



Epworth News

God's Love in Action
Growing Disciples through Compassionate Relationships

April 2014

Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

Church Contact Information
740-387-8344
churchoffice@epworthumc.org

Rev. David L. Hoffman
Pastor

Meredith Farson
Church Secretary

Sharon Gilbert
Director of Ministries to
Children and Families

Paula Aparis
Financial Secretary

Pat Murphy
Director of Chancel
and Bell Choirs

Kathy Walczak
Organist

Connie Slob
Head Custodian

Gerald Hanshaw
Custodian

Sarah Daum
PS/DC Director

THE EASTER CLOTHES

A pastor went to see a man who lived in his community -- a man who never came to church. "We would love to have you come to church, the pastor explained to the man." "But I can't," the man replied...and he gave no further explanation. "Well, why not?" the pastor asked. "Clothes. I don't have any good 'church-going' clothes," the man replied with downcast eyes. The pastor thought for a moment and then said, "I will talk to some of the men at our church, and we will see about getting you some new clothes. If we are able to get you some new clothes, will you come to church?" The man agreed and said that he would. The pastor went back and talked to some of the men from his church and they were able to raise over \$300.00 in order to buy the man some new clothes. The pastor, himself, went out and bought the man an expensive new suit, shirt, complete with socks and new undergarments and delivered them to the man. "Now," the pastor said, "you'll go to church on Sunday, right?" "I sure will, Pastor," the man said, smiling at the new suit. Well, Sunday morning came and the pastor looked out over the entire congregation but the man was not there. So the pastor anxiously went to the man's house that afternoon and the pastor found the man sitting on his front porch, reading the Sunday newspaper, wearing his new suit. "I thought you said that if we got you new clothes, you would go to church?" the pastor asked him. The man smiled and said, "Well, pastor, I did go to church. You see, when I put on this new suit it looked so good on me, that I went down the road to the Presbyterian Church!"

Getting new clothes at Easter was always a tradition in the Hoffman Family. In fact, it was on Easter Sunday sometime in the mid 70's when I got my first real "going to church" clothes. From pictures, I think I can remember seeing blue and orange plaid pants with a coordinating blue shirt and jacket (something that might be coming back into style these days). Of course my twin brother, Doug, and I were dressed alike. Imagine the picture...identical twins, ready for church, holding up chocolate Easter bunnies with their ear already bitten off. The new outfits that we were forced to wear, I am sure they felt more like straight jackets. But boy, did we look nice.

There is something about getting new clothes. They make you feel a little different. If they really look nice on you, you feel better about yourself. New clothes can make you feel brand new, good about yourself. How good it feels to discard the old clothes that are worn, torn, and ragged for a whole new wardrobe! A whole new look!

I believe that Easter is somewhat like that. Easter calls us from death to new life. It is the taking off of the old clothes, the old life, and putting on the new life, clothes that we cannot possibly afford to buy, but that are given freely to us by God. As we draw closer to Easter, let us turn from the old life and accept the gift of new life.

Journeying with you,
David

Easter Message
from the
Pastor



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Generosity Moment

Filing for divorce, losing my home, and moving in with my parents and my young son as my 10-year marriage crumbled was humbling. But it was also a chance to rebuild my life and make sure it was in line with my values.

What I had felt was generous to give as a young adult starting a career didn't feel as generous as a 30-something with a larger income. I had a new opportunity to make sure what was important to me showed in how I shared my time and resources.

It is easy to give when we have been given so very much:

- God's unending forgiveness, love, and grace
- Parents who made having two extra houseguests feel like a joy and not a burden, despite tripping over train tracks, and occasional TV battles. ("No Fox News, Papa!" my preschooler declares to my father. "I want to watch cartoons.")
- An aunt dealing with challenges like Job who gives generously despite her overwhelming, unrelenting personal circumstances.

A little perspective can help remind us of what we may take for granted. For me, they included:

- A friend who had to face divorce and single motherhood alone, without the help of her parents or benefit of an education and a career, who offers encouraging words.
- A wise Epworth member, whose grace covers the scars of life's toughest challenges, advises volunteering and focusing on what others are facing.
- A child at daycare who at age 2 has lost his parents and shows scars and behavior were caused by abuse.
- A Wings of the Morning speaker who describes never having owned a pair of shoes until he was 9, in one of the poorest areas of the world.
- A funny press conference by Matt Damon, educating that more of the world has cell phones than has access to clean water and sanitation.

