

THE EPWORTH TOWER

FEBRUARY 2021

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

JOIN US FOR



February 2021

- 3 INFO & ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - + Sympathies
 - + Thanks!
 - + Scout Sunday
 - + Ash Wednesday Service Times
- 4 PASTORAL LETTER**
 - + Upcoming Guest Preachers
 - + Summer Golf League
- 5 ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - + Pastor Dave ~ YES FM radio
 - + About Ash Wednesday
 - + Communion Available
- 6 GROW: ALL AGES**
 - + Wednesday Oasis / Lenten Studies
 - + S.W.A.T.
- 7 GROW: KIDS & YOUTH**
 - + Kids Ministry in February
 - + Random Acts of Kindness
 - + Epworth Preschool
- 8-10 SERVE / GIVING**
 - + St. Paul's First Saturday Lunches
 - + Sack Lunch Project
 - + February is Heart Month
 - + Valentines
 - + Furniture Ministry
 - + Hawkins STEMM Academy Partnership
 - + Blood Drive
 - + Outreach & Missions
 - + Feed Your Neighbor
 - + Amazon Smile Donations
 - + Support Altar Flower Fund
 - + Inclement Weather Policy
- 11 CARE**
 - + Healing & Wholeness Service
 - + Stephen Ministry
 - + COVID-19 Vaccine Information

Saturday Worship

- **4:30PM 30-MINUTE WORSHIP SERVICE -** Hear an inspiring message of faith and hope at this 30-minute service. Perfect for those who are on-the-go who still want to get a lift of faith each week.

Sunday Worship


- **8:30AM WORSHIP W/WEEKLY HOLY COMMUNION -** This classic service includes Holy Communion served every week
- **9:45AM CLASSIC -** Steeped in the warm-hearted Methodist tradition featuring choral and organ music
- **11:00AM MODERN -** Fast-paced and featuring our praise band
- **WORSHIP ON TV -** Tune in to WTOL, CBS local **Channel 11** at 11:30am for a televised broadcast of our weekly worship following CBS's top-rated Sunday morning show, Face the Nation.

Online Worship


- **WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK -** Participate virtually in our worship services every Sunday at 8:30 am at [epworth.com/Live](https://www.epworth.com/Live). Simply tune in online and watch and worship with us! If you can't view live at 8:30, the message is rebroadcast on facebook at 9:45 am and remains accessible on our facebook page throughout the week at [facebook.com/EpworthToledo](https://www.facebook.com/EpworthToledo). You can always access any of our streamed sermons 24/7 at [Epworth.com/sermons](https://www.epworth.com/sermons). Invite family and friends and celebrate Sundays with your Epworth Family.

Stay Connected

- **WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER**
Sign up for the weekly e-newsletters!
Go to: [epworth.com/email](https://www.epworth.com/email)
- **OBITUARY NOTIFICATIONS**
Sign up to receive obituary notifications!
Go to: [epworth.com/email](https://www.epworth.com/email)
- **SOCIAL MEDIA**

 /EpworthToledo

 /EpworthChurchToledo

 /EpworthToledo

March Tower Deadline:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2021

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

Our Pastors:

DR. STEPHEN SWISHER

Senior Pastor
steve@epworth.com

REV. BETH IRWIN

Associate Pastor
beth@epworth.com

REV. DAVE PETTENGILL

Associate Pastor
dave@epworth.com

Sympathies ~ recent deaths

- **THE ISAAC/HOMRA FAMILIES** on the passing of Dee Isaac's father, Bill Homra.
- **THE CHRISTENSEN FAMILY** for the passing of Mark's mother.

"SCOUT SUNDAY" FEB. 13 & 14

We are gearing up for Scout Sunday on February 13 & 14. If you are a Girl/Boy/Cub Scout, whether you belong to the troops at Epworth or at another location, we welcome your participation. Contact Tami Norris [personal details removed] for details.

With Appreciation...

