

APRIL 2021

THE EPWORTH TOWER

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



**FRIDAY
NIGHT FLIX**

*Mark your calendars now for
Fourth Friday Night Flix all summer long!*

Save the Dates: May 28, June 25, July 23, Aug. 27, and Sept. 24

April 2021

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May Tower Deadline:

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

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

In Person Worship

Saturday:

- **4:30pm 30-minute Worship Service:** Hear an inspiring message of faith and hope at this 30 minute service in the Sanctuary.

Sunday:

- **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.
- **Starting Sunday, April 11 -- 6:00pm 30-minute Worship Service:** Hear an inspiring message of faith and hope at this 30 minute service in the Chapel.

Livestream Worship

Website & Facebook:

Watch our worship online at epworth.com/live or on our facebook page at facebook.com/epworthtoledo:

- **Sunday at 8:30am:** LIVE!
- **Sunday at 9:45am:** Rebroadcast of 8:30am worship service

Television Broadcasts:

- **Sunday at 11:30am** - WTOL-CBS Channel 11 - televised broadcast of last weeks' worship.
- **Starting April 4 -- Sunday at 8:30pm** - WLMB -Toledo's religious independent TV station - televised broadcast of last weeks' worship. [Dish channel 40, Local channel 6.]

Archive Worship

If you missed the message live, all of our worship services are available at any time and on the go!

- **Podcasts:** We stream our worship services on apple, spotify, and google podcasts. Visit epworth.com/podcast for links.
- **Website:** Access any of our previously streamed sermons 24/7 at epworth.com/sermons.

Our Pastors:

DR. STEPHEN SWISHER

Senior Pastor

steve@epworth.com

REV. BETH IRWIN

Associate Pastor

beth@epworth.com

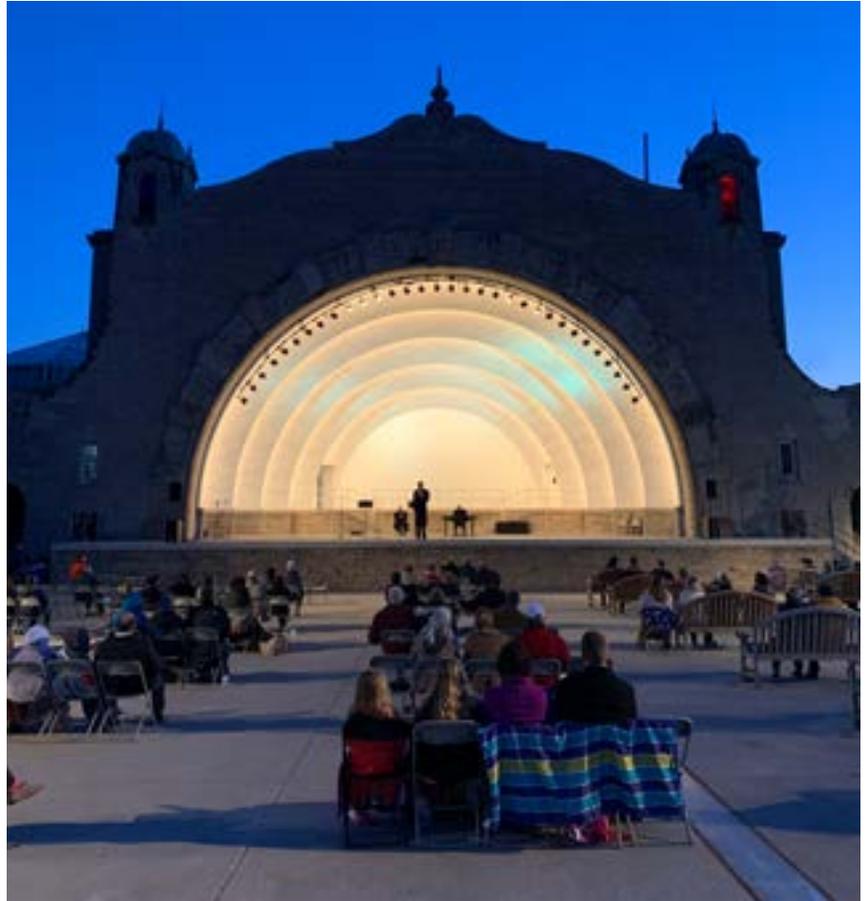
REV. DAVE PETTENGILL

Associate Pastor

dave@epworth.com

A BIG THANK YOU!

A special THANK YOU to the many volunteers and each of you who made our Holy Week and Easter Sunday such a huge Success!! These services honored God and celebrated our Faith in Him and each other. We couldn't have done it without each of you! For all who have asked the Toledo Zoo and Aquarium is reserved for our Easter Sunrise Service next year April 17, 2022!!



