



Epworth News

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

**JANUARY
2013**

***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

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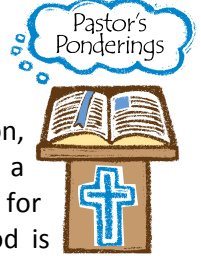
Epworth PS/DC

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Leadership/Visioning Day – January 19, 2013



As your pastor working with the leadership of the congregation, we have identified that an essential element and next task for us as a congregation is the discernment and implementation of God's vision for Epworth UMC. God's vision for Epworth UMC is that to which God is calling us to be and become at this point in history and into the near future. We believe that God is calling us to a process that clarifies and names our unique identity, recognizing the gifts and strengths that we all have to offer for the sake of Christ in and around the Marion community.

We will be about that task of vision casting, as we gather on Saturday, January 19 for our Leadership/Visioning Day. We will meet from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at The Ohio State University Marion Campus. Every person who has committed to serving on a committee, on Administrative Council, or as a leader in the congregation is expected to attend. If you are not currently serving on a committee but are interested in helping to cast and set a vision for the congregation, you are also invited to attend. Coffee, juice, and doughnuts, as well as lunch, will be provided. Committees of the church will have a brief time to meet together over lunch.

In addition to casting and setting a vision for the congregation, we will also be hearing reports from the Congregational Home Gatherings, the Congregational Online Survey, Every Member in Ministry, and the steps that have led us to this time of visioning.

Rev. Dr. Van A. Stinson, Senior Minister of the University United Methodist Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana will be leading our day of visioning. Van is a seminary colleague and great friend who has a deep love for the United Methodist Church. Van has led his congregation and previous congregations through successful visioning processes. Van is excited to be with us. Van received his Master of Divinity from The Methodist Theological School in Ohio and his Doctor of Ministry in Preaching from the Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

Van will be meeting with the Leadership/Visioning Day Planning Team on Friday evening, will be leading us all day on Saturday, and will be preaching on Sunday morning. There will be a Congregational Pot-Luck Luncheon on Sunday following worship.

I invite you to begin praying for our Leadership/Visioning Day and for the direction that God is calling us to be and become. You may RSVP your attendance by calling the church office 740-387-8344 or by emailing Meredith Farson at mfarson@epworthumc.org.

God's blessings as we begin this New Year together,
Rev. David Hoffman

MARION MATTERS

Jodie Pfarr will be returning to Marion on January 21 & 22, 2013. On the 21st she will be presenting the Basic Principles of Bridges Out of Poverty and on the 22nd she will focus on the Application of the Principles. These sessions will be held at the TRECA Building located at 100 Executive Dr., Marion, Ohio. There is no cost for this training. Please share these dates with anyone who might be interested in this learning experience. If you want to attend or have any questions please let Marion Matters know by sending an email to coordinator@marionmatters.org.

The next Getting Ahead Sessions will begin on January 8, 2013. The sessions will be held on Tuesday and Thursday nights and will run for 9 to 10 weeks. The sessions will be held at Epworth United Methodist Church from 5:00 - 7:30 each night. Dinner and child care are provided.

Who will benefit from the Getting Ahead Program?

Class participants (Investigators) come from a variety of sources. In the past, candidates have been identified by local businesses, courts, agencies, churches, and other Getting Ahead Graduates. Below are some of the characteristics of a successful candidate.

- ◇ Someone who wants to change their circumstances.
- ◇ Someone who has tried to change their circumstances and was met with little success.
- ◇ Someone who is willing to partner with middle-class individuals and agencies.
- ◇ Someone who is able to commit to the 18 sessions during the 8-9 weeks of classes.
- ◇ Someone who is not in a crisis that would prevent participation, such as mental health or substance abuse.

If you know of someone who you feel could benefit from this learning experience please send their name and contact information to coordinator@marionmatters.org.

SNOW EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Regarding Snow Level Emergencies, the following are the determinations for Epworth UMC and all activities at the church.

Level 2 all evening activities are cancelled. If Level 2 falls on a Sunday, the 8:30 worship service will be cancelled.

Level 3 All activities are cancelled. The Church Office will be closed and if it falls on a Sunday, all worship services will be cancelled.

