

FEBRUARY 2020

CARING HEARTS

\* NEW \*

VISITING HEARTS

STEPHEN MINISTRY

THE  
EPWORTH  
TOWER

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



**NEW \*  
VISITING \*  
HEARTS**



STEPHEN  
MINISTRY



# THE EPWORTH TOWER

# Epworth United Methodist Church

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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 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.

## March Tower Deadline:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

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)



## Our Pastors:

**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)

## BEST WISHES TO PASTOR DOUG



Pastor Doug Damron's last Sunday with us here at Epworth was Sunday, February 2. Pastor Doug received an interim appointment in the Cincinnati area, which will allow him to share the love of Christ with the people there, and to pursue his broader search for his next permanent appointment. We thank Pastor Doug

for all he did for Epworth over the past 6 years, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors. The District Superintendent intends to have an interim Senior Pastor in place by mid-March and we can expect our permanent Senior Pastor at the usual appointment transition period, June-July. Please contact any member of Staff Parish Relations Committee with questions regarding Pastor Doug's departure and Epworth's future plans.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:marla@epworth.com) or write a message on the connection card.

## THANKS!

Thanks to the generous giving spirit of our Epworth community this Christmas season, we were able to help our local Toledo neighbors, as well as people in other countries. Below is a summary of your participation in our Magi Giving Program:

- Volunteers rang the Salvation Army bell at Kroger for three full days in December which brought in monetary donations to help them carry out their programs.
- St. Paul's Community Center enjoyed Christmas dinner with all of the hams that were donated.
- Heifer donations totaled \$1353 going to buy animals for families around the world.
- Hawkins Elementary students who improved their reading scores the most in each classroom will receive a gift card for their efforts.
- Hawkins students, men & women at St. Paul's and women and children at the YWCA received over 359 donations of hats, mittens, socks, and winter scarves to help keep them warm and dry this winter.
- Lifeline Ministries of Toledo, YWCA, Leading Families Home and St. Paul's Community Center received several thousand household and toiletry items helpful for the programs and families they serve.
- Donated 44 hams to St. Paul's and had 55 people ring Salvation bells to bring in \$2071.17.

Thank you again for your generosity in helping our neighbors during the Christmas season.

*-Community Outreach Committee*

A big "thank you!" from the Epworth-Hawkins Partnership to everyone who purchased a gift card during Advent. We collected 54 cards that will be used to reward the boy and girl in each class at Hawkins who made the greatest improvement in reading in the first semester.

*-Hawkins STEMM Academy Partnership Team*

## Sympathies ..... recent deaths

- **THE SCHEIB FAMILY** on the death of Sue Scheib.
- **THE ZAHN FAMILY** on the passing of Larry Zahn.
- **THE BRENIZER FAMILY** on the passing of Helen Brenizer.
- **THE PARKER FAMILY** on the passing of William Parker.
- **THE HAASE FAMILY** on the passing of Sandy Haase.
- **THE KEVIN FOSTER FAMILY** on the passing of his father.
- **THE TANYA SMITH FAMILY** on the passing of her sister, Norma Jean Nederhouser.

## LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2020

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### LENT:

#### ***Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper | February 25 | 5-7pm***

We will be serving all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage to support S.W.A.T. Student Ministries in the gym. Purchase tickets with cash or debit/credit at the door, but group table reservations are available by emailing Pastor Dave at [dave@epworth.com](mailto:dave@epworth.com). Carry-out is available at no extra charge. The cost is: \$8/adults, \$4/kids 4-11, Free, kids 3 & under, \$20/household. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors, everyone is welcome!

#### ***Ash Wednesday | February 26 | 12 noon & 7pm***

Ash Wednesday has been a part of the Christian tradition for over ten centuries, and it marks the beginning of Lent, which is the six-week season of preparation for Easter. The service is marked by the imposition of ashes which signifies repentance (usually in the shape of the cross), which points us to the good news yet to come on Easter morning. Ash Wednesday is a powerful day in our faith as we are able to openly recognize our sinfulness, our frailty, and stare death in the face as we confess our need of a savior. We invite you to join us for one of our two services at 12 noon and 7pm, as we begin the Lenten season.

