

THE JOURNEY

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Rev. Mike Bealla
Senior Pastor

“Where Are You on The Journey?”

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

It's hard to believe, but this month's edition of "The Journey" marks the third anniversary of our newsletter's new name and format. In October 2016, I explained in my message that its new name was a reminder that both our individual faith walks, and our communal church life, are both journeys of a kind.

The most important work of the church is the growing of faithful disciples without whom our mission of serving Christ would simply fade away. It was the vision of our Lord, and the vision of our founder John Wesley, that recognizing God's call upon our lives, we would strive to grow in the likeness of Christ throughout our lives. Like the changing of the seasons, each new day and year would see our faith mature

and our service make a difference in the world around us.

This past year, with the help of our leadership, we formulated a "Pathway to Discipleship" intended to be a guide for those who wanted their faith to continue to grow. The "Pathway" offers a guide to find yourself along a continuum pathway and discover where you are currently living on your journey. When you have found a description of your current spirituality, you are then offered suggested activities and steps of service to enhance your faith and continue to grow. No matter if you are new to the faith, or have been around since the time of Moses, following the guide will help you grow in faithful discipleship of Jesus Christ! Discipleship, as you know, is much more than simply worship.

Over the past year we

have strived to offer growth opportunities which are mentioned as you explore the "Pathway. From long term and seasonal Bible Study to Prayer Study and Lay Servant Classes, to service opportunities like our Peace Meal, there are plenty of places to jump in and grow. Check it out... brochures are available and a Bulletin Board display in the main hallway help describe the Pathway to Discipleship. Ask me, Pastor Dave, or one of the staff for more information.

A major announcement also in the works is our plan to re-birth the "Elm Park Mid-Winter Institute." The two-day learning event is planned for February 1 & 2, 2020. The theme of the two days will be "Vision 2020 and Beyond!" Dr. William B. Lawrence will be our Key-Note

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October 2019

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speaker and presenter as well as preaching for us on Sunday morning, February 2. Dr. Lawrence is Professor Emeritus of American Church History at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University and a Research Fellow of Duke Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition. Bill is a native of the former Wyoming Conference and served as Pastor of West Pittston UMC and Superintendent of the Wilkes-Barre District.

Classes will be offered in a variety of areas aimed at strengthening the churches of our district and conference. This event will be worth everyone's effort to attend.

This month we welcome the Rev. Takasongo Kasongo to our ministry team. A former superintendent in the Congo UMC he comes to us as a part time student intern studying at Drew Theological School in Madison, NJ. It is my hope that his presence will give helpful support to our Congolese members over the coming months.

Finally, our Church Conference will be held on Sunday Afternoon, October 20th. Our District Superintendent will be with us as we celebrate our ministry both current and future! Plan to be with us for this important gathering.

Until Next Time...In Jesus' name!

Rev. Mike Bealla

THE JOURNEY

Thank you for your response to our recent inquiry as to how you would like your copy of this newsletter. We have updated our records with your help!

We had a great response to our collections of both school supplies and toothbrushes! Knowing the need of our brothers and sisters you have truly stepped up!



Why do bad things happen to good people?

If God is a good God, why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?

These are the questions we are exploring in my Theodicy seminary course. They are questions that trouble many people, Christians and non-Christians alike. One of the reasons that I decided to take the course is that I feel called by God to work outside the church, to be the presence of Christ in the world, to humble myself and connect with people who are troubled, to remind people inside the church that the world is yearning to be transformed and we are God's workers in that effort. This is the work of a Deacon and of like-minded believers.

Spiritual practices like prayer, Bible reading and singing songs of praise are things we do to strengthen our spirits, to allow God to guide us in our transformational work. Covenant Discipleship groups meet weekly to support each other in developing spiritual practices. If you are interested in joining a Covenant Discipleship group, please email me at cwilcox@drew.edu or notify Rev. Mike or Marie in the office. A Covenant Discipleship group will meet weekly at Elm Park on Thursdays from 5:15-6:15 pm beginning October 17th, adjourning early for Church Council meetings.

I hope to explore these ideas and how we can journey through this together in this newsletter and in conversation with you.

