



Karen's Chronicles

**Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.**
Psalm 127:1, NRSV, Updated Edition

Scripture offers a variety of symbols to refer to the people of God: they are a vineyard and a body, a field and a flock, a city and a house.

When we picture a house as a physical structure, we may see our tangible church home, this real property on the corner of 2nd Avenue and Third Street in downtown Kalispell. When we picture a house as the spiritual reality of Christ's Body here on earth, we may see our own faith family, Epworth United Methodist Church.

Letting the Lord build us, the House, starts with listening deeply together for his holy guidance. Instead of deciding among different individual opinions, the House of the Lord gathers together and listens for his direction.

Our brother in Christ Parker Palmer warns what can happen when we who are the House of the Lord fail to start with deep listening. Parker describes what he calls "**functional atheism:**"

This is the belief that ultimate responsibility for everything rests with me. It is a belief held even among people whose theology affirms a higher power than the human self, people who do not understand themselves as atheists but whose behavior belies their belief. ~ Parker Palmer, USA, 21st C.

We who follow our Savior Jesus know "ultimate responsibility for everything rests with" God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Yet, it is tempting to act as if we are in charge.

Parker continues: "**Functional atheism is the unexamined conviction within us that if anything decent is going to happen here, I am the one who needs to make it happen.**"

God's Son Jesus nurtures us, shaping us so we become the House of God. He guides us – loving us so much he lets us respond or resist, whichever we will. I picture us pausing our many individual projects, gathering to sit in silence, and listening together for the Holy Spirit's direction. What might the Living Lord Jesus do through us then?

With appreciation,

Pastor Karen

Here it is mid-August and in less than two weeks 26 of our kids will leave us for school. We will start our fall enrollment with some kids returning and a few new ones. We had a fun summer! There was VBS, swimming, Hawaiian Days, Dinosaur Week, (Susan did a Pirate Day!), Teddy Bear Day and much more! We will end with a super hero day. We made a lot of fun memories and may all the good influences that we hope were instilled carry them through their days to come! We can hope and pray!



Daycare Staff 2022– Talented and Tireless Ladies!



Dinosaur Dig Day



Hawaiian Day Susan's Room

Missions Team

Cracked Pots?

- ◆ A recent devotion reminded the readers that Jesus did not call perfect people to follow and serve him. It suggested that damaged vessels such as cracked were more than useable. It would not be appropriate to refer to Christians as “crackpots” although some do just that. As United Methodists with mission on our minds, it’s time to look at a number ways we can be used and continue to serve.
- ◆ The August presentation on CASA challenged us in a number of ways to advocate for children.....
- ◆ Donations of school supplies and shopping cash have been collected for the HEART LOCKER. Watch for more news.
- ◆ Get out those used items and cracked pots for our Rummage Sale on October 1st. Remember, no electronics but furniture items will be welcome. Please help by donating clean, re-freshed item so that they can be repurposed to help others. Don’t forget to sign up to help so you can be one of those repurposed cracked vessels God can use.
- ◆ On September 22 our Epworth Family will provide a Feeding the Flathead Meal.
- ◆ Share Your Bounty continues as long as there are harvests to share. Please know that these items are to share. There is no obligation to make a donation unless you choose to do so.
- ◆ Thanks for all you do to support our mission outreach locally, nationally and globally.

Saturday, September 10

Men’s Breakfast. Work crew needed to trim shrubs on north side of church following breakfast.



- More information to follow

Mark your calendars to save the date for Worship service 10 am followed by Fellowship Time. As you return to your school year schedules, you are invited to return to your Epworth UMC Home church. “Home” makes me feel welcome, accepted, and comfortable with my church family. Homecoming at Epworth is a celebration that brings us all together for worship and fellowship.

**Homecoming
Sunday
September 18**





Education

As we continue enjoying this amazing summer in the Flathead, the growing piles of school supplies being collected by different groups remind us that students of all ages will soon be returning to classes. Along with this, Epworth Church will be resuming various gatherings and activities as they prepare for the coming of Fall. This will include weekly Sunday School classes, for students 3yr. old and up, beginning Sept.11, Youth Group activities, and a "Spooktacular Planning Meeting," after the regular service on Sept. 18. Feel free to join us at these meetings, and be sure to watch for other coming events for our Epworth family and friends! We'd LOVE to have you join us!!



Finance Update

July		Year to Date	
Income	\$15,673	Income	\$119,079
Expense	\$15,258	Expense	\$124,499
Net Income	\$ 3,955	Deficit	\$ 5,420)

Our net income in July reduced the deficit for year to date from (9,374.90) to (5.420). This is a reduction of \$3,955. Hopefully our monthly giving will remain good for the rest of the year as it was in July.

