

THE EPWORTH TOWER

AUGUST 2020

NEW AT EPWORTH THIS FALL:

Wednesday Oasis & Saturday Worship

Come and be renewed at Wednesday Oasis, a new, weekly Christian education night at Epworth beginning September 9 at 6:30pm. A variety of classes will be offered on Wednesday nights throughout the year. Explore the Bible, anchor in your faith, engage with others, and take a break from your weekly routine.

- Class sizes are limited to 12
- Masks are required in accordance with current mandates
- Socially-distanced childcare will be available with advance notice

Join us on Saturdays for our new Worship Service at 4:30pm with Dr. Swisher in our Chapel. Every Saturday our Senior Pastor will be sharing an inspiring message of faith and hope.

This 30 minute service will be perfect for busy "on the go" people who still want to get a lift of Faith each week. Plan now to attend!

August 2020

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OFFICE HOURS

Our summer office hours are: 9am-3pm, Monday – Friday. We will resume our 9am-5pm hours the Tuesday after Labor Day, September 8. Please practice social distancing to ensure the safety of staff and office guests; hand sanitizing wipes and masks are available as you enter the building.

September Tower Deadline:

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

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:

DR. STEPHEN SWISHER

Senior Pastor

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REV. BETH IRWIN

Associate Pastor

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REV. DAVE PETTENGILL

Pastor of Student and Family Ministries

dave@epworth.com

REV. JENNIFER BAILEY

Pastor of Welcome

jennifer@epworth.com

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.

Sunday Worship

- **8:30AM BLENDED** - A mix of traditional and contemporary styles, with Holy Communion served every week.
- **9:45AM TRADITIONAL** - Steeped in the warm-hearted Methodist tradition featuring choral and organ music. Also available during this hour:
- **11:00AM CONTEMPORARY** - Fast-paced with visuals to illustrate the Bible-based sermons, this service features our praise band.

Saturday Worship

- **4:30PM** - Hear an inspiring message of faith and hope at this 30 minute service with Dr. Swisher in our Chapel. Perfect for those who are busy and on-the-go who still want to get a lift of Faith each week.

Online Worship

- **WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK** - Participate in our worship services every Sunday at 9:45am via facebook, facebook.com/EpworthToledo. Simply tune in and watch and worship with us. If you can't view live at 9:45am on facebook, the message remains accessible on our facebook page throughout the week, OR you can always access any of our streamed sermons 24/7 at Epworth.com/sermons. Tell family and friends and celebrate Sundays with your Epworth Family.

THANKS!

Dear Epworth,
Thank you for your love and support before, during and after my recent hip replacement surgery. Prayers from the pastors and prayer warriors were significant in my recovery! Also your cards and treats provided comfort and levity! Ed and I feel blessed to be part of a warm, caring church family.

Blessings, Carol Bardi

Dear Epworth Friends,
Thank you for all the celebration you gave me for my 90th birthday. It was truly wonderful!

Sincerely, Yvonne Heminger

If you'd like a thank you printed in the next Tower, send your note in an e-mail to communications@epworth.com.

Sympathies recent deaths

- **THE VANCE FAMILY** on the passing of Debbie Vance.
- **THE HENLEY/SMITH FAMILY** on the passing of Ken Henley.
- **THE GIBBONS FAMILY** on the passing of Peggy Gibbons.
- **THE REAMS FAMILY** on the passing of Frazier Reams, Jr.

GENTLE REMINDER

Our community continues the journey through the rise and fall of coronavirus cases in Lucas County. During this time, remember one of the best ways we can love one another and our neighbors is to exercise social distance in worship, wash our hands and use hand sanitizer, and wear a mask or face covering in public.

If you do not feel well or believe you have been near someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, exercise an abundance of love and caution, and stay home. We invite you to worship online Sundays at 9:45am via Facebook at facebook.com/EpworthToledo or 24/7 at Epworth.com/sermons.