#### ***The Walk | Thursdays, February 27-April 9 | 7-8:15pm | Deep End***

How do we walk with Christ – daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him? Learn more about the five essential spiritual practices of worship, study, serving, giving, and sharing our faith in a six-week study by Adam Hamilton, *The Walk*. Each class includes a 15-minute DVD lesson from Rev. Hamilton and class facilitation by one of Epworth's pastors. Class runs from 7-8:15pm. Childcare will be available with a minimum of one week's notice. Please feel free to invite a friend or family member to join you! RSVP by February 14 to Pastor Beth at [beth@epworth.com](mailto:beth@epworth.com) so we can order enough books for the whole class. It is recommended that the first chapter of *The Walk* be read before the first class but everyone is welcome to participate in discussion.

### HOLY WEEK:

#### ***Maundy Thursday | April 9 | 7pm***

"For years I have felt called on to compose a choral work for Maundy Thursday. Each year, in the days leading up to Easter, I am reminded of the incredible, powerful story that is the selfless sacrifice of Jesus for all. I think of those who were there—the disciples, Mary, even Pilate and the passing stranger who carried the cross. I consider how they might have felt as they interacted with Jesus on his journey to the cross. Over the past 12 months, I have taken these reflections and finally created that work. *A New Commandment* is a 7-movement cantata for choir and orchestra that brings to life the perspectives of those characters in new ways, through monologue and song. It is my hope that through this music and drama, we might find ourselves in this story, in a more intimate way than before." - Kevin S. Foster

#### ***Good Friday, Stations of The Cross | April 10 | 12noon-4pm***

On Good Friday, Epworth's sanctuary will once again host Stations of the Cross. It's an opportunity to reflect on Christ's sacrifice for us all and prepare for the Resurrection. Every year, artwork representing each station has been created by Epworth members and friends from the community. You can be a part of this too! Pastor Beth is seeking creative individuals or groups to make a station inspired by scripture detailing Jesus' final moments. There are examples in Pastor Beth's office from previous years. Scriptures and more information are available by contacting Pastor Beth at [beth@epworth.com](mailto:beth@epworth.com).

From Gethsemane to the Tomb, come walk with Jesus on Good Friday through the Stations of the Cross. This self-directed worship experience takes place in our sanctuary, come when you can and stay as long as you like. Each of the fourteen stations focuses on moments leading to Jesus' death on the cross. The stations are portrayed in artwork created by Epworth members and friends from the community and inspired by scripture. A guidebook with the scripture for each station and a reflection from the artist will be available for individual use. Walk, reflect, and pray on Good Friday any time between noon and 4pm. The Stations of the Cross are open to the public. Invite a friend.

### EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12, WORSHIP TIMES:

#### ***8:30 Traditional Easter | 9:45 Traditional Family | 11 Contemporary Family***

#### ***Easter Morning for Families:***

Easter is a time for families to be together at Epworth! Children are encouraged to worship with their family. There will even be a special Children's message in each worship service.

- Infant and Toddler care will be available throughout the morning in the children's wing.
- Between services, families are invited to participate in an Easter Egg scavenger hunt in the children's wing.
- The Easter Bunny will be available in the Children's Church throughout the morning for you to take family photos.



## #WEAREEPWORTH

It is often said the church is more than a building, it is the people. As we start into a new year we want to celebrate our Epworth family. Many of you are active on social media and we would like to encourage you to share your pictures taken here at Epworth, or of your Epworth family/friends with the social media hashtag #WeAreEpworth. Whether you are on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, feel free to use this hashtag as you post. Also, look for the new #WeAreEpworth feature on our website and social media where testimonies of various Epworth members will be shared. Our first #WeAreEpworth story is being shared by Shani Abernathy. To read Shani's story, please visit our social media pages or [weareepworth.com](http://weareepworth.com). Are you interested in providing a testimonial? Visit [weareepworth.com](http://weareepworth.com) to submit your story online.



