

Epworth

United Methodist Church

Blended 8:30 | Traditional 9:45 | Contemporary 11:00



CHILDREN'S DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOME TO EPWORTH

Our children's ministry vision at Epworth UMC is to glorify God, grow disciples, and transform the world...one child at a time. We strive to be a community where God is praised, worshiped, and glorified and children are baptized, nurtured, deepened, confirmed in Christ and sent out to transform our local community, our nation, and the world.

Children are welcome at all of our worship gatherings. In addition, for those who are interested in kid centered programming, we provide childcare and faith formation programming during all of our Sunday morning services.

We have safety policies that include specialized training, background checks, and secure check-in procedures. This parent handbook will outline our children's programming as well as define all of our safety and security guidelines. Our hope is that you and your children feel safe, loved, and encouraged at Epworth UMC. We put family first and would love for you to join our family.

If you desire more information, any member of our education department would be happy to help.

Yours in Christ,

The Children's Discipleship Team

SUNDAY PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

INFANTS

Our babies are cared for during all 3 worship gatherings by loving, trained, staff in our nursery with age appropriate activities and toys.

TODDLERS

Children ages 18 months to 3 years are nurtured by our loving, trained staff in the toddler room during all 3 worship gatherings. The children experience both free play and music-based lessons to begin to connect them to Bible truths.

PRESCHOOL

Our preschooler children experience age-appropriate worship and activities during the 9:45 & 11:00 worship gatherings. Volunteers journey with them through hands-on lessons designed to introduce the language and formation of faith.

GRADES K-5 AT 9:45 A.M.

We offer large group worship and small group rotation activities in the kingdom for all elementary children. Shepherds guide their small groups to classes led by volunteers which are designed to deepen the children's faith.

GRADE 6 AT 9:45 A.M.

In S.L.A.M. (Serve, Learn, and Minister) our sixth graders are diving into the Bible and learning what it means to reach out into our community. This volunteer run program focuses on God's love for them and others.

GRADES K-3 AT 11:00 A.M.

All families begin in the sanctuary and then after the "Children's Sermon" these kids gather for W.O.W. (Worship Our Way). This volunteer led large group worship experience is designed to appeal to younger church members.

For more information and a complete list of our weekday children's programming, please see the Children's Education and Family Ministry brochure or ask any member of the education and family ministry team!

MILESTONES

We offer faith formation workshops throughout the year to both celebrate the natural life-milestones in the life of your child, but also to build Biblical foundations as your child grows from infancy to a teenager. These workshops are designed to teach faith concepts to children and their parents as we journey together. Below is an overview of the milestone curriculum.

BABY BLESSING

Parents bring their babies to this milestone to celebrate their children, learn how Epworth will walk with them as they begin their child's faith journey, and stand beside them as they write a blessing for their child.

JUMP INTO FALL PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

This is a special day set aside to celebrate the kindergarteners who are graduating out of the early childhood wing and moving up into the kingdom as well as the 3 year-olds who are moving up into the preschool class.

2ND GRADE FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

We explore the basics of what it is to be a Methodist. What does it mean when we are baptized? Why do we take communion? How should I pray? These are all natural questions at this age and this workshop will help kids and parents begin a dialogue around these important foundational topics. We look at the sacraments of baptism and holy communion as well as exploring various ways of prayer and worship.

4TH GRADE BIBLE MANIA

Fourth Graders receive their Bibles in worship and then go to BIBLE MANIA where they learn to use their Bibles in fun ways through puzzles, games, and challenges.

6TH GRADE PRETEEN PASSAGE

Preteen Passage explores that period between elementary and teen years when a student's faith formation is critical. It gives parents and students practical information that can help them along their faith journey as a family.

CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

In our effort to foster children's growth into their own faith and discipleship, Epworth offers many opportunities for children to serve their church and their community. Some of these include:

KIDS ROC {REACHING OUR COMMUNITY}

A service group for children in grades 4-6.

S4 {SIX SUPER SATURDAYS OF SERVICE}

A church wide, family-friendly service initiative.

PENNIES FOR JESUS

A preschool offering used to buy children's Bibles to send with our mission teams.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children age 4 to grade 6 meet Wednesdays from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

CHILDREN'S BELLS

Children grades 4-6 meet on Wednesdays from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m.