Please use your best judgment on whether or not to attend our gatherings. If you feel you should stay home, please don't feel guilty, and know that you are loved. We will continue to offer online worship. Our staff and leaders worked diligently to plan for a safe, pleasant, and meaningful return experience for all of our members, guests and staff. Please visit epworth.com/covid19 to find our worship safety policies and procedures.

NEW WORSHIP SERVICE ON SATURDAY!

On Saturday, **August 1** at 4:30pm, our new Saturday Worship Service began in our Chapel. Each Saturday, Dr. Swisher will share an inspiring message of faith and hope. This 30 minute service will be perfect for busy "on the go" people who still want to get a lift of faith each week. See you there!

DR. SWISHER'S BLADE COLUMN

Dr. Swisher answers questions each week on God, faith, and life in The Toledo Blade Online. Visit eblade.toledoblade.com to read each week's column. Or if you don't subscribe to The Blade, visit epworth.com/bladecolumn.

PASTORAL LETTER & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Hello friends,

Epworth has had a great Summer, even in the midst of the challenges of the world around us, mainly due to your dedication and commitment to Christ and our Church. Thank you for the support, encouragement and participation that you have shown both

online and in person for our numerous Worship services, Mission outreach events, and Discipleship classes.

I am excited about our NEW Saturday evening service in our Chapel each week at 4:30pm beginning August 1 as well as our upcoming Wednesday Night Christian Education Opportunities (Wednesday Oasis) beginning September 9 at 6:30pm. So many of us have missed these deeper opportunities to grow in our faith through a weekly Bible/Discipleship class. I'm very glad we are bringing these added options to our Church and Community. As we look forward to Wednesday evenings this Fall, several of our Associate Pastors will be teaching classes as well as a number of our talented Laity. In addition, I will be teaching a class on "The Origin of the Bible."

Each week I will be responding to questions from our larger Community in the Toledo Blade online, eblade.toledoblade.com. Recent topics have included, *Race Relations in America Today* and *How to Get Rid of Toxic Emotions*. Be sure to check out our Column each week. Of course, we are also airing daily on WTOL CBS Channel 11 with Ministry Moments of Hope and Inspiration.

May God continue to bless you and those you love as together we Proclaim Christ in the Heart of Toledo.

Your partner in mission and ministry,

Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher
Senior Pastor

TRANSITION TO ELECTRONIC GIVING STATEMENTS

One of the many benefits of our new software is the capability to send Giving Statements electronically! This transition will help us save money on postage, paper, ink, etc. For those that have email addresses on file, we will send out the 3rd Quarter Statements electronically in the beginning of October. We understand that not everybody has email capabilities, and/or you may prefer to continue to receive your statements through the mail. If you would like to OPT OUT of receiving your Giving Statement electronically please contact Ashly Gramling via phone at 419.214.3770 or via email at ashly@epworth.com.

#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. Are you interested in providing a testimonial? Contact Tami Norris, at [personal info has been removed] or visit weareepworth.com to submit your story online.

MUD HENS OUTING CANCELLED

The Minor League Baseball Association announced in early July that they will not attempt to hold any regular season games due to ongoing coronavirus restrictions. Epworth's planned group outing to the Mud Hens game on September 6 has been canceled. However, the Mud Hens office is working on some special events to take place this summer at Fifth Third Field. Details are still in the works. If another outing of any kind is a possibility, it will be announced in the reminders and in worship.



[adult Singles]

Single, divorced and widowed adults in the Toledo community are invited to join. Due to the increased covid-19 cases in Lucas county, epworth adult singles ministry is not planning any activities for August. Thank you for your consideration.

ARTS & CRAFTS BAZAAR PLANS



Plans are progressing for the **November 7** annual Arts & Crafts Bazaar. Given the current health related environment, changes will be implemented for the safety of our vendors, shoppers and volunteers. The layout of vendor booths has been changed for social distancing and resulted in the reduction of spaces from 68 to 48. All of those spaces have been filled and there is a waiting list of vendors. Silent Auction solicitation is slated to begin in October. These are the preliminary plans and are subject to change, but we encourage you to make your jam, plan for items to donate, and think about how you will support this effort. Our non-profit recipient organizations need our support. Should the future environment require us to cancel, that decision will be made October 1.



