



Epworth News

God's Love in Action
Growing Disciples through Compassionate Relationships

November 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
Head Custodian

Gerald Hanshaw
Custodian

Sarah Daum
PS/DC Director

As we find ourselves in the midst of our stewardship season, I invite you to read the following witness delivered by Ben Harper on Sunday, October 13. His words are challenging and from the heart.

Growing in Generosity, Rev. David Hoffman

Speaking on the topic of generosity is difficult for me because at its root, being generous is not something that comes naturally to me. I don't want to characterize myself as selfish, thoughtless, or unkind, but the act of being generous and giving freely of your time and resources is, in fact, a challenge. How do I distinguish between "worthy" and "unworthy" generosity? Is there such a thing as "unworthy generosity"? If I give a few dollars to a group that already has a great deal of funds, does this still count as being generous? What if I could have truthfully given more than just a few dollars? Are my few dollars going to do anything anyway? Could I have chosen a more deserving group?

What If I don't know exactly how my donation is going to be spent, is it less generous than say volunteering at a soup kitchen? What if I volunteer at a soup kitchen, but my job is just to take out the trash. Is this worth less than actually serving the food to those in need? What if I only help out for a few hours because I have some errands to run later that afternoon? Does this count as being generous or do I need to stay for the entire day? Do I just wait and go on a day where I know that I don't have anything else going on? Or what do you do in a situation when you don't have enough resources to give? How does God expect me to give away what I don't have or what I have but I know I need?

It's tough working 12 hour days, with an hour and a half commute. I barely have enough time as it is when I get home to eat, get the kids in the tub, read books and get them ready for bed, pack lunches, get things organized for the next day, and get myself cleaned up and to bed to possibly commit to anything else. And with limited time during the week, on weekends, being a good dad always needs to come first.

Then, inevitably, there's always a prior commitment of some sort that makes it impossible to give up time that just isn't there. Not to mention those countless, yet essential, household duties that need done just to keep things in order and running smoothly. And financially coming from a one income family, I need to budget and plan and make every dollar count; I have to listen to all those financial experts scaring me to death, telling me how much college is going to cost when my kids get to that age. I've got retirement planning to think about; I need to be smart and hold some back for medical emergencies, or in case a car needs new brakes or the water heater decides to quit.

I'm a realist; practical, calculated. My decisions are made carefully with proper thought and consideration. But is this wrong? Is this the way that God wants me to be careful? Thoughtful? Planned? Possibly; but probably not *completely*. All of us have qualities or gifts that we were born with, others we learn, things we pick up in school, social groups, or develop, as we grow older. Some good; some not so good; and some we know are good, but still elude us.

Fortunately for me I have a person in my life that helps me make up for my shortcomings; who has helped me in growing my spirituality and building my

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(Ben Harper continued)

faith; who questions my thoughts and intentions and reminds me that thinking, speaking, and acting are not independent of each other. Luckily for me, my mentor also happens to be my wife and my complete polar opposite - Spontaneous, selfless, impulsive, and altruistic. She has taught me to give with my heart and not my head; that over-thinking leads to doubt; that doubt leads to reluctance; and reluctance leads to missed opportunities; that giving should not be followed by “away” or “up”, but rather, should be preceded by “joyful” or “freely”; and that being generous is not just writing a check each week to the church and volunteering each year to serve at the Christmas Eve supper (although still very important).

I’ve grown in my faith through the relationship I’ve had with my wife in countless ways, but none more significantly or importantly than in my spirit of generosity. She has led me to think outside of the comfort of my home and my church to the needs of my community and other communities around the world in reaffirming my faith - that truly knowing Jesus is by showing it and practicing it in my daily life and following his word that “it is more blessed to give than receive.”

Ben Harper

GENEROSITY

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. Proverbs 11:25

As Jesus indicated, we are here to serve others. We serve others through the possession of a generous heart and mindset. We receive guidance through the Holy Spirit which includes love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, patience, and self-control (Gal. 5:22). Our attitude needs to be “what can I do for others,” and not “what is in it for me.”

Examples of serving others with a generous spirit are as follows:

1. Our pledge to the church.
2. Give to organizations that are helping others, such as the Salvation Army, Goodwill, and the Red

Cross, etc. This can be done financially and materially, such as clothing, etc.

3. Tipping generously which is part of the employees’ wages.
4. Volunteering time and effort in support of worthy projects, etc.
5. Help others in need whether it be financially or use of a car, etc.
6. Maintaining self-control and not be overly critical.

