

THE EPWORTH TOWER

SUMMER 2020

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



Welcome Back!

- in-person worship resumed may 24 -

Summer 2020

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August Tower Deadline:

FRIDAY, JULY 24

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

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

Sunday Worship Services

- **8:30 BLENDED** - A mix of traditional and contemporary styles, with Holy Communion served every week. Also available during this hour: Nursery, Toddler, and Preschool Childcare.
- **9:45 TRADITIONAL** - Steeped in the warm-hearted Methodist tradition featuring choral and organ music. Also available during this hour: Nursery Childcare and Sunday School Classes for Toddlers, Preschoolers, K-5, Jr. and Sr. High, and Adults.
- **11:00 CONTEMPORARY** - Fast-paced with visuals to illustrate the Bible-based sermons, this service features our praise band. Also available during this hour: Nursery Childcare, and Sunday School Classes for Toddlers, Preschoolers, W.O.W. for K-3 (not during summer), and Adult Sunday School.
- **SERMONS ONLINE** - Out of town or ill and not able to make it to worship on Sunday? View each week's sermon: epworth.com/series.

Our Pastors:

REV. DR. STEPHEN SWISHER

Senior Pastor

steve@epworth.com

REV. BETH IRWIN

Associate Pastor

beth@epworth.com

REV. DAVE PETTENGILL

Pastor of Student and Family Ministries

dave@epworth.com

REV. JENNIFER BAILEY

Pastor of Welcome

jennifer@epworth.com

Our Mission, Vision & Values

- **VISION:** To be home for a diverse congregation seeking a closer relationship to Christ.
- **PROMISE:** Welcome all, Love all, Home for all.
- **CORE VALUES:** Welcome- We welcome you as you are, Family- We regard each other as brothers and sisters in Christ, Love- We love you-Period, Service- Service to God and the Community, Discipleship- Together we will become persons who know Christ, grow in Christ, serve Christ and share Christ.
- **MISSION STATEMENT:** To enthusiastically embrace everyone and equip them with the teachings and message of Jesus Christ and the challenge of discipleship.

If you'd like a thank you printed in the next Tower, send your note in an e-mail to communications@epworth.com.

A Big Thank You from our Senior Pastor!!

Thank you to all of our ushers, greeters, Communion stewards, sewing circles, volunteers and staff who worked tirelessly for weeks to prepare our facility for our return to In Person Worship. The work prior, during and after each Worship experience was flawless and exceptionally well done. Thank you so much for the effort, heart and dedication that is keeping our members and guests safe while allowing them to return to Worship at Epworth UMC. May God Bless each of you!

APPLY FOR A STUDENT LOAN!



Each year, Epworth offers loans to students in any post-high school program. After the application is received and an interview and review by the committee is complete,

loans are approved up to \$1,000 per year and sent to the school in the student's name. Students may receive up to \$4,000 total during their schooling. Payments do not begin until seven months after graduation. If payments are made on time, there is no interest charged. Visit epworth.com/studentloans to print the application. To pick up a hard copy, visit the church office. Applications are due by **June 30**.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The office has re-opened with new summer hours, 9am-3pm, Monday – Friday. Remember to practice social distancing and to ensure the safety of staff and office guests; hand sanitizing wipes and masks will be made available as you enter the building.

LOOK UP!

Watch the TV screens in the lobby areas for upcoming events and opportunities at Epworth in the coming few weeks!

Sympathies recent deaths

- **THE CRAIG FAMILY** on the passing of Laura Craig.

WELCOME BACK!

We resumed in-person worship on Sunday, May 24. We are so happy to welcome you home to worship! As we begin the process of rejoining with in-person worship, we want to ensure everyone's safety, below are helpful and important procedures. Please use your best judgment on whether or not to attend our gatherings. If you feel you should stay home, please don't feel guilty, and know that you are loved. We will continue to offer online worship. Our staff and leaders worked diligently to plan for a safe, pleasant, and meaningful return experience for all of our members, guests and staff. Please visit epworth.com to find our worship safety policies and procedures.

ONLINE SERMONS

Participate in our worship services every Sunday at 9:45am via our facebook page, facebook.com/EpworthToledo. Simply tune in and watch and worship with us. If you can't view live at 9:45am on facebook, the message remains accessible on our facebook page throughout the week, OR you can always access any of our streamed sermons 24/7 at epworth.com/sermons. Be sure to tell family and friends and celebrate Sundays with your Epworth Family.

