EPWORTH TOWER



Epworth EARLY LEARNING CENTER

EPWORTH MEMBER REGISTRATION OPENS FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR FEBRUARY 2



FEBRUARY 2026

2-3	+Worship Opportunities +Birthdays
4	+Grow Families
5-6	+Grow Adults
7	+SWAT
8	+ETM
9-10	+Serve
11	+Announcements

If you have any Pastoral Care needs please call. During office hours, Monday - Friday, 9-5 call 419-531-4236. If you have an urgent need after hours Pastor Liz can be reached at 419-346-3559





WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

8:30 AM | WORSHIP WITH WEEKLY HOLY COMMUNION Music includes traditional hymns and instrumental pieces. Communion (which is open to ALL) is offered every week. This is a great service for those who also like to attend a 9:45 am Sunday School Class.

9:45 AM |TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

This is our service that features traditional hymns accompanied by both the Epworth choir and the pipe organ.

11:00 AM | MODERN WORSHIP SERVICE

This service features lively music and an inspirational message. Come as you are to this casual, inviting, and uplifting opportunity to express your faith.

7**:00 PM Healing & Wholeness Service**
Epworth Chapel
(second Monday of the month)
We gather to reconnect to our source of strength, faith, hope and love using prayer, hymns, a time of reflection, a time of sharing our joys and concerns with God and people who care. At this service we offer oil anointing and hands on prayer for any who wish to receive it.

CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE DURING OUR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES

Stay Connected

LIVESTREAM WORSHIP Website & Facebook:
Watch our worship online at epworth.com/live or on our Facebook page at facebook.com/epworthtoledo Sunday at 8:30 am & 9:45 am live

~WEEKLY E- NEWSLETTER:
Sign up for the weekly e-newsletters
~OBITUARY NOTIFICATIONS:
Sign up to receive obituary notifications
e-mail darlene@epworth.com
SOCIAL MEDIA: facebook.com/epworthtoledo

March Tower Deadline:

Monday, February 23, 2026

Have an idea for next month's Tower? Please e-mail all requested article copy and pictures to darlene@epworth.com

February

Happy Birthday to You!