### *I found Epworth exactly when I was supposed to.*

-Shani Abernathy's Story

I found Epworth exactly when I was supposed to. I believe I was led there by divine intervention and everything has happened exactly as it was supposed to...I was adopted at 6 days old and know nothing of my biological background. I was raised in a Conservative Jewish family. I went to Sunday School, was Bat Mitzvahed, went to services on the High Holy Days and celebrated the holidays with my family.

The only problem was- I was missing a spiritual connection to the religion and had only continued to practice as to not disappoint my mother. It was 2015 and Yom Kippur, the

holiest day in the Jewish Calendar. It was also the day the Pope came to the U.S. and I stayed home from services to watch him. It was then that I had an epiphany! I wanted to explore the Christian faith. I was giddy with excitement for my husband to come home so that I could share with him that I knew what was missing from my life and just like that, a true clarity came over me. I started reading and researching what it meant to be a Christian. I asked endless questions of my Christian friends what it meant to them to be a Christian. My husband was very supportive in my endeavor as he was raised in the Presbyterian Church. We started "shopping" churches and one of my closest friends guided me in my pursuit. Easter of 2016, I professed my belief in Jesus Christ at a church we were testing out. It was one of the most emotional experiences of my life. Tears of joy spilled from my eyes and my heart was overwhelmed with love as I acknowledged my belief in our Lord Savior.

It was shortly after that, that we decided to try out a service at Epworth. Epworth wasn't a stranger to us as our son was in Scouts and they were our sponsor; but we had never actually attended a service there. We were warmly greeted entering both the church and the doors to the sanctuary. Walking into the sanctuary I told my husband, "This feels right." We started attending regularly every Sunday thereafter. I had found my new spiritual home. My church family. My children and I were baptized, we became members and we have planted deep roots in our church. Our children attend Sunday School classes and S.W.A.T (Students With A Task) We volunteer for Serving 419, where we go out into the community and help others while spreading the love of Jesus Christ. I serve on the Children's Discipleship team and have come full circle as I am one of those faces that may greet you as you come into our welcoming church. I hope that you find it as inviting as I did and feel welcomed and supported by the Epworth community.

The love of Jesus is felt in every corner of our church. My faith continues to grow and flourish every day for I am blessed, truly blessed to have found my church family. They have embraced me and my family. Everyone is accepted for who they are, for God has made us this way. To know the teachings and love of Jesus have made my life complete. God gives us what we need, when we need it. I am no longer searching. Thanks Be to God!

stay connected to  
**epworth** church:



@epworthtoledo  
[epworth.com](http://epworth.com)

## SUNDAY 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 & 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.

## WEEKDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES:

- **9:15am | Women's Bible Study | Rm 214**  
*Twelve Women of the Bible: Life Changing Stories for Women Today. Through March.* Through this study you will get a fresh look at these women of the Bible and, hopefully, discover new insights for your faith journey. Meet women who provide a powerful witness to God's gracious love, leaving you feeling challenged, encouraged, deeply valued, and empowered to face trials in your own lives. No book.
- **6:30pm | Men's Bible Study | Rm 214**  
**Through Mar. 11.** *Wide Angle: Framing Your World View.* Examine worldviews as they relate to the most important questions & issues of our day: truth, tolerance, terrorism, reconciliation, and the purpose of life. Participant book is \$10.  
**Wednesdays, Mar. 25-Apr 29.** Developing A Faith That Works: The Book of James. This study is based on the book of James 1:1-2:20. Participant book is \$10. Please RSVP to Marla at marla@epworth.com. Questions, contact Paul at [personal info has been removed].
- **6:45-8pm | 'Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture' | Deep End**  
**Wednesdays, Feb 19-April 1.** Led by Pastor Jennifer. Walter Brueggeman is one of the world's leading Old Testament scholars. Brueggeman brilliantly weaves Israel's history and cultural into our reading of the Prophets, then draws connections between Israel and America today. Childcare provided by request. Please email Jennifer@epworth.com to sign up.
- **7-8:15pm | 'The Walk' | Deep End**  
**Thursdays, February 27-April 2.** Led by Pastor Beth. How do we walk with Christ – daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him? Learn more about the five essential spiritual practices of worship, study, serving, giving, and sharing our faith in this six-week study by Adam Hamilton. Childcare will be available with a minimum of one week's notice. Please feel free to invite a friend or family member to join you! RSVP by February 14 to Pastor Beth at beth@epworth.com.

