

NOVEMBER 2020

# THE EPWORTH TOWER

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

## Gingerbread House Workshop

**Sunday, December 6 | 2-4pm | Via Zoom!**

- 🌀 Held over Zoom
- 🌀 Houses are \$11 each
- 🌀 Must be reserved and paid for in advance
- 🌀 Houses can be picked up at the church Valley View door  
Wednesday, December 2, from 5-7pm or on  
Sunday, December 6 from 9am-11am.

*Virtual*



# November 2020

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- 11 CARE**
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  - + Inclement Weather Policy
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## Saturday Worship

- **4:30PM 30-MINUTE WORSHIP SERVICE-** Hear an inspiring message of faith and hope at this 30 minute service. Perfect for those who are on-the-go who still want to get a lift of Faith each week.

## Sunday Worship

- **8:30AM WORSHIP W/ WEEKLY HOLY COMMUNION** - This classic service includes Holy Communion served every week.
- **9:45AM CLASSIC** - Steeped in the warm-hearted Methodist tradition featuring choral and organ music.
- **11:00AM MODERN** - Fast-paced and featuring our praise band.

## Online Worship

- **WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK** - Participate in our worship services every Sunday at 9:45am via facebook, 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. Tell family and friends and celebrate Sundays with your Epworth Family.

## 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

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

**Our Pastors:**

**DR. STEPHEN SWISHER**  
*Senior Pastor*  
[steve@epworth.com](mailto:steve@epworth.com)

**REV. BETH IRWIN**  
*Associate Pastor*  
[beth@epworth.com](mailto:beth@epworth.com)

**REV. DAVE PETTENGILL**  
*Associate Pastor*  
[dave@epworth.com](mailto:dave@epworth.com)

**REV. JENNIFER BAILEY**  
*Associate Pastor*  
[jennifer@epworth.com](mailto:jennifer@epworth.com)

### THANKS!

It is with joy and gratitude we announce the final total of our virtual mission trip to Good Works; \$13,179.59 was raised by you: as a congregation and a donation from the mission committee! This sum will cover 26 days of expenses for the Timothy House, a vital temporary family shelter. This far exceeds our goal. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your very generous response. We are indeed helping our neighbors in a great way!  
*-The Good Works Leadership Team*

Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy our month long Friday Night Flix events. With so many family friendly activities being unavailable these days, it was so much fun to enjoy a movie under the stars with so many from our congregation and community. We are excited to share the donations of cleaning supplies, canned goods, paper products, and hygiene items for Leading Families Home Shelter. This local agency that serves at risk families in our community was overjoyed to have the support of all those who attended the Friday Night Flix events.  
*-Children's Ministry Team*

No tricks only treats! Epworth, you helped make our 14th Annual Trunk-or-Treat a success! It was a Boo-tiful day for the Kingdom of God! Thank you for being the church!  
*-Jeff Roesti & Jeff Boze, Trunk-Or-Treat Co-Chairs*

*If you'd like a thank you printed in the next Tower, send your note in an e-mail to [communications@epworth.com](mailto:communications@epworth.com).*

### LIVE-STREAMING BEGAN NOVEMBER 1

We are very excited to announce that beginning Sunday, **November 1** we moved to LIVE streaming the 8:30am service rather than posting a pre-recorded service at 9:45am. This 8:30am streaming is available in all the usual locations; Facebook, Youtube, and at Epworth.com (look at the top of the Epworth.com webpage for a "livestreaming now" button to watch live). Please note: if you have typically gone to Epworth.com/sermons on Sunday to watch the sermon, that will now be posted Monday morning, rather than Sunday at 9:45am. If you join us online, we look forward to worshipping together with you from home LIVE at 8:30am!

### WORSHIP AIRING ON CBS CHANNEL 11 BEGINNING DECEMBER 6

In an historic development, Epworth UMC will begin airing our weekly Worship services on CBS Channel 11 at 11:30am beginning the first Sunday of December 2020! For the first time in our Church's storied history, we will be reaching out to millions of people throughout the Midwest each weekend following CBS's top-rated Sunday morning show, Face the Nation. The funds for these and other media outreach have been provided by generous and faithful donors outside of our Church budget. We are very grateful for this exciting and unprecedented achievement. Be sure to invite your friends and family to watch!!

