

AUGUST 2021

THE EPWORTH TOWER

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

KIDS & YOUTH

jump into *fall*

Celebrate with us as our kids and youth "*jump into fall*" with special milestones and by moving up into their new classrooms for the 2021-2022 program year!

August 2021

3-4 INFO & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- + Newest Staff Members
- + Worship Updates
- + Church Office Hours
- + Stations of the Cross Art
- + Thanks!
- + Sympathies
- + Letter from Dr. Swisher

4-5 GROW

- + Wednesday Oasis
- + Adult Bible Studies
- + Friends in Faith
- + Priscilla Circle
- + Mud Hens Game
- + Golden Days of Fall

6-7 GROW: KIDS, YOUTH & FAMILIES

- + Faith Passages 2021
- + Friday Night Flix
- + SWAT August Events
- + Epworth Kids: August
- + Lead Epworth Kids
- + Hawkins STEM Academy

8-9 GROW & SERVE

- + Choir Rehearsal Schedule
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- + School Supplies Drive
- + Good Works Mission Trip
- + Feed Your Neighbor
- + St. Paul's Fundraiser
- + Adult Singles Coordinator
- + EFM Volunteer Needed
- + Artist Series '21-'22

10 CARE

- + Red Cross Blood Drive
- + Healing & Wholeness Service
- + Wellness & Safety Reminders
- + Stephen Ministry

11 NW OHIO RIB OFF HIGHLIGHTS

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.

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 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.

Stay Connected

- **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
- **Social Media**



September Tower Deadline:

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27

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

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS!



Hannah Dargan: Administrative Assistant

Hannah recently moved to town from Kentucky. She has an extensive background in both graphic design and customer service. She served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Georgetown Newspaper in Georgetown, Kentucky and as the Area Supervisor for Customer Service at Kohl's in Louisville, Kentucky. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English. Hannah, her husband David, and their dog Scarlett live in the Toledo area. She is excited to serve God through Epworth UMC.



Chris Albert: Director of Youth Ministries

Chris is a graduate of Bowling Green State University with a Masters Degree in business and a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and economics. Chris has been very involved in the Toledo community serving as a Pastoral Intern and a Young Life leader. He is engaged to Epworth member Lauren Andrews, and looks forward to their marriage in the fall of 2021. Chris is excited to be joining the Epworth UMC team.

Please join us in extending a warm, Epworth welcome to Hannah and Chris!

WORSHIP UPDATES

CBS Hiatus

We have decided to follow the model of most television shows in taking a hiatus from CBS for the summer. It has been a blessing to air on WTOL and to become #1 in the market for our time slot with more than 7,703 people viewing each week. This doesn't include those who record via DVR or those who watch our livestream broadcasts. We will continue to air weekly on WLMB Channel 40, local channel 6 Sundays at 8:30pm and through our online broadcasts at epworth.com/live and epworth.com/sermons.

Sunday 6pm Worship Hiatus

Please note, our Sunday evening 6pm worship service is on summer hiatus! This hiatus will resume on Sunday, September 12. We will continue to offer the 4:30pm Saturday evening worship as well as our typical 3 Sunday morning services, at 8:30, 9:45 & 11am.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

We are currently operating under our summer hours of 9am-3pm. Beginning September 7, we will resume our winter hours of 9am-5pm. Please keep these hours in mind as you plan your trips to the church throughout the week!

THANKS!

Brunch Sack Project

With area shelters finally able to re-open to serve non-residents, the St. Paul's UMC Brunch Bag Project will end as of July 31, 2021! With the closing of shelters due to CoVid restrictions, last Spring, St. Paul's UMC realized a number of individuals and families were going without food and other necessities. The Brunch Bag Project was developed with St. Paul's UMC coordinating the volunteers, planning and purchasing the food, and offering an area to prepare, pack and distribute safely to those in need.

A special thank you to Epworth members, who provided funding, water and other food items, and volunteered every Wednesday morning for the past 13 months!! Epworth members volunteered approximately 1,000 hours, peeling vegetables, making peanut butter & jelly sandwiches, meat & cheese sandwiches, ladling soups or casseroles in the wintertime, bagging donuts or cakes, and making coffee and cocoa. The Epworth team prepared and assisted with the distribution of over 3,000 meals from June 2020-July 2021, with the St. Paul's project providing a total of over 17,000 meals to those in need. Thank you to Epworth's committed team of volunteers and all who contributed to this community project!