Please listen to WMRN (1490 am) for more information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, January 20—Congregational Potluck—You are invited to join us for pot-luck following 10:30 worship service. Bring a main dish, side dish or dessert. Drink and table ware furnished.





Children in Ministry

Baptism is a gift from God to be received with joy - we can do nothing to "earn" this gift. It is extended to all persons, including children, just as Jesus included children in the kingdom of God. Baptism is also a promise of parents and the congregation to teach the child about God and God's love as the child grows. In

recent weeks, I have been so very aware of how parents, grandparents and other dedicated adults are faithfully living this promise at Epworth. On a busy Saturday in December, parents spent the morning helping their children prepare for the birth of Jesus by creating Jesse Tree calendars for family Advent devotions. Over a period of six weeks, parents and grandparents helped their children learn the songs and speaking parts for a Christmas musical that invited us to think about our unique and important roles in preparing for the birth of the Savior. Several children and their parents participated in the Live Nativity. Children and their families were involved in the Las Posadas tradition, helping Mary and Joseph to travel throughout our congregation to arrive in our sanctuary on Christmas Eve. And parents and grandparents have lovingly and patiently listened and responded as children have questioned the incomprehensible events at Sandy Hook Elementary School. As we make another promise, when little Ryan Harper is baptized on January 13, let us renew our commitment to guide the children among us in ways that lead them to God who loves them so.

In ministry with children, Sharon

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### MOVIE NIGHTS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Friday, January 18  
Friday, February 15  
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Join us for a PG-rated movie with popcorn,  
air hockey, foosball,  
pizza and fun with your church friends!  
\$2 per person for pizza, please.



### DIVORCE CARE FOR KIDS - DC4K

In the United States roughly 1 million children experience the divorce of their parents **every year**. Nearly 10 million children live with a single parent, as a result of divorce or separation. We know that children do not cause divorces, but their lives are certainly changed in dramatic ways as a result. While the adults in their lives are encountering their own emotional turbulence, the children of divorce may experience behavior and academic issues, more negative self-concepts or they may have a lot of anger with little experience in how to safely express it.

*How can we, as a church, help children through one of the most difficult times of their lives?* The Epworth Children's Council has decided to commit resources and time to Divorce Care for Kids, or **DC4K**, a faith-based ministry to allow the healing to begin for children of divorce. Epworth's **DC4K** program is the only faith-based DivorceCare for Children program in Marion County.

*What is DivorceCare for Kids?* **DC4K** is a 13-week program designed to help children (ages 5-12) heal from the hurt caused by the separation or divorce of their parents. In weekly **DC4K** groups, kids make friends with other kids who understand how they feel and the things they are going through. The classes combine games, crafts, activities and DVD dramas to create a fun atmosphere where it is safe to learn about the effects of divorce. Sessions topics include: What's Happening in My Family? God Loves Children in All Kinds of Families, Facing my Anger, Journey from Anger to Sadness, God's Plan for Me, Developing New Relationships, Development Money Smarts, It's Not My Fault, Telling My Parents How I Feel, Forgiveness, Loving My Parents, Moving On: Growing Up and Closer to God. We will welcome children from our congregation, as well as children from the community. We welcome children of separation or divorce, whether that separation or divorce is just beginning now, or first occurred several years ago. Class leaders, called SafeKeepers, include Sharon Gilbert, school counselor Elizabeth Claborn, Jackie Hamilton and others. Class size is limited, so registration is especially appreciated. Parents can call the church office to register their children, ages 5 -12. Cost of the 13 week series is \$20 for materials and healthy snacks. The first **DC4K** group begins Tuesday, January 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m. and will continue on Tuesdays through April 16. Parents may also register for the adult DivorceCare program, which will also occur on Tuesdays at 6:30.

