

EPWORTH TOWER



AUGUST 2025

AUGUST 2025

2-3

+Worship Opportunities
+Birthdays

4 +Grow families

5 +Grow Adults

6-7 +Serve

8-11 +Announcements

If you have any Pastoral Care needs please call. During office hours, Monday - Friday, 9-5 call 419-531-4236. If you have an urgent need after hours Pastor Liz can be reached at 419-346-3559

IN-PERSON WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

8:30 AM | WORSHIP WITH WEEKLY HOLY COMMUNION

Music includes traditional hymns and instrumental pieces. Communion (which is open to ALL) is offered every week. This is a great service for those who also like to attend a 9:45 am Sunday School Class.

9:45 AM | TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

This is our service that features traditional hymns accompanied by both the Epworth choir and the pipe organ.

11:00 AM | 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.

7:00 PM (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, a 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 8:30 am & 9:45 am 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

September Tower Deadline:

FRIDAY, August 21, 2025

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





Happy Birthday To You!

AUGUST 1 Luann Alleman
Peter Machin

AUGUST 2 Julie Durham
DJ Kern-Blystone
Laura Switzer

AUGUST 3 Dick Myers

AUGUST 4 Marcia Eggleston
Steven Moore
Shelly Savory

AUGUST 5 Diana Iott-Cherko
Jacob LaPoint

AUGUST 6 Sara Codner
Rebecca Stonitsch

AUGUST 7 Michael Holton
Nora Sutherland

AUGUST 8 Dee Isaac
Chris Spetka
Timothy Vitou

AUGUST 9 Gretchen Smith
Michele Wilson

AUGUST 10 Doug Gorsuch
Dick Laumann
Janice Schlachter

AUGUST 11 Gwen Ames
Steve Foster

AUGUST 12 Tyler Fish
Tessa Green
Kathy Snyder

AUGUST 13 Alta Richter

AUGUST 14 Peggy Faber

AUGUST 15 Melinda Davis
Karen M Dixon
Reeves Northrup
Mary Shawaker

AUGUST 16 Joe Blystone

AUGUST 17 Sharon Wumer

AUGUST 18 Susan Wilson

AUGUST 19 Johnathon Baker
Caitlin Shawaker

AUGUST 20 Meredith Giantsos
Ryan Wishau

AUGUST 21 Jacky Paterson
Charlotte Whitney

AUGUST 23 Ginger Martindale

AUGUST 24 Kelly Flenner

AUGUST 25 Linda Gallant

AUGUST 27 Preston Baker
Tony Noviski

AUGUST 28 Lin Bingham
Lauren Colby
Robert Guthrie
Laura Mitchell

AUGUST 29 Jo Champion
Rex Decker
Katherine Figy
Drew Hoffman
Tamara Wilkinson

AUGUST 30 Claude Wilson

FAMILY WORSHIP

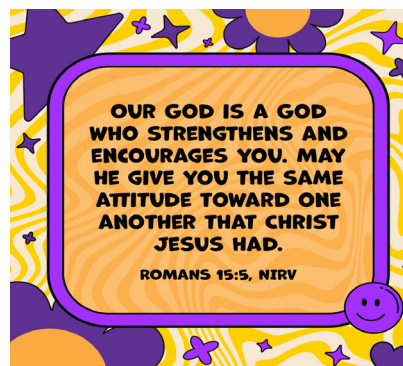
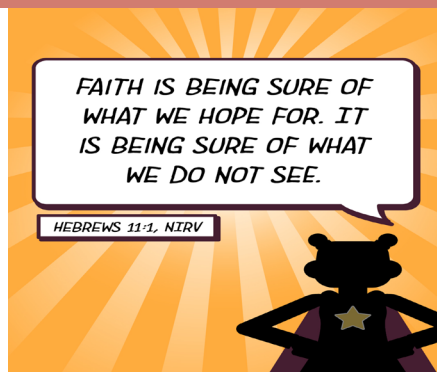
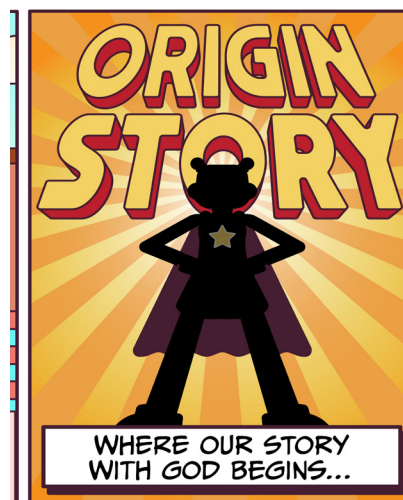
8/31 Labor Day

