

ADVENT 2018**WE THREE TREES**

Inspired by the three magi, we will be collecting through **December 16**. Thank you as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

FIRST TREE will be dedicated to providing hats, sock, mittens, and gloves.

SECOND TREE will focus on collecting Advent Bags for two different community agencies. Grab a bag and a tag, with a list of necessary items. Fill the bag and return - you don't have to get all items.

THIRD TREE, our Magi Tree, give specific gifts and gift cards for families affiliated with Hawkins School and Leading Families Home. Tags have more specific information.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Heifer international provides livestock, trees, training and other resources to help poor families in the USA and around the globe. A donation pays for livestock and technical training in animal management and care. You can purchase heifers, llamas, goats, tree seedlings, honey bees, pigs, chickens, and more! This is a great gift idea for those hard-to-buy for people on your list -- you will receive a card that can be sent as an acknowledgment of the donation. Stop by the table in the Lobby **today**. If you have questions, email Rob at wilson717@sbcglobal.net.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS

Epworth volunteers will be manning a kettle at Kroger (corner of Holland-Sylvania & Bancroft) on Thursday, **December 13**, Friday, **December 14** and Saturday, **December 15** from 9am-7pm, in one-hour shifts. Sign-up sheets are in the lobby. If you have questions, email Bob at rtown@bex.net.

ST. PAUL'S: DONATE HAMS!

Thank you for helping St. Paul's Community Center as they prepare and serve a Christmas meal to people without homes in our community. Mark your ham (tradition or football style) and put it in the church refrigerator. Hams will be delivered to St. Pauls through Monday, **December 17**.

INVITE FRIENDS/NEIGHBORS TO EPWORTH!

We're trying new ways to invite others from the community. How can you help?

- Hand out candy invitation bags:
 - On doors in assigned areas/streets (sign up on the connection card)
 - On doors around your neighborhood
 - Give to friends you know who might be interested in attending
- Put a "Christmas at the Movies" yard sign in your yard.

Pick up invitations and yard signs at the table in the lobby, today! While these different tools will help raise awareness of Epworth, the most powerful invite is always the one from a friend so please prayerfully consider extending an invitation to someone in your life who may be seeking for a deeper meaning to the Christmas Season.

MAKE COOKIES FOR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS!

'Tis the season for cookie baking and cookie sharing! As you do your holiday baking, please make an extra dozen or two cookies or brownies for our homebound members. Place in our kitchen labeled "homebound" Dec.16-19. Cookies will be packaged for delivery on **Dec. 19**, and delivered between Dec. 19-21. If you can help with assembling the boxes of treats for delivery, email beth@epworth.com.

HAWKINS NEEDS YOU!

Teacher requests for tutors at Hawkins School have been coming in faster than our team can fill them. Most tutors work with one/two students one day a week for 30 minutes to an hour. Our focus is on reading in grades K-3 but we also receive requests for upper grades and math tutoring. Volunteers are also needed to assist at special events at the school, such as the Santa Shop on **December 10-14**. Interested? Contact Barb at bmachin@bex.net.

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: DECEMBER 24**

5PM | CHILDREN & FAMILY FUN

7PM | CONTEMPORARY CANDLELIGHT W/ COMMUNION

9PM | TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT

11PM | TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT W/ COMMUNION

*6-6:30PM, 8:15-8:50PM & 10-10:30PM | OPEN COMMUNION

TODAY: DOUBLE FEATURE SUNDAY!

We have a double-feature today! Here's what to expect this morning:

- 8:30AM SERVICE: hear Pastor Beth continue our sermon series, *Christmas At The Movies* with her focus on the movie, *Polar Express*. If you missed Beth's sermon, listen or watch online at: epworth.com/sermons.
- 9:45 & 11AM SERVICES: enjoy our children's choir musical, *Starry Night, Noisy Night*. A charming Christmas musical filled with humorous references to modern distractions that prevent us from experiencing the true meaning of Christmas. The story is told from the stable animals' point of view, ending on a quiet, reverent, and worshipful note, encouraging all in attendance to turn away from life's distractions to celebrate God's great gift of love.

WESLEYAN COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE

 As one year closes and another opens, it's a time for changes and renewals for a fresh start in the new year. In the United Methodist Church, this is a time for the Wesleyan Covenant Renewal service.

On Sunday, **December 30**, Epworth will offer one worship service at 10:30am, anchored in the Wesleyan Covenant and focused on the Covenant Prayer as a renewed commitment to God for the new year.

ALTAR FLOWERS

A donation was made to the Epworth Floral Fund this week by Dick & Liz Lehto in memory of Liz's mother, Fern Ferster.