We have several very generous neighbors. One of our neighbors volunteers to take care of shoveling snow off our walks and driveway. The other neighbor volunteered to repair the screening on our screened-in porch and cut our grass.

Don and Marie Zeisler

Skipping Christmas...

Join Rev. Hoffman for a book discussion on John Grisham’s short novel, *Skipping Christmas*, on Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00pm. Rev. Hoffman has several copies of the book and it is also available at the Marion Public Library and on Amazon.

“Imagine a year without Christmas. No crowded malls, no corny office parties, no fruitcakes, no unwanted presents. That’s just what Luther and Nora Krank have in mind when they decide that, just this once, they’ll skip the holiday altogether. Theirs will be the only house on Hemlock Street without a rooftop Frosty, they won’t be hosting their annual Christmas Eve bash, they aren’t even going to have a tree. They won’t need one, because come December 25 they’re setting sail on a Caribbean cruise. But as this weary couple is about to discover, skipping Christmas brings enormous consequences—and isn’t half as easy as they’d imagined. A classic tale for modern times from a beloved storyteller, John Grisham’s *Skipping Christmas* offers a hilarious look at the chaos and frenzy that have become part of our holiday tradition.”



Join us on the morning of November 24th at Epworth, during the 10:30am worship service as we give thanks for the many gifts bestowed on us by our Creator. Music for the service will be provided by both the Chancel Choir and the Epworth Orchestra. The Orchestra is composed of the finest musicians from our church and the Marion community. Their musical offering has become a favorite Thanksgiving tradition at Epworth, and a joyous way to usher in the season of Advent. Please come and be part of this celebration and invite a friend or neighbor.

The 8:30am worship service will be held in the Parlor (Rm. 205)

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a Thankful Pot-Luck luncheon sponsored by the Epworth United Methodist Women, following the 10:30am worship service.



Las Posadas

This Advent we will once again be participating in Las Posadas. Join us by celebrating Las Posadas by opening your home for a night to the wandering holy family.

Figurines of Mary and Joseph will symbolically make their journey through the homes of our church members before joining the Baby Jesus at the altar on Christmas Eve. This symbolic journey, called Las Posadas, is one of the oldest Hispanic traditions of Latin America especially of Mexico. Las Posadas celebrates the preparation and anticipation of the birth of the Christ Child. If you or your family would like to participate in this special Advent journey of hosting the Holy Pilgrims, you are invited to sign up in the ministry hallway by November 24th. Our Journey of Las Posadas begins the 1st Sunday of Advent, December 1st. Each person or family hosting 'Mary and Joseph' will receive a packet of instructions that will guide their steps through the holy visit as well as direct them to the next night's visitation. It will be the host's responsibility to welcome the Holy Family and then make sure that 'Mary and Joseph' arrive at their next destination. Mary and Joseph will end their journey at the 11:00pm Christmas Eve service. Twenty-three host persons/families will be needed. Will you invite them in for a night?

Hanging of the Greens

Join us on Saturday, November 30th at 8:00 am, as we prepare the church for the season of Advent and Christmas. Coffee, juice and donuts will be provided.



December 1, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Join the Marion Civic Chorus and Orchestra for the 72nd annual presentation of Handel's "Messiah" at Epworth United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 1st at 7:00pm. There is no admission fee, however, a freewill offering will be received.

*Carey Ecumenical
Christmas Concert*

On Sunday, December 8th at 4:30pm in the afternoon, there will be a concert of sacred Christmas music at the Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey. Several of Epworth's Chancel Choir members are participating in the concert. The address for the Basilica is 315 Clay Street in Carey. Following the concert, there will be food available for purchase in the Shrine Cafeteria - directly across the street. An evening of beautiful music, plus dinner out!!! You can't beat that!!! Hope to see many of you there!

Christmas Sanctuary Tour

PRESENTED BY LOVE INC OF MARION COUNTY

On Saturday, December 7, 2013, from 1:00—3:00 pm, Love Inc. will again present The "Christmas Sanctuary Tour".

Churches who will open their Sanctuaries are:

**First Presbyterian
Prospect St. UMC
Emanuel Lutheran
Trinity Baptist
First UCC
St. Paul's Episcopal
Epworth UMC**

All churches will be open during the two hour period...visit where and when you would like.

All proceeds will help local people in need.

