

EPWORTH

September 2023 Tower



SEPTEMBER 2023

2-3 SPECIAL NOTES

- + Worship Opportunities
- + Stay Connected
- + October Tower Deadlines
- + A letter to Our Members

4-5 GROW : FAMILIES

- + Kids in September
- + SWAT
- = Church Picnic

6-7

- + Choir season begin
- + Artist Series
- + Good Works

9 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- + Boble Studies
- + Altar Flower Donations

IN-PERSON WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

8:30am | Worship with weekly Holy Communion

Music includes traditional hymns and instrumental pieces. Communion (which is always open to all at Epworth) is offered every week. This is a great service for those who also like to attend a 9:45am Sunday morning class.

9:45am | Traditional Worship Service

This is our service that features traditional hymns accompanied by both the Epworth choir and the pipe organ. The weekly message is especially inspiring on bright sunny days as the stained glass windows color the sanctuary.

11:00am | Modern Worship Service

This service features lively music and an inspirational message. Come as you are to this casual, inviting, and uplifting opportunity to express your faith.

7pm (Second Monday of the Month) | Healing and Wholeness Service | Epworth Chapel

We gather to reconnect to our source of strength, faith, hope and love using prayer, hymns, time of reflection, a time of sharing our joys and concerns with God and people who care. At this service we offer oil anointing and hands on prayer for any who wish to receive it.

Childcare is available during our Sunday morning worship services.

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 & 9:45am: Live

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:** facebook.com/epworthtoledo

OCTOBER TOWER DEADLINE: Friday, September 22

Have an idea for next month's Tower?
Please e-mail all requested article copy
and pictures to amy@epworth.com.

Our Promise

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



Barrily Worth Mentioning

There are parts of the Bible that I just don't get. And if I'm honest with myself, there are some parts of the Bible I find myself sideways with. That 10th verse in Psalms 46 is one of those that gets caught in the throat of my soul. "Be still and know that I am God!" Well, who on earth can do that? In fact, which of us wants to do that – Be still? The only time I want to be still is when I'm put in a 6-foot box for the first and last time. Activity is what I like, seek, and thrive on. I like to be busy. I'm rewarded for being busy. Productivity in every job is measured by activity that produces results. No one in the world gets paid or promoted to be still - unless it's a mattress tester for Serta. I crave noise, action, involvement and all that goes with it. Be still? Not for me.

The truth is stillness is a bit frightening. When I get home, I suspect I'm a lot like most of you – I turn something on – the radio, TV, Sonos, a play list – something because silence is something I tend to avoid. I suspect a lot of us fall into this category. We dislike silence and stillness. If there's a lull in the conversation, we feel a need to fill the gap with words. If the YouTube we are watching goes quiet because it's buffering, we get annoyed. I know from present day circumstances that an empty house is really hard to adapt to, perhaps the hardest – because you are not only alone, but you and I miss the noise and activity.

So why 'be still'? I suspect it's for all the reasons I just mentioned. God can't be heard amid the noise and blur of activity. The truth is, I suspect that's the reason we try to stay busy and surround ourselves with Surround Sound. We are, if we are honest with ourselves, often afraid to meet God. If God is in the stillness, well, maybe I'll pass. What if God wants me to do something, or stop doing something? What if God wants to have a closer relationship with me but I don't have the time, and maybe the inclination, to be close to God. After all, one can't be around God for very long and remain the same. And who among us really wants to change, especially when things seem to be going so well?

But there it is – be still? You know why God says this. It's because God does want to be close to us. God wants an intimate relationship. And God even wants you and me to change because God has something better for us than what we presently think is the best of all worlds. But to have it, we'll have to be still.

There's a great "call" story or a "call back" story about Elijah in First Kings chapter 19. Elijah is pushed to his limits. Jezebel is hunting for his hide. He's about to give up and "poor me" stories flood his head. So, God has him go to a mountain top and promises to pass by him. And then the fireworks begin – a great wind, then an earthquake, and then a fire. Afterwards there is "the sound of sheer silence". After each calamitous event there is an announcement – "But God was not in the wind", or "God was not in the earthquake", or "God was not in the fire." God was not in the wild and noisy. God was in the stillness. This is where God is usually found. And if you enter it, you may well find not only God, but yourself.

