

THE EPWORTH TOWER

4855 W. Central Ave Toledo, Ohio 43615 | 419.531.4236 | epworth.com

*Easter
Joy*

MAUNDY THURSDAY

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

'A New Commandment'

7pm

GOOD FRIDAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Stations of the Cross

12 noon - 4pm

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

8:30 | Traditional Easter

9:45 | Traditional Easter

11:00 | Contemporary Easter



March 2020

- 3-4 INFO & ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- + Free Bibles in the Lobby
 - + Leadership Through Transition
 - + Thanks!
 - + Sympathies
 - + Nametag Transition
 - + Pastoral Announcement
 - + #WeAreEpworth social media tag
 - + Ann Hartmann's story
- 5 LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER**
- + 'The Walk' Bible Study
 - + Maundy Thursday
 - + Good Friday Stations of the Cross
 - + Easter Sunday
- 6-7 GROW**
- + Welcome our Newest Members
 - + Friends in Faith: Bunco
 - + Friends in Faith: Book Club
 - + Spring Music Luncheon
 - + Walleye Game
 - + Adult Bible Studies
 - + Pickleball
 - + Sono Novo Concert
 - + Co-Ed Golf League
 - + Adult Singles
- 8-9 GROW KIDS, YOUTH & FAMILIES**
- + Epworth Kids in March
 - + SWAT March Schedule
 - + Touch-a-Truck
 - + Parent Connections March
 - + We Love Our Preschool
 - + Hawkins Stemm Academy Partnership
- 10-11 SERVE & CARE**
- + Easter Altar Flower Order
 - + Be An Usher
 - + Stations of the Cross Artists Needed
 - + Feed Your Neighbor
 - + Furniture Ministry
 - + Health Fair 2020
 - + March Blood Drive
 - + Healing & Wholeness Service
 - + Body Recall
 - + Legacy Endowment Fund - Taxes
 - + Care Bear Scholarships

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.

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.

April Tower Deadline:

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

E-mail articles & pictures to
communications@epworth.com

WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

Sign up for the weekly e-newsletters!

Go to: epworth.com/email

OBITUARY NOTIFICATIONS

Sign up to receive obituary notifications!

Go to: epworth.com/email

Our Pastors:

REV. BETH IRWIN

Associate Pastor
beth@epworth.com

REV. DAVE PETTENGILL

Pastor of Student and Family Ministries
dave@epworth.com

REV. JENNIFER BAILEY

Pastor of Welcome
jennifer@epworth.com

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.

LEADERSHIP THROUGH TRANSITION

As we await the arrival of Epworth's new 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.

Sympathies recent deaths

- **THE SASS/TILLER FAMILY** on the death of Dick Tiller.
- **THE BRAYMER FAMILY** on the passing of Rev. Merrill Braymer.
- **THE JOSHUA BROWN FAMILY** on the passing of James Brown.
- **THE NIEKRANZ FAMILY** on the passing of Carolyn Niekranz.
- **THE BOSTWICK FAMILY** on the passing of Dottie Bostwick

THANKS!

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, "every time 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

I wish to thank all involved for the cookies and candy delivered to my home, but mostly my heart melted when I saw the eight handmade valentines from the children. How sweet! Sometimes I feel the world is devoid somewhat of "love" but at Epworth it is alive and growing. Thanks again.

-Jo Mizer

Cookies and valentines are a huge blessing to our epworth seniors! A big "thank you" to all involved in signing cards on Caring Sunday, making cookies, donating candy, delivering and to the children for making valentines for our senior members! They were all so happy to receive your thoughtful gifts of love!

-Wellness Team

68 children from Friendly Center and St. Pauls neighborhood had a merrier Christmas because of your generosity. The parents were invited to view, select and wrap these gifts to take home for Christmas morning. We have received several hand-written thank you notes from the children!

-Thank you again, Friendly Center Guild

Words cannot express how much we appreciated your prayers and all the meals provided for us during our time of need. It has been four months since I fell and am now making progress. I am not able to participate in out-patient physical and occupational therapy. John is happy to have me feeling better. Your gifts of prayers and meals are an excellent example of your Christian works. And thanks to Polly Richardson (John's sister) for all her help.