Children's Ministry Update

In July, children in Sunday School continued the theme of Live it Out, learning to live and love like Jesus. They have heard the story of the Good Samaritan and learned that Jesus is for everyone through the stories of Paul in Acts. The Bible memory verse for July was "Our God is a God who strengthens and encourages you. May he give you the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had." Romans 15:5 Nlrv

In August, the theme is Origin Story: where our story with God begins! The Bible memory verse is "Faith is being sure what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1 Nlrv

Thank you to all our teachers this summer: Kyle Ludwig, Sara Ramsey, Cindy Richard, Sarah Schoesler, Gretchen Seeger, and Adrian Whitney



THE FED: FELLOWSHIP, EXCITE, & DISCIPLE TEAM is proud to invite you to the **Annual Epworth Church Picnic this August 17th from 2-5pm.**

This is a free event! There will be a free lunch and the No Cap Shaved Ice Truck will be there. Along with lunch there will be live Music, cake walks, face painting, mini golf and a bounce house. Please bring a chair, shade will be provided.

All are welcome.

Looking for cakes and volunteers to help. To sign up for a shift please let us know on the connection card, call the church office at 419-531-4236 or email pastorliz@epworth.com





New Stephen Minister Training Class to Begin

You have seen the ministry of the Stephen Ministers here at Epworth. Have you thought that perhaps you would like to participate in this ministry? Your opportunity to do so has arrived. The next Stephen Ministry training will begin the week of September 15. If you would like to participate in this training and in this ministry, talk to Shelly Savory at 419-984-7131 soon.

Walk to Emmaus – A Life-Changing 3-Day Experience

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39)

One way to live out this commandment is by nurturing your own faith and well-being. The Walk to Emmaus offers just that—a 72-hour spiritual retreat focused on deepening your relationship with God.

Upcoming Walks:

Men's Walk: October 2–5

Women's Walk: November 6–9

To learn more or sign up, contact Melinda Gillette at mpgillette3@sbcglobal.net or call the church office at 419-531-4236.

Have You Been on a Walk?

Now's the time to invite someone else!

Nearly 100 Epworth members have experienced the Walk. Consider who in your life might benefit—and reach out.

For info on sponsoring, contact

Melinda Gillette or the church office.



Men's Bible Study

A twelve-week study of the Book of Romans begins Thursday, September 11, 2025 from 3:30-4:30 pm. Ed Bardi will facilitate the group using “Life Lessons from Romans,” by Max Lucado. Contact Ed (ejb5538@gmail.com) for more details.



ADULT SINGLES

Single, divorced and widowed adults in the Toledo community are welcome to attend. RSVP to Sue at suehartman63@hotmail.com.

AUGUST 8 & 9 - THE MUSICAL FAME, JR.

The full musical will be presented in the Epworth Church gym on Friday, August 8 at 7 p.m. and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, August 9. Call for more information.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 - EPWORTH CHURCH PICNIC

Meet in the parking lot behind the church for the Annual Church Picnic being held from 2-5 pm. The picnic is free and all are welcome.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27 - SUNSET SERENADE

The Sylvania Community Orchestra will perform from 7 to 9 p.m. on the west side of the lake at Olander Park, 6930 Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania. This "Summer Pops" Concert will include fast-paced, toe-tapping, popular favorites. Free and open to the public.