Blessings to you, Barry

WHAT EPWORTH KIDS ARE EXPLORING IN SEPTEMBER



Elementary: This month, Epworth's Elementary kids will meet at 9:45 in the children's wing and explore God's Big Story. In September we will focus on what the Bible teaches us about Friendship! You don't need to attend a junior high band concert to know that learning to work together in harmony with others takes practice! Just because people are brought together because of a similar interest in soccer or because they're in the same grade at school, doesn't mean they'll instantly become great friends. To have good friends, you need to be a good friend and the Bible has many stories that are meant to teach us what a good friend looks like! Here's how we define this month's life app **Friendship: Using your words and actions to show others you care.** During their large group worship and small group discussion time the kids will focus on this month's memory verse *"A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes. (Proverbs 17:17)"*

Our prayer this month is that your elementary kids begin to take these God-size ideas about friendship to heart and make some harmony together!



Preschool & Toddler: This month, we continue our in-person gatherings during all Sunday morning worship services with hands-on, action-packed large group/small group time. Epworth's Preschool and Toddler kids will explore the Biblical truth: **God knows what's best for me.** This month's theme will help your early childhood kiddos explore how to make good choices! By age 3, kids are faced with about 3,500 choices every day – everything from what to have for a snack to whether to share their new toy or tell a lie about how the crayon marks got on the wall. By the time they're adults, the number of choices jumps to about 35,000 each day! So, we want to help your children learn from a young age that they can rely on God when they have tough choices to make in their lives! During their Bible story time, they will work on memorizing this month's Bible Memory Verse: *"God . . . knows everything."* (1 John 3:20) It is our prayer is that after hearing Bible stories like Adam and Eve, Moses, Jonah, and Naaman your little one will remember that God loves us, and they trust that God knows what's best for us.

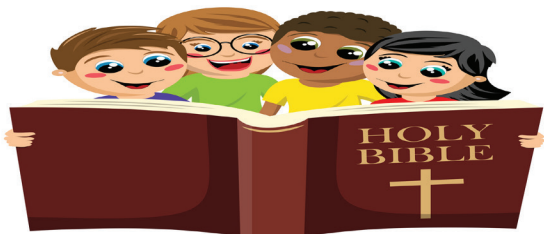
3RD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

Each fall Epworth presents Bibles to our Third graders. The children will be presented with their very own Bibles on Sunday, September 17 at the 9:45 a.m. service. The Bible the children receive is The Hands On Bible, which is a new living translation especially designed for young students and contains maps, charts, study aids, and in an easy-to-read format.

Children and parents will then be released to go to a special hands-on workshop titled 3rd Grade Faith Passage following the presentation where we will learn how to use the Bible, what it contains, and how parents can foster an environment of life-long faith exploration in their home.

We look forward to having all Third Grade students participate in this special Sunday. By working together, church and family, we can build a strong foundation for your children. To register your student, or to ask any questions, please email Mary Roesti mary@epworth.com.

We kindly ask that you register by September 10 so we have enough Bibles for all those who wish to receive one.



Hello and Greetings from SWAT,

We have a busy fall start up in September. First, we will be starting a new study series in Both Jr High and High School SWAT. The Jr. High series is called "Stuck Together". The Sr. High series is called "Thicker than Water". These studies will talk about the importance of family in the faith journey. We also have confirmation starting up the first of four retreats. Please see below for the schedule for September.

Sept 10 – Donuts and the Bible at 9:45, SWAT at 6:00 PM

SEPT 15TH TO 17TH – Confirmation Retreat #1 Starts at 7:00 PM Friday until after Donuts and the Bible on Sunday.

SEPT 17 – Donuts and the Bible at 9:45, SWAT at 6:00 PM

SEPT 24 – Donuts and the Bible at 9:45, SWAT at 6:00 PM

I also want to encourage anyone who would like to help volunteer in the Student Ministries here at Epworth to contact me at jay@epworth.com. Together we can find a way to use your gifts and talents in the service of God and the Church by helping the youth program.

CONFIRMATION 2023 – 2024

"If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32

SCHEDULE

Retreat 1 – Sept 15-17

Retreat 2 – Nov 17-19

Retreat 3 – Jan 26-28

Retreat 4 – Mar 15-17

Confirmation Sunday – April 28

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Just a reminder. The Youth participate in the Kroger Communities Reward Program. This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Shopper's Card. Here's how it works. Go to: Kroger Community Rewards - Kroger Follow the directions.