"There is nothing like the deep, long-term relationships that we have built here."

-Ronnie & Doug's Story

God is so good! When Doug and I reflect on the faith journey the two of us have taken we can't help but praise Him and give thanks. This is our story.

When we married we were not naïve. We were well aware the statistics regarding second marriages and the failure rates, especially when children were involved, predicted failure. That was us back then – worried about what would lie ahead of us. Would the boys adjust, would they try to come between us? And yet, worried as we were, we did not make an intentional effort to seek God or invite him into our family. It is fair to say that as young adults, we had drifted way from our faith but our story is about how God never gave up on us.

As a child in rural Missouri, I did not have a strong parental influence when it came to spirituality but even so, I have a recollection of myself as a young child praying every night alone in my room. It was like I had an innate sense that I needed a connection to God. As I got older, a neighbor started taking me to the small, country Baptist church nearby where I quickly became friends with another girl my age. We attended summer church camp together and it was there that I first professed my desire to accept Jesus. This decision was accompanied by all the emotions you would expect from a group of pre-teen girls and I remember it very vividly. The camp counselors told me to return home and talk to my pastor so I did, and soon I was baptized by full-immersion in a cold creek with the congregation on the bridge just a few feet above me singing "Shall We Gather at the River." I remember thinking it was all very reminiscent of a scene from an old movie. It seemed like such an old song, but at the same time, it was comforting to know that the faith that I was now professing had stood the test of time. I felt connected with the past. Now, some 50 years since my childhood friend and I have seen each other, we reconnected on Facebook and I learn she has a son living in the same North Texas town as one of our sons and I feel certain we will get together sometime soon. It amazes me how God works things out in ways we would never predict.

In contrast to my early life, Doug was raised by parents who were steeped in the Methodist tradition and church was a weekly discipline. His father was a lay-speaker who filled the pulpit in the rural churches of North Carolina. His mother was also a strong Christian influence and many times would tell us how she had worn out her knees praying for her boys. No doubt it was God that saw them through the years as the family moved to Queens New York then Washington DC.

Just 3 years into our marriage, a career move for Doug meant we would be moving from Midland, TX to Abingdon, Virginia with the two younger boys. This would certainly put us to the test and this is when we made our conscious decision to seek God. We were experiencing another big change and wanting the best transition possible for the boys we started going to Abingdon United Methodist Church (AUMC). Four years after that, we found ourselves facing another move to Broomfield, Colorado and found ourselves at BUMC. Four years after that, Doug was transferred to corporate in Adrian, MI and while house hunting thought it would be quite fitting if we lived in Clinton, MI so we could continue experiencing the United Methodist churches in alphabetical order, but instead, God led us to Epworth when we decided to live in Toledo. We have been blessed to call this our home for over 17 years now.

On our very first visit to Epworth, we noticed an older couple with the Gorsuch name on their nametags. It didn't take us long to determine that his 2nd great-grandfather and Doug's 3rd great grandfather was the same Gorsuch. How cool was that? We had found distant cousins in our new church family! God just keeps surprising us with the people he puts in our paths.

Our journey into genealogy has also given us an interest in history and we are particularly interested in the medieval and reformation periods. Together we listen to church history lectures – especially on long road trips. It is moving to learn about the many people who have gone before us and stood firm in their faith even in the face of death.

By the time we moved to Toledo, the kids were grown and all the things we worried about thirty years ago never came to pass. The boys all grew to be very well adjusted and responsible adults. Not that we didn't have some challenges along the way, but knowing that we could count on God to help us though made all the difference. And of all the places we could have ended up in the thirty years of career moves, we are so thankful that God has seen fit to keep us here for the past 17 years. While we are thankful for all the church families we have been blessed to be a part of, there is nothing like the deep long-term relationships that we have built here though Sunday school classes, Bible studies, working on service projects, praying and worshipping together. We truly thank God for all of you!

