



Epworth News

God's Love in Action
Growing Disciples through Compassionate Relationships

January 2014

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
Head Custodian

Gerald Hanshaw
Custodian

Sarah Daum
PS/DC Director



It is somehow not Christmas until I hear the carol, "In the Bleak Midwinter". It was written in 1872 by Christina Rossetti and is one of my favorites. It is not Christmas until I hear these words. It is a different kind of carol; not well known to many; and is usually not one of those carols that are overheard while shopping. It is somewhat desperate and desolate in its images of winter and the scene at the nativity: bleak, frosty, moaning wind, earth as hard as iron, water frozen as if stone, the oppressive snow-- snow falling on snow. These images are not too hard for us to imagine; they are palpable and real to the touch. We can feel the cold chill and the weight of the snow. For me, this carol recognizes the harsh realities that often exist in and around us-- even at this time of the year -- experiences in which we have passed through and journeys that we are currently taking into a New Year. It is into these realities that Christ is born.

As the verses continue to unfold, we begin to realize that nothing -- nothing is impossible with God; that light begins to flicker and emerge in the darkness; and the cold harsh realities of the world begin to melt in the embrace of a mother's arms.

And yet, in the final verse, we are confronted with a question -- the question of the Christmas story. In response to this great gift -- this great event -- what can I/we, offer? Not something purchased or sold -- but something unique to each one of us. What can we give? What are we ready to give, to do our part in response to the birth of Christ once again into our midst? It is so easy for us to imagine in our mind's eye what we would give if we were someone else -- a shepherd -- we would bring a lamb -- a wise man -- we would bring treasures from distant lands. But that is not the gift that is required.

What if we already possess what we are intended to give? What if we already possess that which we are to give to others and that is already found within our heart? What if that is what is required of us?

Our love -- Christ's love -- can do impossible things and melt the harsh realities in this world. What can we give? We can give our hearts.

Let us be mindful of the words of this carol as we enter into 2014. We are called to give our very best.

Thank you for all of your expressions of kindness, love, and generosity!

God's Blessings,

David

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Generosity Moment

Sometime ago I was sitting in church thinking about what we have done to make our church home a better place. I brought it up to Bev and we discussed what we had been doing, which was not very much. We kind of likened it to going to Sunday dinner, leaving a tip, then going home.

Did we truly realize how blessed we are with our church home and all the other things God has given us in our lives? Were we taking this all for granted? Not giving back enough?

After we thought about it, we realized we should be more thankful everyday for what we have and also that we want to be a bigger part of our church. By volunteering, using our talents, attending as many events as possible, and also by giving as much financially as we can, we feel we are growing in our faith.

So now we feel like we are not just coming to Sunday dinner anymore, but are here to help and serve our church in whatever way we are needed.

Blessings,

Bev & Len Webb

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UPS

The Worship Committee is instituting an annual Flower Calendar and everyone will be given the opportunity to participate in providing Altar Flowers in memory or in honor of Loved Ones. The Flower Calendar is posted outside the Church Office. You will receive a reminder from the Church Office that you have signed up to provide Altar Flowers at least one week prior to that Sunday. At that time, you will be asked the name(s) of the individual(s) that you would like to memorialize or honor. Sign up today.

THANK YOU

Dear Epworth Friends,

Thank you so much for the care package. It really brightened my day! The snacks are much appreciated, as are the prayers, with finals week approaching. I hope to see you all this Christmas season!

Thanks again,

Kelsey Hoffman

To Our Epworth Family,

There's a spirit of helpfulness that shines through everything you do—and even though the warmest of thanks would never be enough to repay you, please know how appreciated you are and what a true blessing you've been.

Our family is truly blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

With love from the Mosher's

Rick, Angie, Blake, Brock, Brooklyn and Brice



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

- ♦ Jim Ulmer, father of Marcia Weir, who died on November 27, 2013



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

- ♦ Jackson Withrow, son of Amanda and Eric Withrow, who was born November 27, 2013. Grandparents are Jack and Tami Dean and Great-grandparents are Dick and Janet Wood.
- ♦ Avery Claire, daughter of Chris and Krista Mitchell, who was born December 17, 2013. The proud big sister is Zoey and the proud grandparents are Cliff and Jackie Mitchell.





