

CARE BEAR SCHOLARSHIPS



Looking for a way to make a difference in the lives of a family? Consider making a donation to the “Care Bear Scholarship Fund” for Epworth Preschool. Last year a donation was made to the preschool and we were able to provide assistance to 3 families who would not have had the opportunity to send their child to a preschool. The families have been grateful as stated in this testimonial...

Thank you so much. I was in tears a bit driving home just so incredibly thankful for this opportunity for my child. He is thrilled to back there too. I'm beyond grateful especially when the job hunt is still going and things haven't been looking up like I thought they'd be by now. I appreciate this so much.

Checks can be made out to “Epworth Preschool” with a notation for “Care Bear Scholarships.”

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

Hunger doesn't take a vacation!

The Feed Your Neighbor program is a unique network of food pantries in the most impoverished neighborhoods in the Toledo area, which serves those most vulnerable populations who, due to personal crisis, are experiencing food insecurity. FYN gathers and distributes a three day supply of nutritious, non-perishable food items to persons who otherwise would go without. They're currently asking for the items listed below. Find the wooden donation box on the floor inside the Central Avenue doors. If you have questions, contact Carol at cpb5538@gmail.com. Thank you so much for your generosity in helping our neighbors.

- hats
- gloves
- socks
- canned corn
- canned carrots
- canned fruit
- tuna fish

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.

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 at laura@epworth.com.

FURNITURE MINISTRY



**BLESSINGS
ITEMS NEEDED:**

*sharp kitchen knives,
toasters and can
openers*

WEEKLY REMINDERS

Sunday, December 29, 2019

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** at 5:30pm (doors open at 5pm) for this unique opportunity as we journey to meet people where they are and better understand and break the negative stigma of mental illness. Please contact Mary at Mary@epworth.com with questions.

EPWORTH ARTIST SERIES PRESENTS

The SonoNovo Wind Sextet

Join us on Sunday, **January 12** 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.

BAPTISM TODAY

Congratulations to the Boze family on the baptism of Owen Michael Boze today.

FAMILY WORSHIP TODAY

Today is a Family Worship day, we encourage children and youth to worship in the Sanctuary with their families. It's an important aspect of their spiritual growth and enriches worship for the entire congregation.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

A donation was made to the altar flower fund this Sunday in honor of Owen Michael Boze by Grandma and Grandpa Boze and Granma and Grandpa Cantrell.

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 we are 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 in January, we will move to a an electronic version of *The Tower*. **The electronic Tower will go out on the first Monday of every month. So the Janaury Tower will be sent tomorrow, Monday, January 6.** Printed copies will always be available in the lobby.

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.

SAVE-THE-DATES:

PARENT CONNECTIONS: FAMILY MOVIE DAY

Mark your calendars for Saturday, **January 25** at 1:30pm. Parent Connections will hosting 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 call Adam Schoesler at 419.351.0758 or email him at adam.schoesler@bex.net.

Did you know that there is a Social Group for parents?

Whether your kids are toddlers or teenagers, parenting can be exhausting! Could you use a Parents Night Out? Are you looking for a fun way to connect with other members at Epworth? Then we have just the thing for you! The Epworth Parent Connections Committee has simple objectives - to help parents make time for themselves and to expand their friendships at Epworth. We even provide free childcare during most of our events. It's a chance to get out, have some fun, and meet new people. These events are for all parents: single, divorced, married, just trying to survive! All are welcome! Check The Tower, weekly bulletins, and emails for more information about our activities throughout the year. Please contact Cindy with questions at cindyj222@bex.net.

Upcoming Events:

- Friday, February 21- 8th Annual Euchre Night
- March - If you have an idea, please let us know!

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.



SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES:

- **9:45am | Adult Bible Study | Rm 214**
No class today. Beginning next Sunday: Adam Hamilton's *"The Walk"* focuses on practicing five spiritual disciplines that draw us closer to God: worship and prayer, study, serving, giving and sharing. It promises to be a very interesting study. 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**
No class today. A group for post high school through mid-twenties that rovides 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.