

HAWKINS PARTNERSHIP

Epworth volunteer Pam Christensen has already been busy assisting in kindergarten at Hawkins. Pam was at Hawkins all day for the first day of kindergarten and has returned several times. When she walks into the classroom, Pam says, she is greeted by happy smiles. Last year, as she got to know individual students by name, Pam could see their progress. If you wonder what you can offer Hawkins, she says “the most important thing you bring is ... yourself.” Share yourself with a Hawkins student! Contact Barb Machin at bmachin@bex.net.

GOOD WORKS TEAM PLANNING MEETING

Preparations are being finalized for the adult work team to assist Good Works, Inc., in Athens, Ohio the week of October 8-12. Join us on Tuesday, **September 10** at 6pm in the volunteer office. We hope you will join our team as we come together for a one-hour planning meeting where you will be briefed on Good Works, meet fellow team members, and learn how together our smiles and interactions bring hope to those struggling with issues of poverty and homelessness. A wide variety of skilled and unskilled talents are needed. To sign-up call Bob and Marilyn Town at 419.382.2325.

JOURNEYING THROUGH GRIEF BOOKS

Journeying through Grief is a set of four short books sent to people grieving the loss of a loved one at four crucial times during the first year after the loss. Epworth sends these books to members who have lost close family members. Each book is sent individually with a handwritten note. Help is needed to write those notes! Join us on the first Tuesday of each month in the volunteer office, next being Tuesday, **October 1** at 10am. Everything you need will be there, so just show up and be ready to put your pen to paper. It could be fun and a way to meet someone new, as we serve our Lord together. Please contact Donna at Donnahumbert2@gmail.com for more details.

BE AN ACOLYTE!

Calling all 4 - 7th graders. We need your help serving as acolytes at the 9:45 service for the upcoming season. Acolytes help signal the start of the worship service by processing in and lighting the candles in the front of the church. Those serving as acolytes may stay in the worship service or may attend Sunday School. The commitment is normally one Sunday per month September through May. Please contact Laura Ingersoll Laura.Ingersoll@dynata.com for more information and to indicate your interest.

ARTS & CRAFTS BAZAAR

Plans are taking shape for the 2019 Bazaar on Saturday, **November 2!** Silent Auction items are being solicited, vendors have been secured, and the Pantry and Coffee Bar will again be part of the event. How will you support these efforts? Donate an item, dinner or gift card to the Silent Auction, bake or make a casserole for the Pantry? It is not too early to starting thinking about your involvement in the Bazaar. This is the major fundraiser for Epworth’s United Methodist Women and 100% of the proceeds support local missions.




KITCHEN COMMITTEE: HELP NEEDED

The Kitchen committee is requesting the help of men, who are available during the day, at their monthly afternoon cleaning in the kitchen. If you are interested, please call or email Barbara Davey, 419.385.6361 or rgbadavey@gmail.com.

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

The Feed Your Neighbor program is a unique network of food pantries for impoverished neighborhoods in the Toledo area. We are currently asking for the following items. toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper, canned mixed fruit. Find the donation box inside the Central Ave. doors. Questions? Contact Carol at cpb5538@gmail.com.

mission statement:
To embrace people exactly where they are and empower all to know, love, and serve God through Jesus Christ.

stay connected to **epworth church**
epworth.com    @epworthtoledo

WEEKLY REMINDERS

Sunday, September 8, 2019



we believe
we love
we serve

6 WEEK FOCUS

“I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other.”

These words were spoken by Jesus in John 13:34-35 as He and His disciples gathered to share the Passover meal, just hours before his arrest and passion. *His dying wish for his Church was that his followers would deeply love one another with not only words but with their commitments.* Jesus said that love is the identifying marker of being part of his Body called the Church. Our deep love for each other is a living example of how Jesus loves all people. Join us for this series as we invite all Epworth members and friends to become more fully engaged in the life of our local church.

If you have a question about this all church focus please see Pastor Doug, or our Stewardship Lay Leaders, Lynne Davis and Paul Wannemacher.

I LOVE MY CHURCH! RESOURCE TABLE

Please plan to stop by the table in the lobby to pick up resources for this series and to lend your thoughts and creativity to this all church focus.

PICK UP ITEMS: Small group/family guide, leader guide, invitation to invite a friend for Sunday, October 6th, stickers and candy.

SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR YOUR CHURCH:

Fill out a bubble sharing why you love your church, take a photo using a frame to display on social media.

NEXT WEEK, SEPTEMBER 15

Love in Community

Please join us for an all morning Potluck Brunch! Sign up on the connection card to bring brunchy food to share. Chef Les will provide eggs, bacon & drinks.

FALL KICKOFF!

Bible Studies Are Back in Session

School is back in session for adult discipleship! Check out (right) all of the classes we're offering (both daytime and evening) this Fall. If you have questions about adult discipleship, contact Pastor Beth at beth@epworth.com. We hope to see you there!

Kids & SWAT New Program Year

TODAY we kick-off our new program year! Epworth Kids, preschool-grade 5, will be welcomed into their new rooms and SWAT welcomes incoming 6th graders. All children report to their grade level small group classrooms for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

The Future of the United Methodist Church

September 25-27 In light of our denominational challenges heading towards the next GC in May in Minneapolis, Rev. Adam Hamilton, is changing the focus for this year's Leadership Institute. The focus will be on equipping local churches on how to best prepare their congregations for the future. Part of this work will be offering resources for local churches to have productive conversations, concerning questions of different theological understandings, and local church unity. Limited to two participants per local church this year, please pray for Wes Johnson and Pastor Doug Damron as they plan to attend in September to listen, learn, and bring back potential resources for our Epworth family. Please hold them and the United Methodist Church in your prayers as we look to the future with hope. Learn more at li.cor.org/.