FROM PASTOR JENNIFER

Thank you for the generous love offering. I pray you will continue to seek ways to reflect the heart of Christ to our Toledo community.

Fondly,
Jennifer Bailey

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

To my Epworth friends, no... *FAMILY!*

I want to thank everyone who sent a card to my mom, Sue Moesser, in honor of her 90th birthday in November, as well as Thanksgiving and Christmas cards.

Due to some recent health issues, I was finally able to go into her apartment and view the numerous cards! Those with a special note were very kind. Thank you also for writing your first and last name as well as how you know her. The staff told me she received "a lot" of cards but I had no idea how many!! Thank you all!

Love and blessings,
Holly and Brian Bolenbaugh

JOIN US FEB. 17 FOR ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES AT:



- **12:00 NOON**
- **7:00PM** - This evening service will also be live-streamed

Our Promise

Help for today,
Hope for tomorrow,
and a place to call **Home**.



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



A parent helps their young child discover what happened to their first attempt at baking cookies. "Did you read the recipe carefully, sweetheart?" he asks. "Yes, I read it twice before I made the cookies." "But did you follow the instructions?" the parent responds.

Focusing Bible Verse:

"The Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe to do all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success" (Joshua 1:8).

We all know there is a difference between reading directions and following directions. Or to use Biblical terminology, there is a difference between hearing the Word and doing the Word. When God prepared Joshua to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land, He gave them a two-step recipe for success: **Meditate** (read carefully) and **Observe** (make sure to do) the Book of the Law. We would say the precepts of the Bible today. Only by following both steps would Joshua find God's blessing for success.

As we continue through this adventure known as 2021, it is important for us to follow Joshua's example daily by reading the Bible for the specific purpose of knowing God better and becoming more like Him. Reading and following is the recipe for Blessing in every area of life.

Rev. A.W. Tozer, a noted pastor from another generation, put it this way, "The Holy Spirit who inspired the Scriptures expects us to follow the Scriptures." We have a choice to allow the message of faith to go in one ear and out the other as the colloquialism notes. Or we can hear and quickly respond to the message God has for our lives. May we all be known for doing the latter.

Have a Fantastic February full of joy, hope, and blessings.

Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher
Senior Pastor

UPCOMING GUEST PREACHERS

Dr. Swisher welcomes longtime friends to join him at upcoming Worship Services. [Visit our website](#) to learn more about them.



Bishop Will Willimon to Preach on Palm Sunday, March 28 @ 8:30, 9:45 and 11am

Bishop Will Willimon is currently Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Degree Program at Duke Divinity School. He is considered by many one of America's best known and most influential preachers.



Dr. Jocelyn Roper to speak on April 18 @ 8:30, 9:45 and 11am

Dr. Jocelyn Roper is the District Superintendent for the Miami Valley within our West Ohio Conference. Prior to that appointment she served as the Director of Diversity for our West Ohio Conference and the Assistant District Superintendent for Ohio River Valley District.



JOIN THE EPWORTH THURSDAY NIGHT SUMMER GOLF LEAGUE

The Epworth CO-ED Golf League is getting ready for play this summer at Whiteford Valley Golf Club each Thursday beginning May 6. We will play 9 holes every Thursday night for 16 weeks – tee times between 4:45 and 5:30pm. 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 \$224 and must be paid prior to first tee time on May 6. 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 purchased per week. For sign up or more information, contact Adam Schoesler [personal details removed].

BROADCAST DURING SUPERBOWL



Our CBS, WTOL channel 11, Sunday Worship broadcast on February 7 will be preempted due to Super Bowl Coverage. We will resume in our regular 11:30am time slot on February 14. Watch for our Epworth Ministry Moments airing during Super Bowl Pre-Game Coverage this Sunday, February 7 on WTOL Channel 11 at 11:30am and 12pm and on the 11pm CBS Evening News following the Super Bowl.