## 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.

**February 12 & March 18**

### 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]. See future book titles at epworth.com/fif.

**February 25:** *Have You Seen Luis Velez* by Catherine Ryan Hyde. (Note: This book does not appear to be available for NOOK, or the Library's digital apps (HOOPLA and Overdrive.) You may want to start looking for it early at the libraries.

## [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:

**February 7:** 7pm - Coffee, cake, & comedy night featuring Byron Trimble - Epworth UMC.

**February 11:** 12 noon - Lunch - The Grill (Lourdes University, (6832 Convent Blvd, Sylvania). Cost: \$9, all-you-can eat.

**February 20:** 10am - Game Day - Hope UMC (4069 W. Sylvania Ave, Toledo.) Use back entrance and bring a snack for the lunch break. No reservations needed.

**February 29:** 5pm - Game & Potluck night- Hope UMC (4069 W. Sylvania Ave, Toledo.) Use back entrance and bring a snack for the lunch break. No reservations needed.

## PICKLEBALL

Looking for a new way to work off some of those holiday goodies? Come try Pickleball. It's a great way to get some exercise while having fun! We play on Mondays from 7-9pm in the gym. Interested in learning how to play? Please contact Lisa Baker at [personal info has been removed].

## LOOK UP!

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



## A NIGHT OF COFFEE, CAKE AND COMEDY



You can have a fun night out and support our music ministry on Friday, **February 7** at 7pm in the Sanctuary, featuring comedian Byron Trimble. The middle of three sons born to a pastor and his wife, Byron has traveled the world doing comedy for churches, schools, and corporate events. He's been seen on the

Dan Patrick Show, Dry Bar Comedy, NBC, and ABC. His hilarious blend of music and comedy in his live shows has also generated a national following on YouTube.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under, with a family maximum of \$30. That includes sweets and drinks after the show, and a chance to meet Byron. Tickets are on sale in the lobby after each service on Sundays leading up to the performance. For children 12 and under, we'll have a movie night in the Children's Church and other appropriate activities in the education wing, so the whole family can have a fun evening.

## EPWORTH ARTIST SERIES PRESENTS

### *The SonoNovo Wind Sextet*

Join us for the rescheduled concert on Sunday, **March 8**. 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.

## CO-ED GOLF LEAGUE

The Epworth CO-ED Golf League is getting ready for play this summer at Whiteford Valley Golf Club each Thursday beginning **May 7**. We will play 9 holes every Thursday night for 16 weeks - tee times starting at 4:07pm. Any skill level is invited for this co-ed league. If you wish to join us and need a partner, we will find one for you. Greens fees are \$208 and must be paid prior to first tee time on May 7. You can walk or rent a cart. Golf carts are available at \$6/person if all 16 weeks are paid in full by May 7; or \$8/ person if paid for on weekly basis. To sign up or for more information, contact Adam at [personal info has been removed].



## PARENT CONNECTIONS EUCHRE NIGHT

### *8th Annual, Paul Jednak & Tim Kasunic's home*

We'll get started on Friday, **February 21** about 6pm with some excellent food and move on to the games shortly thereafter. Dinner will be provided. This is a very laid-back evening - so don't be worried about



being a professional Euchre player! You don't need a partner - but you do need to know how to play. You will play with lots of different partners and enjoy some fellowship along the way. No serious players allowed! This is more of a social event with some cards thrown in for fun - and we take a lot of breaks! Because this night tends to run a little late, usually until 10pm, NO CHILDCARE will be provided for this event. Please RSVP to Cindy Franklin at [personal info has been removed] by Monday, February 17.