CONGRATULATIONS 2020 GRADUATES!

Sarah Davis

Graduating from: Ottawa Hills High School,
Future plans: attending the University of Kentucky

Scott Davis

Graduating from: Ottawa Hills High School
Future plans: Attending the University of Tennessee

Tyler Norris

Graduating from: Xavier University, Bachelor in Psychology
Future plans: Start Masters Program at Xavier in Industrial-Organizational Psychology

Sophia Ruse

Graduating from: Notre Dame Academy
Future plans: John Carroll University - Undecided

Alissa Sadoris

Graduating from: University of Toledo - Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing with a Digital Marketing minor
Future plans: Undecided

Brian Vavrinek

Graduating from: Sylvania Northview High School
Future plans: Kettering University for Computer Science

And congratulations to all of our other members graduating this year!



THE KEY INGREDIENT TO LONG LASTING SUCCESS

Welcome to Summer friends. I know it seems like it's been a long time coming but I join you in being happy that it is here. We have a lot of exciting ministry opportunities coming up including Bishop Will Willimon joining us for all services on July 12. He has been a part of my Discipleship Class over the last few weeks and we are looking forward to his visit to Epworth. A big thank you to each of you who have helped us gear up for in person Worship and all of the behind the scenes work and effort that helped us make that a great success. I am grateful for the responsiveness, support and encouragement from every single one of you.

We all read a lot of articles and books about success, some of which are insightful as well as motivating. In thinking about this Summer article for The Tower, I thought of an ingredient for success that is often overlooked---maybe because it sounds out of place in so called business lingo. But I know for a fact that it is absolutely necessary to achieve any kind of long lasting success. The ingredient is passion!

Passion is enthusiasm on a big scale. It is far-reaching, encompassing, tenacious and sometimes even larger than life. People with passion never give up, because they'll never have a reason to give up, no matter what their circumstances may be. It's an intangible momentum that can make someone indomitable.

The greatest achievements in history have been accomplished by people who possessed passion, whether you're Beethoven or Ford, Rockefeller or Nightingale. Everything we do in life requires foresight, planning, technique, inspiration, faith, passion and finally orchestration. Take out the passion and you will have fizzle or perhaps an okay product, effort, event, at best.

Add the passion and you will be in a rarefied realm that every other "pasionista" will recognize, and one that every person would like to emulate. There is nice, there are nice products, nice events, then there is Beethoven. It's true some people thought he was a little bit crazy while he was alive. Maybe he was. But even today his music is used for glorious occasions, and it's as far from mediocre as you can get. To me, that equals success and passion is the catalyst.

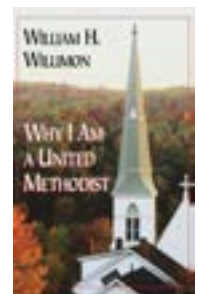
The Bible reminds us, "Passion for God's house will consume me." At Epworth UMC we have that same passion to reach people with the uplifting, exciting and life changing message of Jesus. Our goal is to build disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World and to infuse each and every person with the refreshing message of God's unchanging love. Join us in this mission and let's change the world together.

Your friend and partner in ministry,

Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher
Senior Pastor

BIBLE STUDIES

- **Why I'm a United Methodist** with Pastor Steve
Wednesdays thru July 1 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. In this inspirational and fun 6 week study we will examine the core beliefs of the United Methodist Church, why we ascribe to them and the difference that makes. We will also discover how Methodism grew from one man's personal experience to a worldwide movement with 20 million members in the United States and 80 million globally. RSVP to Marla@epworth.com



- **Meeting God in the Wilderness (Virtual study)** with Pastor Jennifer
Thursdays 7-8pm June 11-July 16
or Fridays 10-11am June 12 - July 17



Join us online! When God meets us in the Wilderness, holy life-changing encounters happen. We will explore 40 years in the wilderness, 40 days and nights of rain, 40 days on Mt Sinai, and Jesus' 40 day temptation. In each case, God showed up and changed the lives of the faithful. Many of us are wrestling with quarantine to one degree or another. Quarantine means "40 days". What holy life-changing encounter will you have during this time? To register email

Jennifer at jennifer@epworth.com. You will need a computer and an internet connection. Registration is limited to ensure effective online interactions.