EPWORTH STUDENT MINISTRIES is the organization name. Thank you for your support. Thank you for supporting our youth!



Sometimes It's Hard to Ask for Help

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 about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know contact us at stephenministry@epworth.com. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

COFFEE AND CONVERSION

We are Coffee and Conversation and we meet upstairs in Room 213. Our curriculum takes many different forms and members of our class take turns teaching. We are a diverse group of Christian believers and we encourage everyone to contribute to discussions. We share and care for one another. We'd love to have you join us on Sunday mornings at the 9:45 hour. Hope to see you :-)



BUNCO HAS RETURNED!

Date: Tuesday, Sept 19, 2023; 6:30 PM
Hosted by: Kay Heinrichs
To RSVP or get location details, contact Kay at 419-654-1113 or kayheinrichs@gmail.com
Please bring a side dish, appetizer or dessert to share. Bring your friends – we are open to all adult women.

ADULT SINGLES MINISTRY

The Adult Singles Ministry exists to connect single, divorced and widowed adults in the Toledo community. The Adult Singles Ministry is open to singles from all faith traditions and all singles in the community are invited to join us. Please RSVP to Sue at suehartman63@hotmail.com or call 419-882-8826.

SEPTEMBER 10

Attend the 9:45 a.m. worship service at Epworth UMC. Breakfast at 11:15 a.m. Location TBA.

SEPTEMBER 20 Sunset Serenade concert

The Scott Schafer Big Band will perform starting at 7:00 p.m. at Olander Park, 6930 Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania. Bring lawn chairs. Free

SEPTEMBER 24

Attend the 9:45 a.m. worship service at Epworth UMC. The Picnic will start at 3 p.m. in the back parking lot at Epworth Church.



Womens Bible Study

Ladies of Epworth and friends are invited to become part of a women's Bible study this fall. There are two day options on Tuesdays, beginning September 12, at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Both of those groups will study prayer, learning from prayers in the Old and New Testaments: David, Hannah, Mary, Paul, the Early Church, and Jesus Himself! Evening opportunities for women are also being planned. For more information, contact Linda Pokrajac at lindapok@aol.com or sign up at the Women's Ministry table on Sunday, September 10.



HEALING AND WHOLENESS

The Healing and Wholeness team Invites you to join us for Epworth's monthly service on

September 11th at 7pm in the chapel.

This service is meant for everyone. It is a time for sharing joys and concerns, re-connecting with God, while seeking healing and comfort. Scriptures are shared, hymns are sung, prayers are lifted up, and for those who would accept it anointing and hands on prayers are offered. It is an intimate service, with God's love shared. Join us on Monday, September 11th, in the chapel at 7pm.



THURSDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday Adult Bible Study began on September 7 There is still time to register. We will be studying the Book of Romans and using the study guide, Romans: a 12-week Study by Jared C. Willson. It will be led by Ed Bardi. You will find us in room 205 at 3:30 every Thursday.



FRIENDS IN FAITH BOOK CLUB

The Friends in Faith Book Club meets at 7pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month except December. We serve up dessert along with interesting discussions and all adults are welcome. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jen at JenR16@roadrunner.com. The next opportunities to join us are:

SEPTEMBER 26: *The Red Notebook*
Antoine Laurang

OCTOBER 24: *Tom Lake* Ann Patchett.

NOVEMBER 28: *The Connellys of County Down*
Tracey Lange.

GOOD WORKS

Epworth is once again sending a mission team to Good Works in Athens, Ohio during the first week in October. Keith Wasserman, who founded Good Works 40 years ago, has in the past visited our church expressing his gratitude for Epworth's long relationship and past support. (13 years!)

Once again our mission team is asking for your support for the homeless living in Good Work's two homeless shelters supporting 8 counties in southeast Ohio.

Count the ways:

Canned vegetables/fruit/soup

Ziploc bags: quart and gallon bags

Trash bags: 13 and 39 gallon size

Twin bed mattress covers

CASH AND GIFT CARDS

CHECKS made out to Epworth with "Good Works" on the memo line

GIFT CARDS to approved vendors:

McDonald's, Wendy's, Kroger's, or Lowe's
Checks or gift cards can be mailed to the church or placed in an envelope in the offering plate. We will be collecting these items beginning, September 10th - October 1, 2023
James 1:27, "A person who generously helps those in need works hand in hand with God."
Help make this 14th year another Epworth success story!



