Epworthy News

God's Love in Action Growing Disciples through Compassionate Relationships

March 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 Church Secretary

Sharon Gilbert Director of Ministries to Children and Families

Paula Aparis Financial Secretary

Pat Murphy Director of Chancel and Bell Choirs

Kathy Walczak Organist

Connie Slob Head Custodian

Gerald Hanshaw Custodian

Sarah Daum PS/DC Director

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LENT IS A JOURNEY.....

Lent is a journey. And each faith journey has its own twists and turns. Sometimes, we experience the overwhelming presence of God and then, there are moments in our lives when the presence of God seems so far out of our reach. Sometimes on our faith journey, we must rely upon the faith of others to point out the



presence of God – the ways in which God has been or continues to journey beside us. Sometimes we must rely upon others to simply walk with us, not judge us, and listen to our struggles. We are not on this journey alone! The song, The Servant Song, reminds us: *"We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on this road. We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear."* (FWS #2222)

The journey of Lent leads us towards a deeper understanding and experience of our faith. The word "Lent" comes from the same root as the word "lengthen." In days past, it was a word for springtime -- when the daytime lengthens rapidly. For us, it reflects the "lengthening" of our "daylight" hours as we progress from the darkness of winter to the new light of spring. The new light of spring -- something we so desperately need reminding of -- following this year's long and frozen winter. Lent marks the beginning of the Church's springtime -- the celebration and remembrance of the promise that Jesus, the "Light of the World," will indeed come again. We are encouraged to experience this forty-day period of Lent as a journey. Lent reminds each one of us that this is the season to turn away from the distractions of this world and to journey back to God. Lent calls us to a time of study and introspection; and at the completion of our Lenten journey together, we should expect to find ourselves at a different place than where we started - sometimes finding ourselves where we least expect. There are many opportunities during this season of Lent to re-fresh our faith and to remind ourselves that we do not journey alone. Let this season of Lent transform your life!

See you along the Way, David

Generosity Moment

Being Generous is the FOOD CHAIN of LIFE. As it is passed on, it benefits every link of the chain, regardless of one's location.

Growing up in rural West Virginia in the 1950's and 60's, I saw that generosity was a shared commodity between neighbors. This atmosphere of generosity exists today and is still passed on from family, friends, neighbors and strangers. Over the years, both my knowledge and understanding of the effects of generosity grow as we still share and receive this gift. And it is a gift!

We try to understand the sacrifice of time and money based on the life of Jesus. His generosity with no expectation of a reward, is that the reward was your generosity given to you by God. The generosity "seed" is in all of us. God helps us cultivate it and it grows. That, "WOW!" that felt good!" is the seed. Helping others, being generous, returning the favor, are things that matter so much in our daily lives.

We receive generosity seeds all the time from family, friends, and neighbors. Some we know, some we don't. There are many in this world, most of them we do not know. But the one that cultivates the seeds knows everyone. Understanding faith, and its effects of sharing your generosity—the results are Heavenly.

William Keith Hartley

Stay Connected!

Did you know that you can listen to a re-broadcast of the Epworth United Methodist Church every Sunday morning at 9:05am through iHeart Radio on your smart phone, tablet, kindle, or computer? Simply go to <u>www.iheart.com</u> and download the app and then search WMRN. Listen on the go wherever you are traveling throughout the world.

Grief Sharing at Epworth Walking Through Grief

Beginning Monday, March 17 at 6:30 pm, we will begin a 9-week grief sharing group for persons who are grieving the death of a loved one. We will be using a new video series, "Walking through Grief." Janet Rainey and Paula Aparis have both experienced significant losses in their own lives and will facilitate our grief sharing group. Each session will feature short videos and focused topic discussions designed to help those who grieve to move toward healing. Grief Sharing is for all adults who grieve, whether the death is recent or several vears ago – together, we find recovery and hope. Please call Paula Aparis at 382-3916 or 387-8344 or Janet Rainey at 387-8344 to express your interest in being a part of our newest group ministry.

COMMON GROUNDS: Looking for new people who are interested in hosting our Common Grounds coffee shop on Sunday mornings. A training session (1/2 to 1 hour in length) has been scheduled for Saturday, March 8, 2014 at 10A.M. in the coffee shop. Please contact Dee Dee Smith at 726-2214 if you are interested. The Common Grounds coffee shop has become a popular spot on Sunday mornings. Hosting could be a fun way for you to serve one ministry of our church. Hope to hear from you.