PASTOR DAVE WILL BE “ON THE AIR” SHARING THE GUT-CHECK DEVOTIONAL ON 89.3 YES FM

Pastor Dave, our Pastor of Student and Family Ministries, will be doing the “Gut-Check” devotional on YES FM Radio on 2/5/21. During the Power 20 Countdown of Christian Rock, Pop, Dance and Hip Hop music, he will be offering a relevant devotional and then the DJ will ask listeners some questions about the topic and why it is important in the faith. Be sure to tune in and listen on 89.3 FM!



ABOUT ASH WEDNESDAY

What is an Ash Wednesday service, and why should I come? Ash Wednesday has been a part of the Christian tradition for over ten centuries, and it marks the beginning of Lent, which is the six-week season of preparation for Easter. The service is marked by the imposition of ashes which signifies repentance (usually in the shape of the cross) which points us to the good news yet to come on Easter morning.

Ash Wednesday is a powerful day in our faith as we are able to openly recognize our sinfulness, our frailty, and stare death in the face as we confess our need of a savior.

So we invite you to join us on Wednesday, Feb. 17 for one of our two services at 12 noon and 7pm, as we begin the Lenten season. The service will also be live-streamed on Facebook and Epworth.com.

HOLY COMMUNION AVAILABLE TO ALL

As you may know, as United Methodists we celebrate Holy Communion in all Worship services the first weekend of every month. In our case, we also observe Holy Communion weekly at our 8:30am Worship Service. We know that many of our friends watch online and on CBS television WTOL Channel 11 and don't necessarily have the elements they need to participate. In an effort to ensure Communion is available to all we would be very happy to mail our self-contained Communion elements to you or a loved one. Simply call the office or email Marla@epworth.com. You may also stop by the Church and pick up the wafer and juice cup at your convenience.



NEW LENTEN OASIS CLASSES BEGIN FEBRUARY 24 — 6:30-7:30pm Wednesdays

HE SET HIS FACE TO JERUSALEM

by Richard B. Wilke

LENTEN CLASS WITH DR. STEPHEN L. SWISHER

Join Dr. Swisher in this six-week study (Feb. 24- Mar. 31) which explores Jesus' commitment to go to Jerusalem. The Gospel of Luke records, "When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51). Join our Senior Pastor as we look at Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and then reflect on how we "set our faces" in life. Go deeper in your relationship with God this Lenten Season through this exciting and enriching Discipleship opportunity.

JESUS AND THE CROSS:

THE BEAUTIFUL GOSPEL

LENTEN CLASS WITH PASTOR DAVE

Maximum participants: 30 (masks covering nose and mouth required)

As a part of Lent, Pastor Dave will be teaching a 5-week class (Feb. 24 – Mar. 24) where we will take a deeper look at who Jesus is and how this is connected to what he accomplished on the cross. We will reflect on how, when we understand the beauty of Jesus and the cross, it not only revolutionizes our lives but also the world. We will be hosting this class in the Deep End for both Adults and Youth. However, due to Covid concerns, we will be limiting the class to 30 people (masks covering nose and mouth required). This is right around 10% capacity for the Deep End so it will give us the ability to socially distance. You will be required to **sign up on the connection card**/or email **cindy@epworth.com** to sign up.

THE GRACE OF LES MISÉRABLES

by Matt Rawle

LENTEN CLASS WITH PASTOR BETH

Maximum participants: 12

In the six-week study, The Grace of Les Misérables, author and pastor Matt Rawle dives into six ideals found in the story—grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope—each represented by a character in Victor Hugo's novel. As these imperfect and relatable characters interact, we can see how these ideals work together (perhaps even in spite of each other) out in the world. Rawle's book is available for download to tablets at Amazon and Cokesbury. Hard copies of the book will be available for \$10. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Beth. NOTE: if you are interested in a Zoom version of this class, please let us know.



STUDENTS WITH A TASK (S.W.A.T.)

