

serve

BOY SCOUT WREATH SALE-TODAY ONLY!

Support Epworth's Scouts BSA Troop 2 and show your Christmas spirit! Troop 2 is selling handcrafted and sustainably sourced Christmas wreaths to raise funds to send Scouts to High Adventure Camp. The wreaths are available in multiple sizes and can be ordered in the lobby **today**. Email michaelbuckeyeholton@gmail.com with questions.



MISSION OPPORTUNITY: NOVEMBER 15-16

This Fri/Sat, **November 15-16** Epworth has the opportunity to join in the Long Term Recovery Group of Dayton (<https://mvstrong.org>). You can work one or two days and if staying over at Sulphur Grove UMC in Huber Heights on Friday. The work is needed as a result of the Memorial Day tornado that ravaged many Dayton communities. The group will be boarding up windows and resealing tarps on houses to winterize homes. Contact John Bachelor if interested at 419.410.3834 or jc.bachelor@gmail.com.



THANKSGIVING TURKEY'S FOR ST. PAUL'S

Thank you for helping St. Paul's Community Center as they provide a special Thanksgiving meal for those in need. Mark your turkey "St. Paul's" and put it in the church freezer. Turkeys will be delivered through Monday, **November 25**.

OTHER ADVENT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Heifer International is a non-profit, humanitarian organization dedicated to ending world hunger and saving the earth by providing livestock, trees, training and other resources to help poor families in the USA and around the globe. A donation to Heifer International pays for livestock and technical training in animal management and care. You can purchase heifers, llamas, goats, tree seedlings, honey bees, pigs, chickens, and more! Make a donation in someone else's name and you will receive a card that can be sent as an acknowledgment of the donation. This is a great gift idea for those hard-to-buy for people on your list. The Heifer giving model also teaches a wonderful lesson to your children. Stop by the information table in the Lobby on Sundays, **December 1, 8, & 15**. If you have questions, email Rob at wilson717@sbcglobal.net.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS

Epworth volunteers will be manning a kettle at Kroger (corner of Holland-Sylvania & Bancroft) on Thursday, December 12, Friday, December 13 and Saturday, December 14 from 9am-7pm, in one-hour shifts. This is a wonderful service opportunity for individuals, families, or small groups. Sign-up sheets are in the church lobby starting **November 24**. Thank you for helping! If you have questions, email Bob at rtown@bex.net.

ST. PAUL'S: DONATE HAMS FOR A CHRISTMAS DINNER

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. Paul's through Monday, **December 22**.

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, November 10, 2019

"WE THREE TREES" ADVENT 2019

This project is inspired by the three Magi who traveled to meet the baby Jesus with precious gifts to honor and worship him. The three giving trees will be located in the lobby hallway starting Sunday, **December 1** and will be decorated with tags to take home and shop for our neighbors that need assistance this winter.

- **OUR FIRST MAGI GIVING TREE** will be dedicated to providing new hats, socks, scarves, mittens, and gloves to provide warmth to many Toledo neighbors this winter season. The Sunday School children will also be collecting items for this tree as their sharing project throughout Advent. Please place items directly on the tree by **December 22**.
- **OUR SECOND MAGI GIVING TREE** will focus on collecting a \$25 Gift Card to Target or Meijer to reward Hawkins Elementary students who have shown the most growth in their new computerized literacy program. The gift cards will be given to the top boy and girl in each class in the name of the Hawkins Epworth partnership. Please return the gift cards on or before **December 22** and place in the labeled container near the second Magi Tree.
- **OUR THIRD MAGI GIVING TREE** will provide opportunities to bless families transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing through Leading Families Home. Please purchase an item or items from the list on the tree "ornaments" and return unwrapped on or before **December 22** and place in the labeled container near the Third Magi Tree.
- **ADVENT BAGS** we are collecting grocery bags full of daily household supplies for three local community agencies: St. Paul's Community Center, YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter, and Lifeline Toledo. The bags have 2 lists stapled to them - one to take off and take to the store with you to aid you in your shopping, and one to let us know which agency it will go to when returned. You do not need to get all of the items on the list. Just fill it up and return by **December 22** in the lobby near the Giving Trees.



If you are unable to shop and would like a Christmas elf to do it for you, we are gladly accepting monetary donations. Please mark them "Advent donations". Let's celebrate this wondrous Christmas season by bringing gifts to assist our local community as the three Magi did for baby Jesus so many years ago. Please contact Susan at susan.kanwal@gmail.com with any questions. For info on Heifer International, Salvation Army Bell Ringers, and St. Paul's Hams for a Christmas dinner, see the back page of the *Reminders*.

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our annual Charge Conference is at Maumee UMC (405 Sackett St in Maumee) **today** at 4pm. The Charge Conference deals with membership matters, lay leadership nominations, clergy compensation, and membership matters. All Epworth members have a voice and vote at the Church Conference. Meet other area United Methodists we are hosting and plan to participate as a member of your local church.

I LOVE MY CHURCH: THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who submitted their stewardship pledge for 2020! If you have not done so, please prayerfully consider submitting your pledge as soon as feasible. You can drop your commitment card in the offering plate, mail it, or drop by the church office Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm. Commitment cards can be found in the pew racks, at the welcome desk, or with the ushers.

