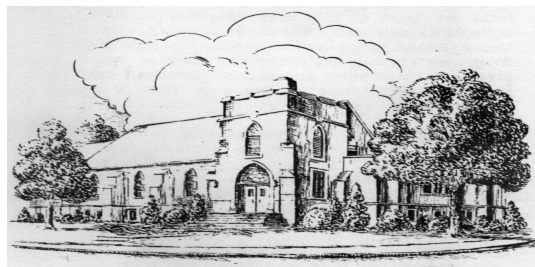


Circuit Writer

Eastern Parkway UMC
943 Palmer Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12309

*"On a journey
together."*



June 2011

"Change is inevitable - except from a vending machine."

-Robert C. Gallagher

This is my last pastor's letter for the *Circuit Writer*. June 12 will be my last Sunday, and as of July 1 your new pastor will be Rev. Alan Kinney. Since we will still be in the Capital Region, we may see each other around. I'll be happy to stop and chat about life, hear about your kids and grandkids, and share how my family is doing. I won't, however, be coming back to do pastoral things here.

I want to thank you all for the ways in which you have welcomed me, challenged me, laughed with me, been patient with me, and offered grace to me. My time here has been one of growth, and has been a blessing to me. Eastern Parkway has much to offer the church and the world, and I pray that you will continue to grow in leading United Methodism in Schenectady into a new future.

In looking back and thinking about my time here, I've been reflecting on some of the many things I've learned. I leave you with a list of some. This is by no means all-inclusive, but I hope it gives a sense of my appreciation for the past 8 years with you.

10 Things I've Learned at Eastern Parkway:

1. Every church is different, even when they look similar from the outside.
2. It's important to have people around who will tell you what they think.
3. Music has the ability to unite and divide a congregation.
4. Sometimes, no matter what you do, some people aren't going to like you.
5. I can break into pretty much any cabinet or closet.
6. If you break into the Circle B cabinets, be sure to tell them it was you.
7. It's always better to take responsibility, seek forgiveness, and move on.
8. There are actually nice people who happen to be Yankee fans.
9. Be patient, except when it's a matter of justice.
10. Moving forward requires the difficult task of letting go.

Peace for the journey,

Pastor Steve



**Open hearts, Open
Minds, Open Doors.**

Some of what's
inside...

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"As a Reconciling Congregation, EPUMC affirms the sacred worth of persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and welcomes them into full participation in the fellowship, membership, ministries, and leadership of the congregation."

Book Collection In addition to collecting food items, we are also continuing to collect gently used children's books to donate to SICM. These books can then be added to meals. You are welcome to drop off your books in the marked box also located by the Mission Table at church. Thank you to all those who have continued to donate already!

Emergency Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

SICM has an immediate need for volunteers to help stock the food pantry shelves any weekday morning between 8am-12pm. Must be able to lift cases of food. The need is greatest the last two weeks of the month. If you are able to help, please contact Gail at the Emergency Food Pantry at 346-4036.

Outreach; Extending the Love of Christ to Those Outside Our Walls

Thank you for all you do to share the love of Christ to those outside of our walls. You reach out to those afflicted with the HIV virus and AIDS through your support of the Damien House dinners, provide assistance to those in need through Schenectady Inner City Ministries, house and assist the homeless through Bethesda House, provide furnishing for needy families through the Home Furnishings Program, reached out to victims of the Iraq war by sponsoring a refugee family, and responded to requests for disaster relief through many Advance Specials.

Your efforts are making a difference in the lives of individuals. Men and Women who have lost everything due to a disaster have been given the resources to be able to begin again to live productive lives. The chronically homeless have been provided with assistance that has enabled them to find a permanent residence. Those who have felt like nobody cares, have experienced individuals reaching out in love to them.

As we move into the Summer season and the recruiting of volunteers is more difficult, I urge you to make an extra effort to support the many programs of our Outreach Ministry.

Sunday, June 26th is Schenectady Inner City Ministries Sunday. In this time of high unemployment, it is critical to support for the ministries of SICM. SICM has been and continues to be one of the lead agencies in advocating for and providing services to the disadvantaged of Schenectady. You can place your special offering in the offering plate on the 26th or mail it to the church.

