

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday | April 10

Guest Preacher

at 8:30, 9:45 & 11am:

Bishop Al Gwinn

Wednesday | April 13

Guest Preacher at 7pm:

Dr. Lawrence L. Welborn

Maundy Thursday | April 14

Worship Cantata at 7pm:

This vocal and instrumental composition has been written by Kevin S. Foster for Epworth UMC.

Good Friday | April 15

Guest Preacher at 7pm:

Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr.

learn more at epworth.com/holyweek

EPWORTH

MARCH TOWER

March 2022

- 2-3 ANNOUNCEMENTS & CARE**
- + Newest Members
 - + Epworth Cares/Office Protocol
 - + Daylight Saving Time
 - + Stephen Ministry
 - + Welcome Susan Rex
 - + Healing & Wholeness Service
 - + Thanks!
 - + Sympathies & Congratulations
- 4 UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP**
- + Holy Week Worship
 - + Easter Sunday Worship
 - + Grace Before the Race
- 5 LETTER FROM DR. SWISHER/GROW**
- + Friends in Faith - Bunco, Book Club
 - + Financial Peace University Class
 - + Summer Trip to 'David' Live
 - + Men's Bible Study
- 6 EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS/KIDS**
- + Easter Flower Order Form
 - + Kids in March
 - + Bible Camp Preview Party
- 7 SERVE**
- + Furniture Ministry
 - + Collecting Bibles
 - + BGSU Choir Concert
 - + Summer Co-Ed Golf League
 - + Touch-a-Truck Planning Team
 - + Feed Your Neighbor
 - + Hawkins Stemm Academy

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**



/EpworthToledo



/EpworthChurchToledo



/EpworthToledo

April Tower Deadline:

Friday, March 25 -- Please e-mail all requested article copy and pictures to communications@epworth.com.

FEBRUARY NEW MEMBERS & BAPTISM



ROBERT AND JOSIE FREEMAN



ZARA KATHARINE WAYNE

In Person & Livestream Worship

SUNDAY:

- **8:30am Classic w/ Weekly Holy Communion:** 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.

WEBSITE & FACEBOOK:

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

- **Sunday at 8:30:** LIVE!
- **Sunday at 9:45am:** Rebroadcast of 8:30 worship service
- **Sunday at 11:00am:** LIVE!

TELEVISION BROADCASTS:

- **Sunday at 8:30pm** - WLMB - Televised broadcast of last week's worship. [Cable channel 40, Local channel 6]

Archived Sermons

All of our previous sermons are available at any time and on the go!

- **Podcasts:** We can be found on Apple, Spotify, and Google. Visit epworth.com/podcast for links.
- **Website:** Access any of our previously streamed sermons 24/7 at epworth.com/sermons.

EPWORTH CARES

Our goal is to create a safe environment for you and your loved ones both physically and spiritually. As a gentle reminder, if you, or anyone in your household feels ill, please stay home and watch one of our online or broadcast services. If you are not vaccinated or boosted, please wear a mask. **We ask that you use your best judgment and make the best choice for yourself and others.**



CHURCH OFFICE PROTOCOL

The church office is politely requesting that you first reach out by phone or email before making the trip to the office. We will do our best to assist you virtually. If a visit into the office is absolutely necessary, we request that you please wear a mask and stay socially distant. We enjoy serving you all and want to do our best to keep everyone healthy.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Keep in mind that Daylight saving time will begin at 2am on **Sunday, March 13**. Before you go to bed on Saturday, March 12, set your clocks ahead one hour. If you have a cell phone which connects to the internet, your phone will automatically update the time.

THANKS!

Good Works, Inc.

Through a virtual mission trip last October, our Epworth family raised \$18,232 in cash and \$455 in gift cards to help support this virtual mission. Other items were donated including paper goods, cases of canned soup, and a brand-new grill to be used for the Friday Night Life dinners provided to community people in need. All of these items were delivered to the Good Works staff and received with overwhelming gratitude.

- [Click here](#) to view the video from the Good Works staff.
- Good Works continues to have a need for a 4-door, 4-wheel drive pick-up truck. If you have one or know someone who would be able to donate one, contact the Sanders or the Richardson's. Good Works is a 501c3.
- [Click here](#) to learn about full-time staff employment.
- [Click here](#) to learn about internship opportunities with Good Works.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBER

We are excited to welcome our new staff accountant, Susan Rex. She is originally from Fulton County and currently lives in Sylvania Township with her husband, Tim. They have one adult daughter and three grandchildren.



