

The mission of our church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

DECEMBER 2012

Celebrating the Risen Lord

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

> Church Phone 740-387-8344

Rev. David L. Hoffman Pastor

Meredith Farson Administrative Assistant

Sharon Gilbert

Director of Ministries to Children and Families

Paula Aparis

Financial Secretary

Pat Murphy

Choral & Bell Director

Kathy Walczak

Organist

Connie Slob

Custodian

Bob Houston

Building Superintendent

Robin Rick

PS/DC Director

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Pondering **Christmas Blessings** Parsonage Open House **Christmas Eve Services** Youth Schedule Children in Ministry **Christmas Concert** Living Nativity by Candlelight Thank You **Missions Prayer Quilts UMW** Thank You

> Christmas Eve Dinner PS/DC **Grounds for Thoughts** Crafting with Phyllis

Roses

EMIM Calendar

A SEASON OF WAITING

The season of Advent is certainly a time of watching and waiting -but it is not meant to be passive nor even thoughtless. Advent is a time for us to be birthed into new possibilities and new realities. We are to use this time of waiting as our preparation for things to come. I invite you to hear this story about the importance of waiting.



A monk found the cocoon of a butterfly. One day, a small opening appeared, and he sat and watched the butterfly for several hours, as it struggled to force its body through the little hole. Then it seemed to stop making progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could muster and could go no further. The monk decided to help the butterfly, so he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily, but it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.

The monk continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that at any moment its wings would enlarge and expand enough to be able to support its body, which would contract in time. Neither happened!

In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. Although the monk took very good care of the butterfly for all of its days, it was never able to fly.

What the monk in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings, so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon. Freedom and flight could only come after a struggle.

We are so like the monk who wants to rush through this season of Advent, a season of waiting. We want to rush through this season of anticipation and preparation to the joy and celebration. In rushing through the season of Advent, we miss opportunities to have our lives transformed and re-formed by God's spirit. Waiting is sometimes a struggle between who we are and what is yet to come.

Spend time this season of Advent waiting and preparing your lives for the Christ child that is to come once again into our midst.

In Joyful Anticipation,

David

As we begin to look towards the New Year, you are invited to mark your calendars now for the Leadership/Visioning Day that will take place on Saturday, January 19th. Everyone who serves on a committee of the church, as well as any interested members of the congregation are invited to attend this important day. The purpose of the day is to set a vision for our congregation to live into over the next three years. Watch for more information.

Feliz Navidad Pat Murphy

Nollaig Shona Dhuit Bot House

Mele Malling Relations

JOYEUX NOEL

Malla Roas Sharon Gilbert





Join Us...
Our Gift to You!

Parsonage Holiday Open House

Friday, December 7
5:00 pm -8:00pm

344 Durfee Dr.

Heavy Hors d'oeurves



There are many opportunities to celebrate Christmas Eve at Epworth. Bring family and friends and join us in Celebrating the Birth of Jesus

4:30 pm Neighborhood Community Christmas Eve Service

5:15 pm Community Christmas Dinner

♦ Open to everyone—no cost

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

- ♦ Pre-service music begins 6:45
- ♦ The Children's Choir will sing during this service.
- ♦ Holy Communion and Candlelight Service

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Services

- ♦ Pre-service music begins at 10:45
- ♦ The Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, and Brass Quartet will be a part of this service
- ♦ Holy Communion and Candlelight Service

Epworth Youth

December Schedule

12/02 9:30am Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School (Rms. 303 & 301) 4:30-6:30pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth Fellowship 4:30-4:45pm Gathering/Worship 4:45-6:00pm Small Groups 6:00-6:30pm Youth/Family Dinner

12/09 9:30 am Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School (Rms. 303 & 301)
Jr. High & Sr. High Youth Fellowship Progressive
Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange

12/16 9:30am Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School (Rms. 303 & 301)
4:30-6:30pm Sr. High Youth Fellowship
4:30-4:45pm Gathering/Worship
4:45-6:00pm Small Groups
6:00-6:30pm Youth/Family Dinner
No Jr. High Youth Fellowship

12/23 9:30 am Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School (Rms. 303 & 301) No Jr. or Sr. High Youth Fellowship

12/24 Help serve Christmas Eve Dinner

12/30 9:30 am Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School (Rms. 303 & 301) No Jr. or Sr. High Youth Fellowship