Sympathies recent deaths

- THE SCHROEDER FAMILY on the passing of Marilyn Schroeder.

STEPS TO GROWING OUR FAITH THIS AUGUST

Hello friends,

Welcome to August! This is an exciting time to be a part of Epworth UMC! Practically every day we hear testimonies of how the mission and ministry of Christ through Epworth is impacting lives. This happens through our outreach to the homeless, our Furniture ministry, Hawkins School and through our broadcasts. I thought you might enjoy reading a few excerpts from some of the letters we receive:

- “Your messages have helped me go deeper in my faith and nourish my soul,” Phyllis.
- “Your energy and enthusiasm are contagious and I understand why you have made such an impact on our entire N.W. Ohio community. There are so many negative attitudes and stories on the news. You are delivering a positive and helpful message on the state of our society that is refreshing and appreciated,” Priscilla.
- “Thank you for sharing The Word with us each week through television” Pasty “We love your sermons and follow them every week,” Steve and Barb.
- “Thank you so much for your television ministry. My teens love it too!” Helen.
- “I accepted Jesus into my life during your broadcast,” Larry.
- “I’m a doctor and I turned my life over to Jesus Christ as I said the prayer with you at the end of your broadcast. Would you send me some helpful literature to help me lead a better life? Richard.

These are just a few of the notes we receive regularly from our online and television congregations. These notes and many others like them give us a window into the impact God is having through each of us. Thank you for the support and encouragement that helps us continue these life-affirming, faith-inspiring outreach ministries. Summertime can be a time of relaxation and vacation I hope it is for you and those you love. But it can also be a time of lull in our spiritual lives unless we are intentional and specific in continuing our growth.

Here are a few helpful steps to keep us elevated in our walk with God:

1. **Shoot for the Moon**-One of the keys to accomplishing anything is setting goals for ourselves. Just like heading to the gym, learning a new language or mastering martial arts, we must set objectives for our spiritual lives to make and continue progress. Set reasonable goals for yourself, make a commitment to pray and read the Bible every day. Set a daily reminder on your phone to help you with these goals.
2. **Gather**-A great way to continue and deepen our faith journey during summer is to form a community of friends to help keep us accountable to our plan and to support one another in prayer. The residual benefit is you are able to have fun and enjoy each other’s company.
3. **Answer the Call to Serve**-By living out our faith we grow tremendously. Service is the very embodiment of our faith put into action. Summer is the perfect time to meet Christ face to face in our community through the many volunteer opportunities Epworth offers.
4. **Stay Connected**-Plug into our online Bible classes, worship services, social media pages and be aware of all of the exciting opportunities available at your Church. Then invite friends to participate with you. Be sure to attend one of our 5 weekly In Person Worship services too conveniently planned to meet and fit into the most demanding schedules. As we stay connected we are encouraged and empowered to be all God wants us to be.

Our faith never goes on vacation our service to God never takes a hiatus. The exciting part about that truth is that you and I have the amazing opportunity to make a real, significant, and meaningful difference in the lives of countless people. I’m very happy to join you in this adventure in faith and believing.

Your friend and partner in ministry,

Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher | *Senior Pastor*



WEDNESDAY OASIS STUDY:

Our new Wednesday Oasis begins on Wednesday, **August 4** at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. This study will feature an in-depth study on *Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name* by Max Lucado led by Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher. Do you ever feel like Jesus couldn’t possibly know what you are going through? Does he really know your daily struggles? The good news is: he does. For 33 years Jesus felt everything you have ever felt. He was tempted and his strength was tested. And you know why? Because in becoming human, Jesus made it possible for us to see God. His tears, God’s tears. His voice, God’s voice. Want to know what matters to God? Find out what matters to Jesus. Want to know what in the world God is doing? Ponder the words and life of Jesus. Sign up by emailing Hannah at hannah@epworth.com.



ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

Adult Bible Study

Sunday | 9:45 | Room 214

The 9:45am Adult Bible Study Class will resume meeting in Room 214, beginning Sunday, **September 12**. You are invited to join in lively class discussion as we study the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Bring a friend as we share together and grow in fellowship.

The Connecting Point

Sunday | 9:45 | Room 205

Where faith and life connect for 18-25 year olds. This Sunday morning small group's goal is to provide a faith based place to connect with peers and discuss issues relevant to this stage of life. Please email the group leader, Chuck Campos at chuck@epworth.com to learn more.