FEBRUARY 1
Sheila Knauer

FEBRUARY 3
Marc Frank
Donald Colby
Peggy McKisson

FEBRUARY 4
Alan Baker
BJ Brengartner
James Murphey
Mary Roesti
Larry Spetka

FEBRUARY 5
Diane Baughman
Case McCarthy

FEBRUARY 6
Jacqueline Wilkinson
Kenneth Kohn

FEBRUARY 8
Daniel Marley
Amy Wolff

FEBRUARY 10
Heather Dunzweiler
Mary Squire

FEBRUARY 11
John Lewis

FEBRUARY 12
Jayme Koegler
Nicholas Loch
Kyle Ludwig

FEBRUARY 13
Krista Noviski
Jerry Smolen

FEBRUARY 14
James F Wilson
Alexander Rose

FEBRUARY 15
Martha Chapman

FEBRUARY 17
Don Atkinson
Kent Bishop
David Gillette

FEBRUARY 18
Sylvia Clark
Barbara Craig
Larry Emch

FEBRUARY 19
Diane Confer
Devin McConnell

FEBRUARY 20
Dorothy Figy

FEBRUARY 22
Pixie Krumlauf
Greg Price

FEBRUARY 23
Bonnie Humphrey
Greg Kassing
Kathryn Henderson

FEBRUARY 24
Lynn Bachelor
Keith Burmeisterr
Donald Doyle

FEBRUARY 25
Michael Carpenter
Tess Thompson/Scott

FEBRUARY 26
Paul Gore
Garrett Norris

FEBRUARY 27
Micah Dunzweiler
Jessica Figy-Brown

FEBRUARY 28
Sara Ramsey

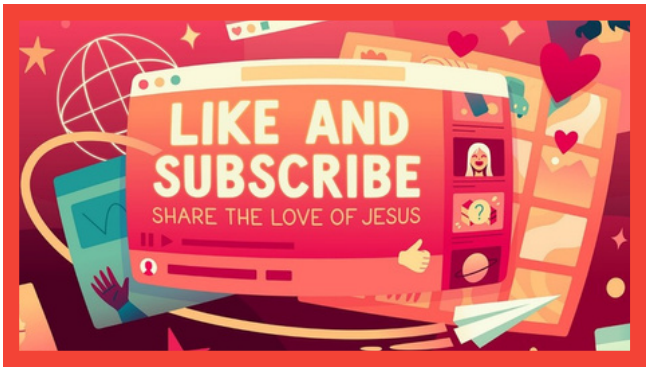




CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE



Preschool and Toddler: This month we will continue to gather during all Sunday morning worship services with hands-on large and small group time. Epworth's Preschool and Toddler children will learn that love is a word used for many things. We love chocolate. We love puppies. But the love Jesus gives us is the category all by itself. It's a love that is greater than any other love. It's a love that Jesus has for everyone, and it will never end. During their bible story time, they will learn this month's Bible Memory Verse: "Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me.'" (Matthew 19:14 NLT)



Elementary: This month, Epworth's Elementary kids will meet at 9:45 in the children's wing and learn that God's Big Story demonstrates how Jesus showed His love to everyone. This means when we follow Jesus, we can love others just like Jesus. Each week the children will discover through the bible that God loves the whole world, the love of Jesus can change things for the better, and we can show the love of Jesus to people in need. During their large group worship and small group discussion time, the children will focus on this month's Memory Verse: "I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you." (John 13:34, NIrV)

KID-TO-KID MISSIONS: LEARNING TO SERVE

MOM'S HOUSE

Since Epworth Kids are learning the importance of Jesus' teachings, they will be showing the love of Jesus to people in need. Beginning in February, Epworth's kids are encouraged to contribute much needed items for Mom's House that will connect with our children.

What is Mom's House?

Mom's House is a faith-based organization that strives to positively influence the lives of two generations through education for both parent and child. They believe that all life has value every child and parent deserves to be loved, protected and nurtured for who they are and who they can become, regardless of their circumstance. Mom's House strives to break the cycle of poverty and welfare. Their mission is to guide at -risk single parents through the process of achieving educational goals and providing tools and resources needed to become effective parents.

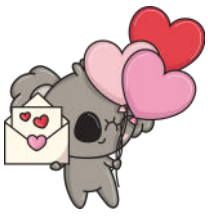
Below is a Wishlist of items we are collecting:

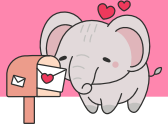


- Sidewalk chalk Play doh
- Dry erase markers – all sizes Bubble wands
- Paper bowls Bubble solution
- Paper plates Bulletin board borders
- 9 ounce plastic cups Trash bags – 13 gallon, 33 gallon
- Plastic spoons and forks Post it notes – all sizes
- Toilet paper

*** Gift cards to Kroger, Walmart, Amazon and gas stations in $20 value preferred ***

Donations may be dropped off at the Kid-to-Kid Missions kiosk located near the children's check-in counter beginning February 6 – March 31 Thank you!!





11:00 Adult Sunday School Class, Room 213

The people who attend the 11:00 Adult Sunday School will continue discussing Adam Hamilton's book, "Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It". It has been very interesting to see how Adam Hamilton has connected "John Wesley's contributions in 18th Century England with his legacy for 21st Century America, bringing lessons from Wesley's life and ministry into our discipleship today." Some of the Faith Practices we have talked about Reviving in our own lives are: Consider how the events of our daily lives can glorify God, Offer breath prayers Several times a day, and Speaking to God and giving him what is in our hearts. You are welcome to join in anytime- for any questions or more information, contact Robin at robinj662@yahoo.com. If you'd like more information, email your name & phone number for a call back

UPDATE on Men's Fellowship!

The men's breakfast group has a new name and a renewed purpose. Now called Epworth Pathfinders, we are committed to seeking new and creative ways for men to serve as an active, positive force in both our church and our community.