Sometimes doubts can interfere with our generosity: Do I agree with every spending decision the church makes? Should I give locally or globally? Will a friend in need or a man with a sign use my help for good or for evil?

In my mind, your gift in good faith is between you and God. How a person uses it is between them and God. When we are urged to go the second mile with someone who compels us to go one, God didn't say to ask if the

person was deserving, ask where he was going, or whether it was a wise journey. By being compelled or having clothing demanded, the description in Matthew 5:40-42 is of a thief or a robber, not a widow or an orphan in need. God said to give anyways...show the world in love and astound people with the way you show it.

Sometimes the variety of choices can be overwhelming. There are so many good charities doing good work: ending malaria; supporting children in impoverished nations; responding to emergency needs with disasters abroad and hunger here at home. Whether you want to provide vaccines or support an orphanage, foster a neglected child, provide medical care to help a mother injured in childbirth or to a child with a curable disability, you cannot go wrong. If we all do SOMETHING, we will make the world better. Don't let the vast number of choices lull you into indecision and inaction.

At times, God nudges you to give specifically, sometimes for a need you may only be vaguely aware of. Listen to that voice!!! You may make a world of difference if you don't ignore the nudge.

Financial challenges may dramatically change our lives and our giving. In November, my workplace reorganized and I was laid off. I certainly cannot give as much as I did when I was working full-time. But there are many ways to give and show God's love generously with no or little financial cost:

- Helping feed the hungry at a community supper at St. Paul's Episcopal
- Picking up some groceries for a sick friend
- Checking in on an elderly neighbor in this challenging cold
- Offering a kind word or support or a listening, nonjudgmental ear, or sharing a time you were in challenging circumstances and God came through for you

The Five Love Languages for Singles offers ideas on how to show your love in a variety of ways, from improving a relationship with a troubled coworker to enhancing a strained relationship with loved one. Many times it takes just a little bit of thought, time, and understanding.

Why not give generously? It feels great!

Wendy Weichenthal

CHURCH OFFICE

The Coming of Spring... With the coming of spring comes a gentle reminder to remember your pledge and your financial commitment to the church. Due to the long winter and icy and snowy Sundays our attendance and subsequently our giving saw a \$17,500.00 drop in expected revenue for January and February (\$16,000.00 in January alone). Please do your part in helping the church to meet its budgetary needs. I am grateful for all the ways you support our congregation, through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. Blessings, Pastor David Hoffman

Stay Connected! Did you know that you can listen to a re-broadcast of the Epworth United Methodist Church every Sunday morning at 9:05am through iHeart Radio on your smart phone, tablet, kindle, or computer? Simply go to www.iheart.com and download the app and then search WMRN. Listen on the go wherever you are traveling throughout the world. Also, an audio sermon archive can be found on our website, www.epworthumc.org.

Epworth Preschool: We are currently registering children for our Fall preschool classes. Registration papers are coming in each day and our classes are filling up quickly. If you wish to secure a spot for your child, please visit us at your earliest convenience so that we can make sure all of your child's paperwork is in order for fall. Our 3 year old classes are held Mon-Wed from 9am-1pm, while our 3-4 year old and 4-5 year old classes are held Mon-Thurs from 9am-1pm. Tours of our beautiful facility are available upon request.

Honoring Graduates...

In an effort to honor, celebrate, and recognize those who will be graduating from high school and college, we invite you to submit the names of those graduating; the school and/or degree, and if they are continuing their education, where they will be attending in the fall and what degree they will be pursuing. If you are or have received a college degree at any point during the 2013-2014 school year, please submit that information. Those submitting names will be honored on Sunday, May 18th. A breakfast will be provided for all high school and college graduates and their families. **Please RSVP to the church office by May 12th.**

Information for Monthly Newsletters: Just a reminder that information needs to be to the church office by 4:00pm on the 15th of the month. If you email information to the church office, please make sure it is in Word format, not a PDF or JPEG. If the 15th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the information is due the next business day.