When the United Methodists of Upstate New York gather for their Annual Conference, we will be giving a joint witness to our commitment to embodying the love of Christ to those in need by taking up a collection of food and other items for a homeless shelter in the city of Rochester where we will be gathering for our annual meeting. Please help our Annual Conference bear witness in this tangible way by contributing to this effort. Items needed by Rochester's Open Door Mission include: mayonnaise, assorted half-gallons of juice, coffee, creamer, sugar, coffee filters, large disposable gloves, Dawn Dish Soap, bleach, 55-gallon garbage bags, 4" Styrofoam salad bowls, 6" Styrofoam dessert plates, plastic forks, spoons, knives, paper towels, paper napkins and bathroom tissue.

An urgent need still exists for disaster relief for those affected by the earthquake in Japan and the flooding in the Southern United States. The most effective way to provided assistance for those affected by these disasters is through the United Methodist Committee on Relief's Advance Specials. Since UMCOR's administrative expenses are provided for though local churches contribution to their Annual Conferences, 100% of what you give to an Advance Special goes to help those affected by the disaster. You can contribute to either of these Advance Specials on line at www.UMCOR.org, by placing your contribution in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or mailing your contribution to the church: Eastern Parkway United Methodist Church, 943 Palmer Ave, Schenectady, NY 12309.

Please mark your gifts: Japan or 2011 Spring Storms

June Scriptures

June 5

7th Sun of Easter

Acts 1:6-14
 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
 I Peter 5:12-14, 5:6-11
 John 17:1-11

Communion
 Sock Project Sun

June 12

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
 2 Corinthians 12:3b-13
 John 7:37-39

June 19

1st Sun after Pentecost

Genesis 1:1-2, 4a
 Psalm 8
 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
 Matthew 28:16-20

Food Pantry Sun

June 26

2nd Sun after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1-14
 Psalm 13
 Romans 6:12-23
 Matthew 10:40-42

Lay Participants for June

Lay Readers:

June 5: Children's Sun
June 12: Desiree Chaires
June 19: Judy Tomisman
June 26: Cheryl Gerstler

Acolytes:

Sam Smith & Kaitlyn Gerstler
 Naionna Grisby & Talyah Chaires
 Rebecca Morrow & Alice Menis
 Emma Bour & Kaitlyn Gerstler

Chancel Committee: Nancy Curran
Cashiers: Paul Ryan, Marilyn Esmann, Don Willie

Sun., June 5
 Children's Sunday, 10am
 All Church Conference
 11:30 am
 Jr. & Sr. Youth Groups
 6:30-8pm

Office Hours
 The church office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9:00am-2:30pm and Tuesdays & Fridays 9am – 11am.
Pastor Steve's office hours are generally Monday through Thursday, 9am-12pm. Everyone is welcome to stop in but it is best to call ahead.

Wed., June 8
 Circle B luncheon ,
 11:30 am
 Center Stage Deli

The Food Pantry alert for June is for assorted dry mixes (Tuna/Hamburger Helper, instant potatoes, etc.) Cash donations are most welcome as the Food Program can purchase much more through the Regional Food Bank than anyone can buy at a local store for the same amount of money. For example, the Food Pantry can purchase items for 16 cents a pound at the Regional Food Bank.

**Wed. June 8-
 Sat., June 11**
**Annual Conference
 Rochester, NY**

Sun., June 12
 Reception for Smiths
 11am (following worship)

Tue., June 14
 Church Council Mtg. 7 pm

The third Sunday of every month is Food Pantry Sunday at EPUMC.

Mon., June 20
 Trustee Mtg, 7 pm

From the Trustees...M.S.I. Roofing has completed replacement of the church roof. Among other things, this replacement will address the water leaks we have experienced.