WELCOME, PASTOR JENNIFER BAILEY

 We are very pleased to announce that Rev. Jennifer Bailey will be joining our staff as Pastor of Welcome beginning January 8. She is a United Methodist elder presently on family leave, therefore this is not a conference appointed position. She and her family (Bob, Dominic, and Teresa) worship at the 11am service here at Epworth. Her passions include dark chocolate, the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, and her family. She will be continuing to serve part time as the office manager at Hope Lutheran Church, along with her new role here at Epworth.

UPCOMING OFFICE HOURS

Please note: the church office will be *closed* on Christmas Eve, Monday, **December 24**, and Christmas Day, Tuesday, **December 25**. The church office will re-open on Wednesday, **December 26** through Friday, **December 28** and will also be open the day after New Years, Monday, **December 31**. Thank you for your understanding as we celebrate Christmas with our families.

THE LONGEST NIGHT: A HEALING SERVICE

The holiday season and long nights of winter can amplify feelings of grief and loss. Missing a loved one, facing major family changes or illness, and navigating job losses or job change are just a few things that can take the joy from the season. The Winter Solstice just before Christmas is the longest night of the year. From there, each day offers more light. This is a different Christmas service – one of scripture, music, quiet reflection, and candle lighting to drive away darkness and to help heal the wounds of loss. Join us Tuesday, **December 18** at 7pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome, and please invite a friend.



SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES:

- 9:45am | **Adult Bible Study** | **Room 214**
Through December 23: *The Redemption of Scrooge*, based on Charles Dicken's *A Christmas Carol* will explore the world of Ebenezer Scrooge. While the world keeps trying to stuff God into smaller and smaller boxes, the author shows that God owns the culture, not the other way 'round. Join in!
- 9:45am | **Coffee & Conversation** | **Room 213**
This discussion will follow the Advent sermon series, "Christmas at the Movies."
- 11 am | **Sermon Notes** | **Room 214**
This discussion will follow the Advent sermon series, "Christmas at the Movies."

WEEKDAY STUDIES:


- 9:15am | **Tuesday Women's Bible Study** | **26**
This women's group grow and deepen their faith alongside one another with short-term studies.

ADULT SINGLES

Widowed, divorced, or never married adults from the Toledo area are invited to join in Christian fellowship. RSVP to Nancy at hauer.nancy@yahoo.com or call 419.885.4595. The next opportunity to join us is **December 16** - Christmas Brunch @12:45pm - Brandywine Country Club (6904 Salisbury Rd., Maumee). \$16.95, seniors 10% off.

FAMILY CAROLING

Please join us for this annual fun family outing. We will meet at Epworth at 4 pm on **December 16** and travel by cars to area Assisted Living/Nursing homes. Please wear your fun holiday gear: Santa hats, festive scarves, antlers are all welcome! This event is for the whole family and all levels of singing ability are appreciated. We should be done by 6/6:30 pm. To let us know you are coming, contact Tami at tanorris2001@yahoo.com or see Pastor Dave.



WHITEOUT WINTER RETREAT @ BEULAH BEACH

 Junior and Senior High Students (Grades 6-12) **February 15-17**. Cost is \$175 (*\$75 non-refundable deposit and forms due on Sunday, December 16). Final \$100 due on Sunday, January 27. Pick up an information packet with the forms on the SWAT bulletin board by the Gym. *(No last minute sign-ups & No late arrivals or early dismissals.)*

FRIENDS IN FAITH

BUNCO: DECEMBER 12 Christmas Bunco at Karen Wyckoff's house (1959 Pinedale, Toledo, OH.) RSVP to KarDav4@aol.com. Bring an inexpensive gift if you wish to play the gift exchange game.

BOOK CLUB: DECEMBER 11: Christmas Party, no book discussion. Bring an appetizer to share along with a serving utensil. We will take a free will collection of cash to be donated to Hawkins Elementary for purchasing books.

DEBORAH CIRCLE CHRISTMAS BRUNCH!

Mark your calendars - **December 8** at Sandy Johnston's home (4137 Halifax Rd.) Bring a favorite dish to pass. There will be a gift exchange - details to follow. Hosted by Holly Bolenbaugh and Sandy Johnston. RSVP to Sandy Johnston at 419.283.3550; or email to Sandysells@accesstoledo.com.

ST PAUL'S FIRST SATURDAY LUNCHES 2019

Epworth members and friends prepare and serve lunch the first Saturday of each month at St. Paul's Community Center. Grab some friends from work, your Wesley group or Sunday school class and sign up for a Saturday in 2019. (Only March and June are taken, other months are still open!) For more info, contact Carol at carol.shanteau@gmail.com or Tami at tanorris2001@yahoo.com.