MEMBERSHIP AND NUTURE

Grief Sharing at Epworth—Walking Through Grief: Monday, March 17th was our first night of a 9-week grief sharing group. We are using a new video series, "Walking through Grief." If you have suffered the loss of a loved one, we invite you to join us Monday evenings from 6:30—8:00pm.

Common Grounds: Volunteers needed to host the Common Grounds on Sunday mornings. Please contact Dee Dee Smith at 726-2214 if you are interested. The Common Grounds coffee shop has become a popular spot on Sunday mornings. Hosting could be a fun way for you to serve in one of the ministries of our church.

Prayer Quilt Ministry: We are looking for additional volunteers for the Quilt Ministry. We meet on the first Saturday of the month from 11:00am to 2:00pm. In Room 111. Come, enjoy the fellowship while preparing a visual and spiritual ministry for those who are in need of prayer for various reasons.

THANK YOU

Dear Scholarship Committee. Words can't begin to describe the thanks that you deserve for being so gracious! This will be extremely helpful towards my education! Blessings, Tess Howard

Epworth Scholarship Committee. I am so grateful for your generosity! You have helped me greatly through the years. I am happy to say I will graduate debt free and the money you have given me helped me tremendously. The money you have given me will help go toward me paying for my bachelors. Thanks so much! Lindsey Hayes

Epworth UMC Scholarship Committee. Thank you so much for the generous money that will help greatly for school next fall. I have been accepted to the Nursing Program in the fall where I plan to use the money for classes or books. Thanks again! Love, Casey Hayes

Dear Epworth UMC Scholarship Committee. Thank you for the much needed financial support of my future education. I will continue to try and be a representative of the church and spread God's love and word. Thank you. Cameron Osborne



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

During one of our RV journeys, Rick and I worshiped in a church in Nova Scotia. It was one of those beautiful white-sided churches with well cared-for grounds, and the adjacent cemetery was immaculately groomed. Inside we were quickly greeted by the minister, who moved us along into the sanctuary with a brisk "good morning" handshake. We found a pew near the back. An older couple sitting nearby welcomed us and inquired about our travels. Then we settled in to look around before the service began. It was a beautiful traditional sanctuary, with a single center aisle leading to the chancel area where there was an ornately carved pulpit, seating for the choir, a simple altar, and above the altar, a large screen for viewing the order of worship and hymn lyrics. During the morning announcements, we listened as the Trustee chair reported with pride on the newly renovated steeple. I, however, could hardly focus. My mind was adding up the attention given to honor the dead, and the resources dedicated to the steeple, yet there was not a single child in attendance! In fact, there wasn't a person under the age of 50, I'd guess. Later, I asked the kind couple who had welcomed us, "Where are the children? Do they have a separate worship space?" She responded, "Well, we really don't have any children, I suppose. We used to have a worship time for the kids downstairs, but we don't really need to do that now." Sometimes one needs to take a journey away, to recognize the blessings of home. I am filled with gratitude to the Epworth congregation who has joyfully welcomed children into our worship service, into our budget, into our hearts. You have placed an importance on their spiritual growth, and their participation in the church. You have welcomed children at the Communion Table and into the Family of God. I am grateful to be a part of a congregation that takes seriously Jesus' words, "Let the little children come unto me..."

Praising God for your faithfulness, Sharon

News from the Nursery

Epworth's nursery is capably staffed on Sunday mornings by Chelsea Conley. However, from time to time a substitute is needed, or the number of children indicates a need for additional trained nursery workers. We welcome Reina Riegel to our nursery staff! Reina is a lead teacher for Epworth Preschool & Daycare in the Lions classroom. Tiffany Smith, also a PSDC employee, and volunteers Pat Caudill and Abbie Claborn are additional nursery substitutes. All nursery adult staff have completed Infant and Child CPR training and have had background checks as required by Epworth's Safe Sanctuary Policy. We are also appreciative of teen volunteers Alyson Hoffman, Andrea Hoffman and Tess Howard. Epworth's nursery staff, paid and volunteer, make it their ministry to provide safe and tender care for Epworth's youngest attendees, from birth to age 3. We are blessed by their witness of God's love to these little ones!