### *Upcoming Events:*

- Friday, April 3- Dinner at Don Juan's Mexican Restaurant. Free childcare at Epworth 6-9pm.

Did you know that there is a Social Group for parents at Epworth? Whether your kids are toddlers or teenagers, parenting can be exhausting! Could you use a Parents Night Out? 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!

## BODY RECALL+

Don't wait until your body starts to creak and complain before starting a movement program -- BUT if you have been feeling stiff and slower, know that you can do something to start feeling better NOW. Body Recall+ begins again on Monday, **March 2** -- come to our gym at 9:15 to start turning the clock back!

*Body  
Recall+*



## EPWORTH KIDS IN FEBRUARY

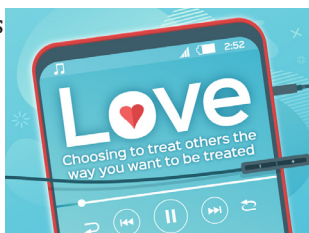


**Preschool & Toddler:** All Aboard! This month your toddlers and preschoolers are learning that Jesus wants everyone to jump on board and be His friend forever. When we look at the kind of friend Jesus was while on Earth, we

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.



### **-STUDENT MINISTRIES -**

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

#### **Sunday, February 2**

9:45am Donuts & The Bible (Jr. & Sr. High)  
Deep End & 216

No SWAT's - Superbowl Sunday

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

#### **Wednesday, February 9**

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

#### **Friday, February 14 - Sunday, February 16**

4:30pm Friday - 3pm Sunday

**Whiteout Winter Retreat:** Beulah Beach, Vermilion.  
Meet in the Deep End, registration is already closed.

#### **Sunday, February 16**

No Donuts and Bible.

No SWAT's.

We will be returning from our Winter Retreat.

#### **Sunday, February 23**

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

#### **Tuesday, February 25**

5pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Calling all teens! We need your help for this important fundraiser for youth missions. Stay tuned for more details!

#### **Wednesday, February 26**

7pm Ash Wednesday Service

Confirmands, we need your help greeting this evening!



## TOUCH-A-TRUCK PLANNING TEAM



The snow is flying, but Epworth's 9th Annual Touch-A-Truck Event will be here before you know it; and we need your HELP! Last year

we had estimated more than 2,000 adults and children visited the Epworth Campus - making Touch-A-Truck one of the largest outreach events of the year. We are in need of individuals willing to give their time and talent by joining the Touch-A-Truck planning team.

There is a short 12 - 15 week commitment that starts in February and ends with the event on **May 9**. If you are interested in joining the team or have a cool vehicle you'd like to show off, please contact Adam Schoesler at [personal info has been removed].

## BIBLE CAMP PLANNING TEAM

Did you love attending Bible Camp as a kid? Or, have you loved helping lead at Bible Camp here at Epworth? If so, this is a perfect way for you to serve your church while helping provide a fun, evangelism experience for the children in our community.

Epworth's annual Bible Camp will be held Monday, **June 15** - Friday, **June 19** and it is time to begin planning. We are in need of several people to serve on the planning team to help make this fun event happen. This is a SHORT 4 month implementation team that will meet to coordinate Bible Camp prior to the week of June 15. This is NOT a yearlong committee! If you are interested in serving, contact Mary at 419.214.3776 or mary@epworth.com.

## KID-TO-KID MISSIONS: LEARN TO SERVE

Our project this February is a bit different from our previous service projects. Since we are talking about love, kindness, and friendship all month long in our large and small group settings, we decided to challenge the kids to put what they're learning into action! Specifically, we are encouraging the kids to take part in a Random Act of Kindness Challenge. We will discuss simple ways they can show kindness throughout the week, and then each Sunday they will report back to us what awesome acts of kindness they carried out each day.



