

June/July 2021

Deadline for
Aug/Sept
newsletter is
July 15th

EPWORTH HAPPENINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



COVID UPDATE

With the changing of mandates, we at Epworth continue to consider how we will respond and the impact on our ministry. Effective June first, we will lift our mask requirement for those who are fully vaccinated and the mandate of six foot distancing. With this being said, we are asking that those who are not vaccinated continue to wear a mask and maintain distance. Also if you are at some health risk, please continue to protect yourself.

We encourage each of you to practice safe measures of using hand sanitizer and minimizing contact with one another. As we come together, let us remember we are sisters and brothers in Christ, part of a household of faith. As such, let us show love and respect to one another. The level of comfort for each of us may be different in regards to pandemic, wearing masks and distancing. This should not be questioned but be respected. This is true across many issues of today. We desire to have each person participate in our ministry in a way that is comfortable for them. Our Pandemic Response Plan can be read in full on our website, www.palmyranjumc.org.

WORSHIP

Our worship service continues to evolve as we try new ways of doing old things. We need to acknowledge that this past year has changed how we do this thing called church. In the past we would gather in the sanctuary for service. We had a few folks that would watch online. Online was okay but certainly not great. The pandemic hit and we quickly had to adapt to a total online presence on Sunday morning. It took some time but we figured it out. As we have gotten to a place where once again we are able to gather in-person, the reality is that many have chosen to continue to participate in worship online. Understanding this, we are striving to create an atmosphere for worship that has meaning for both those who come in-person and those who join us online. In the coming weeks, we will try a variety of ways to make the connection between the two. As with all things new, we may stumble as we go but with your patience, understanding and cooperation, we can succeed. Ideas include liturgists both in-person and online, adding in "Bright Spot" moments, lifting of prayer concerns, and continuing to provide excellent music. How we do these things is a challenge but not an insurmountable one. As always your thoughts and ideas are welcome. Pastor Charlie welcomes your input whether you are worshipping in the sanctuary or online.

Coming July 11 – July 15 Vacation Bible School

We are excited to have VBS this year where kids grow in friendship with Jesus. This amazing experience will help kids explore the unending love and friendship Jesus offers them. Jesus will always loves us and this lasts forever.



This year we are offering Vacation Bible School in-person for those children of Epworth affiliated people. (We will not be offering VBS to the public to join us in person.) We will be recording portions of VBS to be available through our website and through YouTube for others. Registration will be open shortly.



MAH JONG to resume.

Plans are being made to restart our Mah Jong Group. Having been away for months, there is excitement about getting back to playing Mah Jong. (This is not your video solitaire version). A fun game played through the centuries it offers a time of fellowship. All are welcome you will be helped to learn the game if it is new to you. Watch this space for dates and time!



**Join us for a movie
Sunday, June 13 at
6pm in the
Gathering Place.**

Life changes overnight for coach John Harrison when his high school basketball

team's state championship dreams are crushed under the weight of unexpected news. When the largest manufacturing plant in town suddenly shuts down and hundreds of families begin moving away, John must come to grips with the challenges facing his family and his team. Urged by the school's principal to fill-in and coach a sport he doesn't know or like, John is frustrated and questioning his worth... until he crosses paths with a student struggling with her own journey. Filled with a powerful mix of faith, a twist of humor, and a ton of heart, **OVER-COMER** dares to leave you filled with hope, inspired to dream, and asks the question: what do you allow to define you?

LET'S GET TOGETHER

During the past year our church groups have been challenged in being able to meet. While some have continued by using Zoom, others have had to curtail getting together. Fellowship is an important part of our ministry. Our hope is that more of our groups will begin to gather in person once again. As your group considers restarting and/or coming to the church, please contact the church office to reserve your space and time or if you have any questions.

In the coming weeks and months our hope is that many of the ministries that have been on hold will be scheduled to resume. As we restart many of our programs, consider inviting others to join in. A personal invitation from you can make a difference. Often a person is reluctant to attend an event because they are unfamiliar with the group. Each of us has the ability to open the door and be welcoming to a friend. Let's do what we can to help Epworth grow and extend hospitality.