NEW! CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NIGHT AT EPWORTH

Come and be renewed at Wednesday Oasis, a new, weekly Christian education night at Epworth beginning **September 9** at 6:30pm. A variety of classes will be offered on Wednesday nights throughout the year. Explore the Bible, anchor in your faith, engage with others, and take a break from your weekly routine.

- Class sizes are limited to 12
- Masks are required in accordance with current mandates
- Socially-distanced childcare will be available with advance notice; please let us know by August 31

RSVP's and childcare requirements can be sent to Cindy Franklin at cindy@epworth.com. Our first series of classes includes:

The Origin of the Bible

Led by Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher

Ever wondered where the Bible came from, or why certain books were included and others were not? Or maybe you are simply interested in learning more about what would come to be widely considered the most influential book in history. Join us each Wednesday evening as we embark on this adventure of faith and discovery. *Class duration: 4 weeks.*



The Walk: Five Essential Practices of Christian Life, by Adam Hamilton

Led by Rev. Beth Irwin

In *The Walk*, Adam Hamilton focuses on five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is intended as part of our daily walk with Christ while also being an essential part of growing together in the church. Deepen your walk with Christ as we explore the five essential practices of worship, study, serving, giving, and bearing witness to our faith. If you need a copy of the book, please let us know at your RSVP. *Class duration: 6 weeks.*

Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit, by Matthew L. Skinner

Led by Rev. Jennifer Bailey

In the Bible, the Book of Acts illustrates God's grace at work in the world through the lives of the Apostles. In this study, the author explores six key themes that illustrate the ways in which reading Acts is capable of igniting our imagination about the character of the Christian message, the work of God's people (the church), and the challenges of living faithfully in a complex and changing world. *Class duration: 6 weeks.*

*also offered via Zoom on Thursday evenings at 7pm; please select Wednesday or Thursday option when registering

SWAT Wednesday Night Crews

Led by Rev. Dave Pettengill and SWAT Adult Leaders

What are Crews? These are small groups that will help teens work together as they dive deeper into their faith journey. These groups will seek to help teens take that next step in their faith.

For Wednesday Night Crews our Senior High will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays (September 9 and 23) and the Junior High will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays (September 16 only).

You will notice we are hosting Senior High and Junior High on different nights. In light of the Coronavirus, this will enable us to monitor how many teens we are hosting each evening, allow for adequate cleanup, respect families time so it does not require families to make multiple trips if they have both junior and senior high students, and it will enable us to end sooner in the evening. *Class duration: ongoing*

Financial Peace University

Led by Brad Pfeifer

Dave Ramsey began Financial Peace University (FPU) in the 1990s following his own struggles with debt. Today, millions of people have dumped debt, taken control of their finances, and learned new ways of thinking about money with his system. Epworth member Brad Pfeifer is a Ramsey Solutions Master Financial Coach and considers helping others find peace with finances to be a ministry. The newest version of FPU includes viewing curriculum online from home before coming together as a class to work through what you have learned. FPU class kits are \$50; one per household. *Class duration: 9 weeks.*

EPWORTH KIDS: FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL PLAN

Epworth Families,

As the state of Ohio continues to navigate COVID-19, we at Epworth - and specifically within the Children's Ministry - want to assure you, as volunteers and parents, that we strive to take every consideration and precaution to safely interact with your family, as well as our dedicated volunteers, to ensure everyone's health and well-being to the best of our ability. Furthermore, as schools look to develop their re-open plans for this fall amid increased cases of COVID-19 cases in our area, we wanted to update you all on where we are at this moment.



Recently, we sent a survey to over 200 parents and over 50 volunteers asking for feedback as to what you would like to see at this time. Thank you to everyone who participated in sharing feedback with us! Of those that responded, nearly 90% indicated that they are not ready to send their kids to in-person programming. Additionally, only 3 people indicated they were willing to help lead the children's groups if we do return at this time. I think the message is pretty clear: Parents are leery to send their children because little kids aren't great at social-distancing and masks and volunteers are not comfortable leading children yet. Without volunteers or children to lead, Epworth's families aren't ready to take that step in on-campus children's gatherings yet.

