

# Circuit *Writer*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ERLANGER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
APRIL 2017



## Pastor's Pen

I was reminded recently how much I hate cleaning up the house. And while there are a few people who will say they enjoy cleaning - I really think they must be lying. It's just not any fun. It is certainly important to do, and it's really nice to have a clean house. It's fun to have friends over and have a party or even just have a clean house for yourself. But it's a lot of work.

It struck me that Lent is a lot like housecleaning. It's soul-cleaning. Lent is a time to brush away the cobwebs and clear off the dust that has settled on our hearts or our dreams. There's always clutter in our lives in some fashion. And sometimes we need real help getting the job done.

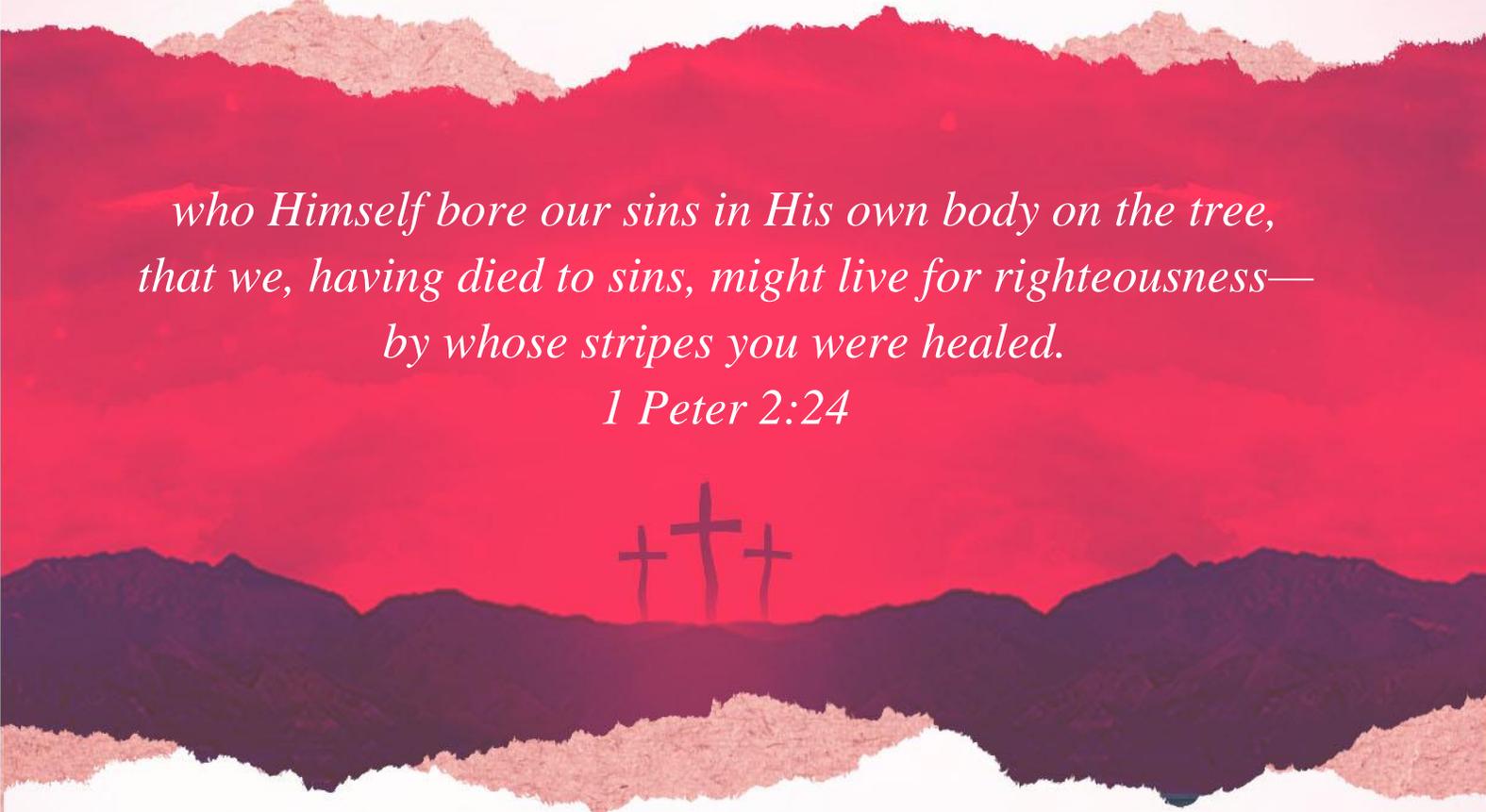
God sent his Son to help us do an insurmountable task of cleaning up our souls. Cleaning always goes faster and easier when you have help, and humanity needed a lot of help. So God sent Jesus to be our help, to hold our hand, to do the heavy lifting in the process of salvation. In fact, without Jesus, the job would have never gotten done.