HELPING HANDS

Our Helping Hands Ministry is a group of folks that come together to tackle some small jobs around the church. We are lining up some projects and repairs to be done around the church. We invite you to be with us on the first and third Thursdays at 9am. We hope you will consider coming out to join our crew and enjoy the fellowship of working together. There are things to be done for all abilities so all are welcome to come on out.



SPECIAL MUSIC

Our music ministry has been an important part of our worship ministry. We are grateful for all those who have shared their gifts with us as we gathered to lift our praise to God. If you have a gift of music that you would like to share, you are invited to talk with Diane Soper. Playing a musical instrument, or singing can all be part of this great opportunity. We hope you might consider helping us praise God with your gift of music.

"See I am doing a new thing" Isaiah 43:19



"Churches stop growing when their passion for the past and present is more compelling than their vision for the future."
Carey Nieuwhof



Mary's Closet is planning a Summer Extravaganza on Saturday, June 19th. We will be outside in front of the Sunday School windows.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The Bread of Life Food Pantry continues to serve the triboro area. We continue to disperse food twice a month on the first and third Saturdays from 10am to noon. Using a drive up grab-n-go system, each client is getting two bags of pre-packed food. Through the cold and some rain we have yet to miss a scheduled pantry day. We will continue this format through July. Thank you to all the dedicated people that make the pantry work.

We are also thankful for the many people and agencies that support the ministry by their donations of food and funds. This outpouring of generosity has enabled the pantry to thrive.

In the coming weeks we will be addressing how the pantry will go forward now that many of the mandates that forced us outside have been lifted. This is not a simple task. We will be looking at space and storage issues as well as the space needed for fellowship of the clients. We are blessed that we have options and all that we do is with the clients in mind.

The Food Pantry is pleased to announce that Andy String has agreed to serve as coordinator of the pantry. While Andy heads our pantry technology team, he will facilitate the communication and direction of the other team leaders. We are fortunate to have a number of individuals who give many hours to make all the parts work. As we move forward, you are invited to join the pantry team. The pantry is open for donations and processing Wednesday afternoons, 1-3pm, and Thursday evenings 7-9pm.

SHOP RITE CARDS

We are still selling Shop Rite cards. We receive 5% from the sale of those cards. Cards are easy to use and even easier to get. Gift cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100. Cards are sold in the church office during the week. Payment can be made by checks made payable to "Epworth UMC" or exact cash.



JUNE'S COMMUNION OFFERING will benefit Epworth's Prayer Shawl Ministry.

JULY'S COMMUNION OFFERING will benefit Red Bird Mission.

"Red Bird Mission, guided by Jesus Christ, creates opportunities for individuals to enrich their lives and positively impact others within the mountains of southeast Kentucky and throughout the world."





2021 UMW AUCTION

The UMW Auction will take place this October 2021. Although we are slowly returning to a more “normal” situation, we are not there yet!

So, it will again be a “BASKET EXTRAVAGANZA”, a repeat of the format used last year. We hope to have 30 or more themed baskets. No entrance tickets will be sold, no socialization with other bidders and no food or drink. Everyone will have the opportunity to come to the church and buy bids at the door and bid on the baskets. At end of Auction, bids will be drawn and winners contacted so they can pick up baskets, again with minimal contact and no social interaction with curbside pickup.

We will accept completed themed large baskets with new and/or handmade items such as: gift cards, items for pets, weddings, kitchen articles, holidays, electronics, games/puzzles, baby items, sports, automotive, Christian themed, toys, etc. Please try to donate to this fundraiser for missions. Any questions please contact Reva Luce (856-235-0876).

ALTAR FLOWERS

Beginning in September we will resume putting our regularly scheduled flowers on the altar. In the meantime, anyone wishing to have flowers on the altar throughout the summer, or wish to schedule a Sunday in the fall, please contact Terry Neas at 609-560-9957.