The Youth Ministry of Epworth United Methodist Church for Students in Grades 6-12

BIG GAME PARTY! SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 — 6:15 P.M. (6th-12th Grade)

There is a big football game going on this evening and teens in 6th-12th grade are invited to join us in the Deep End for a night of fun. We will have the game on the big screen, teens can also play foosball, ping pong, pool, air hockey, play board games, or just hang out and talk. There will not be food for this event so that teens and adults may keep their masks on during the event.

Our ability to host this event will primarily depend on if we can decrease our New Cases of Covid per Capita. Currently, we are at 723.12 per 100k. I will be emailing an update on Thursday, Feb 4th following the update from the Governor to let you know if we will be holding the event. ~ Pastor Dave

SUNDAY NIGHT SPLASH — FEBRUARY 14, 21, and 28 — 5:30-7:00 P.M. (6th-12th Grade)

We will be doing a new series called "Free People". Sometimes rules frustrate us, yet the right rules can set us free. The Jewish Talmud tells us that there are 613 commandments in the Torah; 248 positive (Do) commandments and 365 negative commandments (Do Nots). Yet when Jesus is asked what is the great commandment, he sums it up by saying "Love God and Love Others as you love yourself". We will be taking a deeper look at this in the book of James in the New Testament, and how this applies to our lives today.

I will be making a decision on Thursday, February 4th if we will be meeting online or in-person for this series based on our "New Cases of Covid per Capita" for our county.

STAY CONNECTED:

If you would like to receive the weekly email update regarding our youth ministry make sure to email Pastor Dave at dave@epworth.com. Also, make sure to follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/EpworthSWAT/>), Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/epworth_swat/) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/SwatEpworth>)

EPWORTH KIDS: FEBRUARY

Elementary:



This month, we continue gathering through our weekly virtual Large Group Sundays at 10 am on the children's Facebook page facebook.com/Epworthkids and digital devotional materials epworth.com/kidsathome. Epworth's Elementary kids will explore

the life app Kindness. We define Kindness as: Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.

Besides Valentine's Day, (to NFL fans at least) February means the Big Game! This is why we chose a sports fan theme to help teach your elementary kiddos more about kindness. We want them to know that every day, you can show others they are valuable by how you treat them. You can be a kindness "super fan" by encouraging others and cheering them on. To help learn about kindness, the kids will work to memorize this month's memory verse: "You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient." (Colossians 3:12) Our prayer is that your kids will look at every new day as an opportunity to be a kindness "super fan" and seek ways to bring light to all they encounter!

Preschool & Toddler:



We will continue gathering through our weekly virtual Large Group Sundays at 11am on the children's facebook page facebook.com/Epworthkids and digital devotional materials at epworth.com/kidsathome. Epworth's Preschool and

Toddler kids will explore the Biblical truth: Jesus loves me.

The month of February is synonymous with love so each week we will post interactive Bible stories, and follow-up activities to help your child explore the greatest love of all—Jesus' love for us! This hands-on, action-packed virtual Bible story time will also help your early childhood kiddos memorize this month's Bible Memory Verse: "A friend loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17) It is our prayer that your little one will discover the amazing truth about who Jesus is! This is why we chose the big sandbox for our theme; We want every child to know that Jesus is their friend, and He is inviting them, all of them, because he loves them. Everyone can play in the big sandbox! It is our prayer that when preschoolers hear Jesus say "Let the children come to me". they will also hear Jesus loves me!

EPWORTH KIDS PERFORM RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Each year Epworth's Children's Ministry team challenges your children to express Random Acts of Kindness (RAK). In the past, the kids have done everything from preparing a free luncheon, creating hand-made goodie bags, and handing out hand-printed prayer stones. We are so proud to share that despite the challenges of

the pandemic, your kids once again accepted the RAK challenge to share love and light with our Epworth congregation!

This year, the Children's Team challenged the kids to draw pictures or create home-made cards for folks who could use some extra smiles.



