EPWORTH TOWER

lot's of love and laughter in the New Year

JANUARY 2026



2-3	+Worship Opportunities +Birthdays
4 - 5	+Grow Families
6-7	+Grow Adults
8	+SWAT
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

February Tower Deadline:

Monday, January 26, 2026

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

Happy Birthday To You!

JANUARY 1 Helen Kaval
JANUARY 2 Nancy Rhollans

JANUARY 6 Debra Seabolt

JANUARY 7 James Davis
Jordan Boze

JANUARY 8 Edward Hoppel
Ruth Ann Johnson

JANUARY 9 Jean Davis

JANUARY 10 Pat Holmberg
Gordon Wilson
Patricia Smalley

JANUARY 11 David Brunn
Carol Gaylord

JANUARY 12 Scott Forsythe

JANUARY 13 Lauren Rumbach

JANUARY 15 Brian Lochbihler

JANUARY 19 Ruth Ann Petroff
Paul Abendroth
Samantha Briggs
Zoe Briggs

JANUARY 20 Ron Bielawski

JANUARY 21 Jeff Roesti

JANUARY 22 Sam Billig
Ruth Rogers
Anna Wilkinson

JANUARY 23 Suzy Bond
Denny Brengartner

JANUARY 24 Nancy Lincoln

JANUARY 25 Anita Mirra

JANNUARY 26 Kimberlee Fish

JANUARY 27 Susan Shaneck

JANUARY 28 Jeanine Williams
Shaunessy Baker

JANUARY 29 Jim Hagan
Judith Wilkinson
Betsy White
Steve Moore
Karen Hutchinson

JANUARY 30 Carol Bishop
Erica Haase
Markus Lepard
Erik Ramsey

JANUARY 31 Dennis Greenwald





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 there are a lot of books that teach a lot of things. But there is only one book that teaches the best things-things like how to live for God, hear from God, pray to God and talk about God to others. They will be excited to know all those best things are in the Bible! During their bible story time, they will learn this month's Bible Memory Verse: "Your word is truth." (John17:17 NIrV)



Elementary : This month, Epworth's Elementary kids will meet at 9:45 in the children's wing and be discovering that practicing something every day helps you learn how to do it better. This means when we continue to follow Jesus and actually live out the things we hear and learn, the Holy Spirit helps our faith grow. During their large group worship and small group discussion time, the children will focus on this month's Memory Verse: "Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come." (1 Timothy 4:8, NIrV)

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.







Hello Epworth Families,

January is a season of fresh starts and new possibilities. After time spent with family and friends over the holidays, we are excited to welcome children back to school and continue our journey of discovery. This month, our classrooms will focus on winter themes such as snow, ice, hibernation, and new beginnings. Children will explore science activities that help them understand the cold weather, experiment with melting and freezing, and observe how animals adapt during the winter months.

We will also take time to strengthen self help skills as children learn to put on their winter gear independently. Practicing zipping, buttoning, and layering helps children build confidence, while also preparing them for more time outdoors. These skills are celebrated in the classroom and can be reinforced at home through small moments of encouragement and praise.

Winter can feel long, but it also offers opportunities to slow down and enjoy cozy moments together. We encourage families to spend time reading books, creating art, or enjoying outdoor play in the snow. These shared experiences help children develop language, creativity, and social skills while also building cherished family memories. Teachers will continue to provide calm, predictable routines so children feel secure while learning in a season that is often filled with excitement and change.

Important Dates to Remember

- January 1: Center Closed for New Year's Day
- January 5: Classes Resume after Winter Break
- January 19: Center Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Christmas Program

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Christmas program. We were truly blessed to welcome over 162 family members and guests, and your presence made the evening incredibly special. Seeing our students shine on stage, supported by a room full of proud families, reminded us exactly why these moments matter so much. Your encouragement, smiles, and applause meant the world to our children and our staff. Events like this are only possible because of the strong, supportive community that surrounds our program, and we are deeply grateful for each of you who took time out of your busy schedules to celebrate with us.