### OFFICE CLOSED

Please note that the church office will be closed on Wednesday, **November 11** in honor of Veteran's Day. The building will still be open for activities.

### CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Sunday, **November 8** is Confirmation Sunday! Our teens will be confirmed at the 11am service, and recognized at the 8:30am & 9:45am services. Please join us in congratulating our confirmands!

**Sympathies** ..... recent deaths

- **THE MEADOWS FAMILY** on the passing of Robin Meadows.
- **THE HEDGE FAMILY** on the passing of Garnet Simpson-Hedge.
- **THE SEARLES FAMILY** on the passing of Betty Jane "B.J." Searles.
- **THE GREEN FAMILY** on the passing of

## December Tower Deadline:

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20**  
*E-mail articles & pictures to [communications@epworth.com](mailto:communications@epworth.com)*



Hello dear friends,

Welcome to the Holiday Season. With the challenges of the past year I know we are all ready for the beauty of Thanksgiving and the miracle of Christmas. Our Arts and Crafts Bazaar is just days away and so many other opportunities to enjoy this Season and serve our community are before us. I like the way Dr. Peale said it, "Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful." I know we all look forward to the warmth of this time of year. Each of us has an important role to play in sharing that warmth of heart, soul and spirit with our Community.

The 2020 Presidential Election is upon us and I know that many people feel the stress and pressure of what might or might not happen for their favorite candidates. In a recent message entitled "Faith for Every Circumstance" I specifically speak to this issue. We do not have circumstantial faith like circumstantial morality or situational ethics, rather, we have faith for EVERY circumstance. This means that God is with us to help, guide and bless us regardless of the momentary reality we are facing. This applies whether we are facing an illness, a relationship challenge or the election of a candidate that we don't support. The good news is that whatever happens on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 those candidates will only be in office for 2, 4, or 6 years. Elected officials are temporary and elections constantly reoccurring.

Our faith in Jesus should help us live in a state of calm as well as give us a platform to offer reassurance to others that God is ultimately in control and that everything is going to be O.K. As we approach the remaining weeks of this year let's pledge to end 2021 with hopeful, optimistic faith and in so doing create a ripple effect of God's grace and goodness. Here are a few words to help us focus on this all important task;

- As the world continues to try and figure everything out...I'll be holding doors for strangers, letting people cut in front of me in traffic, keeping babies entertained in grocery lines, stopping to talk to someone who is lonely, tipping generously, sharing food with neighbors, giving children a thumbs up, being patient with sales clerks, smiling at passersby.
- I will not stand to live in a world where love is invisible. Join me in showing kindness, understanding and judging less. Be kind to a stranger, give grace to people who might be having a bad day, be forgiving with others and yourself.
- If you can't find kindness, BE kindness.

Have a wonderfully novel and noteworthy November! Your friend and partner in ministry,

Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher  
Senior Pastor

### "Epworth Furniture Ministry enriches my faith journey."

-Martha Chapman's Story

I have been a member of Epworth Methodist Church for 50 years. The Church and the people are what drew my Mom and Dad and me. Pastor Paul Tropf was the Senior Pastor. The Choir was wonderful as it is now. In earlier years I sang in the Choir and helped with the Children's Choirs.

Now, my passion is Epworth Furniture Ministry. To be able to help those less fortunate and have had struggles in life and assist them in choosing furniture for their new home is heartwarming. Epworth Furniture Ministry enriches my faith journey.

People tend to sit in the same pews every Sunday. In all the churches I have attended with my parents, we always sat in the back pew. This tradition continued until my Mom was 105 years old. In later years when it was more difficult for her to walk, the ushers would rope off the back pew and save the seat for her. Some of my most cherished memories are Sundays in the back pew with my Mom at Epworth. She liked to remain in the pew after the closing hymn to listen to Cecil play the postlude. Her favorite piece was Widor Toccata, her fingers tapping with the music.

I have been blessed to worship at Epworth for 50 years and look forward to many more years being involved in the life of the Church.