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By far, the most popular Godly Play story among our children at Epworth is the Story of Holy Baptism. Children frequently get the story materials off the shelf to retell the story themselves. I've been watching and wondering why this is so. Perhaps, I thought, it's because there is a small cruet of water to pour into a bowl --- and children always love to play with water. Or, I pondered, it's because there is a doll in a white dress, and they enjoy playing with dolls. Or is it the dove, our symbol for the Holy Spirit, because it's fun to move the dove like the wind? Or the Christ Candle (sans flame) from which the infant being baptized receives her Light? Or maybe, it's just because a friend likes the story...but could that be true in more than one Sunday School class? No, there must be something more going on here. The children watch intently when Pastor David gently baptizes an infant or child in our worship service, and their eyes follow him as he carries the child around the sanctuary. Some children in the Sunday School classes have been baptized, others have not. Yet, the children seem to know that names are important. They seem to marvel that so much light can come from One Light, and they are eager to receive that Light into their lives. We will celebrate the Baptism of Jesus on January 12. If you would like to arrange for baptism of your children, or for yourself, please contact Pastor David Hoffman by calling the church office. Let the Light shine, *Sharon*

Children's Musical Parent Meeting Friday, January 17 @ 5:30 p.m. (just before Family Movie Night)

Please bring your child and schedule of activities (times when they are NOT available for rehearsals). This year's musical will be directed by Mark Murphy and Ruth Coldwell and will be presented in worship on March 9. Mark will announce the musical title and share a rehearsal schedule at this meeting. Children ages 4 - grade 8 are invited, encouraged!, to participate! We need lots of voices! Please contact Sharon if you

are unable to attend the meeting, but wish to participate in the musical.

It's Movie Night for Children & Families

Friday, January 17th
6 - 9 p.m. Epworth Youth Lounge

Join us for a PG rated movie, pizza, popcorn,
air hockey, foosball,
and a new winter game
(Remember Snowman Bowling!)
with your church friends.
Bring \$2 per person for pizza.

Movie Hint:

What does Miss Sharon like to eat with spaghetti?
Registration is helpful!

Text Sharon at 740-360-3819

1,2,3,4 Parents! Parenting Children Ages 1-4

Epworth will be hosting parenting classes specifically focused on the learning of children ages 1-4. Holly Baker, of Marion Area Counseling Center, will be leading the video and discussions that deal with common parent challenges:

- ◊ Discipline methods that work
- ◊ How to prevent tantrums
- ◊ How to make rules your child will follow
- ◊ Routines that make life easier
- ◊ The best ways to childproof your home
- ◊ How to care for your child at different ages
- ◊ Great ways to take care of yourself!

Dates: Thursdays -January 16th, 23rd, and 30th,
6:30 - 8 p.m. at Epworth

Childcare: Free, but preregistration is required
for free childcare

To register: Contact Holly Baker at 740-387-
5210 ext. 1235

Cost: No cost for the classes. Be sure to share
this info with your friends!

Calendar Dates for Busy Parents

January 11 - Saturday, Epworth Leadership Day
January 13 - Safe Sanctuary Committee @ 7p.m.
January 16, 23, 30 - 1,2,3,4 Parents!
January 17 - Children's Musical Parent meeting @ 5:30 p.m.
January 17 - Family Movie Night 6-9 p.m.
January 26 -- Children's Choir sings in worship
February 9 - OSU Women's Basketball @ 2 p.m.
March 2 - Pancake Breakfast (Camps Fundraiser)

Epworth Loves the Lady Buckeyes - a basketball outing for families of all ages

Sunday, February 9 - 2:00 p.m. game

Come to Epworth for worship and
the UMW Valentine Lunch
Then, we'll head to Schottenstein Arena
to watch the Lady Buckeyes
take on the Lady Lions of Penn State
Tickets: \$6.50
Signup & pay for tickets at
Epworth on Sunday, Jan. 26.

