



# Epworth News

God's Love in Action  
Growing Disciples through Compassionate Relationships

July/August 2014

**Epworth United Methodist Church**

249 E. Center Street

Marion, Ohio 43302

740-387-8344

[churchoffice@epworthumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@epworthumc.org)

Church Office Hours:

Monday Through Friday 9:30am—3:30pm

**Sunday Worship**

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship

**Rev. David L. Hoffman**

Pastor

**Sharon Gilbert**

Director of Ministries

with 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**

Preschool/Daycare Director



Once upon a time, in the kitchen of a farmhouse, there lived a tiny, brownish-gray mouse. One day, looking through the crack in the wall the mouse watched as the farmer and his wife opened a package. "I wonder what food the package might contain?" the mouse asked himself. He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap. Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning: "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The chicken clucked and scratched searching for food. Raising her head, she turned to the mouse and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it." The mouse turned to the pig and told him, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The pig sympathized, but said, "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers." The mouse turned to the cow and said, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The cow said, "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose." So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone. That very night a sound was heard throughout the house. It was the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see that it was a venomous snake whose tail was being held fast by the trap. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital, and she returned home with a fever. Now, everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient. But his wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. In order to feed them, the farmer butchered the pig. Still the farmer's wife did not get well. One day; she died. So many people came for her funeral that the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them. All the poor little mouse could

do was look upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness. Let us not forget that both as individuals and as a congregation we are connected and called to share and shoulder each other's burdens and joys. Let us share our love, support and resources to the community around us.

— Serving Together, David

## Creating Connections Praying for One Another

Don't forget to pray for one another! In addition to raising funds for repairs and restorations to our aging and historic building, our capital campaign, **Creating Connections**, is also providing the opportunity to build connections by praying for one another. Those of you who received a puzzle piece in worship -- each time you see the puzzle piece, pause; remember that individual/family, and say a prayer. Those of you who did not receive a puzzle piece -- consider joining the prayer chain by emailing Jeanne Howison, [jsphowison@gmail.com](mailto:jsphowison@gmail.com). There are many things for which you may pray. You may pray that the individual/family members find new ways to become connected to our congregation. You may pray for life situations that you know these individual/family members are facing. You may pray that God's grace may touch the individual/family members where they need it the most. You may pray and give thanks to God for the blessings in the individual/family member's lives. You can pray at a distance, or you may even decide to connect with the individual/family member for whom you are praying. You may even want to risk asking the individual/family members for what it is that you can pray. The goal is to create connections that may not already exist. In praying for one another, we become connected at a different level. Each other's joys, burdens, hopes, and dreams, somehow become our own.



## A Story of Generosity

When I was approached and asked to write my thoughts about generosity, I thought “well that will be easy”! It turned out to be rather difficult for me. My mind kept going in so many different directions and I had a hard time trying to focus in on just one area. Some of the directions included; love, charity, giving of money and time. This could all be connected to family, community and missions around the world. The spreading of joy, hope, peace and faith to others....it appears there is no end in the direction I could go with this. Then it came to me.

Two years ago this month, a group of people from Epworth went on a mission trip to Piedras Negros, Mexico. This is a town just south of the border from Texas. We were there to teach bible school at an orphanage and to provide religious teaching and crafts to children at a local church named Temple Alleluia. The children from the community that made their daily trip to the church lived in deplorable conditions. Their homes are made of pallets, old signs, and scrap wood just nailed together as best they could. Their homes had dirt floors, no running water and of course no heat or air conditioning and no grass in the yards. This leads to the generosity of a man with a wood working shop with no air conditioning, just outside of the church. He works tirelessly in extreme heat and creates beautiful crosses in which he sells using the money to provide food to the children of this improvised community so each child will have at least one hot meal a day. He drives around this community every day and picks the children up in a beat up van, takes them to the church for a meal and worship and then delivers each one back to their homes. These children are so loving, so happy and so

precious that I cannot think of a single word to describe them. Their beautiful little faces, their bright smiles and their singing voices show that they are truly happy to be together and to learn about the love of Jesus Christ for each of them. How do you describe and put into words the “generosity” of the love, faith, devotion and ongoing mission of this wonderful man? He gives of his talents, love, time and faith to so many. He will be forever in my mind and prayers. His generosity through his faith in Jesus Christ is so inspiring! I am confident that I will never “measure up” to this man and what he gives. My only hope is that I provide some type of generosity in some way to someone on a daily basis. I know that it will never come close to what this man in his little workshop at Temple Alleluia does. Thanks be to God!