**Christmas Eve Worship Times**

- 2pm Classic Candlelight
- 3:30pm Children & Family Candlelight  
*special guest: Santa! - pics w/ Santa after worship*
- 5:30pm Modern Candlelight Communion  
*livestreamed @ epworth.com- pics w/ Santa before worship*
- 7pm Classic Candlelight  
*broadcast live on CBS, WTOL Channel 11 & livestreamed @ epworth.com*
- 9pm Classic Candlelight  
*livestreamed @ epworth.com*
- 11pm Classic Candlelight Communion

For many of us, 2020 has been an unusual year. What better way to bring some normalcy and tradition back to you and your family's life than to attend Christmas Eve worship? We know Christmas planning often begins well in advance so we wanted to let you know, we're offering SIX different worship services this Christmas Eve to help fit your busy schedule as well as help provide less crowding to allow for as much social distancing as possible. We'll also have FREE pictures with Santa following 3:30pm worship and before 5:30pm worship! Planning to go out of town, or not ready to join us in person? Join us this Christmas Eve on the road or from the comfort of your home on CBS, WTOL 11 at 7pm or stream our 5:30pm, 7pm, or 9pm worship services online at epworth.com. Our message this year by Dr. Swisher is "Christmas Is Really All About You."

### UPCOMING GUEST PREACHERS

Dr. Swisher welcomes longtime friends to join him at upcoming Worship Services. [Visit our website](#) to learn more about each guest preacher.



#### Dr. Scot Ocke to Preach on November 12 @7pm

Dr. Scot Ocke serves as the District Superintendent for our Maumee Watershed District, where he works with 106 churches and numerous mission sites across the region. He currently serves on several Boards and Agencies and is a member of the Board of Trustees for Lakeside Chatauqua on the shores of Lake Erie.



#### Dr. Timothy Bias to Preach on December 13 @ 8:30, 9:45 and 11am

Dr. Tim Bias is the District Superintendent for the Capitol Area South District within our West Ohio Conference. He is the former General Secretary of the UM Board of Discipleship. Prior to that position he served as the Senior Pastor of Hyde Park Community UMC in Cincinnati and First UMC in Peoria, Illinois which became one of the largest UMC churches.



#### Dr. Jocelyn Roper to speak on January 17 @ 8:30, 9:45 and 11am

Dr. Joycelyn Roper is the District Superintendent for the Miami Valley within our West Ohio Conference. Prior to that appointment she served as the Director of Diversity for our West Ohio Conference and the Assistant District Superintendent for Ohio River Valley District.



#### Rev. Calvin Alston to Preach on Ash Wednesday, February 17 @7pm

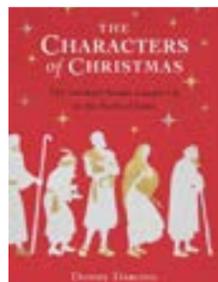
Rev. Calvin Alston is the District Superintendent for Shawnee Valley within our West Ohio Conference. Dr. Alston served for nine years as the Senior Pastor of New Vision United Methodist Church in Cincinnati and for seven years as the Senior Pastor of Christ UMC in Columbus.



#### Bishop Will Willimon to Preach on Palm Sunday, March 28 @ 8:30, 9:45 and 11am

Bishop Will Willimon is currently Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Degree Program at Duke Divinity School. He is considered by many one of America's best known and most influential preachers.

WEDNESDAY OASIS/ADVENT STUDIES



**The Characters of Christmas, Led by Dr. Swisher**

Our ADVENT Wednesday Oasis class begins on **November 18** at 6:30pm. Dr. Swisher will be leading a class based on the book "The Characters of Christmas." In this class we will take a fresh look at the Christmas story by getting to know all the characters who played a part in Jesus' birth; people like Zechariah and Elizabeth, Simeon and Anna, Mary, The Innkeeper, the Angels, Joseph and Jesus' Surprising Ancestors. Join our Senior Pastor and "break free from the familiar, and discover untold treasures in the story you thought you knew." This study is perfect and engaging for the whole family! Please RSVP to cindy@epworth.com. With 1 week advance notice, socially-distanced childcare will be available, email childcare@epworth.com.

**SWAT Wednesday Night Crews, Led by Rev. Dave Pettengill and SWAT Adult Leaders**

Effective immediately, due to Lucas county going back to red alert level 3 for COVID-19 case increases, all SWAT events will be held virtually. If you're a youth and would like to receive a zoom link to participate, or if you have any questions, please email dave@epworth.com. What are Crews? These are small groups that will help teens work together as they dive deeper into their faith journey. These groups will seek to help teens take that next step in their faith. Both Jr. and Sr. High students meet virtually together from 6:30-7:30pm.