Sincerely, John & Diana Connors

LOOK UP!

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

PASTORAL ANNOUNCEMENT & #WEAREEPWORTH

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, near Columbus called Etna UMC. 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**. 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!

#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. This month, we're highlighting Janice French. Are you interested in providing a testimonial? Contact Tami Norris, at [personal information has been removed] or visit weareepworth.com to submit your story online.

"I love letting people know they are welcome here."

-Ann Hartmann's Story

I grew up in Methodist and Presbyterian churches and remained involved until my late twenties when I married a man who was an agnostic. I continued to try to live by my religious beliefs, but we entered churches only for weddings and funerals. After his death, I realized how much I had missed church and felt called back. I took the time to explore several churches in our area and ended up at Epworth.

I was originally drawn to a United Methodist church because its approach to Jesus Christ was joyful and loving, and I believed in its' commitment to social justice. However, there are many things that have kept me at Epworth. First, I quickly realized that my religious beliefs had not matured and that I needed to be part of an active congregation and take part in Bible study and group discussion to develop an adult faith. I have also enjoyed the friendliness of the many very nice and interesting people at Epworth, who are always there for each other. Finally, I really treasure being part of a congregation that is outward instead of inward focused, and makes a real difference in the community by helping others. To me, the measure of an effective church is one that helps you to strengthen your religious understanding and then gives opportunity to make that belief part of daily living.

During my time at Epworth, I have had the opportunity to serve on many committees and be part of several service opportunities. The participation I have valued most is that which helps to strengthen the relationships within the church family. My favorite committee is the nominations committee because I think it is crucial to help people find their most satisfying way to be involved in the life of their church. I have been a Stephen minister because I think we all need a listening ear when we are going through a rough patch, and our training helps us to let Jesus work through us to be there for others. Probably my favorite job is being an usher because I love letting people know they are welcome here. Epworth continues to be a good church home for me. It challenges me to live my beliefs in the company of people I know and respect.



LENT:

The Walk | Thursdays, through 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 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

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:

Easter is the celebration of an innocent man who gave His life to save us all. Join us this Easter to hear the rest of the story and how His sacrifice changed everything. We embrace everyone, exactly as they are. Watch for business card size invitations in the lobby and being handed out by the Ushers on Sunday for you to invite a friend, family member, or neighbor to join you. ALL are welcome!

- 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. Make sure to come a little early or stay after worship for fun family events:

- 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.



WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS & GROW



JENNIFER HALL
and her daughter, Reece Hall



JANICE KELLER, BRIGETTE SIWAJEK
and Bristol Siwajek



MARGARET KORFHAGE



ROLF SANDBERG



JEFF WERTZ

Watch for our next
Explore Epworth class
taking place this spring.
Dates TBD.

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.

March 18: Lin Bingham's house, 4035 Meadow Green Dr., Sylvania. RSVP to Lin at [personal information 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! RSVP to [personal info has been removed] See future book titles at epworth.com/fif.

March 24: *The Dutch House*, by Ann Patchett. Note: We will meet at Epworth, in The Deep End.

SPRING MUSIC LUNCHEON

All are welcome to join us on Wednesday, **March 18** from 12noon -2pm for a special St. Patty's day lunch prepared by Chef Les for \$7/person. Our presenter, Kevin S. Foster invites you into the world of the composer, sharing the stories behind the songs and the process involved in bringing a good song to life. Every good song tells a story. Some are rich and full of meaning, while others are just plain ridiculous. As a composer himself, Epworth member Kevin S. Foster is no stranger to storytelling through song. This program for piano and voice will cover a wide variety of music—from folk song to Broadway to opera and beyond. Please RSVP to email cindy@epworth.com.



CATCH SOME WALLEYE WITH YOUR EPWORTH FRIENDS!