Calendar Dates for Busy Parents

April 3

Conversations to Have with the Kids About Death, Grieving & Rituals, 6:30-8p.m.

April 10

Conversations About Faith, 6:30-8p.m.

April 12

Family Lent Event and Easter Egg Hunt w/ Lunch, 10 a.m.-noon

April 13

Palm Sunday—Children's Choir sings at the 10:30am service

April 13

Camp forms and checks due in the church office

April 20

Easter Sunday

April 20

Last day for sausage/bratwurst orders

April 27

Children's choir sings in 12:30 concert following luncheon

May 4

Sausage for Summer Camp meat pickup

Conversations to Have with the Kids

We take time to talk with our kids every day. Even so, some topics are just more complicated than others. Rev. Jay Moyers has helped us to think about the ever-evolving Conversations About Social Media. He returned on March 13 to discuss Conversations About Human Sexuality, with a brief description of the United Methodist curriculum, "Created by God." If you missed these sessions, you can still join us for Conversations About Death, Dying, Grieving and Rituals (April 3) and Conversations to Have About Faith (April 10). As part of your Lenten Journey, please join us for these sessions that will strengthen your family's conversations! Thursdays, 6:30pm - 8:00pm. Childcare provided!

April 3 Conversations to Have about Death, Dying, Grieving & Rituals

- ♦ *Every family will, at some time, experience the dying and death of a pet, a beloved grandparent or other family member who dies too soon. How do we talk to our children about it? At what age are children "ready" to attend calling hours or the funeral? How can children be participants in the grieving rituals of the family? Chad Snyder of Denzer, Farison, Hottinger & Snyder Funeral Homes will join us for this sensitive conversation.*

A display of resources will also be available for your perusal.

April 10 Conversations to Have about Faith

- ♦ *Have you ever felt unsure of how to include faith conversations in day-to-day life with your children? Sharing our own faith with our children is one way to lead them toward a mature faith, themselves --- but how do we do that when we're not at all sure how to talk about matters of faith? Three parents who have found ways to keep their own faith strong while raising children will share*

some of the faith conversations they've had with their children: Jane Harper - parent of a 1 year and 4 year old, Ruth Coldwell - parent of two young adult children and 3 grandchildren, and Pam Douce - former United Methodist preschool director and parent of 4 adult children and a growing number of grandchildren, will get this conversation going, and share resources that can make faith conversations part of everyday life.

Family Lent Event & Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 12 10 a.m. - noon

Epworth's Family Lent Event invites you and your children, ages 2-12, as well as the families of Epworth Preschool & Daycare, to a Saturday morning of Easter crafts and stories, and of course, the Easter Egg Hunt. Grandparents, this is a fine opportunity to spend a fun-filled morning with your grandchildren! We'll have a simple kid-friendly lunch. The Easter Egg Hunt will be on the playground (bags provided) so be sure to dress warmly if the morning is cool. The Children's Council welcomes your family to a morning of celebration of Easter and the coming of spring.

Candy Donations

Your donations of bags of individually wrapped candy will help Children's Council prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt. Bring to Sharon's office room 210.

SAVE THE DATE:

Vacation Bible School

June 16-20, 9:30 - 11:45

Imagine and Build with God in the Workshop of Wonders!

Let's Go to Church Camp!

Our West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church has three wonderful church camps, where a young and energetic staff is changing lives in God's great outdoors. Already, the excitement among the Epworth children, ages 7 and up, is building for the fun of crafts, swimming, hiking, S'mores, canoeing, archery, musical arts, GaGa ball and even horseback riding at Camp Wesley or Camp Otterbein. When the kids arrive at camp, they will also learn that church camp is about *Love God, Love Others!* Sharon will go to Camp Wesley with several of our first-time campers for Discovery Camp, July 27-29th, but children may select the camp experience and week that fits into their summer schedule. Epworth's Children's Council has had a

Popcorn sale at the Marion Popcorn Parade and a Shrove Sunday Pancake Breakfast to raise money for camp scholarships. And, the Children's Council is taking orders for sausage and bratwurst through Easter Sunday with the goal of providing a 50% scholarship for each child attending camp. *To be eligible for Epworth's camp scholarships, camp registration forms AND signed Release of Liability Form must be in the church office by April 13th. Please attach a check to Epworth United Methodist Church for 50% of the listed camp cost.* For more information, or for the Registration Form and Release of Liability Form, see www.westohiocamps.org.



