

## CARE BEAR SCHOLARSHIPS



Looking for a way to make a difference in the lives of a family? Consider making a donation to the "Care Bear Scholarship Fund" for Epworth Preschool. Last year a donation was made to the preschool and we were able to provide assistance to 3 families who would not

have had the opportunity to send their child to a preschool. The families have been grateful as stated in this testimonial...

*Thank you so much. I was in tears a bit driving home just so incredibly thankful for this opportunity for my child. He is thrilled to back there too. I'm beyond grateful especially when the job hunt is still going and things haven't been looking up like I thought they'd be by now. I appreciate this so much.*

Checks can be made out to "Epworth Preschool" with a notation for "Care Bear Scholarships."

## HELP OUT IN THE CHURCH OFFICE!



Are you available during the day? We need your help! You won't need to be here all day, just when you are available during

our office hours of 9am-5pm. Responsibilities will include answering phones and helping out with tasks around the office like stuffing envelopes for mailings, putting together children's worship bags, etc. If you have any questions, or are interested, please email [Lauren@epworth.com](mailto:Lauren@epworth.com) or sign up on the connection card, today!

## KROGER PLUS CARDS

Every year, each card holder must re-register their Kroger Plus Card to continue earning money for our Student Ministries (#81972). Keep in mind that your purchases do NOT create any rewards for our Student Ministries until it has been registered. To register go to: [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) and select Epworth Student Ministries, organization #81972.

## 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. This is a great opportunity to extend our outreach to the community, and those, who have served here before, mention what a great time they have! Grab some friends from work, your Wesley group or Sunday school class and sign up for a Saturday in 2019. Open months include April, May, July, August, September, and October. For more information, contact Carol at [carol.shanteau@gmail.com](mailto:carol.shanteau@gmail.com) or Tami at [tanorris2001@yahoo.com](mailto:tanorris2001@yahoo.com).

## DONATE TO EPWORTH EVERY TIME YOU SHOP ON AMAZON!

Now, you can support Epworth every single time you purchase something on Amazon! When you sign up for AmazonSmile and select Epworth as your charitable organization, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Epworth. AmazonSmile is exactly the same as regular Amazon, it has the same products, prices & services, only now you're supporting Epworth at the same time! To sign up, go to: [smile.amazon.com/ch/34-4428652](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-4428652) and select Epworth as your charitable organization then start shopping! If you have any questions, or would like a direct link, contact Laura in the church office at [laura@epworth.com](mailto:laura@epworth.com).

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## WEEKLY REMINDERS

## CHANGING MISSION FIELDS: INCLUSION WORKSHOP

**A conversation about diversity, inclusion, outreach and ministry.** On Wednesday, January 23 at 6pm we will be hosting Rev. April Casperson, Director of Diversity and Inclusion of the WOC. Rev. Casperson will be leading a conversation centered on how we may become a more diverse church, and how best we can serve neighbors who are different than us. This seminar is designed for church leaders and those who serve in ministries which require bridging cultural bridges such as the Hawkins partnership, Furniture Ministry, ministry to children and youth, etc. All are invited to attend! The cost is \$7 for dinner to be served promptly at 6pm in the church lobby.

Please RSVP to [marla@epworth.com](mailto:marla@epworth.com) no later than Friday, January 18 or sign up on the connection card, today!



GUEST MUSICIAN: JOHN EASTERLIN

Our guest soloist today is John Easterlin, operatic tenor from NYC, singing Christmas solos. He recently sang Piangi in ‘Phantom of the Opera’ on Broadway. In May, he will sing the major role of Herod in ‘Salome’ at the Dayton Opera. We welcome John to Epworth!

SOUTH PARKING LOT USAGE

In an attempt to care for our neighbors, we are asking that the back (South) parking lot not be used for routine evening gatherings and meetings during the week and on the weekends. Please plan to utilize the Central Ave. parking lot and the parking spaces near the Valleyview doors leading to the lobby and sanctuary. The back parking lot will be open for larger evening gatherings, but for routine evening activities, we ask all members and friends to kindly not park or drive on the south parking lot. Thank you for your understanding.

