



Epworth News

God's Love in Action
Growing Disciples through Compassionate Relationships

September 2014

Epworth United Methodist Church

249 E. Center Street
Marion, Ohio 43302
740-387-8344
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

Leanne Bowdre

Church Secretary

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

Learning to Teach and Teaching to Learn

(The following is an excerpt from the sermon given by Melissa Hoffman on Sunday, August 17. Thank you Dan, Bill, and Melissa for filling in during my mission experience to Africa! Dan, Mark, Cameron, and I will be sharing about our mission experience to the Congo on Sunday, September 21.)

You see, Jesus is the greatest teacher to have ever lived. A great teacher aims not at simply dispensing information, but at changing lives. A master teacher doesn't just give lectures; he or she creates experiences for people. This kind of teacher knows that truth is most powerful when people have to work to discover it. The new truth discovered here has a much deeper impact than just the truth being presented. And a master teacher is able to teach more than one person or group at a time. Their teaching is going on at different levels. A master teachers' methods are not always clear to their students at the time and may be seen as harsh, cruel, and unclear, or not even recognized following the lesson until a much later time.

There is a story many years ago of an elementary teacher. Her name was Mrs. Thompson. And as she stood in front of her 5th grade class on her very first day of school, she told the children a lie. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same. But that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard.

Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he didn't play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. And Teddy could be unpleasant. It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers.

At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records, and she

put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise. Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners... he is a joy to be around." His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well-liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness, and life at home must be a struggle." His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best, but his father doesn't show much interest, and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken." Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Mrs. Thompson realized the problem, and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in the heavy, brown paper that he scissored from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing and a bottle that was one quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist. Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mom used to." After the children left she cried for at least an hour.

On that very day, she quit teaching reading, and writing, and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children. Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in

the class and, despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one of her "teacher's pets."

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had in his whole life. Then four more years passed, and yet another letter came. This time, he explained that after he got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer—the letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, M.D.

The story doesn't end there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he'd met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago, and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit in the place at the wedding that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom. Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. And she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together. They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you Mrs. Thompson for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference." Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back. She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

Christ calls us to meet everyone where they are and to be Christ's presence in this hurting world.

God's Challenge is Before Us!

David

Generosity Increases Our Happiness

By definition, generosity is the giving of money, talents, time, valuable resources, and acts of kindness. Stewardship is the responsibility of being the overseer and protector of something considered worth caring for: property, treasured items, and finances. You can have generosity without being a steward, but God asks us to look at the two words as a marriage of action and a state of mind. "Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10 NIV)

The Epworth United Methodist congregation has for many years been an example of extravagant generosity and stewardship by hosting the Neighborhood Supper and Christmas Eve Dinner. As the Missions Committee spearheads the events, those folks personify stewardship by careful cost planning and watchful care of financial donations graciously contributed by congregational members. It is without a doubt that the community members who are served at these events experience a bountiful, abundant table, along with radical hospitality. The kindness of our congregation members exemplifies the generosity of giving of time, talents, and unconditional love, as their hands prepare, serve, and tidy up after each dinner.

How do two Mission ministries within our church thrive and be so long lived? There are many answers, but I feel the scripture found in Proverbs 11:25 is a valuable response. It reads, "The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed." (New Living Bible) Scientists and philosophers for years have tried to come to terms with what exactly causes generosity in humans. It seems that being generous causes one to want to continue being generous. A scientific study (P.J. Adams, A.A. Stanton & S. Adams, November, 2007) proved people who

actively took part being generous to a stranger had a substantial increase in an isolated chemical hormone in their brain. The researchers supported the belief that in being generous we, therefore, feel good about being generous. For me, it is no accident that our brains actually increase mental messages of self-esteem, optimism, trust, and helpfulness when we participate in generous behaviors. Our Creator intended for us to feel good about our big-heartedness!