Susan has extensive experience in both public and private sector accounting and will be starting her new position in early March. Please join us in giving Susan a warm welcome to the Epworth staff team!

HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE

March 14 at 7pm the monthly Healing and Wholeness service will be offered in the chapel. The healing and wholeness team (made up of laity of Epworth church) invites you to attend this service where we use Scripture, hymns, prayers, and reflection as we seek to reconnect with God, who is the source of our strength, healing, faith, and hope. We provide a time to openly share your joys and concerns and encourage you to open your heart and mind to welcome God into your life. We offer anointing and hands-on prayer to those who choose to participate. If you have any questions, contact Dave Daly at 567-315-8371 or dalylive@aol.com.

IT'S OKAY TO BE HUMAN....

Stephen Ministry

An important theme of the Lenten season is the humanity of Christ. In Jesus, God became human and fully experienced the wide range of emotions we all encounter in life. Jesus experienced times of loneliness, sadness, hurt, anger, disappointment, grief, and abandonment. That is part of being human. Another part of being human is needing help from each other. Part of God's plan is for each of us to turn to others for help when we need it. So when you are experiencing difficult times, don't struggle alone. Stephen Ministers will walk with you, listen to you, encourage you, pray with you, and provide confidential one-to-one care to help you through tough times. Stephen Ministers can bring the love of Jesus back into your life. To learn more about Stephen Ministry, contact us at stephenministry@epworth.com.

Sympathies recent deaths

- THE HOLMBERG FAMILY on the passing of Soren Holmberg.
- THE SCHNEIDER FAMILY on the passing of Helen Schneider.
- THE BROWN FAMILY on the passing of Kathryn Brown.

UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday - Bishop Al Gwinn

Bishop Gwinn has served churches ranging from rural, inner city, and suburban congregations. For ten years he served as the Senior Pastor of the Centenary United Methodist Church in Lexington, Kentucky, which under his leadership became the largest church in that Conference. He also served as the District Superintendent of the Lexington District. He was elected to the Episcopacy in 2004 and served as the Bishop of the North Carolina Conference based in Raleigh.

April 13 at 7pm | Dr. Lawrence L. Welborn

Dr. Welborn is a Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at Fordham University in New York City. He is a world- renowned New Testament scholar and is in great demand as a speaker and lecturer worldwide. He holds a Ph.D. in Theology from Vanderbilt University and a Master of Arts in Religion from Yale University. Dr. Welborn has written several best-selling books.

Maundy Thursday, April 14 at 7pm

Worship Cantata: "A New Commandment"

Featuring the Epworth Chancel Choir, this vocal and instrumental composition has been written for Epworth UMC by Epworth UMC member, Kevin S. Foster. "For years I have felt called to compose a choral work for Maundy Thursday. Each year, in the days leading up to Easter, I am reminded of the incredible, powerful story that is the selfless sacrifice of Jesus for all. I think of those who were there ... I consider how they might have felt as they interacted with Jesus on his journey to the cross. In 2019, I took these reflections and created this work which I am happy to finally be able to share. A New Commandment is a 7-movement cantata for choir and orchestra that brings to life the perspectives of those characters in new ways, through monologue and song. It is my hope that through this music and drama, we might find ourselves in this story, in a more intimate way than before." -Kevin S. Foster, Composer

Good Friday, April 15 at 7pm

Bishop Warner H. Brown Jr.

Bishop Brown is currently the Resident Bishop of the Sierra Leone Conference. Previously he served as the Bishop of the Denver area. Prior to his election he served as the Senior Pastor of the United Methodist Church in Bakersfield, California.

EASTER SUNDAY

6:30am Community Easter Sunrise Worship Service:

Join Dr. Stephen Swisher at 6:30am at Toledo Zoo Amphitheater for his sermon, entitled, "A Brighter Day" with scripture reference, Matthew 28:5-6. This service is free to attend and will feature Broadway singer, John Easterlin and the Academy Brass Quintet. After worship you can stick around and enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast.

8:30, 9:45 & 11am Worship Services: Dr. Stephen Swisher is preaching in our Sanctuary.

- **8:30 classic Easter worship:** Includes Holy Communion and traditional Easter music featuring the Academy Brass Quintet.
- **9:45am classic Easter worship:** Includes traditional Easter music featuring the Academy Brass Quintet.
- **11am modern Easter worship:** Features our Praise Band and includes modern praise songs. We will also be welcoming our confirmands on Easter Sunday at the 11am service. Join us in receiving these new young people into membership.