Easter is the celebration that says the dust and clutter and the messiness of living does not have the final word. There's a party to be had underneath that pile of clutter on the kitchen table and on our souls! Easter is the biggest celebration of

history (so far!) and because of the resurrection of Christ, we all can have those clean hearts and souls that we so desperately want. Our hopes and dreams can have new life. Our spirits can soar with wings as eagles!

I hope you spend some time with Christ in a cleansing process for your soul regularly. But most of all, I hope you celebrate the clean heart that Christ gives us through his resurrection. It's really great to have that sense of cleansing and purity that our faith offers, and it's amazing how God can take the dirtiest of souls and make something beautiful out of them - something worth celebrating for sure.

Let's be diligent about partnering with Christ for the betterment of our souls. And let's



*who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree,  
that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—  
by whose stripes you were healed.*

*1 Peter 2:24*

have a big celebration every day that Christ has made a new and beautiful life possible for all of us!

And don't forget to come to the celebration of Easter on Sunday, April 16! It's a wonderful time of worship - you won't want to miss it!

Happy Easter!

Pastor Mark

# April 2017

Sat	1 <sup>ST</sup>	8:15am	UMM Devotional Lesson
		9:00am	U Methodist Men Meeting
Sun	2 <sup>ND</sup>	9:00am	Communion/Chapel
		9:15am	Sunday School
		10:30am	Worship
		4:30pm	Devotions
		5:30pm	Youth / Young Adult
Mon	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7:00pm	SPRC
Tue	4 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Bible Study
Wed	5 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm	Caring Team
		7:00pm	Choir Practice
		7:00pm	Manna Mission Meeting
Thur	6 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Women in Mission
Sun	9 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	Communion/Chapel
	Palm Sunday	9:15am	Sunday School
		10:30am	Worship
		4:30pm	Devotions
		5:30pm	Youth / Young Adult
Mon	10 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Council On Ministries
Tue	11 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Bible Study
Wed	12 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Children's Chapel
		7:00pm	Choir Practice
Thur	13 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri	14 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Good Friday Service
Sat	15 <sup>th</sup>	2:00pm	Easter Egg Hunt
Sun	16 <sup>th</sup>	7:00am	Community Sunrise Service
Easter		9:00am	Communion/Chapel
		9:15am	Sunday School
		10:30am	Worship
		4:30pm	Devotions
		5:30pm	Youth / Young Adult

Mon	17 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	Trustee Meeting
Tue	18 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm	Grace Edgett Board Meeting
		7:00pm	Bible Study
Wed	19 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Sat	22 <sup>nd</sup>	5:00pm	Manna Mission Meal
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Sun 30 <sup>th</sup>	Family Promise		
Sun	23	9:00am	Communion/Chapel
		9:15am	Sunday School
		10:30am	Worship
		4:30pm	Devotions
		5:30pm	Youth / Young Adult
Tue	25 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Bible Study
Wed	26 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Children's Chapel
		7:00pm	Choir Practice
Sat	29 <sup>th</sup>	5:00pm	Ida Spence Meal
Sun	30 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	Communion/Chapel
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday		9:15am	Sunday School
	Native American Ministries Day	10:30am	Worship
		4:30pm	Devotions
		5:30pm	Youth / Young Adult

Easter events are in bold print.

Our Community Sunrise Serve will be Easter Morning at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, 3227 Dixie Hwy, Erlanger, KY 41018. Join with others in our community to celebrate our risen Lord!

# Methodist Mountain Mission

Our Pick-up day will be in June!

## Urgent Needs List

### URGENT FINANCIAL NEED

Good-running trucks are absolutely essential to the work of the Mission! At one time, the Mission had six trucks operating on the road to pick up your donations. That six became five a couple years ago. And now, we have experienced a series of mechanical problems which took us from five trucks to two trucks in a matter of a few months. We were able to borrow \$16,600 from our local bank on a note due September 9, 2017 to purchase a smaller truck (perfect for store deliveries, individual pickups, etc.). We have located a larger truck to add to our fleet. The cost of it is \$29,000. That would give us four trucks which would be wonderful.

Can you help us with this urgent financial need?  
It never, never ceases to amaze me at how generous you are, and I thank you in advance.