Considering your feedback, we are shifting our start to the new program year to offer virtual opportunities for Epworth's Kids. In addition to providing 2 weekly online worship opportunities for your families, we will continue to source the kids at home page, epworth.com/kidsathome with content for parents to use to have faith based conversations with their children. Additionally, our exciting Bible Camp At-Home experience will continue through the end of August.

For families who are ready to attend one of our on-campus family worship services, we are providing weekly worship bags at the entrance to the sanctuary for your children to engage with during worship. These materials change weekly and the two types of bags are designed with both younger and older children in mind. Simply pick one up for each of your children on your way into worship, and then return the used bag to the designated stand so we can ensure each child gets a fresh, clean bag to use.

Be affirmed that as we all navigate these unusual times, there are no right or wrong answers when it comes to what you feel is best for your family. We celebrate that every parent, and family is doing what they feel is best for their family right now and that falls on a spectrum of comfort with face-to-face interaction. Some of you are ready to return to in-person worship and some of you are not. That is okay!

In this time of showing love for our neighbor and our church family by continued social distancing, please join me in praying daily for our medical facilities, our communities, as they work to slow the spread of this virus. Also, pray for our children, whose lives continue to be disrupted by school cancellations and a hiatus from extracurricular events. Pray that they are able to understand that while this certainly feels unfair, and is hard to understand why "all the fun things" are canceled, that those in leadership making these tough decisions are not doing so haphazardly.

Lastly, may we pray for parents who continue to struggle financially due to lost wages and increased childcare costs, and most importantly those who are battling this virus and for the families of the critically ill. May we rest in the arms of our Lord and redeemer knowing He is with us and for us through all our days.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you updated as to when on-campus children's programming will return. Please know that our goal is to continue to find ways to connect with your kiddos in this season - in whatever way works best for your family right now. Parents, please tell your kiddos (whom I love with my whole heart) that I miss them more than I can express and that I am still here for you and for them in any way I can be!

With faith, hope and love,

Mary Roesti
Director of Children and Family Ministries



/EpworthKids

GROW: KIDS & YOUTH

EPWORTH KIDS: AUGUST

Elementary:



We kick off a new program year through our weekly virtual Large Group Sundays at 10am at facebook.com/Epworthkids and digital devotional materials at

epworth.com/kidsathome. Elementary kids will explore our Indescribably Creative God and how He created us in His image!

We describe the life app Creativity this way — Imagining what you could do because you're made in God's image. We will look at how creativity shows up in The Bible and how it can help us lead a faith filled life. To help learn about creativity, the kids will work to memorize this month's memory verse: "Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom." (Psalm 145:3 -NIV) Our prayer is that your kids will learn to tap into their creativity as a way to reflect God in the world around them.

Preschool & Toddler:



We kick off a new program year through our weekly virtual Large Group Sundays at 11am at facebook.com/Epworthkids and digital devotional materials at

epworth.com/kidsathome. Preschool and Toddler kids will explore the Biblical truth: God made me.

Each week we will post interactive Bible stories to teach your child that God created each of us and He loves us all! This hands-on, action packed virtual Bible story time will also help your early childhood children memorize this month's Bible Memory Verse: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139:14 - NIV) Our prayer is that your little one will grow up knowing that God created them for a unique and special purpose and He loves them very much!

LOOK UP!

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

S.W.A.T. CHANGES THIS FALL

With our youth space being called, "The Deep End", we have rebranded using water imagery. Water plays a significant part in our faith such as Jesus being living water and the waters of our baptism. There are also valuable scriptures that remind us to stand firm in the faith, which is where the image of the anchor comes in. One, in particular, is Hebrews 6:19 which says, "This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls." The hope of Christ is what sustains us and enables us to remain firm in the faith. One of the ways this will be reflected is in our programming starting this fall...



