EPWORTH TOWER





MARCH

2026



2-3 +Worship Opportunities
+Birthdays

4-5 +Grow Families

6-7 +Grow Adults

8 +ETM

9 +SWAT

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

April Tower Deadline:

Monday, March 25, 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!



MARCH 1
Lindsey Burmeister
Barbara Davey
Mike Starbird

MARCH 2
Kristy Bielawski
Dennis Tobias
Helen Wagoner

MARCH 3
Daniel Vetter

MARCH 4
Jim Linn

MARCH 5
Ann Hartmann
Beth Ann Mosch

MARCH 6
Melissa Netter

MARCH 7
Doug Welch

MARCH 8
Susanne Colby
Patty Murray

MARCH 9
Randy Keller
Kelsey Northrup

MARCH 11
Robert Rochowiak

MARCH 13
Sandy Johnston

MARCH 15
Gloria Heacock
Donna Reece

MARCH 16
Andrea Laumann
Rick Newland

MARCH 17
Brian Ramsey

MARCH 19
Charlotte Thurston

MARCH 20
Lori Perne'

MARCH 21
Larry Riggs

MARCH 23
Joyce Guinness

MARCH 24
Diane Rusk
Jennifer Seibel
Peter Vavrinek

MARCH 25
Barb Machin
Jay Werner
Marvin Robon

MARCH 26
Austin Lazenby

MARCH 27
Sharon Abendroth
Fred Mikesell
Ray Mullins

MARCH 28
Sallee Burns
Jeanette Berglund

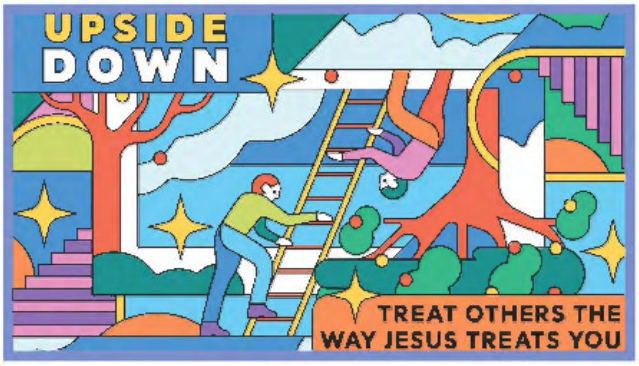
MARCH 30
Grant Wilkinson
Debbie Bradford



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE



Preschool and Toddler:
This month we will continue our in-person gatherings during all Sunday morning worship services with hands-on, action packed large/small group time. Epworth's Preschool and Toddler kids will learn about the amazing things Jesus could do. Through their activities they will experience some of these "amazing" things. Our little ones will discover Jesus: "We have seen amazing things today!" (Luke 5:26 NLT)



Elementary: This month, Epworth's Kids will meet at 9:45 in the children's wing and continue to explore God's Big Story, where they will discover how Jesus showed compassion by becoming one of us. They will explore how much he gave up to make that happen. They will understand through activities and bible stories how Jesus shows us that sometimes you have to give things up to show others just how much you care. Each week the children will learn through the bible that God is most important, to love like Jesus even when it's hard, and to remember Jesus showed us how to be humble. During their large group worship and small group discussions, the kids will focus on this month's memory verse: "Don't do anything to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves." (Phillipians 2:3, NIrV)

KID-TO-KID MISSIONS: LEARNING TO SERVE

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 through March 31 Thank you!!

Hello Epworth Families,
March arrives with the promise of spring. Children are eager to spend more time outdoors, noticing rain, puddles, and the earliest signs of flowers and new growth. Our classrooms will build on this natural curiosity with lessons about weather, seeds, and change. Play will include planting, experimenting with water, and observing how nature begins to wake up after winter. This month also brings an important time for connection between teachers and families through conferences. These conversations allow us to celebrate progress, share learning goals, and ensure we are working together to support each child's unique growth. Children will be introduced to early spring science as they observe rainfall, notice rainbows, and begin learning about plant life cycles. In literacy, children will explore books about weather and retell familiar stories. Math will include counting seeds, measuring soil, and comparing sizes of plants. Social emotional learning will focus on cooperation and patience as children work together on planting projects and group play.