The proposed 2026 quarterly programs, traditional breakfast gatherings as well as off campus activities, include:

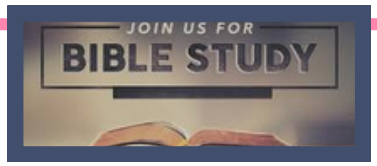
- April 26: Sunday afternoon Mud Hens Game for Family
- July 25: Golf Outing
- October 24: Breakfast meeting with a community theme

In addition, we are exploring service ministries such as Helping Hands (minor repair assistance) and Saturdays of Service (volunteer for community agencies).

If you have any suggestions or want to help please contact John Bachelor, Ed Bardi, Don Beeman, Bill Ludwig or Paul Pokrajac.

Winter Study!

WEATHER PERMITTING,the **Tuesday Women's Bible study** group will meet for six weeks beginning Tuesday, January 13, with study times at 9:30 or 1:30 p.m. All women are welcome, feel free to come to either group as your schedule permits. If you are new to the study group please contact Linda Pokrajac at lindapok@aol.com so there is a study book available for you. The title of the study is 1 Corinthians, Remember Who We Are.



Men's Bible Study

The winter/spring 2026 Men's Bible study will meet Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 PM. Ed Bardi will facilitate the group using "Daniel: A 12-week Study," by Todd A Wilson Contact Ed (ejb5538@gmail.com) for more details.

The Monday night women's Bible study resumes January 12 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom for a 6-week study of The Bible with and without Jesus: How Jews and Christians read the same stories differently, by Amy Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler. Each session begins with a short video, followed by discussion. Participant guides can be purchased on Amazon for $16.91 but are not required. New members are always welcome. Please contact Lynn Bachelor (lynn.bachelor@gmail.com). with any questions or to receive a Zoom link.

Help Us Grow Young Hearts in Faith!

Epworth is **hiring** a **Children's Sunday School Coordinator** to lead our K–5 ministry with creativity, care, and spiritual depth. This part-time role (25 hours/week) includes Sunday mornings and weekday hours (Tuesday–Thursday, with some weekday flexibility). We're looking for someone who loves working with children, enjoys teaching, and can guide volunteers in creating a safe, welcoming, and spiritually enriching environment. If you or someone you know feels called to this joyful ministry, please contact the church office at 419-531-4236 to learn more or apply or send an email to info@epworth.com.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

When children are removed from their homes they are usually brought to a child welfare services office to await placement. Isaiah 117 House provides a comforting home where these children can be brought to wait – a place that is safe, with friendly and loving volunteers who provide clean clothes, smiles, toys, and snuggly blankets. This space allows children to receive the comfort and care they need while child welfare staff can do the necessary paperwork and identify a good placement.

Wonderful Wednesday's program this month will bring in Jennifer Bice Bohnsack from Isaiah 117 House. It will be held Feb. 11th at noon with lunch provided by Chef Les. The cost is $10 with a pantry item donation to Isaiah 117 House. Their wishes include Rice Krispies treats, applesauce squeeze packets, Yogurt squeeze packets, juice boxes or a Celebration Kit in a bag consisting of a box of cake mix, frosting, candles and maybe some sprinkles. If you have questions contact June Latshaw at 419-344-4127 or email mamalatshaw@gmail.com. Reservations are due by Monday, February 9th on the connection card or by contacting the Church office at 419-531-4236.

ADULT SINGLES: Single, divorced and widowed adults in the Toledo community are invited to attend. RSVP to Sue at suehartman63@hotmail.com.

FRIDAY, FEBRUAARY 13 - COMEDY NIGHT

This show, presented by the very funny Professor of Comedy, will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Epworth in the children's church. Cost $10. Reserve tickets on the Connection Card or call 419-531-4236.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 - PANCAKE SUPPER

Support SWAT youth. Attend the Pancake Supper held in the Epworth Church gym from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 - LUNCH

Meet at 11:30 a.m. at Lourdes Dining hall, Lourdes University, 6 932 Convent Blvd., Sylvania. Complete Buffet including salads, soup, entrees, dessert and beverage costs $12.