— Mickey Nygaard

## Capital Campaign Update

To the people of Epworth UMC,

On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank Epworth’s congregation for their generous support of the Capital Campaign. We are excited to be moving forward with the proposed projects. The Trustees will be meeting with the various contractors to finalize plans and timelines for these projects. The congregation has entrusted us with the resources to continue “Creating Connections” and we will work diligently to make sound financial decisions. Stay tuned for regular updates as we preserve our past, celebrate our present and prepare for our future.

Sincerest of Thanks,  
Pamela Combs, Chairperson  
Epworth UMC Trustees

## Prayer Quilts

The following members and friends of Epworth UMC received a prayer quilt and our prayers:

- Debbie McGinniss for strength and healing and for her caregivers and grandchildren
- Judy Wade for improved breathing after a heart attack
- Sully Brooks for successful treatment

Those wishing to request a prayer quilt for themselves, a family member, a friend, or a neighbor may contact the Church Office.

## White Roses

White roses were placed on the altar during worship in celebration of the lives of:

Ruth Peters, the stepmother of Anne Hering, who died on June 10, 2014

Elsie Yeoman who died on June 11, 2014

We remember these families in our thoughts and prayers.



## Thank You!

Dear Epworth Family,  
I would like to take this time and personally thank you for granting me the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation Scholarship for the past four school years. This money has gone toward my tuition at Otterbein and has greatly helped me to strive to become the best student I can be. I would also like to thank you for all the unconditional love and support during my time at college as well as my time here in Marion. I appreciate everything that this church as done for me and value the opportunities it has given me to become closer to God.

— Sincerely, Drew Agler

Dear Rev Hoffman,  
...a prayer quilt was presented to her [my mother] on Easter Sunday, which was particularly significant to me. On that special Sunday of hope and renewal, many people prayed for my mom which gave her comfort and renewed strength. It served as a reminder to both of us that we are never alone even in our darkest hours. May God bless you and your church. — Linda Coulter

Dear Epworth,  
Many thanks for all of your support and continued prayers for me and my family during my time in need. I am blessed by the love that surrounds me daily. I continue to

gain strength through Christ. God is good!

— Love and Light, Laura Weir

Dear Members of Epworth UMC,  
What a wonderful surprise you blessed us with at Leapin Outreach Center. Your generous donation of toilet paper on a monthly basis is such a blessing for us and for all of the families in need. We pass out an average of 200-250 rolls per month. Again, thank you so much for your donation, love, and support.

— In His Service, Pat Hensel, Director

Dear Epworth UMC Scholarship Committee,  
Thank you so much for the scholarship! It will help with my schooling very much. I am so grateful for your generosity! I will continue my classes at the Ohio State University at Marion to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education.

- With Much Appreciation, Kaitlyn Spaide

To Miss Sharon and my Epworth Church Family,

Thank you for giving me scholarship money to go to camp this summer. I am so excited to go to Camp Wesley again.

— Your Friend, Joey

Dear Scholarship Committee,  
Thank you so much for your generous gift. It will help me so much as I enter my final year at ONU. Thank you for being there for me throughout my journey!

— Kelsey Hoffman

Epworth UMC,

I would like to thank you for once again awarding me with a scholarship. They have greatly helped me with college as will this scholarship. I really appreciate all of the support I receive from the church. Thank you again for everything you do.

— Thanks, Michael Forry

Dear Epworth United Methodist Church,  
Thank you so much for the scholarship money. It will be very helpful this coming school year. It will help pay for my books as well as my tuition.

— Thank you again, Mark Forry

Dear Scholarship Committee,  
Thank you so much for your continued support of my educational pursuits at college. I appreciate everything Epworth has taught me and I feel very blessed to have such a wonderful community to continue to learn from! Looking forward to great fellowship this summer!

