

# THE EPWORTH TOWER

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JANUARY 2019

Epworth United Methodist Church

4855 W. Central Ave Toledo, Ohio 43615 | 419.531.4236 | [epworth.com](http://epworth.com)

## PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR EPWORTH FAMILIES BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 5!

**ECEC:** Early Childhood Education Center is a half day preschool program for children 3-5 years old. Classes are offered 2, 3 or 4 half days am or pm.

**CDO:** Children's Day Out is a one day early preschool program for children who are 2 or 3. Children cannot turn 4 during the school year, potty training not necessary.

*Epworth members have an opportunity to sign up for ECEC or CDO during the Open House on **Sunday, February 9** before registration opens to the public. To schedule a visit, email our Preschool Director, Jane Lyon, at [jlyon@epworth.com](mailto:jlyon@epworth.com) or pick up a packet in the church office.*



# January 2020

- 3-4 INFO & ANNOUNCEMENTS**
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  - + Announcing our new Director of Community Outreach & Mission
  - + Nametag Transition
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## Sunday Worship Services

### 8:30 BLENDED

A mix of traditional and contemporary styles, with Holy Communion served every week. Also available during this hour:

Nursery, Toddler, and Preschool Childcare.

### 9:45 TRADITIONAL

Steeped in the warm-hearted Methodist tradition featuring choral and organ music. Also available during this hour:

Nursery Childcare and Sunday School Classes for Toddlers, Preschoolers, K-6, Jr. and Sr. High, and Adults.

### 11:00 CONTEMPORARY

Fast-paced with visuals to illustrate the Bible-based sermons, this service features our praise band. Also available during this hour: Nursery Childcare, and Sunday School Classes for Toddlers, Preschoolers, W.O.W. for K-3 (not during summer), and Adult Sunday School.

### SERMONS ONLINE

Out of town or ill and not able to make it to worship on Sunday? View each week's sermon: [epworth.com/series](http://epworth.com/series)

## Our Pastors:

### REV. DR. DOUG DAMRON

Senior Pastor

[doug@epworth.com](mailto:doug@epworth.com)

### REV. BETH IRWIN

Associate Pastor

[beth@epworth.com](mailto:beth@epworth.com)

### REV. DAVE PETTENGILL

Pastor of Student and Family Ministries

[dave@epworth.com](mailto:dave@epworth.com)

### REV. JENNIFER BAILEY

Pastor of Welcome

[jennifer@epworth.com](mailto:jennifer@epworth.com)

## February Tower Deadline:

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

E-mail articles & pictures to  
[communications@epworth.com](mailto:communications@epworth.com)

WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

Sign up for the weekly e-newsletters!

Go to: [epworth.com/email](http://epworth.com/email)

OBITUARY NOTIFICATIONS

Sign up to receive obituary notifications!

Go to: [epworth.com/email](http://epworth.com/email)

## Winter Office Hours

September 3 - June 1

9am - 5pm

## Our Mission, Vision & Values

- **VISION:** To be home for a diverse congregation seeking a closer relationship to Christ
- **PROMISE:** Welcome all, Love all, Home for all
- **CORE VALUES:** Welcome- We welcome you as you are, Family- We regard each other as brothers and sisters in Christ, Love- We love you-Period, Service- Service to God and the Community, Discipleship- Together we will become persons who know Christ, grow in Christ, serve Christ and share Christ.
- **MISSION STATEMENT:** To enthusiastically embrace everyone and equip them with the teachings and message of Jesus Christ and the challenge of discipleship.

### Sympathies ..... recent deaths

- **THE SCHEIB FAMILY** on the death of Sue Scheib.

## DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MISSION

We are pleased to announce Jennie Vancil joins Epworth's staff in an unpaid role as the new Director of Community Outreach and Mission. Jennie retired last year from O-I as Community Relations Manager, Director of O-I Charities Foundation. She also serves on a number of non-profit boards in our community including the Erie Shores Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Jennie has a long history of leadership as an active lay person in the life of Epworth. Jennie will be working closely with the Community Outreach and Missions Committees and the congregation as a whole as we seek to expand God's Kingdom in our city and globally.