"I want to serve so I can enrich the lives of others, like my life had been enriched.."

-Terry Hogan's Story

I had driven by Epworth hundreds of times and it never occurred to me to that I would ever step foot in the door. In fact, I had never gone to church anywhere before until this one thing brought me here. Cancer.

I was attending group therapy one evening at The Victory Center when the facilitator mentioned the healing service that is held every third Tuesday at Epworth. At the mention of that, it's like a bell went off in my head. I need healed, I thought....don't we all need healed? So the next opportunity, I went.

I didn't know what to expect but Pastor Beth was there and she anointed me and prayed over me. It was an experience I will never forget. I felt enriched. I felt so much better when I left that at the next group therapy session I wanted everyone to know how wonderful it was. If they didn't have a church, I wanted them to know. I wanted them to know about "my church!"

I heard the words, "my church," echo in my head. My church? Never before had I said those words. It felt good. Then I heard someone else say, that's my church too! It was Tamara and it was the beginning of a friendship that has blessed me in ways I would have never expected. Tamara and her husband, Mike asked me to visit the Coffee and Conversation Sunday School class where I continued to meet new friends. Before long my Epworth friends were making sure I had plenty of protein drinks and offering me rides to my doctor appointments at U of M. My new friends at my church are a special group of people!

The next thing I did was attend the new members' class where I started to have some reservations. I had heard about giving offerings and I was worried that you had to pay money to become a member. I have a lot of medical bills and I don't have a lot to give. I understand the church doesn't run itself and my lack of resources to contribute weighed on my mind but the pastors explained to me that it doesn't matter what you give. They said, "If you can, you can." "If you can't you can't." "We want you here." "We want you to be a member of our church."

So, now I am a member. I can't give as much as I would like financially but I have had opportunities to give my time. I've participated in service activities through S4:19, worked at the Food Bank and at St. Paul's Community Center. I want to serve so I can enrich the lives of others like my life had been enriched.

I love MY CHURCH! Thank you for welcoming me here!

#WEAREEPWORTH

Help us celebrate our Epworth family! We encourage you to use the hashtag #WeAreEpworth as you post on your social media accounts. After a while, if someone searches for #WeAreEpworth, they will be able to see the love and community we have with each other. Also, look for the new #WeAreEpworth feature where testimonies of various Epworth members are being shared. This month, we're highlighting Terry Hogan. Are you interested in providing a testimonial? Contact Tami Norris, at {personal information has been removed} or visit weareepworth.com to submit your story online.

EXPLORE NEW CONNECTIONS AT EPWORTH



Do you have desire to become better connected at Epworth? Whether you are considering membership or just have questions about Epworth Church, Explore Epworth is a good way to learn more about opportunities to become involved.

This summer, the format of Explore Epworth will be adjusted to specifically accommodate the needs of those interested. Meeting formats could include in-person, online, by phone, or a small group. Membership is never an obligation but will be an option we can discuss. Interested persons can contact Pastor Jennifer at jennifer@epworth.com or 419.214.3775.

GUEST PREACHER BISHOP WILL WILLIMON



Bishop Will Willimon will be joining us on **July 12** as a Special Guest of Pastor Steve as he has been a good friend and mentor through the years to our Senior Pastor. In fact, the Discipleship Class Dr. Swisher is leading later this month will also feature LIVE Facebook visits with Bishop Willimon.

Bishop Willimon served on the Faculty of Duke Divinity School from 1976-1980 as Professor of Liturgy and Worship. After serving as the Senior Pastor of Northside United Methodist Church in Greenville, South Carolina, he became Dean of the Chapel at Duke University in 1984 where he served for twenty years.

He was elected to the Episcopacy in 2004 and assigned to the North Alabama Annual Conference. He retired from this role at the conclusion of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 2012. He has returned to Duke University where he is currently Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry and the Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program. He has also recently served as the Senior Pastor of the Duke Memorial Chapel UMC in Durham, North Carolina.

Bishop Willimon has written over 80 books which have sold over a million copies, have been translated into six languages and won numerous awards. He was named in a recent National Survey as one of the 12 Best Preachers in the English Speaking world. Plan to join us and bring friends to this exciting opportunity.