### PROCESSING PLANT NEEDS

- \* Tall kitchen bags - LOTS!  
We use these to help fill bale trucks
- \* Paper Towels
- \* 33 gallon garbage bags
- \* Toilet Paper
- \* S-M-L Latex Gloves
- \* Febreeze Air Freshener
- \* Rubber bands

### Needed for our Stores/Customers

- \* Dishes
- \* Pots and pans
- \* Small appliances
- \* Whatnots ("Pretties")
- \* Other household items

### SUMMER IS COMING!

We will need swimming suits and summer clothes for all ages - children, women and men!

**And, of course, all of the other wonderful good and usable items you donate to the Mission!**

*Blessings,*

*Karen Bunn*



From the Erlanger United Methodist Men

Hi Folks.

Our second fundraiser of 2017 was held on Saturday, March 11, 2017. It was the Spaghetti Dinner and the cooks did a fabulous job cooking the spaghetti. Thanks to all the men for everything they did. Our expenses were zero thanks to donations from Kroger, Gold Star Chili, Dixie Chili, Fazoli's and a few church members. Thank's to you, the net for Missions was \$692.00. 80 folks attended.



The Ice Cream Social is after church on Sunday June 25, 2017 in the Fellowship Hall. More details later.

Canned goods update for the United Christian Volunteers. Thru March 25, 2017, 1,553 food items have been delivered. Emphasis in April 2017 is on spaghetti & sauce. Our goal for 2017 is 7,000 food items. There are many folks in the local area that can't afford enough food for their families. Your support has gone a long way in helping this cause. Thank you. Whatever you bring will be greatly appreciated.

We would like to invite all men to join the Erlanger United Methodist Men. Our next meeting is April 1, 2017, Saturday, 9:00 am at Erlanger UMC in the Asbury Room.

Thank you and GOD Bless you all.

**THE MISSION OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION ON UNITED METHODIST MEN IS TO ASSIST MEN TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST, TO SERVE HIM, TO GROW SPIRITUALLY AND SEEK DAILY TO DO HIS WILL.**

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

*2 Corinthians*

## March 2017

Tithes	\$14,678.00
Sunday School	\$57.00
Loose Plate	\$150.51
GECD	\$10,098.34
Interest/Dividends	\$69.94
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,053.79</b>
Emmaus Emergency	\$36.00
Emmaus Various Proj.	\$48.00
Emmaus Zimmerman	\$42.00
Flowers	\$160.00
Good Samaritan Fund	\$224.00
Holiday Offering	\$50.00
Laws	\$10.00
Manna Mission	\$270.83
Methodist Men	\$60.00
Memorials	\$400.00
Mission	\$1,150.00
Reimbursements	\$145.00
UMCOR	\$166.00
Women in Mission	\$505.00
Building Fund	\$1,122.03
<b>SPECIAL GIFTS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,388.86</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$29,442.65</b>

### THANK YOU

Dear Erlanger United Methodist,  
Thank you so much for the financial support you've been sending us, especially the increasingly larger checks you've been writing to us! My name is Hayden, I'm currently a sophomore majoring computer science, and Vine and Branches means a lot to me because it gives me a welcoming Christian community. Your help makes what we do possible!

In Christ  
Hayden Abler

## Family Promise Updates

Mentha and her family moved into their own home! We are honored to have partnered with Madison Avenue Christian Church. MACC has purchased a home, 3 doors down from there Church, renovated it and have agreed to partner with Family Promise utilizing the home as a Transitional Housing unit!

Mentha and her family moved in yesterday! I asked Mentha, what she thought and she could not stop smiling. This is the very first time her family has ever lived in a house! They have always been in small apartments. To say they are ecstatic is an understatement :)

