

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, email Pastor Beth at Beth@epworth.com.

HEALTH FAIR 2020

Epworth Church is having their annual Health Fair on Sunday, **March 29** from 8:30-12:30pm. 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.



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.

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 your church in this way!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS ARTISTS NEEDED

On Good Friday, **April 10**, 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. Scriptures and more information are available by contacting Pastor Beth at beth@epworth.com or call 419.214.3767.

FREE BIBLES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE LOBBY

Free Bibles

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.

WEEKLY REMINDERS

Sunday, March 8, 2020

HOLY WEEK:

Maundy Thursday | April 9 | 7pm

"A New Commandment" is a 7-movement cantata for choir and orchestra that brings to life the perspectives of those who were there, the disciples, Mary, and Pontius Pilate in new ways, through monologue and song. Written by Epworth member, Kevin S. Foster. Through this music and drama, we will find ourselves in this story, in a more intimate way than before.

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. Each of the fourteen stations focuses on moments leading to Jesus' death on the cross, portrayed in artwork created by Epworth members and friends. A guidebook with the scripture for each station and a reflection from the artist will be available for individual use. Open to the public, invite a friend.

**EASTER SUNDAY,
APRIL 12, WORSHIP:**

8:30 - Traditional Easter

9:45 - Traditional Family

11:00 - Contemporary Family

*Easter
Joy*



ANNOUNCING OUR NEW PASTOR & WELCOME RECEPTION: APRIL 5

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is happy to announce the next Senior Pastor. We had previously communicated that we'd have an interim pastor until 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 near Columbus called Etna UMC. Steve has expressed his excitement to join us and believes all of our best days are ahead of us. He 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. **On April 5, we will be hosting a reception in the lobby throughout the morning with food provided by Chef Les. Please invite your friends and family to join us to give our new Senior Pastor a very warm, Epworth welcome!** We'll see you there.

LEADERSHIP THROUGH TRANSITION

As we await the arrival of 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 – please 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.

#WEAREEPWORTH

As a single mom I was looking for a church that offered both traditional and non-traditional services as well as programs that would allow my three daughters to grow within the church. We joined Epworth when my oldest was in preschool and the church has been full of opportunities for all three of my daughters as well as myself. Today my oldest is in junior high and is very excited to have more adventures with the youth group.

My family loves to help with community service projects at Epworth. Last year we helped with the food bank and in years before we have helped with cookies for Karios. As the girls get older their experiences broaden and their connection to their church grows deeper. We also love to connect through the children's choir and bell choir. Recently I have joined The Mix, a social group at Epworth. It's nice way to connect with others in the church and support each other. It takes a village and Epworth is our village. We also enjoy our time with the Epworth Community Girl Scout troop. The troop focuses on projects that benefit the community and help the girls learn key leadership skills.

I'm fortunate enough that I grew up in a faith-based home. My faith was solid when I came to Epworth. I chose Epworth because I wanted my children to have the same foundation of faith that I had growing up. Epworth has met our needs and continues to help the girls grow in their faith. We are forever thankful for Epworth and its members. They have become an extended family to us.



I was looking for a church that would allow my three daughters to grow.

-Janice French's Story

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**
"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. All are welcome as we rediscover this foundation of our faith.
- **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**

CURRENT 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 through Mar 11: *Wide Angle: Framing Your World View*

PASTOR LED BIBLE STUDIES:

- **6:45-8pm | Embracing Prophets in Contemporary Culture | Deep End**
Weds 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**
Thurs through 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.

THE SONONOVO WIND SEXTET

Join us **today** 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. The concert will include the gamut from Mozart to the Beatles and will feature something for everyone to enjoy.

SPRING MUSIC LUNCHEON

All are welcome to join us on Weds, **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. 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. RSVP on the connection card today or email cindy@epworth.com.



PROTOCOL OF RECONCILIATION AND GRACE THROUGH SEPARATION

In January, a recommendation called the "Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation" was presented through a collaborative effort of clergy and laity in the United Methodist Church to help the denomination work through our stalemate on issues of human sexuality in the church. The Protocol will be presented and voted on at General Conference in May. If you would like to learn more about the Protocol and how it impacts the denominations, clergy, and local churches, there are several "Listening Post" opportunities during March. The closest locations are Bowling Green First UMC (**today**, 4:30pm), Perrysburg First UMC (**March 15**, 4:30pm), and Aldersgate UMC (**March 22**, 4:30pm) but other times and locations are available. Sign up at Maumee-Watershed.org and click on the image Listening Posts Spring 2020 or call the district office at 419.897.7770.