

we three trees: advent giving

This project is inspired by the three Magi, who traveled to meet the baby Jesus with precious gifts to honor and worship him. The three giving trees will be located in the lobby hallway and will be decorated with tags to take home and shop for our neighbors that need assistance.

- **OUR FIRST MAGI GIVING TREE** will be dedicated to providing new hats, socks, scarves, mittens, and gloves to provide warmth to many Toledo neighbors this winter season. The Sunday School children will also be collecting items for this tree as their sharing project throughout Advent. Please place items directly on the tree by next Sunday, **December 22**.
- **OUR SECOND MAGI GIVING TREE** will focus on collecting a \$25 Gift Card to Target or Meijer to reward Hawkins Elementary students who have shown the most growth in their new computerized literacy program. The gift cards will be given to the top boy and girl in each class in the name of the Hawkins Epworth partnership. Please return gift cards before next Sunday, **December 22**.
- **OUR THIRD MAGI GIVING TREE** will provide opportunities to bless families transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing through Leading Families Home. Please purchase an item or items from the list on the tree "ornaments" and return unwrapped on or before next Sunday, **December 22**.
- **ADVENT BAGS** we are collecting grocery bags full of daily household supplies for three local community agencies: St. Paul's Community Center, YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter, and Lifeline Toledo. The bags have 2 lists stapled to them - one to take off and take to the store with you to aid you in your shopping, and one to label which agency to return to. You don't need to get all the items -- just fill it up and return by next Sunday, **December 22**.



If you are unable to shop and would like a Christmas elf to do it for you, we are gladly accepting monetary donations. Please mark them "Advent donations". Let's celebrate this wondrous Christmas season by bringing gifts to assist our local community as the three Magi did for baby Jesus so many years ago. Please contact Susan at susan.kanwal@gmail.com with any questions.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Heifer international provides livestock, trees, training and other resources to help poor families in the USA and around the globe. A donation pays for livestock and technical training in animal management and care. This is a great gift idea for those hard-to-buy for people on your list. Stop by the info table in the Lobby on Sundays through **today**. If you have questions, email Rob Wilson at wilson717@sbcglobal.net.

ST. PAUL'S: DONATE HAMS FOR A CHRISTMAS DINNER

Thank you for helping St. Paul's Community Center as they prepare and serve a Christmas meal to people without homes in our community. Mark your ham (tradition or football style) and put it in the church refrigerator. Hams will be delivered to St. Pauls through next Monday, **December 23**.

ST. PAUL'S FIRST SATURDAY LUNCHES

Epworth members and friends, you are invited to be the hands and feet of Christ to those who are in need of a warm meal. Groups from Epworth prepare and serve lunch at St. Paul's Community Center the first Saturday of each month. We plan to serve around 30 people at these meals. We are currently looking for group to serve in 2020. Please contact Carol Shanteau at 419.841.5859 or Tami Norris at tanorris2001@yahoo.com to volunteer.

mission statement:

To embrace people exactly where they are and empower all to know, love, and serve God through Jesus Christ.

stay connected to **epworth church**

epworth.com    @epworthtoledo

WEEKLY REMINDERS

Sunday, December 15, 2019



The real gifts of
Christmas aren't
under the tree.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

5pm | Children & Family

7pm | Contemporary Candlelight*

9pm | Traditional Candlelight

11pm | Traditional Candlelight*

**communion served*

INVITE A FRIEND TO EPWORTH!

Stop for a moment and think back to what first brought you to Epworth. For many of you it may be that you knew someone who invited you. A personal invitation is one of the most effective ways of bringing someone to church. Therefore, we have made available business-sized cards you can use when inviting people to join us for Christmas Eve worship. You will find them as you leave the sanctuary today. Take a few invitations and some time to think of family, friends, or neighbors in your life looking to re-discover with us, that the best gifts are already ours. Please also consider sharing the invitation on your social media pages, find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Our handle is @epworthtoledo for all three social media sites.

WE'RE HIRING: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Interviews will be taking place in January 2020 for the position of **administrative assistant** in the Epworth Church office. Resumes are now being accepted for this part-time position of 25-30 hours/

week, Monday-Friday.

We are looking for applicants with a helpful, positive outlook; proficient in office management, word processing software and database management; flexibility in a dynamic environment; and strong organizational skills. Minimum one year of experience or business school; proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite; and excellent interpersonal skills are required. Experience with Adobe InDesign or Microsoft Publisher a plus. For more details, visit us online at epworth.com/hiring. Please submit your resume to jobs@epworth.com by **TODAY**.

