

SEPTEMBER 2021

# THE EPWORTH TOWER



**TRUNK-OR-TREAT 2021**  
*Sunday, October 24 | 5-7pm*

4855 W. Central Ave Toledo, Ohio 43615 | 419.531.4236 | [epworth.com](http://epworth.com)

# September 2021

## 3 INFO & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- + Newest Members
- + Baptisms
- + Sympathies
- + Thanks
- + Covid-19 Safety Protocols
- + Bazaar 2021
- + Winter Office Hours

## 4-5 GROW

- + Dr. Swisher Letter
- + Good News
- + Bible Studies
- + Back To Church Weekend
- + Mud Hens Game
- + Healing & Wholeness
- + Community Outreach Sunday
- + Golden Days Of Fall
- + Stephen Ministry

## 6 GROW: KIDS, YOUTH & FAMILIES

- + Friday Night Flix
- + Epworth Kids: September
- + SWAT in September
- + Trunk-or-Treat

## 7 SERVE

- + St. Paul's Fundraiser
- + Bazaar
- + Shorty's Night Epworth Preschool
- + Furniture Ministry
- + Good Works
- + Feed Your Neighbor
- + Hawkins STEMM Academy
- + Home Healthcare Equipment

*Our Promise*  
Help for today,  
Hope for tomorrow,  
And a place to call Home.

## *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.
- **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](http://epworth.com/live) or on our facebook page at [facebook.com/epworthtoledo](https://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](http://epworth.com/podcast) for links.
- **Website:** Access any of our previously streamed sermons 24/7 at [epworth.com/sermons](http://epworth.com/sermons).

---

## *Stay Connected*

- **Weekly E-Newsletter** - Sign up for the weekly e-newsletters! Go to: [epworth.com/email](http://epworth.com/email)
- **Obituary Notifications** Sign up to receive obituary notifications! Go to: [epworth.com/email](http://epworth.com/email)
- **Social Media**

   /EpworthToledo

---

## *October Tower Deadline:*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24  
E-mail articles & pictures to  
[communications@epworth.com](mailto:communications@epworth.com)

**PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!**



**EUNICE WILSON**



**DAVID AND KATHY WINTERS**



**JAMILE AND JACKIE SHIBLEY**

**RECENT BAPTISMS**



**BAITHER FAMILY:  
ELIZABETH BAITHER**



**OEHLERS FAMILY:  
JACKSON OEHLERS**

*Sympathies* ..... recent deaths

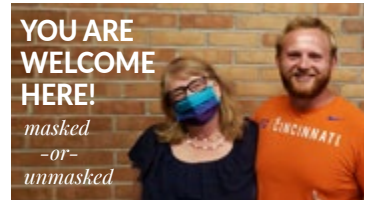
- THE HEM FAMILY on the passing of Alice Hem.
- THE STOKES FAMILY on the passing of Eleanor Stokes.

**THANKS!**

We are pleased to announce that 31 people were present for the August 14 Blood Drive held at Epworth, and 26 units were collected! Each unit collected has the potential of impacting up to 3 individuals. Thank you to all who signed up to donate and to Epworth's Wellness Team and volunteers for holding another successful blood drive.

**COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

We want to remind everybody that our goal is to create a safe environment for you and your loved ones both physically and spiritually. That means we're still practicing many of our safety protocols! Below are a few items to keep in mind as you decide whether to worship with us in person, or join us from the comfort of your home:



- We welcome everybody with open arms, whether you choose to be masked or unmasked.
- Free masks and hand sanitizer are available at major church entrances and outside the Sanctuary.
- Ushers and volunteer teams continue to use hospital grade cleaning supplies on all surfaces before, in between, and after each service.
- For Holy Communion we use pre-packaged sealed cups & wafers, each person opens their own cup & wafer.

Join us at your comfort level. We offer worship and bible studies both in person and virtually. Contact us at 419.531.4236 if you'd like to learn more about our virtual opportunities.

**ARTS & CRAFTS BAZAAR PLANS**

Fall is fast approaching and plans are progressing for the annual Arts & Crafts Bazaar on November 6. While the current health environment continues to evolve and change, we are moving forward with a full contingent of vendors anxious to offer their hand-crafted items. Leaders have stepped up for our pantry, silent auction, coffee bar, etc. Silent Auction solicitation has begun and we encourage you to make your jam, plan for items to donate, and think about how you will support this effort.