REMIND 101 - for Children and Families

To increase communications about Epworth happenings that are relevant to children and their parents, we've set up a one-way mass texting system called Remind 101. Once you've signed up, you will receive brief messages via text or email (your preference) to remind you of Epworth children's ministry events. You will not be able to reply to any of these messages, but you will have current information about Epworth events for children. This system is a "safe sanctuary" system - if your kids have cell phones, you may decide to sign them up so they can also receive the messages. Remind 101 is a free messaging system, so we have not used any ministry funds to make this possible, and there is no fee to receive the messages. Children's ministry volunteers may find it helpful to sign up, too --- forgotten what time the movie night begins? which Sunday the children's choir is singing?, or wondering if the picnic is still ON after the storm? Remind 101

messages will give you the answer!

You must sign up to receive the Remind 101 messages. It's pretty easy! All you need to do is:

Grab your cellphone. Send a text to 614-347-1689 (That's our Remind 101 number)

Text this code to receive "Epworth kids" messages: **@epwort** (that's right, no h!)

You'll receive occasional messages with info about the children's musical, movie nights, VBS, Sunday School happenings, reminders about what's going on for Epworth kids.

To receive "children's choir" messages, send a text to 614-347-1689 with this code: **@9655d**

Miss Ruth and Miss Sharon will be sending info about when the choir will sing in worship, when the first practice for the children's musical will be, when the children are singing at Kingston, when & where the choir pizza party will be, etc.



January 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY - OFFICE AND PSDC CLOSED	2 No Membership & Nurture No Preschool 10:00am Bible Study (Rm. 210)	3 No Preschool	4 9:00am Undecorate the church 11:00am Prayer Quilt Ministry (Rm. 111)
5 Epiphany	6 No Spiritual Formation 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 106)	7 No Children's Council NO SPRC 7:30am Men's Breakfast 11:00am Staff Meeting 5:15pm Neighborhood Supper (St. Paul's Episcopal)	8 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Rm. 112)	9 No Trustees 10:00am Bible Study (Rm. 210) 5:30pm Circles: Allies & Families (Rms. 109 & 106) 6:00pm Quilt Class (Rm. 111)	10 8:00am Ohio Dept. Education Teachers Training (Rm. 106, Rm. 111) 6:00pm Staff Epiphany Party at Parsonage	11 9:00am Church Leadership Day (Rm. 109)
12 Baptism Imagine No Malaria Lunch and concert following worship	13 6:30pm UMW (Rm. 205) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 106) 7:00pm Safe Sanctuary Committee (Rm. 111) 7:30pm AMI Circle (Rm. 205)	14 7:30am Men's Breakfast 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Evelyn Kendall Circle (Rm. 205) 4:00pm Quilt Class (Rm. 111)	15 NEWSLETTER INFORMATION DUE 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Rm. 112)	16 No Administrative Board 10:00am Bible Study (Rm. 210) 6:30pm Active Parenting Class (Rm. 205)	17	18
19 2:00pm Worship at Primrose	20 HOLIDAY - Martin Luther King No Lay Leadership No PS but Yes to DC Office Closed 7:00pm PS/DC Board (Rm. 301) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 106)	21 No Finance Committee 7:30am Men's Breakfast 11:00am Staff Meeting 11:30am Cents for Children (Rm. 111)	22 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Rm. 112)	23 10:00am Bible Study (Rm. 210) 6:00pm Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 6:30pm Active Parenting Class (Rm. 205)	24 9:00am PS Teachers Training - city wide (Rm. 109)	25 Janel Kruder - birthday party (Rm. 109)
26 Children's Choir Singing	27 No Missions 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 106)	28 No Staff Meeting 7:30am Men's Breakfast 4:00pm Quilt Class (Rm. 111)	29 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Rm. 112)	30 10:00am Bible Study (Rm. 210) 6:30pm Active Parenting Class (Rm. 205)	31	1 District Leadership Training 11:00am Prayer Quilt Ministry (Rm. 111)
2 11:30am Worship Committee - lunch provided	3 7:00pm Spiritual Formation (Rm. 210) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 106)	4 7:30am Men's Breakfast 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Children's Council (Rm. 210) 7:00pm SPRC (Rm. 111)	5 1:15pm PSDC Teachers meeting (Rm. 301) 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Rm. 112)	6 10:00am Bible Study (Rm. 210)	7	8



