



Karen's Chronicles

"What are you doing here, Elijah?" 1 Kings 19:9b,13b NRSV, Updated Edition

This is what the Lord God asks the prophet Elijah, "What are you doing here?" Elijah gives a full reply, describing the situation that brought him here – to the Mount of the Lord, also known as Mount Horeb and Mount Sinai.

"What are you doing here?" is a great reflection question for each one of us. It is a way to wonder about how we arrived in *this place* at *this time*. What circumstances brought us *here*? Who influenced us on our path to *this place*? How did we come to be here *now*?

"What are you doing here?" also asks deeper questions: **"Why are you here? Why do you exist? What is your purpose?"** These are wonderful questions for each one of us to ponder in our journey on the earth.

These questions can also bring fruitful discussion within the faith family. Sharing our views with each other as we listen deeply is a start toward describing our communal identity. Holy conversations like this can help our common values come to the surface. Many followers of Jesus would say they are here to love, just as he calls us to: love the Holy, love others, and love ourselves.

Our United Methodist Church gives us a specific mission as we love: "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." This mission can guide us as we ask ourselves **"What are you doing here, Epworth UMC?"**

With appreciation,

Pastor Karen



Missions Team

Missions invites you to join us in support of The Heart Locker during the month of August. We will be helping out the kids in our community by collecting school supplies. Last year, thanks to the incredible generosity of our Epworth UMC faith family, we collected 473 items. A table will be set up in the hallway in front of The Good Chapel starting Sunday, July 31th. Cash donations are welcome (just indicate "Heart Locker" in the memo line on your check) and the Missions team will do the shopping for you.



Other Mission Happenings?

- * In August we are looking forward to hearing more about CASA with a guest speaker. Several in our congregation are involved in this program advocating for children.
- * Downsizing?? Our Rummage Sale is coming in October. No electronics but furniture items will be welcome. Please help us by donating clean and refreshed articles as well.
- * Feeding the Flathead Meals are planned in September and December.



At 6:30 AM July 7th ten sleepy youth and three brave adults set out for Silverwood. We drove through torrential rains, lightning, and endless renditions of "I'm a banana" and teenagers singing "decade Karaoke" to arrive in relative excitement at Silverwood. The gates opened at 11:00 AM, and after chilling on the lazy river, body surfing the wave pool, climbing endless stairs to slide down water slides, multiple trips to



the ice cream shop, getting drenched in Grizzly Gulch, dizzy tea cup rides, vintage car rides, going upside down in loop de loops on the roller coasters, trying on the latest "squid hat fashion", watching cards

turn into doves at the magic show, and giddily riding the carousel until dusk, we closed the park down at 9:30 PM so we could put up a tent by flashlight and eat smores by the campfire. By midnight all were snug tight in sleeping bags. On behalf of myself, the chaperones, and all youth who attended,



THANK YOU Epworth for supporting us in this adventure!!!
Hillery

From Worship Committee



You are invited to explore the visual “Message” that Epworth UMC wants to present to our neighbors, to new folks in town, to visitors, and to the greater community. In the last several months members of our Epworth community have suggested that banners should be made for our sanctuary, that a sandwich board could be placed at the North sidewalk every Sunday inviting people to worship with us, that we could put cling decals on our car windows....and I’m sure when we get together for discussion other ideas will be shared. Join in this creative discussion after church on July 31, in the Van De Mark Hall.

From Finance

May		June	
Income	\$15,673	Income	\$13,554
Expense	\$13,498	Expense	\$14,443
Net Income	\$2,175	Deficit -	\$ (878)
Year to date through May		Year to Date June	
Income	\$ 86,311	Income	\$ 99,865
Expenses	\$ 94,808	Expenses	\$ 94,808
Deficit	\$ (8,497)	Deficit -	\$ (9,375)

The Finance Committee will hold a meeting on August 10 to address the deficit and is it time to dip into the Emergency fund. There will be review of the house rental next to the church to see if we are providing rent in accordance with our mission.

Lew Savik Finance Chair.

Daycare Update

We are in the last few days of swimming lessons Only had one day cancelled due to thunder. I forgot to thank everyone for all the work they put into Vacation Bible School. It was so much fun. The air conditioner in the two-year old nap room has gone kaput so I need to buy a new one. I would love some help putting in a new one! When the sidewalk is done, I will be buying a truckload of sand. We need to fill in a lot of really low places, especially along the new fence line. As usually, the summer is going really fast. August is just around the corner. Hope everyone is enjoying their summers.



Lining up for lunchtime. Bang and Judy are great cooks!

Gary Freebury opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes were approved as printed.

The group brainstormed ideas for encouraging attendance of all age groups and new members.

Reports:

Trustees

Jerry Scott reported that the new sidewalk on the south side will be poured tomorrow.

The Pull for Police device and sensor, which are free from Church Mutual, have been ordered.

The air conditioners have been installed in the Day Care.

The windows on the north side have been washed. The south side windows will be washed after the work on the sidewalk is complete.

The lawn is being watered manually. A landscaper will re-establish the sprinkler system after the sidewalk is done.

The steps are awaiting approval from the city.

There are two broken windows in the alley, but glass is not available at this time.

Finance

Lew Savik reported May income: \$15,673, expenses \$13,498, with a net income of \$2,175. June income: \$13,554, expenses \$14,443, with a deficit of -\$878. Year to date through June: income \$99,865, expenses \$109,241 with a deficit of -\$9,275.

The Finance Committee will be calling a meeting soon to address the deficit and to decide if it is time to dip into the Emergency Fund. There will be a review of the house rental next to the church to see if we are providing rent in accordance with our mission.

Worship Committee

Deb Sapp announced a brainstorming session on July 31 after church to think of ideas for visual messaging.

Sharon Young is cleaning the nursery this week. Several groups have a need for storage areas.

Education Committee

Carmen Field had no report since Sunday School is not in session over the summer.

Music

Dawn Hashley reported that music is going well for Sundays. She will be having surgery soon and will work with Chuck Cummings to provide music.

Memorial Committee

Pat Freebury reported that several requests have been funded. The committee will approach the new Day Care Director about something new for the playground.

Lay Visitation

Janet Ulrich stated that Upper Rooms are being taken to shut-ins. She also said the UMW Annual Meeting will be in Cheyenne. Mission U is on Wednesdays; people can still take part in it. The District Meeting will be in September.

Missions

LaVerne Scott reported that the Heart Locker Project will run in August and September.

There will be an after church meeting to hear from CASA. Committee members will be providing a meal for Habitat for Humanity.

UMW

Robin Krogstad reported that 16 attended the Retreat on July 14. The leader, Wendy Ochs from Bigfork UMW, led the program based on the Wesleys and Methodist history and the wisdom of the Bible.

Lew Savik reported that both applicants for Day Care Director have turned down the job.

Pastor Karen led in prayer for known needs.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Highbarger, Secretary

SPRC Request

We are seeking a volunteer or volunteers to take on cleaning and organizing the elevator vestibule and elevator. Both areas are in need of deep cleaning. If the spirit moves you, please take action!

Sharon Young,
SPRC, 909-261-3180



Church Council meetings are open to all people. We meet in person in the Cameron Room but the option is available to Zoom as well. Please email your request to office@kalisPELLUMC.org.



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
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The Epworth UMC Nursery room is available for Epworth worshippers & visitors to use on Sundays. The Nursery room is located downstairs in the east hallway area.