**Do Not Be afraid: A Family Advent Study, Virtual**

This self-guided study is being offered virtually & begins Sunday, **November 29**. This hands on family advent study is an opportunity for families to take time each week during the Advent season to be intentional and focus on their faith. These weekly reflections are great for families of all ages and explore the theme, "Do Not Be Afraid," which is found in Jesus' birth story in the Gospel of Luke. To sign up to receive your digital kit, Email mary@epworth.com.

**THIS STUDY INCLUDES:**

- **Five Family Devotions:** Weekly family devotions include a suggested scripture to read, a short reflection, discussion questions, an activity, a coloring page, and a prayer.
- **Paper Crafts:** Each paper craft connects to the weekly themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.
- **Advent Calendar:** Our Advent Calendar starts on December 1, and each day brings an opportunity to complete a simple activity as a family. We consider families' busy lives, so the activities are short and meaningful without distracting from the real purpose—family time.

PARENT CONNECTIONS UPDATE

Can you believe we are already getting ready for the holidays? Where has the time gone? As 2020 comes to a close, our only option is to hold on tight so that we don't fall off the ride! With the daily changes to school schedules and recommended safety protocols, we're all doing the best we can. Parent Connections events have been on hold because of the pandemic, but we will get together as soon as it is deemed safe to do so. My prayer for you and your families is that you stay safe and healthy. So many have been affected by this pandemic in immeasurable ways. Our children are resilient, but even they can feel the stress and tension in the atmosphere. Please remember to take care of your mental health during these difficult times. Spend some time with your partner to strengthen your own relationship. Find a friend that you can talk to for support. Reach out for help if you're feeling overwhelmed. This is new territory for all of us, but we are stronger when we can depend on our "villages" to help battle the storms. We hope to see you in church soon! There is plenty of space to spread out in the sanctuary, especially at the 11am service. Come and visit when you feel up to it. Stay tuned for future plans for the committee and for family activities. God Bless!

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Epworth, St. Michael's in the Hills Episcopal Church, and Hope Lutheran Church invite you to join in a home lights display contest this December. You can participate by registering and decorating your house for the Let Your Light Shine home tour.



Then in December, participate in the tour and judge (or simply enjoy) the lights. To register your decorated house, email your address, desire to participate, and church affiliation to [ChurchLites@gmail.com](mailto:ChurchLites@gmail.com) by November 22. The suggested donation to register a house is \$10 and can be made out to your own congregation, designated "Let your Light Shine". The tour and judging will begin on **December 4**, so make sure to have your home decorated by then. All funds raised will be given to charity at the end of the event. We hope you join us in filling our neighborhoods with the light, joy, and love of Christ this holiday season!

EPWORTH KIDS: NOVEMBER

**Elementary:**



This month, we continue gathering through our weekly virtual Large Group Sundays at 10am on the children's facebook page, [facebook.com/Epworthkids](https://facebook.com/Epworthkids) and digital devotional materials at [epworth.com/kidsathome](https://epworth.com/kidsathome).

Epworth's Elementary kids will explore the life app gratitude. We define the Life App Gratitude as: Letting others know you see how they've helped you.

We want your kids to know they don't have to keep their gratitude inside. God can help us get in the habit of thanking others—and letting them know you see how they've helped you. To help learn about gratitude, the kids will work to memorize this month's memory verse: "Give thanks to the Lord, because He is good. His faithful love continues forever." (Psalm 136:1) Our prayer is that your kids will learn that showing gratitude to others is a way to reflect God's love in the world around them.

**Preschool & Toddler:**



This month, we will continue gathering through our weekly virtual Large Group Sundays at 11am on the children's facebook page, [facebook.com/Epworthkids](https://facebook.com/Epworthkids) and digital devotional materials at [epworth.com/kidsathome](https://epworth.com/kidsathome).

Epworth's Preschool and Toddler kids will explore the Biblical truth: God is good.

Each week we will post interactive Bible stories, and follow-up activities to teach your child that God is good! This hands-on, action packed virtual Bible story time will also help your early childhood kiddos memorize this month's Bible Memory Verse: "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good" (Psalm 107:1) It is our prayer that your little ones grow up knowing that they can shout their thanks to God because He is good!