Lew Savik, Finance Chair.

Gary opened the meeting with prayer.

Trustees:

Jerry Scott reported that we do not owe Advanced Restoration any money for their work on the sidewalk. He discovered that an inexperienced agent had raised the rent on one of the rentals. The rent is back to what it should be.

Jerry reported that an ad was put in the Daily Interlake about the steps, hoping someone interested in doing them would contact him, but there has been no response.

John and Sylvia Hesselwood have been working on getting the sprinkler system back in working order. Sylvia stated that she has some contacts for working concrete that she would like to talk to Jerry about. She recommended the front steps be made handicapped accessible.

Worship Committee:

Deb Sapp reported on the results of the brain-storming session about visuals to make the church more welcoming. Volunteers have begun some of the projects. See Deb if you are interested.

Education Committee:

Carmen Field reported that Sunday School will begin September 11. A suggestion has been made that a smart TV be installed in the nursery so a parent there with a child can see and hear the worship service. She asked if the Memorial Committee would pay for it. She would like to have a Lego table for the kids to use.

Youth/Family Activities

Hillary Eastman said that new pictures of the youth group have been hung downstairs. She and Cynthia would like to see a youth choir organized. They would like to have the youth participate in the worship service to a greater extent. There will be a meeting October 18 for those interested. October 27 will be Spooktacular. January 28 there will be a Lock-In.

Confirmation classes will be in February and March.

There are plans for some activities separating older and younger kids, so they aren't always with siblings.

Missions:

LaVerne Scott stated that there will be a CASA presentation August 28 after church.

The Warming Center will be opening earlier this year. Our church will continue to supply snack bags for Sunday morning, since no free meals are served on Sundays.

Share the Bounty has taken in over \$100.

The rummage sale is October 1.

Donations for the Heart Locker will be taken through August. Cash donations will be used for items needed.

Hispanic Heritage Month is mid-October to mid-November. LaVerne suggested we have a mariachi band and a street taco truck one Sunday during that time. This project will be sponsored by the Admin Council. Three people volunteered to work on the project.

SPRC:

Sharon Young thanked everyone who has been working in various areas of the church—cleaning the nursery and elevator area, sorting materials, costumes, music and other things.

The church looks forward to Dawn's return and really appreciates Chuck. On September 11, there will hopefully be a church picnic.

A coordinator is needed for Safe Sanctuaries.

One of the goals for SPRC this year is for the church to be more involved with the Day Care families.

Jerry Chipman stated that he has concerns about the church's finances and would like to see a detailed report of income and expenses monthly.

Gary Freebury said he would bring the matter to the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

Lay Visitation:

Pat Freebury reported for Janet Ulrich that Upper Rooms will be taken to shut-ins. Janet will be contacting non-attendees to determine whether they wish to remain a member of Epworth.

Memorial Committee:

Pat Freebury asked that the committee receive details about needed wiring and estimates of cost to put the TV in the nursery.

Pat, on behalf of the Ad Council, officially welcomed Pastor Karen back for another year.

Pat asked about looking into getting a human-interest story about the difficulty of getting workers to complete the steps into the Daily Inter Lake.

Prayer concerns were listed.

Pastor Karen prayed for all the prayer needs.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Highbarger

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.



July 31, 2022 Messaging Brainstorming Session

The Epworth community discussed ideas for the “Messaging” we could do in visual ways: banners-sandwich boards, window clings. We will include QR codes on all printed messages as a way to have all contact info, worship service info, church address etc available to people via smart phone.

Slogan ideas:

You belong her. We are community.

Everyone is welcome here

You belong here. We are community. Matthew 18:20

We need each other.

I have called you by name. You are mine. Isaiah 43:1

We value Faith, Family, Friends, Fun & Fellowship

Loving God Loving Others Serving our community

Come find HOPE in the living Christ

Epworth to live by Faith to be known by Love to be a voice of Hope

Belong Believe Become

Get connected Sundays 10 am

You Matter to us

Real people serving a real God

Banner for our front entrance: In our brokenness, come inside to find healing.

We welcome your ideas.

The groups will work to produce visual messages that proclaim Epworth’s mission.

Join one of these group’s projects. You are needed.

Contact persons:

Banners (not quilted) Dean Robbins

Window clings Tracy Keller

Sidewalk sign Deb Sapp



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The Visitor
September 2022

Daycare Memories with Tammy

When– Wednesday, September 21, 5-8pm

Where– Van de Mark Hall

Come share your favorite memories of Tammy and congratulate her on retirement!

Zoom to the Moon
Soup

No Thank You Bite

Get what you get and
don't throw a fit

Leprechaun
Adventures