SAVE THE DATE! MUD HENS BASEBALL AT FIFTH THIRD FIELD



Epworth's annual outing to the Fifth Third Field to see the Toledo Mud Hens in action has been rescheduled from June 21 to Labor Day Weekend.

The game is Sunday, **September 6** at 6:05pm against the Columbus Clippers. Members of Epworth's Chancel Choir will be singing the National Anthem at the beginning of the game! Signups for ticket reservations will begin in late July or early August. More information will be available this summer. Watch the Thursday eNewsletter for details.

[adult Singles]

Single, divorced and widowed adults in the Toledo community are invited to join. RSVP to Nancy Hauer {personal information has been removed}. The next opportunities to join us are:

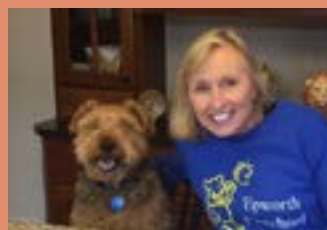
June 1: 12 noon - Lunch at Barry Bagel's Sylvania Ave & Holland Sylvania Rd. followed by Handel's ice cream special.

June 17: 2pm - Walk at Botanical Gardens to view flower gardens/relax by gazebo.
3:30pm - Schmucker's Restaurant (2103 N. Reynolds Rd) for snack & pie.

July 6: 12 noon - Lunch at Barry Bagel's Sylvania Ave & Holland Sylvania Rd. followed by Handel's ice cream special.

July 21: 1pm - BYO box lunch at Wildwood Metropark Central Ave. Second parking lot. View the Manor House and/or walk the trail.

STAY CONNECTED WITH OUR PRESCHOOL

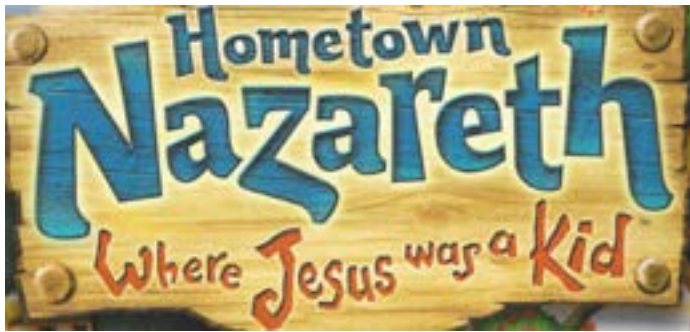


During this difficult time, Epworth Preschool has continued to engage with our families by posting a daily fun video on the Epworth Preschool

Facebook page. The teachers have been taking turns creating these daily videos.

Please like our page and follow our page, meet the teachers and enjoy all of the fun songs, crafts and outdoor activities with our preschool. Also, please pray that all of the children can return to school in the fall. We Love Our Preschool and Appreciate Your Support!

2020 AT HOME BIBLE CAMP EXPERIENCE



Epworth's Children's Ministry and Bible Camp team are excited to offer "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus was a Kid - Home Edition!"

This at home Bible experience will be offered in July and August and allow families the flexibility to explore at their own pace - similar to a summer reading program offered by many libraries. During this five week experience, families will explore the culture of ancient Nazareth - Jesus' hometown! Families will use take home kits full of easy to follow, hands on fun to experience together with their children. Just like with summer reading, there will be lots of prizes to earn along the way to keep kids engaged.

Look for more information coming soon on how to sign-up! Our prayer is that kids and adults will walk away with the comfort of knowing that God understands them, cares for them, and loves them enough to give his only Son!

SWAT GATHERING RECAP



The last Sunday morning online class was Sunday, May 31 because Pastor Dave will be

back at Epworth on Sunday, June 7. So, instead for those who can't be there on Sunday mornings and any teen who is interested we will be offering a short Sunday Night SWAT meeting at 7pm online starting on June 7. It will be a time to catch up, Pastor Dave will share a devotional, and we will pray for one another. We will do this until we can begin meeting on Sunday mornings in person.

KROGER PLUS CARDS

Every year, each Kroger Plus Card holder must re-register their Kroger Plus Card to continue earning money for our Student Ministries (#81972). Keep in mind that your purchases do NOT create any rewards for our Student Ministries until it has been registered. To register, go online to: kroger.com/communityrewards and select Epworth Student Ministries, organization #81972.