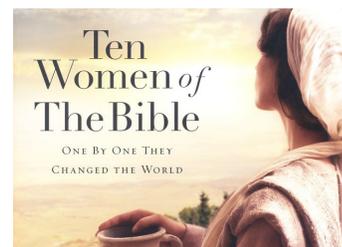
Men's Bible Study

Thursday | 3:30pm | Lobby

"10 Women of the Bible" by Max Lucado. Learn about women in Scripture and the remarkable way God broke down cultural barriers to use them in the unfolding of His story. These stories show us there is a God who sees us where we are and loves us for who we are. He is the one who hovers over all the pages of the Bible, shaping lives, rescuing hearts, healing sicknesses, raising what was dead to life, and passing out high callings to those who choose to follow him and have faith in him. Because of Thanksgiving we're splitting the study into two, 6-week sessions:

Session 1: September 16, 23, 30, October 7, 14, 21

Session 2: January 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17, and 24



FRIENDS IN FAITH:

Bunco

We're back! 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 (8-12 people). We start at 6:30pm with dinner before we play on Wednesday, **August 18** at Karen Wyckoff's house (1959 Pinedale, Toledo). RSVP to KarDav4@aol.com.

Book Club

Book club meeting on Tuesday, **August 24** at 7 pm. Place and book to be determined due to uncertainties relating to Covid restrictions. If you have questions, please contact June at jargalvin@yahoo.com.

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

Priscilla Circle members have begun meeting again. We are busy working on projects for the Harvest Bazaar where all proceeds are distributed by UMW to various local charities. Sewing projects include cloth books, Advent calendars, bibs, sensory squares, cancer caps, and bowl warmers. If you are new to Epworth and looking for a way to make new friends, we are always welcoming new members. For more information, please contact Kay Hitchner at 419.841.1760.

SAVE-THE-DATES:

See You at The Game!

Epworth's Chancel Choir is singing the National Anthem to open the Mud Hens v. Columbus Clippers game on **September 19** at 2pm. Reserve your tickets now and join your Epworth family, friends and community to enjoy our gifted choir's rendition of the National Anthem and an afternoon at Fifth Third Field. Tickets are \$14 each. Contact Jennie@epworth.com or the church office if you are purchasing tickets.



Golden Days of Fall Event

Epworth is excited to partner with Kingston HealthCare to host a FREE, Senior (age 50+) drive-through event for our community this Fall in the Central Ave (north) parking lot on **September 15!** Save-The-Date and spread the word as we bless the seniors of our community and serve as a beacon of light across our region. The Golden Days of Fall event will run from 9:30-11:30am on September 15 (rain date Sept 22) and include many community partners offering valuable information, yummy treats, give-aways and much more! If you have a business or are connected to an organization that you would like to see at this event, please contact Jennie@epworth.com for details and registration information.

GROW: KIDS, YOUTH & FAMILIES

FAITH PASSAGES

| | | | |
|---------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| NURSERY | 3 YRS | KINDERGARTEN | 5TH GRADE |
| LOVE | WORSHIP | PRAYER | CROSS |

“JUMP INTO FALL” 2021!

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, **August 22** and have your children plan to join us as we celebrate moving up into new classrooms this Fall! All preschool and elementary children will report to their new small group rooms at 9:45 as we begin our 2021-2022 program year. As always, Nursery and Toddler children will be able to attend their normal sessions at all 3 worship services.

To kick off our new program year in Sunday school, we will also have a few special days to recognize important Milestones in the life of your children; as well as introduce them to their new groups for this year. Specific information for the various age groups is below. We hope to see you all as we Jump into Fall!

Preschool Family Milestone: Sunday, August 29 at 9:45

Who: All children age 3 (Parents should plan to attend)

Come join us as we celebrate a major milestone in the life of your children known as Preschool. For many children (and parents) this is the a year of firsts – first time leaving mom and dad for school, making first friends, and, here at Epworth, first learning about Jesus! Children just beginning preschool will get to see their new room and even enjoy a sneak peek at what they will do each week in preschool Sunday school! The morning will conclude with a fun celebration as we “jump” into this new phase of life together!