EPWORTH PRESCHOOL

Check out all of the fun and exciting learning activities of our young preschoolers on the new digital Epworth Preschool screen located along the back wall, parallel to the ramp, and leading outside to the Valleyview parking lot. Epworth Preschool opened back up in Sept. and has nearly 100 students attending school on a part time basis. Please make sure you stop by and see all of the wonderful learning experiences taking place in our facility.

STUDENTS WITH A TASK

**The Youth Ministry for Students in Grades 6-12**



**SUNDAY NIGHT SPLASH**

5:30-7pm for Jr & Sr High  
November 1st, 8th, and 15th

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT CREWS**

6:30-7:30pm for Jr & Sr High  
November 4th, 11th, and 18th

**SENIOR HIGH SERVICE OPPORTUNITY!**

Looking for service hours? We have a great opportunity for you with our Furniture ministry! You can sign up for a variety of Saturday mornings where you would meet in the Central Ave parking lot at Epworth a little before 8 a.m. and you would go with our furniture ministry team to pick up donated furniture. You would return to the church at Noon. You can even sign up with a friend! If you are interested check out the dates on [this link](#) and sign up today.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING



Our 2020 Gingerbread House party will be virtual! We will be connected as a church family via zoom! Join the fun in a new way. We plan to have breakout rooms via zoom for families to join in the fun of this holiday activity. Santa will be in a zoom room for chats!

**Time:** Sunday Dec. 6 from 2-4pm

**Reserve:** Order your house from Mary@epworth.com

**Pick Up:** Houses will be available:

**Dec. 2** from 5-7pm at the Valley View doors or

**Dec. 6** during church times, 9-12.

**Cost:** of the kits is \$11

We hope you plan to join us for fellowship and fun in a safe way.

**JOIN US FOR THE ARTS & CRAFTS BAZAAR!**



Join us on Saturday, **November 7** for the annual Epworth UMW Bazaar to raise money for missions. Invite your friends, neighbors and relatives too!

Over 45 vendors offering hand-crafted items including jewelry, soaps and lotions, fused and blown glass, knit and sewn items, doll clothing, painted signs, pens, clothing and accessories, cards, wooden toys, paintings, honey, gourmet popcorn, dip mixes and holiday items!

A huge silent auction with items including dinners prepared by Epworth members, gift cards for services and restaurants, getaways, themed baskets, tickets, Mud Hens first-pitch opportunity with tickets, and unique items donated by vendors.

Our Pantry will be stocked with Epworth's best baked goods and casseroles! Bring some on Friday, buy some on Saturday!

Please know your safety is our priority. Masks will be required of all vendors, volunteers and shoppers. All shoppers should park in the South lot off of Valleyview and enter through the main doors off of that lot. The North lot off of Central Ave. is reserved for vendors and the North doors will be closed to shoppers during the Bazaar. All shoppers and volunteers will be asked to hand sanitize upon entrance to the church. The practice of social distancing with an appropriate number of shoppers throughout the day will be in place. Shoppers will be directed to follow a one-way path through the church, gym, silent auction hall and upstairs lobby. Aisles between vendors have been widened to 14 feet in the downstairs gym.

There is still time for you to donate and drop off a Silent Auction item or gift card, and to bake for the Pantry. We ask that your donations arrive by 2 p.m. on Friday, November 6.

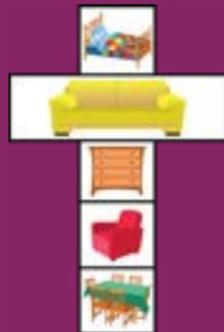
**SACK LUNCH PROJECT**

*Thank you to all who have volunteered, contributed funds, water or food – you have blessed this community and ministry beyond measure!* With colder weather moving in, and COVID-19 continuing to place additional hardship on those that are homeless or with limited resources, Epworth continues to partner with the District and other churches in providing a sack lunch throughout the week.

The program now provides a hot portion to the lunch along with offering coffee. Epworth volunteers continue to meet at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, every Wednesday at 8:30am to prep hot food, sandwiches, veggies and dip, breakfast bars, snacks and water and then safely distributing to those that come to the tent. Each Wednesday requires 4-6 volunteers to safely assist in the meal prep. If you are interested in joining this ministry, want additional details, or there are other days you would be willing to volunteer, please contact Jennie@epworth.com. Epworth is recognized as a significant and committed partner in this ministry and our volunteers experience the fruits of their labor through the expressions of gratitude of those served.