Shel Silverstein's book *The Giving Tree* (1964, Harper & Row) is the epitome of generosity. The character of the tree gives dimension to the scripture "those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed." Most of you know the story in which a giving tree loved a boy. The boy loved the tree and would swing from her branches and nap in her shade. And the tree was happy. As the boy grows older, he needs money to support himself, means to build a house, and a method of transportation. So the giving tree tells the boy to take her apples to sell. She gives her branches so he can make a home and tells the boy to cut down her trunk to make a boat. And each time she was generous, the Giving Tree was happy. Finally, the boy returns to the tree as an old man. The tree is delighted to see the boy, but now she is without anything to give. The boy whispers to her with a weary smile, "I don't need very much now, just a quiet place to rest," "Well," said the tree, "An old stump is still good for that. Come boy, sit down. Sit down and rest a while." And the boy did. And the tree was happy.

The extravagant generosity of our congregation has refreshed our community, our nation, and our world. In what ways can you identify the innumerable forms of generosity and stewardship as one who worships at Epworth? God calls us to strengthen our relationship with Him by using wisdom in our role as stewards and by being generous in various opportunities we encounter on a daily basis. Indeed, as in the example of the *Giving Tree*, we rejuvenate the happiness in ourselves by being generous to others.

— Miriam Whisler

Thank You!

Epworth UMC,
Thank you so much for the Prayer Quilt. It was so thoughtful and very much appreciated.

-Judy Wade

Dear Epworth Church,
Thank you so much for the Bible and Devotional book and for the years of support and love. They are greatly appreciated.

-Thank you, Nicholas Foos

Dear Epworth UMC,
All of us at Leapin' Outreach Center and the less fortunate in Marion, want to thank you so much for the \$100.00 donation. We will put it towards purchasing personal hygiene items, socks, underwear, and emergency food. We appreciate all you do for us, including prayers and showing God's love. Again, thanks and God bless!

-In His Service, Pat Hensel – Director

Dear Prayer Quilt Committee and church members,
Thank you so much for the prayer quilt. Dee Dee brought it to me after my surgery. It is truly a comfort for me. I have it on my bed every day. I really appreciate being on your prayer list. I feel a little bit better every day. God is with me each step of the way.

Blessings to all of you,
Debbie McGinnis
(sister of Dee Dee Smith)

Dear Makin Bacon Farms,
Thank you for donating meat to my church. It was so good. We raised a lot of money to go to camp.

-Love, Katie Shoaf

Thank you so much to all who provided music for our Worship Services this summer. Your music and talent are very much appreciated by all who heard. We are truly blessed here at Epworth with wonderful musicians. Thanks again!

Pat Murphy

Dear Members and Friends of the Epworth United Methodist Church,
Thank you for your recent shipment of shawls, peace pals, scarves, wash cloths and baby blankets. Your shawls are wonderful, and they are my most needed item right now. Without the generous gift of your beautifully crafted items, our work would not exist. We touch the lives of thousands of women, teens, children & infants in local and global areas of conflict by personally delivering your prayerfully-created items. We have completed deliveries in 55 countries. Each item provides comfort for the present and hope for the future because it is tangible proof for the recipients that they are cared for by people they have never met. Our work is literally "knitting together" the global Beloved Community: one stitch at a time, one day at a time, one person at a time.

Thank you,
Hal Simmons
Operations Manager
www.knitting4peace.org

Births

- Henry Otis Denning, son of Katelyn and Phil Denning, was born August 14, 2014. Proud Grandparents are Bob and Kathy Walczak.
- Ashlyn Grace Beaver, daughter of Brandon and Jena Beaver, was born August 21, 2014. Proud Grandparents are Jim and Marty Beaver.

Prayer Quilts

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

- Rose Dabney for peace and health
- Marilyn Fulkerson for strength during a health related issue
- Sharon Gale for continued healing, recovery, peace, and comfort
- Susan Lyons for healing, restoration of faith, and financial assistance
- Wilma Sisson for healing, comfort, and trust in God

- Kimberly Sult for healing and comfort

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

Prayer Room

Have you seen our new prayer room at Epworth? If not, you may want to take the stairs down the northwest side of the sanctuary and visit. The room was previously a library, but under the direction of Karen Wilson and with the help of many others, it was transformed into the prayer room and is open and for your use whenever the church is open.