## NAMETAG TRANSITION

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

### LOOK UP!

Watch the TV screens in the lobby areas for upcoming events and opportunities at Epworth in the coming few weeks!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THANKS!

Dear "Epworth Disciples" relay for life team and friends, CONGRATULATIONS ! Through your efforts the Epworth Disciples team has raised \$705. We had 47 luminaria bags to shine their lights to remember, honor and support those who are fighting cancer. This year we had great weather in Sept and enjoyed the luminaria lighting ceremony. A huge thank you to all who purchased a luminaria bag or made a donation that has helped the ACS's mission to save lives ,to celebrate life, to lead the fight for a world without cancer. Together we are a part of making a difference in this important cause. Sincerely and gratefully,  
-Kay Heinrichs

If you'd like a thank you printed in the next Tower, send your note in an e-mail to [communications@epworth.com](mailto:communications@epworth.com).

### Arts & Crafts Bazaar Success!

Over 1100 shoppers visited Epworth for the annual Arts & Crafts Bazaar on November 2. This year's Bazaar netted \$14,612.50. It was an awesome day for Epworth. 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. As always, 100% of the proceeds and donations will be divided among local organizations serving women and/or children.

-United Methodist Women

### School Supply Collection

Thank you to the Epworth congregation for collecting over 2384 packages of school supplies (or 7203 individual pieces!) for the school supply closet that the teachers at Hawkins Elementary can "shop" at monthly for free. These contributions assist the teachers and students greatly in carrying out their educational plans. Thank you again for being so generous!

-Community Outreach Committee

## 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 -- 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.

**Body Recall+:** Canceled if Ottawa Hills schools close.



### ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR



Grace and peace to you in the name of Christ Jesus, God's perfect light who shines brightly during this season of Epiphany. I write today to share with you that in November I communicated with Bishop Gregory Palmer, our District Superintendent Rev. Scot Ocke, our Staff Parish Relations Committee and our staff team my desire to make myself available for a new pastoral appointment in 2020. With my youngest son Clay graduating from high school this May and having

chosen to attend college out of state, along with accessing the second half of my pastoral ministry (22 years by God's grace thus far), now seems like the right moment to seek a new challenge either within the bounds of the West Ohio Conference or another area of the country.

Our District Superintendent met with the Staff Parish Relations Committee in late November and has received the congregational profile the committee constructed. The profile is a helpful tool used by our Bishop and his Cabinet as they soon begin the work of pairing available clergy and open congregations for 2020. Please pray for this important work. Ultimately, my change of appointment request lies in the hands of Bishop Palmer. There is a possibility he may decide it is best for us to remain in ministry together for another appointive year. I serve at the pleasure of the Bishop and trust his prayerful discernment.

In the meantime, we have much good work before us including a new Growth Plan adopted by our Administrative Council in December. The work of implementation begins as the Administrative Council meets in retreat later this month for the purpose of strategic planning. Such a plan designed, adopted, and the first steps of implantation undertaken will be helpful to your next Senior Pastor. She or he will be stepping unto a train in motion, moving towards greater growth and vitality. I am fully committed to a smooth transition during this season before us working closely with my successor to ensure a strong start for both your new Senior Pastor and this congregation, one that I have been so blessed to serve for these six years.

Gazing with You at the Epiphany Star,  
**Rev. Dr. Doug Damron, Senior Pastor**

### ADULT BIBLE STUDIES:

- **9:45am | Adult Bible Study | Rm 214**  
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 and current events, and examines the teachings of Jesus in light of them; meets year-round.
- **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**  
Discussion around individuals understanding of the scriptures' relevance to their journey.

### 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.

**Wednesday, January 15:** at Epworth UMC, Deep End. RSVP to Ronnie at [personal info has been removed].

#### 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 [personal info has been removed]. RSVP to [personal info has been removed]. See future book titles at [epworth.com/fif](http://epworth.com/fif).

**Tuesday, January 28:** *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto* by Mitch Albom.



### FULL TRANSITION TO E-TOWER

The Communications Committee did an in-depth cost analysis and concluded The Tower is costs Epworth over \$16,500/year. Subsequently, they decided, we will proceed with a full transition to an electronic version of The Tower. The electronic Tower will go out on the first Monday of every month. Keep in mind, printed copies will always be available in the lobby.