Easter Morning for Families

Easter is a time for families to be together at Epworth! Children are encouraged to worship with their families during all of our Easter morning worship services. There will even be a special children's message during our 9:45am and 11am worship services. Nursery childcare will be available for our 8:30, 9:45 & 11am services, please contact childcare@epworth.com with any childcare needs or questions.

Pictures with the Easter Bunny & Egg Scavenger Hunt: Plan to come a little early or stay after worship for fun family events including an Easter Egg scavenger hunt in the children's wing and FREE pictures with the Easter Bunny in the Children's Church throughout the morning. Questions? Contact our Director of Children and Family Ministries, Mary@epworth.com.

SAVE-THE-DATE: GRACE BEFORE THE RACE

The 45th Annual Glass City Marathon will take place on Sunday, **April 24**. In the past, worshipers have had great difficulty getting to the 8:30 & 9:45am services due to local road closures. So, on the weekend of April 23-24 we are changing our worship service times (for **ONLY** this one weekend). We will have 2 in-person worship services for this weekend in addition to our usual broadcast times.

- ***Saturday, April 23: 5pm Worship (In Person)***
We will offer a blessing to anyone in our community running, volunteering, or attending the Marathon. You are also welcome to support a friend or family member! Holy Communion will be shared, childcare will be available, and the attire is casual.
- ***Sunday, April 24: 11am (In Person)***
This service will be our typical 11am modern worship service. All are welcome to come and experience this fast-paced worship service featuring our Praise Band.



Spring A Sweet Season of Renewal

Hello friends. The other day I heard spring defined as “A Sweet Season of Renewal.” I like that, don’t you? What a refreshing way to think about this time of year. I know many of us can’t wait until March 20 to celebrate

the new season. Poets, theologians, and writers of all kinds have had much to say about springtime through the years. All you have to do is look within to find your favorite definition. I like the phrase describing the beauty of new flowers and vegetation as “floral apostles” beautifully directing our thoughts to “Jesus the one source of divine Life and Love in whom we find salvation from sin, darkness and death.” Another writer proclaims the leaves “clapping their hands as nature’s untired worshipers.” This reminds me of the Scripture from Luke 19:40 where Jesus expresses to the Pharisees that they are powerless to stop the excitement of the people and that if humanity did stop “I tell you....if they keep quiet even the stones will cry out.” The idea of rocks crying out in praise to the Lord is poetic, startling imagery. Throughout the Bible we find similar poetic passages that present a host of objects praising God. For example in Psalm 114:6, the mountains leap and in Psalm 148, the sun, moon, stars, heavens, water, sky, animals, and people “Praise the Lord.” This is the ultimate purpose of everything and everyone in existence.

In saying the “stones will cry out,” Jesus is indicating that the people’s acclamations of joy and faith should be encouraged. The people of Jerusalem are expressing great joy and that joy and positive faith is so necessary and so appropriate that if they did not express this kind of praise, inanimate objects would fill the void. Colossians 1:16 reminds us that all creation declares God’s praise. We are a part of that creation. In fact, as humans created in God’s image we should be leading the band of those who celebrate and praise the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

So this spring as the sun warms your face and the breeze caresses your hair and thoughts of new life fill your mind... take the time to thank God for His presence. Then allow the praise that is innate within you to flow from your heart through your mouth with a “Thank you, Lord.”

We are currently experiencing the Season of Lent which will lead quickly to Holy Week and the life changing message of Easter. As we allow ourselves to truly experience this spring of hope, we will be in a great position to receive the meaningfulness of Easter.

Your friend and partner in ministry,
Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher | Senior Pastor

FRIENDS IN FAITH BUNCO

Everyone is welcome, we meet at 6:30pm. Bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share. Bring your friends. No bunco experience is necessary! Join us on March 9 at Ronnie’s, 2225 Woods Edge Ct., Toledo. RSVP by email gorsuch2@bex.net or by text to 419-367-9549. *Note: original date was March 16.*

FRIENDS IN FAITH BOOK CLUB

Everyone is welcome to join us at 7 pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Dessert and water will be served (or bring your own drink). *A note from our Book Club host: Fully vaccinated or those who have recovered from are COVID welcome. Masks always welcome. Please no unvaccinated other than those recovered from COVID.* Please RSVP to June at jargalvin@yahoo.com. Join us on March 22, *The Clover Girls* by Viola Shipman.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY CLASS

Planning for the future is hard when you’re still paying for the past! Listen—there’s a better way! Join our next Financial Peace University class, and we’ll learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future together! Interested? Join us in room 213 starting Tuesday, **March 8** from 7-8:30pm. You can start your 14-day free trial of Financial Peace at fpu.com/1148486.

