

we three trees: advent giving

TODAY is the last day to donate items for 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 and will be decorated with tags to take home and shop for our neighbors that need assistance.

- **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 9pm **today**.
- **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 gift cards by 9pm **today**.
- **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 by 9pm **today**.
- **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 label which agency to return to. You don't need to get all the items -- just fill it up and return by 9pm **today**.




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.

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. Pauls through tomorrow, Monday, **December 23**.

ST. PAUL'S FIRST SATURDAY LUNCHES

Epworth members and friends, you are invited to be the hands and feet of Christ to those who are in need of a warm meal. Groups from Epworth prepare and serve lunch at St. Paul's Community Center the first Saturday of each month. We plan to serve around 30 people at these meals. We are currently looking for group to serve in 2020. Please contact Carol Shanteau at 419.841.5859 or Tami Norris at tanorris2001@yahoo.com to volunteer.

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

WEEKLY REMINDERS

Sunday, December 22, 2019



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

Christmas Eve Worship Services:

THIS 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 Christmas Eve worship. You will find them as you leave the sanctuary today. 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. Please also consider sharing the invitation on your social media pages, find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Our handle is @epworthtoledo for all three social media sites.

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 person in charge of that activity will make the decision and will contact those persons involved.

Preschool (ECEC & CDO):

- Canceled if Ottawa Hills Schools close.*
- 1 hour delay: Preschool opens on time.
- 2 hour delay: Preschool morning classes canceled, afternoon classes will meet.

**The preschool reserves the right to cancel classes regardless of Ottawa Hills schedule, should extenuating circumstances arise.*

BODY RECALL+:

- Canceled if Ottawa Hills schools close.

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* is 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 via U.S.P.S.

FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY
Next Sunday, **December 29** is a Family Worship Sunday, 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 worship for the entire congregation.

POINSETTIA FLOWERS
The flowers adorning our Sanctuary today were given to the Glory of God by all those listed on the insert in today's Reminders. Please note: if you have purchased a plant, please pick up the plant AFTER the 11pm service on Christmas Eve. Thank you again for your support of this Epworth Ministry!

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES:

- **9:45am | Adult Bible Study | Rm 214**
Who Needs Christmas by Andy Stanley. Join the conversation of why the improbability of the Christmas story is what makes it so believable.
- **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 that provides a 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS
The altar flowers are donated by Grant and Anna Wilkinson in celebration of their thirtieth year of marriage and thirty very special years of worshiping with the congregants of Epworth.

EVERY BRILLIANT THING
If you were to make a list of things that make life worth living, what would be at the top? Ice cream? Family? Harry Potter movies? Learn why the character in this solo performance started making a list of Every Brilliant Thing in the world.



This surprising and immersive theatrical experience speaks openly about depression, mental illness, and suicide. With poignant humor and joy, Every Brilliant Thing takes us on a journey through grief, healing, falling in love, and (re)discovering all that life has to give. The performance will be followed with a time of discussion and resource sharing with a panel of local mental health experts. Join us on **January 12** for this unique opportunity as we journey to meet people where they are and better understand and break the negative stigma of mental illness. The doors open at 5pm, and the show begins at 5:30pm. Please email Mary at Mary@epworth.com with questions.

SAVE-THE-DATES:
PARENT CONNECTIONS: FAMILY MOVIE DAY

Mark your calendars for Saturday, **January 25** at 1:30pm. Parent Connections will host our annual Family Movie Day in the Deep End here at Church. Our presentation will be the original *Toy Story* by Disney Pixar. Bring your sleeping bag or camping chair and enjoy a movie with all the comforts of home. Bring a friend get a prize - we'll have a small gift for anyone who brings a "new to Epworth" friend to our movie day event. For more info or to RSVP contact Adam at 419.351.0758 or at adam.schoesler@bex.net.

EXPLORE EPWORTH
If you're ready to learn more about Epworth, join us on **January 26** from 5-7pm in the lobby for a one-time informal meeting called *Explore Epworth* in the church lobby. Enjoy dinner and conversation with your pastors, and explore the possibility of membership. Those who choose to join will be received as members Sunday, February 9 in worship, but you're never obligated to join. For more info or to sign up, please email Pastor Jennifer at Jennifer@epworth.com to attend. Childcare can be provided if requested at least one week in advance, email us at childcare@epworth.com to make a request.

EPWORTH ARTIST SERIES PRESENTS
The SonoNovo Wind Sextet
Join us on Sunday, **January 12**, 2020 at 3pm in the Sanctuary. SonoNovo is Latin for "new sound." The majority of music they undertake is intimate, written for 15 parts or fewer.

The SonoNovo Wind Sextet is part of the SonoNovo Chamber Ensemble. This group is a cadre of musicians who come together from all over the Northwest Ohio region for the purposes of making music for the joy of making music. The group is committed to exploring the repertoire of chamber music, a segment of the classical music world often overlooked by larger ensembles.

The ensemble consists of a wind quintet plus piano. Members are all active members of other larger ensembles such as the Adrian Symphony, Perrysburg Symphony, and local educators from the faculty of area high schools, colleges and universities, and retirees. This concert will include the gamut from Mozart to the Beatles and will feature something for everyone to enjoy.