*Winter Office Hours*  
**Began September 7**  
9am - 5pm

## LIVING A LIFE OF ADVENTURE AND PURPOSE

As we launch an exciting Fall Season at your Epworth United Methodist Church let's take a moment to focus on a few areas that will help equip us for the journey:



**1. Be Open to Learn:** The famous Coach John Wooden said, "It's what you learn after you know it all that counts." A good way to do this is by maintaining a healthy sense of curiosity about God's Word and staying active in exploring the Bible. Leonardo Da Vinci wrote, "Iron rusts from disuse; stagnant water loses its purity and in cold weather becomes frozen; even so does inaction sap the vigor of the mind."

**2. Be Open to New Experiences:** I recently heard of Raymond Ringhoff (age 69) who decided to see Australia by backpacking through the country as his young friends had done. He said, "I stayed at youth hostels in Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia, Northern Territory, and Queensland. The experience was engaging and helped me truly understand other cultures."

We may not want to backpack around the globe staying in youth hostels, but what about a mission trip? A volunteer opportunity at church? A new Bible study? An interesting class at a local community college? A trip to plan? A hobby to consider? We are never too old or too young to try something new.

**3. Be Open to Teach:** Have you heard the comparison of the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea? The Jordan River flows both into and out of the Sea of Galilee. But when it flows into the Dead Sea it has no further outlet. It simply sits there and evaporates. The Sea of Galilee is fresh; the Dead Sea is....dead. There's a lesson in that, for we need both intake and output. The longer we live the more we have to offer. Grace is cumulative, and over the years our lessons need to be recycled. A study by Deloitte has found that when millennials take a position in a company they badly need mentoring. If they don't get it, they frequently leave the company. Interestingly many companies have instituted "reverse mentoring" which uses younger people to teach new schools of thought to older colleagues. The Lord has given you a vast array of life experiences and lessons you have learned to enrich the life of someone else.

**4. Be Open to Tomorrow:** What's new God? Is a refreshing prayer to offer because it reflects a spirit of adventure. Be open to learn, be open to new experiences, and be open to teaching your valuable life lessons to others. When you do you'll discover a fresh fire of enthusiasm for God, for the church, and for yourself. Hold your head up, feel the wind in your hair, and set sail into your unknown tomorrows with rugged faith, intrepid Hope and a desire to be a blessing. May God help each of us as we embark on this exciting adventure in faith.

Have a Spectacular September,

Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher | *Senior Pastor*

### Good News television community

"Your TV Worship services are very inspiring. Thank you." -Larry and Wanda, Findlay, Ohio

"I am enjoying your Television ministry. Thank you." -Sue, Wauseon, Ohio

"No one touches my heart like you do. I record your weekly TV program and watch it several times Everything you say cuts right through to my heart. You make me more of a believer." -Jill, Toledo, Ohio

### SUNDAY SCHOOL:

- **9:45am | Adult Bible Study | Rm 214**  
Welcome old and new friends as together we launch the "Belong" Bible Study series, starting with "Hospitality to Strangers." A sense of community and belonging are essential emotional connections that people need to thrive. We'll learn how to live out God's call to show hospitality to the "strangers" in our lives.
- **9:45am | Coffee & Conversation | Rm 213**  
Discuss modern day issues/current events and examine the teachings of Jesus in light of them.

### WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES:

- **3:30pm | Thurs Mens Bible Study | Lobby**  
Session 1: September 16-October 21  
Session 2: April 7-May 12  
*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.
- **1pm | Tues Womens Bible Study | Deep End**  
Starting September 21: *Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith* by Andy Stanley. Video lesson followed by discussion questions. Contact Kris Martin at 248.860.1221 for more info.



### Toledo Mayoral Candidate Forum

Join us **September 11** at 3:30pm as we launch 'Back to Church Weekend' with a Toledo Mayoral Candidate Forum in the Sanctuary. This event is open to the community and is not a debate but an opportunity for each candidate to share their vision for the future of our city.



### 20th Anniversary of September 11 Special Worship

Following the mayoral forum, join us in the Sanctuary on Saturday, **September 11** at 4:30pm for a special worship service honoring the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. This commemoration and remembrance service will feature both U.S. and Ohio senators, UT ROTC Color Guard, as well as many religious leaders from our community. It will be a time for us to come together and reflect on the devastating terror attacks that took nearly 3,000 lives. We commemorate those who we lost and give thanks to the brave first responders who put their lives on the line.

It will be a time for us to come together and reflect on the devastating terror attacks that took nearly 3,000 lives. We commemorate those who we lost and give thanks to the brave first responders who put their lives on the line.