— Sincerely, Kate Stoneburner

(continued on page 4)

## Weddings

We celebrate with Daniel Kiger and Heather Williams who were married on Friday, May 20, 2014 at Lakeside, Ohio. Daniel is the son of Rev. Daniel and Judy Kiger.

## Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir will begin rehearsing for the upcoming season on Wednesday evening, August 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room. Rehearsals are held at this time and place each week throughout the year, and any adult or high school aged singers who would like to participate are welcome to join us at that time. Our first Sunday back in the loft will be September 14th at the 10:30am service.

- Pat Murphy

Director of Chancel and Bell Choirs

## WORSHIP IN THE PARK

Mark Your Calendars!!!

Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am

(no 8:30 am service – one combined service)

Worship Service at Garfield Park

Potluck/Cook-Out to follow worship

Games for the children

Cake Walk to benefit "Imagine No Malaria"

Bring a friend and come join us for worship



## Preschool/Daycare



*"Play is the highest form of research."*  
-Albert Einstein

July is a time for lots of fun in the sun! Epworth Preschool and Daycare students and staff are enjoying daily field trips to local parks, the Marion Public Library, and Lincoln Park Family Aquatic Center. The children continue to learn about nature, animals, and the outside world in our nature-based program (garden) thanks to Robin Rick's continued dedication to our program. If you have not done so yet, please add Epworth Preschool and Daycare on Facebook so that you can see all of the exciting experiences that our students are having this summer. Summers at Epworth are about getting outside and enjoying all of the beauty that God has blessed us with!

This summer our school-agers will be raising funds for Imagine No Malaria by selling bake goods, creative works of art, potted plants, etc. Dan Erickson came and spoke with the school-agers about this worthy cause instilling a passion for outreach in our kids. Epworth is incredibly proud of our students for using their hearts for the better good in this world.

The preschool/daycare will be closed on July 4<sup>th</sup> in recognition of Independence Day.

In mid-August our field trips will come to an end for the summer. Our daycare classes will transition up a level in preparation for the new school year.

Preschool and daycare teachers will be sending home welcome letters introducing themselves to new families. Our school-age summer camp will transition from full-time to before and after school once again.

September marks the beginning of a new school year for Epworth Preschool. Meet the teacher day is September 7<sup>th</sup>. Preschool orientation will be September 8<sup>th</sup>. The first full day of preschool will be on September 9<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to meeting all of our new students and welcoming our returning students as well. We are thrilled to have these precious children enrolled at Epworth Preschool and Daycare for the 2014-2015 school year. There are many exciting times ahead and we are grateful that our families entrusted us with their children's care and education. This is such a pivotal time for preschool age children developmentally and we are ready to teach them the kindergarten readiness skills that they need to be successful students moving forward.

— Sarah Daum  
Preschool Daycare Director

## Thank You!

(continued from page 3)

Dear Epworth Scholarship Committee,  
Thank you very much for choosing me as a recipient for the scholarships. I appreciate it deeply and can't thank you enough. It will help me with my schooling and future immensely! Keep up the great work so others like myself can use your gifts.

— Thank you, Hollie

### MARION MATTERS FIRST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER SUMMER BAR-B-Q BASH

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2014, 5PM

AT THE PALACE MAY PAVILION

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT HEIDI JONES

740-361-2577

## Church Directory Team

A Directory team is forming to facilitate a new pictorial directory for the congregation. Those interested in helping are asked to contact the Church Office, [churchoffice@epworthumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@epworthumc.org). A team of 6-8 persons is needed. We will schedule photography in the fall.

**New Church Office Hours...**  
**Monday through Friday**  
**9:30 am—3:30 pm**

## Women 4 Women

Knitting for Peace

On Sunday, July 27, we will dedicate the knitted items for Women 4 Women Knitting for Peace. Please bring your knitted projects to the Church Office before that date or drop them off at the home of Jackie Mitchell. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication to a worthy cause.