UPCOMING OFFICE HOURS

- Please note the office hours over the next few weeks:
- Monday, December 31: 9am-5pm
  - Tuesday, January 1: CLOSED
  - Monday, January 21: CLOSED (MLK Jr. Day)

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

The Church building closes if there is a Level 3 Snow Emergency in Lucas county! Activities, Classes & Volunteers: are canceled if Sylvania Schools close. We will re-evaluate again at 3pm regarding evening activities. The staff in charge of that activity will make the decision and will contact those persons involved. (Body Recall +, canceled if Ottawa Hills schools close.)

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

A donation was made to the Epworth Floral Fund this week by Kay Hitchner in memory of Curt Hitchner. May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent from the other. Genesis 31-49.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST HIRES!

REV. JENNIFER BAILEY

We're pleased to announce that Jennifer 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 worship at the 11am service here at Epworth. She will be continuing to serve part time as the office manager at Hope Lutheran, along with her new role here.



LAUREN BOYLES

We're also very pleased to announce that Lauren Boyles will be replacing Nancy Fernandez' position effective immediately. Lauren has been a school counselor and elementary school teacher previously in her career and currently works part time at Notre Dame Academy in Toledo. She's been singing with the Chancel Choir for the past several months and also sings with the UMS Choral Union at U of M. She and her husband currently have an exchange student from China living with them.

**BAPTISM TODAY**

Congratulations to the Swindel family on the baptism of Everett Charles Swindel today.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES:

- 9:45am | Adult Bible Study | Rm 214  
*Not meeting today. Beginning Jan. 6:*  
Dianne Smolen is facilitating discussions based on Adam Hamilton's book *Christianity's Family Tree*. Discussions will center on the beliefs and practices of some of the different denominations of the Christian family tree. Join in!
- 9:45am | Coffee & Conversation | Rm 213  
This class uses Faithlinks to discuss modern day issues and current events.
- 11 am | Sermon Notes | Rm 214  
Discussion around individuals understanding of the scriptures' relevance to their journey.

WEEKDAY STUDIES:

- 9:15am | Tuesday Women's Study | Rm 214  
*Beginning January 15: It's Not Supposed To Be This Way* by author Lysa Terkeurst: This study offers a safe place to share your disappointments and gives fresh biblical insight along with life-giving perspectives to get you through painful situations. Facilitated by Kris Martin and Dolli Darah.

ADULT SINGLES

Single, divorced and widowed adults in the Toledo community are invited to join. RSVP to Nancy Hauer at hauer.nancy@yahoo.com or call 419.885.4595. The next opportunity to join us is:  
  
JANUARY 8 - Movie & Lunch, time TBA, at Franklin Park Mall, (5001 Monroe St.).

UT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME



On Saturday, **February 2, 2019**, the University of Toledo women's basketball team takes on Bowling Green State University at 2pm at Savage Arena. We're still finalizing details for group tickets and other exciting ideas, so stay tuned for more information coming in January.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A STEPHEN MINSTER OR STEPHEN LEADER?



**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry is one way we accomplish God's caring work by loving others in His name. Perhaps God has blessed you richly and you're at a place where you can give something back by serving and blessing others. Roll up your sleeves and explore your role in Stephen Ministry by contacting: Donna Humbert, Bobbi Sanders, Paul Schroeder, Pastor Beth Irwin, or e-mail [stephenministry@epworth.com](mailto:stephenministry@epworth.com). Be a working Christian!

FAMILY MOVIE DAY W/ PARENT CONNECTIONS

Parent Connections will rent out the Maumee Indoor Theater from 1:30pm



to 5:30pm on Saturday, **January 26**. The movie will start about 2pm and we will have a short intermission to enjoy some pizza. This is a totally FREE event and everyone is welcome! We will provide the movie, popcorn, water, pizza and maybe even a few prizes. Come and enjoy the fun and friendship! Please RSVP on the connection card today or contact Adam Schoesler at 419.351.0758 or [adam.schoesler@bex.net](mailto:adam.schoesler@bex.net). This is an event for the whole family. We'll be viewing a family-friendly movie!

FRIENDS IN FAITH BUNCO

All women are welcome, even if you have never played before. Bunco is a simple game, but it is more about the Christian fellowship. Bring a side dish, appetizer or dessert to share. We start at 6:30pm with dinner before we play.  
  
JANUARY 15 at Ronnie's house, (2225 Woods Edge Ct., Toledo). RSVP to [gorsuch2@bex.net](mailto:gorsuch2@bex.net).