12/31 New Year's Eve Party





Children in Ministry

Election coverage had barely ended when I saw a huge "45" on our TV screen – the number of days until Christmas. Of course, the commercial was designed to get me to want more, shop more, and buy more and more! I'd been reading Adam Hamilton's *Enough*, and I found the "45", and the ad that followed, to be an offensive reminder that I might actually BE "less and less"

if I did not buy "more and more". I wondered how Christmas has become so very commercialized and how our children will come to understand the meaning of the birth of Christ - big wish lists? lots of presents? busy-busy? Did Jesus get lost in all of it? Epworth will have a number of Advent opportunities to help you and your children retreat from overindulgence to make time the real meaning of Christmas. Advent is most simply the way the church prepares for Christmas. The Children's Council is planning a Family Advent Workshop (Dec. 1) that focuses not on the gift giving and getting, but on God's preparation for the birth of a Savior, and our activities, stories, snacks and crafts will be fun and spiritual. Our participation in the Live Nativity at the Fairgrounds (Dec. 23) will be a time to "be" in that place where the Christ Child was born. The Children's Christmas Musical (Dec. 16) will provide a child-size perspective of the journey to Bethlehem and the roles that each of us have in that journey. The Las Posadas tradition of the figurines of Mary and Joseph visiting homes within our congregation is one that families with children of all ages will enjoy - have you signed up? And the 7:00 Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols will be blessed with the music of the Children's Choir. The huge number "45" has, by now, become a huge "30", and yes, I have done some shopping and decorating, but I'm looking to find my joy, and my peace, in the sharing and experiencing the Christmas Story with children. I hope that you and your children will also experience this joy as you join us in Advent activities at Epworth.

Joy & peace to you, Sharon

CHILDREN'S ADVENT WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 1, 10:00 – 12:00

Children, their friends, parents and/or grandparents are invited to a very special Advent Workshop in Fellowship Hall. The Children's Council is preparing a morning of stories, crafts, snacks and games to help children and families prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. This year's focus will be helping the children to create a Jesse Tree Advent Calendar. We'll share the Bible story of the Jesse Tree. Then your child's Jesse Tree Advent Calendar will help your family focus on the great stories of the Bible that reveal how God prepared the world for the birth of his Son. To show our response to God's love for the world, the children will make a kindness chain. We'll have Biblical snacks followed by chili lunch in the coffee shop. We're hoping this time of Advent preparation will be a meaningful shared time for children and the adults who love them.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Dec. 1 Saturday 10:00am Family Advent Workshop
- Dec. 6 Epworth 0-5 Playgroup—4:30pm
- Dec. 15 Saturday 9:00am Musical dress rehearsal
- Dec. 16 Children's Christmas Musical
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve—Children's Choir will sing at the 7:00pm service

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The preparation for Christmas begins with the story of The Holy Family, followed by the Advent stories. These lessons help the children to anticipate the mystery of Christmas. We move toward Bethlehem and arrive at the birth of Jesus and the lighting of the Christ Candle in the church. Linda Foos will be the Advent storyteller for the Godly Play class (room 206, ages 4-grade 2) and Elizabeth Claborn will serve as storyteller for the Acolyte Fellowship class (room 204, grades 3-5). Your children will be blessed by the hearing, and experiencing, of these stories of our faith.

Our Little Blessings class (ages 2 ½ -4yr.) will experience the wonder and the joy of Advent with Alycia Orcena and Joy Boyer in room 201. Following Sunday School, these little ones may return to the nursery or join their families in worship.

BIBLE PRESENTATIONS – NOVEMBER 11

The following Kindergarten/1st grade children were presented *The Beginner's Bible*: Kameron Biederman, Eli Caudill, Ethan Caudill, Brittany Hill and Kaden Honaker. *The Adventure Bible, NIV* was presented to third graders: Kaitlyn Daum, Joey Dranschak and Katie Shoaf. We hope that these children will begin to read and understand the great stories of the Bible and always recall, with love, the congregation that made these Bibles possible.





Carey Ecumenical Christmas Concert

On Sunday, December 9th at 4:30pm in the afternoon, there will be a concert of sacred

Christmas music at the Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey. Several of Epworth's Chancel Choir members are participating in the concert and Ruth Coldwell is one of the accompanists. The Choir is directed by Jack Gerding, the Director of Music at OLC, and Pat Murphy.

