

SITTER TRAINING

Epworth Children’s Ministry is holding a sitter training on **today**, from 11am-12 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.

BE AN USHER!

Join our usher team, it’s super easy! This social volunteer position requires only a friendly smile and warm welcome to our members and guests at one of our worship services. This vital ministry involves assisting guests in finding seats, and passing the connection cards and offering plates during worship. Training is provided and opportunities to serve range from once a month to each Sunday. Email Dave at 042357@msn.com with questions or to serve. Thank you for considering serving in this way!

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. To sign up or for more information, contact Adam at 419.351.0758 or email at adam.schoesler@bex.net.

FREE BIBLES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE LOBBY

God’s Word is precious and we want everyone who wants to read the Bible for themselves to have access to it. No questions asked. This ministry is made possible by the generous underwriting of a few Epworth members. Thank you.

KID-TO-KID MISSIONS: LEARN TO SERVE

We’re talking about love, kindness, and friendship in our large and small groups this month. So, we are encouraging the kids to put kindness into action by taking part in a Random Act of Kindness Challenge. We’ll discuss simple ways they can show kindness throughout the week, then 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!

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

Thank you again Epworth for your generous donations to the Feed Your Neighbor program, it is most appreciated. For the months of February and March we are asking for:

- canned fruit
- personal items such as soap, deodorant, toothpaste, feminine supplies, razors, etc.

FURNITURE MINISTRY



**BLESSINGS
ITEMS NEEDED:**
*Microwaves, Toasters
and Crockpots*

WEEKLY REMINDERS

Sunday, February 23, 2020

PASTORAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is happy to announce the next permanent Senior Pastor here at Epworth. We had previously communicated that we would have an interim pastor until the normal timing for moves at the end of June, however Bishop Palmer and the cabinet worked very hard on our behalf to accelerate the timing for our permanent pastor. His name is Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher, and he’s coming from a church within our West Ohio Conference, in the Capital Area South District, near Columbus called Etna UMC. The Bishop and District Superintendent are very confident that Steve’s many gifts and experiences will help Epworth fulfill the vision God has set out for us.



We are so looking forward to the strong leadership Steve will bring to the staff and congregation as we continue to further God’s kingdom. Steve has expressed his excitement to join us and believes all of our best days are ahead of us and can’t wait to see what miracles unfold as we support, encourage, and lift up each other and our community in the name of Jesus Christ. Steve’s first day here at Epworth will be Wednesday, April 1, and his first Sunday preaching will be Sunday, **April 5**. Please save the date and plan to join us that Sunday to embrace Steve with a very warm, Epworth welcome. We will also be inviting our congregation to meet Steve through some smaller group meetings, so watch for invitations soon!

LEADERSHIP THROUGH TRANSITION

As we await the arrival of Epworth’s next senior pastor, Stephen Swisher, please know that the staff and pastors are available to help as we continue to serve Christ and build God’s Kingdom. If you have any questions about a particular ministry area – such as Children’s Ministry, Youth Ministry, or Music Ministry – you can direct your questions to the staff liaison for that ministry area. Rev. Beth Irwin, our associate pastor, will be serving as acting lead pastor. General questions can be directed to her in the church office, call 419.531.4236 or email Pastor Beth at beth@epworth.com. Thank you for your grace, patience, and prayers during this time of transition. May we have faith and trust in our Lord and Savior to lead Epworth forward as we continue to further His Kingdom.

PLEASE WELCOME, CINDY FRANKLIN



We are very pleased to announce our new Administrative Assistant, Cindy Franklin. Cindy and her family have been active members of Epworth since 2009. Cindy and her husband, Scott, have two daughters, Sasha, 14, and Danica, 8. Cindy has served on committees and volunteered during VBC. Currently, she sings in the Praise Band during the Contemporary Service and chairs the Parent Connections Committee. Her first day with us was last Monday, February 10. Please join us in welcoming Cindy to the team!

THANKS FROM PASTOR DOUG

Thank you so much to the Epworth family for the send off reception, the generous love offering, and warm wishes. Thanks to my staff colleagues for the gift of a beautiful glass pitcher and basin. It has been an honor and privilege serving Christ together with all of you. In the words of the Apostle Paul writing to the church at Philippi, "everytime I think of you I give thanks." All the best, Epworth, as you step fully into your bright future filled with hope!



-Pastor Doug, Wes, & Clay Damron

#WEAREEPWORTH

Help us celebrate our Epworth family! We encourage you to use the hashtag #WeAreEpworth as you post on your social media accounts. After a while, if someone searches for #WeAreEpworth, they will be able to see the love and community we have with each other. Also, look for the new #WeAreEpworth feature where testimonies of various Epworth members are being shared. Want to share your story? Please visit WeAreEpworth.com to submit a testimonial.

BEGINNING OF LENT 2020:
SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Feb. 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. 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
Feb. 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 (usually in the shape of the cross) which signifies repentance, and 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.



GIRL SCOUT COOKIES ON SALE

Epworth Girl Scout Troop 12168 will be selling Girl Scout Cookies in the lobby **today** until 11:15am. Please keep in mind, today is the last day to purchase cookies in the lobby. Troop 12168 is a community troop and earnings from cookie sales will go back into community projects

CURRENT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES:

Please visit epworth.com/biblestudies for general descriptions of each study/group. All are welcome!

- **9:45am | Adult Bible Study | 214**
Beginning today: Add your voice to the conversation as the class connects the Gospel text of Matthew 7:1-29 to our everyday lives. No preparation is required as the class discussion is guided by a Life Application booklet containing complete Bible text and discussion questions. You'll likely get to know Jesus in fresh new ways. Meet new friends as we grow together.
- **9:45am | Coffee & Conversation | 213**
- **9:45am | Connecting Point, ages 18-25 | 205**
- **9:45am | Donuts & The Bible, grades 6-12 | Deep End/216**
- **11am | Sermon Notes | 214**

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES:

- **9:15am | Women's Bible Study | 214**
Tues: *Twelve Women of the Bible: Life Changing Stories for Women Today*
- **6:30pm | Men's Bible Study | 214**
Weds: *Wide Angle: Framing Your World View*

NEW BIBLE STUDIES:

- **6:45-8pm | Embracing Prophets in Contemporary Culture | Deep End**
Wednesdays through 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 culture into our reading of the Prophets, then draws connections between Israel and America today.
- **7-8:15pm | The Walk | Deep End**
Lenten Study: Thurs, February 27-April 2. Led by Pastor Beth. How do we walk with Christ – 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.

MARCH BLOOD DRIVE

Epworth is hosting a blood drive on Saturday, **March 7** from 9am - 2pm in the gym. Sign up to donate on the connection card in worship, or you can log on to Redcrossblood.org, search for Epworth in upcoming drives, and choose your donation time. For more info, email Pastor Beth at beth@epworth.com.

THE SONONOVO WIND SEXTET

Join us for the rescheduled concert on Sunday, **March 8** at 3pm. 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.

FRIENDS IN FAITH: 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 (3641 Christie Blvd, Toledo.) RSVP to jargalvin@yahoo.com. See future book titles at epworth.com/fif. **February 25:** *Have You Seen Luis Velez* by Catherine Ryan Hyde.

ADULT SINGLES

Single, divorced, and widowed adults in the Toledo community are invited to join. RSVP to Nancy Hauer at hauer.nancy@yahoo.com or call 419.885.4595. The next opportunity to join us is **February 29** at 5pm - Game & Potluck night- Hope UMC. Use back entrance and bring a dish to share. No reservations needed.