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. Please keep in mind, this is not a full paperless transition. You will still receive important letters and announcements via U.S.P.S.

## EXPLORE EPWORTH



*We're glad you're here, and we'd love for you to Explore Epworth with us!*

When 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. 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. Sign up on the connection card or email Pastor Jennifer at [Jennifer@epworth.com](mailto:Jennifer@epworth.com) to attend. Childcare can be provided if requested at least one week in advance, email us at [childcare@epworth.com](mailto:childcare@epworth.com) to make a request.

## PRESENTING: "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@epworth.com](mailto:Mary@epworth.com) with questions.

## [adult Singles]

Single, divorced and widowed adults in the Toledo community are invited to join. RSVP to Nancy Hauer at [personal info has been removed]. The next opportunities to join us are:

**Sunday, January 12:** 12:30pm Lunch at Longhorn Steakhouse (4155 Talmadge Rd., Toledo).

**Sunday, January 27:** 12 noon - Lunch at Hot Sizzling Wok (2333 W. Laskey Rd, Toledo).

## EPWORTH ARTIST SERIES PRESENTS

*The SonoNovo Wind Sextet*

*This event is being postponed due to scheduling conflicts. Thank you for your understanding and watch for the rescheduled date.*

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. This concert will include the gamut from Mozart to the Beatles and will feature something for everyone to enjoy.

## PARENT CONNECTIONS PRESENTS: 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. Our Presentation will be Disney/Pixar's original *Toy Story*. 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 [personal info has been removed].



### *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 [personal info has been removed].

### **Upcoming Events:**

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

### EPWORTH KIDS EXPLORE: JANUARY



#### **Elementary at 9:30:**

This January, Epworth's Elementary Kids will focus on the life app Knowledge—Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do. The New Year is a great time for new resolutions,

fresh goals, and re-focusing on learning new things! That's why we are taking the month of January to talk about how seeking a deeper understanding of God, through the study of His word The Bible, will ultimately help us grow closer to Jesus. What would your children's relationship with Christ look like if they resolved to spend 15 minutes each day in The Word? The kids will work to memorize this month's memory verse: "The LORD gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth." (Proverbs 2:6 NIV) Our prayer, is that your child will develop a thirst for knowledge, which can only be found through a life-long study of scripture, that leads to developing a deep relationship with our Lord and Savior.

**11:00 WOW:** Epworth Elementary Kids will embark on a 4 week study titled "New Beginnings" This hands-on, multi-media series will help teach them that through a relationship with Jesus there is always grace and forgiveness and the opportunity for hitting the "reset button". This is a unique way for the children to learn the difficult concepts of sin, grace, and forgiveness.



#### **Preschool & Toddler:**

Epworth's Preschool and Toddler kids will learn all about some of the miracles Jesus performed – all taking place on or near the water – so we are calling this a Beach Party with Jesus! They will learn about

the miracle of Jesus calming the stormy seas and walked on water, how He filled the fishing nets to overflowing, and other miracles that help your preschooler begin to learn that Jesus can do anything! This hands-on, action packed large group/small group time will also help your early childhood children memorize this month's Bible Memory Verse: "With God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26) Our prayer is that your preschoolers will learn that they can put their trust in Jesus!

### STAY CONNECTED TO S.W.A.T.

Receive the parent/youth weekly email, send Pastor Dave an email at [dave@epworth.com](mailto:dave@epworth.com). Or follow us on social media at: Facebook at [facebook.com/epworthswat](https://facebook.com/epworthswat) & Instagram at [instagram.com/epworth\\_swat](https://instagram.com/epworth_swat).



#### **-STUDENT MINISTRIES -**

*Students With A Task | Service, Worship, Accountability, Teamwork*

#### **Sunday, January 5**

NO Donuts and the Bible

Pastor Dave is preaching. Join your family in worship this Sunday morning.

5-7pm SWAT, (Jr. and Sr. High), Deep End

God at the Movies: We will be watching a movie and reflecting on various religious themes and how they connect our faith and lives.