### Back To Church Sunday & Luncheon

On Sunday, **September 12**, join us for Back to Church Sunday! Plan to attend worship as the Chancel Choir begins performing, join us for Sunday School as our Adult Bible Study begins meeting again, and then share in fellowship as you enjoy a delicious lunch in the lobby after worship. This FREE lunch is a pandemic-approved, boxed lunch. You are welcome to stay and eat here at Epworth, or you may take it with you to enjoy at home.

### Sunday 6pm Worship Begins

That evening, we will resume our 6pm Sunday evening worship service. Invite your friends, all are welcome!

## 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. Tickets are \$14 each. Contact Jennie Vancil at [Jennie@epworth.com](mailto:Jennie@epworth.com) or the church office if you would like to purchase tickets.

## HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE

You're invited **September 20** to a Monday evening service. There will be Scripture readings, prayers, hymns, and sharing of concerns and joys led by people who are concerned with your well being and want to share God's love with you. We offer anointing and hands-on prayer to those seeking a more private and specific prayer to God.



## outreach sunday

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19!

Join us on **September 19** after services to visit with our community partners, from near and far! Tables will be set up in the lobby with representatives from some of Epworth's key community partners, offering an opportunity to visit and learn about Epworth's engagement with these impactful community organizations. Play community outreach missions bingo (by visiting the tables in the lobby) and be entered for a drawing for a gift card and an opportunity to grant a contribution to one of the organizations represented. Gift cards will be drawn at: 10am, 11am, and 12:30pm!

## GOLDEN DAYS OF FALL

All aged 50+ are welcome to join us for a FREE senior drive-through event for our members and the broader community on **September 15** from 9:30am – 11:30am (rain date, September 22nd). Expect community partners of many kinds offering valuable information, yummy treats, LOTS of give-aways, and more!

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

### *Sometimes It's Hard to Ask for Help*

We're brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that if we ask for help, it is a sign of weakness. So we try to keep our struggles hidden, stuffed deep inside. However, that's not God's plan. Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." God wants us to care for others—and allow others to care for us in our time of need. If you're sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone. Ask for help. We've got a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through a tough time. (It's confidential too!) To find out more contact us at [stephenministry@epworth.com](mailto:stephenministry@epworth.com). Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

# GROW: KIDS, YOUTH & FAMILIES

## 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 benefiting our mission partner, Sylvania Area Family Services. In the

event of inclement weather, we will show the movie 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.

### September 24: The Prince of Egypt

This movie highlights DreamWorks' beautiful animation and stirring score in the retelling of the story of Moses. The story follows Moses from his adoption as a baby by Pharaoh to his role as a leader of the Hebrews.

## WHAT KIDS ARE EXPLORING IN SEPTEMBER



### Elementary | 9:45am

We will explore what the Bible has to say about this month's life app Initiative: seeing what needs to be done and doing it. During their large group worship and small group discussion time, the kids will focus on this

month's memory verse: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord." (Colossians 3:23a) Our prayer is that this month your children will learn more about taking the initiative necessary to not only launch them into a fantastic school year, but to take the initiative to fully engage with their faith and time to grow closer to Christ!



### Preschool & Toddler | Sunday AM services

We will explore the Biblical truth: God is always with me. During their Bible story time, they will work on memorizing this Bible Memory Verse: "We

have the Lord our God to help us." (2 Chronicles 32:8) 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 always right there with them!

## STUDENT MINISTRIES

Students With A Task



### 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

### Sundays Night's: Deep End

6-7:30pm - Junior SWAT

7:30-9pm - SWAT

### First Confirmation Meeting

All those participating in confirmation this year are invited to join us for the first confirmation class on **September 12** at 9:45am in the old Junior High room attached to the Gym. If you have questions, please contact Chris at [chris@epworth.com](mailto:chris@epworth.com).

## TRUNK-OR-TREAT IS OCTOBER 24

**Trunk-or-Treat** will go from 5-7pm and is FREE to the entire community! Be sure to wear your costumes and be ready to Trunk-or-Treat for candy. Bring your friends!

**Decorate A Trunk:** to sign up, email [trunkortreat@epworth.com](mailto:trunkortreat@epworth.com) or call Jeff Roesti at 419-467-9932 to let us know! We need dozens of trunks to make this event a success.

Last year we had over 2500 visitors from our neighboring communities join us for this safe trick-or-treating alternative. With the potential of limited trick-or-treating opportunities this year, we could experience record numbers of participants.

**Donate Candy:** If you can't attend the event but would still like to lend your support, consider donating a few bags of candy. Candy donations of store bought, individually wrapped pieces of candy may be dropped off in the church office during regular business hours beginning October 1.