Adult Sunday School - Starting Year Two!

Join us Sunday, September 7 at 11:00 AM as we begin our second year with Adam Hamilton studies including:

- “Creed - What Christians Believe & Why”
- “Revival - Faith as Wesley Lived It”
- “Half Truths - God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn’t Say”
- “Christianity and World Religions”

September 7: Welcome session with Bible verse activity and “Creed” video preview

September 15: Begin Chapter 1

Each class starts with a 15-minute video, so reading isn’t required (though helpful). All adults welcome - singles, couples, newcomers anytime!

Contact: Robin Jacob at robinj662@yahoo.com to be on the email list or more info. Include your phone number if you’d prefer a call.

New Stephen Minister Training Class to Begin



You have seen the ministry of the Stephen Ministers here at Epworth. Have you thought that perhaps you would like to participate in this ministry? Your opportunity to do so has arrived. The next Stephen Ministry training will begin the week of September 15. If you would like to participate in this training and in this ministry, talk to Shelly Savory at 419-984-7131 soon.

Healing and Wholeness

On the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm the laity team of the Healing and Wholeness service welcomes everyone to this meditative service. We provide an uplifting service of scripture, hymns, prayers, a homily, and anointing with hands on prayers for those who wish to participate. After each scripture is a short explanation of what happened during the event in the scriptures or how it may relate to today. The service is a chance to open our hearts and reconnect with God, a chance to share our burdens with God or openly with others attending the service. The main theme of this service is God is our source of strength, faith, hope and love. Our God has the power to heal and or to provide comfort. Sometimes on our journey in this life we are distracted and don’t recognize God’s presence in our life, or even the blessings and miracles that surround us. In this service we invite the Holy Spirit into our service and our lives, we offer the opportunity to open our hearts and our eyes to God’s presence as he is faithful to His promise to be with us. We remind people that God is the ultimate healer but he has blessed us with other forms to help us with our healing, they may include doctors, physical therapists, and even many ways to care for one’s self.

The August service is on August 11th, at 7:00pm held in the chapel across from the Sanctuary. The Laity team prayerfully invites you. Take time from your busy schedule to reconnect with God and open your hearts to his presence and blessings.

Sanctuary Cleaning Day – Volunteers Needed!

We’re gathering together to give God’s house a special cleaning, and we need your help! Join us for Sanctuary Cleaning Day on Saturday, August 23rd 9AM-Noon as we come together to tidy, dust, and freshen up our beautiful worship space.

All supplies will be provided—just bring your willing hands and joyful hearts. Whether you can stay for an hour or the whole time, every bit helps!

Let’s serve together and show our care for the place where we gather to worship. For questions or to sign up, please contact Laura Ingersoll @ lauraellenoh@bex.net

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.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Beginning Thursday Sept. 4th 7:30 pm
Thursdays 7:30-9:00 pm in the choir room
Sing at the 9:45 am service
College age and up
Cecil Baughman, director

YOUTH RINGERS

Beginning Sunday September 14
Sundays 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
Junior High and Senior High students
Cecil Baughman, director

CHILDREN'S RINGERS

Beginning September 17
Grades 3 through 5
Wednesdays 6:00-6:30 pm
Cecil Baughman, director

WESLEYAN RINGERS

Beginning Thursday Sept. 4th 6:15 p.m.
Thursdays 6:15-7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary
College age and up
Cecil Baughman, director

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Beginning Wednesday September 17
Wednesdays 5:15-6:00 p.m. in room 205
Ages 3 through grade 5
Cecil Baughman, director

PRAISE TEAM

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
Sing at the 11:00 Service

For more information about this and other programs please contact the church office at 419.531.4236.



Staff, students, and volunteers at Hawkins are preparing for the school's first year as a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) school in 2025-26. Schools apply for designation to the Ohio STEM Committee, which is made up of state and community leaders. It is a rigorous process that includes a written application, submission of documents and evidence, and a site visit to see the learning in action and interview staff members and students.