DR. SWISHER ON WLMB

Dr. Swisher will appear LIVE on WLMB TV 40 at 8:30pm on Sunday, **April 11** as a part of their Share-a-thon for Christian Television. Be sure to tune in as he visits with WLMB Founder and President Jamey Schmitz.



Sympathies recent deaths

- **THE SUTHERLAND FAMILY** on the passing of Dr. Gerry Sutherland.
- **THE DAVEY FAMILY** on the passing of Dick Davey.
- **THE WEIKEL FAMILY** on the passing of Dr. Keith Weikel.
- **THE WRAMAGE FAMILY** on the passing of Stephanie Wramage's father.
- **THE RHOLLANS FAMILY** on the passing of Jim Rhollan's mother.

THANKS!

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported us during Lynn's recovery from hand surgery --through food, rides, notes, and prayers. We feel blessed to be part of such a caring community.

- John and Lynn Bachelor

Words cannot express how thankful we are for all the support you gave our family throughout pregnancy and maternity leave – it certainly has been an unusual year! All the meals, phone calls, emails, cards, and gifts for baby Zander were so unexpected and gracious, it's truly meant the world to us. We look forward to being able to bring Zander into the church to meet many of you as soon as we can!

With heartfelt thanks,

-Laura, Scott, and Zander Seaman

PASTORAL LETTER & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Hello friends,

This month brings us the most important celebration of the Christian year... Easter! Yes, the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead and the opportunity of New Life for all of us.

I was speaking to one of our longtime Church members the other day who is returning to Toledo from a Southern State. She said "I love Toledo in the spring because it so clearly depicts new life and Resurrection through the beauty of nature." That concept is summed up in Jesus words "I am the resurrection and the life." Our life as believers is intertwined with this reality of eternity.

When Jesus said those iconic words, "I am the Resurrection and the life," he uttered the most significant statement in all of human history because it gives us hope for the future. Further He set in motion and spiritual and cosmic reality that could never be reversed, changed or defeated. That means because Jesus lives forever, so will you and those you love.

One of my best friends and an Epworth Church member for nearly a half Century transitioned from this life the other day. Dr. Keith Weikel has been a Senior White House advisor to the Nixon, Ford and Carter Administrations. He later became the CEO of a major Healthcare organization. I have included a photo of us together at his home from last Summer. It was difficult to see him go but I'm thankful as Christians we know death is really only the beginning. Our last breath here is our first breath in another dimension, another reality we call Heaven.

This revelation and concrete fact of victory in life, in death and in life beyond death is a direct result of Jesus' triumph on Easter Sunday morning. We know that as Believers we are on a journey and one day that journey will lead us home to Heaven.

In the meantime we have much work to do. One way to be equipped for this work is to attend each opportunity for Worship and service at Epworth United Methodist Church. We truly do have something for everyone and we are so glad that you are a part of it all.

Have an Amazing April and Happy Easter!

Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher
Senior Pastor

NEW SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Increasing Our Media Ministry: 8:30pm

We are increasing our broadcast area by offering an additional opportunity for NW Ohio and SE Michigan to worship at home or on the go. Beginning **April 4** our worship will be broadcast to an additional audience of 3.5 million on WLMB - channel 40 on Dish, or local Channel 6. WLMB is Toledo's Religious independent TV station. This additional broadcast is made possible by the gifts of generous donors outside our Church budget.

In Person Worship: 6pm

We are excited to announce that beginning Sunday, **April 11** (the Sunday after Easter) we will be launching the 5th worship service of the weekend here at Epworth! This 6pm, 30-minute service will be very similar to our Saturday evening worship. We strive to have meaningful worship opportunities available to anyone and everyone who calls Epworth home! Tell your friends and family and we will see you on Sunday evenings beginning in April.

NOW IS THE TIME TO VOICE YOUR CHOICE & VOTE FOR EPWORTH!



This year, The Blade is giving the Toledo area an opportunity to recognize excellence in the community with the Readers' Choice Awards! We are excited to announce that Epworth UMC has the privilege of being advanced onto the next round

in both 'Best Places of Worship' and 'Best Attraction' categories. Now through **April 11**, we need you to vote for us! Please go to Epworth.com/vote and click on the link, then follow these instructions:

- Scroll down the page where they list "Places of Worship" AND "Attractions"
- Click on the button that says "vote" to the right of Epworth United Methodist Church

Each person can vote once a day, so tell your friends and family who love Epworth to vote also! Winners will be announced on May 2. For more info visit bladenewsslide.com/readerschoice.

CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES:

Men's Bible Study:

Led by: Ed Bardi and Stephen Swisher | This class will begin the Thursday after Easter, **April 8** at 4:30pm in the lobby. Dr. Bardi and Dr. Swisher will co-lead this weekly class based on Max Lucado's "Ten Men of the Bible: How God Used Imperfect People to Change the World." To register for the class email cindy@epworth.com or call the church office at 419.531.4236.