Wednesday Night Dinners...
 are held in the Fellowship Hall at 6pm. Bring a dish to share—beverages and place settings are provided.
 June 8—Regular dinner celebrating June birthdays and anniversaries.
 June 15—Regular dinner
 June 22—Regular dinner
 June 29—Regular dinners

**GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ~ FULFILLING OUR PROMISES ~
PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE ~ MARCH 2011**

<u>Our Prayers</u>		<u>Our Presence</u>		<u>Our Gifts</u>	
Norma Quackenbush	04/03	103	04/03	\$4436.51	
David Spawn Clara Marks	04/10	118	04/10	\$1908.59	
Olly Clute Dan Pachucki	04/17	109	04/17	\$1698.50	
Andy Peck Devon LaPrade	04/24	184	04/24	\$3517.43	
Kelly O'Brien Nancy Denning					
Jeremias Franca Kim Nash					
Inner Peace ~ World Peace					
<i>If you have prayer concerns, joys, prayers of thanks or celebration you would like included in this section, please submit them to the office at 374-4306 or epumc943@yahoo.com</i>		<u>Our Service</u>		Food Pantry	\$ 252.37
		Thanks to Connie Trigger, Cathy Faulkner and their "crew" for all their hard work on yet another successful rummage sale!		Sock Project.	\$ 84.51
				Japan Advance	\$ 360.00
				Mission Candles	\$ 61.00
				One Great Hour	\$ 50.00

June Birthdays

02—Diana Carer; Naionna Grisby; Marie MacDougall

03—Sue Rehbein

05—Vanessa Stacy

06—Bruce Benson

10—Stacey McClenon

13—Nancy DaPore; Corey Miller

14—Paul Farrell

16—David Orr; Pastor Steve Smith; Sean Willie

17—Dorothy Austin

20—Janet Mattis

19—Matthew Trigger

21—Caroleen Garis; Katharine Morrow; Jackie Tomisman

23—Judy Rasmussen

24— Kerry Lewis; Judy Lott

25— Lena LeGere

26— Carrie Mattis; David Rexford, Gaeven Sheehan

27— Emma Bour; Winnie Wilson

28— Dane Orr

30—Isaac Menis

June Anniversaries

12— Eric & Caroleen Garis; Kirk & Barb Lewis

21—George & Paula Griffin; Jerry & Judy Tomisman

22— Eric & Michelle Harrell

25— Sam & Dot Thompson

26—Bruce & Delores Benson; Steve & Heather Smith

Pastor Alan Kinney will join us July 1, 2011 as our pastor. Pastor Alan anticipates having office hours Tuesday through Friday from 9am -12pm.

Congratulations to our confirmands!

Albert Dohring Nadia Louden Rebecca Morrow

Madison Schmitt Caleb Smith Sam Veglia

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, June 12 @ 7 PM!

Rotterdam UMC has been chosen to host a performance of the Africa University Choir. This exciting singing group from Zimbabwe is on a 16-day tour to General Conference, local churches, and annual conferences throughout the United States. The students in this choir represent four African countries. You will experience a lively concert filled with music representing many African traditions. Invite your friends to join you! A free-will offering will be taken.

June 2011

Eastern Parkway UMC

943 Palmer Avenue

Schenectady, NY 12309

Ph: 518-374-4306

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epumc943@yahoo.com

www.easternparkway.weebly.com

Summer newsletter deadline is

Fri., June 10

Dated material

Deliver Promptly

Change service requested

Sunday Morning Schedule: 10:00 am - Worship

Nursery care is available from 9:45am – 12 pm

Handicapped accessible

Hearing Assists

PASTOR

Steven M. Smith

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

Paul-Allan Carey, FSD

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Barbara J. Paul

NURSERY ATTENDANT:

Faye Dohring

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon, Wed.-Thurs: 9am—2:30pm, Tue. & Fri. 9am-11am

OUR MISSIONARY:

Jeremias Franca

Children's Sunday

Sunday, June 5

10 am Worship

Farewell Reception

for the Smith Family

Sunday, June 12

following worship

All Church Conference

Sunday, June 5

11:30 am in Fellowship Hall

Annual Conference

Wednesday, June 8-

Saturday, June 11

Rochester, NY