

THE VISITOR – PAGE 1



Jan 2021

“Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Hallelujah!” Psalm 150:6

Ernesto Cardenal is a Brother in Christ from Nicaragua who died March 1, 2020, just as most of us in the Western hemisphere were about to have our lives turned upside down by a pandemic. As we have lived the struggle to be faithful these past ten months of the pandemic, I trust Ernesto has been living the resurrected life in the Lord Jesus.

Ernesto was:

A Christian who embraced science.

A follower of Jesus who confronted the communal sin of the church.

A man of the Silent Generation (born in 1925) who would not hold his tongue.

A poet who knew “record players” and “magnetic tapes” would one day be obsolete.

Here is Ernesto’s 20th Century version of Psalm 150. How might you express a 21st Century version of this Hebrew poem?

With appreciation,
Pastor Karen

“The Cosmos Is His Sanctuary (Psalm 150)”
(translated from Spanish by Donald D. Walsh)

Praise the Lord in the cosmos

His sanctuary

with a radius of a hundred thousand million light years

Praise Him through the stars

and the interstellar spaces

Praise Him through the galaxies

and the intergalactic spaces

Praise Him through the atoms

and the interatomic voids

Praise Him with the violin and the flute

and with the saxophone

Praise Him with the clarinets and with the horn

with bugles and trombones

with cornets and trumpets

Praise Him with violas and cellos

with pianos and pianolas

Praise Him with blues and jazz

and with symphonic orchestras

with Negro spirituals

and with Beethoven’s Fifth

with guitars and marimbas

Praise Him with record players

and with magnetic tapes

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord

every living cell

Hallelujah



Let Everything
THAT HAS BREATH
PRAISE THE LORD
PSALM 150:6



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Church Council Members

(Coordinate and provide resources for nurture, outreach and witness program)

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Staff Parish Relations Chair	Sharon Holder	Sharon_holder@verizon.net	890-2193
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Day Care Board Chair	Patty Hagestad	mickgriz@bresnan.net	249-7266
At Large Member	Helen Allen	ghallen2002@yahoo.com	755-2794
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UMW Co-Presidents	Jean Davis	jrdavis.mail@gmail.com	257-2267
UMW Co-Presidents	Robin Krogstad	robinkrogstad@charter.net	752-2714

2020 Epworth Church Conference**Sunday, December 6, 2020**

Church Conference was online via Zoom due to Covid-19 Pandemic and was led by DS Jan Witman.

People Present: Jan Witman, Karen McRae, Jessie Kane, Bob & Deb Sapp, Gary & Pat Freebury, Janet Ulrich, John & Joan Ulrich, Jerry & LaVerne Scott, Lew Savik, Jean Davis, Hillery Eastman, Sharon Holder, Dean Robbins, Karen Highbarger, Cynthia Thorsen, Carmen Field, Dawn Hashley.

We opened our Church Conference at Noon with introductions, a prayer by D.S. Jan Witman and a video message from Bishop Karen Oliveto.

Highlights of 2020 included:

- Beginning the year with Rev. Ken White and transitioning to Rev. Karen McRae
- We have a very generous church family and met many financial goals
- Advent wreaths made by John Ulrich and Rick Hagen and Daycare kids have delighted and connected many
- Many people stepped up to help Missions Committee in spite of Covid-19
- Volunteers and Callers and Lay Visitation outreach
- Sunday School Leaders with gifts of spirit bags
- People trying online worship and Zoom meetings are a healthy model for all of us
- We can't control what is happening but we can control our attitude
- Education, Youth and Family Activities have modeled how to pivot and adjust

Evaluating our response to Covid 19:

- Learned the difference between cleaning and sanitizing
- Learned that life can go on
- New things can be hard and scary
- Calling trees has allowed us to connect to many people with which we would not normally connect

Pastor's Report Summary:

Focusing on strengthening relationships; Karen wants to build relationships with people but many in Epworth do NOT digitally or electronically connect. Also focusing on training in roles and functioning in church and developing lay leadership. Working on healthy structures and addressing conflicts. Epworth needs to be able to name some hurt and fear and residual conflict from the past.