Mark your calendars and reserve your tickets for an Epworth group outing to the **March 27** Toledo Walleye hockey game at Huntington Center. The Walleye will take on the Fort Wayne Komets and the theme for the night is "Stranger Fins" featuring unique team jerseys celebrating the television show *Stranger Things* and 80s nostalgia. Group tickets are \$17 each and the deadline for ticket reservations (paid in full) is Sunday, March 15th. Don't forget

to invite a friend or two! You can order and pay for your tickets on Sundays in the lobby between worship services, or in the church office between 9am and 5pm. Questions? Contact Pastor Beth at beth@epworth.com.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES:

- **9:45am | Adult Bible Study | Rm 214**
Why Easter Matters by Rev. Andy Stanley. He explores the lives of key characters and reveals how the story of Easter became real to them when they became caught up in the events of Jesus' crucifixion. The followers of Jesus found their world turned upside down when the one they believed to be the Messiah was put to death, and then rose again. All are welcome as we rediscover this foundation of our faith.
- **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.

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 [personal information has been removed].

- **6:45-8pm | 'Embracing the 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 cultural into our reading of the Prophets, then draws connections between Israel and America today. Please email Jennifer@epworth.com to attend.
- **7-8:15pm | 'The Walk' | Deep End**
Thursdays, through 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. Email Beth@epworth.com to attend.

PICKLEBALL

Have you hit that slump after committing to a new fitness plan? Do you want to try something different? Come play Pickleball each Monday night on the courts in the Epworth gym from 7-9 pm. We have all the equipment you need and we welcome beginners, even if you just want to come watch! Please contact Lisa [personal information has been removed].

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 to 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 information has been removed].

[adult Singles]

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

March 6 & 27: 4:30pm - Fish Dinner at Most Blessed Sacrament Church (4255 Bellevue Rd, Toledo.) Cost: Adults \$10; Seniors \$9 for all-you-can-eat baked or fried fish dinner.

March 6: 12:30 - Lunch at Eddie Lee's Restaurant, (4700 Nantuckett Dr, Toledo.) 3pm- Sono Novo Concert.

March 17: 1pm - St. Patty's Day Lunch at Reynolds Garden Cafe, (1220 Reynolds Rd, Toledo.)

GROW: KIDS & YOUTH

EPWORTH KIDS IN MARCH

Preschool & Toddler:

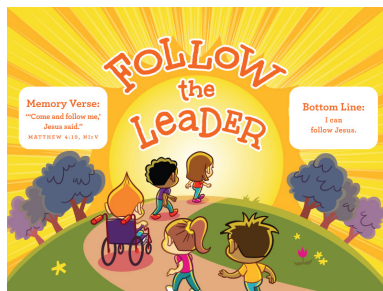


This month, Epworth's Elementary Kids will focus on the life app Forgiveness - Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay. Throughout the Bible, we can read about the importance of forgiveness.

Right from the start, God made a way for Adam and Eve to have a relationship with Him again. The same is true for us. No matter how much we mess up, God will always make a way to forgive us. The idea of forgiving others can sometimes be tough for kids because they have a strong desire for things to always be "fair". When it comes to forgiveness, we will look to the example of Jesus, who chose to forgive even those who were crucifying Him. To help learn about forgiveness, the kids will work to memorize this month's memory verse: "Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13, NIRV)" Our prayer is that because of God's amazing forgiveness, our kids will learn to work hard to forgive others.

Elementary at 9:30:

Epworth's Preschool and Toddler kids will learn that they can follow Jesus. We will look at Bible stories that teach us that Jesus wants to be our friend forever! This hands-on, action packed large group/small group time will also help your early childhood children memorize this month's Bible Memory Verse: "'Come and follow me,' Jesus said." (Matthew 4:19, NIRV) Our prayer is that our early childhood friends will learn that playing "follow the leader" with Jesus is the first step to a life-long relationship with Christ.



Elementary at 11:00



Epworth's Elementary Kids will embark on a 4 week study titled "Forgiveness: what it is, what it isn't, & why it matters". This hands-on, multi-media series will explore what the Bible says

about forgiveness, and help kids begin to look to Jesus for how we are supposed to forgive others. They will learn that forgiving others is part of a life in Christ.



