



Care Ministries

God calls us to take care of one another. Epworth continues to grow and develop a system of caring for the congregation and the community. Below are opportunities for you to serve in caring ministries at Epworth. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Beth or the direct contact for the ministry area as listed below, or stop by the tables in the lobby today between worship services!

STEPHEN MINISTRY:

Stephen Ministers provide one-on-one, confidential, Christ-centered care for adults experiencing a difficult season in their lives, whether it's the death of a loved one, financial difficulties, divorce or estrangement, illness, or other situations. Stephen Ministers participate in 50 hours of specialized training around prayer, active listening, and empowering others to thrive even in difficult situations. On being commissioned as a Stephen Minister, there is a two-year commitment to serve. Monthly supervision group and continuing education meetings are required. Contact Stephen Leader Paul at paul.schroeder@accesstoledo.com.

**If you are interested in being a Stephen Leader, note that you do not need to be a Stephen Minister to do this. If you have gifts of leadership, administration, creativity, and organization, you could be a Stephen Leader. Out-of-town, weeklong training required. Contact Paul for further details.*

CARING HEARTS:

Our Caring Hearts help homebound members of our congregation stay connected to the church through phone calls and social visits. It's a great way to share faith and life stories and make a new friend. Requirements: a minimum of one in-person visit and one phone call per month, a background check, and a gift for conversation and compassion. Contact Lay Parish Visitor Trina Hooper at trina@epworth.com or Pastor Beth at beth@epworth.com.

NEW VISITING HEARTS HOSPITAL & REHABILITATION VISITOR TEAM:

This new ministry area assists the pastors with visits to Epworth members in the hospital and inpatient rehabilitation. Because the needs of this ministry area vary month to month, a flexible schedule is appreciated. Visiting Hearts will collaborate with the pastors and lay parish visitor to provide prayer and encouragement to those with extended hospital and rehab stays. For more information, sign up today or contact Pastor Beth at beth@epworth.com.



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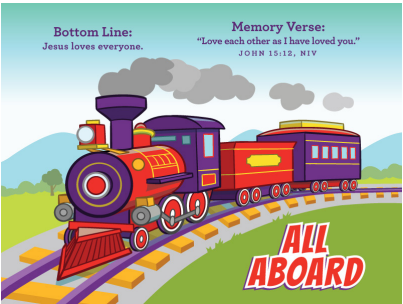
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epworth kids in february

PRESCHOOL & TODDLER AT 8:30, 9:45, & 11:00:



All Aboard! This month your toddlers and preschoolers are learning that Jesus wants everyone to jump on board and be His friend forever. When we look at the kind of friend Jesus was while on Earth, we see that he truly does love everyone. Think about people like the Samaritan woman at the well, Zacchaeus the tax collector, or the unloved woman dragged out into the streets by her accusers? When we look at how Jesus treated each of these people, we are left with a question about how we want our children to love others. Will they learn to love with accusations ready and rocks in hand –or- will we teach our children to love everyone NO MATTER WHAT just like Jesus did? So, let's get ready for an amazing ride together as your early childhood kiddos

focus on this month's memory verse, "Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12), and learn to love just like Jesus loving everyone no matter what!

ELEMENTARY AT 9:30:



Love songs are some of the best songs there are – love for our friends, family, our significant other, and love for our God. This time of year, playlists are filled with songs about love – so we are taking those playlists and turning them around and talk about what the Bible says about Love. For this purpose, we will define the life app love as: Choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated. Because, after all, love IS a choice! We will look to the example of Jesus and see how he showed love while here on Earth. In fact, when the Pharisees asked Jesus which was the greatest commandment, he reached into the 600+ laws of the old testament to talk about love and connected things in a new way

saying that loving ourselves, our God, and our neighbors was most important! We hope kids discover that they can love God with everything they've got. We pray that as your kids learn to love their God, love themselves, and love others, they get a glimpse of just how much God loves them and invites them to love others just as they are.

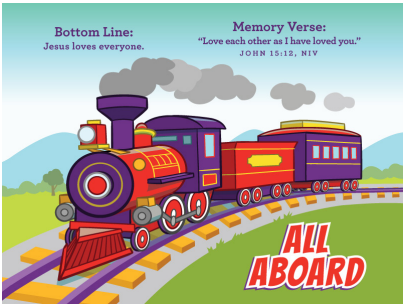


ELEMENTARY AT 11:00:

WOW: After the Children's Moment at the 11:00 service, Epworth's Elementary Kids will embark on a 4 week study titled "What's Love Got to Do with It?" This hands-on series will help teach them that through a relationship with Jesus we can share a friendship and closeness with God. They will also explore ways to practice forgiveness and kindness in their own lives and look at ways to share that love and friendship with those they encounter each day.

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