Last year Arden & Pam Douce and Karen Wilson drove up for the concert and said they would definitely make it a part of their Christmas celebration for this year. Any questions, ask them or see Pat.

The address for the Basilica is 315 Clay Street in Carey. Following the concert, there will be food available for purchase in the Shrine Cafeteria - directly across the street. An evening of beautiful music, plus dinner out!!! You can't beat that!!! Hope to see many of you there!



By Candlelight
December 23, 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Epworth will once again provide a live nativity for the community at the Marion County Fairgrounds "Christmas by Candlelight" display. We had such fun last year but we needed a few more participants for a fully staffed crèche! Adults, teens and children (ages 5 and up with their parents) are invited to share this Holy Night with the community. Costumes are provided to transform you into angels, Mary, Joseph, Wisemen, shepherds and carolers. We'll meet in

the Evers Building for costumes, hot chocolate, coffee and a light supper. Wear warm coats, hats and gloves and bring one dish per family to share. We'll take turns in our roles in the drive-thru manger scene, sharing the First Christmas with our community, and then warming up in the Evers Building. No rehearsal or special talent is required – it's quiet in the manger! It's helpful if you sign up in advance, on the Friendship Card on Dec. 16 or by emailing sqilbert@epworthumc.org.

THANK YOU

A big Thank You to all the volunteers who help in the church. To name each individual would be impossible and as you read on you can understand why.

We have people who volunteer to:

- ♦ Help in the office on mailings, bulletins, newsletters, etc.
- **♦** Cook meals
- Prepare food and bring to the church for events
- ♦ Clean up after events
- ♦ Decorate the church for special occasions
- **♦** Serve on committees
- ♦ Help in Sunday School classes
- **♦ Help with or play/sing in the different choirs**
- ♦ Help at the neighborhood supper
- ♦ Help with the sound system
- **♦** Usher
- **♦** Be greeters
- **♦ Be liturgist on Sundays**
- **♦ Work the many UMW events**
- **♦ The Prayer Quilt Ministry**
- **♦** Help with the youth groups
- **♦** Help with children events
- ♦ Help with greenery sale
- ♦ Help in any way with the Preschool/Daycare
- ♦ Help to maintain the church/parsonage, i.e.: painting, repairs, cleaning, etc.
- **♦ Work on the landscape**
- **♦ Call, visit the shut-ins**
- Provide flowers
- ♦ Deliver flowers
- ♦ Pray for the church, neighborhood, family & friends



FOOD PANTRY REPORT October Donations

	August	September	October
Donation sacks	28	39	45
Food items	117	116	158
Personal Need Items	71	127	64

The Mission committee purchased 210 dozen eggs for the month of October. Keep up the good work Epworth! Contribute what you can when you can. Thanks again.

Wayne Newell

Attention Coffee, Tea, Coca & Chocolate Lovers Epworth Sells Fair Trade Products

If you've had coffee in Common Grounds, you have already sampled fair trade coffee and, now, you can enjoy these delicious coffees and teas at home. They are perfect for gift giving and holiday entertaining.

The options are endless—whole bean or ground, conventional or organic, regular or decaf, light or dark roast, flavored or unflavored, satellite or pillow packs—the choices go on and on.

A selection of products will be available for you to purchase on Sunday, December 9th and 16th. If you would like to advance order, there are order forms available on the bulletin board outside of the parlor.

Please contact Donna Coale (740) 262-0658, for more information.

Through the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Coffee Project, our congregation can enjoy delicious fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate while helping small-scale farmes in other countries. With our support, these farmers can earn a fair price for their products. For each pound of coffee, tea or chocolate purchased by our congregation through this project, a contributions made to UMCOR programs that support community-based cooperatives in coffee-growing regions.

PRAYER QUILTS WERE MADE FOR:

- Arlene Large, for comfort and healing
- Wilma Dawson, for healing, strength and patience.



<u>United Methodist Women – Women in Action!</u>

The women of Epworth UMC are invited to an "All Ladies of Epworth Christmas Gathering" on Monday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. It will be held at the home of Amy Hayes; 2902

Smeltzer Road, Marion. Please bring a snack/dessert to share and a wrapped inexpensive Christmas decoration for a Christmas Exchange. IF you have any questions, you may reach Amy at (740) 225-0672.