GEAR-UP GROWTH INITIATIVE UPDATE

Consistent with the Christ's commandment in Mathew 28:16-20 to "Make Disciples of all Nations," Epworth continues an initiative called Gear-Up. The project aims to provide authentic messaging about Epworth Values, Vision, and Mission to help us seek new Disciples for Christ through Epworth. Recently, through a focus group, the Gear-Up group gathered important and useful feedback from Epworth members. More info will be coming out about the Gear-Up project as it proceeds, with an update at the December Ad Council meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Gear-Up leaders, Wes Johnson at wesjohnson1@bex.net or Ken Switzer at krs43623@gmail.com.

NAMETAG TRANSITION

Please be aware we are in the midst of a nametag transition. If you can not find your nametag, please write a note on the the connection card, call or email Marla at 419.214.3766 or marla@epworth.com.

FULL TRANSITION TO E-TOWER!

Over the past several years, we have had many members request to stop receiving the printed *Tower* in order to be better stewards of our resources and planet. We've also received inquiries as to why, in this digital age, are we still allocating so much of your generous blessings to Epworth UMC on sending *The Tower* via mail? With this question in mind, the Communications Committee did an in-depth cost analysis and concluded *The Tower* is currently costing Epworth just over \$16,500/ year. Heres' the cost breakdown per year:

- Paper cost: \$955
- Ink cost: \$5,469
- Postage cost: \$1,290
- Man hours: \$4,356
- Printer contract (% used on Tower): \$4,447

We feel this considerable amount of money could significantly contribute to other, more impactful, areas of Epworth ministry and have decided beginning **January 2020** we will move to a full transition to an electronic version of *The Tower*. However, we do understand there are members and friends without e-mail addresses and/or those who would simply prefer to receive a hard copy via mail. If you would rather receive the printed version in the future, call Marla at 419.214.3766 or email Marla@epworth.com to be removed from the e-list and added to our hard copy, mailed list. We will also continue to print a few dozen copies that will be available in the lobby. *Please keep in mind, this is not a full paperless transition. You will still receive important letters and announcements from the pastors and Ad Council at Epworth via the U.S. Postal Service.*

ALTAR FLOWERS

A donation was made to the altar flower fund for this Sunday in memory of Ruth L. Davis who was a member of Epworth for 83 years from 1922 till her death in 2005.

PICKLEBALL HAS COME TO EPWORTH

If you already know how to play, come join us on Monday evenings from 7-9pm, we have already begun meeting! If you are interested in learning the game through a beginner's clinic, please email Lisa at lisa.baker@bex.net so she can gauge interest and schedule a date! What is pickleball? A fun sport that combines many elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong.

ADULT SINGLES

Single, divorced and widowed adults in the Toledo community are invited to join. RSVP to Nancy Hauer at hauer.nancy@yahoo.com or call 419.885.4595. The next opportunity to join us is:

Thursday, November 14: 12pm - All you can eat lunch buffet at Lourdes University, (6832 Convent Blvd, Sylvania.) Cost is \$9.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES:

- **9:45am | Adult Bible Study | Rm 214**
Through today Irresistible... Reclaiming the NEW that Jesus Unleashed for the World. Each week we will have a DVD lesson with discussion, no book. Embrace the version of faith that against all odds initiated a chain of events resulting in the most significant transformation the world has ever seen... one we must embrace to be the salt and light in our world today.
- **9:45am | Coffee & Conversation | Rm 213**
This class discusses modern day issues & current events, and examines the teachings of Jesus in light of them.
- **9:45am | Connecting Point | Rm 205**
A group for post high school through mid-twenties. This class provides a faith based place to connect with peers and discuss issues relevant to this stage of life.
- **11am | Sermon Notes | Rm 214**
Discussion around individuals understanding of the scriptures' relevance to their journey

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT: FREE CHILDCARE

For November, we're keeping it simple. We're offering a night out to do whatever you want, with free childcare! On Saturday, **November 16**, plan to drop the kids off for free babysitting from 5:30pm-9pm. Pizza and snacks will be provided for the kids.



Then, take 3 hours for yourself to do as you please! See a movie, go to a grown-up restaurant, see a friend, do some Christmas shopping, or TAKE A NAP! We know the holiday season can get crazy, so take some time to take care of you. RSVP on the connection card or email Cindy at cindyj222@bex.net by tomorrow, November 11.

HEALING & WHOLENESS SERVICE

On Tuesday, **November 19**, join us in the Sanctuary for this monthly service that provides an opportunity for prayer, reflection and meditation. Come and pray for your own needs, for those of loved ones, or for the community and the world. The service includes music, scripture reading and anointing with intercessory prayer (if desired).

GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOP

DEC 8 | 2-4pm

Houses are \$10 each. Contact Mary at Mary@epworth.com to reserve yours. First come first served!

- **December 3 - 11:30am**
Help make frosting
- **December 4 - 6:30pm**
Help make frosting
- **December 8 - Help with setup/tear down before/after event**