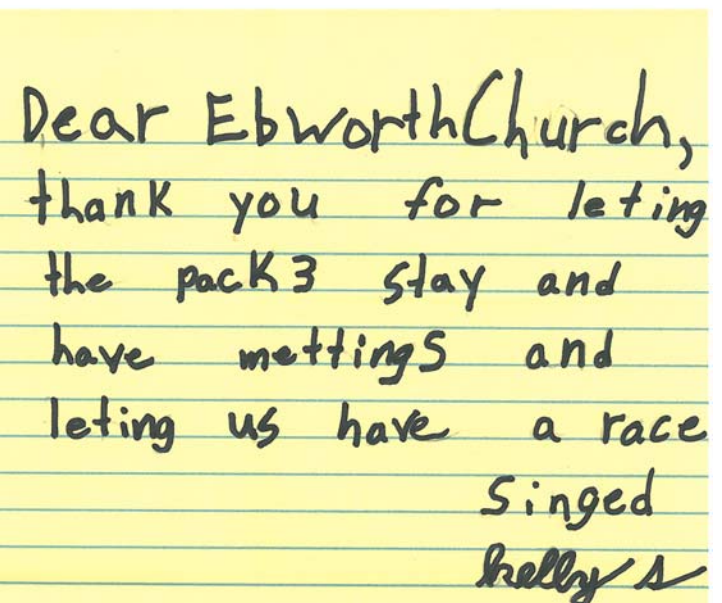
## Children in Ministry

SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 10 - 6:30-8:00

If you are a teen or adult who has time available to support our child care ministries for Divorce Care or Marion Matters....Or if you're an individual who would like to participate as an adult leader or helper in Divorce Care for Kids, Vacation Bible School or Sunday School for Children or Youth...we have a training session for you! Our 1 ½ hour session will help you to know all the ways Epworth Church protects children and youth in our care and the procedures we have to protect our staff and volunteers from accusation. This session is a MUST for anyone involved in ministries involving children and youth. (If you did the training in 2012, you need not attend.)

Our goal is to assure all reasonable measures for child/youth safety in our ministries at Epworth. Contact Sharon Gilbert if you have questions about the Safe Sanctuary session.

In order to protect children and youth, it is our Safe Sanctuary policy to not identify a minor by name when we use a photo in our newsletter, social media, website, and bulletin boards. However, if you prefer that we not use any photos of your child/youth, please contact Sharon Gilbert @ 740-387-8344 [sgilbert@epworthumc.org](mailto:sgilbert@epworthumc.org)





## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WOMEN-IN-ACTION

Sunday, January 6 is Epiphany or Twelfth Night, the medieval celebration symbolizing the end of the Christmas season and heralding "Christ is with Us".

Tuesday, January 8, marks the beginning of a new year of projects and events for Women-in-Action, which is open to all women of Epworth. Come, celebrate and share as plans are made for 2013. Enjoy traditional Twelfth Night refreshments and stories. We meet at 6:30pm in Rm. 106 ("Common Grounds").

We also want to say a big THANK YOU to Amy Erickson for her leadership and encouragement to Epworth UMC—Women-in-Action, and congratulate her on her appointment as a district officer in Capital Area North District UMW.

Joy Boyer, President elect

From Amy Erickson: I'd like to thank everyone who has helped UMW throughout the past couple of years; from fundraising to serving meals, planning and participating in UMW retreats and activities; attending District and Conference meetings and attending the West Ohio Conference Cooperative School of Christian Mission; and keeping me in line and on-task to accomplish our goals. It has been a joy to work with and alongside all of you. You have been terrific!



## PRAYER QUILTS WERE MADE FOR:

- ◇ Sariah (premature baby) for growth and health.
- ◇ Michael Drake (nephew of Pam Williams) to be cancer free and complete healing.
- ◇ Roy & Judy Loudenslager for healing and successful surgery
- ◇ Sarah Birchfield (great-granddaughter of Bob & Carol Birchfield) for continued growth and good health.
- ◇ Kathy Van Scoy for hope and healing.
- ◇ Michael Miller for healing, patience, and strength



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

- ◇ Donald Koehler, brother-in-law to Ottis Koehler, who died November 24.
- ◇ Sheldon Hall, Pam Comb's father, who died December 4,.
- ◇ Zuretta DeVilling, mother of Jeff DeVilling, who died December 10.
- ◇ Carol Indoe Moore, daughter of Dick & Sally Indoe, who died December 12
- ◇ Miriam Brooks, Jackie Mitchell's mother, who died December 12.
- ◇ Dorothy Young, who died December 14.

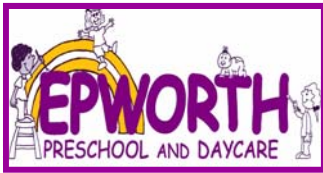
Our love, support, and sympathy surround these families.