-STUDENT MINISTRIES -

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

Sunday, March 1

9:45am Donuts & The Bible

Jr. High (Upper Gym/216)

Sr. High (Deep End)

9:45am Confirmation Class (Lower Gym/26)

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

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

Sunday, March 8

9:45am Donuts & The Bible

Jr. High (Upper Gym/216)

Sr. High (Deep End)

9:45am Confirmation Class (Lower Gym/26)

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

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

Saturday, March 14

11am Confirmation Class visits the
Greater Toledo Islamic Center

Sunday, March 15

9:45am Donuts & The Bible

Jr. High (Upper Gym/216)

Sr. High (Deep End)

9:45am Confirmation Class (Lower Gym/26)

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

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

Sunday March 22

9:45am Donuts & The Bible

Jr. High (Upper Gym/216)

Sr. High (Deep End)

9:45am Confirmation Class (Lower Gym/26)

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

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

Sunday, March 29

9:45am Donuts & The Bible

Jr. High (Upper Gym/216)

Sr. High (Deep End)

9:45am Confirmation Class (Lower Gym/26)

5:45-9pm SWAT (Jr. & Sr. High together) Deep End

EPWORTH'S ANNUAL TOUCH A TRUCK



Our parking lot will be filled with vehicles of all shapes and sizes from 10am-2pm (sensory friendly times from 11-11:30am and 12:30-1pm) on Saturday, **May 9!** Kids of all ages can climb aboard, honk horns, and pretend to drive anything that rolls. We'll have popcorn, concessions, and lots of family fun. Bring your family and friends to this **FREE** event!

Looking for a way to serve in an outreach project? We need lots of help the day of this event to show **RADICAL** hospitality to all of our guests. Possible jobs include: helping direct traffic and parking, serving lunch to the truck drivers, giving tours of the church facility, helping with set-up and tear down. Whether you can give an hour or two or stay for the whole event, we would love to have you be a part of the fun! If you are willing to help or have a cool vehicle to show, please contact Adam Schoesler at [personal information has been removed].

PARENT CONNECTIONS: MARCH

Come join us for a night out with Mexican food and fellowship. We'll be meeting at Don Juan's Mexican Restaurant (551 W. Dussel Dr., Maumee). **FRIDAY** (yes a Friday) **April 3**. Childcare will be available at Epworth from 6-9pm. Reservations at the restaurant for the private room are at 6:30pm. Please RSVP by Monday March 30 for childcare AND restaurant to Susan at [personal information has been removed]. We hope to see you there!



Are you looking for a fun way to connect with other members of Epworth? Could you use a Parents Night Out? Then we have just the group 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 babysitting and fun activities for the young kids during most of our events. It's a chance to get out, have some fun, meet new people and maybe even re-energize your own relationship! This group is for all parents: single, divorced, married, just trying to survive!

Do you have a favorite restaurant/hobby/activity? Make a suggestion for a future Night Out. Watch the, weekly Reminders, and emails for more information about our activities throughout the year. [personal information has been removed] for details.

WE LOVE OUR PRESCHOOL



We have been so happy with our child's first year at Epworth ECEC. Our child is very hyperactive and sometimes has a hard time focusing. He was not used to playing with others

but he has evolved tremendously since September. Mrs. Shah and Mrs. Shawaker have been so patient and understanding and have helped Henry grow. He is now better with sharing, calmer, and kinder to others. We love this program and can't wait to send Henry's little brother there.

-Jackie and Rob Baither

HAWKINS STEMM ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP

We have two **URGENT** volunteer needs:

1. Library assistants are needed to work with Lynn Bachelor and Kris Martin on Weds and Thurs through the end of the school year (late May). Our volunteers manage the library these two days each week. You will help students find and check out books via computer. The library is open from 9:30am - 3pm. Training is available to become familiar with the collection and library setting at Hawkins. If you can help on either day for any 2-hour period of time, please call Lynn [personal information has been removed]
2. Volunteers are needed to assist Hawkins staff in planning and promoting monthly Parent Power Hours. We are looking for people with experience organizing parent involvement for sports teams, scouts, school or church, who can help put together programs of interest to parents and publicize them to Hawkins families. This work is perfect for people that cannot commit to weekly obligations at Hawkins. The hours are flexible, and the work can be done primarily in your home. For more information, email Pat at [personal information has been removed].