Thank you for being such an important part of our Epworth Early Learning Center family. We are already looking forward to many more moments of joy together.

Books to Enjoy

Here are 5 read-aloud favorites to share at home this January:

- *The Snowy Nap* by Jan Brett
- *Animals in Winter* by Henrietta Bancroft
- *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
- *The Mitten* by Jan Brett
- *Hello Winter* by Shelley Rotner



Let's Stay Connected!

We look forward to a joyful January filled with curiosity, learning, and growth. Thank you for sharing your children with us and for being an important part of our school family.

Via email at jessica@epworth.com or call us at 419-531-7632.

With joy,

The Epworth Early Learning Center Team

visit our website: https://www.epworth.com/grow/early-learning-center or email us at jessica@epworth.com



11:00 Adult Sunday School Class, Room 213

Have you ever wondered how the Methodist Denomination Started? Why is it that we are Methodist? What makes us different from other denominations? How are we similar? Who is John Wesley and how did he live his Faith? Beginning the first Sunday in January we will spend 6 weeks looking at Adam Hamilton's." Revival: Faith as Wesley lived it" This would be a good time to stop in, watch the video and join in some thought-provoking discussion as we look at this topic. 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:

- January 24: Breakfast meeting, "Changes in the College Athletics Landscape"
- 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.

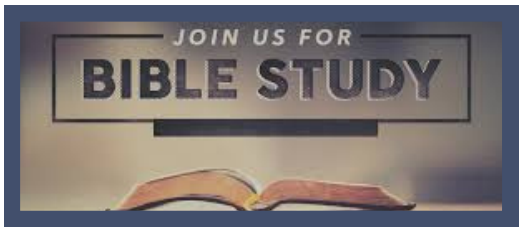
The next **Epworth Pathfinders Men's Breakfast** is January 24 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the lobby. Stavros Paskaris, Assistant Athletic Director at BGSU will discuss Changes in the College Athletics Landscape. Bring a guest and join us for a delicious breakfast, timely presentation, and great fellowship. Please register by January 19 by calling 419-531-4236 or emailing krystal@epworth.com.

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 starting January 29
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.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

Wonderful Wednesday will inform us on the spirit of giving. Ruth Ann Petroff will be speaking to us about "Leading Families Home". The luncheon will occur on Wednesday January 14th, starting at Noon. Chef Les will be providing us with lunch. The cost is $10 (with limited scholarships available) and a donation of a non-perishable item for Feed Your Neighbor. For questions, contact June Latshaw at 419-344-4127 or email her at mamalatshaw@gmail.com. Reservations are due by Monday, January 12th on the connection card or by contacting krystal@epworth.com

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Joy of Christmas Gone ??

In this New Year 2026 the joy of Christmas time can turn into a time of emptiness and maybe painful loneliness if you are going through a difficult time or suffered a loss. But help is available. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and support you through the first days of the new year and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting contact us at stephenministry@epworth.com. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

Healing and Wholeness

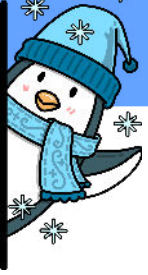
On the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm the laity team of the Healing and Wholeness service welcomes everyone to this meditative service. We provide an uplifting service of scripture, hymns, prayers, a homily, and oil anointing with hands on prayers for those who wish to participate. The service is a chance to open our hearts and reconnect with God, a chance to share our burdens with God or openly with others attending the service. The main theme of this service is God is our source of strength, faith, hope and love. Our God has the power to heal and or to provide comfort. Sometimes on our journey in this life we are distracted and don't recognize God's presence in our life, or even the blessings and miracles that surround us. 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 January service is on January 12th 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 HAWKS

Hawkins STEAM Academy Attends Gingerbread House Event

As an extension to the relationship Epworth UMC has with the Hawkins STEAM Academy, for the first time Hawkins families were invited to participate in the annual Epworth Gingerbread House event on Sunday, December 7. The event and their level of participation were a success. Of the seventy people who attended the event, fifteen people (21.5%) from four different Hawkins families participated in the event. Of the fifteen, seven were Hawkins students and eight were their family members. Not only did they have the opportunity to create and take home their very own Gingerbread houses, the families also were provided with the opportunity to make some selections from the clothing ministry room. Some of the families took advantage of this and were able to get some clothing needed for their family. Pastor Liz summarized Epworth's reaction to this involvement by stating, "We were very glad to connect with so many Hawkins families".