**Epworth Ambassadors:** We will need help directing our community through this year's trunk-or-treat event. Ambassadors would be working outside and inside, and will help direct our guests throughout the event. This will ensure an enjoyable experience for all who attend.

**Teal Pumpkin Project!** This year we will once again have trunks with non-food "treats" to include children with dietary and medical restrictions.

**Covid Precautions:** We will follow all CDC recommendations for this event in regards to mask wearing and social distancing for those attending as well as Epworth volunteers. More information including specific recommendations will be available closer to the date of the event.



stay connected to  
epworth church:



@epworthledo  
epworth.com

## ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY CENTER

### Fall Fundraiser

Epworth is a presenting sponsor of St. Paul's Fall Fundraiser to be held virtually and scheduled for **September 16** from 6-8pm. To further show Epworth's support of St. Paul's mission, we are collecting: body wash, women's deodorant, men's boxers (all sizes), and razors throughout the month of September. Look for the collection cart in the entrance (throughout the week) and in the lobby on Sundays!

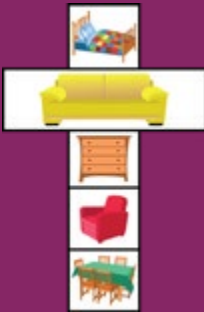
## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Hosting a Bazaar "takes a village!" Volunteer support is needed for a variety of positions. A total of about 80 helpers are required for Friday afternoon and Saturday. We look forward to welcoming back our past volunteers, but realize we will need additional individuals to commit to 2-3 hours to provide the necessary support. Recruiting volunteers of all ages will begin in September. Obtaining the required number of volunteers by October 1 is necessary for us to move forward with this year's event. When you see the sign-up opportunities, we hope that you will commit to provide a helping hand. As in the past, 100% of Bazaar proceeds go to support local missions. Our community non-profit recipient organizations rely on our support and need us more now than ever before.

## SAVE-THE-DATE

Epworth Preschool is hosting their annual Shorty's day on Monday, **October 11**. Please support our school by enjoying lunch, dinner, or take out. Hope to see you there.

## FURNITURE MINISTRY



*Items needed for blessings area:*

**toasters, crockpots, and twin comforters**

STATISTICS	AUGUST:	2021:
Families:	17	97
Adults:	25	119
Children:	12	109
Furniture:	162	970

## GOOD WORKS

We are determined to help our Athens neighbors this year. We will be in the lobby **September 12, 26, and October 3** to accept Lowe's gift cards. These cards will enable us to provide painting supplies, trash bags and other essential items for their important work. Or if you'd prefer, you we're also accepting checks made out to Epworth, memo line: good works. The staff in Athens has a big wish for a four door pick up truck as they are down 2 trucks. If you have a truck contact, please let the Richardson's, Sanders, or Martin's know.

## FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

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

- mixed vegetables
- pork and beans
- crackers
- peas
- cream of mushroom soup
- shampoo
- carrots
- kidney beans
- jelly
- bar soap
- toothpaste

If you have any questions, contact Carol Bardi at [cpb5538@gmail.com](mailto:cpb5538@gmail.com).

## HAWKINS STEM ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP

Hawkins STEM Academy students are back in school and Epworth volunteers are looking forward to resuming in-school activities this fall.

Polly Richardson tutored a 1st grade student online in April, then was able to tutor in-person in May. "It was wonderful to get back to in-person tutoring," she said. "I felt like it was more productive and I could better hold the student's attention." Garden Club volunteer, Jan Devany, tended the Hawkins garden this summer, along with Joyce Blanton and Kay Heinrichs. Students had planted the garden when they returned to school in late April, but after school ended no one tended it for several weeks. "We had a lot of weeding to do," Jan said, "but we ended up with a bumper crop of tomatoes" that were shared with Hawkins staff and the Nightingale's Harvest food pantry for cancer patients. Visit the Hawkins Partnership table in the lobby on Sunday, **September 19** to find out more about tutoring, garden club, and other volunteer opportunities at Hawkins.

## HOME HEALTH CARE MEDICAL SUPPLIES

A reminder to our Epworth family that there are home health care medical supplies available at Epworth for short-term and long-term use. Items such as walkers, crutches, canes, bathroom accessories, and more are available for your use. Contact the church office if you are in need of any home health care items and we will work to fill your need!

Epworth   
United Methodist Church

4855 W. Central Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio 43615-2337

---

SEPTEMBER 11, 2021

20<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

Commemoration & Remembrance Worship Service

*4:30pm*

A blue-tinted photograph of a city skyline at night, with various skyscrapers illuminated by lights. The image serves as the background for the lower half of the page.