NOTICE: If you are interested in preparing computer emails and Facebook information for the Adult Singles Program, please call 419-531-4236.

Healing and Wholeness

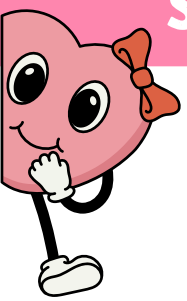
On the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm the laity team of the Healing and Wholeness service welcomes everyone to this meditative service. We provide an uplifting service of scripture, hymns, prayers, a homily, and oil anointing with hands on prayers for those who wish to participate. In this service we invite the Holy Spirit into our service and our lives, we offer the opportunity to open our hearts and our eyes to God's presence as he is faithful to His promise to be with us. The February service is on February 9th at 7:00pm held in the chapel across from the Sanctuary. The laity team prayerfully invites you. Take time from your busy schedule to reconnect with God and open your hearts to his presence and blessings.

Hawkins Tutoring/Volunteer Impact Update

As we enter the second half of the TPS school year, here is a summary of the impact that the Epworth School Partnership is having at Hawkins STEAM Academy. To date there are 20 tutors tutoring 32 students in grades 1-8 while there are 12 volunteers working with a variety of programs (Reading Café, Book Club, Library, Communications, Staff Appreciation) aimed at enriching the school experience for the students and staff at Hawkins. There is always a need for more tutors and volunteers, if interested in participating in one of these areas contact tutor coordinator Barb Machin (bmachin@bex.net; 419-356-9999) or Team Leader Pat Holmberg (holmbergpat9@gmail.com; 630-390-0882).

Valentine's Day - Happy or Sad ??

Valentine's Day is a happy day. But, for some it is a painful reminder of the difficult time they are experiencing. If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring Jesus' love (God's ultimate Valentine) back into your life through confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, to support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your struggle. To find out more about Stephen Ministry contact us at stephenministry@epworth.com.



~WINTER 2026~

Donuts and Bible 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

SWAT 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

These meet weekly unless noted below

FEBRUARY

2/1 - Confirmation @ 9:45am
Off-Site Night - Ice Skating

2/8 - Donuts & Bible
No SWAT (Super Bowl)

2/15 - No Donut & Bible
Pizza Making - Bring a Topping
w/ other Toledo Churches at Epworth

2/17 - Pancake Super 5:30-7:30pm

2/22 - Confirmation @ 9:45am
SWAT Presentation Night

MARCH

3/1 - SWAT/ Confirmation

3/8 - SWAT/ Confirmation

3/15 - No SWAT (ETM Play)

3/22 - Off-Site 4-5pm Night @ the Museum

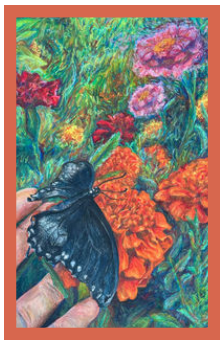
3/28 - Spring Fling Serve 1:00-4:30pm

3/29 - Family Worship Dat Palm Sunday





Scholastic Art & Writing Awards
Congratulations to Killeen French-Hill '26 ("Renewal" - Honorable Mention, and "Another Place" - Gold) and Taylor Windsor '29 ("One Step Forward" - Gold) who received awards for their pieces accepted into the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of Northeast Indiana and Northwest Ohio. This year, 2,270 artworks were entered, and 649 received an Honorable Mention, Silver Key, or Gold Key in recognition of their outstanding creative achievements. The display will be at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art from February 14 to April 12.



Youth Pancake Dinner:
Join us for a delicious evening of fellowship to support our youth mission trip. This summer the youth will be partnering with other churches in the connection to serve with Appalachian Service Project. Purchase tickets ahead of time in the lobby on February 8 and 15. Walk-ins are welcome and to go orders will be available.
Dinner will be served from 5:30-7:30 in Epworth's gym. Be on the lookout for additional details.