Community partnerships, like that between Hawkins and Epworth, are crucial to receiving the designation. This year the Toledo Museum of Art joins the growing list of Hawkins' community partners. Hawkins is one of only 10 schools in Ohio to receive STEAM designation, and the only one in Toledo. Building on its STEMM identity of "In Sync with Nature," Hawkins' focus in 2025-26 will be "Nature's Palette", incorporating art and music into teaching, learning, and projects. If this sounds like something you'd like to be part of, contact Pat Holmberg (holmberg@sbcglobal.net) for information on volunteer opportunities.

Arts & Crafts Bazaar

The Silent Auction raises the biggest portion of funds at our Arts & Crafts Bazaar. Solicitation of items (over 200) is one of the major tasks for a successful day. We are looking for someone (or 2 or 3!) to assist with this task. A list of past donors is available, so there is no cold calling or visits. Please call or text Holly Bolenbaugh at 419-690-6586 if you are willing to help.



SWAT 2025



Aug

Donuts & Bible: 9:45am in the Deep End
Every Sunday Except 8/31 - Family Worship Day
Fame Shows Aug. 8 & 9, Church Picnic Aug. 17
8/24: SWAT Kick-Off: @Sportway, 6-8pm
8/28: Confirmation Cook-Out @ 6pm

SEP

Donuts & Bible: 9:45am in the Deep End
Every Sunday in September
SWAT: 6-7:30pm Every Sunday in the Deep End

OCT

Donuts & Bible: 9:45am in the Deep End
Every Sunday in October
SWAT: 6-7:30pm Sundays in the Deep End
10/5: Off Site Night - Thorn Performance
10/26: Trunk or Treat - Youth Serve

NOV

Donuts & Bible: 9:45am in the Deep End
Every Sunday Except 11/30 - Family Worship Day
SWAT: 6-7:30pm Sundays in the Deep End
11/15: Fundraiser - Chili Cook-Off
11/23: Off Site Night -Bowling

DEC

Donuts & Bible: 9:45am in the Deep End
Every Sunday Except 12/28 - Family Worship Day
SWAT: 6-7:30pm Every Sunday in the Deep End
12/21: Christmas Party

WHAT IS IT?



**Donuts
&
Bible**

A little scripture, a lot of sweets, a
few laughs and quite a bit of fun

9:45am in the Deep End
Every Sunday Except
Family Worship Days

SWAT

Games, Music, Friends, Break-Outs,
Snacks, Jesus...
What more could you ask for?

6-7:30pm in the Deep End
Every Sunday Except
Off Site Nights

**Kick-Off &
Cook-Out**

SWAT Kick-Off: Youth meet at Sportway
6-8pm on August 24
Help us welcome the New 6th Graders

Confirmation Cook-Out: 8th Grade Youth
and their parents, gather in the Deep End
for Information and a little fun on August
28 @ 6pm.

Hello Epworth,

As I shared with you on my first Sunday, I truly believe God is ahead of us in all things. This past month has been filled with much learning and such beautiful welcomes. Thank you for embracing me. As I have begun, I have been focusing on what will be my main areas of ministry: pastoral/congregational care, discipleship, and outreach. I will, now, also be serving with the youth and young adult ministry, in the interim.

You might remember from my bio, that my first professional ministry position was as the Director of Youth and Young Adults at Grand Lake UMC in Celina, Ohio. I served in that role for four years and honestly loved every minute of it. Humans of that age range add so much joy to my life.

I truly have a heart for youth and a strong desire to connect with the students in our church and community. I have a passion for pouring into young lives, because I believe that they are the church today, not just of the future. I believe God is using this time to prepare them for all the ministry He has for them, today and decades from now. It is so exciting to say that we have been gifted the opportunity to walk with these students as they are just beginning to be awakened to the presence of the Holy Spirit in their souls and the calls that God has placed on their lives to minister to the world.