Sunday Night Splash 5:30-7pm

Sr. High: Sept 13 & 27 & Jr. High: Sept 20

These nights will include free time for open gym, pool, foosball, ping pong, and more! They will also include a time of worship, learning, and growing together as teens take a step into the waters of faith. These will be great nights to invite a friend!

- Sr. High will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays
- Jr. High will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays

Wednesday Night Crews 6:30-7:30pm

Sr. High: Sept 9 & 23 & Jr. High: Sept 16

What are Crews? These are small groups (based on grade/gender) that will help teens work together as they dive deeper into their faith journey. These groups will seek to help teens take that next step in their faith.

- Sr. High will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays
- Jr. High will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays

You will notice we are hosting Sr. High and Jr. High on different Sunday and Wednesday nights. In light of the Coronavirus, this will enable us to monitor how many teens we are hosting each evening, allow for adequate cleanup, respect families time so it does not require families to make multiple trips if they have both a Jr. & Sr. higher, and it will enable us to end sooner in the evening.

Sunday Mornings

Statistics show the two big factors in teens continuing in their faith after graduation are being active in Sunday morning worship and connecting with adults in the congregation. In light of this, we will not be starting our normal Donuts and the Bible back up this fall. Instead, we will be encouraging teens to attend Sunday morning worship with others in the congregation, to pick one Sunday a month where they will serve in some capacity (we will be giving more direction with this), and then once a month we will have a youth worship service in the Deep End.

Come join us!

BIBLE CAMP HOME-EDITION UPDATE: HOME-TOWN NAZARETH – WHERE JESUS WAS A KID!

We are excited to have over 60 children from nearly 40 families joining us this summer for a re-imagined Bible Camp – Home Edition. We kicked off this program the first week of July and we will continue to make kits available through the end of August. If you have not yet signed your family up, or picked up your week 1 kit, that is totally fine – you still have plenty of time to sign up at epworth.com/biblecamp. Then your kits will be here waiting for you. Remember, there is enough to stress about in the world right now, Bible Camp should NOT be one of them.

We have designed this so your family can work at your own pace. You may be just starting week 1... or you may be ready to move on to week 3 already. Wherever you are in this 5 week journey, you are in the right place for your family!

HAWKINS STEMM ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP

Current and prospective volunteers are invited to attend a celebration of Epworth-Hawkins STEMM Academy Partnership volunteers at Epworth on Friday, August 14 from 10-11:30am. The event will begin with an update on plans for reopening school by Hawkins principal Beth Stretavski, followed by a Q & A with volunteers. Interested volunteers will have an opportunity to join in a brainstorming session about plans for volunteer activities in the 2020-21 school year. The event will conclude with a celebration of the past year; box lunches will be available to take home. According to Hawkins team leader Pat Holmberg all necessary safety measures will be taken, social distancing will be practiced and face masks will be available. The event will be recorded and made available on the Epworth website for those unable to attend.

SCOUTING CORNER

Troop 2 has adapted their program by moving to online Zoom meetings. They worked on the Public Health Merit Badge to learn about how diseases like Covid-19 work. Their weekly sessions were led by Dr. Barbara Saltzman, Pack 149 Den Leader & Epidemiologist at the University of Toledo. Other online Merit Badges and youth training continued online throughout the Spring. In June, the Troop held their Summer Court of Honor, recognizing the accomplishments of the Scouts in the Epworth parking lot with families social distanced and a live online simulcast. In July, 30 Scouts and Scouters did a weekend campout at Camp Miakonda, hiking and practicing their Scout Skills. Then 12 older Scouts and leaders spent 4 days at Camp Frontier in Pioneer, Ohio where their adventures included Archery, Climbing, Boating, and more – all with social distancing and facial coverings. During the last quarter, three Troop 2 Scouts earned their Eagle Scout Rank, including Epworth's own Nick Leopard. Nick recently returned from a two week Canoeing and Service excursion at BSA's Northern Tier High Adventure Camp in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota. Now the Troop is busy planning for safe Fall recruiting and programming. If you know a boy between the ages of 11 and 17 interested in learning more about Scouting, please have their family reach out to Scoutmaster and Epworth member, Michael Holton at [personal info has been removed].

