

ADVENT 2018

WE THREE TREES

Inspired by the three magi, we will be collecting through **today**. Thank you as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

FIRST TREE will be dedicated to providing hats, sock, mittens, and gloves.

SECOND TREE will focus on collecting Advent Bags for two different community agencies. Grab a bag and a tag, with a list of necessary items. Fill the bag and return - you don't have to get all items.

THIRD TREE, our Magi Tree, give specific gifts and gift cards for families affiliated with Hawkins School and Leading Families Home. The tags on the trees have more specific information.

**If you don't feel comfortable leaving the gift cards out in the open, you can either drop them off in the church office, or hand them to Chef Les who is standing at the welcome desk in the lobby.*

ST. PAUL'S: DONATE HAMS!

Thank you for helping St. Paul's Community Center as they prepare and serve a Christmas meal to people without homes in our community. Mark your ham (tradition or football style) and put it in the church refrigerator. Hams will be delivered to St. Pauls through Monday, **December 17**.



INVITE FRIENDS/NEIGHBORS TO EPWORTH!



We're trying new ways to invite others from the community. How can you help?

- Hand out candy invitation bags:
 - On doors in assigned areas/streets (sign up on the connection card)
 - On doors around your neighborhood
 - Give to friends you know who might be interested in attending
- Put a "Christmas at the Movies" yard sign in your yard.

Pick up invitations and yard signs at the table in the lobby, today! While these different tools will help raise awareness of Epworth, the most powerful invite is always the one from a friend so please prayerfully consider extending an invitation to someone in your life who may be seeking for a deeper meaning to the Christmas Season.

MAKE COOKIES FOR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS!

'Tis the season for cookie baking and cookie sharing! As you do your holiday baking, please make an extra dozen or two cookies or brownies for our homebound members. Place in our kitchen labeled "homebound" Dec.16-19. Cookies will be packaged for delivery on **Dec. 19**, and delivered between Dec. 19-21. If you can help with assembling the boxes of treats for delivery, sign up on the connection card.

DONATE TO EPWORTH EVERY TIME YOU SHOP ON AMAZON!



Now, you can support Epworth every single time you purchase something on Amazon! When you sign up for AmazonSmile and select Epworth as your charitable organization, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Epworth. AmazonSmile is exactly the same as

regular Amazon, it has the same products, prices & services, only now you're supporting Epworth at the same time! To sign up, go to: smile.amazon.com/ch/34-4428652 and select Epworth as your charitable organization then start shopping! If you have any questions, or would like a direct link, contact Laura in the church office at laura@epworth.com.

Christmas AT
EPWORTH

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: DECEMBER 24

5PM | CHILDREN & FAMILY FUN

7PM | CONTEMPORARY CANDLELIGHT W/ COMMUNION

9PM | TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT

11PM | TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT W/ COMMUNION

6-6:30PM, 8:15-8:50PM & 10-10:30PM | OPEN COMMUNION*

**Open Communion will be located in the Children's Church*

SOUTH PARKING LOT USAGE

In an attempt to care for our neighbors, we are currently asking that the back (South) parking lot not be used for routine evening gatherings and meetings during the week and on the weekends. Please plan to utilize the Central Avenue parking lot and the parking spaces near the Valleyview doors leading to the lobby and sanctuary.



The back parking lot will be open for larger evening gatherings such as worship on Christmas Eve, but for routine evening activities, we ask all members and friends to kindly not park or drive on the south parking lot. Thank you for your understanding.

UPCOMING OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed on the following days throughout the next few weeks:

- Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24
- Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25
- New Years Day, Tuesday, January 1

We will be open on Wednesday, December 26 through Friday, December 28 and on New Years Eve, Monday, December 31.

WESLEYAN COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE



As one year closes and another opens, it's a time for changes and renewals for a fresh start in the new year. In the United Methodist Church, this is a time for the Wesleyan Covenant Renewal service.

On Sunday, **December 30**, Epworth will offer one worship service at

10:30am, anchored in the Wesleyan Covenant and focused on the Covenant Prayer as a renewed commitment to God for the new year.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST HIRES!

REV. JENNIFER BAILEY

We're pleased to announce that Jennifer will be joining our staff as Pastor of Welcome beginning January 8. She is a United Methodist elder presently on family leave, therefore this is not a conference appointed position. She and her family (Bob, Dominic, and Teresa) worship at the 11am service here at Epworth. She will be continuing to serve part time as the office manager at Hope Lutheran, along with her new role here.