Building up the kingdom, living out our mission, and being the disciples that we have been called to be, I believe, begins with our young people. This is an incredible time in their lives. It is confusing and scary, but also exactly when their minds and hearts seem so fertile for seeds to be planted and their own faith to blossom.

Our hope is to make this transition smooth, allowing these young people to flourish. We desire to give the students a place where they belong, feel seen, and are loved. I am excited and blessed to get to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, together, through pastoral/congregational care, discipleship, outreach, and now youth and young adult ministry.

In Christ,
Pastor Liz

announcements


School Supplies Drive

Toledo Public Schools start August 25, and the Mission 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 four TPS elementaries including Hawkins STEMM Academy. Teachers can visit the pantry to pick up supplies for classrooms or for individual students. Ohio Tax Free days on school supplies are August 1-14.

Bring your purchases to Epworth starting August 10-August 31. They can be placed in the blue shelves in the narthex. The teachers and students thank you!!

To assist you in your shopping, below is a list of the most needed supplies:

- *Pencil, pencils! #2, mechanical and primary (fat)
- *Crayola Markers, fat or thin, 10 ct.
- *Pencil Sharpeners
- *Pencil Pouches – canvas, zippered
- *Crayola crayons – 24 count
- *Children's scissors
- *Two pocket paper folders
- *Index cards – 3 X 5 ruled packs of 100
- *Pink wedge erasers
- *Composition notebooks – wide or college ruled
- *Plastic pencil boxes
- *Glue sticks and glue bottles
- *Crayola colored pencils – 12 count
- *Notebook filler paper – wide rule or college rule
- *Backpacks – no wheels
- *Facial tissue rectangular box, preferably 160 ct.
- *Expo dry erase markers
- *Three ring binders

Epworth - you have the key  to "Opening Our Doors to Tomorrow". Check out the progress of the capital campaign on display in the lobby hallway. The vision and objective of the three(3) year campaign (2025-2027) is to:

- *Eliminate the mortgage debt (see graph below)
- *Repay the Legacy Fund loan
- *Generate funds for local mission and youth
- *Generate funds for Epworth improvements

As part of the campaign, the committee promised to do strategic planning and re-add an Associate Pastor. Welcome Pastor Liz Trigg!

If you are a new member or did not get a chance to pledge and would like to help reach our vision & objectives, please contact the church treasurer, Peter Machin at Peter@Epworth.com



announcements

Epworth Members,

July 2025

The Epworth Finance Committee is issuing this Treasurer's Report for the First Half of 2025. The table (below) summarizes Epworth's revenues, expenses and income versus budget for the period of January through June 2025. This report also includes an update on the status of our Capital Campaign.

I. First Half 2025 Financial Results

Financial performance for the period January-June was slightly below breakeven but substantially better than the budget for the First Half. Total resources were slightly better than budget and total expenses were also better than budget resulting in a small income deficit compared to a much larger budgeted deficit as shown. It is not unusual for the church to experience small deficits during mid-year and then see results rebound by year's end. Although not shown on this chart, total year 2025 budgeted financial results are projected to be at a breakeven level for the year as a whole.

II. Capital Campaign Update (as of 6/30/25)

- 3-yr. Goal: \$2,000,000.
- Pledge commitments to date: \$1,909,215, 95.5% of goal.
- Mortgage paid down in 2024 with funds received: \$400,000.
- Mortgage paid down so far in 2025 with funds received: \$175,000
- Balance on mortgage as of 6/30/25: \$545,335: down from \$1,151,886 as of 6/30/24.
- Goal is to pay down an additional \$300,000 by end of year 2025. Projected year-end balance: \$225,000. Remainder to be paid off in 2026

Finance Committee: Sarah Schoesler (Chair), Rex Decker, Jarrod Hirschfeld, Dick Lantz, Liz Lehto, Jim Rhollans, Ken Switzer, Doug Welch, Peter Machin (Treasurer)

