



Homemade E-devos

April 28, 2022

Reflection— Rev. Karen Oehl

Dancing Hands

And while they dance, people sing: "The source of my life comes from you."
Psalm 87:7

This week I was driving up Coshocton Avenue (lots of traffic, lots of lights) and found myself fascinated by a dancing hand. That is the only way I can describe it. The driver's hand was out the window and moving. I assume that the driver was listening to music, not loud enough that I could hear it, however. This was not simply a tapping or keeping time motion of the hand. It turned and swayed and opened and shut and. . . danced! That hand looked joyful and playful and full of life. Again, I could not hear the music but I could see the effect of some powerful music in the dancing hand.

Gay Street UMC is a church that worships with powerful music. Music is our passion and heartbeat. It is the way we praise God and play and grieve and grow. Music is one of the ways we gather together and learn more about God. Our children and youth and choir members have been shaped by years of singing and ringing together. When we share in music on Sunday mornings we are inspired and moved and glad.

But what happens when we leave the church? Those outside the building, even in the neighborhood, cannot hear the music, even when the big organ pipes gloriously shake the floor of the sanctuary! They cannot hear the bells ringing, the people singing. They cannot hear our joy in music shared in the house of the Lord.

So we need to do what that driver in a car in front of me was doing: dance with our hands. When we go out the door of the church, what we do and say, how we serve and help, is all part of dancing to the music in our souls. Can people see in our lives that we love God? Do we find ways to thank God for being the source of life in the midst of a busy day? When our hands dance in caring and helping and serving, does it make others think: "What is that music that they are listening to?"

Jesus' teaching often emphasized not only hearing but doing. When he gave the commandment at the Last Supper to love one another, he also predicted that others will know us by our love. In this world of division, defensiveness and despair it is time to let others see our dancing hands.