THANK YOU

Epworth Family,

I would like to thank all those persons who sent cards and well wishes after my recent ankle replacement surgery. A special Thank You to Rev. David Hoffman who spent time with Ken and me in the early hours of my surgery and to Gary & Ruth Craft who lent me their wheelchair/walker.

Betty Cranmer

White roses were placed on the altar in celebration of the life of:

- ♦ Margaret Chamberlain, mother of Mike Chamberlain, who died November 1, 2013.
- ♦ Earl Smith, father-in-law of Sam Sandefur, who died November 6, 2012.
- Clara Scroggins, sister to Carole Justice, who died November 16, 2012,

Our love, support, and sympathy surround these families.





CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

As the song goes, "It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas". Preparations are already underway for our annual Christmas Eve Dinner. Now is the time to begin planning how you and your family can share the spirit and wonder of the season as we once again welcome our neighbors for dinner and worship on Christmas Eve.

It takes the coordinated effort of many hands to prepare and serve dinner to our 200+ guests. Though most of the activity happens between 10 AM and 7 PM on December 24, there are many things to be done in the days leading up to Christmas Eve.

For 28 years, this annual event has been an important Christmas tradition for our Epworth family. We hope that you will choose to make it part of your Christmas tradition this year as well.

Please use the form below to indicate how you would like to help.

Christmas Eve Dinner Volunteers
I (we) would like to help with:
Preparation of fellowship hall (setting up tables and preparing place settings)
Clean-up (during and after dinner)
Providing 2 dozen home baked cookies (to the church kitchen by 10 AM on December 24)
Preparing plates of cookies (10 AM on December 24)
Cooking and other kitchen tasks (help is needed a few days before and all day on December 24)
Welcoming and serving our guests
I want to help but need more information. Please contact me.
Name(s):
Phone #:
Email:



Christmas is an exciting time of the year no matter where you are and especially at

Epworth Preschool and Daycare with 125 dear cherubs who are excited about Santa's impending visit. You can't help but catch the excitement at Music and Motion class with Miss Connie as the children learn holiday songs. All of us look forward to our Gingerbread celebrations, during the day for the part day preschool and in the evening for the full day program. Holiday time is a good time to teach the children to think about other people and to help them to feel the blessing of sharing and giving to others. In each classroom the children create and wrap gifts for their family members. We collect donations for Christmas Clearing House which fill up the baskets outside the classrooms. Can you help us with this effort? Below is a list of the items needed. We will be collecting until Sunday, December 9..

- Blankets, sheets, towels
- Toiletries soap, toilet tissue, skin care products, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.
- ♦ New toys NO STUFFED ANIMALS
- School supplies pencils, writing paper, pens, etc
- Paper and household cleaning products
- Non-perishable food items
- Christmas decorations trees, ornaments, wreaths

If you missed ordering fresh Christmas greenery this year we can still meet your decorating needs because we ordered extra. Just call Barb at 387-1062 or stop at the Reception Desk.

Thank you to Reitler/Simpson Insurance for sponsoring our Cemetery Tour



GROUNDS FOR THOUGHT BOOK CLUB



Grounds for Thought Book Club meets at 1 o'clock on the 4th Thursday of the month--September through May. All are welcome. Join us for light refreshments and friendly discussion. Contact Pam Douce for more information--470-375-8610 or pameladouce@gmail.com



CRAFTING WITH PHYLLIS

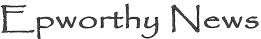
Every Thursday, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm - a group of people get together in Room 111 for crafting. We welcome anyone who likes to do hand work: quilting, scrapbooking, knitting,

crocheting, painting, etc. Bring your craft with you, and enjoy the fellowship you have while working with others. We LOVE the fellowship! You may come for an hour or come for all day - it's up to you. If you stay the whole time, bring a sack lunch.

