

Oct/Nov 2020

Deadline for
Dec/Jan's
newsletter is
November 15

EPWORTH HAPPENINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



THE EVOLUTION OF OUR WORSHIP

These past months, our worship has gone through several transitions. We have gathered 85 strong in the sanctuary; used a cell phone to be on Facebook Live. Services have been recorded in the sanctuary and the third floor of the parsonage. Our music has been incredible utilizing the imagination and talents of several folks. We have purchased new equipment to improve our livestream. And we have returned to in person worship with about 25 folks coming out. These are just a few of the ways in a short period of time worship has evolved here at Epworth.

And we are not done yet! We are continuing to seek out ways that we can enrich our worship time together, especially those who are with us online. In the coming weeks, we will have liturgists leading us virtually. We will be amazed by music performed for us off-site. Our goal is to engage you in a moving worship experience however you join us to worship God.

I want to thank those who have attended in-person. Following the guidelines has kept everyone safe. We continue to have room for others to join us and easily maintain distance.

Your input is needed as we along. I promise there will be hiccups and glitches. I apologize in advance for those moments that disrupt the service. But we are people of grace and as Methodists "we are moving on to perfection." We just haven't got there yet. If you have an idea of something we can do to improve please let Pastor Charlie know.

We also need to expand our tech team to ensure that there will be no interruption in bringing you the service. Right now we are totally relying on Scott and Andy to produce our service every week. If you would be willing to learn and help out please contact PC. It is not complicated and you could probably learn in one training session.

IT IS SHOEBOX TIME!

This is always a special time when we begin to pack our shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Every shoebox gift is an excellent resource for evangelism and discipleship which leads to the multiplication of new believers and churches around the world. Now through November 22 we will be collecting shoeboxes.

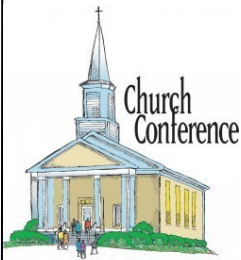
Boxes will be available until they run out on Sunday mornings and during office hours. You can also call Claudia Naus, our new chair of our Mission Committee at 856-298-8030 and she can make arrangements for one to be delivered to you.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we will not be making arrangements for our usual mission trips to the OCC processing warehouse in Baltimore. We also will not be holding our annual OCC packing party.



THE OFFICE IS OPEN

We have set a new schedule for office hours. Pastor Charlie is in the office Monday through Thursday 8:30am to noon. Tina will be in the office Monday through Friday 1:30 to 3:30pm. If you have business with the office, you may want to call ahead to ensure someone is there. Please use the narthex door to enter the building. During business hours you can ring the door bell if you find the door locked. We are asking please be mindful of safe distancing and please wear a mask inside the building.



ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our church conference was held on Tuesday, September 29th on Zoom. Church conference booklets will be made available to those who request a copy. Copies can either be emailed to you or hard copies can be picked up in the office after October 5th. To request a copy of the conference booklet, please email Tina at epworth.palmyra@yahoo.com.

ALL NEW Leadership Academy

Partnering laity and clergy to engage in new ministries for a changing church.



GNJ is offering four courses that will bless the mission and ministry of our congregation. Each course is comprised of three 90 minute online sessions offered over three weeks. Each 90 minute session contains unique content and will be available live via Zoom. Courses are open to laity and clergy. Congregations are encouraged to invite leaders to enroll in courses in their area of interest.

Courses include:

- October: Navigating Worship in the New Day
- November: Making Worship Work Behind the Scenes, This course focuses on best practices in worship technology and developing a team.
- January: These Small Groups Make a Difference, Moving small groups from activity to lifestyle.
- February: Missional Engagement that Opens Hearts, Minds and Doors

More information can be found at:

<https://www.gnjumc.org/2020-leadership-academy/>

BRIGHT SPOTS

One area that has been lost over these past months is the sharing of our Bright Spots.

As you recall these were those moments where we saw God working around us in creation, in acts of kindness or just a moment of awe. Bright Spots are certainly needed in these difficult times. They offer us hope, strengthen our faith and remind us God is still working in our world. We are thinking of ways to incorporate them back into the life of our worship time. One way to do this may be to record your Bright Spot to be shared during the service on Sunday. Arrangements can be made with Pastor Charlie to share your moment. Simply give him a call or send him an email to get the ball rolling.



NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Our newsletter is published bi-monthly. It is sent out via email and some hard copies are sent to those without email access. After this issue, the next one will be for December/January. You are invited to share information that is of interest to the congregation. We ask that all articles and information be submitted by the November 15th. Please do not ask the office to write "a blurb" for your group or meeting. You have the information and are best suited for relaying it to others. To avoid having to retype articles, they should be sent to the office in Word format if possible. Your cooperation is expected and appreciated. Once work has begun on the newsletter, articles submitted late may not be included. We have shared upcoming dates for the newsletter for your planning. You should be anticipating now what you may want included next.

- December/January articles due November 15
- February/March articles due January 15
- April/May articles due March 15

ALL SAINTS DAY November 1, 2020

As with many things this year, we will changing how we recognize our saints during worship on November first. It has been a long tradition that we acknowledge those who have found their way to eternal rest this past year. We will continue to do so this year as we read their names and light a candle to honor them. We also have invited those in attendance to come forward and light a candle to remember others. Realizing many will not be here to do so this year, we still want to be able to extend this invitation even to those at home. An invitation is being extended to you to email or call the church office with the name(s) of those you wish to remember. Their name will be read and a candle lit during the service. We ask that you make your request by October 25 to allow us to prepare. We want to do our best to honor and remember those who have touched our lives.

CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?



PRAYER REQUESTS

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." - 1 John 5:14

Prayer is an essential part of our ministry. It is, in some ways, the glue that binds us together as a church family. Lifting one another up before God offers comfort and ensures us that we are not alone as we face the tribulation of our lives.

It is our desire to keep our prayer requests before you. We do this through email requests which will be routinely sent on Monday and Thursday afternoons. (*Emergency requests will go out as needed*). Often we get prayer requests in reply to the email. We will include them in the next scheduled email. We also will add these requests to our prayer list as part of the Sunday bulletin. The Bulletin is sent as an attachment to the email you receive Saturday.

Please contact the church office with your requests. Also it is important to let us know if someone can be removed from the list. Your help will help us keep the list current and relevant.

PLANNING MEETINGS

The Covid situation has forced us to be creative and learn new ways to do ministry together. During these past months various groups and committees have been able to continue to meet using Zoom. Pastor Charlie has had the responsibility to schedule and host these meetings. As we come into the fall, the demand and requests to gather will increase as groups begin to reform. As a result, we have acquired an additional Zoom account for groups to use and allow others to host. This will allow us to have multiple meetings at the same time. The church office can schedule the meeting for you and send along instructions and sign-in information for you to host the meeting. It has already been used by several of our groups.

Also be aware that the Gathering Place is setup to host an in-person meeting of about 10 people easily distanced. If this can be an option for your group please contact the church office to schedule use of the space. Ministry is continuing to happen at Epworth and working together we can even grow!



UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

Youth group meets every other Sunday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Our upcoming meetings are:

- October 25
- November 8
- November 22

You are also invited to join us for Sunday School in the BLAST zone every Sunday at 10:30 am, beginning October 18th.



OUR ANGEL TREE



This year we will be handling the Angel Tree a little differently. We realize Covid-19 has affected much of what we do and has caused us to pivot in

many aspects of our ministry. The Angel Tree is no exception. We will be creating a generic list of gifts that will be put together for each family based on children's age. We will gather information during Food Pantry days. The gifts will be bagged and distributed in December.

Rather than having angels with specific gifts on a tree, we are asking for monetary donations that will be used to shop for the gifts. (*Checks can be made out to Epworth UMC and noted as Angel Tree*)

In addition, a wish list is being created on Amazon if you prefer to pick something from the list. The name of the list is Epworth Angel Tree. This is the link:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2L8LJKXLSKAJH?ref=wl_share

We are also asking for small items that could be used as stocking stuffers. These can be dropped off at Epworth during office hours.

Our goal is always to provide a wonderful Christmas experience for those families that may be struggling with basics of life. If we can share a little love and kindness it ensures the light of Christ will continue to shine brightly through the darkness. Please contact Claudia Naus or Barbara Beitz with any questions or to see how you can help.



EPWORTH UMW NEWS:

The UMW has the Epworth UMW Basket Extravaganza from October 15-18. We are looking to have 15-20 themed baskets displayed in the gathering room. Bidding on the baskets can be done on Thursday, October 15th from 12 noon until 8pm. The same hours on Friday, October 16th. Saturday, October 17th bidding can be done between 10am -4pm. On Sunday, October 18th bids can still be placed between 11am and 1pm. Winners will be drawn and contacted Sunday afternoon. No entrance tickets required and bids sold upon arrival. Please try to donate basket items and/or gift cards. Looking forward to everyone and their friends attending!