To witness to Jesus Christ in the world and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Cathy B. Wilcox

Deacon Intern





Have you had a chance to check out the Church website, Facebook page, or YouTube channel? If you haven't already go check them out. Our website address is www.elmparkumchurch.org and it has a ton a great features. We have both the church and staff contact information, we have news and upcoming event info, and we have both the current Journey Newsletter and The Weekly Journey always on the site to view.

You can get to our Facebook page either via our website, or by going to www.facebook.com/elmparkscanton. On there you will find important announcements, and links to videos we post our YouTube. Lastly there is our YouTube Channel that you can check out. On there we have our Elm Park Journey Bi-weekly web-series, we have our weekly Sunday live stream, and we have videos of events and special services through out the year.

I am grateful to both the Communications Team, Media Team, and Church Council who make it possible to have these great online resources accessible and up to date.

- Wesley Bealla, Director of Communications and I.T.



Check out our monthly printed and emailed Newsletter "The Journey"!



Elmparkumchurch.org

Our primary source for information, news and events. There's resources, staff information, and photos!



Announcements, reminders, and news sent via email from Rev. Mike.



Connecting you with news and announcements through social media.



[Facebook.com/elmparkscanton](https://www.facebook.com/elmparkscanton)

The Elm Park Journey, Live Streaming, Services, and Informational Videos.

Tinyurl.com/epumcvideos
Videos.Elmparkumchurch.org



Communications.Elmparkumchurch.org

THE ELM PARK JOURNEY

Latest Episodes

You are always invited to watch our bi-weekly Web-Series entitled "The Elm Park Journey." Each episode features our Lay Leader, Diana Howe, as she interviews guests from our church about events, programs, ministries, groups, and leaders from our church.

In the latest episode, Diana interviewed Rev. Mike Bealla about the Marty Cox Award that Elm Park UMC won in 2018 at Annual Conference.

In an upcoming episode, Diana will be interviewing our new Associate Pastor David Walker about who he is and what his job will be here at Elm Park.

If you have any ideas for future episodes for "The Elm Park Journey" contact Diana Howe, Rev. Mike Bealla, Wesley Bealla or email media@elmparkumchurch.org.

Sixth Annual TRUNK OR TREAT FAMILY | FOOD | FUN

Community Family Event!

Saturday, October 26th

1:00pm-3:00pm

RAIN DATE: Sunday, October 27th

REGISTER TRUNKS ONLINE!

Elmparkumchurch.org/trunkortreat



Elm Park United Methodist Church

Rev. Mike Bealla, Senior Pastor

712 Linden Street • Scranton, PA • (570) 342-8263

Fill your bags with goodies
provided at the trunks of
Elm Park Members &
Area Agencies/Organizations
and Churches!

Hotdogs & Hot Beverages!

Popcorn!

Fun Family Games!

Live Entertainment!

Building Tours!

S'more's and More!

First 200 Children
Receive a Bag!



A Safe, Friendly, and Fun Event! Grab your family and friends and come over to Elm Park UMC for tons of fun, food, candy, and games!



Son Seekers

Children's Fellowship
7 - 12 Year Olds
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Elm Park Youth Ministries

Last month both our Son Seekers and Youth Group started back up for the year. Son Seekers are for children 7-12 years old and our Youth Group is for Teenagers 13-18 years old.

Both groups meet on the second and forth

Tuesdays of every month from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM with light snacks each week. We learn about the bible and about being United Methodist, and we play games and do crafts. If you know anyone who would like to be apart of either of these groups feel free to just show up or to talk to Wesley Bealla, Betsy Miller, Bill Miller, or Butch Barron for more information.



**YOUNG
PEOPLE'S
MINISTRIES**

Look Around

The Board of Trustees has been busy in the past few months addressing many of the obvious concerns of the members and friends of Elm Park. You may have noticed some deteriorating plaster in the ceiling at the rear of the recital hall and some other spots in the sanctuary. As a result of these leaks and the ongoing concern of the Trustees we have retained Durable Slate Company of Baltimore Maryland to study and address these roofing problems. As a result of their findings, which they identified by physically climbing on the roof and a close- up examination by a drone, corrective actions have begun. After the initial contract was signed it was observed by the contractor that a large area of copper at the rear of the recital hall roof was eroding and had to be replaced. This was in addition to replacing some copper covers at areas where different levels of the roof were joined. The cost of these repairs will exceed \$450,000.

