

TIJUANA SR. MISSION TRIP INFO MEETING

All Senior High students are welcome to join us on Tuesday, **December 10** from 6-7pm in the Deep End. You will learn about where we will be serving, what we will be doing, the cost, expectations and requirements for the trip. For those that can't attend the meeting I will be sending out the information on our parent/teen email chain.

FRIENDS IN FAITH: BUNCO

All women are welcome, even if you have never played before. Bunco is a simple game, but it is more about the Christian fellowship. Bring a side dish, appetizer or dessert to share. We start at 6:30pm with dinner before we play. Tuesday **December 10** join us at Karen Wyckoff's (1959 Pinedale, Toledo) RSVP to KarDav4@aol.com. Bring an inexpensive gift if you wish to play the gift exchange game.

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Our Holiday get-together is planned for Saturday, **December 14**, beginning at 9:30am at the home of Anita Mirra, (6815 Ridgewood) Bring a brunch item to pass and a wrapped gift (old or new) for the gift exchange. We'll supply the beverage. We will be collecting school supplies for the Teacher's Pantry at Grace Church, which is open to our Hawkins staff.

- 3x5 ruled index cards
- blue or black ink pens
- 24-count crayons
- pink wedge erasers
- Kleenex
- Clorox wipes (72 ct.)
- highlighters (any color)
- Hand sanitizers w/ pump
- #2 pencils

FRIENDS IN FAITH: BOOK CLUB

Everyone is welcome to join us for the Book Club! Join us the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7pm for lively discussion and dessert! Meet at June Galvin's house (3641 Christie Blvd, Toledo.) RSVP to jargalvin@yahoo.com. On Tuesday, **December 17**, join us for a Christmas Party – No Book Discussion. See future book titles at epworth.com/fif.

FAMILY CAROLING

Please join us for this annual fun family outing. We will meet in the church lobby at 3pm on **December 15** and travel by cars to area Assisted Living/Nursing homes. Wear your fun holiday gear, all are welcome! This event is for the whole family and all levels of singing ability are appreciated. We should be done by 5 or 5:30pm. RSVP to dave@epworth.com.

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: **Sunday, December 15:** 12:30pm - Holiday Brunch - Brandywine Country Club, 6904 Salisbury Rd, Maumee. Cost \$16.95.



THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

The holiday season and long nights of winter can amplify feelings of grief and loss. Whether you have recently lost a loved one, or it's been years, their absence can make the Christmas season difficult. 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. From there, each day offers more light. Our Longest Night Service 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 on Tuesday, **December 17** at 7pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome, and please invite a friend.

PICKLEBALL

Calling all tennis, ping pong, racquetball players!! Join us for Pickleball in the gym Monday nights from 7-9pm. Get some exercise and learn a fast growing sport. Come try it out! We have everything you need, PLUS fun and fellowship with your church members.

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, December 8, 2019



The real gifts of Christmas aren't under the tree.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 5pm | Children & Family
- 7pm | Contemporary Candlelight*
- 9pm | Traditional Candlelight*
- 11pm | Traditional Candlelight*

*communion served

INVITE A FRIEND TO EPWORTH!

Stop for a moment and think back to what first brought you to Epworth. For many of you it may be that you knew someone who invited you. A personal invitation is one of the most effective ways of bringing someone to church. Therefore, we have made available business-sized cards you can use when inviting people to join us for worship during advent. You will find them as you leave the sanctuary today. Next week, we will add cards you may use for inviting people to Christmas Eve worship! Take a few invitations and some time to think of family, friends, or neighbors in your life looking to re-discover with us, that the best gifts are already ours.

WE'RE HIRING: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Interviews will be taking place in January 2020 for the position of **administrative assistant** in the Epworth Church office. Resumes are now being accepted for this part-time position of 25-30 hours/week, Monday-Friday.

We are looking for applicants with a helpful, positive outlook; proficient in office management, word processing software and database management; flexibility in a dynamic environment; and strong organizational skills. Minimum one year of experience or business school; proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite; and excellent interpersonal skills are required. Experience with Adobe InDesign or Microsoft Publisher a plus. For more details, visit us online at epworth.com/hiring. Please submit your resume to jobs@epworth.com by next Sunday, **December 15**.