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.

Cecil Baughman, director

CHANCEL CHOIR

Beginning Thursday September 7, 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the choir room
Sing at the 9:45 a.m. service
College age and up.

WESLEYAN RINGERS

Beginning Thursday August 31st 6:15 p.m.
Thursdays 6:15-7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary
College age and up

TOWER RINGERS

Beginning Sunday September 10th
Sundays 5:30-6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
Junior High and Senior High students

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Beginning Wednesday September 20th
5:15-6:00 p.m. in room 205
Ages 3 through grade 5

JOY RINGERS

Beginning September 20th
Wednesday 6:00-6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary
Grades 3 through 5

PRAISE TEAM

Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary
Sing at the 11:00 a.m. service

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE
AND OTHER PROGRAMS PLEASE CONTACT
THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 419.531.4236.



2023 ARTS & CRAFTS BAZAAR

The annual Arts and Crafts Bazaar on November 4 is the major fundraiser for United Methodist Women's efforts to support local missions! Its success depends on all of us. What can you do to support it?

- Donate an item (new only), gift card, service, or dinner for the silent auction?

Contact Carolyn Kaminski at u70m@bex.net or 419-350-3382 for donation information. Items can be brought to the church office beginning in October.

- Volunteer? Many opportunities exist for both men and women on Friday, Nov. 3 and Saturday, Nov 4. Sign-up boards will be in the lobby beginning October 8. Contact Polly Richardson at Polly1231@bex.net or 419-908-0590.
- Bake your favorite pie, cake, cookies or casserole for the pantry? Deliver Friday, Nov.3.



BE INVOLVED. BE INSPIRED. BE A VOLUNTEER.

Looking to get involved in a meaningful and impactful way? See how you can make a difference participating in our many ministries and inspiring initiatives. Learn more about our volunteer opportunities at Epworth: info@epworth.com.

TECH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Interested in joining our outstanding team of tech wizards? We are looking for camera operators for the 8:30/9:45am services. We already have a great team, and we would love to add to it! For more information, please email Aidan

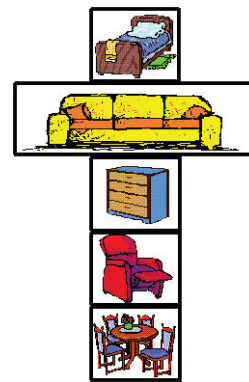
FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR OUTREACH

The needs for August/September are: Canned tuna and chicken, diced tomatoes, pork & beans, kidney beans, mashed potato flakes, noodles, crackers, 64 oz. juice, ramen noodles, shampoo, deodorant, and toothpaste. Any questions contact



ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

Are you interested in adding to the beauty of our sanctuary? We welcome any flower arrangement donations in dedication or memory of loved ones, or simply to bring joy and positivity to our altar. Thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness, Epworth family! Contact james@epworth.com



FURNITURE MINISTRY

STATS:	AUGUST:	YTD:
Families:	15	86
Adults:	19	106
Children:	10	97
Furniture:	132	789

BLESSINGS ITEMS MOST NEEDED:

- comforter
- can openers
- Large pots and pans

Church Picnic

September 24th

Sponsored by the FED - Fellowship, Excite, & Disciple Team

When: From 3 to 6pm

Where: Epworth back parking lot

- Join us for hot dogs, watermelon, chips, popcorn, and snow cones.
- cake walk, face painting, gaga ball and water balloon games
- corn hole tournament (begins at 4)
- Fun activities for the whole family!
- Great prizes available for winners.

Please bring a chair and come fellowship together!

If interested in donating a cake or volunteering contact fed@epworth.com.

Or you can sign up on the connection card. Cakes can be brought in Sunday morning and left in the Kitchen.

In the event of rain the event will be postponed to the following week, October 1st.



HAWKINS NEWS

The 2023-24 school year began August 17 for Epworth-Hawkins Partnership volunteers. Members of the Hawkins leadership team attended a morning staff meeting, and volunteers assisted with registration of families attending an evening open house. Classes began for students on August 21 and we expect to receive teacher referrals for tutoring in mid-September.