In addition, the members and friends of Elm Park have donated over \$22,000 toward the replacement of the carpet in the sanctuary. The Trustees realize that with their pledge to match the donations this project is an urgent concern. We are in the process of reviewing bids, examining samples and a contract will be awarded to begin the project in a timeline that will cause the least disturbance to the worship experience of the congregation.

While all of this is going on The Trustees received a report on our financial investments from our advisor Peoples Security Bank and Trust, our investments are providing a beneficial return while being invested in a safe, socially responsible and balanced manner. Without the foresight of previous generations, the maintenance of this historic building would not be possible.

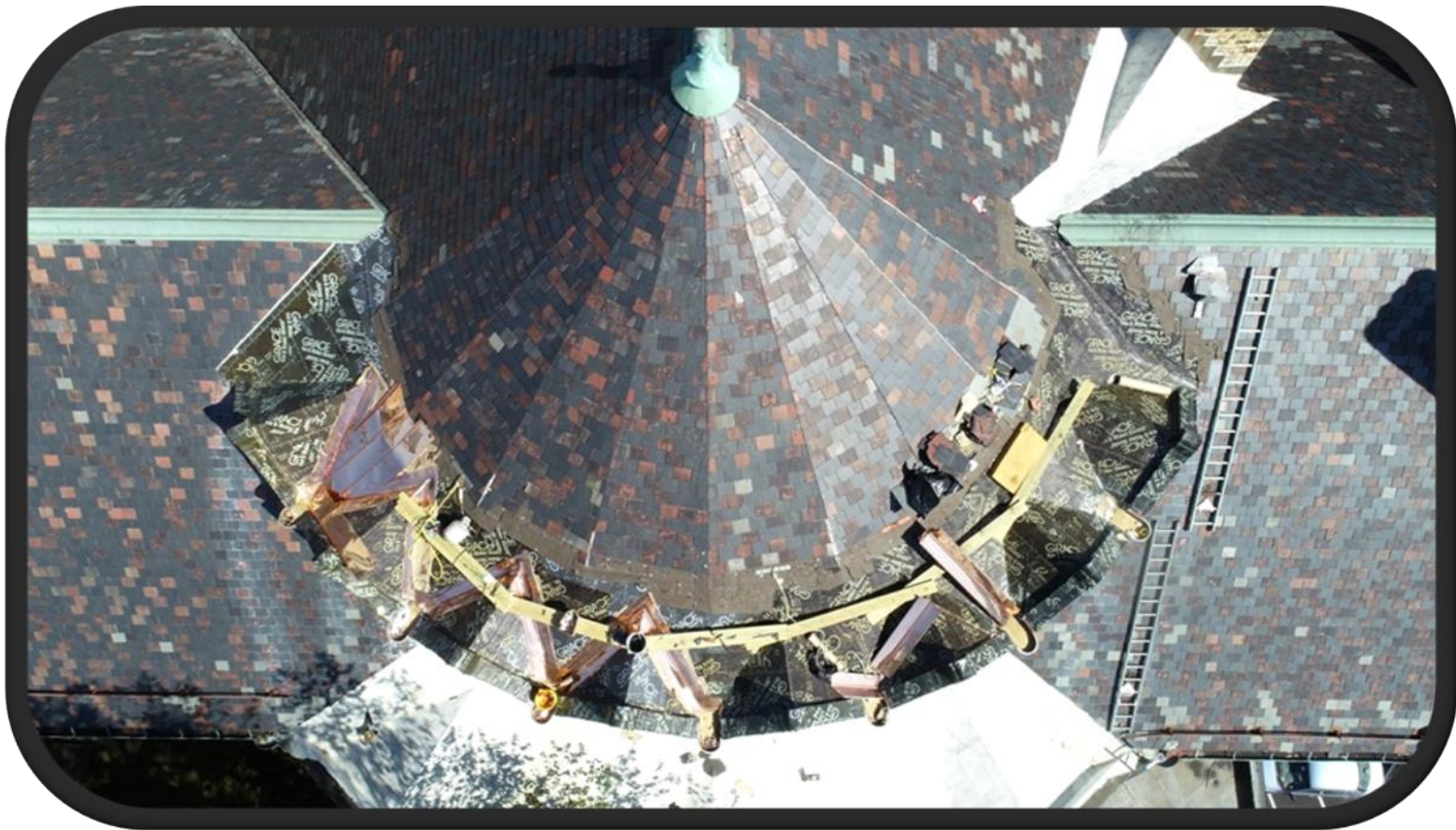
At our last meeting, our accounting firm McGrail Merkel Quinn Associates provided us with a clean audit, assuring us that the financial operations of Elm Park were being carried out in a responsible manner.