Sausage for Summer Camp!

Grilling time is almost here! Makin Bacon Farms has made it possible for Children's Council to take orders for bulk sausage, bratwurst patties, and bratwurst links. Your frozen sausage and brats will be ready for pick up in the church kitchen on Sunday, May 4th.

Place all orders, with payment, by Sunday, April 20th.

_____ package (s) frozen bulk sausage, approx. 1 lb. @ \$3.00 = _____

_____ package (s) frozen bratwurst links, approx. 2 lbs. @ \$7.00 = _____

_____ package (s) frozen bratwurst patties, approx. 2 lbs. @ \$7.00 = _____

Total = _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Proceeds will support children's church camp scholarships.
Please make checks payable to Epworth UMC - Children's Council



United Methodist Women Epworth Women in Action

ABC's and Nothing More was the intriguing title for the women's retreat. Thirty-eight women drove to The Pines Retreat Center in Fremont to find the answer.

We discovered that by using the alphabet, we could identify people in the Bible; name the many things for which we are thankful; and list prayer concerns of others and ourselves.

Nothing More...

To be humble, to be kind.
It is the giving of the peace in your mind.
To a stranger, To a friend...
to give in such a way that has no end.
We are love...We are one....
We are how we treat each other when the day is done.
We are Peace...We are War....
We are how we treat each other and Nothing More.
To be bold, to be brave.
It is the thinking that the heart can still be saved....
And the darkness can come quick...
the dangers in the anger and the hanging on to it.
Tell me what it is that you see....
A world that's filled with endless possibilities....?
Heroes don't look like they used to, they look like you do. We
are love....We are one....
We are how we treat each other when the day is done.
We are Peace....We are War....
We are how we treat each other and Nothing More.

This was our theme song and the words became the glue that held us all together throughout the weekend. Many fun and innovative exercises proved how much can be accomplished when we work together. How do you keep a tennis ball rolling around a tarpaulin held by thirty-eight women without losing it over the side or through one of the four holes in the center? Cooperation, teamwork, lots of laughter and by accepting that sometimes we do drop the ball!!!

Kathy Swanger led the way from fun filled games to faith filled exercises. Thank you, Kathy, for EVERYTHING!

No time to lose before our next event...The Spring Fling with be on Thursday, May 1st at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. "Down the Garden Path" is the theme and the program will be provided by Stratford Ecological Farm in Delaware County. In keeping the "Spring Garden" theme, the menu will feature a Salad Bar, with desserts and beverages. Tickets will be available beginning Sunday, March 30th...and information will be on the UMW Bulletin Board and in the Sunday bulletins.

Monday, April 14th, at 6:30pm, is the next gathering date for Epworth Women in Action....a warm welcome awaits and we welcome your participation in planning this Spring Fling event.



PRAYER QUILTS WERE MADE FOR

- ◆ **Diane Cluff** for healing, comfort, and peace
- ◆ **Alfonso Salinas** for recovery and patience



A white rose was placed on the altar in celebration of the life of:

- ◆ Ruth Thompson Evans, stepmother of Judy Daum, step-grandmother of Jeff (Kathy) Daum and Jill Pinnick, step-great-grandmother of Andrea and Kaitlyn Daum, died February 20, 2014.
- ◆ Harley "Bing" Howard, father of Joe Howard, died February 28, 2014.
- ◆ Janet Daum, died March 7, 2014.
- ◆ Paul King, brother of Mary Bratt, died March 17, 2014.