Kindergarten Family Night is also scheduled for September (the exact date will be set after consultation with kindergarten teachers). At this event, the Epworth Hawkins Partnership gives each kindergarten family in attendance a book to read with their child. Epworth volunteers provide childcare while kindergarten teachers talk to parents/guardians about the benefits of reading with your child. The evening concludes with a pizza meal for all family members.

The Reader Bag program for students in grades 1 and 2 will resume in September. Students can borrow a bag with two age-appropriate books every week. When the bag is returned, the student can borrow two different books. Volunteers check in and distribute books weekly.

A new program planned for October will be a Second Grade Family Literacy Night at the Reynolds Corners branch library. Library staff will share early literacy resources with families and the Epworth-Hawkins Partnership will provide pizza, beverages, and gift cards as an attendance incentive.

If you're interested in these volunteer opportunities at Hawkins, please contact Barb Machin (bmachin@bex.net) about tutoring or Kay Bennett (jakbennett@bex.net) for book

The 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 2023 – 2024 season:

THE EPWORTH ARTIST SERIES PRESENTS:

Carols with music written for Brass quintet and Choir Featuring The Academy Brass Quintet & Epworth's Chancel Choir

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

This concert features Epworth's Chancel Choir, and The Academy Brass Quintet. We'll sing favorite Christmas carols for choir and congregation and feature other seasonal favorites that will start your season off merry and bright!

THE EPWORTH ARTIST SERIES PRESENTS:

A Afternoon of Harpsichord Music Dedicating our new William Dowd Harpsichord Sunday January, 28, 2024 3:00 p.m.

An afternoon of suites of music by American and French composers presented by Cecil Baughman on our new William Dowd Harpsichord. Music by J. S. Bach, Jean-Francois Dandrieu, Carlos Seixus, Jan Pietierzsoon Sweelinck, Johan Agrell, and Daniel Pinkham

THE EPWORTH ARTIST SERIES PRESENTS:

The Clarence Smith Community Chorus. An Evening of Gospel Music for Choir and Soloists

Saturday February, 25, 2024 7:00 p.m.

Celebrating its 46th season, the CSCC again shares with the greater Toledo area a unique series of cultural offerings. The Chorus specializes in the performance of Negro spirituals and is dedicated to its preservation as well as the performance of works by African American composers. The 35-member chorus also maintains a liberal helping of standard classical music in its repertoire. CSCC members come from all walks of life, unified by their mutual love of great music. This award-winning ensemble has performed numerous times on radio and television, including TV broadcasts of its Christmas concerts over the past several years. During its long history, SCC has been featured with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, at the University of Michigan's "Music of Black Americans Symposium", with the Toledo Jazz Orchestra, The Toledo Museum of Art, Lourdes College Series, and nearly every major musical organization in the Toledo Area.

THE EPWORTH ARTIST SERIES PRESENTS:

The Kalamazoo Ringers An Afternoon of Classical, Christian and Popular Music Arranged and written for a Professional Handbell Choir

Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Kalamazoo Ringers is one of the longest-running bronze-level community handbell ensembles in the USA. Okay, that's a mouthful, so let's break that down. They've been performing continuously since 1981. That's a unique claim in the American handbell world. They've had the privilege of learning and presenting some of the most challenging music in the handbell literature. Their repertoire includes hymn arrangements, classical music, and popular music, among other genres.

As you can see, we have a wonderful and eclectic Artist Series planned this year. Your contributions have kept this vital ministry alive and well here at Epworth. Your gifts have kept this from becoming a burden on our operating budget and allowed us to reach out into the community and bring new people into Epworth. I ask you to prayerfully consider giving again this year as we continue to bring quality musical programs to our church and community. Again thank you for your support.

I wish to support the Artist Series by contributing to the current season.

Partners \$300.00 or more
Sponsors \$100.00-\$149.00
Benefactors \$250.00-\$299.00
Friends \$ \$50.00-\$99.00
Patrons \$200.00-\$249.00
Associates \$150.00-\$199.00
Other \$

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

Yours in Christ,

Cecil Baughman



join us in **WORSHIP**

8:30am | Worship with weekly Holy Communion

Music includes traditional hymns and instrumental pieces. Communion (which is always open to all at Epworth) is offered every week. This is a great service for those who also like to attend a 9:45am Sunday morning class.

9:45am | Traditional Worship Service

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