White Roses

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

- Albert Russell, step-brother of Donna Bodman, who died on June 22, 2014.
- Howard Eugene Williams, brother of Mary Jane Ralston, who died July 24, 2014
- Donald Parks, husband of Barbara Parks and brother-in-law of Marty Roberts, who died on July 28, 2014.
- Jean Foster, wife of Warren Foster, who died on August 11, 2014.
- James Harper; father of Andy Harper, grandfather of Heather Harper and Ben (Jane) Harper, great-grandfather of Paige Power and Macey and Ryan Harper; who died on August 17, 2014.
- Richard D. "Dick" Gantt; husband of Norma Gantt, father of Sharon (Rick) Gilbert, grandfather of Stefanie (Julie) Gilbert-Beeney, and great-grandfather of Kenzie Beeney; who died August 18, 2014.

We remember these families in our thoughts and prayers.

Preschool/Daycare



"Epworth Preschool and Daycare is gearing up for 's'more' learning!"

On August 15th, our field trips came to an end for the summer. Our daycare classes transitioned 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 transitioned from full-time to before and after school once again. We would like to give a special thank you to our summer staff members: Abbie Dunn, Leslie Schultz, and Emily Atkinson. Without them, we would not have been able to go on all of our fun summer field trips, and our school-agers would have missed out on The Marion Historical Society's Annual Blast from the Past event.

Our school-agers spend lots of time and effort in the summer raising money for organizations in need. This summer, our school-agers chose to donate funds to Imagine No Malaria. With hard work and determination, our students were able to raise \$145.00 for Imagine No Malaria. We gifted the money to Dan Erickson before he departed for the mission team's journey to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Dan Erickson has promised to return to the school-age classroom to share his experience with them.

Epworth Preschool and Daycare is excited to share that we were granted \$1,000 from the Marion Rotary Foundation. These funds are going to be put toward work and equipment needed to get wireless internet in the education wing. With this gift towards wireless internet and MAC computers donated by Pleasant Local Schools, our

teachers will be able to communicate with parents more efficiently and facilitate improved lesson planning/assessments in the classroom.

On August 1st, Epworth Preschool and Daycare had a surprise visit from our ODJFS State Licensing Specialist. We did very well! Our new State Licensing Specialist, Heather Wares, was impressed by our organization, attention to detail, and teacher-student interactions. Mrs. Wares complimented us on our beautiful facility and was glad to see such a positive learning environment. Since we will only have one unannounced visit per year, we are set until around this time next year.

September marks the beginning of a new school year for Epworth Preschool. Meet the Teacher Day is September 7th. Preschool orientation will be September 8th. The first full day of preschool will be on September 9th. 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 entrust us with their children's care and education. This is such a pivotal time for preschool age children as they grow and develop, and we are ready to teach them the kindergarten readiness skills that they need to be successful students moving forward in their life-long learning.

— Sarah Daum

Preschool Daycare Director

Children in Worship

New backpacks, fresh notebooks, sharp pointed pencils, crayons that smell so good, and a smile --- these are the back-to-school tools for children. Summer activities have given way to fall schedules and new learning. As your family returns to "normalcy" after a busy summer, I hope Sunday School will be part of your family's commitment to learning about the faith we share. The "tools" for Sunday School include a smile and a willingness to arrive by 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Your children's

teachers will be ready with stories and materials to share the Bible in a child-sized way. And there will be play --- In age appropriate ways --- play with the language of God and God's people, our sacred stories, the parables of Jesus, the liturgical actions of baptism and communion, and wondering. We begin our fall series of stories on September 7th, and welcome your child to one of these classes:

Nursery

Rm. 202

Birth to age 2 ½

Chelsea Conley & Reina Reigel

Little Blessings

Rm. 201

Ages 2 ½ - 3

Alycia Orcena

Godly Play

Rm. 206

Age 4 – grade 2

Pam Douce, Jeanne Yoakam, and Storytellers

Acolyte Fellowship

Rm. 204

Grades 3-5

Betty English & Storytellers

Please join us for Rally Day on September 7th, as we begin another season.

Learning and living our faith
with children,
Sharon

Popcorn Fun Helps Epworth Kids!