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 -- We will re-evaluate again at 3pm regarding evening activities. The staff person in charge of that activity will make the decision and will contact those persons involved.

Preschool (ECEC & CDO):

- 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.

BODY RECALL+:

- Canceled if Ottawa Hills schools close.

FULL TRANSITION TO E-TOWER - JANUARY

Over the past several years, we've received inquiries as to why we are still allocating so much of your generous blessings to Epworth on sending *The Tower* via mail? With this question in mind, the Communications Committee did an in-depth cost analysis and concluded *The Tower* costs Epworth over \$16,500/year. We feel this considerable amount of money could significantly contribute to other, more impactful areas of ministry and have decided beginning **January 2020**, we will move to a full transition to an electronic version of *The Tower*. If you would rather receive the printed version in the future, call Marla at 419.214.3766 to be removed from the e-list and added to our hard copy, mailed list. We will also continue to print a few dozen copies that will be available in the lobby. Please keep in mind, this is not a full paperless transition. You will still receive important letters and announcements from the pastors and Ad Council at Epworth via U.S.P.S.

FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY

Next Sunday, **December 22** is a Family Worship Sunday, when we encourage children and youth to worship in the Sanctuary with their families. It is an important aspect of their spiritual growth and enriches worship for the entire congregation.

PICKLEBALL

Calling all tennis, ping pong, racquetball players! Join us for Pickleball in the gym Monday nights from 7-9pm. Get some exercise and learn a fast growing sport. Come try it out! We have everything you need, PLUS fun and fellowship with your church members.

ALTAR FLOWERS

A donation was made to the altar flower fund this Sunday by Jennie Vancil in honor of Adrian & Jason Whitney.

FAMILY CAROLING: TODAY!

Please join us for this annual fun family outing! We will meet in the church lobby **TODAY** at 3pm and travel by cars to area Assisted Living/Nursing homes. Wear your fun holiday gear, all are welcome! This event is for the whole family and all levels of singing ability are appreciated. We should be done by 5 or 5:30pm. RSVP to dave@epworth.com.



THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE



The holiday season and long nights of winter can amplify feelings of grief and loss. Whether you have recently lost a loved one, or it's been years, their absence can make the Christmas season difficult. Missing a loved one,

facing major family changes or illness, and navigating job losses or job change are just a few things that can take the joy from the season. Our Longest Night Service is a different Christmas service – one of scripture, music, quiet reflection, and candle lighting to drive away darkness and to help heal the wounds of loss. Join us on Tuesday, **December 17** at 7pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome, and please invite a friend.

FRIENDS IN FAITH: BOOK CLUB

Everyone is welcome to join us for the Book Club! Join us the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7pm for lively discussion and dessert! Meet at June Galvin's house (3641 Christie Blvd, Toledo.) RSVP to jargalvin@yahoo.com. On Tuesday, **December 17**, join us for a Christmas Party – No Book Discussion. See future book titles at epworth.com/fif.

SAVE-THE-DATE: JANUARY 12

'Every Brilliant Thing' takes us on a theatrical journey through grief, healing, and (re)discovering all that life has to give with open conversation about mental illness and suicide. More info to come! Email Mary@epworth.com with questions.

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 opportunity to join us is **today** at 12:30pm-Holiday Brunch, Brandywine Country Club, 6904 Salisbury Rd, Maumee. Cost \$16.95.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES:

- **9:45am | Adult Bible Study | Rm 214**
Who Needs Christmas by Andy Stanley. Join the conversation of why the improbability of the Christmas story is what makes it so believable. The story of Jesus' birth was not what anyone expected: a baby born to save us from sins that no one thought we needed saving from.
- **9:45am | Coffee & Conversation | Rm 213**
This class discusses modern day issues & current events, and examines the teachings of Jesus in light of them.
- **9:45am | Connecting Point | Rm 205**
A group for post high school through mid-twenties that provides a place to connect with peers and discuss issues relevant to this stage of life.
- **11am | Sermon Notes | Rm 214**
Discussion around individuals understanding of the scriptures' relevance to their journey.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 20 from 7-9pm in the deep end, all junior high and senior high students are invited and encouraged to bring a friend! Make sure to bring a snack to share, wear an ugly sweater for our ugly sweater contest, and bring some new fun/silly socks for our sock exchange! We'll also enjoy Christmas movie festivities, so we hope to see you there.