Red roses were placed on the altar as we celebrated the arrival of:

- ◆ Juliana Grace West, daughter of Laura and Gary West, was born on January 16, 2014. The proud big sister is Mia Claire. Proud grandparents are Mike and Gail McGraw; Great-grandmothers are Edna Packer and Alice McGraw.
- ◆ Jack Warne Dixon, son of Megan and Seth Dixon, was born on February 20, 2014. The proud big sister is Jenna. Proud grandfather is Doug Warne.
- ◆ Preston Donald Boltz, son of Corey and Stacie Boltz, was born on February 23, 2014. Proud grandparents are John and Jodi Botlz; Great-grandmother is Alice McGraw.
- ◆ Landon Hall Combs, son of Jonathan and Paula Combs was born February 26, 2013. Proud grandparents are Tim and Pam Combs
- ◆ Charlie Martin Bratt, son of Eric and Marty Bratt, was born on March 3, 2014. Proud grandparents are Marvin and Mary Bratt.
- ◆ Mason McCleary, son of Kevin and Jennifer McCleary, was born on March 7, 2014. Proud grandparents are Bryan and Karen McCleary.
- ◆ Kieran Richard Baird, son of Ken and Laura Baird, was born on March 12, 2014. Proud grandparents are Rick and Peg Baird.



And will you succeed?

Yes, you will, indeed

(98 and $\frac{3}{4}$ percent guaranteed)

KID, YOU'LL MOVE MOUNTAINS!

-Dr. Seuss

Epworth Preschool and Daycare has many exciting events occurring this month! The week of April 21st through April 27th, we will be displaying students' artwork throughout the main hallway. Our students work very hard to express their creativity through art and we wish to share their talents with students, parents, teachers, church members, and individuals from the community. Please feel welcome to come and browse our art gallery.

The entire week of April 21st, we will be having a Scholastic Book Fair in the Parlor. The operating hours will be 12pm-2pm and 3pm-5pm Monday through Friday. We encourage all avid readers to stop by and shop for new children's literature. The book fair will be offering materials suited for babies (board books) through 4th grade. The book fair will also be featuring religious books for your enjoyment. If you no longer have young children living at home, consider shopping for grandchildren or nieces and nephews that would appreciate you helping to build their home library.

Sunday, April 27th will be the day that we celebrate the mission and ministry of the preschool and daycare during the 10:30 worship service here at Epworth United Methodist Church. Families of the children enrolled in the school have been invited to join us in worship. The students will be performing special songs prepared by Connie Slob. It is sure to be a heartwarming performance. The students, preschool/daycare board members, and teaching staff will be wearing shirts representing our new school mascot (the kangaroo) and colors (turquoise and black). Please plan to attend and to give our visitors a warm welcome. Following worship, preschool and daycare families are

invited to the luncheon benefiting Epworth's trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Africa. Members of the team will find ways to share their experience with the PSDC in the fall.

Looking forward, sadly the last day of our 3 day preschool class will conclude on Wednesday, May 14th. The last day of the 4 day preschool classes will be Thursday, May 15th. What great joy these classes have brought to us! Epworth Preschool and Daycare will miss them dearly but we know that we will be seeing some students again in the fall. We have been seeing lots of students re-enrolling which makes us very happy and only reaffirms that we have a wonderful program. The community is so supportive of our program and we are immensely grateful. Some students will be moving on to kindergarten where we know they will be well-prepared, confident, and will do BIG things! We would like to give a special thanks to our preschool teachers for molding these young minds everyday and giving our students the care and attention that they deserve.

We will be holding a graduation ceremony for the Fox class on May 22nd. As part of our daycare program, these students will be staying with us until kindergarten starts in August. We are confident that these brilliant and talented students will have no problems finding success in kindergarten. Thank you to Miss Tracy and Miss Rosie for your love and dedication to these precious children.

The daycare will be closed on Monday, May 26th in honor of Memorial Day.

From our hearts to the heart of Africa

- a concert to support the Epworth mission team -
(an offering will be received to help defray the costs of our teams' trip to the Congo in August)