Epworth is a great place to watch Marion's 33rd Annual Popcorn Festival Parade! In our courtyard, we'll be selling hotdogs, cold bottled water, and fresh-popped popcorn. Proceeds will benefit children's church camp scholarships for 2015. So bring your friends and family along with your lawn chairs, and enjoy the parade with us at Epworth!

Children's Ministry Registration Cards

As part of our Safe Sanctuary policy, we need to keep a registration card on file for all children and youth (nursery through high school) participating in our Epworth ministries --- Sunday School, musicals, youth fellowship, DC4K, choir, and more. The new registration cards are white and are available in Sunday School classrooms, the Common Grounds Coffee Shop, the church office, and Sharon's office. This registration card provides parent contact information, pick-up permissions, as well as a photo release. At the request of the Trustees, this new card has been updated, so we are asking parents of all children and youth to complete the white registration card and to return it to the church office or Sharon. Thanks for helping us keep children and youth safe within all of our ministries!!!

Photo Permissions

In order to protect children and youth, it is our Safe Sanctuary policy not to identify any minor by name when we use his or her photo on Facebook, our bulletin boards, and our directories. However, if you prefer that we not use any photo of your child/youth, please contact Sharon Gilbert, Director of Ministries with Children and Families. sgilbert@epworthumc.org

EPWORTH KID'S CHOIR!

All children ages 4 through 4th grade are invited to join us each Sunday morning, as we learn new songs about the scriptures and make a joyful noise in praise! We meet at 9:00 a.m. in Room 202 and sing for 30 minutes before Sunday School begins. This is a great way to begin Sunday mornings!!

We share our songs about once a month

in morning worship. You will be given a list of those dates at our first practice. Parents are invited to fellowship in the Common Grounds Coffee Shop downstairs during practice. The singers are escorted to Sunday School from the choir room! It promises to be a fun year ahead, as we learn new songs to share. I hope to see all who have participated in the past, along with many new faces, as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 740-360-5369!

See you September 7th at 9:00 a.m.

-Ruth Coldwell

A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR SINGING!

Who: Any youth 5th grade and older!

What: We will explore contemporary Christian music and two-part singing!

When: Rehearsal times to be determined according to fall schedules!

Where: We will sing for Sunday morning worship at least four times this year!

How: If you'd like to be part of this group, please give your name to Sharon Gilbert, Ruth Coldwell, or Kathy Walczak.

Youth and Young Adult Sunday School

Beginning September 7

Middle School Youth

(ages 6th grade through 8th grade)

Teacher – Melissa Hoffman

9:30am – 10:15am Room # 301

Mission and Youth Fellowship opportunities will grow out of this class and will include ages 5th grade through 8th grade

High School/Early 20's

(ages 9th grade through early 20's)

Teacher – Rev. David Hoffman

9:30am – 10:15am Room #208 (Pastor's Office)

This is a new class and will be piloted for 4 weeks (September 7 - September 28)

Mission and Fellowship opportunities will grow out of this class

Confirmation (ages 6th grade through

High School) Teacher – Rev. David Hoffman

Will begin in January, 2015

Walking Through Grief

If you have lost a loved one, a grief support group will be starting Monday, September 8 at 6:30pm in Rm. 205 (the Parlor). This support group, Walking Through Grief, will meet for 9 weeks. Please call the Church Office, 740-387-8344, for additional information.



Divorce Care

Divorce Care begins at Epworth on Tuesday, September 16th from 6:30-8:00pm. All are welcome for this ten weeks series. Most people will tell you that separation and divorce are the most painful and stressful experiences they've ever faced. It's a confusing time when you feel isolated and have lots of questions about issues you've never faced before. Our Divorce Care group meets weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Each Divorce Care session begins with a video Seminar with Experts—persons knowledgeable in how to heal from the pain of divorce and how to move forward. After viewing the video, Divorce Care group participants spend time as a support group with one another, discussing what was presented in that week's video seminar, as well as what is going on in the lives of group members. Licensed social worker Elizabeth Claborn and Dr. Damon Osborne will lead this fall's Divorce Care at Epworth. Persons may register for Divorce Care by calling 387-8344. Childcare will be available.