Leadership Report:

Sharon Holder moved to adopt the Lay Leadership Report for 2021. Gary Freebury seconded the motion and the vote was passed unanimously. Gratitude was expressed to Nominations Committee and to all those who said "Yes" to their nominations.

Membership & Worship Attendance:

Jan Witman suggested splitting worship into Pre-Covid, Early Covid, In-person and Online, and Online Worship Only. However we evaluate this year, we should do the same next year. For online worship, it was recommended that people comment as they watch so we know they are watching and possibly use the metric of 1.5x number of views, as more than one person may be watching on one device. IT Team will look at best practices and take proposal to Worship Team. IT Team will address consistencies, as they also post to website as a way for people to view after. We had 1 Baptism, 1 Profession of Faith, 4 Transfers In, 1 Withdrawal by request, and 5 members deceased. There are no names for removal from rolls as Epworth does not and has not had a Membership Committee or Secretary for some time. The goal is to have some kind of clean and workable membership roll in the next year and if we are unable to form a Membership Committee/Secretary the task falls to Ad Council.

Clergy Compensation:

Lew Savik moved to approve the complete Clergy Compensation Package (\$103,616.00). Deb Sapp seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously. A final budget will be available in January 2021.

Commitment to Mission Shares:

Jan clarified what our Mission Shares are or have been historically. It was noted that Loose Offering is non-existent now that we are not meeting in person. How can we in a time of Covid increase our income and expand our giving base? Do our expenses need to go down? Jan commended our efforts and our spirit in investing in the church. Karen called attention to our continued dedication and our spirit as a church. Meeting was closed with prayer at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Jessie Kane

EPIPHANY REFLECTIONS

Many of us were introduced to Epiphany through the familiar silhouetted-image of Three Wise Men bearing gifts as they followed the Great Star by night. In some cultures, Epiphany is known as the *Day of the Kings* (*Día de los Reyes*). It is also known as Twelfth Day or Twelfth Night, reflecting an old custom of giving a gift for each of the days from December 25 to January 6 for the 12 days of Christmas. The day has special meaning for a number of reasons. Several branches of Christianity celebrate the birth of the Christ Child on **January 6** or **January 7**.

The word *epiphany* means *appearance* or *manifestation*. Popular usage likens *epiphany* to words such as *eureka* or *aha!* Use of this word by some English speakers conjures images of having a light bulb turned on, or of being able to see something that was once hidden from view. The texts for the Sundays after the Epiphany dramatize the many ways that we people came to understand who Jesus was, through his baptism, the miracle at the wedding, or through that bodacious declaration in his hometown synagogue! But, this ever-widening circle of revelation began 'outside the circle' of Judaism, so to speak, with the Magi.

Who were the Magi?

Many versions of the Bible refer to them as the *Wise Men*. We often forget that these Magi or Wise Men were non-Jews. **Older sources** suggest that they were priestly descendants of one of the tribes of the Medes **known for their knowledge of the stars (astronomy) and their ability to interpret dreams.**

What can we learn from the Wise Men?

First, the Wise Men began their journey because of their beliefs.

It was a common belief that when a world leader like a king was born that a special stellar phenomenon would appear in the sky. The Magi saw something that convinced them that they had seen the long-awaited sign. Historians tell us that the Jews, the Romans, and the Persians were all watching the skies about that time, looking for signs of the birth of an extraordinary king. A few years before, around 11 BC, Halley's Comet had been seen. There were other stellar phenomena, including a bright star, Sirius, which appeared brightly in the daytime instead of at night. The Wise Men saw the star and began their journey.

May God give us all inspiration for this year's journey.

Second, the Wise Men were willing to follow what they had seen into unknown territory.

Their journey took them outside their country and their comfort zone. The Wise Men risked the consequences of disobeying Herod, who was known to behave as a madman when provoked and returned to their country by another way.

