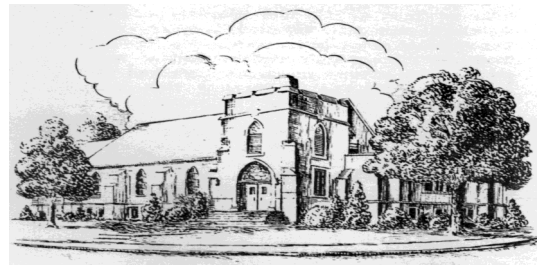


# The Circuit Writer

Eastern Parkway UMC  
943 Palmer Avenue  
Schenectady, NY 12309

*"On a journey  
together."*



## February 2011

***"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work."***

*1 Corinthians 12: 4-6*

Usually here I have some illustration, some story, some metaphor to offer you to lead into my message, but this time I'm going straight to the point. In the coming months we will be seeking out members of our congregation to take on many of the roles that help to keep the church functioning. If you are called, I ask you to consider making a commitment to serve. If you want to serve, don't wait to be called -- volunteer!

We are in need of people to serve as Trustees, on SPRC, on Stewardship and Finance, on Church Council, as teachers, as youth leaders, as tellers, and as ushers. There are tasks that involve time only on Sundays, and tasks that involve time during the week. There are many ways to serve, and they're all important.

Perhaps you don't know what some of those things are, but that's okay, we can teach you. Perhaps your schedule is already pretty full. That's understandable, and common, but if the church is going to thrive we have to make it a priority. Perhaps you don't feel like the most spiritual person, and wonder if you're the right person for the job, but you'll find that doing this work is part of what leads us to be more spiritual people.

When you are called, please consider how you will respond.

Peace for the journey,

*Pastor Steve*

p.s. We will be continuing our music conversations on Sunday, February 6, at noon with a light lunch. The goal of this time is to share, and, more importantly, to listen. I hope that you will join us!



**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."***



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

This month there are two opportunities to support special ministries of the United Methodist Church. I hope you will read these two articles, prayerfully consider the impact of these ministries, and support them on February 13 and 27.

### **ANSWERING THE CALL**

For over 2000 years individuals have faithfully responded to the call to share God's love as revealed through Jesus Christ. The ways in which individuals have responded to that call have been many. One such individual was a woman in the hospital for surgery who when asked why she wasn't scared, shared about her faith in Jesus. Another was a pastor's wife who volunteered to teach a Bible study class. Still another was a group of women who used their knitting skills to make lap robes for hospitalized Veterans. Some answered the call to enter the ordained ministry.

There are of course many other types of ministry; but what they all have in common is a desire to share the Good News of a loving God who can change the lives of individuals.

For those who entered the Ordained Ministry; it has sometimes been at great cost. There has been the cost of four years of college and three years of seminary. There has been the cost of giving up other more financially rewarding jobs. There has been the cost of living in a high stress job. There has been the cost of a retirement system that until recently has left little cushion for unexpected expenses.

If you were to ask, though, I am confident that almost without exception retired pastors will say that the cost of being an ordained pastor was small in comparison with the rewards it brought.

On Sunday, February 13 there will be a Special Offering to provide assistance to a pastor or surviving spouse of a pastor who faces financial difficulties. If you can't be in church that Sunday, you can mail your special offering to the church at: EPUMC, 943 Palmer Ave, Schenectady, NY 12309-6216. Please mark "Retired" on checks.

### **The World is My Parish**

When some wanted to restrict John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, to restrict his activities he responded that "the world is my parish." Wesley saw his mission as nothing less than transforming the world. He firmly believed that it was possible through following the example of Jesus: feeding the hungry, curing the sick, and preaching the Good News to change the lives of individuals and the world in which they lived.

In Eastern Parkway we seek to live out John Wesley's legacy in several ways. Locally we provide financial support to three agencies that provide direct assistance and advocacy for those in need in Schenectady: Bethany House, Schenectady Inner City Ministries, and COCOA House. We also provide opportunities for individuals to volunteer with the Salvation Army, Damien House, and the Furniture Van program.

There are also two countries which Troy conference established a partner relationship with, Mozambique and Brazil. Both of these countries have been the recipients of Volunteer in Mission teams who have visited them and engaged in mission project with them, all at their own expense. These projects were more than just lending a helping hand to those needing assistance. They provided opportunities for the participants to understand firsthand how the Holy Spirit can break down the walls of cultural differences. They also witnessed individuals with a passion to share their faith despite extreme poverty.

On Sunday, February 27 you have the opportunity to help support the work of United Methodist in Mozambique and Brazil through a special offering. If you can't be in church that Sunday, you can mail your special offering to the church at :EPUMC, 943 Palmer Ave, Schenectady, NY 12309-6216. Please mark "Retired" on checks.