DC4K, Divorce Care for Kids, will also meet on Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 and begins on September 16.

Divorce Care for Kids at Epworth UMC serves children ages 5-12 who have experienced, or are experiencing, the separation or divorce of their parents. Closely related to the adult Divorce Care ministry, the DC4K support group helps children understand that they are not the cause of their parents' divorce, that God loves all kinds of families, and how to have healthy communication skills. Each of the 10 class sessions will include prayer, a video Bible story, art activities, games, healthy snacks, and greeting and closing rituals. Our adult leaders, called SafeKeepers, have met our Safe Sanctuary requirements, including background checks and have considerable professional skills to work with hurting children. To register your children for DC4K, or for more information, please contact Sharon at 387-8344 or sgilbert@epworthumc.org.

WisdomKeepers Luncheon

WisdomKeepers will meet Thursday, October 2, 2014, at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. You are invited to attend for devotions, hymn singing, lunch, and a social time. The elevator entrance will be open by 10:30 AM for anyone who would like to use the elevator down to Fellowship Hall. The program for this month will be Epworth's Preschool/Daycare music class, led by Connie Slob. You are in for a real treat, getting to see these lively children learning fun songs. WisdomKeepers is an outreach ministry by, with, and for older adults.

At our August event, we shared memories of Epworth with 33 people in attendance. Many people shared their stories and memories and we all learned something we didn't know before. A comment that was overheard was made by one of our longtime members "To hear Maggie Huffman's name mentioned made my heart sing!" What a tribute to one of our former servants of God through a youth leadership role at Epworth.

We will continue our outreach to our homebound members, as well as those in need of transportation. Please call the church office to make reservations for this event or for transportation.

United Methodist Women Epworth Women in Action

After spending six weeks away from Marion this summer traveling and visiting in Ireland and England, I need to get my feet on the ground and start moving us into action! September has arrived, and we can mark our calendars for two important dates.

- Monday, September 8....come, join us at the church at 6:30 pm as we prepare to work on events for the fall. The Soup Sale and Bazaar are important fund raisers for mission-giving at the end of the year. Let's share some ideas for simple crafts that can be worked on in the coming weeks up to this event, which occurs at the

end of October.

- Tuesday, September 9...the Evelyn Kendal Circle meets at 1:00pm at the church. School kits will be assembled for the Festival of Sharing. Joy Boyer and Jan Hoffman are hosts for this meeting and extend a warm welcome to anyone who has not experienced the warm friendship of this circle. Call Joy (740-383-2915) if you need a ride.

Remember, our mission-giving makes the difference between a world of hunger, hurt, and desperation — both here and around the globe! Make sure your "to-do list" is aligned with God's purpose...seek out an opportunity to join with Epworth Women in Action...you will be glad you did!

"As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame, so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name. Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care; we join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere"

-Joy Boyer

Making Sense of the Bible Book Study

Denominations from evangelical to mainline continue to experience divisions over universal social issues. The underlying debate is about the "authority of the Bible." Addressing the key questions and hot button issues that plague the church and cultural debate, Rev. Adam Hamilton organizes his book according to the concerns that matter to most people and leads them to a deeper appreciation for the Bible and a desire to read it and live by its precepts.

Join Rev. Hoffman as we journey together through this powerful book. This six week study will meet on Sunday evenings in the Parlor, Room 205, beginning on Sunday, September 14, from 5:00pm until 6:30pm. A light meal will be available as we gather at 5:00pm. Cost for the book is \$17.00 and a free will offering will be taken to cover the cost of the light meal. Books and a sign-up sheet are available in the church office.

CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR AGING PARENTS?

Are you currently responsible for care and decisions regarding your parents? Do you see that in your future? Do you know where to find answers to your questions? Do you know what questions to ask? Do you wish you could share concerns and learn coping skills from others on a similar journey?

