



# Care Ministries

God calls us to take care of one another.

Epworth continues to grow and develop a system of caring for the congregation and the community. Below are opportunities for you to serve in caring ministries at Epworth. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Beth or the direct contact for the ministry area as listed below, or stop by the tables in the lobby today between worship services!

**STEPHEN MINISTRY:** Stephen Ministers provide one-on-one, confidential, Christ-centered care for adults experiencing a difficult season in their lives, whether it's the death of a loved one, financial difficulties, divorce or estrangement, illness, or other situations. Stephen Ministers participate in 50 hours of specialized training around prayer, active listening, and empowering others to thrive even in difficult situations. On being commissioned as a Stephen Minister, there is a two-year commitment to serve. Monthly supervision group and continuing education meetings are required. Contact Stephen Leader Paul at [paul.schroeder@accesstoledo.com](mailto:paul.schroeder@accesstoledo.com).

*\*If you are interested in being a Stephen Leader, note that you do not need to be a Stephen Minister to do this. If you have gifts of leadership, administration, creativity, and organization, you could be a Stephen Leader. Out-of-town, weeklong training required. Contact Paul for further details.*

**<NEW> CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTER:** This new ministry area trains those with a call to provide prayerful and practical support. Congregational Care Ministers will assist the pastoral staff with hospital and rehabilitation visits, help coordinate practical care in times of crisis, pray with families impacted by stressful events, and provide phone ministry prayer and cards of support. Four weeks of training is required. Contact Pastor Beth at [beth@epworth.com](mailto:beth@epworth.com) for more details.

**CARING HEARTS:** Become a visitor to a homebound member of the congregation. Help keep them connected to the church through visits, phone calls, and conversation. A minimum of one in-person visit and one phone call per month is required. Participation in the Congregational Care Ministers' training program is recommended. Participation in two-hour orientation is required. For details about Caring Hearts, contact Trina Hooper, Epworth's Lay Parish Visitor, at [trina@epworth.com](mailto:trina@epworth.com) or Pastor Beth at [beth@epworth.com](mailto:beth@epworth.com).

Training classes for Stephen Ministers, and Caring Hearts will begin in March, and training for Congregational Care Ministers will begin in April. Please prayerfully consider how you can be a part of these ministries!



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