These kind creations will be added to care packages the Wellness Team plans to deliver around Valentine's Day.

We want to thank all the children who participated in this RAK challenge. We are so proud of each of you and your willingness to spread smiles and kindness to your community!

EPWORTH PRESCHOOL AND CDO NOW ENROLLING FOR 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Beginning February 1, 2021 Epworth families will have the privilege to begin enrolling their children in Epworth Preschool or Children's Day Out (CDO).

CDO is a one-day-a-week program for children who are 2 or 3. They may not turn 4 during the school year. The program strives to provide a safe and caring Christian environment and an opportunity for children to participate in activities, craft, stories, music, and large motor play while developing social skills. Tuition is \$70 per month with a \$50 nonrefundable registration fee.

Preschool is a half day preschool program that helps children develop physically, academically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually in a Christian play-based environment. Children must be 3 years of age by September 30, 2021 and must be potty trained. Children may attend 2, 3 or 4 half days sessions (9-11:30am or 12:30-3pm). There is also an option of Extended Care which provides an extra hour to the school day. Please check out the brochure in the lobby or online to see the different class times and costs.



Parents may also attend an Open House on Sunday, February 7 from 1-3 pm to visit the classrooms and meet teachers or contact Jane Lyon (jlyon@epworth.com) to schedule a tour/visit.

FIRST SATURDAY LUNCHES

ST. PAUL'S FIRST SATURDAY LUNCHES

Epworth serves lunch the first Saturday of each month at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Currently we are dropping off the meals and the staff serves for us. We will serve them again ourselves when it is deemed safe. If your

Wesley group, department at work, Sunday School class or family is willing to help with serving in 2021 please contact Tami Norris at [personal details removed] to sign up.

SACK LUNCH PROJECT

Epworth continues to serve our community through the Sack Lunch Project hosted by St. Paul's United Methodist Church. This program provides a sack lunch, including a hot portion, along with coffee, to our homeless community and others who

food insecure. Epworth volunteers continue to meet at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, every Wednesday at 8:30am to prepare sandwiches, veggies and dip, snacks, coffee and package up the hot portion of the meal. From 10:00-11:30am several members of the team remain to pass out the meals. If you are interested in joining this ministry, need additional details, or there are days other than Wednesdays you would be willing to volunteer, please contact Jennie@epworth.com

THANK YOU to all who have volunteered, contributed funds, water and coffee – you have blessed this community and ministry beyond measure!



HELP WRITE VALENTINES FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS



Can you take a few minutes to sign Valentines for our homebound members?

The Congregational Care and Wellness Team have prepared beautiful postcards and we just

need to add a personal touch. It's a simple, but meaningful, task. Please take a few cards, sign a short, "Thinking of you, Happy Valentine's Day" or, "Praying for you, your Epworth Family," then return them to the office by Caring Sunday on February 7. We will see to the delivery of the cards by Valentine's day. What a great way to let our homebound members know they are loved and missed!



FEBRUARY IS HEART MONTH

For more info, email Pastor Beth at beth@epworth.com.

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

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

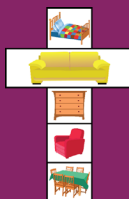
Thank you for your continuing support of Epworth Furniture Ministry!

Items needed for blessings area: toasters, crock pots, coffee makers, twin comforters

STATISTICS

JANUARY: 2021:

Families:	15	15
Adults:	16	16
Children:	13	13
Furniture:	133	133





HAWKINS STEMM ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP

The Epworth-Hawkins Partnership Leadership Team is pleased to announce the formation of the **Community STEMM Connection (CSC)**, a collaborative partnership among Hawkins STEMM Academy, Metroparks Toledo, Epworth UMC, and TPS Aerospace and Natural Science Academy. The presence of significant community collaborations is a requirement for STEMM Academies in Ohio. CSC, with its mission of fostering learning that will promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and inquiry-based learning for the students of Hawkins, is well equipped to fulfill this goal. Members of CSC have been meeting monthly since October 2020 to plan activities for Hawkins students. The Epworth-Hawkins Partnership is excited to be a part of CSC and we look forward to involving Epworth volunteers later this year.