Sunday April 27

Lunch immediately following the 10:30 AM service
Concert begins at 12:30 PM

— Featuring —

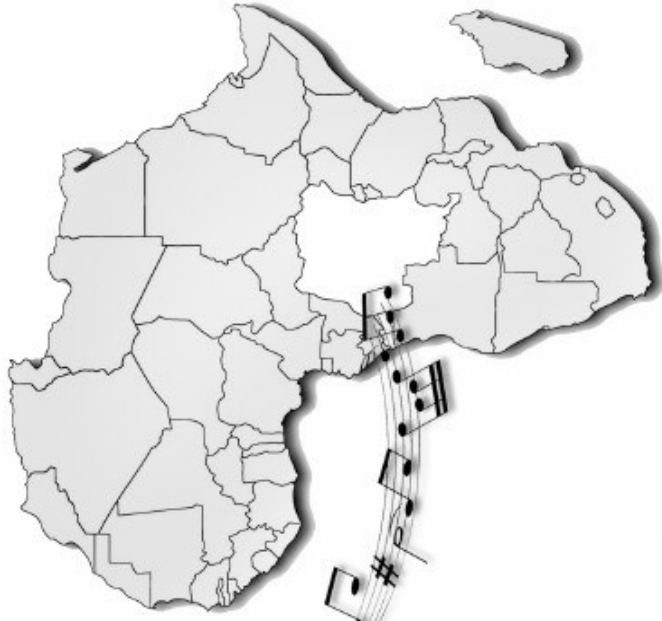
Epworth Chancel Choir

Epworth Chancel Bells

Epworth Children's Choir

Rainbow Express

Rainbow Classics





Marion County to receive grant money from UMCOR

United Methodist News Service: March 15, 2014

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has approved a **\$50,000 grant** to assist with recovery needs from the December 2013 Marion County Flood that affected the communities of **LaRue, Prospect and Green Camp**. The request for the grant support was submitted by the Director of Connectional Mission and Justice for the West Ohio Conference and the Capitol Area North District Disaster Coordinator. The West Ohio Conference is also providing

\$15,000 in relief support.

On December 24, 2013, LaRue, Ohio and surrounding areas experienced extensive flooding that impacted homes that have not been damaged in previous floods. Due to drainage improvements in the county immediately north of Marion County, flood waters are now backing up quicker in these communities resulting in surge flooding. The community is working with government agencies to correct this problem, however, the flooding will continue until corrections to the river flow are completed.

The response by LaRue United Methodist Church and other area United Methodist churches, along with the Capitol Area North Disaster Response team in partnership with the Red Cross and other community organizations have been tremendous. Recently Rev. Deb Berry became the new case manager and is in place working with those impacted by the flooding.

According to recent census data, 19.6 % of people in Marion County live below the poverty line. Given this socioeconomic reality, community leaders and partners anticipate a disproportional amount of unmet needs. The grant application provides funding for: Case management for affected families, assistance for families to replace household furnishings, mold remediation, reconstruction and repair of households, assistance for security deposits/first month rent for renters needing to relocate and, developing a sustaining partnership with the area to lessen the impact of future flooding by providing training, awareness and developing disaster plans for proactive action.

The recovery will be a primarily volunteer driven project with only direct expenses being reimbursed for the case management team and other leadership. Volunteers will be used to assist affected families with repairs and rebuilding and a team of people will be identified, trained and deployed to develop relationships with community citizens to prepare for future floods and lessen potential damage. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING, call the church office with your name and number and you will be contacted.