Easter Flowers

Envelopes can be found in the church pews beginning the first Sunday of March of those who are interested in ordering Lilies or Tulips for Easter. As in the past, please include the number of lilies or tulips you wish to order. Cost is freewill donation.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Easter memories... As a little girl, I loved my new spring dress made by my mother. I loved the jelly beans, but not the marshmallow Peeps. I loved the baby ducks on our grandparents' farm. I loved the triumphal music of the brass instruments and congregation singing Up From the

Grave He Arose. And I gave little thought to the meaning Easter. I wonder if I knew anything at all about Lent. How much simpler it was to focus on the candy and cute little ducks! Or maybe the palm-waving entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem, leaving the rest of the story to understand later in life. Lent gives us time to prepare for the Mystery of Easter, and at Epworth we've planned some very special ways to help your children begin to understand what it is all about. Hopefully, your children will find ways to connect with the Mystery of Easter through the Godly Play stories that focus on the Faces of Easter the faces of Mary, the boy Jesus lost and found, Jesus at his baptism, Jesus in the desert, Jesus as a healer and parable-maker, Jesus offering the bread and wine, and Jesus the one who was Easter and still is. Hopefully, your children will experience part of the Easter story, and the symbols of Lent through the activities of our Family Lent Event on Saturday, April 12. And perhaps, your children will even experience preparation for Easter as they walk the journey of the labyrinth that will be in our parlor during the first week of March. And if the meaning of Easter is just one of the hard-to-talk-about topics in your house, then please join us for a series for adults ---- Conversations to Have with the Kids: A Lenten Journey for Parents, Grandparents & Others Who Love Children. Lent need not be about giving something up, but rather, giving of ourselves to understand the Mystery.

On the Lenten Journey with your family,

Calendar Dates for Busy Parents

March 2

Shrove Sunday Pancake Breakfast (Camp Scholarship fundraiser)

March 4

Children's Council Meeting @ 6:30

March 6

Conversations to Have with the Kids about Social Media, 6:30-8p.m.

March 8

Musical Dress Rehearsal & Pizza Party

March 9

Adam's Apple musical presentation

March 13

Conversations to Have with the Kids about Human Sexuality, 6:30-8p.m.

April 1

Sausage for Summer Camp sale begins

April 1

Children's Council @ 6:30p.m.

April 3

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

April 10

Conversations in which We Share Our Faith, 6:30-8p.m.

April 12

Family Lent Event & Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m. -noon

April 13

Camp registration forms due for scholarship eligibility

April 20

Easter Sunday

April 20

Last day for Sausage for Summer Camp orders

April 27

Sausage for Summer Camp meat pickup

Sharon

3

Shrove Sunday Pancake Day Sunday, March 2, 8:30-10:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Pancakes, syrup, sausage, juice, milk, and coffee! Enjoy breakfast with your Epworth friends. Come when it fits your Sunday schedule. Donations will support children's camp scholarships. Sponsored by the Epworth Children's Council



Epworth Children will present the musical, *Adam's Apple*, on Sunday, March 9 as part of the 10:30 worship service. Adam and Eve appear to a group of modern day children to tell them about The Garden of Eden and the temptation

of the forbidden fruit. Come to hear the children, and one sneaky, sleazy, scheming, sneering snake as they share the second story of creation, the story of sin and God's forgiveness. Directed by Mark Murphy and vocal director Ruth Coldwell, *Adam's Apple* will be presented by a cast of 20 children, ages 4-11. Let's Go to Church Camp West Ohio Conference United Methodist Camps has posted the summer camp schedule online at www.westohiocamps.org. Epworth will provide partial scholarships for children ages 7-13 to attend a camp experience at Camp Wesley, Camp Otterbein or Camp Widewater. The summer theme of "Love God, Love Others" will certainly encourage young hearts as they come together to experience the new kayaks, sing praise songs at evening worship, or sit around a crackling fire. God uses these and many other moments at camp to foster spiritual growth in real and transforming ways. Parents interested in learning more Epworth's scholarship fundraisers and about scholarships should contact Sharon Gilbert. Also, first time campers may consider a 3-day camp experience, with Sharon accompanying the Epworth group. For scholarship eligibility, camp registration forms will be due in the church office by April 13.