Women's Bible Study

The Tuesday Woman's Study will be resuming in person on **April 6** in the Deep End! We are excited to open up this opportunity after a year. Our first study is an eight week DVD driven study, *Follow*, by Andy Stanley. Andy leads us as he traces Jesus' teaching on what it means to follow him. Come join us in the Deep End at 2pm where we can social distance and observe safety protocols. Participant books are available in Cindy's office. To RSVP, sign up on the connection card, email Cindy@epworth.com or call the church office at 419.531.4236.

FRIDAY NIGHT FLIX IS BACK!



Epworth is excited to bring back our Free Drive-In movie nights beginning in May! Mark your calendars now for Fourth Friday Night Flix all summer long! Movie titles will be announced at a later date. Invite your friends

and neighbors and join us for a family friendly film outside on our beautiful campus! Save the following dates: **May 28, June 25, July 23, Aug. 27, and Sept. 24.**

HAWKINS STEM ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP

Hawkins STEM Academy and the Epworth-Hawkins STEM Academy Partnership are piloting a new way to tutor students. The Leadership Team has been working with Toledo



Public Schools to establish a virtual learning space where tutors and students can meet to work on teacher determined projects to assist students. All tutoring will take place in response to teacher requests, and parents/guardians must complete a permission slip before tutoring can start. We are piloting this initiative with a few tutors, students, and teachers to work out any issues that may arise, and will then share what we have learned with others interested in virtual tutoring. Kudos to Sherry Clark, Polly Richardson, and Cathy Schuster for their willingness to participate in this new initiative. Stay tuned—we'll let you know how it works!

SERVICE OF HEALING & WHOLENESS

Epworth's next service of healing and wholeness takes place on **April 12** 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 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.

WE LOVE OUR PRESCHOOL



On behalf of the Spears family, we would like to thank all of the staff for their hard work and time in making Epworth Preschool a safe place for our children

this year. The teachers are so wonderful with our children. The school has gone above and beyond this school year to ensure that the school was opened.

We are so lucky to have found Epworth Preschool for our daughter. You have shaped our daughter into a wonderful young girl. We will be sad when we have to move on to Kindergarten.

-The Spears' Family

EPWORTH KIDS: APRIL



Elementary:

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

worth's Elementary kids will explore the life app Peace. We define the Life App Peace as: Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.

We want your kids to know that building bridges with others and being agents of peace in the World is so important. Because God made peace with us, we can make peace with others by walking away from the fight and seeking ways to be part of the solution. To help learn about Peace, the kids will work to memorize this month's memory verse: "So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another." (Romans 14:19) Our prayer is that your kids will learn that being an agent of peace is part of a full life in Christ.



Preschool & Toddler:

This month, 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 wants to be my friend forever.

Each week we will post interactive Bible stories, and follow-up activities to help teach your child that Jesus loves us and wants to be our life-long friend! This hands-on, action packed virtual Bible story time will also help your early childhood kiddos memorize this month's Bible Memory Verse: "How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." (Ephesians 3:18) It is our prayer that your little one will discover the special friend they have in Jesus!

BIBLE CAMP VIRTUAL PREVIEW PARTY



All aboard! Preview all that's in-store for your child virtually on Sunday, **April 18** from 2-4pm. RSVP by April 11 to Mary at Mary@epworth.com to reserve your FREE party packet which includes the zoom invite, a CD with all the camp songs, a special themed treat, games, and registration information. Rocky Railway Vacation Bible Camp

focuses on how 'Jesus' power pulls us through' and is scheduled for June 2021.

STUDENTS WITH A TASK

The Youth Ministry for Students in Grades 6-12



Night of the Grog

Teens in grades 6th-12th are invited to join us in the Deep End on Friday, **April 9** from 7-9pm for "Night of the Grog"! This is a new game that teens will have a blast playing and would be a great event to invite a friend to join us for the first time.

Youth Spring Retreat

Friday, **April 30**-Sunday,

May 2 our 6th-12th graders

will be going to Michindoh

Retreat Center for a great

weekend! Our theme is To-

gether: Living in Christ-Centered Community where we will

discuss how when we encounter the love of Christ it also

impacts how we love and care for others. The cost is a very

low \$70! If any teen wants to go but finances are an issue

speak to Pastor Dave about available scholarships. Informa-

tion packets are available on the bulletin board outside the

Deep End. Payment and forms are due on Sunday, April 11.



Waitlisted: Waiting on God

Teens in grades are invited to join us for Sunday Night Splash (**April 11, 18, and 25**) from 5:30-7pm for an evening of fun and diving deeper into our faith. We are kicking off a new series called, "Waitlisted: Waiting on God".