June 2025 YTD	Jan-June 2025		
	Actual	Budget	Variance (+/-)
<u>RESOURCES</u>			
Pledges, Contributions, Offerings	\$ 574,056	\$ 565,999	\$ 8,057
All Other	\$ 2,702	\$ 3,750	\$ (1,048)
Total Resources	\$ 576,758	\$ 569,749	\$ 7,009
<u>EXPENSE</u>			
Programs & Ministries	\$ 30,799	\$ 26,817	\$ (3,982)
Communications, Media, Advertising	\$ 2,582	\$ 7,500	\$ 4,918
Church Operations & Administration	\$ 106,150	\$ 135,950	\$ 29,800
Pastoral & Lay Personnel	\$ 353,907	\$ 346,528	\$ (7,378)
Apportionments	\$ 65,996	\$ 65,603	\$ (393)
Missions & Outreach	\$ 4,380	\$ 6,600	\$ 2,220
Mortgage Interest	\$ 13,317	\$ 12,000	\$ (1,317)
All Other	\$ 1,933	\$ 5,780	\$ 3,847
Total Expense	\$ 579,064	\$ 606,778	\$ 27,715
<u>INCOME</u>	\$ (2,306)	\$ (37,029)	\$ 34,724

announcements

As you all know Barry DeShetler's granddaughter Audrey had suffered from childhood cancer from the age of 5. She passed shortly before her 20th birthday. We would like to take the opportunity to honor Audrey's life by making a donation to her favorite Charity, the Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research. (<https://rallyfoundation.org>) We will be collecting donations through the month of August. If you wish to donate, write a check to Epworth United Methodist Church with Audrey DeShetler in the memo. If you prefer you can go directly to the website.

Interested in Joining Epworth?

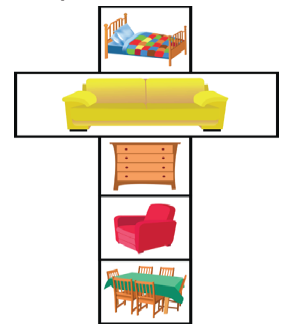
Mark your calendar for Wednesday, August 6th and plan to attend our next quarterly Discover Epworth session with Pastor Cecil. There is no requirement to join by attending this session. We will have a pizza dinner at 6PM in the Lobby followed by a short program to introduce you to Epworth and some of our ministries. Please RSVP by August 4th to Krystal by email (Krystal@epworth.com) or call her at 419-531-4236. Please indicate if you will be needing childcare. Call Carolyn Kaminski 419-350-3382 if you have any questions.

ADULT SINGLES: Help needed to prepare internet emails and work with Facebook.

Contact Sue at suehartman63@hotmail.com

Furniture Ministry Blessing Needs:

- ~Queen solid-colored sheets & pillowcases
- ~Table knives for flatware
- ~Pots & pans
- ~Crock pots.



Courageous Conversations

Saturday, September 20, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Preparing for the end of life for someone you love or yourself can be eased by knowing what to expect and by knowing what questions to ask. Medical, legal, spiritual and funeral professionals will guide this interactive approach to learning, based on research in each field. Practical aspects will include essential forms and handouts. Each area will speak for about 20 minutes and then we will have a time for questions.



<https://etm.ludus.com/200489374>

Ticket are on sale online and in the Lobby August 3rd.

New QR code for sponsorship. Please try again.

BECOME A ETM PATRON!
RECEIVE SHOW TICKETS & NAME
RECOGNITION IN THE SHOW PROGRAM

Scan now to
learn more



Join us in
WORSHIP

8:30 AM | WORSHIP WITH WEEKLY | HOLY COMMUNION

Music includes traditional hymns and instrumental pieces. Communion (which is open to ALL) is offered every week. This is a great service for those who also like to attend a 9:45 am Sunday School Class.

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We gather to reconnect to our source of strength, faith, hope and love using prayer, hymns, a 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