— Jackie Mitchell





## Children in Worship

The Epworth Sanctuary is quiet now, but just an hour ago, it was filled with the excitement of more than 100 children and one very busy Ant-Puppet--- all singing, and cheering, and experiencing God's love on our first morning of Vacation Bible School. Amy, a 3-year old attendee, was close to tears in her uncertainty until 6<sup>th</sup> grader Abbie Austin became her new friend. Four year old Alex Simpkins, thought his mom was pretty cool wearing a hard hat and nail apron and teaching everyone about "imagining with God". Our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade class wore giant smiles as they helped lead the motions for lively music that had everyone dancing. Former VBS teen helpers Tess Howard and Boston Osborne took on more adult VBS roles with kindness and with care for the children in their classes. Busy parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents brought their precious little ones to Epworth to the Workshop of Wonders, and stayed long enough to know that the children were having a great time. Sixty-one church and neighborhood children and forty seven daycare children enjoyed science and games that highlighted the Bible stories of Esther, Rebuilding the Lord's House, and the Parable of the Mustard Seed. Jim Hill captured a photo to help each child remember how much God and Epworth Church loves children. And all of this is possible because of the commitment of VBS Director Heather Harper and more than 30

volunteers who transformed the sanctuary and classrooms with decorations, lighting, a mission tent, Safe Sanctuary procedures, music and motion, crafts, science experiments, action stories and lots of love! Epworth's VBS is "God's love in action. Growing disciples through compassionate relationships!"

*-Sing Praises to God, Sharon*

## Summer Sunday School for Children

Sunday School for children will continue throughout the summer with combined classes in room 206. Thank you to volunteers Jeanne Yoakam, Pam Douce, Andy Harper, Doug Warne, and Betty English for a commitment to children's faith development that does not waiver in the summer months.

The children's Sunday School ministry team will meet on Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> to prepare the fall Sunday School schedule.

## Acolyte Fellowship Fellowship Time

All children entering grades 3, 4, and 5 are invited to attend an evening of fun and fellowship with Miss Betty and Miss Sharon on Tuesday, August 12 at 6:30-8:00 p.m. Meet at Paradise Park Miniature Golf on SR 423. Bring \$3 for ice cream and the Children's Council will treat you to some mini-golf!

## Children's Council

*Children's Council will not meet in July, but will have an important planning session on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.*

## Church Campers Love to Get Mail!

Kaitlyn Daum and Katie Shoaf  
June 22-27 Camp Wesley  
Horse Camp

Abbie Austin and Anna Redd  
July 6-11 Camp Otterbein  
Music, Arts, and Drama Camp

Joey Dranschak and Jake Williams  
July 6-11 Camp Wesley  
Wacky Water Camp

Addison Clevenger, Isabelle Combs, Sharon Gilbert, Paige Powers, Carter Rawlins, McKinley Webb, and Lauren West  
July 27-29 Camp Wesley  
Explorers Camp

If you'd like to send a note to one or more of our campers, be sure to time the arrival during the child's camp time and use the following addresses.

Child's Name  
(Event Name)  
Camp Wesley  
653 County RD 37E  
Bellefontaine, OH 43311

Child's Name  
(Event Name)  
Camp Otterbein  
15779 Cox Rd  
Logan, OH 43138

July 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 No SPRC Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Neighborhood Supper (St. Paul's Episcopal)	2 PS/DC Teachers meeting (Rm. 301) 1:15pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	3 Sharon - Vacation	4 4th of July - Church Office & PS/DC Closed Sharon - Vacation	5 Connie - Vacation No Prayer Quilt Ministry Sharon - Vacation
6 Sharon - Vacation	7 Connie - Vacation Sharon - Vacation Spiritual Formation (Rm. 210) 7:00pm	8 Connie - Vacation Sharon - Vacation Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 4:00pm	9 Connie - Vacation Sharon - Vacation Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	10 Connie - Vacation Sharon - Vacation Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 6:00pm Trustees (Rm. 210) 7:00pm	11 Connie - Vacation Sharon - Vacation	12 Connie - Vacation Sharon - Vacation
13 Sharon - Vacation	14 Sharon - Vacation	15 No Staff Meeting Sharon - Vacation Men's Breakfast 7:30am Finance Committee (Rm. 210) 6:30pm Stewardship Committee (Rm. 210) 7:30pm	16 Sharon - Vacation Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	17 No Administrative Council Sharon - Vacation	18 Sharon - Vacation	19
20 NO 8:30 SERVICE Worship at the Park (Garfield Park)	21 Lay Leadership (Rm. 210) 6:00pm PS/DC Board (Rm. 109) 7:00pm	22 Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 4:00pm	23 Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	24 Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 6:00pm	25	26
27 Knitting for Peace (10:30 worship) Worship at Primrose 2:00pm	28 Missions (Rm. 210) 6:30pm	29 Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am	30 Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	31		