Cub Scout Pack 149 held a socially distanced, drive through Blue and Gold ceremony this spring in Epworth's parking lot. They have participated in an Ohio Trivia Virtual Challenge, a clean up at Toledo Botanical Gardens and a virtual campout with a cooking challenge and even a virtual campfire. One of their summer projects was a school supply drive which will be donated as part of Epworth's school supply drive.

Girl Scout Troop 12168 is a Community Troop which means they are open to girls from grades K-12. They are focused on serving our community. Currently, they are working on ways to engage virtually if they are not able to resume in person meetings this fall.

If you have a child who is interested in scouting, contact Tami at [personal info has been removed]. Include the group they are interested and the child's name and grade level.

EPWORTH PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S DAY OUT



The Epworth Preschool and Children's Day Out Program plans to open for the school year on Monday, August 31. The school will follow all of the updated ODJFS licensing pandemic guidelines with smaller class sizes, daily temperature checks, extra cleaning and sanitizing. Both programs still have a few spots available. For more information, please contact Jane Lyon at jlyon@epworth.com

DONATE CARDS & MAKE PHONE CALLS

Congregation Care wants to amplify ministry to our homebound members with cards and calls. If you have extra greeting cards you are not using, please consider donating them to Epworth for mailing to our homebound members. You can drop them off at the church office between 9am and 3pm Monday through Friday, or bring them with you to church on Sunday if you are attending. Also, if you would like to be part of a phone outreach ministry, please contact Rev. Irwin at beth@epworth.com.

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

Our needs for Feed Your Neighbor the months of August/September are the following:

Canned fruit cocktail, peas, carrots, green beans, corn, vegetable and chicken noodle soup, diced tomatoes, spaghetti, ravioli, peanut butter, cereal, raisins, toilet paper, bar soap.

EPWORTH LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND

Please take a moment to consider the important part you might play in securing the future of Epworth Church. There are many ways to get started and you are invited to explore them.



VEHICLES FOR GIVING :

- A cash gift is tax deductible as provided under current tax law.
- Donations of appreciated publically-traded securities are accepted. This type of gift avoids capital gains tax and allows the maximum tax deduction for the full market value of the gift.
- A bequest in your will is a simple way to leave a lasting legacy.
- A life insurance policy can be changed to designate Epworth as the owner and/or beneficiary of a policy.
- Real estate or tangible personal property can be donated at full fair market value and deducted up to 30% of your adjusted gross income and then sold.
- All or part of retirement fund accounts can be given during your lifetime or at your death.

To inquire about making a legacy gift to the Epworth Legacy Fund, simply contact the Epworth Business office.

FURNITURE MINISTRY

STATISTICS	JULY:	2020:
# Furniture:	152	720
# Families:	13	64
Adults:	15	80
Children:	28	95

Blessings Items Most Needed:

Due to the restrictions of the pandemic, we are presently accepting fewer items: large pots, pans and skillets

GIVE -- SO OTHERS CAN THRIVE

Organizations in our community are facing more need than ever before, and Epworth remains committed to serving our brothers and sisters. This year the Community Outreach Committee is requesting you consider support for 3 organizations that are connected to Epworth members and ministries:



Nightingales Harvest, a cancer family and resource center that helps to lessen the financial burden on cancer patients by providing nutritious foods and toiletries as well as educate patients on healthy recipes and infection control. Items needed: Canned tuna or chicken, peanut butter and jelly, dish soap, hand/bar soap toilet paper.

St. Paul's Community Center provides meals, shelter, social services and programs that help promote self-sufficiency for men and women in need. They are striving to keep their community safe and well during this time, and make adjustments in their serving. Items needed to ensure safety while serving meals: disposable plate, cups, napkins and paper towels, coffee, sugar and cream.