United Methodist Women Women-In-Action

I am finding it a little difficult to write an article for the January newsletter while still "preparing the way" for the Christ Child!

So bear with me if this month's ramblings are just that...ramblings.

In reflection: the Christmas Party was enjoyed by all who came together in the home of Amy Hayes for a special evening of fun, food and merry making. A special thank you to the Hayes family for hosting this event once again in their lovely home. During the evening, it was decided to present a gift of \$500 from the Epworth Women to the Epworth Preschool/Daycare. This gift will be spent on much needed replacement items for the classrooms.

In preparation: the first meeting of the New Year will be at the church on January 13th at 6:30pm. Projects and events for the year will be discussed, so please mark your calendar and come with new ideas and willing hearts. As always, the meeting is informal...so feel free to come after 6:30pm or leave early.

The 2014 Epworth Women's Retreat will be the weekend of March 14 & 15, 2014 at Our Lady of the Pines in Fremont. Kathy Swanger will be providing leadership again and another great time of friendship building and spiritual renewal lies ahead. Full details with a reservation form will be available early in January. Space at the Retreat Center is limited, so early registration is important.

The Twelve Days of Christmas are always the most enjoyable for me. They provide days to relax and reflect on all that has been given to us.

O God, grant me your sense of timing.
In this season of short days and long nights,
of grey and white and cold..
Teach me the lesson of beginnings.
EPIPHANY... God with us!

Joy Boyer



PRAYER QUILTS WERE MADE FOR

Linda Magail for healing and patience with treatment.

Ben McGuire for strength and healing

Jack Shoaf for successful surgery and recovery

Laura Buffa (granddaughter of Diane Mault) for successful surgery and healing

Shane Alex Jackson for successful heart surgery and recovery

Connie Jackson for successful back surgery and recovery

Stephanie Morris for patience, strength, and God's guidance as a caregiver

Epworth United Methodist Church 2014 Grant Application

Recognizing the importance of higher education, Epworth United Methodist Church will award grants to church members for the pursuit of their first undergraduate degree at a 2 or 4 year college or university.

Any person who is a member of Epworth United Methodist Church may apply.

The Grant Committee will choose recipients based on the following criteria:

- Church Involvement
- Financial Need
- Personal Statement
- Family Involvement at Epworth

Scholarship amounts are determined each year by the number of qualified applicants and the funds available.

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.
**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED
BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014.**



"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." Aristotle

December proved to be an eventful and exciting time for Epworth Preschool and Daycare. We experienced a successful turnout for our Annual Gingerbread House Event. We witnessed our students using their imaginations and creativity as they decorated their houses with frosting and candy. Our amazing cook, Chelsea Conley, prepared a delicious meal for our Daycare students and their families. We are thankful for all of her hard work and daily dedication to the health and nutrition of our children. A fun time was had by all those involved!

The preschool classes participated in singing Christmas carols in the parlor with help from the talented Connie Slob and John Holsinger. It was such a pleasure to see our students gathered together for such an extraordinary event. A special thanks to Payne's Pizza for their donation of pizzas for our preschool classes. Our children enjoyed a fun pizza party together as part of their planned Christmas activities. Our teachers are always cooking up something fun for our students to do!