The Christian journey is often an off-road excursion.

Third, the Wise Men were committed to the journey -- wherever the star might lead.

The Wise Men set out to find a newborn King by following a star and ended up in finding a baby born to young, relatively poor parents! Not exactly what they expected and not exactly what befit their dignity as priests.

In this coming year, may we look to heaven for guidance and comfort and may we accept God's blessings in whatever forms we find them, just as the Wise Men accepted that their long, expensive journey led them to a baby born to young, inexperienced parents who lived on the poor side of town.

Finally, the Wise Men brought gifts.

They did the thing that people in the East or in Africa or in India would do when visiting royalty. They brought gifts.

Gold was the kind of gift that you brought to a king.

Frankincense was the kind of gift that you would bring to a priest.

Myrrh was given to someone who was about to die.

On This Twelfth Day, or Three Kings Day, otherwise known as Epiphany, think of the gift that you will offer to God in the coming year. The gift of time? The gift of your talents? Your service in the community? Your witness and testimony? The gift of undying love and devotion?

Their greatest gift comes to us in the form of a realization. The Wise Men were the first Gentiles to recognize that Jesus belongs to everyone. Good news is for everyone, not just a select few.

*Star of wonder
 Star of light
 Star with royal beauty bright
 Westward leading
 Still proceeding
 Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Amen.

From Discipleship Ministries UMC

Epiphany Lessons

Epiphany continues to reveal to me important lessons about following Jesus the Christ on a shrinking earth and in a nation that’s increasingly diverse.

Here are a few Epiphany lesson for me, found in Scripture and from my neighborhood:

Jesus the Christ can be revealed in different ways, places, times and cultures.

Unexpected strangers can bring unexpected, but needed, treasures.

With God, acts of love and kindness trump theology and protocol.

God spoke to the Magi over 2,000 years ago, and after 30 years of asking, I still don’t know who they were or why God was talking to them. There’s no reason to believe God’s not doing things like this in my neighborhood, our nation and in the world today.

Yvette Moore is director of communications for United Methodist Women.

Your Epworth Worship Committee shares these with you as our way of sending you Blessings for 2021. We also Thank each one who has committed their time, talents, ideas, and expertise to create Advent worship experiences. Our prayers continue to ask for a re-opening of Epworth as soon as it is wise to do so. Blessings to you, precious Epworth family.

Administrative Council Report – 2020

The year of 2020 was a challenging year for Epworth United Methodist Church. Not only did the church have to deal with the pandemic covid-19 virus, but it also had numerous conditions that it had to deal with.

We had a change in pastors this year and we are thankful for the great leadership that Pastor Ken White provided. In July we were blessed with the assignment of Pastor Karen McRae as our leader. With the guidance of these fine pastors and the leadership of the different committees, we were able to meet the demands required throughout the church and conference.

Our membership was able to financially meet the needs for the reconstruction of the elevator, sound system, heating system and lighting systems. Our members are great in their support.

We continue to meet our church needs and be active in numerous community and national activities as well. It is nice to see a positive atmosphere within the church and it is good that we see a growth in membership.

Gary Freebury, Chair

EPPIE THE MISSION MOUSE SAYS:

Christmas at Epworth was still fun even though we all couldn’t be together as usual! You might remember that I asked you if you thought candles were happy or sad when we snuffed them out? The answer was that they were “de-lighted.” Advent is over and the Christ candle has been lit. We need to carry the light of that candle with us into the New Year. So remember how much your Epworth Family loves you and how much Jesus loves you. Hope we can all be together again soon. And I love you!



FINANCIAL COMMITTEE



	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
Income		
Pledged	\$5,937	\$104,861
Unpledged	\$5,513	\$ 54,986
Loose offering	\$ 30	\$ 1,709
Other	<u>\$ 100</u>	<u>\$ 4,432</u>
Total	\$11,580	\$166,589
Expenses	<u>\$ 18,484</u>	<u>\$171,339</u>
Negative	(\$ 6,103)	(\$ 4,750)

Net income has gradually gone down in the last half of year. Income is directly affected by not having in person worshipping. Certainly, loose offering is down for that reason.