The Epworth-Hawkins Leadership Team was excited that some of the Hawkins families took advantage of this opportunity and hope to extend the invitation again for next year's Gingerbread House event. It is hoped that even more Hawkins families will participate and that this results in an even stronger bond with the school through our community outreach to the Hawkins STEAM Academy. The Team also appreciated the work of Sue and Bob Rochowick, Pat Holmberg and Kay Heinrichs in welcoming and assisting the Hawkins families as they participated in the event.



SWAT

JAN-MAY 2026

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

SWAT 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

These meet weekly unless noted below

JANUARY
- 1/4 - SWAT Craft Night
- 1/11 - No SWAT
- 1/16-28 - Retreat
- 1/18 - Family Worship Day - No Youth

FEBRUARY
- 2/1 - Off-Site Night - Ice Skating
- 2/8 - No SWAT (Super Bowl)
- 2/15 - Pizza Making - Bring a Topping
- 2/17 - Pancake Super
- 2/22 - Family Worship Day - No Youth

MARCH
- 3/15 - No SWAT (ETM Play)
- 3/22 - Off-Site 4-5pm Night @ the Museum
- 3/28 - Spring Fling
- 3/29 - March Madness

APRIL
- 4/5 - Family Worship Day - No Youth
- 4/12 - Off Site Night Laser Tag
- 4/19- Last Youth Events For School Year
- 4/26 - Family Worship Day - No Youth

MAY
- 5/3 - Next Gen Sunday



COMMON TABLE

Young Adult Gathering

Join us as we launch Common Table, a new, intentionally ecumenical and inclusive community for young adults ages 18-35.
Come enjoy good food, new friends, and meaningful connection.

January 27 | 6:00 p.m.
Reynolds Corner Branch Library
(4833 Dorr St.)

We'll share Chipotle catering, get to know one another through speed-friending, and pause for a brief time of prayer led by Pastor Dalton Rosa-Ruggieri.
Whether you're looking for community, curiosity, or just a fun night out–you belong at the table.
We hope to see you there!

Beulah Beach

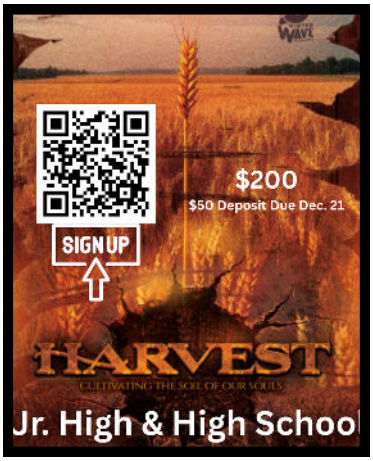
Youth (SWAT) Winter Retreat Fundraiser

The Epworth Youth and some of their friends will be attending Beulah Beach's WinterWave Weekend in Vermilion, OH, January 16-18. There are10 youth and 2 chaperones planning to attend. They will be stretched spiritually, engage in life-challenging discussions, and make new friends. They will leave with a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and why following Him is the BEST LIFE POSSIBLE! This non-stop energetic retreat includes a trip to Kalahari, epic dance parties, hilarious hosts, interactive activities, uplifting worship, and transformational Bible teaching.