In this series, we'll meet a handful of people from Scripture who each spent a long time waiting on God. From the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Paul and Silas, King David, and Joseph, we'll discover that God has a plan, but we might have to wait for it, and we'll be reminded that, while we're waiting, God is faithful, God is listening, and we should never give up, because God's not giving up on us.

TOUCH A TRUCK POSTPONED

After thoughtful consideration towards our current progress in the pandemic, the decision has been made to postpone Touch a Truck one more year.



With vaccine distribution currently underway we plan to come back next year, with a safe and healthy public gathering, more Trucks, and more excitement. Our team will get to work early to recruit trucks and attractions. We'll advertise more than ever to regenerate that Touch a Truck excitement that we have missed for two years now. Stay tuned for opportunities to help.

EAGLE PROJECT BOOK DRIVE

Tressel Holton will be hosting a Book Drive here at Epworth from **April 9-19**. Any books donated will go towards supporting his Eagle Scout Project, building a Little Free Library and installing it at the nonprofit organization Sylvania Area Family Services. In case you don't already know, a Little Free Library is a small birdhouse-shaped structure that is typically mounted on a wall or a post. The Little Free Library is filled with books, and any passersby have the opportunity to pull out a book, enjoy it, and return it or replace it. This Project will offer numerous families in the Sylvania area the joy of reading, and you can help by donating at the Book Drive. We hope you consider helping the families of Sylvania by donating books, and any questions, suggestions, or concerns can be directed to [personal info has been removed] Thank you for your consideration!

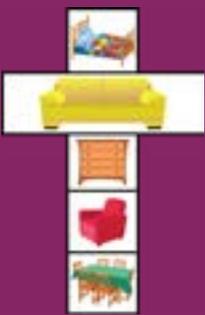
FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

Again, thank you Epworth for your donations to the Feed Your Neighbor program. The volunteers at Epiphany are so amazed and thankful for your generosity. The needs for April and May are:

- canned peas
- corn
- carrots
- mixed vegetables
- tomato soup
- kidney beans
- bar soap

If you have any questions contact Carol Bardi at [personal info has been removed].

FURNITURE MINISTRY



Items needed for blessings area:

**towels of all sizes,
twin, full and queen
comforters**

STATISTICS	MARCH:	2021:
Families:	15	41
Adults:	18	50
Children:	20	51
Furniture:	162	398

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT LEADING FAMILIES HOME



Leading Families Home gives aid and shelter for families as they transition from homelessness to permanent housing, and Epworth has long supported this organization. LFH has a number of volunteer opportunities as well as a need for some essential items.

They are seeking several volunteers to fill positions that will further their mission in our community and also have volunteer projects for individuals or groups. If you are interested in volunteering at Leading Families Home, contact: Ruth Ann Petroff at [personal info has been removed].

Leading Families Home is also in need of cleaning products and bed linens for their families. Please consider a contribution of: laundry soap, dish soap, paper towels, twin size bedding, and pillows. A cart will be placed at the Central Avenue entrance from April 1 – April 18, for collecting items dropped off for Leading Families Home, or monetary contributions can be made to Epworth, noting Leading Families Home, or directly at www.lfhtoledo.org.

ST. PAUL'S UMC - SACK LUNCH PROJECT UPDATE

Epworth members continue to serve our homeless community every Wednesday morning at St. Paul's United Methodist Church located on 13th St in Toledo. With shelters still unable to open to those living on the streets or in marginal housing due to CoVid restrictions, this Sack Lunch ministry has filled that gap every day ensuring a lunch is prepared, packed and distributed by committed volunteers from area Methodist churches. This program distributed almost 2,000 lunches in January-February 2021!

Epworth members have contributed generously to this ministry, and those being served as well as St. Paul's UMC staff have expressed their deep gratitude and heartfelt thanks for Epworth volunteers and our monetary and food and water contributions. If you would like to join fellow Epworth volunteers to prepare sandwiches, veggies and dip, coffee, hot cocoa, and pack lunches, please contact: jennie@epworth.com. Contributions of sandwich bags (Ziploc), breakfast bars or pop tarts, bottled water, coffee and hot cocoa mix are also greatly needed. A cart will be set in the Central Ave. entrance from April 1st – April 18th for collecting items. Monetary contributions can also be made out to Epworth UMC, with St. Paul's UMC/Marketplace in the memo.

stay connected to
epworth church:



@epworthtoledo
epworth.com



4855 W. Central Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43615-2337

EPWORTH MEDIA MINISTRY

Sunday @ 11:30am

WTOL-CBS
Channel 11



Sunday @ 8:30pm

WLMB
Dish Channel 40
Local Channel 6



televised broadcast of last weeks' worship