



## Karen's Chronicles

In Judaism, Shavuot is the Festival of Weeks, counting seven full weeks from the second day of Passover. The Hebrew Bible shows people giving thanks for God's abundance as they harvested the first fruits and brought them to the Temple in Jerusalem. This festival also celebrated – and still does celebrate – the Lord's giving of the Torah, the teaching.

As the Jews who followed the Lord Jesus gathered in Jerusalem for Shavuot in the year of his Resurrection, they had an amazing experience. The Holy Spirit came upon them like wildfire, sparking enthusiasm that could not be quenched! This happened fifty days after his resurrection, so the Greek-speaking followers called the event Pentecost. We celebrate Pentecost, often known as the birthday of the church, this year on June 5.

Then we enter into the long Season of the Holy Spirit, where we see and hear the Spirit moving through followers of Jesus. As an individual follower, you may have experienced the Holy Spirit in a variety of ways: a gentle nudge, a bold tug, a soft whisper, a strong wind.

As a faith family, we grow into the unity of the Spirit when we share our experiences with each other. The variety of our personal experiences gives us – this part of the Body of Christ – a particular taste, tone, and timbre. Thanks be to the Holy Spirit who renews and revives us!

With appreciation,  
Pastor Karen



**When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.**

*Acts 2:1-4 The Message*



## On Fire! Pentecost

“What is our community ‘on fire’ about?”

Pentecost Sunday is June 5th this year. It represents an ending as well as a beginning: the end of the “Great Fifty Days” of the Easter Season (*Pentecost* means “the 50th day” in Greek) and the beginning of the commemorations of the early church. Pentecost also gives us an opportunity to ask ourselves the question, “What is our community ‘on fire’ about?”

For the early church, Pentecost was the second most important part of the Christian year after *Pascha* or Easter. Originally, it commemorated both the Ascension of Jesus and the descending of the Holy Spirit, but became two distinct celebrations by the end of the fourth century. (As Christianity became legal, there was no reason not to have as many celebrations as possible.) Pentecost also became a favorite time for baptisms with its focus on the work of the Holy Spirit within the church and within our lives.

The Holy Spirit is God's present activity in our midst. When we sense God's leading, God's challenge, or God's support or comfort, we say that it's the Holy Spirit at work.

In Hebrew, the words for *Spirit*, *wind*, and *breath* are nearly the same. The same is true in Greek. In trying to describe God's activity among them, the ancients were saying that it was like God's breath, like a sacred wind. It could not be seen or held: "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes" (John 3:8). But the effect of God's Spirit, like the wind, could be felt and known. Where do we find the evidence of the Spirit at work? The Spirit is mentioned often throughout the Bible. In Genesis a "wind from God swept over the face of the waters," as if taking part in the Creation (1:2). Later in the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible), we often read of "the Spirit of the Lord."

In Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism, Jesus "saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him" (3:16) and he "was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted" (4:1). After his Resurrection Christ told his disciples, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" (Acts 1:8). A few weeks later, on the Day of Pentecost, this came to pass: "And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind...All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:2, 4). As the Book of Acts and Paul's letters attest, from that time on, the early Christians were vividly aware of God's Spirit leading the new church.

Today we continue to experience God's breath, God's Spirit. As one of our creeds puts it, "We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, No. 884). We sense the Spirit in time alone—perhaps in prayer, in our study of the Scriptures, in reflection on a difficult decision, or in the memory of a loved one. The Spirit's touch is intensely personal.

Perhaps we're even more aware of the Holy Spirit in the community of believers—the congregation, the church school class or fellowship group, the soup kitchen, the planning committee, the prayer meeting, the family. Somehow the Spirit speaks through the thoughtful and loving interaction of God's people. The Holy Spirit, who brought the church into being, is still guiding and upholding it, if we will but listen in the gifts we receive

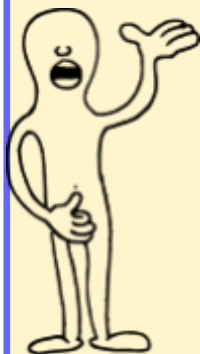
How does the Holy Spirit affect our lives? By changing us! By renewing us and by strengthening us for the work of ministry.