UMW Executive Meeting November 14th @ 9am via Zoom.

CIRCLE NEWS

DEBORAH CIRCLE: will meet at **7:00 pm**, Thursday, **October 15, and November 19, 2020**, via ZOOM. We will be discussing "The World According to Mr. Rogers, *Important Things to Remember*". Deborah Circle will support the UMW Basket Extravaganza being held October 15 -18th.

GRACE CIRCLE: Due to Covid, we will not be meeting in person during the next few months. However, we are still planning on Zooming with each other! Please watch your email for scheduled days and times. We do have several events coming up including the Basket Extravaganza and modified nut sale to discuss. Stay well! Cheryl Quickel and Lisa Warner.

Grace Circle is exploring options for a modified Nut Sale. We will update you with more information as it becomes available.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tangible evidence of the love and prayers of our congregation.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. *Colossians 4:2*

As we approach the season of thanksgiving during a time of great difficulty, when life as we knew it has changed dramatically, we have the opportunity to reflect on the many blessings we *do* have, and to resurrect the *Gratitude Calendar* that Pastor Charlie suggested we keep. The PSM Team is blessed and grateful to be able to continue our ministry on your behalf. We take this opportunity to share with you some of the thank you notes we have received.

"... Thank you so very much for the beautiful shawls for me and my husband. Surrounding ourselves in your love and prayers is just what we both need at this difficult time. The blessing of your gifts, prayers, and kindness are such wonderful reminders of God's love. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Please continue to pray for our beautiful girl ... and our family. L and E Z"

"... Thank you so very much for your wonderful kindness in sending me the beautiful shawl in loving memory of my son, Jack. I apologize for my tardiness in extending my gratitude ... I recently moved and actually opened your gift on the 6 month anniversary of Jack's passing. I loved him so much and I was so very proud of him. He was a very kind and gentle fellow ~ wise beyond his 13 years. I think he was the kind of young man that you would have enjoyed as a member of your church. Thank you again for keeping us in your prayers and for helping our family through these difficult times. God bless all of you and your parishioners. RF"



Next meetings:
October 8 & November 12 at 2 pm
On Zoom



October's Communion Offering will go to the Palmyra Fire Department & the Tri-Boro Ambulance Association.
November's Communion Offering will go to Mary's Closet.



October Birthdays

OVER 18 BIRTHDAYS

Dave	Witwer	10/01
Grace	Garemore	10/02
Cynthia	Conley	10/03
Julio	Cintron	10/09
Michael	O'Brien	10/09
Donald	Neff	10/11
Donnalee	Undercuffler	10/13
Justin	Mitchell	10/15
Eric	Mason	10/17
Beverley	Boal	10/18
Sarah	Snow-Bailey	10/19
Jim	O'Brien	10/20
Richard	Schwering	10/20
Philip	Hutchison	10/22
Edward	Maher, III	10/23
Patricia	Rambow	10/23
David	Van Artsdalen	10/28
Mary Jo	Guidry	10/29
Sheri	von Fischer	10/30
Daniel	Ewing	10/31

10 to 18 BIRTHDAYS

Trevor	Conley	10/04/2005
Kiley	Hines	10/12/2005
Emily	Warren	10/18/2010
Camden	Weiler	10/14/2009

UNDER 10 BIRTHDAYS

Luke	Bligh	10/11/2012
Timothy	G. Hicks	10/21/2013

November Birthdays

OVER 18 BIRTHDAYS

Deborah	Mason	11/01
Elizabeth	Nixon	11/02
Michael	von Fischer	11/02
Paul	Quattrocchi	11/05
Stacey	Dreby	11/07
Doug	Bligh	11/08
Charlie	Soper	11/08
C. Lynn	Truax	11/08
Amanda	Campbell	11/10
Christine	Diecks	11/10
Robert	Brown	11/11
Ken	Miotla	11/11
Colleen	Sacca	11/11
Robert	Smith	11/12
Albert	Scanlon	11/13
J. Scott	Craig	11/14
Joan	Schwering	11/14
Melody	Bauer	11/15
Richard	Taylor	11/15
William	Condit	11/18
Amanda	Bakley	11/20
Daryl	Adair	11/21
Heather	Bohley	11/21
Ann	Magonigal	11/21
Nancy	Quattrocchi	11/22
Jimmy	Letton	11/24
Marie	Letton	11/29
Kurt	Schill	11/29

10 to 18 BIRTHDAYS

Delilah	Vohringer	11/02/2005
Makayla	Bligh	11/26/2009