Kindergarten Family Milestone: Sunday, August 29 at 9:45

Who: All children beginning Kindergarten this Fall (Parents should plan to attend)

Come join us as we celebrate a major milestone in the life of your children, starting Kindergarten and marking the beginning of their school journey! Students graduating into kindergarten will have a chance to share favorite memories from preschool, receive a special keepsake, and there will be festive snacks for everyone. Our morning will conclude with a tour of their new rooms for all Kindergarten families.

Incoming 6th Grade Family Milestone:

Sunday, August 22 at 9:45: 5th Grade Farewell

Who: Children who have completed 5th grade (entering 6th grade) and their parents.

Students graduating 5th grade will have a chance to share favorite memories, receive a special gift, and get sent on to SWAT with style! Parents of incoming 6th graders, please come join us the first 15 minutes of service in the Children’s Church as we celebrate a major milestone in the life of your children, moving up to SWAT! Then, as you go to worship, your kids will get a tour of the Jr High Room and meet and greet with the other Jr High students. Remember, that night, 6pm-7:15pm August 22 is the SWAT Kick-off at Toledo Sportway! For more information email chris@epworth.com.

Sunday, August 29: 6th grade students will begin reporting directly to the Junior High space for Donuts and the Bible for the 2021-2022 school year.

FRIDAY NIGHT FLIX

Invite your friends and neighbors and join us in the South parking lot as early as 7:30pm. Watch from your car or bring lawn chairs! Concessions will be available with proceeds benefitting our mission partner, Sylvania Area Family Services. In the event of inclement weather, we will show the movies in our gym. Admission is Free but we are accepting donations of peanut butter, jelly, canned meats, rice/noodle side dishes, and canned soups for Sylvania Area Family Services which is a local agency that serves at risk families. Visit epworth.com/fridaynightflix or contact Mary Roesti at mary@epworth.com.

August 27:

“Raya and the Last Dragon”

A 2021 animated Disney adventure about a warrior princess on a mission. Set in the fictional land of Kumandra but based on real Southeast Asian cultures, the movie follows Raya as she tries to find a way to reverse a curse-like plague. The movie emphasizes the importance of trusting others and overcoming prejudice to find common ground. Raya is a standout role model who exhibits courage, teamwork, and perseverance.



S.W.A.T.

-STUDENT MINISTRIES -

Students With A Task | Service, Worship,
Accountability, Teamwork

Sundays at 9:45am: Donuts & The Bible

Junior SWAT (6-8th grade): Meet in the Junior High Room
Senior SWAT (9-12th grade): Meet in the Deep End

Sunday, August 22

Incoming 6th graders join us for Donuts and the Bible for the first time! They're also welcome to join us that night with the rest of SWAT at Sportway!

Sunday, August 22

Come join us for the fall SWAT youth kick off at Sportway!

- Junior SWAT (6-8th grade) from 6-7:15pm
- Senior SWAT (9-12th grade) from 7:30-9pm



Meet us at the Sportway's Fun Center (5950 Angola Rd. -- just east of Holland-Sylvania Rd.) and bring \$20 to enjoy go-karts, putt-putt, and eat some delicious pizza!

Sunday, August 29

Confirmation and parent meeting after 11am worship in the Deep End. This meeting is for current 8th graders who are seeking to be confirmed, current 9th graders who did not get to participate in confirmation last year due to covid, and 10th graders who may want more out of their confirmation experience because theirs also got cut short due to covid.

WE NEED YOU TO LEAD EPWORTH'S KIDS!

The Children & Family Action Team asks all of you to prayerfully consider how you might serve Epworth's Kids in the 2021-22 school year and live into your commitment to serve within the walls of your church. The children will be looking to you to be small group leaders, classroom teachers, serve on the Sunday School A/V team, or to help lead our Large Group Bible Story time. We will be making phone calls the evening of **August 12** with the goal of filling all the leadership needs for the year. If you would like to be on their call list, please contact mary@epworth.com.

While we don't take the summer off from Sunday school, fall is still the traditional start of the new year for the Children's Ministry programs. As your family returns from vacations and settles back into the routine of school and weekly church attendance, there are many ways you can impact the faith of children this school year. We'd love to help you use your talents and passion for Christ to make an impact on the lives of the kids God sends to Epworth this year.

EPWORTH KIDS: AUGUST

Elementary:

This month, we kick off a new program year as we Jump Into Fall! Epworth's Elementary kids will meet at 9:45 in the children's wing. We will spend the first two weeks wrapping up our summer study on Confidence. Our prayer is that this summer study has prepared them to 'Press Play' on a new school year with the confidence to 'get in the mix' knowing God's got this! Then, the last two weeks of the month, we are launching our new program year where they will meet their new small group leaders and get to know the kids in their groups for the year. See our Jump into Fall schedule for more details or email mary@epworth.com.