August 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Prayer Quilt Ministry (Rm. 111) 11:00am
3 Summer Camp Sunday	4 David -Congo Spiritual Formation (Rm. 210) 7:00pm	5 David -Congo No SPRC No Staff Meeting Men's Breakfast 7:30am Children's Council (Rm. 210) 6:30pm	6 David -Congo PS/DC Teachers meeting (Rm. 301) 1:15pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106)	7 11:30am WisdomKeepers David -Congo	8 David -Congo	9 David -Congo
10 David -Congo	11 David -Congo	12 David -Congo No Staff Meeting Men's Breakfast 7:30am Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 4:00pm Acolyte Fellowship Outing 6:30pm	13 David -Congo Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	14 David -Congo Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 6:00pm Trustees (Rm. 210) 7:00pm	15 David -Congo NEWSLETTER INFORMATION DUE	16 David -Congo
17 David -Congo	18 David -Congo PS/DC Board (Rm. 109) 7:00pm	19 No Finance Committee Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Cents for Children (Rm. 111) 11:30am S.S. Story Tellers 6:30pm	20 Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	21 Administrative Council (Rm. 205) 7:00pm	22	23
24	25 Missions (Rm. 210) 6:30pm	26 Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 4:00pm	27 Bell Choir 6:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	28 Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 6:00pm	29	30
31						

# Epworth News

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249 East Center Street  
Marion, Ohio 43302-3873

Rev. David L. Hoffman, Pastor  
Sharon Gilbert, Director of Ministries with Children and Families  
Sarah Daum, Director Epworth Preschool and Daycare

Non-Profit Organization  
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God's Love in Action  
Growing Disciples Through Compassionate Relationships

## Mission Experience to the Congo

You are invited to keep Dan Erickson, Rev. Hoffman, Mark Murphy, and Cameron Osborne in your thoughts and prayers as they serve in mission August 4-18, 2014 to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Their task will be to teach and train with local pastors and the administrators of the Kamina Children's Home around the topic of faith development of children and youth. Rev. Hoffman is leading the team of twelve persons from the West Ohio Conference representing four congregations. The team will communicate mission updates during their mission journey. Several pastors will be attending to the pastoral care needs of the congregation in Rev. Hoffman's absence. You are invited to contact the Church Office for any pastoral care needs. Watch the upcoming bulletins for more details.

## West Ohio Annual Conference

What a great time I had attending the West Ohio Annual Conference at Lakeside from June 8-11<sup>th</sup>! I was your Lay Delegate for Epworth, Dan Erickson attended as an At-Large Conference Delegate, and we were, of course, joined by Rev. Hoffman. The days were packed full of beautiful and powerful worship services, reports from various councils and committees, sessions about new opportunities, and voting on recommendations from various boards and groups.

It is apparent that our conference is healthy, both financially and in leadership, but it was also reassuring to me to see that our own Epworth is doing so well, already engaged in the Conference mission work like Imagine No Malaria, and well ahead of the curve in individual acts and programs of Christian discipleship. Bishop Palmer quoted from the book of John, "It does not yet appear what we shall be." Words for thought,

indeed.

I encourage you to go online and watch Bishop Gregory Palmer's inspiring and straightforward first Episcopal Address. Here's the link, <http://www.westohioumc.org/ac/2014/episcopal-address>. You can also go directly to the West Ohio Conference web page and search for it. His sermon at the morning worship service was also phenomenal.

Have a Great Summer!

Lynn Garvin