**FURNITURE MINISTRY**



*Items needed for blessings area:  
towels, twin sheets, twin comforters and large cooking pots*

STATISTICS	OCTOBER:	2020:
Families:	8	98
Adults:	10	124
Children:	13	125
Furniture:	78	1048

*Thank you for your continuing support of Epworth Furniture Ministry!*

**"WE THREE TREES" ADVENT 2020**

While our Advent projects may look a little different this year, Epworth is still committed to giving to our neighbors in need. This project is inspired by the three magi who traveled to meet the baby Jesus with precious gifts to honor and worship him. The three giving trees will be up starting Sunday, November 29. Two of the trees will be located in the lobby and one will be located near the Central Ave. entrance door. We are soliciting monetary donations this year. The trees will have "ornaments" hanging on them describing the projects we are supporting this Advent season. Take as many tags as you would like. Please make donations by Sunday, **December 27**. If you have questions, please contact Susan Kanwal susan.kanwal@gmail.com.



- **Hawkins Elementary STEMM Academy**  
We hope to raise enough in donations to reward a boy and girl in each class at Hawkins STEM Academy with a \$25 reward for showing the most growth in their computerized literacy program.
- **Feed Your Neighbor**  
Consider a monetary donation to assist our local Feed Your Neighbor Food Pantry. They are in need of funds to purchase needed food items for clients since food donations have decreased with many churches still closed. Our partner pantry is located in Epiphany Lutheran Church on Reynolds Rd. and serves persons in our local neighborhoods.
- **St. Paul's Community Center**  
Our long time partner would like our assistance with making donations that will go toward necessary toiletries for their clients such as towels, razors, T-shirts, deodorant, etc. . Donations of any kind are much appreciated!
- **Heifer International**  
Heifer International is a non-profit, humanitarian organization dedicated to ending world hunger and saving the earth by providing livestock, trees, training and other resources to help poor families in the USA and around the globe. You can purchase heifers, llamas, goats, tree seedlings, honey bees, pigs, chickens, and more! Check out the tree "ornaments" for specific amounts to "purchase" these animals.

These donations can be dropped in the offering plate or brought to the church office during the week. Please be sure and write "Advent" and the agency you would like your donation to go towards in the memo section. OR donations can be made at the Epworth website, making sure you write in "Advent" and/or the agency you want your funds designated for.

**OTHER ADVENT GIVING OPPORTUNITIIES:**

- **St. Paul's: Donate Hams For a Christmas Dinner**  
Thank you for helping St. Paul's Community Center as they prepare and serve a Christmas meal to people without homes in our community. Mark your ham (traditional or football style) and put it in the church refrigerator. Hams will be delivered to St. Paul's through Monday, **December 21**.
- **Hat, Mitten, Scarf Collection**  
We will be collecting new hats, mittens, and scarves for children and adults in our area. Bins will be placed in the narthex on Sundays and near the Central Ave. door on weekdays starting Sunday, **November 29**.

**HAWKINS STEMM ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP**



Eight Epworth volunteers have stepped up to help out in the Teacher School Supply Pantry at Grace Church during the months of October, November, and December. The pantry serves teachers at Hawkins STEMM Academy, three other elementary schools and Rogers High School. To assist teachers in replenishing supplies as elementary students gradually resume in-person education, the pantry has expanded its hours from one afternoon to three afternoons each month, from 3 to 5 p.m. Because the storage area is not large, volunteers will fill orders inside the pantry from a list submitted by the teachers beforehand. The bagged orders will then be taken outside to the teachers waiting in their cars to pick-up. Although we are not yet able to volunteer in the school building, our volunteers are excited to get involved in projects like this that positively impact the students and staff of Hawkins.

**CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIA ORDER/ DONATION FORM**



If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one during the Christmas season, we have two options available.

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

Commemorations will be listed in the December 20th bulletin. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

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 11pm Christmas Eve Service.

**ORDER DEADLINE IS MONDAY  
NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>**

Donor Name(s):  
-----  
*(Please print clearly, as you wish to be listed)*

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of and/or In Honor of: ( <-- Please circle one)  
-----  
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4<sup>1/2</sup>" Red Poinsettia Blooms # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

6<sup>1/2</sup>" Red Poinsettia Blooms # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

General Christmas Flower Fund Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ORDER: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**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. Amazon-Smile 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](https://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](mailto:laura@epworth.com).