If you have not turned in your Every Member in Ministry (EMIM) Commitment Sheet, please turn it into the church office or through the offering plate.



day 106) 106) 106) UE the home of Robii 106) thas Dinner swipe service service service	DECEMBER 2012	Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday	10:00am Family Advent Workshop(Rm 109) 10:00am Hanging of the Greers 11:00am Prayer Quilt Ministry (Rm. 111) 12:00pm Chili Lunch (Rm. 106) 4:00pm Barb Y - baby shower (Rm. 109)	4 5 6 7 8 8 5:30am Yoga (Rm. 112) 1:15pm PS/DC Teachers meeting (Rm. 111) 5:30am Yoga (Rm. 112) 1:10bm Urited Church Homes Christmas (Rm. 203) 1:00am Urited Church Homes (Rm. 203) 1:00am Urited Church Homes Christmas (Rm. 203) 1:00am Urited Church Homes (Rm. 203) 1:00am Urited Church (Rm. 203) 1:00am Urited C	11 12 12 11:30am Yoga (Rm. 112) 11:30am Yoga (Rm. 112) 11:30am Women's Morning Out at Panera 15:30am Women's Wom	18 20 21 22 5:30am Yoga (Rm. 112) 6:00pm Bells 5:30am Yoga (Rm. 112) 22 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir 10:00am Plyllis' Craft Class (Rm. 111) 10:00am Disciple Bble Study (Rm. 105) 11:30am Cents for Children (Rm. 111) 7:00pm Choir 10:00am Disciple Bble Study (Rm. 106) 11:30am Advent Study (Rm. 205) 5:30pm Cub Scouts (Rms. 301 & 303) 6:00pm Cub Scouts (Rms. 301 & 303) 7:00pm Administrative Board (Rm. 111)	25 CHRISTMAS - OFFICE CLOSED NO CHOIRS OFFICE CLOSED NO CHOIRS 10:00am Disciple Bible Study (Rm. 112) R E M E M E M E R E THE CHILD	» Eve
	DECEMBER			Rn. 205) s. 301 & 303) xil at Pam Douce's home		en (Rm. 111) 7m. 205) s. 301 & 303)	P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P	
	o	Monday Tuesday		4 6:30pm Divorce Care (Rm. 205) 7:30pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 106) 7:30pm Meris Breakfast No Staff Meeting 11:30am Advent Study (Rm. 201 6:30pm Children's Council at Pa	11 6.00pm Children's Christmas Musical Rehearsa 5.30am Yoga (Rm. 112) 7.30am Merl's Breakfast 7.30am Merl's Breakfast 11:00am Staff Meeting Gathering at Amy Hayes's home 11:30am Advent Study (Rm. 20:1.00pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 106) 3.00pm DC Gingertread House (Rm. 111) 7.30pm Finance Committee (Rm. 111)	17 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE 6:00pm PS/DC Board at the home of Robin Rick 7:30pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 106) 11:30pm Meris Breakfast 11:30pm Gub Scouts (Rm. 208) 11:30pm Advent Study (Rm. 208) 11:30pm Cub Scouts (Rms. 301)	24 4.30pm Neighborhood Christmas Service 5.15pm Community Christmas Dinner 7.00pm Christmas Eve Service 11:00pm Christmas Eve Service 11:00pm Christmas Eve Service 11:00pm Christmas Eve Service	31 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Fellowship New Year's Eve Party NEW YEAR'S EVE
		Sunday		2 4.30pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth Fellowship (Rms. 301 8.303) 5.00pm Children's Christmas Musical Rehearsal (Rm. 205)	9 11:45am Worship Committee 4:30pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth Fellowship Progressive Dinner/White Elephant Exchange	16 10:30am Children's Christmas Musical 4:30pm Sr. High Youth Fellowship (Rm. 301) No Jr. High Youth Fellowship	23 No.k. or Sr. High Youth Fellowship 5:30pm Live Nativity at Fairgrounds	30 No. J.r. or St. High Youth Fellowship



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
Robin Rick, Preschool & Daycare Director

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Marion, OH 43302 Permit No. 41

Mailing Label Here



There are many opportunities to celebrate Christmas Eve at Epworth. Bring family and friends and join us in Celebrating the Birth of Jesus

4:30 pm Neighborhood Community Christmas Eve Service

5:15 pm Community Christmas Dinner

♦ Open to the everyone—no cost

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

- ♦ Pre-service music begins 6:45
- ♦ The Children's Choir will sing during this service.
- ♦ Holy Communion and Candlelight Service

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Services

- ♦ Pre-service music begins at 10:45
- ♦ The Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, and Brass Quartet will be a part of this service
- ♦ Holy Communion and Candlelight Service