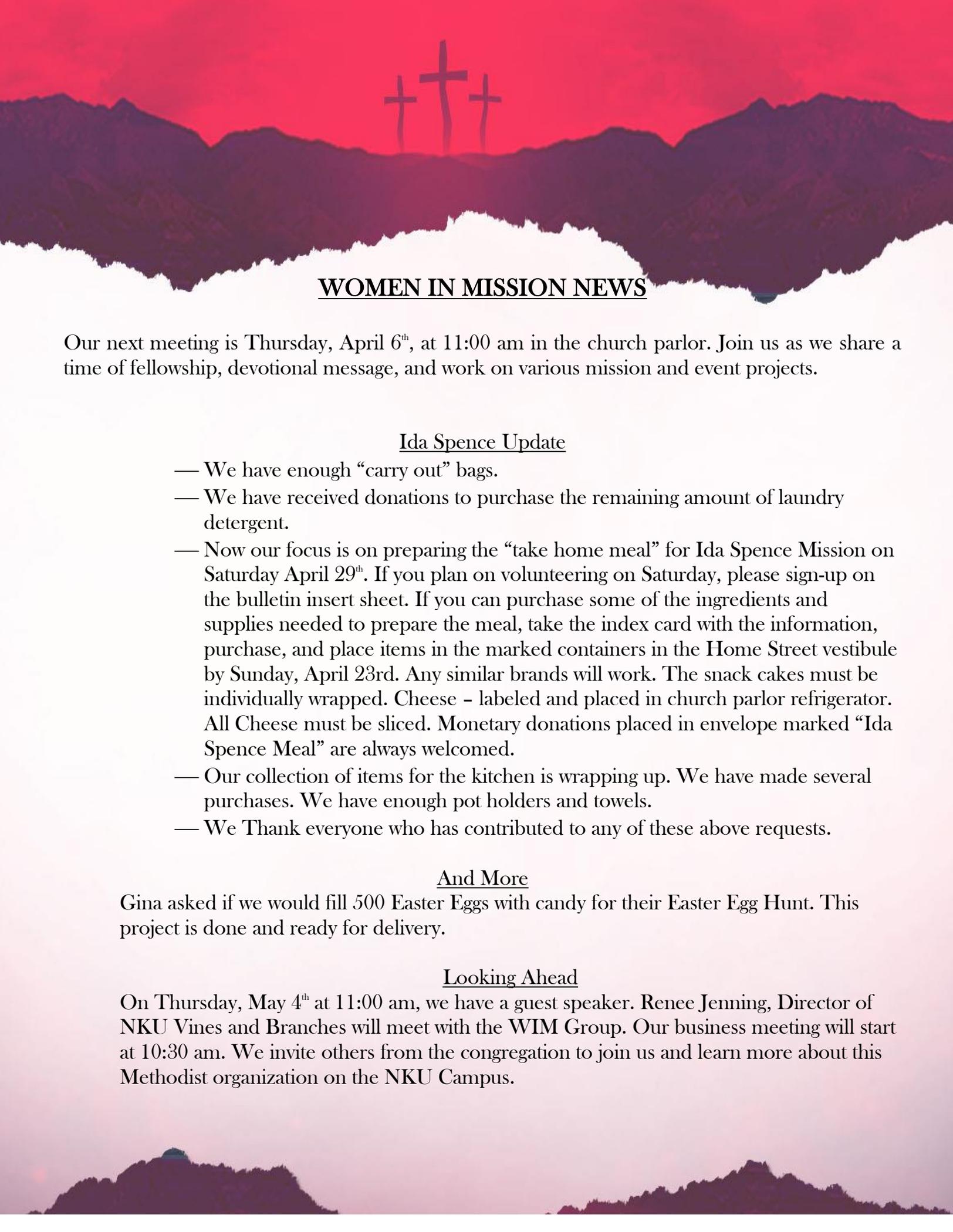
Mentha and her family will continue to receive services from Family Promise while they are living in the Transitional Housing. During this time we plan to help Mentha achieve her goal of returning to school for her GED, better budgeting techniques for the family, achieve a more permanent housing solution and to make sure they have happy healthy children!

Thank you for providing guidance and support to this family!

All of the children are thriving in school and loved meeting their "New Church Friends" & their very "own Church House"(as Xavion calls it 😊)

Amanda Speier, MSW, LSW





## WOMEN IN MISSION NEWS

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 am in the church parlor. Join us as we share a time of fellowship, devotional message, and work on various mission and event projects.

### Ida Spence Update

- We have enough “carry out” bags.
- We have received donations to purchase the remaining amount of laundry detergent.
- Now our focus is on preparing the “take home meal” for Ida Spence Mission on Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup>. If you plan on volunteering on Saturday, please sign-up on the bulletin insert sheet. If you can purchase some of the ingredients and supplies needed to prepare the meal, take the index card with the information, purchase, and place items in the marked containers in the Home Street vestibule by Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Any similar brands will work. The snack cakes must be individually wrapped. Cheese - labeled and placed in church parlor refrigerator. All Cheese must be sliced. Monetary donations placed in envelope marked “Ida Spence Meal” are always welcomed.
- Our collection of items for the kitchen is wrapping up. We have made several purchases. We have enough pot holders and towels.
- We Thank everyone who has contributed to any of these above requests.

### And More

Gina asked if we would fill 500 Easter Eggs with candy for their Easter Egg Hunt. This project is done and ready for delivery.