ALTAR FLOWERS

A donation was made to the Epworth Floral fund this Sunday by Pat and Elaine Sheehan in honor of their 35th wedding anniversary.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES:

- **9:45am | Adult Bible Study | Rm 214**
We're studying the book of Matthew, aided by extensive commentary and thought-provoking questions. Get to know Jesus our Lord in fresh new ways. Add your voice to the conversation as the class connects the gospel text to our everyday lives. This study will help you learn, make a difference, and may change your life. Invite a friend as we grow together.
- **9:45am | Coffee & Conversation | Rm 213**
This class discusses modern day issues and current events, and examines the teachings of Jesus in light of them.
- **9:45am | Connection Point | Rm 205**
Post high school through mid-twenties: provide a faith based place to connect with peers and discuss issues relevant to this stage of life.
- **11am | Sermon Notes | Rm 214**
This group will be participating in the I Love My Church study through October. Join us!

WEEKDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

- **6:30-8pm | Men's Bible Study | Rm 213**
September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 16, & 23: *Days In the Word* guides participants through what it means to not just be "hearers" of the Word, but also "doers" of the Word! Reignite and strengthen your passion for God's Word. This study will inspire every participant to Love the Word, Learn the Word, and Live the Word. Email Shauta'u at Shautau@epworth.com to register, cost is \$10. Questions? paul.schroeder@accesstoleado.com.
- **9:30-11:30 | Tuesday AM Bible Study | Rm 214**
Beginning Sept 10: Come together as we jump into Andy Stanley's 8 week study, "Christian: It's not What You Think." Explore the characteristics Jesus used to define those who follow him and what that implies for us today. 'Christian' was a label used by outsiders. Jesus used 'disciple.' Disciples would be known for their love – a novel concept then and now. What if believers today embodied these traits? No book required & no worries if you can't make all the sessions!

EXPLORE EPWORTH

Join us **tonight** from 5pm-7pm in the lobby for an informal, one-time meeting called Explore Epworth! Expect to enjoy dinner and conversation with your pastors, and explore the possibility of membership. Those who choose to join will be received as members next Sunday, September 15 in worship, but there's no obligation to join. Email Pastor Jennifer at Jennifer@epworth.com to let her know.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS CLASS

Everyone has unique gifts from the same Holy Spirit. Do you know yours? Spiritual gifts are not the same as skills or talents, but they can all work together for the Kingdom of God. Knowing your spiritual gifts can help you find a way to serve that energizes you and fulfills your calling. The next Spiritual Gifts class will take place Sunday evenings, **September 22 & 29 and October 6**, from 6:15-8:30pm in room 214. RSVP to Pastor Beth at beth@epworth.com.

GIRL SCOUTS/VETERANS EVENT

Epworth Community Girl Scout Troop 12168 is looking for Veterans from all branches to join the troop for a fun evening of honor, community and surprises on Tuesday, **November 5** at 6pm in the Deep End. Veterans, please wear something that represents your branch. Dessert and beverages will be served during this event. If you are a Veteran and would like to join us for this special event please RSVP to Janice at janicefrenchmba@gmail.com. Please note that space is limited. If you are a baker and would like to donate a baked good to the Girl Scout Veteran's Day event please contact Janice for details. Thank you for your support!

LOOK UP

Watch the TV screens in the lobby areas for upcoming events and opportunities!

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Could you use a Parents Night Out? Are you looking for a fun way to connect with other members at Epworth? Get out, have some fun, and meet new people. These events are for all parents: single, divorced, married, just trying to survive!

Bowling at Bowlero Lanes

Parent Connections Kickoff Event! Saturday, **September 21**. Even if you don't bowl, come and enjoy the fun! FREE Babysitting will be provided at the church from 5:30-9:30pm, a pizza dinner will be served during childcare. Bowling and dinner from 6-9pm. Pizza, bowling, and bowling shoes will be covered for everyone! RSVP to cindyj222@bex.net.

HEALING & WHOLENESS SERVICE

Join us in the Sanctuary at 7pm on **September 17**. This service will provide an opportunity for prayer, reflection and meditation. Come and rest in the Word of God, hymns, and seek healing. Renew your focus on your connection with God, forgiveness of self and others, and strength for the journey ahead – wherever it may take you. Bring neighbors or colleagues who you feel could use reassurance and comfort. Questions? Email Pastor Beth at Beth@epworth.com.

SCOUTING RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS PROGRAM

We are again partnering with PRAY to offer programs to our Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The PRAY Series is centered on Christian Discipleship and Outreach. The program is broken into 5 levels: Jesus & Me (K-1 grade), God & Me (1-3 grade), God & Family (4-6 grade), God & Church (6-8 grade) and God & Life (9-12 grade). This program will be open to those who are members of the scouting groups who meet here at Epworth as well as those who are in scouting groups that meet at other locations. We plan to start classes in **October**. If your scout is interested in participating or if you are interested in helping lead a level of the program, please contact Tami Norris at tanorris2001@yahoo.com by September 20.