We are grateful for the continued support of our program from the Evelyn E. Walter Foundation, Merle and Peg Hamilton Charitable Foundation, Epworth United Methodist Women, and the United Methodist Community Ministries. Their generous donations help us to provide high quality education, materials, and teacher training that we need to continue our work in the community. What a blessing these grants have been to our program!

Remember that preschool classes resume January 6th, 2014. Daycare is closed on January 1st, New Year's Day. January 20th, Martin Luther King Day, there will be no preschool classes but daycare will remain open.

M I S S I O N S

UMC Market

UMC Market is a new way to generate income for our congregation by doing something you are probably already doing, shopping online. This Micro-Donation program rewards you for shopping at over 1000 online retailers by donating a percentage of the money you spend directly back to Epworth UMC.

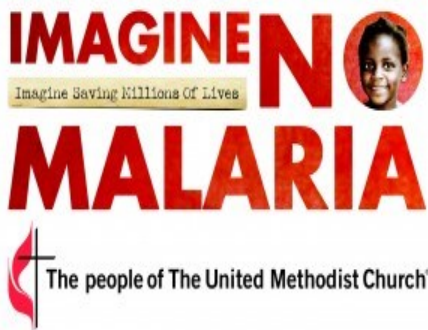
Participation in UMC Market is free and easy. Just follow a few simple steps:

- 1) Log on to www.UMCmarket.org
- 2) Create an account by entering your email address and a password.
- 3) Enter: **EPWORTH MARION** in the "Find Your Church" box
- 4) Select "Join Organization" to designate Epworth Marion.

That's all there is to it! Now you are ready to start earning rewards to support our congregation.

Each time you shop online remember to log into your UMC Market account first and then select the STORES tab to choose the stores where you want to shop. Complete your purchases as you normally would and a portion of your purchase will automatically be credited to Epworth.





YOU ARE INVITED!

January 12

“After Christmas – Christmas Concert” and Luncheon

performed by Epworth members and friends
immediately following the 10:30 service.

A free will offering will benefit Imagine No Malaria.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT IDEAS FOR 2014!

The Epworth Missions Committee in support of The United Methodist Church two-year campaign for Imagine No Malaria would like to encourage YOU to think of creative ways to contribute to this worthy cause. Below are some possibilities. Whether you can give a little or a lot, it all helps.

BIRTHDAYS: Donate an amount equal to your age. If you are 40, donate 40 dollars, 40 quarters, 40 dimes, 40 nickels or 40 pennies. The children can also get involved. OR, ask for donations to Imagine No Malaria, instead of the usual presents.

VALENTINE’S DAY or ANNIVERSARY: Instead of an expensive bouquet of flowers, give one rose or silk flowers and donate the difference to Imagine No Malaria. If you normally give candy or some other gift, donate the money and give a card saying a gift has been given in honor of your loved one.

EASTER: As you are buying items for the Easter baskets, keep track of the amount you are spending and donate the cost of a filled Easter basket to Imagine No Malaria.

CREATE AN OCCASION: Hold a bake sale or a yard sale and donate the proceeds or a portion of them. If you are a craft person, make and sell something on behalf of Imagine No Malaria and turn in the money.

INDEPENDENCE DAY: In gratitude for the privilege of living in the United States, where malaria is not a threat; make a donation that will bless others.

HALLOWEEN: Buy two or three bags less of candy and give the money to Imagine No Malaria.

THANKSGIVING DAY: While you are giving thanks, donate all the change in your pocket, wallet or coin jar to this worthwhile cause.

CHRISTMAS: When friends and family ask what you want for Christmas, suggest a donation to Imagine No Malaria in your honor.

***Note:** If you are over 10, please convert all coins to bills to assist the financial secretary. When you turn in your money, be sure to include a note indicating “Imagine No Malaria.” If you can think of other creative ways to raise money for Imagine No Malaria, please let a member of the Missions Committee know and we will try to publicize your suggestions.*

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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SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AT EPWORTH UMC

Common Grounds Coffee Shop opens at 9:15 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 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)
	Common Grounds (Coffee Shop - Rm. 106)
10:30 am	Worship Service