ETM
EPWORTH THEATRE MINISTRY

There will be a special preview of the performance on Sunday February 15th during the 9:45 and 11:00 am services. Please plan to join us.







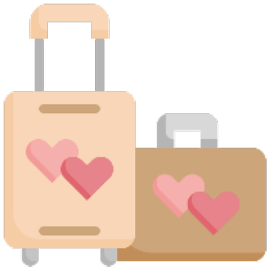
SERVE

Collection For Love and Luggage

Love and Luggage is a local non-profit organization (loveandluggage.com) housed through the First Presbyterian Church of Maumee . The program serves young adults (ages 18-25) that are aging out of foster care or group homes. Once these young adults graduate from high school, they are on their own to secure housing and to reside independently. Students are given a large, new duffel bag and Epworth would like to help them by supplying items needed to help establish their new living arrangements.

Below is a list of items that are most helpful for these young adults setting up a new household.

- Shampoo & Conditioner for African American &/or Caucasian hair
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Body Lotion
- Laundry Pods & Dryer Sheets
- Shaving Cream (men & women's)
- Tall kitchen bags (30 gallons)
- Disinfecting wipes
- Dish Soap
- Toilet Paper (packets of 4 only, please)



***Please bring a few or several of these items to Epworth on Sunday, Feb. 8, 15, & 22 and place in the blue shelves in the lobby.

We would like to make this transition a little easier for these young adults that have already been through a turbulent childhood and now must provide for themselves.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

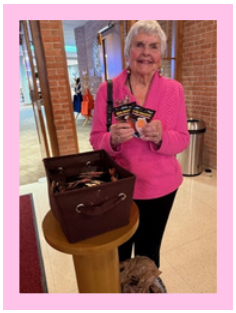






Spreading a little warmth & kindness!











God calls us to take care of one another. Epworth continues to grow and develop a system of caring for the congregation and community. Below are opportunities for you to serve in **Caring Ministries** at Epworth.

- **Caring Hearts:** This ministry consists of caring people who either send thoughtful cards, make phone calls, or even visit those members who may be homebound, in the hospital, or in recovery. Each caregiver is normally assigned 1-3 people and will reach out monthly. Contact lynn@epworth.com for more information.
- **Sweet Hospitality**: This committee is all about providing delicious treats in the lobby for everyone to enjoy on Sundays between worship services. This ministry promotes taking time to visit and get to know one another better. Contact lynn@epworth.com for more information.
- **Meal Ministry:** Made with love by our own chef Les. These meals are provided monthly for anyone to take to someone who could use a warm meal, even if that person happens to be yourself.
- **Meal Train:** Whether they just had a baby, major surgery, lost a loved one, or are having a hard time personally, sometimes the perfect way to help someone is to provide a meal. Contact Carol Bardi or lynn@epworth.com for more information.
- **Stephen Ministry**: Stephen members are lay volunteers of our congregation who have been trained to listen, care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are facing a crisis or going through tough times. They will meet with their care receiver privately on a weekly basis to listen, to support and encourage, to pray and to walk with their care receiver for the duration of their struggle. Contact the church office for more information.

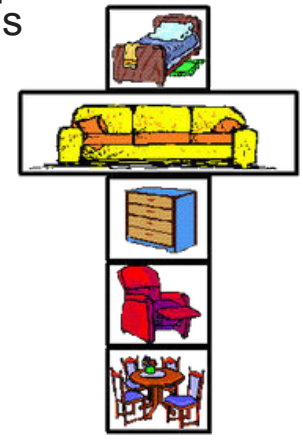
Feed Your Neighbor needs for February

Cereal
Noodles
Rice
Crackers
Canned Fruit
Canned Meat
Canned Tomatoes
Shampoo



Epworth Furniture: Items in High Demand

- Toasters
- White fitted sheets and white pillow cases for Twin,Full and Queen size beds
- Dinner forks and flatware
- Microwaves



January		YTD
4	Families	4
5	Adults	5
8	Children	8
47	Furniture Items	47



Epworth United Methodist Church
Presents
The Kenyon College Chamber Singers
Sunday March 1st at 4:00 p.m.
In the sanctuary