December usually is our best month for income as we try to catch up for the year, so please help in December. We have more than enough money in the churches checking account to pay all the bills but it's important that we don't continually draw it down.

Lew Savik, Finance Chairman

Please send in your pledges. If you lost the self-stamped envelope send your pledges to PO Box 1020.

2021 Pledge Summary - 45 Pledges totaling \$117,426 as of 12/28/20

7	under \$1000
11	\$1001-2000
14	\$2001-3000
6	\$3001-4000
7	\$4001 +

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

At this time Family Activities has no plans for the very near future. We will be looking into 2021 with hope and finding some Epworth family fun to get into! Co-chairs, Hillery Eastman, Meghan Danford and Michelle Huff

MISSIONS

GOOD DEEDS AREN'T DONE BY WALKING INTO A CHURCH
THEY'RE DONE BY WALKING OUT AND HELPING OTHERS

Epworth's Outreach Mission work will be busy throughout this coming year as we continue reaching out to help others. The Church budget provides financial support to local, national, and international programs. Epworth members step up to lend a helping hand to several local organizations such as the Heart Locker, Community Kitchen-Feeding the Flathead, the Warming Shelter, Flathead Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity. Most of our outreach work is financed through the annual rummage sales. However it appears that the Spring Rummage sale will not happen so we hope that you will consider donating to one of Epworth's outreach mission projects. Rummage sales will return as soon as it is safe to do so. We also expect to continue with Share Your Bounty.

Your generous donations allowed for the year end purchase of supplies for 25 additional hygiene kits and supported the **Heart Locker's** need for 100 pair of boy's socks. Sack lunches will be provided to the **warming shelter** through mid-January and we sent a donation to the agriculture program at the **Quessua Mission in East Angola**.

January 11 is Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Trafficking is an issue throughout Montana, including the Flathead area. A few years ago, Doug Overman spoke to us about the trafficking issues in Montana and we hope to have an update at one of our services in January.

Human Relations Sunday, Jan 17, 2021, provides an opportunity to contribute to a special offering for this important outreach program.

Annually on **Human Relations Sunday** the church encourages us to focus on ways to strengthen and promote our outreach to our community. Here at Epworth, we are finding ways to assist with Feeding the Flathead, providing hygiene kits and socks to the Heart locker and handing out, nourishing snacks on Sundays at the Warming Shelter, to name a few. The need is great. We ask God to direct us as we seek to expand meaningful ways to care for our neighbors some of whom are hungry, homeless, lacking resources and in need of our kindness and understanding.

Flathead food bank items for January: Peanut Butter and Jelly

Food Bank items can be placed in the grocery cart near the Church office. This cart has been full to overflowing each month, even though we are not having services. Thank you for making an extra effort to bring food items to the Church.

The Mission Team continues to meet via Zoom. Our next meeting is January 14 at 1:30. If you have ideas or suggestion that you would like to share, or just want to know what we are working on please feel free to join us. Contact LaVerne Scott for the link to this meeting.

Each year the pastor gives a report on the state of the local church. Here is mine:

The people of Epworth UMC describe themselves as a “variety of talented people with big hearts.” (From Epworth UMC Visioning, March 2020, “Visioning.”) Yes, they are. These generous people made major improvements to their church home (two new boilers, elevator repair, LED light replacement) during the pandemic while contributing to ongoing monthly operating needs for mission and ministry. They share Christ’s love through their talents in many ministries. They have diverse faith perspectives and worldviews.

In my first five months pastoring Epworth, I have focused on building relationships and guiding lay leadership. This fits with the people’s stated priority, “strengthening relationships,” and top two challenges, “training for roles and committees” and “healthy structures.” (Visioning)

Building Relationships:

I have made phone calls to many people who are homebound and to other people who are not homebound but have not participated in in-person events.