-STUDENT MINISTRIES -
Students With A Task | Service, Worship, Accountability, Teamwork

Wed, June 3

Romans Bible Study Online at 7pm
Romans 8:1-17

Sat, June 6

JackBox Game Night Online 7pm

Sunday, June 7

Sunday Night SWAT 7pm- Online

Wed, June 10

Romans Bible Study Online at 7pm
Romans 8:18-39

Fri, June 12

Dinner at Dave's 6-8pm
(Online sign-ups to limit to 6)

Sun, June 14

Sunday Night SWAT 7pm - Online

Wed, June 17

Romans Bible Study Online at 7pm
Romans 9:1-29

Saturday, June 20 at Noon

Bag Lunch and Bike Ride
Wildwood Preserve

Sunday, June 21

Sunday Night SWAT 7pm- Online

Wed, June 24

Romans Bible Study Online at 7pm
Romans 9:30-10:21

Sat, June 27

Dinner at Dave's 6-8pm
(Online sign-ups to limit to 6)

Sun, June 28

Sunday Night SWAT 7pm - Online

PERSONAL FINANCIAL COACHING MINISTRY



We are excited to announce a new ministry for our church family--personal financial coaching. Financial coaching includes personal consultations in which we review your specific situation, provide guidance, and inject hope. We will cover topics including budgeting, income, expenses, debt, saving, investing, insurance, real estate, and more. Whatever situation you are facing, we will discuss it, break it down, and offer specific guidance.

If you are going through a difficult situation because of the current health and economic crises, now is the time to seek help. If you are faced with choices on which bills to pay or not pay, now is the time to seek help.

Church and choir member Brad Pfeifer completed extensive training presented by Dave Ramsey's team (the same organization that created Financial Peace University, which is also offered at our church) and is a Certified Financial Coach. He will meet with you virtually or on the phone, until the Church reopens for face-to-face meetings. Scheduling an initial 30-minute consultation is easy:

- Visit and "like" Brad's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/brad.financial.coach.
- Click the "Book Now" button to select an available time slot.
- From the scheduling site, select "Initial Consultation."

Brad will schedule a Zoom (video) meeting, or, if Zoom is not available for you, he will schedule a phone call. Brad's email address is {personal information has been removed}. Feel free to contact him with any questions.

SUMMERTIME: A TIME TO CARE - 6-FEET APART

Warm Summer Air. Sunshine. A time to get outdoors!

It's a prime time to meet, in person, with a Stephen Minister to talk about anything on your heart--emotional, spiritual, or relational--that is causing you to experience a difficult time in these days of doubt and distress. You don't have to be alone staying at home away from friends and family, work, and church.

Your Stephen Minister can meet with you --- outdoors....on a porch, in the yard, in the park, at the beach....out in God's wonderful world -- staying 6-feet apart and probably wearing a mask, BUT... you can meet, face-to-face.

If you or someone you know is hurting please contact us at stephenministry@epworth.com to learn how Stephen Ministry may be of help to you or a friend.



HEALING & WHOLENESS SERVICE

Our Healing and Wholeness Services are suspended for the next few months. Stay tuned to the Thursday E-news and website for updates on when this will resume. If you have questions or would like to join the team, please email Pastor Beth at Beth@epworth.com.



stay connected to
epworth church:



@epworthtoledo
epworth.com

WELLNESS AND SPECIAL NEEDS TEAM UPDATE



Your Wellness and Special Needs Team had extensive plans for the Epworth Health Fair to take place in late March. However, in the wake of restrictions and closures around COVID-19, we postponed the Health Fair until Spring 2021. In the meantime, please note that Epworth is planning to host a blood drive for the American Red Cross on Saturday, August 22 from 9am to 2pm in the gym. There will be plenty of space to social distance while giving the gift of life. More details can be found in the Blood Drive article in this edition of The Tower.

During the summer months, please remember to be safe in the heat and protect your skin. To ensure an enjoyable summer, here are a few wellness tips for you and your family to follow:

1. Use insect repellent with DEET to protect against bugs and ticks
2. Drink plenty of water, at least 8 ounces every 20 minutes
3. Look out for poisonous plants, learn to recognize poison oak and poison ivy
4. Remember to apply SPF 30 sunscreen every two hours
5. Always supervise children around water, teach them about water safety and how to swim

I will say to the Lord, "You are my place of safety and protection. You are my God and I trust you."