The support of the congregation is greatly appreciated.

- Conrad Bosley

Trustees Chair

the Church





Church Conference 2019

Come and celebrate our work together as our District Superintendent joins us on Sunday, October 20th at 6:30 PM.

We will reflect on our mission, elect future leadership, and look to the future.



WEEKDAY PARKING

REMINDER:

There are 17 parking spaces available in our lot across from the Linden Street entrance to the church and office.

If you know someone who is looking for parking for school or work in the vicinity, you can suggest that they rent from us! Price is \$65 a month which is currently the cheapest price in the city. Call the Church office at 570-342-8263



Yard-salers, flea market visitors and closet cleaners are asked to please keep Elm Park's winter coat giveaway in mind. In a blink cooler temperatures will be here on the way to full-blown winter. Many in our Scranton area will not be fortunate enough to have warm clothing as days and nights get cold. Please consider gifting clean, new or gently used hats, coats, scarves and gloves to our church to share with others. May you be blessed as you help others.

OCTOBER ALTAR FLOWER

October 6 - Randy Wagner

October 13 - Bill Miller

October 20 - Open

October 27 - Kim Lee



OPEN DATES FOR ALTAR FLOWERS: **August 25** . Please call Marie Priblo at 570-342-8263 Ext. 10 if you are interested in any of these available dates. Thank you.

OCTOBER WORSHIP LEADERS

CHAPEL READERS

06 Brian McChesney
13 Joe Sadowski
20 Robert Pearson
27 Joe Sadowski

SANCTUARY READERS

06 Leigh Redmon
13 Rick Bevans
20 Cheryl McDonald
27 Diana Howe

ACOLYTES

06 Lillian Beavers
13 Keira/Tommy Brogan
20 Amber Bealla/Lilly Warring
27 Carolyn/Michael Burke

RECEPTIONIST

06 NA
13 NA
20 NA
27 NA

CHAPEL GREEETERS/USHERS

06 Alan Cunningham/Conrad Bosley
13 Joe/Karen Sadowski
20 Liz Swartz/Nacy Yasinskas
27 Charlie Lupole/Mary Gordon

SANCTUARY GREETERS

06 Rick Bevins/Joan Pilosi
13 Elm Park Youth
20 Jill Luczak/Volunteers
27 Jill/Sean Eidenberg

HOSPITALITY HOST/HOSTESSES

06 Meghan/Andrew Sucheski
13 Pabst Family
20 Renee Aston
27 Jill Luczak

SANCTUARY USHERS

06 Bill Miller, Jane Miller, Sarah Cooper, Leigh Redmon, Joan Pilosi, Rick Bevins, Volunteer
13 Elm Park Youth
20 Leigh Redmon, Megan Sucheski, Harold Hiller, Butch Barron, Sarah Cooper, Dawn Redmon, Volunteer
27 Jill Eidenberg, Sean Eidenberg, Larry Mulrine, Andrea Mulrine, Jill Luczak, Volunteer



Thoughts & Prayers: By Diana Howe, Lay Leader

"Amazing God, you have place joy in my soul, dancing in my toes, and a song in my heart. Your turn mourning into dancing. You desire gladness to flow like a mighty river and healing to extend from shore to shore. You gave the world Jesus, who laughed and healed, who lifts me up and invites me to walk the good path and trust in a love stronger than death."