When the Flathead County Covid-19 rates (positivity, new/active/hospitalized cases) were relatively low in July and August, I made in-person visits (masked, 6-feet+) to some 90+-year-old people living in their own homes who were comfortable with that.

Kalispell Regional Hospital only allows in-person pastoral care at end-of-life.

Long-term care residences and other group homes do not allow in-person pastoral care.

As Epworth people sheltered in place this spring, the leaders started a shepherding ministry of regular phone calls, which they have continued throughout the pandemic. I am working with the various caring groups to build on this shepherding ministry, gathering current contact information for all who consider themselves “in the fold” of Epworth UMC.

Staff Parish Relations and I hosted three in-person “meet & greets” in August & Sept.

I hosted two Zoom coffee hours in November.

With the Holy Spirit’s leading, I am restoring the partnership Epworth UMC and Smith Memorial Day Care Center share. Although the Day Care Center has been Epworth’s main local mission for 55 years, Epworth people named as challenges “Day Care identity,” “inconstant relationships,” and “budget impact.” (Visioning)

A huge challenge for relationship-building: the vast majority of Epworth is on the unconnected side of the digital divide. Only a few worship online. Even fewer use videoconferencing. Epworth started both Zoom and online worship later in the pandemic, so these 21st Century ways of relating are new to this congregation. I give thanks for the people who have tried Zoom and online worship and are encouraging and guiding others to try them too.

Two wonderful gifts to address the congregation’s lack of electronic connections:

Three public school teachers who have training and experience with integrated technology in education will be our Information Technology (IT) Communications Team. They will support part-time staff and volunteers in IT ministries; recommend updates for existing information technology systems; and offer other resources as needed.

The Mountain Sky Foundation matching grant for “Making Digital Disciples” will help provide parishioners electronic tablets and webcams with microphones. We need a few lay people to help mentor others in using those – one way to strengthen relationships.

While Epworth has about 170 email contacts, only a few actually communicate by email. Most the church prefers in-person (when able or allowed) and speaking on the telephone (not texting.) Many of Epworth remember the “radio days,” when worship was broadcast on a local station. One way for these Epworth folks to be connected: volunteers could turn the video-recorded scripture reading and sermon into an mp3 or CD format. Then other volunteers could send/give these to people, gradually encouraging them to take the step from CD’s to mp3’s.

I see the real struggle for most Epworth folks to have a sense of connection when their sisters and brothers in Christ and their pastor are not with them in-person. This is a challenge for strengthening relationships with each other and for building a relationship with me. In addition to preferring in-person relating, most Epworth people prefer tangible representations of the Body of Christ – instead of watching a video, using social media, or receiving digital photos by email or text. Most of Epworth prefers receiving hard-copy mailings and physical objects.

Seeing this preference, I invited us into an Advent experiment. A couple people made wooden Advent candle holders, one ordered candles, and one printed labels for the Advent kits. Day Care children made paper hand-print wreathes. I created a hard-copy Advent booklet with readings, scripture, prayers, and songs. The Lay Visitation team delivered the Advent kits to homebound people, and mobile people came to the church home to get theirs. The home Advent kits are a

way to bring the congregation together while we are physically apart. Was this a step backward, staying with comfortable, familiar ways of relating? Was it a step forward, satisfying the preferences for most the current congregation? How does this kind of activity help us “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?”

Epworth named as a strength “intergenerational” and as a challenge “conflict among the generations.” (Visioning) I see mostly Boomers and older, with few Gen X and younger. For the church to grow in unity and strength, we need to address the threshold issue of generational differences in worldviews, including different preferences for communicating and relating.

Guiding lay leadership:

I am working with Church Council, committees, and teams to use UMC resources for: providing support and accountability; and, determining responsibility and authority.