There are two ways you can support this trip. The first is through prayer! The second is by participating in our fun fundraiser to offset the cost of lodging, transportation, and scholarships. In the lobby you will find a bulletin board filled with envelopes. On each envelope is a number. This tells you how much money to place in the envelope when you return it. For example, if you select envelope #4 you will place $4 (cash or check) inside and then place it in the offering plate next week. You will see a spot for your name on the back. You can select more than one, like #13 & #7 if you want to give $20, just make a note of the combination on the back of your envelope. Thank you for your support.







Don't Forget to sign up for Scriptures
and
Altar Flowers for the New Year!!

2025 Highlights













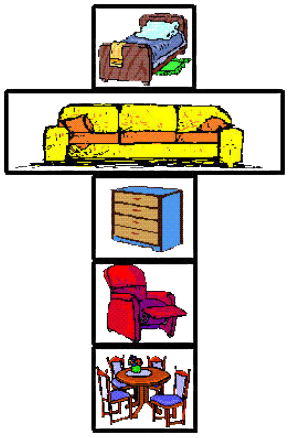




Furniture Ministry Items Needed:

~Crock Pots
~Large Pots

~Bedding for Queen, Double & Twin beds
~Large rugs 3'x5' or larger



Feed Your Neighbor needs for January & February



Cereal
Noodles
Rice
Crackers
Canned Fruit
Canned Meat
Canned Tomatoes
Shampoo

December		YTD
14	Families	111
17	Adults	152
17	Children	110
132	Furniture Items	1056

TOWER DEADLINES: 2026

Tower	Deadline	Send (1st Monday)	Dates Covered	Cover Image
January 2026	Mon. Dec 22	Mon. Jan 5	Jan 1 - Feb 2	New Year
February	Mon. Jan 26	Tues. Feb 3	Feb 3 -Mar 1	ELC
March	Mon. Feb 23	Mon. Mar 2	Mar 2 - Apr 5	Lent/Easter
April	Mon. Mar 25	Mon. Apr 6	Apr 6 - May 3	Touch-a-Truck
May	Mon. Apr 27	Mon. May 4	May 4 - May 31	ELC/VBC
June	Tues. May 26	Mon. June 1	June 1 - July 2	Youth Missions
July	Fri. June 26	Mon. July 6	July 3 - Aug.4	Ministry Spotlight
August	Mon. July 27	Mon. Aug 3	Aug 5 - Sept 6	Fall Collage Kickoff
September	Mon. Aug 24	Wed. Sept 2	Sept 7- Oct 4	Trunk-or-Treat
October	Mon. Sept 28	Mon. Oct 5	Oct 5 - Nov 1	Stewardship
November	Mon. Oct 26	Mon. Nov 2	Nov 2 - Dec 6	Gingerbreads
December	Mon. Nov 23	Mon. Dec 7	Dec 7 - Jan 3	Advent/Xmas eve
January 2027	Fri. Dec 18	Mon. Jan 4	Jan 4 - Jan 31	New Year

Bulletin Deadlines: 2026

Bulletin	Deadline	Print
Ash Weds Feb 18	Thur. Feb 12	Tues. Feb 17
Maundy Thursday Apr 2	Mon. Mar 30	Wed. Apr 1
Easter Sunday Apr 5	Thurs. March 26	Thurs. April 2
Christmas Eve Dec 24	Mon. Dec. 14	Tues. Dec 22

Weekly Deadlines for Reminder's/ E-Newsletter:

Tuesday *at 12:00 noon of that week*

Please submit all articles to darlene@epworth.com by corresponding deadline.

Epiphany is observed on January 6 by Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Anglicans, and Christians of other Western traditions. Epiphany is a Christian holiday primarily commemorating the Magi's visit to the baby Jesus and the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. Eastern traditions, which usually call the holiday Theophany, focus on Jesus' baptism, seen as the manifestation of Christ as both fully human and fully divine. Western traditions focus on the Magi's visit, seen as the first manifestation of Christ as savior of Gentiles as well as Jews. This is according to Encyclopedia Brittanica.

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



JOIN US IN WORSHIP



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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.