GIVE BLOOD ON MARCH 6

**New Protocols, Same Needs –
Mark Your Calendar!**

The American Red Cross needs you now more than ever. Epworth is hosting a blood drive on **Saturday, March 6 from 9am to 2pm** in the gym. The Red Cross has established guidelines and protocols for blood donation in keeping with the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for social distancing. This includes:

- Donor areas and waiting areas set up to allow for 6 feet of social distancing. Only donors will be permitted at the blood drive. No guests will be permitted.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at check-in, health history, and refreshment areas.
- The temperatures of staff, volunteers, and donors will be checked before entering the drive. Anyone with a temperature greater than 99.5°F will not be able to donate or volunteer.
- Everyone – staff, volunteers, and donors – will be required to wear masks or face coverings. Disposable coverings will be available at the drive, or you may bring your own.
- Donor beds will be disinfected between donors; common areas at the blood drive will also be disinfected.
- For the wellness and safety of all involved, at this time, walk-in donors will not be permitted. A time to donate must be scheduled.
- Donor education materials have been expanded to include information on COVID-19. All donors will be required to read them.

The American Red Cross will do everything possible to keep staff, volunteers, and donors well so that then can continue giving the gift of life to those who need it. For more information about COVID-19 protocols for blood donation, and to register to donate at Epworth's blood drive visit redcrossblood.org. You can also email **Gordy Krueger** [personal details removed] to register.

THANK FOR YOUR SERVICE AND YOUR GIVING!

Outreach / Mission Committee

The year 2020 will be remembered for many things, but let's reflect on and be grateful for how Epworth members and extended family showed an abundance of generosity by providing for others in our community and beyond! There were needs addressed and ministries supported through contributions made by Community Outreach and Missions – and some early on when there was the perception that 2020 would be just another year. That changed quickly with the onset of COVID-19, and immediate community needs became a focus.

Connecting with our current community partners and understanding how we could help and then holding collections, allowing contributors to safely drop items off at Epworth's office or designate a contribution, made giving an easy option to make a difference. Epworth members and extended family generously responded to and supported these requests which blessed so many in our community and far beyond!

Through your contributions Epworth continued its history of giving to specific ministries and partners such as: Epworth Furniture Ministry, Hawkins STEMM Academy, Feed Your Neighbor, St. Paul's Community Center, Family House, Good Works, Heifer International, Grace Children's Hospital (Haiti) – just to name a few. Epworth was also able to partner to address a specific need, brought on by current pandemic circumstances and in partnership with St Paul's UMC and the District, to serve those each Wednesday, that suffer from food insecurity and are unable to currently receive meals from area shelters due to restrictions.

We look forward to sharing more details and celebrating the generosity of our members and extended family throughout 2021. An annual report of giving will soon be shared, highlighting ministries we serve that are providing hope and change in our community and our world. Other communications will include information on our partnerships, who we serve and why our church family should be connected to these ministries. Again, thank you for making a difference in our church, in our community, nationally and globally. "For it is giving that we receive"

– St. Francis of Assisi



FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to the generous spirit of Epworth for their donations to *Feed Your Neighbor*. For the month of February they would like the following:

- ☐ Regular jars of peanut butter
- ☐ Saltine crackers
- ☐ Ramen packages
- ☐ Small cans beef stew
- ☐ Pinto bean dry or cans
- ☐ Kidney beans
- ☐ Egg noodles
- ☐ Canned spinach
- ☐ Canned carrots

If you have any questions contact Carol Bardi at [personal details removed].

DONATE TO EPWORTH EVERY TIME YOU SHOP ON AMAZON!