ARTS & CRAFTS BAZAAR SUCCESS!

Over 1100 shoppers visited Epworth for the annual Arts & Crafts Bazaar on Nov. 2. This year's Bazaar netted \$14,612.50. The Bazaar is a huge undertaking, requiring over 100 volunteers over two days. Thank you to our vendors, Priscilla Circle, silent auction team, the pantry, coffee bar, lunch organizers and everyone who planned, volunteered, donated and shopped. 100% of the proceeds will be given to local organizations serving women and/or children.

FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAYS

Today and **December 22** are Family Worship Sundays, when we encourage children and youth to worship in the Sanctuary with their families. It is an important aspect of their spiritual growth and enriches the worship experience for our entire Epworth congregation.

FULL TRANSITION TO E-TOWER - JANUARY

Over the past several years, we've received inquiries as to why we are still allocating so much of your generous blessings to Epworth on sending *The Tower* via mail? With this question in mind, the Communications Committee did an in-depth cost analysis and concluded *The Tower* costs Epworth over \$16,500/year. We feel this considerable amount of money could significantly contribute to other, more impactful areas of ministry and have decided beginning **January 2020**, we will move to a full transition to an electronic version of *The Tower*. If you would rather receive the printed version in the future, call Marla at 419.214.3766 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 U.S.P.S.

UPDATED FACILITY USE POLICY

Thanks to the generous donations from members and friends, we are now living into our new facility. As a result of the increases in building requests/usage, it has come to our attention that our facility use agreement needs to be updated to reflect the increased usage, enhanced equipment, and modern space. You can find the updated facility use form at Epworth.com/facilityuserequest. If you have any questions or feedback regarding the new policy or pricing, please contact our Director of Operations, Peter Machin at peter@epworth.com.

ALTAR FLOWERS

A donation was made to the altar flower fund this Sunday by Dave Mason in loving memory of Bethany Mason.

TODAY AT EPWORTH:

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

Before & After Worship (8am-12 noon)

Priscilla Circle will be holding our Mini-Bazaar **today** in the lobby before and after all three services. If you were not able to come to the Bazaar or saw something you wished you had purchased, we still have baby and children gifts, household items, advent calendars, decorations, pet toys and coats, cloth books, your favorite university Quillo blankets, knitted hats, mittens and gloves. Our sales support UMW missions in our area. Interested in being a part of Priscilla Circle? Call Kay Hitchner 419.841.1760.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOP

From 2pm-4pm

You, your family, friends and neighbors are invited to join us **today** from 2-4pm in the Gym! We still have a few houses available, cost is \$10/house. This year, Santa will be joining us for family photos with Santa! If you're interested, please see Mary Roesti before it begins to see how many houses are still available!



SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES:

- **9:45am | Adult Bible Study | Rm 214**
Who Needs Christmas by Andy Stanley. Join the conversation as Andy unpacks why the improbability of the Christmas story is what makes it so believable. The story of Jesus' birth was not what anyone expected: a baby born to save us from sins that no one thought we needed saving from. All are welcome.
- **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.

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL 2019

At the 9:45am & 11am Worship Services

Today at the 9:45 and 11am services our children's choir is performing this heartfelt, fun and moving Christmas musical, "Guess Who's Coming to Bethlehem". Through songs and rhyming dialog, this adorable musical tells the Christmas story in a fresh and creative way.



BABYBOOMERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Starts at 6pm

Babyboomers are hosting their annual Christmas Party **today** at 6pm at the Park Place Clubhouse (4704 Park Place Blvd. off Brint Rd. west of Centennial Rd). Our tradition continues with food (bring a hearty hors d'oeuvre and the beverage of your choice), fun (each person brings a wrapped white elephant gift), and fellowship. Remember you do not need to purchase a white elephant gift! Re-gifting something you no longer want is the way to go and it makes opening the gifts a lot of fun! Introduce a new friend to Babyboomers and bring a guest! RSVP and questions to Gus at Gus.grinstead@gmail.com, or 419.708.0740.