For every act of kindness performed, Epworth's Kids will work to fill up our RAK bin - which will be located under the "Epworth Kids" sign in the lobby. Be sure to take a moment each Sunday to ask a child about this RAK challenge, and to notice the bin filling up as their love pours out into our community!

## REGISTER FOR EPWORTH PRESCHOOL

Epworth families have an opportunity to sign up for Children's Day Out (CDO) or ECEC (Early Childhood Education Center) starting Monday, **February 3**. Registration Packets are available in the main office or online.

- **CDO** is a one day early preschool program for children for children who are 2 or a young 3. Children cannot turn 4 during the school year and they do not need to be potty trained.
- **ECEC** is a half day preschool program for children ages 3-5. Classes are offered 2, 3, or 4 half days am or pm. Children participate in music, art, enrichment and learning experiences plus many special programs.

Email Jane, Preschool Director at jlyon@epworth.com to schedule a visit with your child or stop by our Open House on Sunday, **February 9** from 1-3 pm.

## SITTER TRAINING

Epworth Children's Ministry is holding a sitter training on Sunday, **February 23** from 11am-Noon in the nursery for any youth, junior high or older. Sitters will be trained on safe sanctuary protocol, basic infant and childcare practices, emergency procedures, as well as how to use the church's phone system. Once trained, these youth would join our paid childcare team to help provide a nurturing Christian environment where parents can feel safe leaving their children so they can fully participate in the life of the church. For more information, or to register to attend the training, email childcare@epworth.com.

## HAWKINS STEMM ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP

Midway through the second year of the "Reader Bag" program sponsored by the Epworth-Hawkins Partnership, families of Hawkins first and second graders reported they have been enjoying reading with their children. Every week, each first and second grade student can take home a plastic bag containing two age-appropriate books. When the books are returned, the student can take home a different bag of books. Members of the partnership's Book Initiative purchase books for the bags at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library Friends of the Library book sales. Results of the survey sent home in December showed that most family members who responded said their children enjoyed the books, and most had read the books with their child. Comments from family members included: "this is a great way for kids to learn to love books," and "we enjoy the books and we are grateful for your generosity to share with us!"

## UPDATE ON GASTON NTAMBO

The news coming out of the Democratic Republic of the Congo often seems depressing but if we keep our eyes and ears on one of Epworth's favorite sons, we can view things in a much more positive light. Ebola and civil war might rage in the Northeast of DRC but things are much calmer in the Katanga region. Word is that Gaston Ntambo is doing well. He and Jeanne are providing housing for three recent African University grads who grew up in the Kamina orphanage. Since they are all seeking employment and have no source of income, Gaston gives them each \$100 a month to help in their job search and livelihood. Wings of the Morning also has a new hanger, partially finished, for Gaston's medical flight mission plane and it is pictured to the right.



## DONATE TO EPWORTH EVERY TIME YOU SHOP ON AMAZON!

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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](https://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 in the office at [laura@epworth.com](mailto:laura@epworth.com).

## ST PAUL'S FIRST SATURDAY LUNCHES 2020

Epworth members and friends prepare and serve lunch the first Saturday of each month at St. Paul's Community Center. This is a great opportunity to extend our outreach to the community, and those who have served here before, mention what a great time they have! Grab some friends from work, your Wesley group or Sunday school class and sign up for a Saturday in 2020. For more information contact [personal info has been removed].

## SCOUTING UPDATE

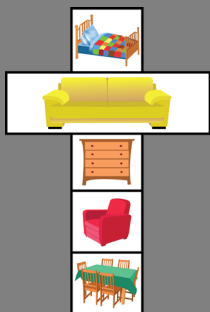
We are gearing up for Scout Sunday on February 9. If you are a Girl/Boy/Cub Scout whether you belong to the troops at Epworth or at another location, we welcome your participation. Contact Tami [personal info has been removed].

**Girl Scout Troop 12168** This winter the girls participated in Wreaths Across America, serving with Food for Thought and created art projects with Art ElementZ Gallery & Studio. Look for cookie booths at Epworth on February 16 & 23. This is their major fundraiser for the year and they appreciate your ongoing support!

