

SITTER TRAINING

Epworth Children's Ministry is holding a sitter training on Sunday, **February 23**, from 11am-Noon in the nursery for any youth, junior high or older. Sitters will be trained on safe sanctuary protocol, basic infant and childcare practices, emergency procedures, as well as how to use the church's phone system. Once trained, these youth would join our paid childcare team to help provide a nurturing Christian environment where parents can feel safe leaving their children so they can fully participate in the life of the church. For more information, or to register to attend the training, email childcare@epworth.com.

TOUCH-A-TRUCK PLANNING TEAM

The snow is flying, but Epworth's 9th Annual Touch-A-Truck Event will be here before you know it; and we need your help! Touch-A-Truck one of the largest outreach events of the year. We are in need of individuals willing to give their time and talent by joining the Touch-A-Truck planning team. Sign up on the connection card. It's a short 12 - 15 week commitment that starts in February and ends with the event on **May 9**. If you are interested in joining the team, or have a cool vehicle you'd like to show off, please contact Adam at adam.schoesler@bex.net.

NEW CARE MINISTRY AREA!

God calls us to take care of one another. Epworth continues to grow and develop a system of caring for the congregation and the community. Below are details of the newest opportunity for you to serve in caring ministries:



Visiting Hearts Hospital & Rehabilitation Visitor Team:

This new ministry area assists the pastors with visits to Epworth members in the hospital and inpatient rehabilitation. Because the needs of this ministry area vary month to month, a flexible schedule is appreciated. Visiting Hearts will collaborate with the pastors and lay parish visitor to provide prayer and encouragement to those with extended hospital and rehab stays. For more information, contact Pastor Beth at beth@epworth.com.

HEALING & WHOLENESS SERVICE



On Tuesday, **February 18**, join us in the Sanctuary for this monthly service that provides an opportunity for prayer, reflection and meditation. Come and pray for your own needs, for those of loved ones, or for the community and the world. The service includes music, scripture reading and anointing with intercessory prayer (if desired).

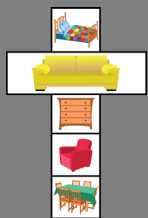
FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

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.

Again, your generosity is greatly appreciated!

FURNITURE MINISTRY



BLESSINGS ITEMS NEEDED:

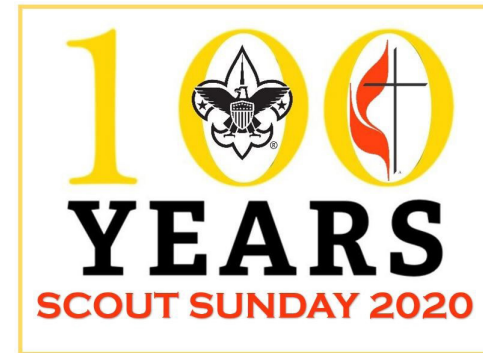
*crockpots, toasters
and large cooking
pots*

STATISTICS

	JANUARY:	2020:
# Furniture:	102	102
# Families:	9	9
Adults:	11	11
Children:	13	13

WEEKLY REMINDERS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020



Scout SUNDAY

Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts and Adult Leaders are today's worship participants! Scouts will be serving in roles as Acolytes, Communion Servers, Greeters, Scripture Readers and Ushers. Join us in thanking and appreciating all our Scouts today!

BEGINNING OF LENT 2020:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper | February 25 | 5-7pm

We will be serving all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage to support S.W.A.T. Student Ministries in the gym. Purchase tickets with cash or debit/credit at the door, but group table reservations are available by emailing Pastor Dave at dave@epworth.com. Carry-out is available at no extra charge. The cost is: \$8/adults, \$4/kids 4-11, Free, kids 3 & under, \$20/household. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors, everyone is welcome!

Ash Wednesday | February 26 | 12 noon & 7pm

Ash Wednesday has been a part of the Christian tradition for over ten centuries, and it marks the beginning of Lent, which is the six-week season of preparation for Easter. The service is marked by the imposition of ashes 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. We invite you to join us for one of our two services at 12 noon and 7pm, as we begin the Lenten season.

Today, February 9, Bishop Gregory V. Palmer of the West Ohio Conference is preaching. Next Sunday, February 16, Scot Ocke, District Superintendent of the Maumee Watershed District will be preaching.



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.

THANKS FROM PASTOR DOUG

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

-Pastor Doug, Wes, and Clay Damron



CURRENT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES:

Please visit epworth.com/biblestudies for general descriptions of each study/group.

- **9:45am | Adult Bible Study | 214**
Currently studying: Adam Hamilton's *The Walk* focuses on practicing five spiritual disciplines that draw us closer to God: worship and prayer, study, serving, giving and sharing. It promises to be a very interesting study. All are welcome.
- **9:45am | Coffee & Conversation | 213**
- **9:45am | Connecting Point, 18-25 years | 205**
- **9:45am | Donuts & The Bible, 6-12th grade | 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: Wide Angle: Framing Your World View

NEW BIBLE STUDIES:

- **6:45-8pm | Embracing Prophets in Contemporary Culture | Deep End**
Weds, Feb 19-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. Childcare provided by request. Sign up on connection card.
- **7-8:15pm | The Walk | Deep End**
Thurs, February 27-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. 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 beth@epworth.com or sign up on the connection card.

PARENT CONNECTIONS: EUCHRE NIGHT

We'll get started on Friday, **February 21**, about 6pm with some excellent food and move on to the games shortly thereafter. Dinner will be provided. This is a very laid-back evening - so don't be worried about being a professional Euchre player! You don't need a partner - but you do need to know how to play. You will play with lots of different partners and enjoy some fellowship along the way. No serious players allowed! Because this night tends to run a little late, usually until 10pm, no childcare will be provided for this event. Sign up on the connection card or RSVP to Cindy at cindyj222@bex.net by Mon., February 17.



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.

February 12: at Karen Wyckoff's 1959 Pinedale, Toledo, OH RSVP to KarDav4@aol.com.

ADULT SINGLES

Single, divorced, and widowed adults in the Toledo community are invited to join. RSVP to Nancy Hauer at hauer.nancy@yahoo.com or call 419.885.4595. The next opportunities to join us are:

February 11: 12 noon - Lunch - The Grill (Lourdes University, (6832 Convent Blvd, Sylvania). Cost: \$9, all-you-can eat.

ALTAR FLOWERS

A donation was made to the altar flower fund this Sunday by the Danziger Family in loving memory of Ed Danziger.