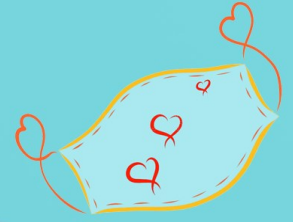


MOMENTS *matter*



Quarterly Newsletter of Epworth United Methodist Church
June/July/August 2022

Participate in the Fiber Arts!!!



Do you enjoy making items for others? Consider joining the Stitchers of Love (knitting and crocheting group) to create prayer squares, Baptismal shawls and wellness shawls. Please contact Janet Joynson at janjoynson@gmail.com for more information.

**VISION: Explore Faith,
Embrace Community**

**MISSION: Inviting, Belonging,
Connecting, Caring**

All Means All

As a [Reconciling Ministries Network](#) congregation, we welcome all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, to share their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.



19285 Holland Glade Rd.
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971
302-227-7743

Epworth.faith



June/July/August 2022 Worship Schedule

- ♦ 9:00 a.m. In-house Contemporary Worship Service or Online worship.
- ♦ 11:00 a.m. In-house Traditional Worship Service or Online worship.

You can access these services through Epworth's Facebook page, YouTube, or on the Web at www.epworth.faith

Other ways we are trying to reach out

Zoom Meetings (open to all)
7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays
6:30 p.m. on Sundays



Community and Communication Matters: Knowing the Truth – and Living Free



On April 14, 1988, the USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG-58) struck a mine while backing out of a minefield in the Persian Gulf, midway between Iran and Qatar. The force of the explosion cracked the keel and resulting flooding knocked the main engine room out of action. You can read about the harrowing next few hours during which the valiant crew held the ship together with cable, fought fires, pumped water, and saved the ship [here](#). After the ship underwent extensive repairs, it returned to active service. Roberts was part of a squadron I served in a year later. During a ship inspection, I noticed a plaque the Captain, Commander Paul Rinn, had installed next to his place in the officers' wardroom after the mine explosion. The plaque read: "The only thing worse than bad news is late bad news."

We seem inundated with bad news these days (years). Russia's war in Ukraine affects our hearts and pocketbooks – and seems beyond America's power to curtail. Our nation seems politically and culturally/ racially polarized to the point of de facto civil war. The United Methodist Church slouches toward another historic schism over the rights of LGBTQ persons – dividing our denomination globally and closer to home. Environmental and biological catastrophes loom on a seemingly inevitable trajectory

toward us all.

The ground seems to be shifting beneath us – undermining foundations we had not thought about questioning, like the story of our shared national history. Now elections turn on the battle to examine or to suppress alternative stories of our history from voices that have long been silenced. But turning away from our past does not merely blind us to our history – it often perpetuates injustice. In Jesus Christ, we live into a promise that we can know the truth, harsh and uncomfortable as it may be, about our past, present, and future – and that knowledge in Christ can set us free from injustice, hatred, and sin.

Jesus first preached a remarkably succinct message, following the example of his cousin and (perhaps) mentor, John the Baptist: "Repent; the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." An ethics professor at The Divinity School at Duke liked to put it this way: "Because the Kingdom has come, you can repent." God's inbreaking kingdom gives us the courage to face uncomfortable truths about ourselves, our communities, and our world that can destroy us when we try to ignore them. Confessing this bad news can be the best good news of all (and "good news" is the meaning of the Greek word that gives us the English word, evangelism).

Confession is indeed good for the soul – of each of us individually and of communities of people. Think of a doctor's discovery of cancerous cells in your body. Would you want the doc to keep that to herself? Telling the truth, harsh as it may be, is the gate that opens the way to God's healing power. Confessing harsh truths drains them of the power they hold over us in the shadows of our minds and hearts. We confess because we believe that confession is not the end of the story – and because our powerful emotions that attend confession can inspire us to live a faith in our God who gives us power to make all things new.

Pastor Bo





Steven Ministries - Moments Matter

Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?” One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- ... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ... *after* the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... *after* the doctor says, “I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do.”
- ... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”
- ... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ... *after* the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

www.stephenministries.org



Caring Ministry Moments Matter

Written by Mickie McManamon

Caring Ministries @ Epworth

Wow, can I tell you how exciting it is to be back inside church! Do you feel the energy as you walk in the door? It is so powerful to sit, watch and listen to all the conversations going on in the Narthex before and after service on Sunday mornings. It is clear our congregation missed the personal interactions with their church friends. (By the way...thank you to our Hospitality Crew for setting up coffee, tea, water and snacks every Sunday it is very much appreciated.)