**Scout Troop 2** T2 sold wreaths this winter and are currently gearing up for their "Chuck a Puck" nights at the Walleye on February 9 & March 14. Tickets for that Walleye game are available on sale from your favorite Troop 2 scout. Scout fundraisers help pay for monthly camping, activities and rank/merit badges throughout the year. Thank you for your support!

**Pack 149** The pack will be hosting a STEM fair at Epworth on Sunday March 1, 1-4 pm. There will be interactive displays from a variety of area organizations including the Toledo Astronomical Society and Northwest State Community College robotics. This event is free and is open to Cub Scout aged-youth (1-5 grade). You do not have to be a Scout to attend. Those who are cub scouts will be able to work on requirements for various BSA STEM NOVA patches.

## FURNITURE MINISTRY



### BLESSINGS ITEMS NEEDED:

*toasters, crock pots,  
white washcloths and  
white hand towels*

### STATISTICS

	JANUARY:	2020:
# Furniture:	102	102
# Families:	9	9
Adults:	11	11
Children:	13	13



## HEALING & WHOLENESS SERVICE

Join us in the Sanctuary at 7pm on **February 18**. This service will provide an opportunity for prayer, reflection and meditation. Come and rest in the Word of God, hymns, and seek healing. Renew your focus on your connection with God, forgiveness of self and others, and strength for the journey ahead – wherever it may take you. Bring neighbors or colleagues who you feel could use reassurance and comfort. If you have questions or would like to join the team, please email Pastor Beth at [Beth@epworth.com](mailto:Beth@epworth.com).

## FEBRUARY IS HEART MONTH!

Heart disease can happen at any age. High rates of obesity and high blood pressure among younger people (ages 35-64) are putting them at risk for heart disease earlier in life. Half of all Americans have at least one of the top three risk factors for heart disease (high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and smoking). Many of the conditions and behaviors that put people at risk for heart disease are appearing at younger ages:

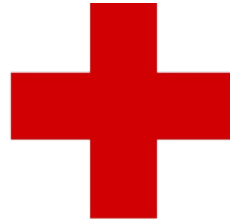
- **High blood pressure:** Having uncontrolled high blood pressure is one of the biggest risks for heart disease and other harmful conditions, such as stroke.
- **High blood cholesterol:** High cholesterol can increase the risk for heart disease. Having diabetes and obesity, smoking, eating unhealthy foods, and not getting enough physical activity can all contribute to unhealthy cholesterol levels.
- **Smoking:** Smoking damages the blood vessels and can cause heart disease.

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

#### *Valentines Day - Happy Or Sad?*

For most people Valentine's Day is a happy day. But, for some it is a painful reminder of a broken relationship, a recent relocation, a chronic illness, the death of a loved one, or another life challenge. If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring Jesus' love (God's ultimate Valentine) back into your life. Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, to support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your struggle. To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with our Stephen Leaders or Stephen Ministers (they wear blue name tags), a pastor, or contact us at [stephenministry@epworth.com](mailto:stephenministry@epworth.com).

## SAVE THE DATE! MARCH BLOOD DRIVE!



Blizzards and intensely cold weather caused the cancellation of blood drives all around the country. The Red Cross is still in serious need of blood of all types. Epworth is hosting a blood drive on Saturday, **March 7** from 9am - 2pm in the gym. You'll be able to reserve your donation time on the Connection Card in worship beginning in late February, or you can log on to [Redcrossblood.org](http://Redcrossblood.org), search for Epworth in upcoming drives, and choose your donation time. For more info, email Pastor Beth at [beth@epworth.com](mailto:beth@epworth.com).

## 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.



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

### **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](mailto:trina@epworth.com) or Pastor Beth at [beth@epworth.com](mailto:beth@epworth.com).

### **Visiting Hearts Hospital & Rehabilitation Visitor Team:**

**\*NEW\*** 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](mailto:beth@epworth.com).

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was supposed to.*

-Shani Abernathy's Story

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