-Psalm 91:2

PROTECT YOUR SKIN!

It's natural to want to get out in the sun during warm summer days. It should also be second nature to take steps to protect your skin from the sun when you go outside. Ultraviolet (UV) rays – from the sun and other sources like tanning beds – are the #1 cause of skin cancer. Too much exposure can also cause sunburn, eye damage, and premature wrinkles. But shielding your skin with clothing, broad-spectrum sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or higher, and staying in the shade can help lower your risk.



- **Cover up:** When you are out in the sun, wear clothing and a wide-brimmed hat to protect as much skin as possible. Protect your eyes with sunglasses that block at least 99% of UV light.
- **Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen** with an SPF of 30 or higher: Reapply at least every 2 hours, as well as after swimming or sweating. No sunscreens are waterproof or "sweat-proof," and manufacturers are not allowed to claim that they are. SPF 15 sunscreens filter out about 93% of UVB rays, while SPF 30 sunscreens filter out about 97%; SPF 50 sunscreens filter out about 98%, and SPF 100 filter about 99%. No sunscreen protects you completely.
- **Seek shade:** Limit your direct exposure to the sun, especially between 10am and 4pm, when UV rays are strongest.
- **Avoid tanning beds and sunlamps:** Both can cause serious long-term skin damage and contribute to skin cancer.

BODY RECALL+



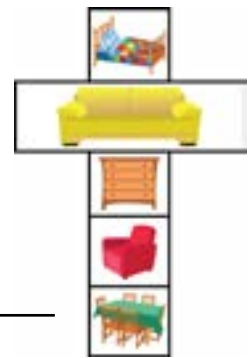
As we move from 'stay home' thinking to 'stay smart and stay safe' thinking, we're all learning to adapt to the new normal in our lives. Each of us is responsible for our own health and, because of age and a lung situation, Pam will not be continuing to teach the Body Recall movement program for older adults that Brenda Kunkel first brought to Epworth decades ago.

It's message to put thorough and regular movement in your daily life is as important as ever. Pam encourages you to sit less, move more. Your back needs bending, twisting, and leading to keep supple and flexible. Stretch your hips by taking wide steps to the side. Strengthen your legs by taking a large step forward (a lunge) and bending your knees. Stand up from a chair, then sit again and stand up. Do it again. Enjoy God's outdoor world by taking a walk, maybe several times a day.

Thank you, Epworth, for supporting Body Recall for these many years -- and remember, KEEP MOVING!

FURNITURE MINISTRY

The furniture ministry has resumed operation. On May 16 we provided 14 families (18 adults and 26 children) with 170 pieces of furniture! We had a small but mighty group of 9 volunteers in keeping with the governor's directive of 10 people in the warehouse (the client being the 10th). The modified distribution process worked well and will continue until Ohio crisis requirements change. Our blessing needs are microwaves, small appliances and large area rugs. We are scheduling and making furniture donation pickups so please call 567.694.3710 to schedule a pickup.



GIVE BLOOD ON AUGUST 22

New Protocols, Same Needs – Mark Your Calendar



So much has changed in our country over the past few months, but one thing that hasn't is the need for blood. The American Red Cross needs you now more than ever. Epworth is hosting a blood drive on Saturday, **August 22** from 9am to 2pm in the gym. The Red Cross has established guidelines and protocols for blood donation in keeping with the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for social distancing. This includes:

- Donor areas and waiting areas set up to allow for 6 feet of social distancing. Only donors will be permitted at the blood drive. No guests will be permitted.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at check-in, health history, and refreshment areas.
- The temperatures of staff, volunteers, and donors will be checked before entering the drive. Anyone with a temperature greater than 99.5F will not be able to donate or volunteer.
- Everyone – staff, volunteers, and donors – will be required to wear masks or face coverings. Disposable coverings will be available at the drive, or you may bring your own.
- Donor beds will be disinfected between donors; common areas at the blood drive will also be disinfected.
- For the wellness and safety of all involved, at this time, walk-in donors will not be permitted. A time to donate must be scheduled.
- Donor education materials have been expanded to include information on COVID-19. All donors will be required to read them.

The American Red Cross will do everything possible to keep staff, volunteers, and donors well so that then can continue giving the gift of life to those who need it. For more information about COVID-19 protocols for blood donation, visit redcrossblood.org. You can also go to the website to register to donate at Epworth's blood drive on August 22, or you can email Gordy Krueger at {personal information has been removed}.