### Looking Ahead

On Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am, we have a guest speaker. Renee Jennings, Director of NKU Vines and Branches will meet with the WIM Group. Our business meeting will start at 10:30 am. We invite others from the congregation to join us and learn more about this Methodist organization on the NKU Campus.

# April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Tim Herrmann 04/02  
Amy Sullivan 04/03  
Ron Tanner 04/11  
Eleanora Wettig 04/11  
Jennie Robinson 04/13  
Bailey Love 04/14  
Tina Royalty 04/15  
Henry Evans 04/20  
David Evans 04/23

Mark & Sande Shepherd 04/21  
Bob & Linda Martin Sr. 04/25

## **IDA SPENCE CAKE AUCTION AND SPAGHETTI DINNER NOVEMBER 4, 2017**

Using Change for Change, We are collecting money for our Pastor's cake. (See Joy Hamilton) The Ida Spence director along with volunteer's minister to children, Mon Wed Fri 4-5:30 feeding them a meal, offering homework assistance, playing learning games through our After School Program. They have a summer fun with VBS, and other programs. They have 3 youth groups, they send the youth to summer camps, and Adult Bible Studies. They strive to enriching the lives of underserved children in the City Heights community by providing, nutrition, education and mentoring in a Christian environment, and during this fundraiser we get to help fund all this.

## **Morning Hymn**

BY CHARLES WESLEY

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light, Sun of Righteousness, arise, Triumph o'er the shades of night: Day-spring from on high, be near: Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn Unaccompanied by thee, Joyless is the day's return, Till thy mercy's beams I see; Till thy inward light impart, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin, and grief, Fill me, Radiancy Divine, Scatter all my unbelief, More and more thyself display, Shining to the perfect day.



## Mission Trips

### **Appalachian Service Project (ASP)**

We are making plans for summer. The church will go on a mission trip to the Appalachian area July 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>; this trip will be to (you must be 14 to attend this trip). During our trip we will help to make homes warmer, safer, and drier. You'll return home stronger, wiser, and closer to God. When you arrive for your week of service, you'll be housed in one of ASP's several base camps -- often a school or community center rented for the summer to put you closer to Appalachia's remote communities. You will receive all the tools, construction materials and supervision they need to be productive. Not to mention three meals a day and plenty of opportunities for worship and reflection. You will spend a lot of time interacting with the local families; you've been assigned to serve. You will forge friendships and learn lessons that will enrich your faith and build character for the rest of your lives. Priority will be given to youth, but this trip is open to all as space permits.

If you would like more information about this trip see one of the mission's team, Pastor, or Church office.

Date: April 01, 2017



# Family Promise<sup>®</sup> of Northern Kentucky

Building community, strengthening lives.

**Sunshine and Happiness!** Family Promise was honored to be the recipient of the Tri State League of Financial Institute on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The donors provided Family Promise with 3 vehicles filled to the brim with toilet paper, laundry detergent and misc. cleaning supplies. Family Promise was also the recipient to donation drives from Piner Elementary and Kinder Academy!

## What's Happening Now?

Currently, we have two families in our program! Family 1: A single mother (50) with three children. (12, 11 & 11) Family 2: A single mother (46) with two children. (25 & 11)

Family Promise would like to thank everyone who purchased a Family Promise NKY t-shirt! Orders will be completed mid-April.

Family Promise would like to thank Trinity Episcopal Church for the renovation grant! The grant provided funds for a small renovation project and two new full size refrigerators for our families! Our families can now have gallon sized milk, ice, room for medical supplies that need refrigerated and even leftovers!

Family Promise recently partnered with Sweet Cheeks Diapers! Sweet Cheeks will provide diapers of all sizes to each child in need during the families stay in shelter.

## Upcoming Events:

Family Promise will be holding a Barleycorn's fundraiser on April 19<sup>th</sup>! The Florence, Cold Spring OR Lakeside Park are all participating locations. Eat at barleycorns to help end family homelessness! Present the electronic coupon or a hard copy to your server and 15% of your check will be donated back to FPNKY.

## Current Updates:

We recently had a family graduate our program into their own home in Covington. The father works 2<sup>nd</sup> shift and mom is planning to attend GED classes. All of the children are thriving and have been connected with support services in the community.

## Current Referrals:

We continue to receive referrals weekly. We are hopeful to enter a new family into shelter in the upcoming week!

## Current Needs:

Family Promise is currently in need of copy paper, bottled water and cleaning supplies.



*He has made  
everything beautiful in  
it's time.*

*Ecclesiastes 3:11*



...and now let us abide  
in Him!



HAPPY EASTER