 \$349

SENIOR HIGH

Grades 10 - 2022 Grads

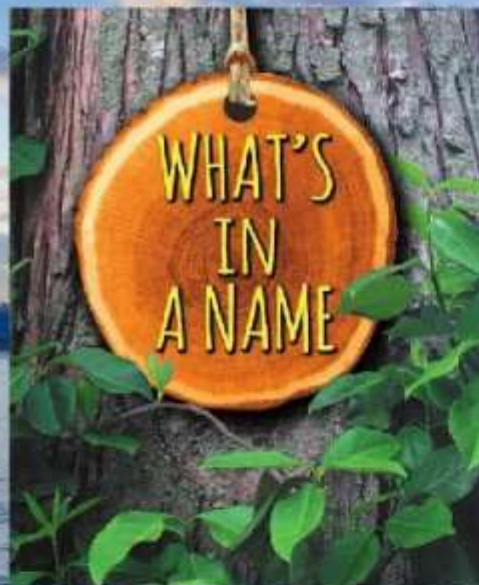
July 24 - 29 \$349

Camper scholarships
are available

Camps for all ages:

Work Weekend April 29 - May 1

INTERGENERATIONAL FAMILY
CAMP June 30 - July 5 (any or all
days)



REGISTER NOW AT:
flatheadcamp.org

Call for information at

(406) 844-3483

manager@flatheadcamp.org

Notes from Missions Team

A Shelter in Hard Times

The recent displacement of many families from Fairbridge Inn and Suites in Kalispell has drawn attention to the many humanitarian works of the Samaritan House shelter. Several families displaced from the Fairbridge Inn are now living at the Samaritan House.

The Samaritan House opened in 1991 and has expanded to support 90 to 105 guests. Guests receive living quarters, meals and counseling support as they transition to independent living. A case manager is assigned when someone arrives at the shelter. Their needs are assessed, and they are connected with community resources and assisted with finding alternative housing and employment. As a general rule, their stay at the shelter is thirty to sixty days but in some cases the time may be extended.

Samaritan house provides employment for 15 people including a kitchen staff.

Plans are underway to renovate and repurpose the former Armory Reserve property which is owned by Samaritan House and located adjacent to the existing shelter. The kitchen and cafeteria area will be upgraded and 16 single occupancy units will be constructed for Veterans. Plans are to construct sixteen 2 and 3-bedroom multi-family units to provide permanent housing for low income people.

Funding for the Samaritan House comes from grants, community groups, fund raisers and individual donations. For the past several years Epworth has contributed to Samaritan House. Recently a portion of the Outreach Mission budget and several individual donations provided an additional \$500 to support the work of the Samaritan House.

Volunteer opportunities are available by contacting the shelter at 406-257-5801 and speaking with Amber or Sonia.

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.

April Food Bank item request– all tomato items

Church Council Minutes — March 21, 2022

Gary Freebury opened the meeting with prayer.

Reports

Stephen Ministry: Lana Shura reported that Stephen Ministry has been active throughout the pandemic. There are ten active care givers. A training class with two candidates is being held. If someone would benefit from a Stephen Minister, talk with Pastor Karen, Lana Shura or Jim Cross. Stephen Ministry plans to host coffee hour on Palm Sunday.

Trustees: Jerry Scott stated that more work will be done on the sidewalk this week. Sandon will bid on finishing the steps. Trustees have consulted with Timco Plumbing to plumb the stairs so they will be heated and no snow shoveling needed. On May 11 and 12, the janitorial company will wax the floors in Van de Mark Hall and the hallway downstairs. Jerry moved to allocate \$950 for a new light in the parking lot that will be Dark Skies compliant. The motion was seconded by Jerry Chipman and carried. Back wall of the nativity scene has been taken down and will be stored.

Finance: Lew Savik reported a \$8,116 deficit year to date. Most of the deficit is from paying all of the churches taxes and insurance for the year. The Finance Committee will be meeting March 30 to review the situation. So far, it looks like March giving will help reduce the deficit.

Day Care Board: Nila Lauder reported that the board members wrote an advertisement for a new director.

Missions: LaVerne Scott stated that the committee plans to have a representative from Soft Landings speak to the church in May. Plans are being made for Native American Sunday March 24. The rummage sale will be Saturday, April 30, with set up on Thursday and Friday. The items can be purchased after church Sunday. Anything left will be taken away on Monday.

Membership: Janet Ulrich led a review of the first two pages of the church membership list.

SPRC: Sharon Young said that staff evaluations are taking place. On June 27, there will be a congregational meeting with Eric Strader. There was an inquiry about using the church for a dinner and benefit auction. However, the church has not

been able to hold sit-down dinner events to date. Pastor Karen, the Trustees and UMW will confer and set up a procedure/payment guideline.

Music: Joanna Griffin reported for Dawn Hashley. Since moving o the lowest platform of the chancel, two choir members have come back to sing on a regular basis. The choir is more successful as song leaders when the members are closer to the congregation. There is a children's song at the beginning of worship so children and parents can experience a song together in worship. Dawn creates a file of materials for youth to practice during Sunday School.

Education Committee: Carmen Field reported five graduating seniors will receive Bibles. The youth will be at the camp doing clean-up the first weekend in May. May 22 will be last day for Sunday School.

UMW: Robin said that ten attended the Prayer and Self-Denial program held after church. There was a video about Deaconesses and Missioners. The Sunshine Luncheon is planned for May 5.

Worship Committee: Deb Sapp led the following report. Worship Committee invites each of you to grow your faith by participating in Lenten Christian conversations on March 30, April 7 and April 13. Forms to donate for flowers will be in the bulletin inserts on April 3 and 10 and are due April 11. There will be a Good Friday Service about 5:30 with the Church of Christ.

By consensus: There will be an Easter Brunch. Men will probably cook.

Pastor Karen asked what the congregation did together for fun before COVID. Dinners, basket auctions, progressive dinners were mentioned.

Groups are invited to host coffee hours after church. Jerry Scott volunteered the Trustees to host coffee time on March 27.

Laverne Scott will contact Laurie Cummings to see if she wishes to maintain the hall bulletin board.

Pastor Karen closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted— Karen Highbarger,
Secretary



329 2nd Ave. East
PO Box 1020
Kalispell, MT 59903

406-257-6849
office@kalispellumc.org

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

The Visitor
April 2022

Easter Service	10am
Egg Hunt- Youth Group	10:15am
Egg Hunt-3rd grade & younger	11am
Coffee & Pastries	11am

RSVP to Deb Sapp to provide
pastries and fruit 756-7937
Thank you for helping us share in this
celebration!