**For tickets: \$10 per family / \$5 per individual
Call Love Inc @38203340**

Tuesday-Friday from 9:-11:30am

Tickets also available the day of the event at First Presbyterian Church and Emanuel Lutheran



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Not unlike my own family when our children were little, today's families have hectic schedules. Even the holidays are filled with the challenge of trying to balance the stresses of work, seasonal decorating, gift buying, musical performances --- the list goes on! Finding time and energy for family traditions may be difficult until we realize that simplicity may actually provide the customs that create our family's bonding memories. For Thanksgiving, it might be making a gift for the person who's doing the cooking. Maybe your family will create a Thanksgiving journal - a decorated notebook. Over dinner, as each person tells what they are thankful for, a family member writes them all down. Next year, as you continue to share your gratitude you'll be adding to the precious record of your family's blessings. Or maybe it's a blessings jar that can stay out all year, helping your family to develop a tradition of everyday gratitude. Maybe the Thanksgiving dinner prayer is given by an elder, or written by a child with your help. Maybe you have the tradition of gathering for Wednesday night pizza and a reading of the hilarious *Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving*. Or bowling after the big meal. These are some of the little things your children will remember as they grow older, and likely will pass onto their children. Last year, Rick and I added *Las Posadas* as a new Christmas tradition, and we loved our simple meals with Jim & Marcia Weir and Brent, Amy and Emery Gorenflo. (Think tacos!) Traditions have to start somewhere! May your Thanksgiving traditions bless the love of your family, Sharon



Children's Musical

Did you know that some children have been shepherds three years in a row? Other children have been angels each year. So THIS year the Epworth Children's Musical will not be a Christmas musical. Instead, we'll have a children's musical on March 9, 2014. This will allow us to us to experience the music of another

story of our Christian faith -- stay tuned for more details. Mark Murphy and Ruth Coldwell will be sharing information soon, and rehearsals will begin in January. Call or text Sharon to let us know that your child is on board for Epworth's children's musical at a new time. 740-360-3819

Calendar Dates for Busy Parents

Nov. 17	Children's Choir sings in worship
Nov. 17	Bible presentation Sunday
Nov. 24	Be Thankful Pot-Luck Lunch
Dec. 1	Las Posadas begins - have you signed up?
Dec. 7	Advent Family Workshop, 10 a.m. - noon
Dec. 10	<i>Skipping Christmas</i> book discussion
Dec. 15	Epworth's night at the Live Nativity at the Marion Co. Fairgrounds
Dec. 22	Children's choir sings in worship
Dec. 24	Children's choir sings at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service

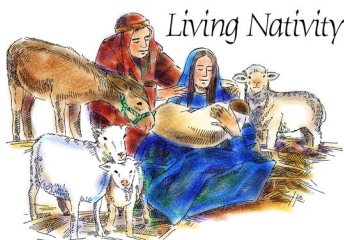
Bible Presentation Sunday

It is an Epworth custom to present *The Adventure Bible* to third graders and *The Beginner's Bible* to kindergarten children. Of course we also include any 1st or 2nd grader who has not already received *The Beginner's Bible* and 4th, 5th, and 6th graders who have not already received *The Adventure Bible*. Gifting children with their own age-appropriate Bible is a wonderful way to invite them to grow in faith and knowledge of God's word. Please call Sharon Gilbert at the church to add your child's name to the list of children who will be present to receive Bibles in worship on November 17. *Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path. Psalms 119:105*



**The Advent Family Workshop
an Epworth tradition
for children and families
Dec. 7th**

Mark your calendars for the morning of Saturday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. for the Advent Family Workshop. This will be a morning of stories, crafts, and music that help our children to know that Advent is a time of preparing for the birth of Jesus. This year, with the help of their parents or grandparents, the children will be creating Chrismons - gold and white ornaments that are symbols of the story of Jesus. Age appropriate activities are being planned for ages 3-12, and middle school students are invited to serve as helpers. Lunch will be provided for all participants. Pre-registration, while not required, is helpful to our planning. You may preregister by emailing sgilbert@epworthumc.org. The Advent Family Workshop is an event for the families of Epworth church, Epworth Preschool & Daycare, and guests. Come prepare for the coming of the Christ-child with us!