EASTER FLOWER ORDER



Would you like to help fill the sanctuary with beautiful fresh flowers for the Easter celebrations? Would you like to honor or memorialize loved ones during the Easter services? If so, please consider the following options:

- If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one, but you don't want a plant to take home, you may contribute to the overall Easter Display and your commemoration will be listed.

_____ **Easter Display Donation - \$25**

- and/or -

- If you would like to contribute and be able to take home a plant (pickup after 11am service), please indicate the quantity desired on the line below.

_____ **6" Multicolored Tulips - \$10**

_____ **Easter Lilies, 3-6 Blooms - \$10**

ORDER DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MARCH 13

Donor: _____
(Please Print Clearly - as you wish to be listed)

Telephone #: _____

Email: _____

In Memory of: _____

- and/or -

In Honor of: _____

(Will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday)
Make checks payable to 'Epworth United Methodist Church'

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 [personal information has been removed] with questions or to serve. Thank you for considering serving in this way!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS ARTISTS NEEDED

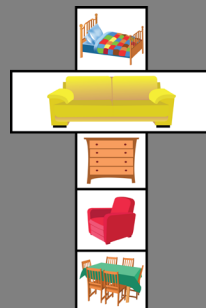
On Good Friday, Epworth's sanctuary will once again host Stations of the Cross. It's an opportunity to reflect on Christ's sacrifice for us all and prepare for the Resurrection. Every year, artwork representing each station has been created by Epworth members and friends from the community. You can be 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.

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*

STATISTICS

Furniture:

Families:

Adults:

Children:

FEBRUARY:

185

16

21

20

2020:

287

25

32

33



HEALTH FAIR 2020

Sunday, March 29 | 8:30am-12:30pm

Epworth Church is having their annual Health Fair on Sunday, March 29. All members of the community are invited. Numerous healthcare and wellness groups and medical professionals will provide tables of information during the fair. We have individuals specializing in preventative health, recovery support, specialized medicine, senior care and much more in areas of wellness. Invite your friends! Information tables will be set up 8:30am-12:30pm. If you have questions, contact Pastor Beth Irwin, Beth@epworth.com or call 419.214.3767.

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/give, search 43615, and choose your donation time. For more info, email Pastor Beth at beth@epworth.com.

HEALING & WHOLENESS SERVICE

Join us in the Sanctuary at 7pm on **March 17**. 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.

BODY RECALL+

Simple, Safe, Strengthening, Sensible

A Smart way to start your day three times a week ... that's what regular movement in Body Recall+ offers. We sit, stand, offer floor and weight work, and friendly people, too. Call the church office for more details or just show up Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:15 in our gym -- both you and your body will be glad you did!



EPWORTH LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND

It's tax filing season. Many of you may have taken advantage of directing part of your retirement plan Required Minimum Distributions (RMD's) to the Church last year. That was a smart move. But now it's time to report the results of your action.



If you use a tax filing professional, they will know how to report this on your Form 1040.

But if you are a self-filer you may be a bit confused. To assist you, our Endowment Fund has prepared an illustration packet to help you.

Contact the business office and they will be happy to send you the sample. Or if you prefer, an Legacy Endowment committee member will be happy to meet with you in person. Just let the business office know, and they will schedule a time for you on a Sunday.

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 so grateful. Checks can be made out to "Epworth Preschool" with a notation for "Care Bear Scholarships."

 **epworth church**
4855 W. Central Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43615-2337
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Toledo, Ohio
Permit No. 23

*"I love letting people know they are
welcome here."*

-Ann Hartmann's Story

Read Ann's story
online at
weareepworth.com

#weareepworth