Grace School Supply Pantry, serves 6 schools with 249 teachers and over 2,700 students and includes Hawkins STEMM Academy. With altered schedules, innovative learning, and parents off work or unable to work, these students and teachers will still have supply needs! Items needed: Crayola Crayons (24 ct), Crayola Markers (thin or thick), Composition Notebooks (wide or collage ruled), highlighters, pencils, folder (paper/two-pocket), scissors (child size), loose-leaf notebook paper (wide or college ruled), lined index cards (100 count), colored pencils.

Contribution items can be dropped off, now thru **August 25**, at the Central Avenue entrance during regular office hours, Monday-Friday, or in the lobby on Sunday mornings – carts and bins will be available. Monetary contributions are welcomed and can be made out to Epworth, noting Community Outreach or the organization name(s) in the memo.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Many thanks to EVERYONE who has signed up to be a blood donor on Saturday, **August 22** in the gym. While no walk-ins are being taken that day, a handful of openings remain on the schedule. Please go to redcrossblood.org/give or contact Gordy Krueger at [personal info has been removed]. New guidelines and protocols for blood donation in keeping with the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for social distancing and safety. These include:

- Mandatory masks for volunteers, donors, and staff
- No children/guests permitted; donors only
- COVID-19 protocols and precautions are mandatory reading in the Red Cross donor guide (they are available online as well)

For this blood drive, and while COVID-19 safety guidelines remain in place, our volunteers will welcome donors at the Central Ave. entrance and get them checked in. A few chairs will be available, socially-distanced, but donors may wait in their cars as well and a volunteer will contact them when it is their turn to donate. For more information about COVID-19 protocols and to register for August 22, visit redcrossblood.org/give.

SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER

Epworth's monthly service of healing and wholeness resumes on a new night beginning in September. The service will now take place on the third Monday of each month at 7pm in the Chapel. If you are looking for a quiet, reflective service to bring peace and stillness in times of turmoil, please join us beginning **September 21** for prayer, scripture, and music.

Because many of our healing service attendees have compromised immune systems, masks will be mandatory at this service. Appropriate socially-distanced seating will be arranged in the chapel. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Irwin at beth@epworth.com.

GOOD WORKS MISSION TRIP

Even though our fall mission trip has been cancelled for this year, Good Works in Athens, Ohio continues their work serving people in many ways. Good Works serves lunches to children all summer long. The staff continues serving families with temporary food and shelter at Timothy House. Every week Good Works serve a meal and builds on friendships and relationships in their community. For ten years Epworth has given over 3,000 hours of service to this very deserving mission. We will continue supporting this deserving organization. In September we will be presenting to you how to become involved in our virtual trip. Check out Good Works, Inc. on google for more info.

WELLNESS ARTICLE

2020 has been a stinker, to stay the least. So much of our lives have been disrupted this year. It can wreak havoc on our health and well-being, even while remaining Covid-free. So many of our stress reducers and relievers are lost or harder to use. August is National Wellness Month, dedicated to self-care, managing stress and promoting healthy routines. Are you looking for new activities to replace the loss of old wellness habits? While it may be difficult to maintain your overall wellness, due to closures and restrictions, you can use this time to create wholesome habits in your lifestyles. You can make big differences in your life with small changes:

- Increase your water intake
- Add more fruits and veggies to your meals
- Monitor your sleep and make adjustments for better sleep habits
- Learn to meditate

Small improvements in these areas can pay big dividends in your overall wellbeing! For the adventurous, you can try a month-long Wellness Challenge at wellnessmonth.com.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

We like to think of summer as being a relaxing, enjoyable time. But hurts, struggles, crises – like the Covid-19 pandemic - and problems don't take a vacation. Many times our difficulties seem even worse during the summer because everyone else seems to be enjoying life while you are feeling down. If you are experiencing a difficult time – emotionally, spiritually, or relationally – you don't have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers. It's free. It's confidential. And it will make a difference in your life!

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders (Bobbi Sanders, Paul Schroeder), a pastor, or contact us at stephenministry@epworth.com.



4855 W. Central Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43615-2337

"There is nothing like the deep, long-term relationships we have built here."

-Ronnie & Doug's Story



Read their story
online at
weareepworth.com

#weareepworth