Important Dates to Remember

- March 12 and 13: Parent Teacher Conferences
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day
- March 30 to April 6th: Center closed for Spring Break & Center closed for Easter Monday

Spring Conferences

Conferences are a wonderful way to highlight both strengths and next steps. Teachers will share stories, observations, and work samples that show how your child is learning. Families are encouraged to bring questions, ideas, or insights from home. This partnership makes learning stronger and helps children feel supported across all environments.

Books to Enjoy

- *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert
- *And Then It's Spring* by Julie Fogliano
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
- *Little Cloud* by Eric Carle

Let's Stay Connected!

March is a time for growth and renewal. We are excited to celebrate each child's progress and look forward to the season ahead.
Via email at jessica@epworth.com or call us at 419-531-7632.
With love,
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

The Adult Sunday School Group will be delving into Adam Hamilton's Book, "Luke-Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws" during Lent. You are welcome to stop in Room 213 and join in the conversation about the Video that accompanies this Study. They will not meet on Easter Sunday. The following week they will begin a new study about "Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple"

The 9:45 Adult Bible Study will be starting its' Spring Study entitled: Lament, Confession, Rebirth. They meet in room 214.



The Tuesday Women's Bible Studies, held at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., will be studying "At the Foot of the Cross and Beyond," focusing on the women who were present at Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection. The study will examine a different Gospel each week on March 3, 10, 17, and 24. Please join us for either session as your schedule permits. For more information, contact Linda Pokrajac at lindapok@aol.com.

Love the Gospels? …"The Chosen" Returns to Epworth Wednesday, April 15

The Chosen is a groundbreaking Christian historical drama series about the life of Jesus Christ, It's the first multi-season television series depicting Jesus's ministry, told uniquely through the eyes of the people who encountered Him. It has captivated people around the world and forever changed the landscape of Christian media. If you missed it when we started our earlier Bible study on "The Chosen," this is yo*ur chance to experience it from the beginning, as we start a new Bible study with seven weekly sessions beginning Wednesday, April 15.*

Appropriate for all ages, "The Chosen" takes us through the public ministry of Jesus from the selection of disciples through the resurrection. It is an independent production with no ties to Hollywood….. created, produced, directed, and written by committed Christians

Join us as we study the Gospels in this unique and exciting way starting April 15 at 6:30PM. For more information contact Jamile Shibley at j.shibley@pm.me or 419-277-2405. To register for the study, you can let Jamile know or e-mail savanna@epworth.com. You may also sign up on the connection card. Registration will begin March 29th.

ADULT SINGLES

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 - DINNER & ENSEMBLE

Meet for Sunday Dinner at 12:45 pm at Longhorn Steakhouse, 4155 Talmadge Road, Toledo. After dinner, at 4:00 pm, attend the Kenyon College Chamber Singers program in the Epworth Church sanctuary.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 - CONCERT

The Sylvania Community Orchestra's Spring Concert will feature the annual young solo winner performing on the cello. This free program begins at 4:00 pm at Lourdes Franciscan Center Theater.

MARCH 13, 14, & 15 - EPWORTH THEATER MINISTRY PROGRAM

Performances of "THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE" will be held in the Epworth Church Gym on Friday and Saturday at 7:00 pm and Matinees Saturday and Sunday at 3:00 pm.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 - ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

Meet at 1:30 pm at Rumor's Restaurant, 5205 Monroe Street, Toledo, for a Jigg's Dinner.

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 - MARCH 11TH



Love and Luggage is a non-profit organization that serves young adults (18-25) that are aging out of the foster care system. This month's Wonderful Wednesday will host Sara Oatis, the founder of Love and Luggage, to speak about the program. Wonderful Wednesday goes from Noon to 1:30 with Lunch provided by Chef Les. The cost is $10 (with limited scholarships available) with a donation of an item from the Feb. missions collection OR a non-perishable item for Feed Your Neighbor. Questions: contact June Latshaw at 419-344-4127 or email her at mamalatshaw@gmail.com Reservations are due by Monday, March 9th on the connection card or by contacting the church office.