Although we could not gather in the church building, Fellowship did continue during the Covid shut down. Think about the meaning of fellowship...Fellowship is the sharing together in a common life with other believers through a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Fellowship is first and foremost a relationship! Many of our church ministries had to suspend many of their time-honored fellowship meetings and gatherings! Many found new ways to continue with their fellowship, meetings on zoom, small groups on zoom, yoga on the grass near the picnic tables! Now, with many of our congregation vaccinated these groups are meeting again in person and/or gathering in the Narthex on Sunday mornings over coffee, snacks, and chat! Still, we have many from church who are worshipping from home. How are their needs for fellowship being answered? Many are zoom members of small groups, many have family and friends that worship with them on Sunday

mornings and some chat with other online worshippers.

Over the last few weeks, I found myself wondering, if and how Caring Ministries could provide some of that personal relationship energy felt by those attending to those not having the ability to join us for fellowship and worship? Can we extend Sunday morning fellowship to those at home? Pastoral Care has altered its ministry during covid because we could not do visitation at the hospital or assisted living facilities. In the early days of the pandemic, we all literally became "stay at home" community members to avoid exposure to Covid. We relied on hospital chaplains to minister to those in the hospital and their families. Is it possible to alter our pastoral care services to embrace fellowship with our members still home bound?

Caring Ministry @ Epworth is looking for volunteers to a newly reworked home Pastoral Care Program, Communion and Fellowship! Epworth changed from our zip and sip communion to bread and juice during Easter Service. With a few hiccups to the new process, it appears to be going very well. We still have zip and sip cups that are blessed during service for members to take home to family and friends. This new ministry would have volunteers visit our homebound members, any day the week after communion Sunday, to bring them communion, sit and share a little Epworth Fellowship!

What a wonderful way to share, as followers of Jesus Christ, his gifts from the table to those homebound. And bring the joy and conversations from our Narthex through Fellowship to their home!

Interested? Call or email Mickie @ 302-227-7743 or mmcmanamon@epworth.faith



Caring Ministry

Epworth Youth Moments Matter

Written by Cathie Lewis

The Easter Bunny Returns!

On Saturday, April 9, Epworth hosted an Easter Egg Hunt from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Hundreds of plastic eggs filled with treats were distributed throughout the grounds around the Education Wing. The Easter Bunny was there to greet the children.

After excitedly scurrying around and finding eggs, the children and their families were treated to a Magic Show performed by Epworth's resident magician, Glen Kohr. The magic show was followed by games such as ring toss, and a duck pond. There was also face painting and an arts and craft table. Hot dogs, chips and lemonade were provided as everyone enjoyed the laughter and smiles of the children. Fifty-five children and their families took part in the morning activities. Special thanks to the WINGS group for stuffing all of the Easter Eggs and helping out at with the activities, the Epworth Youth Group for hiding the eggs, and face painting, the Dotti Outland's kitchen team for providing the food, the many other Church members who volunteered their time, and, of course, Glen our magician!



Epworth Youth Moments



Social Justice Moments Matter

by Bob Paulen

Love Your Mother Earth

We are running out of time! Rising sea levels are threatening to put millions of American homes in coastal areas underwater. For example, Taholah, the capital of the Quinault Indian Nation on Washington's coast, has adopted a plan to relocate a mile uphill, making it the first community in the US to voluntarily relocate from impending climate threats.

If we don't drastically reshape our energy and environmental policies to combat climate change meaningfully, we will continue to see more communities like Taholah being uprooted. We in the Rehoboth area are beach people. Could we be next?

Genesis 1:10 proclaims 'God saw everything that God had made and indeed, it was very good.' Psalm 8 declares that all creation is of the Lord and as Christian stewards we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse our planet. Is creation care and defense of our planet a vision of Epworth? If not us, then who? If not now, then when? As a community of faith, we all need to reevaluate our commitment to God's creation and develop a robust response to the seminal issue of our century.



The earth is the Lord's and everything in it." I Cor: 10:26

Affordable Housing In Sussex



The headline of the April 29 Cape Gazette read: "SUSSEX HAS AFFORDABLE HOUSING WOES". This certainly validates what a group of 12 of us from the area has learned over the past year. We have been studying housing issues through monthly Q & A sessions. We have heard concerns from grassroot groups such as Love Inc. (Code Purple), Lighthouse for Broken Wings (reintegration), Fuller Center (workforce housing & repair), Family Promise (keeping families together), West Rehoboth Land Trust (1st time home ownership), Springboard Collaborative (mixed use housing in Georgetown), Conley's Church (homeless village) and Dr. Michele Williams (tiny houses).

We began our study by reviewing Sussex Co. Planning and Zoning regulations, especially as related to tiny houses. After hearing from the above groups and assessing the increased level of involvement within the County Council on housing issues, we decided to continue our housing efforts through the Sussex Housing Group and their Advocacy Committee that meets monthly. Members of our ad-hoc group from Epworth will be reporting to our Governing Board to assess the best ways our church and campus might support affordable housing.

MOMENTS
matter
EPWORTH: a United Methodist Church