HAWKINS STEMM ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP

The Hawkins leadership team will be working with Hawkins Principal Beth Stretavski and her staff this summer to learn how the school will operate in 2020-21 and plan how Epworth volunteers can adapt to these changes and continue to fulfill our mission of promoting the success of Hawkins students. This year our annual volunteer recognition luncheon will be held in late summer. The late summer date is to celebrate the past year's successes and gather information on how the school with operate in the fall and ways that our volunteers will be involved. Continuing volunteers and anyone interested in volunteering are invited and box lunches will be provided. The event will take place at Epworth, with the date and time to be announced in the weekly church emails. "We want to celebrate our volunteers with an event that is safe but special," said team leader Pat Holmberg. FYI to first-time volunteers: application forms are available in the Hawkins mailbox at Epworth.



In May, the Epworth-Hawkins Partnership contributed funding to cover the cost of yard signs and "goodie bags" for graduating Hawkins 8th graders. Hawkins staff distributed them to students' homes, as shown in the accompanying picture.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR IN MAY!

Epworth members have a long-standing partnership with Epiphany Lutheran Church's Feed Your Neighbor food pantry ministry. FYN, which began in 1975, provides groceries and so much more to those in our community. Epiphany is thankful for the support from their congregation members, friends, neighboring churches, local companies and farmers.

In 2019, FYN served 1602 households which equaled 3879 people of which 959 were children. So far in 2020 they have recorded serving 620 households, or 1541 people with 388 being children.

Along with food and personal care items, they also serve by offering clients seasonal items and programs. In the winter they collect and distribute coats, socks, hats and gloves. Their spring program includes planting days where they supply fruit, vegetable and flower seeds along with pots and dirt and instruct and encourage their clients to grow their own. They invite families and friends served to participate in Camp Create, a version of vacation bible school which includes an evening dinner for all.

They also incorporate opportunity to fill spiritual needs on pantry days by having volunteers available for anyone who needs a listening ear or prayers and providing information on community programs, coupons, discounts and daily devotional materials.

Epworth member Carol Bardi coordinates the collection effort at Epworth each month and ensures donated items are delivered to Epiphany. For Carol it is important to reach others in need and food security is a basic need that many of us are able to take for granted. This past month Epworth members overflowed carts on Tuesdays with food items and also made significant monetary contributions supporting the FYN program.

Linda, who is currently managing FYN at Epiphany stated, "God bless Epworth and all they have done and continue to do for Feed Your Neighbor!"

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

Epworth's Good Samaritan Fund helps members make ends meet when they are experiencing financial difficulties. Support for this fund comes from the United Methodist Women and proceeds from the Harvest Bazaar. It can help with utilities, rent, or other bills. Since the beginning of 2019, there has been a deep need for Good Samaritan Fund resources. Please prayerfully consider a contribution to the Good Samaritan Fund to help other members in crisis. Checks can be made out to Epworth with "Good Samaritan Fund" in the memo line and brought to Ashly in the church office or placed in the offertory plate on Sunday.

SUPPORT THE FLOWER FUND

Contributing flowers for the Sunday altar is a special way to support Epworth and honor loved ones, past or present. Flowers enhance our experience of weekly worship while providing a beautiful tribute to the special people and events in our lives. We have some available dates for Altar Flower donations. If you would like to honor a loved one, or celebrate a special occasion, by donating a flowers for a Sunday worship, please contact Cindy in the office at 419.214.3777 or cindy@epworth.com to find out what dates are available. Your support is much appreciated!

DONATE TO EPWORTH EVERY TIME YOU SHOP ON AMAZON!

Now, you can support Epworth every single time you purchase something on Amazon! When you sign up for AmazonSmile and select Epworth as your charitable organization, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Epworth. AmazonSmile is exactly the same as regular Amazon, it has the same products, prices & services, only now you're supporting Epworth at the same time! To sign up, go to: smile.amazon.com/ch/34-4428652 and select Epworth as your charitable organization, then start shopping! If you have any questions, or would like a direct link, contact Laura in the church office at laura@epworth.com.



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*"I want to serve so I can enrich the lives
of others, like my life
had been enriched."*

-Terry's Story

Read Terry's story
online at
weareepworth.com

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