Altar Flowers

We also would welcome anyone who would like to join our team. The job is not difficult and would only require one or two weekends every 3 months arranging flowers for the altar and distributing them on Sunday. We will even provided guided instruction on how to arrange the flowers to make the task easier. Please give it some consideration, we can always use the help.

EPWORTH UMW

The May Epworth UMW General Picnic Meeting was a success with 12 members



in attendance. We met in person at the church on the front lawn to have a picnic. We each brought our own dinner and were socially distanced. It was wonderful to be together again.

Upcoming UMW events are Mission U Conference is July 15-17. Thursday -6:30pm-9pm. Friday 6:30-9 and Saturday 9am-3pm. The cost will be \$25.00 and that includes the learning materials. This time slot also will include lay servant recertification for \$15. There will be one day class on July 17th and the cost is \$15 including materials. Registration is online along with payment.

The next Epworth Executive UMW Meeting is Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 7pm. The next Epworth General UMW Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 19, 2021 at 11:30 to be held after church services in person. At this time, no food or beverage is planned. The program will be given by Barbara King about her travels to the Holy Land in 2019.

Please keep our upcoming October Auction/Basket Extravaganza in mind. We will need gift card donations as well as completed baskets and new items and gifts.



RACHEL CIRCLE - This circle will not meet this summer. Tentative re-start for meetings is late Sept. 2021.

GRACE CIRCLE – We do not typically meet in the summer months. However, watch your email for a get together for outside dining or barbeque at someone’s home! Contact: Cheryl Quickel at 856-428-0333.

June Birthdays

OVER 18 BIRTHDAYS

Sean	O'Brien	06/01
Betty Jane	Adair	06/03
Jade	Guidry	06/03
Rachel	Scheffler	06/06
Rebecca	Hicks	06/08
Kimberly	Thress	06/08
David	Boal	06/09
Debbie	Cheeseman	06/09
Rebecca	Hack	06/10
Raymond	Schill	06/13
Deborah	Campion	06/16
Julianne	Scheffler	06/19
Justin	Grimes	06/22
Sarah	Grimes	06/22
Melissa	Rosvold	06/25
Jacalyn	Hicks	06/26
Susan	Kuhn	06/26
Emma	Blosfelds	06/30

10 to 18 BIRTHDAYS

David, Jr.	Merlo	06/14/2010
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July Birthdays

OVER 18 BIRTHDAYS

Andy	String	07/03
Frank	Pelkey	07/05
Fred	Cook	07/09
Lauren	Quattrocchi	07/09
Kathryn	Guenther	07/12
Kursten	Schill	07/12
Brian	Bohley, Jr.	07/13
Julie	Given	07/15
Carrie	Schur	07/17
Dorothy	Schroeder	07/20
James	Weston	07/22
Robert	LePage	07/23
Erica	Cintron	07/24
Janet	Neff	07/26
Jennifer	Schroeder	07/27
Joseph	Guidry	07/29
Ursula	Weed	07/29
Jeffrey	Hancock	07/30
Vicki	Bennett	07/30

UNDER 10 JULY BIRTHDAYS

Lucas	Thress	07/07/2012
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PLANNED GIVING



Including Epworth in your will is a meaningful way to honor a loved one. It also makes a lasting commitment that will provide support to our church for many years to come. A bequest is the easiest gift you can arrange. Why?

It's Deferred: It costs you nothing during your lifetime. Your gift doesn't take effect until your death and there's no need to worry that it will deplete your current assets. And if your circumstances change, you can simply revise your will.

It's Simple" We can supply you with a simple statement to set up your gift.

It's Diversified: You decide where your gift will go. It can support a specific program, or you can allow the Planned Giving committee to determine the most urgent need at the time of your gift.

It's Flexible: You may choose to leave a specific dollar amount, a piece of personal property, or a percentage of your estate. Or you may choose to leave all or a portion of what's left in your estate after you have provided for family or friends. You select the option that works best for you and your family.

For more information on how you can leave a legacy to Epworth, please contact Jean Cook, Marilyn Bilotti, Carol Fenton, Debbie Mason, or Neil Sellars.