Now, you can support Epworth every single time you purchase something on Amazon! When you sign up for AmazonSmile and select Epworth as your charitable organization, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Epworth. AmazonSmile is exactly the same as regular Amazon, it has the same products, prices & services, only now you're supporting Epworth at the same time! To sign up, go to: **smile.amazon.com/ch/34-4428652** and select Epworth as your charitable organization, then start shopping! If you have any questions, or would like a direct link, contact Laura in the church office at **laura@epworth.com**.

SUPPORT THE ALTAR FLOWER FUND

Contributing flowers for the Sunday altar is a special way to support Epworth and honor loved ones, past or present. Flowers enhance our experience of weekly worship while providing a beautiful tribute to the special people and events in our lives. We have some available dates for Altar Flower



donations. If you would like to honor a loved one, or celebrate a special occasion, by donating a flowers for a Sunday worship, please contact Cindy in the office at **419.214.3777** or **cindy@epworth.com** to find out what dates are available. Your support is much appreciated!

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

The Church building closes if there is a Level 3 Snow Emergency in Lucas county!

Activities, Classes & Volunteers:

- Canceled if Sylvania Schools close.
- Will be re-evaluated again at 3pm regarding evening activities. The staff person in charge of that activity will make the decision and will contact those persons involved.

Epworth Preschool:

- Canceled if Ottawa Hills Schools close.*
- 1 hour delay: Preschool opens on time.
- 2 hour delay: Preschool morning classes canceled, afternoon classes will meet.

** The preschool reserves the right to cancel classes regardless of Ottawa Hills schedule, should extenuating circumstances arise.*



@epworthtoledo



HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE – FEBRUARY 8

Because of the Presidents' Day holiday, Epworth's monthly service of healing and wholeness will move to Monday, February 8 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 on 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, or would like to join the team, please contact Pastor Beth at beth@epworth.com.

STEPHEN MINISTRY *Valentine's Day ~ Happy or Sad ???*

For most people Valentine's Day is a happy day. But, for some it is a painful reminder of a broken relationship, a recent relocation, a chronic illness, the death of a loved one, or another life challenge. If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring Jesus' love (God's ultimate Valentine) back into your life. Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will "meet" with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, to support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your struggle.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with our Stephen Leaders or Stephen Ministers (they wear blue name tags), a pastor, or contact us at stephenministry@epworth.com.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION *from Pastor Beth and the Epworth Wellness Team*



The State of Ohio has a plan for the vaccinations of all Ohioans who wish to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. You can view the state's website that contains the information at [https://](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-program)

coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-program

There is a Frequently Asked Questions section that covers a lot of information on the vaccine. For instance:

- It requires two doses to complete vaccination, and the time period between is approximately 3–4 weeks

- Your second dose should come from the same manufacturer that produced your first inoculation, as they are not interchangeable

On this site, the state goes over the three phases of the vaccination plan:

Phase 1: Limited Supply (Split into 2 sub-phases)

1-A At this time, the vaccine is intended for high-risk populations: healthcare workers, EMS personnel, Ohioans living and working in group homes (nursing facilities, substance abuse facilities, and veteran homes)

1-B Other at-risk populations can now receive the vaccine: Ohioans 65 and older, Ohioans with severe congenital, developmental, or early-onset, and inherited conditions, Ohioans with medical conditions placing them at higher risk, and adults/employees working in K-12 education.

Phases 1A and 1B are planned to run through the end of February 2021.

Phase 2: Supply Increasing

As the supply increases, other at risk Ohioans will have the opportunity to receive the vaccinations. The vaccine is not yet available for all Ohioans.

Phase 3: Widely Available

When the vaccine is widely available, then all Ohioans will be offered the opportunity to receive the vaccine.

If you are curious what is myth and what is fact regarding the vaccine, the State of Ohio walks you through that:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-program/19-vaccine-myths-vs-facts>

Epworth 
United Methodist Church
4855 W. Central Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43615-2337

Help for today,
Hope for tomorrow,
and a place to call **Home**.

Epworth United Methodist Church