April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1 Sausage Sale begins Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Children's Council (Rm. 210) 6:30pm SPRC (Rm. 111) 7:00pm</p>	<p>2 PS/DC Teachers meeting (Rm. 301) 1:15pm PS/DC Finance Group (Rm. 205) 2:45pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Chancel Choir (Rm. 112) 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm</p>	<p>3 Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am Membership & Nurture (Rm. 111) 5:15pm Conversations to Have with Your Child (Rm. 205) 6:30pm</p>	4	5 Prayer Quilt Ministry (Rm. 111) 11:00am
6 Merrill Bender - piano recital - (Rm. 205) 2:00pm	<p>7 No Spiritual Formation GriefShare (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 106) 7:00pm</p>	<p>8 Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Evelyn Kendall Circle (Rm. 205) 1:00pm Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 4:00pm</p>	<p>9 Bell Choir 6:00pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Rm. 112) 7:00pm</p>	<p>10 Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am Circles: Allies & Families (Rms. 109 & 106) 5:30pm Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 6:00pm Conversations to Have with Your Child (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Trustees (Rm. 210) 7:00pm</p>	11	12 Family Lent Event with Easter Egg Hunt & lunch (Rm. 109) 10:00am
13 PALM PASSION SUNDAY Bell Choir playing Camp registration forms due for scholarship eligibility Children's Choir Singing	<p>14 GriefShare (Rm. 205) 6:30pm UMW (Pastor's Office) 6:30pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 106) 7:00pm Administrative Council (Rm. 111) 7:00pm AMI Circle (Pastor's Office) 7:30pm</p>	<p>15 NEWSLETTER INFORMATION DUE Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Cents for Children (Rm. 111) 11:30am Finance Committee (Rm. 210) 6:30pm</p>	<p>16 Bell Choir 6:00pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Rm. 112) 7:00pm</p>	<p>17 Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am Maundy Thursday Services (Rm. 205) 7:00pm</p>	18 Office Closed PM Good Friday Services 7:00pm	19
20 EASTER SUNDAY Choir to sing at both services Last day for Sausage for Summer Camp orders 8:30 service - Baptism	<p>21 OFFICE CLOSED Preschool Book Fair and Art Show Marion Matters Annual Meeting (Rm. 109) 5:30pm Lay Leadership (Rm. 210) 6:00pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 106) 7:00pm PS/DC Board (Rm. 111) 7:00pm</p>	<p>22 Preschool Book Fair and Art Show Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 4:00pm</p>	<p>23 Preschool Book Fair and Art Show Bell Choir 6:00pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Chancel Choir (Rm. 112) 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm</p>	<p>24 Preschool Book Fair and Art Show Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 6:00pm</p>	25 Preschool Book Fair and Art Show	26 Preschool Book Fair and Art Show
27 Preschool Book Fair and Art Show PS/DC Sunday Luncheon and concert to benefit Congo Team 11:30am	<p>28 Preschool Book Fair and Art Show GriefShare (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Missions (Rm. 210) 6:30pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 106) 7:00pm</p>	<p>29 No Staff Meeting Men's Breakfast 7:30am</p>	<p>30 Bell Choir 6:00pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Chancel Choir (Rm. 112) 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm</p>	<p>1 Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am Spring Fling (Sanctuary and Rm. 109) 6:00pm</p>	2	3 Prayer Quilt Ministry (Rm. 111) 11:00am
4 Worship Committee 11:30am Sausage Pickup following worship	<p>5 GriefShare (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 106) 7:00pm Spiritual Formation (Rm. 210) 7:00pm</p>	<p>6 Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Staff Luncheon 12 noon Neighborhood Supper (St. Paul's Episcopal) 5:15pm VBS Planning Meeting (Rm. 210) 6:30pm SPRC (Rm. 111) 7:00pm</p>	<p>7 PS/DC Teachers meeting (Rm. 301) 1:15pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Rm. 112) 7:00pm</p>	<p>8 Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am Circles: Allies & Families (Rms. 109 & 106) 5:30pm Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 6:00pm Parenting Class (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Child care/parenting class (Rm. 201) 6:30pm Trustees (Rm. 210) 7:00pm</p>	9	10

Epworth News

Epworth United Methodist Church

249 East Center Street

Marion, Ohio 43302-3873

Rev. David L. Hoffman, Pastor

Sharon Gilbert, Dir. of Ministries to Children & Families

Sarah Daum, Director Epworth Preschool & Daycare

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mailing Label Here

HOLY WEEKS SERVICES

Thursday, April 17—Maundy Thursday Services—7:00 pm

Friday, April 18—Good Friday Services—7:00 pm

Sunday, April 20—Easter Sunday

8:30 am service

10:30 am service

SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AT EPWORTH UMC

Common Grounds Coffee Shop opens at 9:00 am. Stop by for a cup of coffee or tea and fellowship (Rm. 106)

8:30 am	Nursery care available until 11:45 am (Rm. 202)
8:30 am	Worship Service
9:00 am	Children's Choir (Rm. 203)
	Open Door Class (Rm. 305)
	Common Grounds (Coffee Shop - Rm. 106)
9:15 am	Come Join Us Class (Rm. 205)
9:30 am	The Little Blessings, ages 2 ½ - 3 (Rm. 201)
	Godly Play (ages 4 - 2 nd grade) (Rm. 206)
	Acolyte Fellowship SS Class (grades 3 - 5 th) (Rm. 204)
	Middle and High School Class (Rm. 301)
	Messengers Class (Rm. 111)