Conversations to Have with the Kids:

A Lenten Journey for Parents, Grandparents and others who love kids

We take time to talk with our kids every day. Even so, some topics are just more complicated than others. Perhaps the topic is ever-evolving like social media, or our parents didn't talk to us about sexuality so we're not sure where to begin. Some topics are just more difficult, either because we're not sure what we believe, or we're not sure how to put that into age-appropriate language. Epworth has put together a series of Thursday evening sessions, with free childcare, to equip parents, step-parents, grandparents and others who love kids with ways to have these all-important on-going conversations with our children. Each session will begin at 6:30 and end at 8:00, in time for your family night-time rituals. As part of your Lenten Journey, please join us for four sessions that will strengthen your family's conversations!

March 6 Conversations to Have about Social Media

Rev. Jay Moyers of Groveport UMC will share his expertise about social media (email, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and more) and children, tweens & teens. What are the dangers? How do we ensure their safety?

March 13 Conversations to Have about Sexuality

Rev. Jay Moyers will return to share thoughts on when and how our conversations about human sexuality prepare our children for healthy relationships. Today's children are exposed to the "sex sells" culture. What are the messages we can give our children to understand themselves and others in healthy ways?

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

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

April 10 Conversations in Which We Share Our Faith

Have you ever felt unsure of how to include faith conversations in day-to-day life with your children? Sharing our own faith with our children is one way to lead them toward a mature faith, themselves --- but how do we do that when we're not at all sure how to talk about matters of faith? Three parents who have found ways to keep their own faith strong while raising children will share some of the faith conversations they've had with their children: Jane Harper - parent of a 1 year and 4 year old; Ruth Coldwell-parent of two young adult children and 3 grandchildren; and Pam Douce - former United Methodist preschool director and parent of 4 adult children and a growing number of grandchildren, will get this conversation going, and share resources that can make faith conversations part of everyday life.



United Methodist Women Epworth Women in Action

Are we ready for Spring?

Think carefully before answering that question because with Spring comes

the promise of renewal, meaning a new spirit is awakening within us... encouraging us to serve God in new ways. If you need help in achieving this goal, look no further than Epworth Women in Action. We are prepared and ready to MAKE IT HAPPEN!

If you are new to Epworth or have been "sitting out" for a while, now is the time to step out in faith and connect with United Methodist Women. An organization with a vision that has kept growing for over 140 years, must know what is right and important. By putting God at the center of all our activities and fundraising projects, we know every mission will have a positive outcome.

"Great things He has taught us...Great things He has done."

On February 9th, Fellowship Hall was awash in all shades of red and pink, with hearts and balloons, delicious food to share and laughter aplenty, Epworth church family celebrated Valentine's Day in spite of the snow. 'Heart' felt thanks, love and gratitude to all the women of Epworth who made this event such a success. A love gift to our brothers and sisters in Africa topped \$500, a helping hand to stamp out the scourge of malaria one net a a time.

If you answered 'yes' to my first question...the second one is easy...Are you ready to serve?

Join us for any of these gatherings...you will be glad you did.

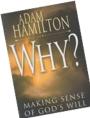
Monday, March 10, at 6:30 pm in the Pastor's Office. We share laughter and fun while pursuing ideas for mission support. God's direction to do for others is at the center of our hearts.

Tuesday, March 11, at 1:00 pm in the Church Parlor (Rm. 205), offers another opportunity to share in the sisterhood of Epworth Women in Action (UMW). The Evelyn Kendal Circle's program that afternoon will be

on Marion Matters...an important part of Bridges Out of Poverty. Refreshments will be served and you are guaranteed a warm welcome.

Friday/Saturday, March 14 & 15 is the Women's Retreat...with all these events, we aim to turn faith, hope, and love...into ACTION. Spread the word.

Joy Boyer



Lenten Study Why?... Making Sense of God's Will

When we lift our prayers to God, and no answer seems to come; when we earnestly seek to know the will of God

for our lives, yet can't seem to discern it; when God seems far away; where is God? If God counts the hairs on our head, and knows every sparrow that falls, why is finding and understanding God's will so difficult at times? Benefit from a short-term study that will meet to explore issues that are relevant to your life and your life situation. The class will meet on Mondays for five weeks beginning on Monday, March 3 in the Fellowship Hall, Room 109. The study will meet from 7:00pm – 8:30 p.m. (The study will not be meeting on Monday, March 24.) Cost for the book is \$11.00 and you may pick up your copy and sign up for the study in the church office. Rev. Hoffman will be facilitating the study.