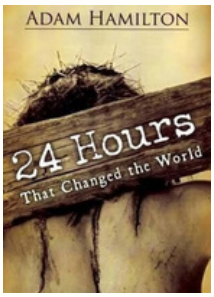
Kenyon College Chamber Singers Spring Tour, 2026 The Kenyon College Chamber Singers, conducted by Dr. Benjamin Locke, will be performing on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at Epworth United Methodist at 4:00 p.m. The Chamber Singers, consisting of forty-eight undergraduates chosen by competitive audition, is Kenyon's premier touring ensemble. The group is noted for its versatility of vocal style and broad repertoire.

The Chamber Singers will present an eclectic mix of a cappella choral repertoire on their 2026 Spring Tour. A centerpiece to the program will be a double-choir setting of Psalm 100 by Johann Pachelbel. Another highlight of the program is a performance of O Nata Lux, composed as part of a larger work, Lux Aeterna, by American composer Morten Lauridsen. The ensemble is noted for its regular inclusion of music from South Africa, which this year includes Shilohini, a Tsonga folksong with a bittersweet backstory from the World War II era. Additional composers represented on the program are Johannes Brahms, Jan Sweelinck, Antonio Lotti, Adolphus Hailstork, Moses Hogan, and many others.

The members of Chamber Singers come from twenty states as well as the countries of England and Botswana. A minority of the singers have declared music as their academic major, with the rest having chosen fields such as history, biology, mathematics, psychology, political science, and English, to name but a few.

Benjamin Locke is in his forty-second year as a faculty member at Kenyon. He directs the Kenyon Community Choir, teaches music theory, conducting and voice. He has written several research articles on the choral music of Johannes Brahms and has also published transcriptions and arrangements of South African folksongs. Dr. Locke earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he studied extensively with Robert Fountain.

Founded in 1824, Kenyon College is Ohio's oldest private college. It boasts a remarkably dedicated faculty, a carefully planned liberal arts curriculum, a highly capable student body, and alumni who have contributed significantly in all walks of life



LENTEN STUDY COMING SOON!

Join us this 6-week period of Lent to look at: 24 Hours That Changed the World, a video based bible study by Adam Hamilton. During this class we'll retrace and examine the last day of Jesus's life to experience and understand the day that changed human history. As guide, Hamilton's straightforward and conversational style speaks to both long-time Christians as well as those simply curious. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend to come with you!

Choose between Sundays 6:30-8:00 PM or Thursdays 1:30-3:00 PM. Jamile Shibley will facilitate Thursday classes, which begin February 19th. Melinda Gillette will facilitate Sunday classes, which begin February 22nd. Classes will run weekly through March 29th.

Sunday evening classes will include dinner: a "Not so Meager Meal" of soups, salad, and dessert.

Zoom option is also available for the Sunday evening classes.

For Sunday evening, if childcare is needed, it must be communicated at the time of registration.

Please register on the Connection Card, contact the church office 419-531-4236, or email Melinda Gillette mpgillette3@sbcglobal.net

Epworth
United Methodist Church
4855 W. Central Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43615-2337



JOIN US IN WORSHIP



8:30 AM | WORSHIP WITH WEEKLY HOLY COMMUNION

Music includes traditional hymns and instrumental pieces. Communion (which is open to ALL) is offered every week.

9:45 AM |TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

This is our service that features traditional hymns accompanied by both the Epworth choir and the pipe organ.

11:00 AM | MODERN WORSHIP SERVICE

This service features lively music and an inspirational message. Come as you are to this casual, inviting, and uplifting opportunity to express your faith.

CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE DURING OUR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES

7 PM(2nd MONDAY OF THE MONTH)

HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE | EPWORTH CHAPEL

We gather to reconnect to our source of strength, faith, hope and love using prayer, hymns, a time of reflection, a time of sharing our joys and concerns with God and people who care. At this service we offer oil anointing and hands on prayer for any who wish to receive it.