Written by: Larry Peacock



01 Michael Cunningham

01 Adeline Rocco

02 Martha Butler

02 *Barbara Ferrario

02 Kristen Rock

03 *Carolyn Burke

03 Maureen Jones

03 *Olivia Mansour

03 Steven Mansour

03 Isabelle Rubinstein

04 *Tyler Curry

04 Merlin Phillips

04 Jenny Snyder

05 Raymond Ferrario

05 Justin Wilford

05 Bruce Zumbach

06 Christine Kohanski

06 Jason Miller

07 Christian Bomersbach

07 Lisa Jones

08 Andrew Baum

08 Amanda Reese

08 Norma Wagner

09 *Joan Bowling

09 Jessica Draper

09 *Kevin Long

09 A Leigh Redmon

10 Pamela Bomersbach

10 Emanuel Troiani

12 Timothy Daniels

12 Ninarose Daubenhauser

12 *Domenico Price

12 Linda Smith

13 Gary Bradbury

13 *Kylie Seidita

14 Dorothy Rosencrance

14 *Lindsey Tsakonis

15 Christine Armstrong

15 Wayne Martin III

15 *Joann Volinsky

16 Jason Calianno

16 Jennifer Keene

16 Floyd Vandermark

18 *Lauren Stevens

20 William Thompson Jr

23 Richard Jones

23 Judy Lieber

23 Sarah Loughney

24 *Lily Anderson

24 *Audrey Dempsey

25 Cherie Edwards-Mullen

25 *Joshua Radford

26 *Jacob Armstrong

26 Cynthia Gervasi

26 *Rachael Muir

27 *Kevin Kearney

28 Mitchell Dempsey

28 Diana Howe

28 James Noyes

28 Carol Olson

28 Elizabeth Radford

29 Linda Ladd

29 Kathy Ritchie

29 Jill Zayac

30 Lesley Culkin

30 *Joseph Norvilas

30 Florence Theobald

31 Mary Susan Ehrgood

31 Kaitlin Luczak

31 Michael D Perry

World Communion Sunday is October 6th

UNITED METHODIST
SPECIAL SUNDAY
PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Your generous gift today helps promising young adults to become leaders.

"At my church, I like to be involved in community service—feeding the homeless, participating in toy drives and giving away clothes and shoes."

—CREASIA PHILLIPS, NASHVILLE FREEDOM SCHOOL SERVANT LEADER INTERN

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church

Please make check payable to your local church or give online at www.umcsgiving.org/giveWCS.



Signs we will never use!
Sponsored by
Betsy Miller

This is a snapshot of Events & Activities scheduled for the month of October. A full schedule is available on our website. Should you like to schedule an activity or have questions, please contact Marie Priblo at 570-342-8263.

Weekly Events for October

Monday	2:00 PM	Staff Meeting (L)
Wednesday	9:00 AM	Staff Meeting (L)
	10:00 AM	Bread Basket (MPR 1)
	7:30 PM	Choir Practice (CR)
Friday	12:00 PM	Prayer Group (L)
Sunday	8:30 AM	Worship in Chapel
	9:00 AM	Sunday School
	9:30 AM	Fellowship
	10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
	11:30 AM	Prayer & Praise Service



Saturday, 10/12	4:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Peace Meal (D)
Sunday, 10/20	6:30 PM	Charge Conference (Sanct)
Saturday, 10/26	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Trunk or Treat
Tuesday, 10/29	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Lay Speaking School



Rev. Mike Bealla - Senior Pastor

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Steve Ruane

Maintenance

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George Simmons - Director of Music

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Trunk or Treat

**Why do bad things happen
to good people?**

November Coat Drive

**A Note from our
Communicator**

A Look Around the Church



Worship Times

8:30 AM Chapel Service
9:00 AM—10:00 AM Fellowship time
10:00 AM Sanctuary Service
11:30 AM Prayer and Praise Service