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**Eagle Wisconsin Taxpayers · Join**Matt Lepperd · Apr 29 · 

2024

When this church was built, Eagle had a population of 275 people.

This church was full and alive when there were not even cars to get to it. They rode horses, they walked...but they filled this church every Sunday.

I bought my house on Main street in Eagle in 1994 when I was 28 years old. Eagle had a population of just over 1000 people.

This church was alive, healthy, had a booth at Kettle Moraine days selling pies, held free lunches for the elderly, or pretty much anyone wanting to come and hang out and enjoy visiting.

I was raised Baptist in the south and was a member of the Point Pleasant Church of Christ in Hebron Kentucky from birth till we moved North. I was 14 at the time. My mom tried out several churches but never found one she liked. It is a shame she never tried this little church just down the road from where she lived, as she would have loved it. It is a Methodist Church, not a Baptist, but it is very much ran in the old traditions that my mom would have loved.

I first entered this church late last summer.

My daughter, Carson who is 8 years old was watching Youtube and modern shows. Every one of those shows is absolutely aimed at 8 year olds, but not appropriate for 8 year olds....As I thought about that, I realized that when I was a kid, TV was just better, I watched The Waltons, Little House on the Prairie...that sort of thing.

So I found them on a streaming service and started playing them when Carson was in the room.

I did not think she was paying much attention but by episode 3 of Little House, she asked me "Daddy, Why don't WE go to church?"

I asked her if she wanted to go, and she was pretty excited about it.

Now, I had to find a church. I immediately thought of this one, as it is 100 yards from our house. a quick Google search told me that their services are at 8:30 in the morning and over by 9:30 in the morning, so our Sundays could continue as always with family events, shopping, yard work with one little change.

That first Sunday we walked in, there were maybe 12 people in attendance. I thought we went unnoticed to be honest, but the second week, Pastor Parks and his wife had already made plans to start a Sunday School for our daughter. and a 4 minute "Childrens Sermon" he does just for her right before the adult sermon. His wife takes Carson to the Sunday school room and teaches her about the Bible with coloring, games and conversation while the adults enjoy an upbeat sermon with

Because we are losing it. Its going to be closed and sold. Probably developed.

Thge little church that thrived when there were 275 people in Eagle with dirt roads is dying in a Village of over 2000 people because nobody goes anymore. People either stay home or they go to the "Fun Guitar Church" where the music is loud, the coffee bar is flowing and they spend more money on Christmas decoration than Eagle Methodist brings in a year.

What would it take to save it?

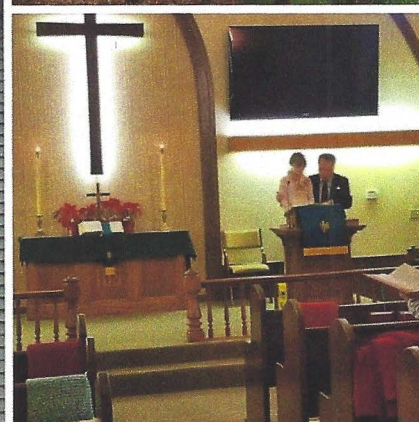
5 or 6 families.

I have gathered people together to work on playgrounds, put on Eagle Diamond days in 2020, headed up political rally's but I have no clue how to reach out to peoples souls.

Does anyone have any ideas? Know anyone who, like my family, did not realize they were missing something?

Its a long shot, but I hope we can save this little gem of a church.

Once it's gone, its gone.





Ellen Lamping

Matt: we recently went through this with a church. What we learned is that it actually had to die to revive. The church of maybe 30 people closed. A year later it was opened as a new church and has attendance of 400 people seeking and serving God each week. Everything you describe is awesome- but sometimes the plan is for a change to happen and it's to Gods glory. Will be praying for what he plans to do in this community!

1w Like Reply



Caroline Carlson

Could it merge with another church ? Maybe there is a group needing a church building and two different churches could coexist in here ?

6d Like Reply



Liz Barnes

We are Methodist and have been looking for a new church.

1w Like Reply



Matt Lepperd

Liz Barnes well, here is one that needs you and wants you! I cannot say its perfect for everyone, but it makes me want to go every week.