Living Nativity

**Christmas by Candlelight -
Live Nativity at the
Marion County Fairgrounds**

Who wants to be King?
Epworth will be serving in
the drive-thru Live
Nativity at the Marion

County Fairgrounds on the evening of Sunday, December 15, 6:00 - 7:30. Alycia Boyer Orcena will coordinate Epworth's participation in the Live Nativity. Costumes are provided and there is no public speaking involved. Rumor has it that there may even be a live donkey in the nativity this year --- a REAL donkey! Adults, teens, and children (ages 5 and up with a parent) are encouraged to participate. More details forthcoming.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU so much for choosing me for one of Epworth's scholarships. I can't tell you how much my family and I appreciate it. Thank you not only for this, but thanks for the 18 years of worship and great fellowship. I love the atmosphere at this church and the great feeling I get when I am there. It feels like I'm at home. Thank you all again, and I promise I won't let you all down! God Bless!

Cassalyn Hosp

Dear Epworth Friends,

Thank you for the beautiful prayer quilt. I know it symbolizes your warm thoughts and prayers for me and my family. Thank you, too, to Rev. Hoffman for coming to see me. I'm sorry I was always in a therapy session at the time! It is a joy to be so welcomed and "adopted" by our - my second church family. I am grateful to be home now after over 2 ½ months in "rehab" and I look forward to being well enough to attend your services soon.

Yours in Christ, Jane Iams

To my beautiful Epworth family--

Thank you for the prayer quilt (I sleep under it every night) and the many prayers that have been said on my behalf. Also thank you for the many cards, the flowers and food given to me. Most of all I thank the very special angels who have run my errands and chauffeured me to doctor appointments and grocery shopping. I am probably looking at several more months of treatment and surgery at the Cleveland Clinic and would be appreciative of continued prayer.

Barbara Snyder

Dear Epworth family,

Thank you so very much for all of your thoughts and prayers over the past couple of weeks for Ben's recent hospital stay, surgery, and recovery. We appreciated all of the cards, texts, phone calls, and facebook posts with words of comfort and encouragement. It was wonderful to see Pastor Hoffman, Sharon Gilbert, and Doug Warne as they visited with us many times over the course of the two weeks. It was always a relief to see someone that made Ben smile! Thank you again for all that you have done for us and continue to do.

The Orcenas - Alycia, Jason, Ben, and Nicholas



United Methodist Women Women-In-Action

By the time this article appears in print the annual Soup Sale and Fall Bazaar will have taken place and the beautiful Buckeye quilt will have a new home! Once again, the hands of many willing workers were

responsible for delicious soup, beautiful craft items and mouth watering baked goods. Whether you supplied ingredients for the soup, slaved in the kitchen over the roasters and dishwasher, or stayed out of the way and produced crafts and baked good at home....YOU were a valued contributor to Epworth Women in Action. The proceeds from this Great Day will provide needed resources for many mission projects, locally and internationally.

THANK YOU to everyone who supported this event.

Make your calendars now for November 24 and the UMW sponsored Be Thankful Pot-Luck Lunch. This is an opportunity to give thanks around the table as a Church Family for the many blessings we receive.

The annual Christmas Party for Epworth women will be on Monday, December 9th at the home of Amy Hayes. Eat, drink and be merry as the Christmas season gets underway!

We have a calling – we have a PURPOSE God continues to use each one of us to accomplish the work of mission in His world.

Come to our next Gathering on Monday, November 11th at 6:30 pm in the Pastor's Office...we expect to see you there!



PRAYER QUILTS WERE MADE FOR

- ♦ **Dave Pitson** (brother of Mary Stoneburner) for calm, healing and successful surgery
- ♦ **Randy Pitson** (brother of Mary Stoneburner) for full recovery of vision and acceptance if that is not to be
- ♦ **Briton Lucas Dunn** (newborn son of Stephanie and Chris Dunn)

- ♦ **Ben Orcena** for comfort, healing and a speedy recovery
- ♦ **Carson Michael King** (Twila Laing's grandson) for successful surgery and a speedy recovery
- ♦ **Leroy Hunt** for healing from surgery and treatments and to be cancer free.
- ♦ **Amanda Scism** for successful heart surgery and a speedy recovery
- ♦ **Donna Williams** for strength and healing
- ♦ **Jordyn Wainwright** for successful treatment and strength



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

- ♦ Marion Bender, sister of Marty Roberts, who died September 20th
- ♦ Bob Houston, who died September 21, 2013
- ♦ Janis Swepston, who died September 28, 2013
- ♦ Sharri Williams, who died October 10, 2013
- ♦ Pam Williams, who died October 11, 2013

Our love, support, and sympathy surround these families.