**From Worship Committee (continued)**

- *Fruits:* Jesus said, "You will know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:16). What sort of fruit? Paul asserts that "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22).
- *Gifts:* Paul also writes that the Spirit bestows spiritual gifts on believers. In 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 he lists nine, which vary from one person to another: the utterance of wisdom, the utterance of knowledge, faith, healing, working of miracles, prophecy, the discernment of spirits, various kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.

These fruits and gifts are not of our own achievement. They and others are the outgrowth of the Spirit's work in us, by grace, through our faith in Jesus the Christ. And they are not given for personal gain. Through these fruits and gifts, the Holy Spirit empowers us for ministry in the world

*One Sunday = Two Celebrations. June 5th is Pentecost Sunday as well as Communion Sunday. Our Epworth community of faith will have two celebrations that day. The altar rail will be placed in front so that we may receive Holy Communion as small groups coming forward to be given bread & juice by Pastor Karen, then dismissed by a blessing. - truly a celebration of community.*



In other worship news, Dawn Hashley as Music Director will be arranging for Epworth summer music. Please contact Dawn with information of family & friends who might share their musical gifts with Epworth ([musicdirector@kalispellumc.org](mailto:musicdirector@kalispellumc.org)).

Our Epworth choir will have a summer break until September. Thank you to each choir member and their leader.



Thanks to those who joined us for the Sunshine luncheon either as guests or workers. It was a joyful occasion as we are increasingly able to resume normal activities at the church.

We are now looking forward to our summer retreat July 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 2:00 at Karen Highbarger's. Guest speaker is Pastor Wendy Ochs of the Bigfork Community United Methodist Church. There will be a potluck luncheon.

Janet Ulrich is attending the United Women of Faith (UMW) Assembly in Orlando, FL May 20-22. This is a time of service, fellowship, spiritual growth and learning. We will ask Janet to share her experiences with us.



Special handmade flowers given to each honoree



Sunshine luncheon performance from 40 Smith Memorial kids

Do you enjoy a cup of coffee and sharing time with friends after church service? June Sundays are open for any groups, families or individuals to host a Fellowship time! Our kitchen pantry has ample supplies: crackers, coffee, sugar, creamer, instant decaf, and paper goods. We have 12-cup coffee pots and a 30-cup urn. If you need help with the large urn, Bob Sapp is glad to assist if you give him a call (756-7937). Let the church office know the date you would like to host.



## Finance Committee

	<u>April</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$20,881	\$70,637
Expense	\$14,678	\$81,309
Difference	(\$6,203)	(\$10,672)

Our checking account is still in good shape. If we don't catch up there is \$5,000 in the trustees savings account for improvements that can Offset the projects that have been completed. We will wait and see how the giving's proceeds over the next several months.. Epworth pays the workman's Comp for the Daycare. We are being reimbursed \$2,555 For the 1st quarter. Their reimbursement payment caught up in May.

## Daycare Update

We are getting ready to start the summer schedule which begins June 13<sup>th</sup>. Our classrooms are full. We will send 18 five-year-olds to kindergarten next fall.

I plan on ordering some sand to fill in all the low spots. Hopefully the sidewalk will be done so we can enjoy the sprinkler on hot days. We will have VBS the week of June 13<sup>th</sup> and try to find time a good time to schedule swimming lessons. We have a lot of school age kids so we will have to keep them busy!



Artwork present for Pastor Karen outside the office



Pastor Karen overwhelmed with hugs from all the daycare children— one of the daily benefits that comes along with working at Epworth

**From the Youth**

Eleven youth and three adults attended the Flathead United Methodist Church camp clean-up. We had the opportunity to serve cleaning classrooms and the grounds. We even had the chance to play tag in a lite drizzle wearing a variety of full bodied onesies! A great time was had by all, and we were eagerly invited back next year.