Below is a list of items that are most helpful for these young adults setting up a new household. (Feb. mission list) 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 (13 gallons), Disinfecting wipes, Dish Soap Toilet Paper (packs of 4 only, please)

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 March service is on March 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.

IT'S OKAY TO BE HUMAN….

An important theme of the Lenten season is the humanity of Christ. In Jesus, God became human and fully experienced the wide range of emotions we all encounter in life. Jesus experienced times of loneliness, sadness, hurt, anger, disappointment, grief, and abandonment. When you are experiencing difficult times, don't struggle alone. Stephen Ministers will walk with you, listen to you, encourage you, pray with you, and provide confidential one-to-one care to help you through tough times. Stephen Ministers can bring the love of Jesus back into your life. To learn more about Stephen Ministry, contact us at stephenministry@epworth.com.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

HAWKINS HAWKS

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).



ETM will be selling tickets to “The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe” on Sundays in the Lobby. The performance is March 13th, 14th and 15th. Prices are $12 for Adults, $10 for Students & Seniors.







SWAT 2026

MARCH

3/1 - Donuts & Bible @ 9:45 am
SWAT/ Confirmation @ 6:00pm

3/8 - Donuts & Bible @ 9:45 am
SWAT/ Confirmation @ 6:00pm

3/15 - Donuts & Bible @ 9:45 am
SWAT: Attend ETM Play @ 3:00pm

3/21 - Confirmation Retreat Day @ Epworth
10am - 1pm

3/22 - Donuts & Bible @ 9:45 am
SWAT @ 6:00pm

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

3/29 & 4/5 - Palm Sunday & Easter
Family Worship Days

5/3 - Next Gen Worship



Easter is celebrated worldwide with diverse, unique traditions ranging from solemn religious processions to quirky, festive rituals. Key customs include egg hunting in the US/UK, "witch" visiting in Sweden, kite flying in Bermuda, and water-splashing in Poland. While chocolate eggs are common, unique, localized celebrations include a massive, 15,000-egg omelet in Bessières, France, pot-throwing in Corfu, Greece, and the Easter Bilby in Australia.

Looking for a Few Good Men and Women

Jump in and join our Good Works mission team! We need 2 cooks and several other people ready to meet and serve folks in Athens, Ohio...September 29 - October 3. Questions? Contact Sandra O'Phelan (419-346-6088), Dave Richardson (419-343-8282), or Polly Richardson (419-908-0590)



Prayer Shawl Ministry at work!



The bounty for Love & Luggage

Easter Sunday Worship Opportunities April 5th

8:30 AM & 9:45 AM |TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

We will celebrate the Risen Lord with traditional hymns accompanied by both the Epworth choir and the pipe organ. Communion will be served, all are welcome!

11:00 AM | MODERN WORSHIP SERVICE

This service will feature lively music and an inspirational message about our Risen Lord. Communion will be served. All are welcome!



The Youth hard at work at the Pancake supper.





Epworth Furniture: Items in High Demand

- Queen size blankets
- White fitted sheets and white pillow cases for Twin, Full and Queen size beds
- 1000 Watt Microwaves

On behalf of the Furniture Ministry Leadership Team, I want to express how "lucky" ☘ we are to have the continued support of the church congregation! We ask for specific items each month and the congregation provides! Thank you!

The congregation consistently provides gently used basic furniture items as well as gently used basic homegoods (Blessings). Our clients, which have reached 2,209 since we started in 2008, are so very appreciative of the Epworth congregation's generosity!