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

- ♦ **Kyla Rector** daughter of Logan and Haley Rector, was born September 20, 2013. Grandparents are Tracey and Nathan Rector; and Great-grandparents are Janet and Dick Wood
- ♦ **Briton Lucas Dunn**, son of Stephanie and Chris Dunn, was born September 26, 2013. The proud big brother is Cason. Grandparents are Debbie and Mike Ralph and Great-grandparents Don and Reva Loudenslager.
- ♦ **Dominic Tyler Miozzi**, son of Amanda and Jonathan Miozzi, was born October 8, 2013. Grandparents are Mike and Gail McGraw.
- ♦ **Carson Michael King**, son of Todd Shriver and Samantha King, was born October 8, 2013. Grandmother is Twila Laing and Great-grandparents are Tom and Jewell Indoe.

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UPS

The Worship Committee of the church is changing the Altar Flower procedures. The Worship Committee will be 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.

On November 3, 2013 the Flower Calendar will be posted outside the Church Office. At that time, the spots will be filled on a first-come basis.

In order to involve as many in the congregation as possible who wish to memorialize or honor their Loved Ones, each Sunday will have the possibility of two individuals/families signing up for the same Sunday. It is the responsibility of those signing up to work together in choosing appropriate flowers, arranging reimbursement, and then following the worship service decide if the flowers will be taken home or donated.

You are encouraged to choose flowers that accompany the liturgical season. It is expected that two vases be provided. You are encouraged to take the arrangements from church and enjoy their beauty. Those wishing to have their arrangements donated to our homebound or nursing home residents must contact 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.



The splendor of fall always brings to mind the wonder of God's creation and how we are blessed every day. We thank God for our

church, our children and our teachers.

For the fifth year in a row the Preschool and Daycare received a \$1500 grant from the United Methodist Community Ministries of the Capitol Area Districts. We are especially grateful for this grant which is to be used for children's scholarships.

Our 18th annual cemetery tour was held on Sunday, October 13. It takes a community effort of more than 50 people to make the tour possible. We are grateful to the Marion Cemetery Board for allowing us to tour the cemetery on Delaware Ave. Mark Murphy spent weeks researching the lives of the seven families that were portrayed. The tour booklet was created by Tiffany Smith and Barb Yaksic. Members of the preschool and daycare board were character actors, guided tours, and assisted guests. The following people gave graciously of their time and talents to portray the historic lives of people buried in Marion's Cemetery.

- ◆ Undertaker & host as people were gathering- Carroll Neidhart
- ◆ French Crow (b.1876, d.1956) portrayed by Richard Rick
- ◆ D. Eugene (Gene) & Marie L Clifton English portrayed by Pat and Mark Murphy
- ◆ John Kibler (b. 1827, d. 1880) portrayed by Rev. Ben Schaeffer
- ◆ John T. Merchant (b.1894) portrayed by Jason Johnson
- ◆ Alvin & Betsy Priest (Alvin d.1844, Betsey d. 1843) portrayed by Doug & Pam Laucher
- ◆ Eleanor Van Fleet portrayed by Amy Erickson
- ◆ Richard Wilson(b.1804 d.1882) portrayed by Rich Herb

A heartfelt thank you to the many Epworth members who supported our tour because of your generous support. We raised \$4,653. Listed below are the sponsors:

John W. McDaniel
Evelyn R. Fletcher
Haupt Monument Company, Inc.
Diane Morgan, Avon Rep
Betty English
John & Carol White
Doug & Pam Laucher
Eagle Creek

(Preschool/Daycare continued)

Mr. & Mrs. John Cook
Barb & Ernie Hetrick
Dan & Jeanne Yoakum
Gunder/Hall & Folk Funeral Directors
Dr. Eric and Judith Van Gilder
R. Kit & Lori Fogle
Rev. David, Melissa, Andrea & Alyson Hoffman
Max & Suzanne Hoffman
Joan & Ken Comstock
Steve, Geri & Rachel Lust
John & Maxine Hunter
Jo Rose
John & Marjorie Keegan
Matt Laucher
Brad & Paula Laucher
Andy Harper
Ben & Jane Harper
Janet & Dick Wood
Tom & Susie Brown
Ted Graham
Custom Professional Accounting
Fred & Margie Saull
Ted & Kathy McKinniss
Bill & Norma McCaulley
Arthur & Ann Lowe
Bren, Jon & Jonny Cueni
George, Joan & Kris Kasotis
Jackie N Taylor
Peacock Water
Rick & Sharon Gilbert
Barry & Rebecca Gustin
Marion Civitan Club
Pam & Don Stone
Barbara Miller—In Memory of Pete Miller
Mrs. Virginia Telfer
Carl & Pat Telfer
Jack & Kathy Shoaf
Gary & Donna Pendleton
Denzer-Farison-Hottinger & Snyder Funeral Home
Jackie & Cliff Mitchell
Howard Smith
Wilson Bohannon Lock Company
Mark & Pat Murphy
Gary Craft
Dr. & Mrs. C. Kip Beals
Max & Tammy Nygaard
Kathleen & Richard Spaide
Bev & Len Webb
Dr. Charles & Lynn Garvin
Richard & Robin Rick
Greenwood Flooring and Design Center