A red rose was placed on the altar, as we celebrate

- ◇ The birth of Charlotte Elizabeth, granddaughter of Jackie & Cliff Mitchell.
- ◇ The birth of Kelly, great-granddaughter of Reed Merwine.
- ◇ The birth of Sarah, great-granddaughter of Bob & Carol Birchfield.
- ◇ The birth of Mason Carter Dean, grandson of John Shank & Teresa Ballinger.



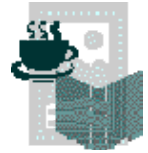


This is a very exciting year for Epworth Preschool and Daycare, Inc as we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup>

birthday. Epworth Church has touched the lives of nearly 12,000 children! Think of what Epworth church has done and made possible in the lives of children and young families. The anniversary celebration is scheduled for Sunday, September 22 and we will be forming a celebration committee the first of the year to plan the event. I love the New Year because it means a fresh start that is full of hope and promise. We have important work to be done in 2013 as we care for, guide and educate 125 children each week. When the children come back to Epworth after their Christmas holiday they are excited to see their friends and their usual routine offers them security. Although the teachers have curriculum plans to be accomplished for each child, the most important goal is to help the children to learn how to get along with others in a group setting. Learning how to be a friend so that they can have a friend is a huge part of the daily work in the classrooms. Thank you members of Epworth Church for providing quality education and care for the children in our community. Happy New Year!



## **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](mailto: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.