With an attitude of gratitude,

Holly Bolenbaugh

Call: 567-694-3710 Email: furnitureministry@epworth.com

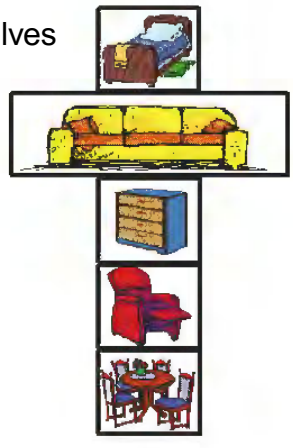
Feed Your Neighbor needs for March & April

Cereal
Canned Chicken
Canned Tuna
Noodles
Rice
Soup
Shampoo
Deodorant
Paper Bags



A crisp morning brought us 8 families from the community that included 9 adults and 9 children. These families received 71 furniture items! We cheered at the 7 box trucks that were acquired for the event. These trucks make loading and unloading so much easier! Plus we try to "fill" the truck if space allows at the client's home. Our shelves are slowly filling! Many thanks to our church congregation!

February		YTD
8	Families	12
9	Adults	14
9	Children	17
71	Furniture Items	118



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Please be sure to welcome our new members joining in February. Elizabeth (Buffy) Barley, a teacher for Monroe Public Schools. Clare Cechner, a Speech Pathologist working for Pearson. Alex Flores and Jamie Thompson who will be getting married soon and bringing three children with them.

At Epworth we are fortunate to have a strong music program. For many churches things have changed.

There are not as many people participating in church choirs these days. Some have gone on to sing in the heavenly choir. Some of the voices have weakened a bit. Some have lost a portion of their vocal range. The traditional ways of doing things are disappearing. Many choirs do not sing in robes anymore. The instrumentation has changed. The piano and organ are supplemented with other instruments, including drums and guitars. Things definitely have changed, and change is inevitable (and sometimes very healthy!).

However, choral singing is still beautiful. Dynamics are still breathtaking. Articulations and phrasing are still painting vivid pictures of the text. Good breath support is still creating notes that are on pitch and carry with them great depth of sound. Choir members are still dedicated to working hard each week to bless the Lord and His people.

What has not changed is the fact that choir is still one of the most beautiful and engaging ministries in the local church. It provides a powerful expression of praise and worship that a soloist, a band, or the congregation cannot do. So, make sure your choir (and we are fortunate to have one) is affirmed and appreciated regularly. Do not take the choir for granted. It takes a lot of commitment to create and maintain a church choir. Pray for your choir members regularly. Let them know how much you are inspired by their ministry.

Hurray for all our Epworth Music and our leaders! May God continue to use them powerfully in a world that desperately needs to hear the message. And yes, the message is the mission!

A humble apology to the Mission groups who worked so diligently on the giving trees and Advent activities. The recap was misplaced and missed out on TWO Towers. So, here is the recap of what was collected.

ADVENT 2025 RECAP

A tremendous THANK YOU to our congregation for your generous giving throughout the 2025 Advent season!

*Epworth provided 48 persons to ring the **Salvation Army Bell** at a local Kroger for three days in December. $2,193.62 was raised for the Salvation Army through our efforts.

***St. Paul's Community Center** (a local community rehousing shelter) received 5 hams for their Christmas dinner and 319 articles of clothing and hygiene items that will be much appreciated by the St. Paul's residents. Director Joe Habib indicated these items would be very helpful for their winter crisis program.

***Leading Families Home** (local family shelter and rehousing program) received 184 items including towels, sheets, pillows, and cleaning supplies.

***Hawkins STEAM Academy** received 111 hats, 56 pairs of gloves, and 134 fleece scarves to help their children stay warm this winter.

Gifts From The Heart, a new program we debuted this year, was a great success and we were able to deliver 56 gifts to 10 families at Hawkins to help make their Christmas a little brighter.

***Harvesting 4 Haiti Foundation,** an organization based in Perrysburg, OH is dedicated to provide financial and business assistance to self-sustaining agriculture initiatives in Haiti, thereby reducing poverty, will receive a donation made by our members.

Again, thank you for helping to make the winter brighter and warmer for many local Toledoans!



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



JOIN US IN WORSHIP

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