Ken & Betty Cranmer
Sharon Francis
Suzanne & William Young
Theresa Waddle
John & Joan Steward
Dave & Elizabeth Claborn

Our next fundraiser is our fresh Christmas greenery sale, which runs ends Monday, Nov 4th. The greens can be picked up here at Epworth on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, which is Sunday, November 24. A fresh wreath or garland is a great hostess gift or a gift for a hard to buy for person on your list. The greenery will be decorated with a four-loop red veltex bow, which will add a touch of elegance. You can order from any student of Epworth Preschool and Daycare, Inc, at the Greenery desk on Sunday mornings or call 387-1062.

The month of November brings many exciting times for Epworth Preschool and Daycare! November 20th we will be celebrating Grandparent's Day with our preschool students. November 21st we will be celebrating Grandparent's Day with our Daycare students. Both days we will be welcoming grandparents for a fun filled time including snacks, coffee, and activities with their grandchildren.

During the week of November 25th-29th the preschool classes will not be in session. Daycare classes will remain open this week with the exception of Thanksgiving Day (Thursday) and Friday, November 29th.

NEEDED: SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Are you a former educator who misses working with children? We are looking for retired teachers who are interested in substitute teaching in our preschool and daycare program. Teachers would be required to have new FBI and BCI background checks conducted in order to sub for us. We would be most grateful to hear back from any individuals interested in helping us in our classrooms.

An International Project from Samaritan's Purse

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MISSION, YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DROPPING YOUR BOX (ES) OFF AT THE LOCAL DROP-OFF CENTER. BOXES WILL NOT BE COLLECTED IN THE CHURCH.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

(Directions below)

1) SHOE BOX

Use empty shoebox (standard size, please. You can wrap the box (wrap lid separately), but wrapping is not required. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift.

2) BOY or GIRL

Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Use the appropriate boy/girl label (located on bulletin board in main Epworth hallway). Mark the correct age category on the label, and tape the label to the top of your box.

3) FILL WITH GIFTS

Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will delight a child. Use the gift ideas provided at the end of this article. Please include at least one item a child can immediately embrace such as a stuffed toy, doll, and ball or toy truck.

4) INCLUDE \$7 DONATION

Please donate \$7 or more for each shoebox you prepare to help cover shipping and other project costs. You can write a check to **Samaritan's Purse (note "OCC" on memo line)** and place it in an envelope on top of the gift items inside your box. If you are preparing more than one shoebox, please combine shipping donation in one check.

5) DROP OFF

Place a rubber band around each completed and closed shoebox and drop it off at the collection center nearest you during the **Collection Week, November 18–25, 2013**. The local drop off location is **Marion Christian Center, 1550 Richland Road, Marion**.

GIFT IDEAS - Toys: Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, yo-yos, jump ropes, toys that light up or make a noise – with extra batteries, slinky, etc. **School Supplies:** Pens, pencils, sharpeners, stamp & ink pads, writing pads & paper, solar calculators, coloring & puzzle books, crayons. **Other ideas:** T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights with batteries, hard candy & lollipops double bagged. **Hygiene Items:** Toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar of soap (in plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

DO NOT INCLUDE used or damaged items, war-related toys such as guns, knives or military figures, chocolate or food, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, glass or breakable items, or aerosol cans.

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

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

It takes the coordinated effort of many hands to prepare and serve dinner to our 300+ guests. Though most of the activity happens between 10 AM and 7 PM on December 24, there are many things to be done in the days leading up to Christmas Eve.

For 29 years, this annual event has been an important Christmas tradition for our Epworth family. We hope that you will choose to make it part of your Christmas tradition this year as well.

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

Christmas Eve Dinner Volunteers

I (we) would like to help with:

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

Name(s): _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

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)
	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