Preschool & Toddler:

This month, we kick off a new program year through our in-person gatherings during all Sunday morning worship services. Epworth's Preschool and Toddler kids will explore the Biblical truth: God is powerful. This hands-on, action packed large group/small group time will utilize a construction zone theme to help your early childhood children discover that God's power is greater than anything else they will encounter in life! During their Bible story time, they will work on memorizing this Bible Memory Verse: "Great is our Lord and mighty in power." (Psalm 147:5) It is our prayer that when faced with new experiences like going to preschool for the first time, or learning to share with new friends, your little one will remember that their powerful and loving God is right there with them!



HAWKINS STEM ACADEMY

School starts for Hawkins STEM Academy students on August 18. We need your experience and enthusiasm to work with students, K- 8th grade. All volunteers will receive training on the STEM learning philosophy and methods of instruction. Currently, we need volunteers for:

- Tutoring: Reading, (K-3) and Math (all grades)
- Library assistants
- Book Initiative: distribute "reader bags" weekly, lead book club discussions with small groups
- Garden Club
- One-time or ongoing projects such as Staff Recognition, Teacher Supply Pantry, Field Day, 8th Grade Recognition

[Click here](#) to complete our volunteer application. You can also pick up a printed copy of this form from the Hawkins mailbox at Epworth. Return your completed application to the Hawkins mailbox or email it to hawkinspartnership@gmail.com.

CHOIR SEASON IS READY TO BEGIN!

We have a place for everyone to make a joyful noise. Below are the times when each of our musical groups start up this fall. Please come and join us as we praise our risen Lord through music.

CHOIRS:

Chancel Choir College age and up
Beginning September 2 Cecil Baughman, director
 Thursdays 7:30-9pm | Choir room

Children's Choir Ages 3 through grade 5
Beginning September 29 Cecil Baughman, director
 Wednesdays 5:15-6pm | Room 205

BELL CHOIRS:

Wesleyan Ringers College age and up
Beginning September 2 Cecil Baughman, director
 Thursdays 6:15-7:15pm | Sanctuary

Tower Ringers Jr & Sr High students
Beginning September 12 Cecil Baughman, director
 Sundays 7-7:30pm | Sanctuary

Joy Ringers Grades 3 - grade 5
Beginning September 29 Cecil Baughman, director
 Wednesdays 6-6:30pm | Sanctuary

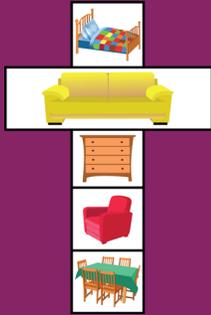
CONTEMPORARY PRAISE TEAM

Year-round

Practice Saturday, 8-10am | Sanctuary
 Perform Sundays, 11am | Sanctuary

Contact Kyle Folger, worship leader at Kyle@epworth.com to try out.

FURNITURE MINISTRY



Items needed for blessings area:

can openers,
flatware & towels
of all sizes

| STATISTICS | JULY: | 2021: |
|------------|-------|-------|
| Families: | 8 | 98 |
| Adults: | 10 | 124 |
| Children: | 13 | 125 |
| Furniture: | 78 | 1048 |

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

School starts August 16 for Toledo Public School students, and the Community Outreach Action Team is coordinating a school supply drive to replenish the School Supply Pantry at Grace Church for the start of the school year. The pantry is open to teachers at Hawkins STEM Academy, Keyser, McTigue, and Reynolds Elementary Schools, and Rogers High School. Teachers can visit the pantry to pick up supplies for classrooms or for individual students. Take advantage of "Back To School" sales on school supplies starting now!



Please bring your purchases to Epworth starting **August 11 - August 25**. To assist in your shopping, below is a list of the 10 most needed supplies:

- Crayola crayons, package of 24
- Expo dry erase markers - *thick or thin, especially black*
- Glue sticks
- Glue bottles
- Crayola markers - *thick or thin, package of 8 or 10*
- Crayola colored pencils - *package of 12*
- Plastic pencil boxes
- Child scissors
- Sharpie permanent markers - *fine and ultra fine*
- #2 pencils

The teachers and students thank you!!