Lenten Worship

<u>Ash Wednesday — March 5</u>

12 p.m.—1:00 p.m. Ashes and Holy Communion available in the Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary with the Imposition of Ashes and Celebration of Holy Communion



"It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart." —Rainer Maria Rilke

Last month, the students enrolled at Epworth Preschool and Daycare learned about the winter Olympic Games. All of the classes joined together in the sanctuary to celebrate the opening ceremony. Each class proudly displayed their own class flag and mascot. Miss Kayce's preschool class marched in with the Olympic torch. A presentation was given showing the children what winter sports are played, where the Olympics were taking place this year, and what it means to compete at this level of athletics. Our students spent a week competing against one another in a variety of chosen Olympic sports in Fellowship Hall. Our students learned about team work, persistence, playing fair, and going for the gold. After our week of competition came to an end, we joined together once more for a closing ceremony. The students were presented before their peers and given medals to celebrate their achievements and hard work. It was a pleasure for everyone involved to come together to celebrate such a momentous occasion.

Also in February, our students and faculty spent time and effort selling coupon books from the Elder Beerman Community Sale as a fundraiser for our program. We would like to give a special thanks to board members Elizabeth Claborn, Jeannine Caudill, Kris Webb, Kathy Shoaf, and Toni Fisher who helped in selling coupon books either at Elder Beerman or at Epworth Church before and after the services. The money raised from this fundraiser, geared toward non-profit organizations, will go toward the betterment of our program. Thank you to anyone who purchased one of these coupon booklets from the preschool and daycare. Your support makes us feel so special and is always appreciated.

March 20th marks the first day of spring this year and we are looking forward to the warmer temperatures that it brings. Fellowship Hall has proven to be a wonderful space for our precious children to participate in gross motor activities when the weather does not permit us to go outside. However, we will be grateful when we can spend more time on our fun playground and wonderful garden.

Sunday, April 27th will be the day that we celebrate the mission and ministry of the preschool and daycare. We will be inviting the families of the children enrolled in the school to join us in worship. Please plan to attend and to give our visitors a warm welcome.

THANK YOU

To Epworth Church,

Thank you for the gift card, the beautiful framed poem, all the cards, and words of appreciation. I enjoyed every Sunday I spent in the Nursery, taking care of the children. They are all "Special" to me, I miss being there. Looking forward to being in worship service.

With Love, Patsy Coffey

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness.

The prayer quilt given to me is a lovely gift. The prayers that were offered by all meant so much to me. I have only visited your church lately with my daughter, Paula Roller, and feel so blessed by all for your care and concern. Please extend my heartfelt feelings to all responsible for this lovely prayer quilt. Remember me and my family, as I (and they!!) recuperate from this surgery.

God's Blessings to All. Dorothy Fields

Dear Church Family,

Thank you very much for the Valentine's care package sent to the college students! It really brightened my day!!

Hollie Dranschak



PRAYER QUILTS WERE MADE FOR

- Brenda Reish for successful surgery and healing
- Mike Darling for successful surgery and healing
- Sue Snavely for successful treatment and comfort during the healing process

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING ~ YOUR GIFT MATTERS



"It'S more important than ever that churches like ours rise up. We've got to be the community for people who (now) don't have one. We must light the darkness for others."

—The Rev. Tish Malloy, First United Methodist Church, Moore, Okla.

Your donation to the One Great Hour of Sharing enables UMCOR to serve children, families and communities when disaster strikes in the United States and across the globe. The need for food, shelter, health and peace knows no continental boundaries.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the humanitarian arm of The United Methodist Church. One Great Hour of Sharing gifts underwrite UMCOR's costs of doing business, so that every penny of every gift you make to a specific UMCOR project will be spent on that project.

UMCOR's specialized ministries—responding in disaster, fighting hunger, alleviating poverty, providing relief supplies around the world, and offering hospitality to immigrants and refugees—assist the most vulnerable people whose need is greatest.

United Methodists relate to One Great Hour of Sharing by supporting UMCOR's ongoing work, responding in times of disaster and telling the story of UMCOR's ministry.

And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. --Micah 6:8 (NIV)

Please give generously on One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, March 30th.