Robert L. Kolb

Even though I don't go to church, I have always understood that it wasn't suppose to be solely for spreading the word of god. It was all about bringing communities together. It was about families having a place to celebrate the holidays with others. As times get tougher, I see more people turning to god & the church because there's nowhere else to turn. Matt is right when he says our society is not dead yet. I have been saying for a couple months now. I think as a society we need to pull away from technology & go back to some of our old ways.

1w Like Reply

4  



Nessa Erdman

I am not a religious person at all, so I'm reading this post and thinking about it strictly from a "business" standpoint.

If you want the "business" to thrive, you have to give the people what they want. If what they want is a coffee bar, give them a coffee bar. If they want more lively music, play more lively music.

People go where their needs are met. On and off for many years of my adult life I did go to church (for community, not religious reasons). I always gravitated toward the churches that were welcoming and made me feel moved - if not religiously, then spiritually. They were happy, lively places. Lots of laughter and lots of smiling faces on total strangers to me.

Rules

If you want a church to thrive, give the people what they want.

6d Like Reply

1 



David Meg Foster

This was my grandparent's church as Don mentions them above (Sam and Mary Edith Foster). My father grew up in this church, became a licensed minister with their sponsorship and, after seminary, a United Methodist Minister and Elder. Good memories and a church that has been very important in our family.


6d Like Reply

2 



Rebecca Horner

Ask one family you know to bring another family
And they ask a family...

I hope everyone in your area reads your post! 

1w Like Reply

2  




Chris Cieszynski-Mommaerts

Happened to the methodist church in North Prairie, it is now a private residence.

1w Like Reply



Cheri Lampe

Prayers this church can be saved. Such a beautiful little church , it would be a shame to see it go. Maybe you could pass out flyers or hold an open house 

1w Like Reply

2 

Rules



Write a comment...





Matt Lepperd

Cheri Lampe We have an "open House" every Sunday at 8:30 AM lol everyone is welcome!

1w Like Reply

4

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Christy Staude

I had no idea the membership had dropped so much that closing it is now an option. I wish the community had known more sooner. We moved to Eagle because I knew families that have lived cheer for many, many years and had visited and loved the quaintness. Not being Baptist, we didn't look into the church. I knew of it because of friends and I have enjoyed the brat cookouts they have. I feel sad they may have to close and sell.

1w Like Reply

1



Shelley Elmlad

I have seen many studies over the years, church attendance is down all over. Our society is crumbling on many levels and this is one of them. I believe the last study I heard about, roughly 15% of Waukesha county residents attended a church. I hate to see churches close, it truly breaks my heart.

1w Like Reply

2



Matt Lepperd

Rules



Matt Lepperd

I know I should not, but as I pass the "Mega churches" that have 2 and three services a day with hundreds of people, I get angry.

church is not about "flash" its not about giant video screens, loud music and running two or three shifts to gather in more money....but thats what it has become.

Eagle and Palmyra share a pastor. every corner has been cut, so unless we can bring some people back to Eagle, its over.

1w Like Reply

4  

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Write a reply...



Christy Powell Lauterbach

[Matt Lepperd](#) - I imagine there are many Eagle residents that have been married and had there children baptized at this wonderful little church. I am certain many have intended to return for Mass but just haven't for one reason or another. Most will just assume it will always be there and they'll go back "someday". Getting the word out is key! Maybe a few volunteers could reach out to these families and let them know the situation. I know one such family and I intend to notify them.

1w Like Reply

5   



Jane L Martinez

[A shared this post and one of my friends suggested](#)

[Rules](#)

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Write a reply...



Christy Powell Lauterbach

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1w Like Reply

5   



Jane L Martinez

A shared this post and one of my friends suggested perhaps your daughter could talk it up at school ?

Is there a school musical group that would like to come and play/ sing every so often at service ?

Is there a community room / space at the church for small groups to utilize for activities ?

Perhaps a non denominational service 1 or 2 times a month?

Florin Docea ... do you have any suggestions for this situation?

1w Like Reply

2 

Rules