GOOD WORKS MISSION TRIP

We are planning for our trip **October 5-9** in Athens, Ohio. Keith Wasserman and his staff are hoping that our group will work on Sign Of Hope...a new temporary residence for folks who require disability access. We have jobs for all skill levels, as well as folks who enjoy cooking and planning meals. This mission trip for adults has been going on for over a decade. The folks in this area of Ohio have many needs which Keith and his staff strive to fill. For more info about this opportunity contact: polly1234@bex.net or bobbisanders742@gmail.com or krimmartin@gmail.com.

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

Thank you Epworth for your continued generosity to Feed Your Neighbor. The needs for summer are:

- canned: corn,
- carrots, green beans, mixed
- vegetables, kidney beans & tomato soup
- egg noodles
- rice
- peanut butter
- bar soap
- men's & women's deodorant

If you have any questions, contact Carol Bardi at cpb5538@gmail.com.

EPWORTH - PRESENTING SPONSOR OF ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY CENTER FALL FUNDRAISER

For more than 40 years St. Paul's Community Center has been on the front lines working hard to answer the need for those who are homeless by offering detailed programs that have proven successful. Epworth has been a steadfast partner with St. Paul's; consistently providing meals, volunteers and funding for decades. Epworth, through the Community Outreach & Missions Team, is a Presenting Sponsor of St. Paul's annual fund-raiser scheduled for September 16th from 6:00-8:00 PM. This will be an interactive social media event showcasing St. Paul's Community Center's accomplishments as well as offering entertainment from the St. Paul's CC staff, residents and volunteers.

[adult Singles]

We are looking for someone to assist in coordinating this program. The most important task is helping us send out emails to the growing list of participants. Other singles will help with planning activities. Sponsored by Epworth, this group exists to connect single, divorced, and widowed adults in a Christian environment. This singles ministry provides fellowship, encouragement, and support for singles at Epworth and in the greater Toledo community. If you are available, please email Sue at suehartman63@hotmail.com or call 419.882.8826.

EFM VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

EFM is in need of volunteers to answer phone calls and emails from potential furniture donors. All incoming calls go to an electronic voicemail (via email) and the volunteer answers the calls and emails when convenient for the volunteer. The estimated time required is 6-8 hours per week and volunteers will work one-week shifts. The qualifications for the position are an individual who enjoys talking to people and can use their computer to enter pickup information on a roster. If you're interested, email us at volunteer@furnitureministry.com.

EPWORTH ARTIST SERIES

The Artist Series is an important part of the programming ministry at Epworth. By presenting local and regional talent, we provide events filled with music for our members as well as our community. Epworth's Artist Series is proud to present the following concerts for the 2021-22 season:

An Afternoon of Mozart and Beethoven

Featuring members of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra & Frances Renzi
Please join us for an afternoon of classical chamber music with musicians of the Toledo Symphony on **August 15** at 3pm. The program will include Mozart's masterful Quintet for piano and winds featuring pianist Frances Renzi as well as Beethoven's beloved Septet for winds and strings. This concert is free and open to the public.

Christmas music for Brass Quintet And Choir

Featuring The Academy Brass Quintet And Epworth's Chancel Choir
Join us on Wednesday, **December 1** at 7pm. This concert features the Chancel Choir, and The Academy Brass Quintet. We'll sing favorite Christmas carols for choir and congregation and feature favorite Christmas carols as arranged for brass Quintet and choir.

An Afternoon of Great Choral Music

Featuring the A Cappella Choir & University Women's Chorus From BGSU
Join us at 3pm on Sunday, **April 3**. The A Cappella Choir is a select mixed ensemble consisting primarily of music majors and minors. members study and perform the finest of sacred choral literature and secular vocal chamber music. The University Women's Chorus is made up of women from around the campus that come together to form an ensemble specializing in the vast choral repertoire composed for treble voices. The chorus performs both on and off campus, and has performed at several professional conferences

We have a wonderful and eclectic Artist Series planned this year. Your contributions have kept this vital ministry alive and have kept this from becoming a burden on our operating budget and allow us to reach out into the community and bring new people into Epworth. Below is a pledge card, if you're intersted in supporting this ministry please fill it out and return it to the church office.