LEARN TO SERVE MISSION PROJECTS

Kingdom children serving other children in need, both near and far.

ACOLYTING

Children in grade 4 and up bring the light of Christ into our traditional worship service at 9:45 a.m.

INTERGENERATIONAL AND FAMILY EVENTS

As part of our fellowship objective, we are committed to providing events for our church members that span generations and include all ages. These events are designed to grow our faith through fellowship while fulfilling our mission of discipleship.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout the year, there are several family focused special events to provide an opportunity for the church to come together in fellowship and fun. Most of these events are open to the public and provide a perfect opportunity for you to invite extended family, neighbors, and friends who may not be a part of a faith community to come experience life at Epworth. Some of the activities include:

GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOP

A festive time to decorate a gingerbread house with your family and friends. The Family Life Center is filled with holiday music, laughter, and the sweet smell of Christmas.

YOUTH GROUP SPONSORED MEALS

Take a night off from cooking and let the SWAT {Epworth's youth group, Students With A Task} do the work! Enjoy fellowship, fun, and fantastic food while supporting youth missions.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT AND HOLY SMOKE BBQ

Dress the kids up in their Halloween costumes and enjoy a safe trick-or-treating alternative in our parking lot or decorate your trunk for a chance to win the "best trunk" award. After your bags are full of candy, come inside and enjoy delicious BBQ grilled by our Epworth Grill Masters.

TOUCH-A-TRUCK

Come honk horns, climb inside, and pretend to drive a multitude of vehicles that fill our front parking lot. From fire trucks to pedal cars, if it has wheels, chances are you'll see it here!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Come experience the Bible unlike you ever have before! This is a week full of singing, playing, and exploring that promises to be your favorite week of summer break.

Details for upcoming events can be found in the weekly Reminders Bulletin and the monthly Tower Newsletter.

SAFE SANCTUARY FOR CHILDREN

GUIDELINES

Thank you, to all the children, parents and volunteers that make Epworth UMC the wonderful, safe, nurturing place to grow our children for Christ. Epworth staff as well as the Methodist District office would like to make everyone aware of our guidelines in this area. Please remember that whenever we are working with children, we need to set a Christ-like example in our behavior. Our children must be in a safe and nurturing environment at all times when they are here. Specific age level guidelines for Safe Sanctuary are available in our “Children’s Discipleship Handbook.”

ALLERGIES

No foods are to be served that contain peanut butter or peanut products, any child with a known serious allergy will have an allergy report posted in his/her Sunday school room or shepherd’s box. How to recognize signs of abuse and what to do about it will be included in each teacher/shepherd’s manual.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

All paid staff and volunteers must have a background check.

SITTERS

Sitters will know an adult will stop by at any time to check on how things are going. The door should remain closed and locked for everyone’s safety. Sitters will be trained and reminded from time to time on the emergency procedures and how to use the church’s phone system.

PARENT SECURITY AND CHILD CHECK-IN/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

The education department uses a child check-in and dismissal program. In an effort to continue to provide excellence in programming, we are concerned with the safety of your children while on Epworth’s campus. Thankfully, we have never had a security problem concerning our Sunday school children, however, we only need to read the news headlines to be reminded that we live in a broken world. It is our hope that this system will add an extra layer of security and remind the children that they are precious in the eyes of Epworth and in the eyes of God. *Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.*

CHECK-IN PROCEDURE

- Guardians bring their children to their assigned classrooms and sign them in at the sign-in book.
- Find the card with your child’s name on it and place in the pocket chart for their group.
- Take 2 MATCHING memory game tiles. Place 1 tile in front of your child’s name in the pocket chart, keep the other tile with you.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURE

Whoever picks up your child after class, must have the matching memory tile that corresponds with the one in the pocket chart. No child will be released to someone without the MATCHING memory tile!

MISSION

To glorify God, grow disciples, and transform the world...one child at a time.

CONTACT US

MARY ROESTI

Directory of Children's Discipleship

mary@epworth.com

4855 W. Central Avenue

Toledo, Ohio 43615

419.531.4236

www.epworth.com

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