LAUREN BOYLES

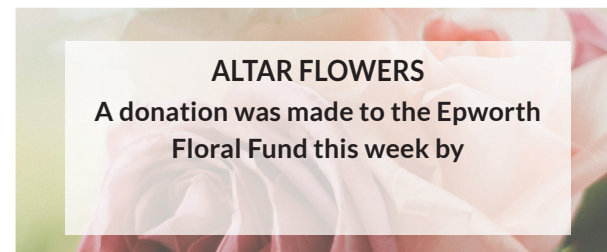
We're also very pleased to announce that Lauren Boyles will be replacing Nancy Fernandez' position effective immediately. Lauren has been a school counselor and elementary school teacher previously in her career and currently works part time at Notre Dame Academy in Toledo. She's been singing with the Chancel Choir for the past several months and also sings with the UMS Choral Union at U of M. She and her husband currently have an exchange student from China living with them.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY



The Church building closes if there is a Level 3 Snow Emergency in Lucas county! Activities, Classes & Volunteers: canceled if Sylvania Schools close. We will re-evaluate again at 3pm regarding evening activities. The

staff in charge of that activity will make the decision and will contact those persons involved. (Body Recall +, canceled if Ottawa Hills schools close.)



ALTAR FLOWERS

A donation was made to the Epworth Floral Fund this week by

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES:

- **9:45am | Adult Bible Study | Room 214**
Through December 23: *The Redemption of Scrooge*, based on Charles Dicken's *A Christmas Carol* will explore the world of Ebenezer Scrooge. While the world keeps trying to stuff God into smaller and smaller boxes, the author shows that God owns the culture, not the other way 'round. Join in!
- **9:45am | Coffee & Conversation | Room 213**
This discussion will follow the Advent sermon series, "Christmas at the Movies."
- **11 am | Sermon Notes | Room 214**
This discussion will follow the Advent sermon series, "Christmas at the Movies."

WEEKDAY STUDIES:

- **9:15am | Tuesday Women's Bible Study | 26**
It's Not Supposed To Be That Way - offers a safe place to share your disappointments, fresh biblical insight to get you through painful situations, and life-giving perspectives for living in between Eden and eternity.

ADULT SINGLES

Widowed, divorced, or never married adults from the Toledo area are invited to join in Christian fellowship. RSVP to Nancy at hauer.nancy@yahoo.com or call 419.885.4595. The next opportunity to join us is **December 16** - Christmas Brunch @12:45pm - Brandywine Country Club (6904 Salisbury Rd., Maumee). \$16.95, seniors 10% off.

ST PAUL'S FIRST SATURDAY LUNCHES 2019

Epworth members and friends prepare and serve lunch the first Saturday of each month at St. Paul's Community Center. Grab some friends from work, your Wesley group or Sunday school class and sign up for a Saturday in 2019. (Only March and June are taken, other months are still open!) For more info, contact Carol at carol.shanteau@gmail.com or Tami at tanorris2001@yahoo.com.

FAMILY CAROLING



Please join us for this annual fun family outing. We will meet at Epworth at 4 pm on **today** and travel by cars to area Assisted Living/Nursing homes. Please wear your fun holiday gear: Santa hats, festive scarves, antlers are all welcome! This event is for the whole family and all levels of singing ability are appreciated. We should be done by 6/6:30 pm. To let us know you are coming, contact Tami at tanorris2001@yahoo.com or see Pastor Dave.

WHITEOUT WINTER RETREAT

@ BEULAH BEACH

Junior and Senior High Students (Grades 6-12)

February 15-17. Cost is

\$175 (*\$75 non-refundable deposit and forms due on Sunday, December 16). Final \$100 due on Sunday, January 27. Pick up an information packet with the forms on the SWAT bulletin board by the Gym or online. (*No last minute sign-ups & No late arrivals or early dismissals.*)



THE LONGEST NIGHT: A HEALING SERVICE



The holiday season and long nights of winter can amplify feelings of grief and loss. Missing a loved one, facing major family changes or illness, and navigating job losses or job change are just a few things that can take the joy from the

season. The Winter Solstice just before Christmas is the longest night of the year. This is a different Christmas service – one of scripture, music, quiet reflection, and candle lighting to drive away darkness and to help heal the wounds of loss. Join us Tues., **December 18** at 7pm in the Sanctuary.