ARTIST SERIES

I wish to support the performing arts by contributing to the '21-'22 season:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| ___ Partners \$350 or more | Name _____ |
| ___ Benefactors \$300-\$349 | Phone (_____) _____ |
| ___ Patrons \$250-\$299 | |
| ___ Associates \$200-\$249 | |
| ___ Sponsors \$150-\$199 | |
| ___ Friends \$100-\$149 | |
| Other Amt. \$ _____ | |

All contributions are tax deductible. Please include check payable to Epworth UMC with memo marked Artist Series.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



The American Red Cross is experiencing a severe shortage in blood supplies. Driven by many factors, including the pandemic and estimates saying approximately 10% of eligible donors will donate in any given year, demand continues to outpace donations. We at Epworth have an opportunity to roll up our sleeves and pitch in to ensure lifesaving blood products are available. Please come out on **August 14** from 9am–2pm to help our neighbors in need. There are three ways you can sign up for the blood drive:

- Sign up on the connection card
- Go to redcrossblood.org and search for “EPWORTHUMC” in the find a Blood Drive area
- Email gordy59@hotmail.com Gordy Krueger will contact you to help find you an appointment

Thank you! -Wellness Ministry Action Team

HEALING & WHOLENESS SERVICE

The Healing and Wholeness team invites you to the **August 9** service at 7pm in the chapel. Sometimes, when an event in life has become more than we can handle, a well meaning person will say “God will never give us more than we can handle”, however, they forget to say “with God’s help.” In the Healing & Wholeness service, together we seek God’s assistance for whatever burdens we are facing. We do this through scripture, prayer, sharing, personal reflection, anointing, and hands on prayer (if you would like to participate).



WELLNESS AND SAFETY REMINDERS

(submitted by Wellness team members Scott & Lynne Forsythe)

Here is a potpourri of reminders and tips as we move into late summer and kids head back to school.

- **Stop on Red Week**
Dedicated to educating and bringing public awareness to intersection safety. We know it’s easy to sometimes cruise through intersections, but it puts you, other drivers, and pedestrians at risk. Did you know, the first stop sign appeared in a town just to our north, Detroit, in 1915. Learn more at nationaldaycalendar.com/stop-on-red
- **Sun safety**
Spending time outside is a great way to be physically active, reduce stress, and get vitamin D. Here are some reminders to safely work and play outside.
 - Wear protective clothing include a hat and sunglasses
 - Apply broad spectrum sunscreen SPF 15+; reapply as needed
 - Stay hydrated
 - Many references available by searching for “sun safety” on the Internet or visiting your local American Cancer Society.
 - Also consider an annual skin exam by your primary care physician or skin specialist.
- **Back to School Safety**
Hard to believe that kids will be heading back to school starting mid-August. There will be more activity on the roads with kids walking or bicycling to school, parents dropping off their kids, and school buses. This is a good time to review the rules of the road, especially around school buses.

More tips and reminders can be found at www.nsc.org/home-safety/seasonal-safety/back-to-school/drivers

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, contact us at stephenministry@epworth.com.

A BIG THANK YOU!

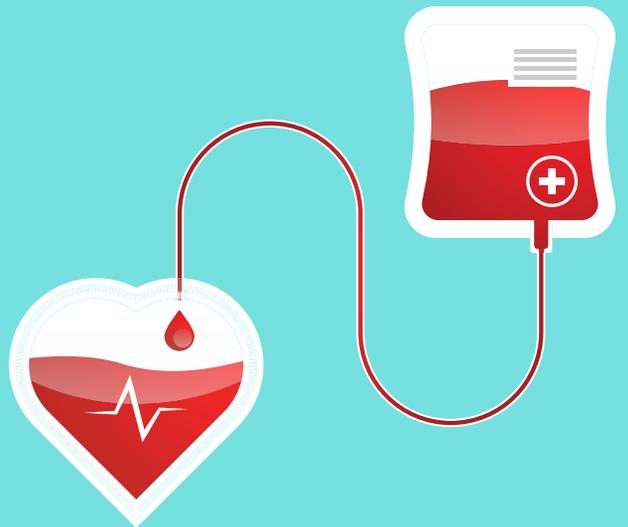
A special THANK YOU to the many volunteers and each of you who made our special worship at the NW Ohio Rib Off such a huge success! This was the first worship service held at the Rib off in the 37 year history of the event. We honored and celebrated God together with our community, and we couldn't have done it without each of you!



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

Red Cross Blood Drive

August 14
9am-2pm
Gym



sign up to donate: redcrossblood.org