Growing areas for Epworth are best practices for: communicating, coordinating, and functioning as the Body of Christ; and, discussing differences and addressing conflict. I see in this faithful community of Christians pain and fear related to past divisions and ongoing conflicts. I believe Christ Jesus intends healing and wholeness for this church.

Staff Parish Relations was working on staff job descriptions before my appointment, and we continue this work together. In 2021, we begin: annual staff evaluations, prioritizing skill development in communicating and relating; and, annually gathering together all staff persons, Staff Parish Relations, and me for a step toward embracing a shared vision.

In 2021, I intend to lead small groups for discipling, by Zoom and in-person. These are opportunities for relationship-building, spiritual formation, and leadership development. As people share some of their story, discover their spiritual gifts, and explore communal identity, they can participate with the Holy Spirit in growing a strong, healthy church.

I trust God dreams a beautiful dream for Epworth UMC and for Kalispell. I am grateful to be serving the Lord Jesus with the people of Epworth UMC. I am up for the challenge!

Rev. Karen S. McRae December 1, 2020

EDUCATION

As 2021 quickly approaches, the Education Committee would like to again thank the Epworth family for their continued support of the children and youth of the church. Although activities and outreach have looked different this year, the children and families have continued to feel and appreciate the love and caring Epworth provides to the church and community.

As the New Year begins, be sure to look for future "curbside bag pick-ups" of Sunday School materials and activities, as well as more information about coming Bible presentations. Early Reader Bibles will be presented sometime in the beginning of the year (we currently have 5 names), with adult Study Bibles going to graduating seniors during May (to possibly 6 recipients). Please be sure to share these special activities with others, and let us know of any names which should be added to the lists.

Sharing Tree Update:

A BIG THANK YOU to all!!! With your amazing support we were able to assist 7 families including 14 children with their Christmas Holiday.

In addition to these families, 2 extra food boxes and other miscellaneous foods were passed along. We were informed by our contacts that food is something that families are in short supply of. Because of this, we are considering using additional contributions to the Sharing Tree program to assist with this in the coming months. Because of your generosity we have the ability to continue to reach out to our community in this way.

Blessings to you all and Thank YOU!

The Education Committee

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NOTES:

A new year and the strains of “Auld Lang Syne” can still be heard. The lyric that remains in my heart from that old song is “we’ll take a cup of kindness...” After the turmoil of 2020 we all are looking forward to a kinder and gentler year. As always, we remember the sad times but can count our blessings. The ways we have held each other in prayer and service has been wonderful. We continue to hope for that time when we can be together in person. We will be planning as many ways as possible to be a supportive fellowship and provide the good work to which our Purpose calls us.

So let us all rejoice in God’s love as we begin this new year of 2021 and celebrate each other and our dedication to mission.

“A time to say goodbye
 A time to say hello
 A time to bid farewell
 A time to look forward
 A time to let go
 A time to learn new things
 That is what happens
 When the New Year rings.”

Catherine Pulsfer

UMW Book Club: The book club discussed in November's newsletter, will start on Thursday, January 14, at 7:00pm, via Zoom. The book we are starting with is "Tilly and the Crazy Eights". It is available through the Imagine If library system or Amazon. If you are interested, please let Janet Ulrich, so you can be invited to the meeting!

Upper Rooms: January/February Upper Rooms will be distributed near the end of December. If you have been receiving an Upper Room, you will continue to receive one. If you have not been receiving an Upper Room, or do not receive the January/February edition by January 1st, please contact the church office or Janet Ulrich, at 907-230-5881,

The December UMW meeting held by Zoom, was a success! 14 people attended! We collected almost \$300 for the World Thank Offering! Thanks to Robin Krogstad for organizing the program!

Mission u by Zoom! The Conference UMW and Church, will present a four session class of the UMW study "Finding Peace in an Anxious World". The class will be held Sundays in February and last 1.5-2 hours per session. The class is FREE! You do not have to travel! Each person will need to register and read the book. Anyone may attend. Registration information should be available by the end of December.