3-DAY BUS TRIP TO SEE ‘DAVID’ LIVE

Epworth members and friends are welcome to join us for a fellowship outing to the Sight and Sound Theatre, in Lancaster, PA, to see “David” live, on-stage, the musical production biblical story. The three-day bus trip will take place this *July 11-13*. The trip includes round-trip motor coach transportation, one ticket to “David” live, two nights in a hotel, two breakfasts, one dinner, all gratuity, and a visit to the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, PA. Price varies based on hotel accommodations and range from \$399-\$599 per person. Space is limited and reservations with a deposit are due by **March 15**, final payment due June 9. Complete information, including registration forms, are available on the board in the church lobby or visit epworth.com/davidlive to print forms. For more information, contact Tyus Tours & Travel at 866-547-5362 or Carol Latorre at cjlatorre12@gmail.com.

SAVE-THE-DATE: MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men’s Bible study will commence **April 14**. Meet on Thursdays at 3:30pm in the lobby (April 14, 21, 28 and May 5, 12). Topic: *Ten Women of the Bible* by Max Lucado. Study leaders: Dr. Swisher and Ed Bardi. Any questions, please contact Ed Bardi at ejb5538@gmail.com.

EASTER FLOWER FORM & KIDS

EASTER FLOWER ORDER/ DONATION FORM

If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one for Easter this year, we have two options available:

1. You can order tulips to take home, or
2. You can make a donation to the Easter Flower Fund

Commemorations will be listed in the **April 17th** bulletin. Please return this form with your payment to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Purchased plants may be picked up **AFTER** the 11am Easter Service. Thank you for supporting this ministry!



ORDER DEADLINE IS MONDAY, MARCH 28

Donor Name(s):

(Please print clearly, as you wish to be listed)

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

In Memory of and/or In Honor of: (Please circle one)

4^{1/2}" pot of Tulips #_____ x \$10 = \$_____

6^{1/2}" pot of Tulips #_____ x \$15 = \$_____

General Easter Flower Fund Donation: \$_____

TOTAL ORDER: \$_____

Please make checks payable to Epworth
United Methodist Church, memo line:
Easter Flowers

WHAT KIDS ARE EXPLORING IN MARCH

Preschool & Toddler | Sunday AM services



This month, we continue our in-person gatherings during all Sunday morning worship services. Epworth's Preschool and Toddler kids will explore the Biblical truth: Everyone can be friends with Jesus. If you are

unable to join us in person, we will post the First Look Early Childhood Worship on our facebook page, facebook.com/Epworthkids and digital devotional materials at epworth.com/kidsathome. This hands-on, action-packed large group/small group time will help your early childhood children explore the idea that Jesus is for everyone and He wants all different kinds of people to follow Him and be his friend. During their Bible story time, they will work on memorizing this Bible Memory Verse: "Come and follow me", Jesus said." (Matthew 4:19, NIV) It is our prayer that by the end of this month, when you ask your little ones "Who can be friends with Jesus?", they will confidently answer "EVERYONE can be friends with Jesus!"

Elementary | 9:45am



This month, Epworth's Elementary kids will continue to meet at 9:45 in the children's wing. If you are unable to join us in person, our Epworth Kids Elementary Worship will continue to be streamed live at 10am on our facebook page, facebook.com/Epworthkids and

digital devotional materials at epworth.com/kidsathome. We will explore what the Bible has to say about this month's life app Cooperation—Working together to do more than you can do alone. During their large group worship and small group discussion time the kids will focus on this month's memory verse "Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do." (Ecclesiastes 4:9 NIV) Our prayer is that this month, your children will learn that with cooperation, we can do more than we can do alone. God designed us all with unique talents and gifts to work together because everyone has a part to play.

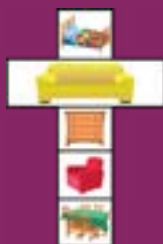
BIBLE CAMP PREVIEW PARTY!