#### **Wednesday, January 8**

6-7pm, Jr. High Mission Trip Meeting, Deep End (West Virginia, current 6th-8th graders)

#### **Friday, January 10, 6pm - Saturday, January 11, 5pm**

Confirmation Retreat

Dinner will be provided. Complete Lessons 1 & 2 in your book. If you have not signed up for confirmation yet and received your supplies, Contact Pastor Dave at [dave@epworth.com](mailto:dave@epworth.com).

#### **Sunday, January 12**

9:45am Donuts & The Bible (Jr. & Sr. High)

Deep End & 216

No Sunday Night SWAT, join us for "Every Brilliant Thing", a theatrical production and discussion around suicide and mental health, this will be a powerful event!

#### **Sunday, January 19**

9:45am Donuts & The Bible (Jr. & Sr. High)

Deep End & 216

9:45am Confirmation Class (26)

5:45-7pm SWAT (Jr. High) Deep End

7:30-9pm SWAT (Sr. High) Deep End

#### **Sunday, January 26**

9:45am Donuts & The Bible (Jr. & Sr. High)

Deep End & 216

9:45am Confirmation Class (26)

5:45-7pm SWAT (Jr. High) Deep End

7:30-9pm SWAT (Sr. High) Deep End

**\*\*Don't forget the \$100 deposit for the three mission trips (Tijuana, Cincinnati, and Parkersburg, WV) is due on Sunday, February 2!\*\***



## BODY RECALL+

Forget New YEAR resolutions -- Body Recall+ is a program for LIFETIME Fitness. Benefits are accumulative, with each class building toward greater comfort and safety. If you could buy these benefits in a bottle, it would be on everyone's shopping list! Epworth has been helping people stay strong and flexible for over 30 years and we'll be there for you in 2020, with Winter Session beginning Monday, **January 6**. If you are still wondering if it's right for you, call Pam at [personal info has been removed]. or just come be our guest some Monday, Tuesday or Thursday at 9:15am to see and feel for yourself.

## HEALING SERVICES

On Tuesday, **January 21** 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).

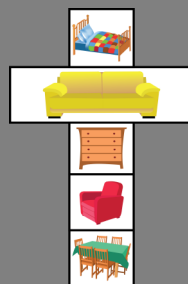
### HAWKINS STEMM ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP



A huge "Thank You" to June Latshaw for her five years of service on the Epworth-Hawkins Partnership leadership team as she leaves the team to spend more time with her family! June is one of the "founders" of the Epworth-Hawkins Partnership.

During her time on the team, she has helped plan and organize team retreats, volunteer orientations and trainings, and has participated in activities of the TPS faith based partners. June has coordinated tutor placement, working closely with teachers and volunteers to ensure good matches between students and tutors, and will continue to be involved with tutor placement. Asked to describe a highlight of her time on the team, June responded "seeing the enjoyment that tutoring brings to both students and tutors." Cathy Schuster, who has been involved in tutoring and other activities at Hawkins for three years, will share tutor placement and support responsibilities with June during the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. Cathy, a Toledo native, is a talented graphic artist, and designed the Hawkins basketball scoreboard. She volunteers with the Victory Center, and is looking forward to meeting new tutors and helping them feel welcome at Hawkins.

## FURNITURE MINISTRY



### BLESSINGS ITEMS NEEDED:

sharp kitchen knives,  
toasters and can  
openers

STATISTICS	DECEMBER:	2019:
# Furniture:	117	1592
# Families:	12	140
Adults:	16	170
Children:	9	169

## 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."

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

### Joy of Christmas Gone?

In this New Year 2020 the joy of Christmas time can turn into a time of emptiness and maybe painful loneliness for those who are going through a difficult time or suffered a loss. But help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and support you through the first days of the new year and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders or Stephen Ministers (they wear blue name tags), or contact us at [stephenministry@epworth.com](mailto:stephenministry@epworth.com). Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

 **epworth church**  
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Toledo, Ohio 43615-2337  
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# EVERY BRILLIANT THING

JANUARY 12

Doors open at 5pm | Begins at 5:30pm  
Join us for a theatrical experience that  
discusses mental health and suicide.

learn more at  
**epworth.com**  
or email  
mary@epworth.com

2000: Coffee  
2001: Films that are better than  
the books they're adapted  
from  
1993: Having dessert as a main course  
1997: Cycling down hill

6. Roller coasters  
7. People falling  
over

Ice  
Cream

Chocolate