**SUPPORT THE ALTAR FLOWER FUND**

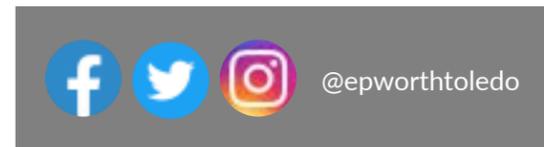
Contributing flowers for the Sunday altar is a special way to support Epworth and honor loved ones, past or present. Flowers enhance our experience of weekly worship while providing a beautiful tribute to the special people and events in our lives. We have some available dates for Altar Flower donations. 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](mailto:cindy@epworth.com) to find out what dates are available. Your support is much appreciated!

**FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR**

Thank you to the generous spirit of Epworth for their donations to feed Your Neighbor. For the month of November they need the following:

- raisins,
- jelly,
- tuna,
- mac and cheese,
- fruit cocktail,
- toilet paper,
- toothpaste,
- tooth brushes,
- shampoo,
- deodorant

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



**SERVICE OF HEALING & WHOLENESS**



Epworth's monthly service of healing and wholeness takes place on the third Monday of each month at 7pm in the Chapel. If you are looking for a quiet, reflective service to bring peace and stillness in times of turmoil, please join us on **November 16** for prayer, scripture, and music. Because many of our healing service attendees have compromised immune systems, masks will be mandatory at this service. Appropriate socially-distanced seating will be arranged in the chapel. If you have any questions, or would like to join the team, please contact Rev. Irwin at [beth@epworth.com](mailto:beth@epworth.com).

Then, on Monday, **December 14** we have the Longest Night service. This is a different kind of Christmas service, created for those who need a time of stillness amid the hectic pace of the holiday season. It is also a quiet, reflective service for those struggling to find the joy of Christmas because they are walking through a time of grief, financial difficulties or other uncertainties. It's a time to reconnect with God, peace, love and joy.

**NOVEMBER: DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH**

Diabetes is a condition where your body does not respond normally to the hormone insulin, which allows your blood sugar to rise. An estimated 84 million American adults, more than 1 in 3, have Prediabetes. Nearly 90% are unaware that they have it. Here are some signs of Prediabetes, from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Being overweight
- Being 45 years or older
- Having a parent, brother, or sister with type 2 diabetes
- Being physically active less than 3 times a week
- Ever having gestational diabetes (diabetes during pregnancy) or giving birth to a baby who weighed more than 9 pounds
- Having polycystic ovary syndrome

Per the CDC, Prediabetes can be reversed, through diet and exercise. For more information, please go to [cdc.gov/diabetes/basics/prediabetes.html](https://cdc.gov/diabetes/basics/prediabetes.html) or speak to your health care provider.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**



The Church building closes if there is a Level 3 Snow Emergency in Lucas county!

**Activities, Classes & Volunteers:**

- Canceled if Sylvania Schools close -- Will re-evaluate again at

3pm regarding evening activities. The staff person in charge of that activity will make the decision and will contact those persons involved.

**Preschool (ECEC & CDO):**

- Canceled if Ottawa Hills Schools close.\*
- 1 hour delay: Preschool opens on time.
- 2 hour delay: Preschool morning classes canceled, afternoon classes will meet.

\*The preschool reserves the right to cancel classes regardless of Ottawa Hills schedule, should extenuating circumstances arise.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**  
*Time To Give Thanks*



**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Loving others in Jesus' name is a challenge and an opportunity for all God's children. Christians need to be thankful that the Holy Spirit has given gifts to each of us to use in service to others and to build up the church (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). Stephen Ministers rely on those gifts to provide Christ-centered care to someone you know... a friend, neighbor, fellow church member, co-worker, or relative... who is going through a difficult time and who could benefit from the focused care, encouragement, and support of a Stephen Minister. Contact [stephenministry@epworth.com](mailto:stephenministry@epworth.com) or talk to a Stephen Minister (blue name tags) for details. It's a great way for you to show how much you care!



4855 W. Central Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio 43615-2337

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*“Epworth Furniture Ministry enriches my  
faith journey.”*

-Martha Chapman's Story



Read her story  
online at  
[wearepworth.com](http://wearepworth.com)

*#wearepworth*