Join us on Sunday, **April 24** from 11am-1pm in the gym! You will have an opportunity to experience the new and exciting theme and join us for songs, games, crafts, and food. Take the time to pre-register at the event and receive a FREE Bible Camp CD. Bible Camp

is open to potty-trained, 4 year old children (as of June 1, 2022) through children who have completed 5th grade. Volunteer sign-ups will also be available during the preview party.

FURNITURE MINISTRY



STATS: FEBRUARY:

Families:	17
Adults:	19
Children:	24
Furniture:	166

ITEMS NEEDED FOR BLESSINGS AREA:
crockpots

COLLECTING BIBLES FOR AFRICA!

Throughout the season of Lent we will be collecting used or new Bibles and nonfiction Christian books for Christian Literature for Africa (CLA). CLA is based in Fort Wayne, IN and has shipped millions of Bibles and Christian books to Africa over the past 30 years. In one testimony there were 25 Bibles distributed and 23 of the pastors receiving Bibles had never had one. Bibles, specifically, are of the most need and that would include adult, youth, and children's Bibles. Find the cart in the lobby starting March 1. For more info on types of literature, visit www.christianlitforafrica.org or contact Jennie at Jennie@epworth.com

THE BGSU A CAPPELLA CHOIR & UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CHORUS CONCERT

The Epworth Artist Series presents: An afternoon of great choral music featuring the A Cappella Choir and The University Women's Chorus from Bowling Green State University on Sunday, **April 3** at 3pm in the church sanctuary. 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. Join us for this afternoon of great music that is free and open to the public.

SUMMER CO-ED GOLF LEAGUE

Our summer co-ed golf league is getting ready to play at Whiteford Valley Golf Club. We play 9 holes every Thursday night for 16 weeks with the first night out on Thursday, **May 6**. Greens fees including cart rental are \$336 for all 16 weeks, and must be paid by the first league night. For more information or to sign up, please contact Adam Schoesler at adam.schoesler77@gmail.com or 419-351-0758 (call or text).

TOUCH-A-TRUCK PLANNING TEAM

Do you think it's important to bring some normalcy back to our kids lives? Do you want to help but can't do a year-long commitment?

If so, then the Touch-a-Truck event planning team is for you! Help us coordinate event details, secure cool vehicles, or just be a warm, welcoming Epworth ambassador on-site that day! This event will take place in our parking lot on **May 14**. Prayerfully consider whether you will join this planning team and bring some joy into our kids' lives. Or if you have a cool vehicle you'd like to show off, please contact Adam Schoesler at 419-351-0758 or email him at adam.schoesler77@gmail.com.

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

Thank you again, Epworth, for providing the perfect donations to Feed Your Neighbor. Your generosity is commendable! Have any questions? Contact Carol Bardi at cpb5538@gmail.com. The needs for March and April are:

- 64 oz. bottles of orange, apple, or grape juice
- tuna fish
- cans of mixed vegetables
- pork and beans
- chick peas
- kidney beans
- bar soap
- shampoo
- deodorant
- toothpaste

HAWKINS STEM ACADEMY

Two Epworth-Hawkins Partnership Book Initiatives programs, Reader Bags and Book Clubs, that were suspended during the 2020-21 school year have resumed in 2022. First and second grade students are again able to borrow two age-appropriate books for a week at a time. When books are returned, Epworth volunteers check them in and provide students with a new bag of books to borrow. In March, book clubs for small groups of 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will restart. Participants are selected by teachers, who also recommend books that are then purchased by the Epworth Hawkins Partnership. Book Initiative volunteers lead weekly ½ hour discussions during students' lunch/recess time. In May, the Book Initiatives team will again hold Kindergarten Book Day, providing each kindergarten student with a new hardcover book. Book Initiatives volunteers also assist in staffing the school library two days a week, every other week. These programs promote the BI goal of putting books into the hands and homes of Hawkins students, with a focus on grades K-5.



4855 W. Central Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43615-2337

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 17, 2022

6:30AM SUNRISE SERVICE

Dr. Stephen Swisher is preaching at the Toledo Zoo Amphitheater. Featuring John Easterlin and the Academy Brass, it's free to attend with a continental breakfast!



8:30, 9:45, 11AM

Dr. Stephen Swisher preaching in our sanctuary featuring the Academy Brass. **FOR OUR KIDS:** Free photos with the Easter Bunny & an Easter Egg scavenger hunt!