# February Scriptures

## Feb 6

5th Sun after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a  
Psalm 112:1-10  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12  
Matthew 5:13-20

Communion  
Sock Project Sun

## Feb 13

6th Sun after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalm 119:1-8  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9  
Matthew 5:21-37

Retired Ministers' Sunday

## Feb 20

7th Sun after Epiphany

Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18  
Psalm 119:33-40  
1 Corinthians 3:10-11,16-23  
Matthew 5:38-48

Food Pantry Sun

## Feb 27

8th Sun after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:8-16a  
Psalm 131  
1 Corinthians 4:1-5  
Matthew 6:24-34

Mozambique/Brazil Sun

### Lay Participants for February

#### Lay Readers:

**Feb. 6:** Louise LaBombard  
**Feb 13** Desiree Chaires  
**Feb 20:** Judy Tomisman  
**Feb 27:** Cheryl Gerstler

#### Acolytes:

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

**Chancel Committee:** Louise LaBombard & Georgianna Murray

**Cashiers:** Roger Kerr & Howard Braungart

Tue., Feb. 1  
Circle B , 9:30 am

Tue., Feb. 1  
Church Council Mtg, 7 pm

Sun., Feb. 6  
Music Conversation  
12 pm

Sun., Feb. 13 & 27  
Jr. & Sr. Youth Groups  
6:30-8 pm

Tue., Feb. 22  
Stew & Fin Mtg, 7 pm

### 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.

Fri., Feb. 18  
Game Night, 7pm

Mon., Feb. 28  
Trustee Mtg, 7 pm

**The Food Pantry alert for February** is for dry mixes such as mashed potatoes, tuna helper, 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.

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

### Wednesday Night Dinners...

are held in the Fellowship Hall at 6pm. Bring a dish to share—beverages and place settings are provided.

Feb. 2—Regular dinner celebrating February birthdays and anniversaries.

Feb. 9, 16, 23—Regular dinners

A reminder that if the Schenectady and/or Niskayuna schools close for inclement weather, there is no WND.

**GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ~ FULFILLING OUR PROMISES ~  
PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE ~ DECEMBER 2010**

<u>Our Prayers</u>		<u>Our Presence</u>		<u>Our Gifts</u>	
Norma Quackenbush	12/05	128	12/05	\$5384.00	
David Spawn	Clara Marks 12/12	82	12/12	\$1640.29	
Olly Clute	Dan Pachucki 12/19	141	12/19	\$5655.57	
Andy Peck	Donna Spawn 12/24	199	12/24	\$3957.00	
Kelly O'Brien	12/24				
Jeremias Franca					
Inner Peace ~ World Peace		<u>Our Service</u>	12/26	\$ 697.05	

Our love and support to the friends and family of Lois Mausert .

*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*

Thanks to our MLK, Jr. marchers.

Grateful thanks to Dot and Harry Temple who label and prepare our newsletter for disbursement every month.

Food Pantry	\$ 25.00
Sock Project.	\$ 98.07
Bethesda House Miss	\$ 25.00
COCOA House	\$ 459.00
Mission Candles	\$ 86.00
Refugee Resettlement	\$ 500.00

## February Birthdays

03—Carolyn Canova; Gregory Kerr; Eleanor Lewis

05—Bill Carlson; Dot Thompson

07—Logan Kerr

08—Zachary Felten

09—Delores Benson

13—Madison Schmitt

14—Janet Hitchcock; Clara Marks

15—Brenda Morrow

20—Martha Gardner

26—Caroline Griffin

*"My deep and heartfelt gratitude to my EPUMC "family" for your Christmas gift. I feel so blessed to have a job I love and to be part of the ministry and mission that happens here."*

## Home Furnishing Program

**Save these dates: March 4 & 5!!**

We will be having a spring sale at the Stanford Methodist Church  
1569 State Street  
Friday and Saturday, from 9 am -1 pm  
Volunteers needed!  
Call 346-2444

**Please note:**

Because we are in the midst of major warehouse reorganization and because we are short on truck-run volunteers the only donations we are accepting at this time are:

**beds, dressers, and housewares**

especially large pots and pans, towel sets, pot-holders, dish-towels and, as always, Queen sheets

*We apologize if we cannot get to you promptly.*

*We thank you for thinking of us and our clients who are in need.*

*We welcome those who can arrange to drop donations off at our warehouse.*

*Call 346-2444 or email [homefurninc@aol.com](mailto:homefurninc@aol.com)*

February 2011

## Eastern Parkway UMC

943 Palmer Avenue

Schenectady, NY 12309

Ph: 518-374-4306

Fax: 518-374-4308

epumc943@yahoo.com

www.easternparkway.weebly.com

March newsletter deadline is

Thur., Feb. 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

**Bishop Marcus Matthews**

**will preach at EPUMC on Sunday,  
March 6!**

**Ash Wednesday**

**Wednesday, March 9!**

**Watch for info coming soon on our annual youth sponsored  
Variety Show!**