2  
0  
2  
2



Camp  
Clean  
Up



Fun  
times



Work  
and  
Play



Bishop Karen Oliveto has appointed Rev. Lynn Miller Jackson as the new District Superintendent of the Montana West District, effective July 1, 2022. Rev. Miller Jackson has been serving in our conference, formerly in the Rocky Mountain Conference, since 2014.



In the words of Bishop Karen, "I am so excited to have Lynn serve in this role as she brings deep wisdom, great faith, and a strong vision for church vitality and mission. I look forward to the many ways she will bless the people and churches in the Montana West district and all she will add to the cabinet table."

As background, Lynn currently serves as Senior Pastor of Hilltop United Methodist Church in Sandy, Utah, living into our vision of a diverse and inclusive church. Prior to that position, Lynn became the first female Senior Pastor of Scott United Methodist Church in Denver, Colorado. She served at Scott UMC for five years bringing forth more collaborative ministry for meaningful engagement and seeking greater impact on the congregation and community. As an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, Lynn embraces the itinerant nature of her call and will go where God calls her to serve. We are so blessed to have her in our midst.

Prior to ministry, Lynn had a successful career in commercial property management. Based in Atlanta, Georgia, she managed a large portfolio of commercial projects across the United States. She was also an active member of Cascade United Methodist Church and volunteered with various non-profit organizations engaging for local and global impact.

Likewise, we are pleased to share that Rev. Jan Witman, the current Montana West DS, will be serving as the Montana East DS for the 2022-2023 year. We are all honored to work with in this incredible team of dedicated leaders, called to be part of the Mountain Sky Conference. — from Mountain Sky Conference Communications

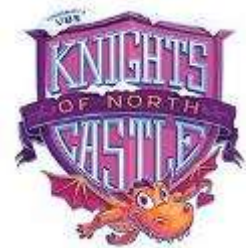
## From Education

Happy (almost...) Summer!

Looking back briefly, the month of May was an extra-busy one at Epworth. The Youth (and their brave adult helpers) assisted with clean-up at the Methodist Camp on Flathead Lake, Moms were celebrated, and High School graduates were recognized and congratulated. In addition to being part of the service, and receiving personalized adult Bibles, these young people, families, and friends enjoyed a wonderful brunch together, thanks to various church friends. Our best wishes to Molly O'Donnell, Kylie Munsinger, Kira Hadland, Haley Huff, Rylee Houser, Nela Petersen, Makenzie Williams, and Brooke Walter on this wonderful accomplishment, with a reminder that your Epworth family will always be "only be a prayer away!"

May also saw the last gathering of Sunday School for the summer, which included a "pie throw" fund raiser for the Youth summer activities. Regular Sunday School is expected to resume in the beginning of September. Look for notices and further information coming at that time.

Summer plans will focus on Vacation Bible School (VBS), which will again look a bit different for those who have participated and helped in the past, but will be happening in person! KNIGHTS of NORTH CASTLE will be held June 13-17, from about 9-11 daily, with children and youth from Epworth participating, or helping, with the Smith Memorial Day Care students. Even though this will again be smaller than some of our previous VBS sessions, many special activities are planned and ready. We would LOVE to have you come and join the fun- for a few hours, the day, or the whole week! Feel free to call the church office (257-6849), Carmen Field (406-253-6450), or Willi Leatzow (854-2800) if you have any questions or can be part of the fun!



Senior Recognition Sunday— May 16th

Molly O'Donnell

Haley Huff

Nela Peterson

Kira Hadland

Angela Walters

Not pictured: Rylee Hauser, Kylie Munsinger

Makenzie Williams



**Church Council Minutes — May 16, 2022**

Gary Freebury opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes were accepted as printed.

Trustees Report- Bob Sapp reported that the board recommends the bill sent by Advanced Restoration not be paid because they quit before completing the sidewalk they agreed to build. The council concurred with the recommendation. Repairs must be made to the sprinkler system. Gary commented about how nice the newly waxed floors look.