# January 2013

| Sunday                                                          | Monday                                                                                                            | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Wednesday                                                                                                          | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Friday                                           | Saturday                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                 |                                                                                                                   | <b>1</b><br>NEW YEAR'S DAY<br>No Neighborhood Supper<br>OFFICE CLOSED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>2</b><br>1:15pm PSDC Teachers meeting (Rm. 111)<br>6:00pm Bells<br>6:30pm Bible Study (Rm. 205)<br>7:00pm Choir | <b>3</b><br>5:30am Yoga (Rm. 112)<br>10:00am Phyllis' Craft Class (Rm. 111)<br>10:00am Disciple Bible Study (Rm. 106)<br>4:30pm Epworth 0-5 Playgroup (Rm. 201)<br>5:30pm Cub Scouts (Rms. 301 & 303)<br>6:00pm Leadership/Vision Planning Meeting (Rm. 205)                                                                      | <b>4</b>                                         | <b>5</b><br>11:00am Prayer Quilt Ministry (Rm. 111)                                                                       |
| <b>6</b><br>Epiphany Sunday                                     | <b>7</b><br>7:00pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 106)                                                                           | <b>8</b><br>No Staff Meeting<br>7:30am Men's Breakfast<br>1:00pm Evelyn Kendall Circle<br>4:00pm Quilt Class (Rm. 111)<br>5:30pm Getting Ahead (Rm. 109 & Kitchen)<br>5:30pm Yoga (Rm. 112)<br>5:30pm Cub Scouts (Rms. 301 & 303)<br>6:30pm UMW (Rm. 106)<br>7:30pm AMI Circle (Rm. 106)                                                                                  | <b>9</b><br>6:00pm Bells<br>6:30pm Bible Study (Rm. 205)<br>7:00pm Choir                                           | <b>10</b><br>5:30am Yoga (Rm. 112)<br>10:00am Phyllis' Craft Class (Rm. 111)<br>10:00am Disciple Bible Study (Rm. 106)<br>5:30pm Cub Scouts (Rms. 301 & 303)<br>5:30pm Circles: Allies & Families (Rms. 109 & 106)<br>5:30pm Getting Ahead (Rm. 109 & Kitchen)<br>6:00pm Quilt Class (Rm. 111)<br>6:30pm Safe Sanctuary (Rm. 210) | <b>11</b><br>7:00pm Staff Dinner (Parsonage)     | <b>12</b>                                                                                                                 |
| <b>13</b><br>Baptism of Ryan Harper                             | <b>14</b><br>7:00pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 106)                                                                          | <b>15</b><br>7:30am Men's Breakfast<br>11:00am Staff Meeting<br>11:30am Cents for Children (Rm. 111)<br>5:30pm Cub Scouts (Rms. 301 & 303)<br>5:30pm Yoga (Rm. 112)<br>5:30pm Getting Ahead (Rm. 109 & Kitchen)<br>7:30pm Finance Committee (Rm. 210)                                                                                                                     | <b>16</b><br>6:00pm Bells<br>6:30pm Bible Study (Rm. 205)<br>7:00pm Choir                                          | <b>17</b><br>5:30am Yoga (Rm. 112)<br>10:00am Phyllis' Craft Class (Rm. 111)<br>10:00am Disciple Bible Study (Rm. 106)<br>4:30pm Epworth 0-5 Playgroup (Rm. 201)<br>5:30pm Cub Scouts (Rms. 301 & 303)<br>5:30pm Getting Ahead (Rm. 109 & Kitchen)                                                                                | <b>18</b><br>6:00pm Family Movie Night (Rm. 301) | <b>19</b><br>8:30am CHURCH VISIONING (OSUM)<br>9:00am Women's Morning Out at Panera Bread<br>1:00pm West Family (Rm. 109) |
| <b>20</b><br>Church Pot-Luck Dinner following Worship (Rm. 109) | <b>21</b><br>MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY - OFFICE CLOSED<br>7:00pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 106)<br>7:00pm PSDC Board (Rm. 111) | <b>22</b><br>7:30am Men's Breakfast<br>8:00am DivorceCare (Rm. 205)<br>11:00am Staff Meeting<br>4:00pm Quilt Class (Rm. 111)<br>5:30pm Getting Ahead (Rm. 109 & Kitchen)<br>5:30pm Cub Scouts (Rms. 301 & 303)<br>5:30pm Yoga (Rm. 112)<br>6:30pm DivorceCare-Children (Rms. 204 & 206)<br>6:30pm DivorceCare-Adults (Rm. 205)<br>6:30pm DivorceCare-Child Care (Rm. 201) | <b>23</b><br>6:00pm Bells<br>6:30pm Bible Study (Rm. 205)<br>7:00pm Choir                                          | <b>24</b><br>5:30am Yoga (Rm. 112)<br>10:00am Phyllis' Craft Class (Rm. 111)<br>10:00am Disciple Bible Study (Rm. 106)<br>1:00pm Grounds for Thought (Rm. 106)<br>5:30pm Cub Scouts (Rms. 301 & 303)<br>5:30pm Getting Ahead (Rm. 109 & Kitchen)<br>6:00pm Quilt Class (Rm. 111)                                                  | <b>25</b>                                        | <b>26</b>                                                                                                                 |
| <b>27</b><br>2:00pm Worship at Primrose                         | <b>28</b><br>7:00pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 106)                                                                          | <b>29</b><br>7:30am Men's Breakfast<br>8:00am DivorceCare (Rm. 205)<br>11:00am Staff Meeting<br>5:30pm Yoga (Rm. 112)<br>5:30pm Cub Scouts (Rms. 301 & 303)<br>5:30pm Getting Ahead (Rm. 109 & Kitchen)<br>6:30pm DivorceCare-Adults (Rm. 205)<br>6:30pm DivorceCare-Child Care (Rm. 201)<br>6:30pm DivorceCare-Children (Rms. 204 & 206)                                 | <b>30</b><br>6:00pm Bells<br>6:30pm Bible Study (Rm. 205)<br>7:00pm Choir                                          | <b>31</b><br>5:30am Yoga (Rm. 112)<br>10:00am Phyllis' Craft Class (Rm. 111)<br>10:00am Disciple Bible Study (Rm. 106)<br>5:30pm Cub Scouts (Rms. 301 & 303)<br>5:30pm Getting Ahead (Rm. 109 & Kitchen)                                                                                                                          |                                                  |                                         |

# 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

Robin Rick, Preschool & Daycare Director

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## SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AT EPWORTH UMC

*Common Grounds Coffee Shop opens at 8:30 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)                                         |
| 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 <sup>nd</sup> grade) (Rm. 206)               |
|          | Acolyte Fellowship SS Class (grades 3-5 <sup>th</sup> ) (Rm. 204) |
|          | Jr. High Youth Class (Rm. 303)                                    |
|          | Sr. High Youth Class (Rm. 301)                                    |
|          | Faith & Family Class (Rm. 210)                                    |
|          | Messengers Class (Rm. 111)                                        |
|          | Common Grounds (Coffee Shop - Rm. 106)                            |
| 10:30 am | Worship Service                                                   |