UMW Retreat: Every two years, UMW sponsors a retreat at Fairmont Hot Springs, near Anaconda. However, due to the pandemic, the on-site retreat will not be held. We are planning a Zoom retreat! It will be held on one day. Watch for more information!

Janet Ulrich

The God's Creation Calendars are available for purchase in the church copy room. The calendars are \$10.00 each and all funds raised support Epworth United Methodist Youth Group. Make payment to Church Office when you come to pick up your calendar during normal office hours. Thanks for your continued support!



Small groups for discipling: learning and following together

In February and March 2021, I intend to lead a couple small groups for discipling. I invite you to participate. I plan to have one in-person small group during the day, using COVID-19 safe practices, and another Zoom small group, daytime or evening, depending on your schedules. Each group covers seven sessions, ideally one session each week.

A *disciple* is a learner, learning to live with the love of the Lord Jesus. A disciple is a follower, following Christ Jesus in a personal journey as part of a community, the Body of Christ.

This small group journey is not the same as the Disciple Bible Study the United Methodist Church started in the 1980's. Many of us have been part of that study with different local churches. "Searching the scriptures" – as John Wesley termed it – is only one way of receiving God's grace.

While we will read scripture and share our interpretations, we will also share in many other means of grace together. This small group is more our individual experience of the Holy blending with our shared experience as this church family, Epworth UMC. Whether you have been a part of Epworth for days or decades, your participation in a discipling process is one step toward our church becoming healthy and strong.

The purpose of the United Methodist church is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Spiritual transformation is the process of each one of us growing in the love of Jesus. We who follow in the Wesleyan way believe the change we pray for in the world around us starts in our own hearts. I am eager to join you in this intentional heart-journey!

If you sense a call to participate or want to discuss with me, please do!

With my gratitude,

Pastor Karen pastorkaren129@gmail.com 406-210-1988





Energy Share of Montana
406/442-4900 or 888/779-7589
www.energysharemt.com

**BECAUSE YOU
CARE THERE'S
ENERGY SHARE**

Energy Share of Montana is a statewide, private nonprofit organization dedicated to helping Montanans overcome energy emergencies and move towards self-reliance. This can include help with heating bills and furnace repair or replacement.

Energy Share is able to offer this assistance because we raise money through private donations, and then distribute the money fairly and efficiently to those most in need. Energy Share's message to the public is two-fold: (1) *How those in need can apply for Energy Share*; and (2) *How to donate to Energy Share*.

How Those in Need Can Apply for Energy Share:

Energy Share provides assistance to Montanans facing energy emergencies, regardless of income or heating source. Local Committees review applications from their area and make decisions on the applications based on need. To apply for help, simply call the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) nearest you, and ask for Energy Share. Below is a list of the HRDCs:

Billings	1-800-433-1411/247-4732	Havre	1-800-640-6743/265-6743
Bozeman	1-800-332-2796/587-4486	Helena	1-800-356-6544/447-1625
Butte	1-800-382-1325/533-6855	Kalispell	1-800-344-5979/758-5433
Glendive	1-800-227-0703/377-3564	Lewistown	1-800-766-3018/538-7488
Great Falls	1-800-326-0955/761-0310	Missoula	1-406-728-3710

How to Donate to Energy Share

100% of your donation will be used first in your area to help someone in need - nothing will be used for administrative expenses. If you would like to help your neighbor, here are some ideas:

- Turn the heat down in your home 5 degrees for 30 days. Donate the savings to Energy Share.
- Look for an Energy Share donation envelope or pledge card in your November heating bill or your issue of *Rural Montana* if you're a member of an electric cooperative.
- Send a gift directly to Energy Share, P.O. Box 5959, Helena, MT 59604 or donate electronically at www.energyssharemt.com.

Energy Share Endowment: If you or a business you know is interested in donating a planned gift, you may be eligible for a **Montana tax credit**. Please contact your CPA, or call us at 1-888-779-7589 or 406-442-4900.



Open Hearts. Open Doors. Open Minds.

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Return Service Requested

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