March 2014	Friday Saturday	1 Prayer Quilt Ministry (R.m. 111) 11:00am Dee Dee Smith-Party (R.m. 109 & Kitchen) 1:00pm	8 LABYRINTH (Rm. 205) Common Grounds - training session 10:00am (Rm. 106) Children's Musical dress rehearsal and pizza party (Sanctuary) 2:30pm	14 Women's Retreat - Ladies of the Pine Women's Retreat - Ladies of the Pine	2 n David - Vacation toral care Rev Kiger - pastoral care Sharon - Vacation	n 29 Break foral care ion	
			7 LABYRINTH (Rm. 205)	14 Women's Retr	21 David - Vacation Rev Kiger - pastoral care Sharon - Vacation	28 David - Vacation No PS - Spring Break Rev Kiger - pastoral care Sharon - Vacation	
	Thursday		6 LABYRINTH (Rm. 205) PS state mtg with parents (Rm. 106) 9:00am Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am Membership & Nurture (Rm. 111) 5:16pm Grildren's Musical Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 6:00pm Conversations to Have With Your Child (Rm. 109) 6:30pm	13 Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am Circles: Allies & Families (Rms. 109 & 106) 5:30pm Quitt Class (Rm. 111) 6:00pm Quitt Class (Rm. 111) 6:00pm Trustees (Rm. 210) 7:00pm	20 David- Vacation Rev Kiger - pastoral care Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am	27 David - Vacation No PS - Spring Break Rev Kiger - pastoral care Sharon - Vacation Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 6:00pm	
	Wednesday		5 ASH WEDNESDAY LABYRINTH (Rm. 205) Ashes & Communion from 12-1pm PS/DC Teachers meeting (Rm. 301) 1:15pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Rm. 112) 8:00pm	12 Bell Choir 6:00pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Rm. 112) 7:00pm	19 Bell Choir 6:00pm Bible Study (R.m. 205) 6:30pm Nar-Anon (R.m. 106) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (R.m. 112) 7:00pm	26 David - Vacation David - Vacation No PS - Spring Break Rev Kiger - pastoral care Sharon - Vacation Bell Choir 6:00pm Bible Study (Rm. 112) 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	
	Tuesday		4 LABVRINTH (Rm. 205) Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Neighborhood Supper (St. Paul's Episcopal) 5:15pm 5:15pm SPRC (Rm. 111) 7:00pm	11 Men's Breaktast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Evelyn Kendall Circle (R.m. 205) 1:00pm Quitt Class (R.m. 111) 4:00pm	18 Men's Breaktast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Cents for Children (Rm. 111) 11:30am Finance Committee (Rm. 111) 7:00pm Administrative Council (Rm. 111) 7:00pm	25 David - Vacation No PS - Spring Break No Staff Meeting Rev Kiger - pastoral care Sharon - Vacation Men's Breakfast 7:30am Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 4:00pm	
	Monday		3 LABYRINTH (R.m. 205) No Spiritual Formation Boy Scouts (R.m. 106) 7:00pm Lenten Study (R.m. 109) 7:00pm	10 UMW (Pastor's Office) 6.30pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 205) 7.30pm Lenten Study (Rm. 109) 7.30pm AMI Circle (Pastor's Office) 7.30pm	17 NEW SLETTER. INFORMATION DUE Lay Leadership (Rm. 210) 6:00pm GriefShare (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Lenten Study (Rm. 109) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 111) 7:00pm PS/DC Board (Rm. 111) 7:00pm	24 David - Vacation No PS - Spring Break Rev Kiger - pastoral care Sharon - Vacation Worship Service at Kingston 6:00pm Missions (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Grief Sharing (Rm. 205) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Rm. 109) 7:00pm	31 Grief Sharing (R.m. 205) 6:30pm Boy Scouts (R.m. 106) 7:00pm Lenten Study (R.m. 109) 7:00pm
	Sunday		2 UMMV Sunday Shrove Pancake Breakfast 8:30am	9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS Children's Musical LABYRINTH (Rm. 205) Worship Committee 11:30am	16 Communications Committee Meeting 11:30am	23 David - Vacation Rev Kiger - pastoral care Sharon - Vacation	30 Baptism of Britton Dunn (parents Stephanie & Chris)



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mailing Label Here

SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AT EPWORTH UMC

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

Nursery care available until 11:45 am (Rm. 202)
Worship Service
Children's Choir (Rm.203)
Open Door Class (Rm. 305)
Common Grounds (Coffee Shop - Rm. 106)
Come Join Us Class (Rm. 205)
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)
Worship Service