Finance Committee -Lew Savik reported April income was \$14,678 and expenses \$20,881, with a deficit of \$6,203. Year to date income was \$70,637 with expenses of \$81,309, a deficit of \$10,672. Epworth pays Workmans' Comp for the Day Care. Their payment has caught up this month. Epworth has reimbursed \$2,555.

Day Care- Lew Savik reported that the ads for a director have expired and will not be renewed. Debbie Diede is inserting an ad for a director on-line on INDEED.

A letter and email is being sent to let parents know of Tammy's retirement. They will be asked if they have a suggestion for a director. Tammy is concerned that the sidewalk by the playground is not yet complete.

Worship- Deb Sapp reported that there were 90 in church Sunday. Pentecost Sunday is June 5. The altar rail will be replaced so that we may receive holy communion in small groups to be given bread and juice and dismissed with a blessing by Pastor Karen. Music Director, Dawn Hashley, will be arranging for summer music at Epworth. Please contact her with information of family and friends who might share their musical gifts with Epworth.

Education- Carmen Field stated that the last day of Sunday School will be May 22. Vacation Bible School will be June 13-17.

Memorial Committee- Pat Freebury will get a bid for repairing the floor in the Clifford Room.

UMW- Jean Davis reported that Janet Ulrich is on her way to Orlando for Assembly, a global, spiritual gathering. She thanked everyone who participated in the Sunshine Luncheon. UMW Retreat will be July 14 at Karen Highbarger's from 10 to 2. Our guest will be Wendy Ochs from Bigfork UMC.

Missions- Jean Davis quoted "Service is the heart of the soul." The rummage sale made around \$1300. The proceeds go to local, national and international projects, May 22 will kick off "Share the Bounty". Proceeds will go to "Need for Seed" in East Angola. June 26, there will be a coffee time and presentation about Valley Neighbors.

Youth- Hillery Eastman reported that 11 youth took part in camp cleanup. On May 22, there will be a whipped cream pie fund raiser. Pies are \$1.00. A campsite at Silverwood is reserved for the trip July 7 and 8. Nine youth are going. Hillery asked for permission to hang a picture of the current youth group with pictures of past groups; it was given.

Family Activities Hillery suggested there may be a need for a warming oven in the kitchen. Perhaps that is a project for the Memorial Committee.

Tech Cynthia Thorsen said there is no new tech information, She will train anyone interested in being involved in technology for the church.

Dean Robbins stated that the Girl Scouts will not be using our facility. He is also concerned about security for the building and congregation. The council agreed that he would investigate possible solutions and report his findings.

Jerry Chipman reported that the remaining floors will be stripped and waxed Wednesday night, May 18.

Pastor Karen expressed the joy felt in the in-person Sunshine Luncheon and in honoring the graduates May 15. There were also positive comments from grads' families. Pastor Karen will be going to Scotland in June. Stephen Ministers, Jim Cross and Karen Highbarger will be available for care during that time. Church Cummings is willing to continue with music while Dawn recovers from surgery.

Jean Davis is concerned that not everyone gets on the prayer chain and wondered if Ad Council could pray for needs with confidentiality observed. It was agreed to do so.

Lynn Miller Jackson will be District Superintendent beginning July 1, 2022.

Pastor Karen closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Highbarger, Secretary

---  
| **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.**



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

406-257-6849  
office@kalispellumc.org

Website: [kalispellumc.org](http://kalispellumc.org)  
You Tube Channel: Epworth UMC Kalispell, MT

***The Visitor  
June 2022***

**2022 Camping Season**

[Middler Camp, June 19-24](#)

[Tween Camp, June 26-29](#)

[4th of July \(Intergenerational\) Camp, June 30-July 5](#)

[Senior High Camp, July 24-29](#)

***Epworth Scholarships Available— talk with Hillery Eastman about registration process***