Epworth is planning to offer an eight to ten week class for adults who want to honor and help their elders. We plan to provide support through conversation, resources, and speakers with areas of expertise. Based on the interests and needs of participants, topics could include but are not limited to:

- Initiating Conversations with Aging Parents about their Future
- Planning for if/when a Health Emergency Arises
- Designating a Primary Decision-Maker
- Gathering Your Parents Contact Information
- Legal Documents: Power of Attorney, Advanced Healthcare Directives
- Managing Finances
- The Medicare Maze
- In-Home Care vs Assisted Living or Nursing Home
- Family Dynamics
- Understanding Parents Needs vs Wants
- Caregiving at a Distance
- Recognizing Dementia, Alzheimers, and Depression
- Balancing Care of Parents with Your Own Family/Work Responsibilities
- Caregiver Resources
- Hospice and Saying Goodbye

If you are interested, please give the Church Office your contact information or call Betty English at 387-6661 or email her at bettye516@frontier.com.

MISSION'S POPCORN FESTIVAL PARKING LOT FUNDRAISER

Volunteers Needed! September 4, 5, 6

The Epworth Missions Committee is coordinating volunteers to serve shifts on the church parking lot during the Popcorn Festival to collect parking donations and distribute information explaining how the money will be used to benefit



Please complete the signup sheet available during worship if you are willing to donate a couple of hours to support this worthwhile and life-saving project.

PROGRESS IS BEING MADE

Malaria was eliminated in the U.S. in the 1950s; however, in Sub-Saharan Africa, malaria continues to kill primarily a woman or a child every 60 seconds. But there is hope! The money raised by "Imagine No Malaria" is bringing about important changes to eradicate malaria once and for all. These changes include availability of bed nets, providing access to diagnostic tests and medicine, draining standing water, and improving sanitation. New radio stations as well as providing hand-cranked and solar-powered radios ensure greater numbers of people are receiving life-saving information about malaria. Hundreds of hospitals, clinics, and health outposts operated by The United Methodist Church in Africa now have the diagnostic tests and treatment needed to save lives. Thousands of local health care workers have been empowered to train their communities about avoiding malaria, going door-to-door to deliver and install bed nets, along with teaching people how to properly use and care for the nets.

Prayer Quilt Ministry

The Prayer Quilt Ministry has been a vital ministry of our church over the years, and we are very thankful for the many hours of investment that folks have made to create prayer quilts and to pray for the needs of others. The members of the group have dwindled down to only a handful of faithful attenders. In order to continue this vital ministry, more participation is needed in helping to create the quilts. The Saturday morning Prayer Quilt Ministry group is scheduled to meet the first Saturday of the month for September, October, and November; however, If new members cannot be recruited, the Prayer Quilt Ministry will have no other choice but to discontinue at the end of the year. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kathy Swanger, 740-360-9429 or Paula Aparis at 740-382-3916.

Festival of Sharing



Festival of Sharing kits make a difference in the lives of children and families around the

world. Most often these kits are sent to areas after a disaster, like Hurricane Sandy on the East Coast or flooding in different states, including (LaRue) Ohio. Syria and Nicaragua have received many school kits and hygiene kits respectively. The 2014 Festival of Sharing will be September 27 at Otterbein University. Completed kits, including a \$2 processing and shipping cost, should be brought to Epworth no later than Sept. 21.

SCHOOL KIT:

One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip); One box of 24 crayons (only 24!); Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper); One 30-centimeter ruler (12"); One hand-held pencil sharpener; One large eraser; Six new pencils with erasers; One 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles. (Please, no reusable shopping bags or

backpacks.) Pack all items inside the cloth bag. Please include: \$2 per Kit (processing/shipping cost)

College Addresses Needed

HYGIENE KIT:

One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels please); One washcloth; One wide-tooth comb; One nail clipper; One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper); One toothbrush (in original packaging); Six standard size Band-Aids®. Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure; remove excess air from bag and seal. Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment. Please include \$2 per Kit (processing/shipping cost)

BABY CARE KIT:

Six cloth diapers; Two diaper pins; Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies); Two washcloths; Two gowns or sleepers; One sweater or sweatshirt (Can be hand-knitted or crocheted); Two receiving blankets (one can be a hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket). Items must be new and under 12 months in size. Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with both diaper pins.

Please include: \$2 per Kit (processing/shipping cost)

EMERGENCY CLEANUP BUCKET:

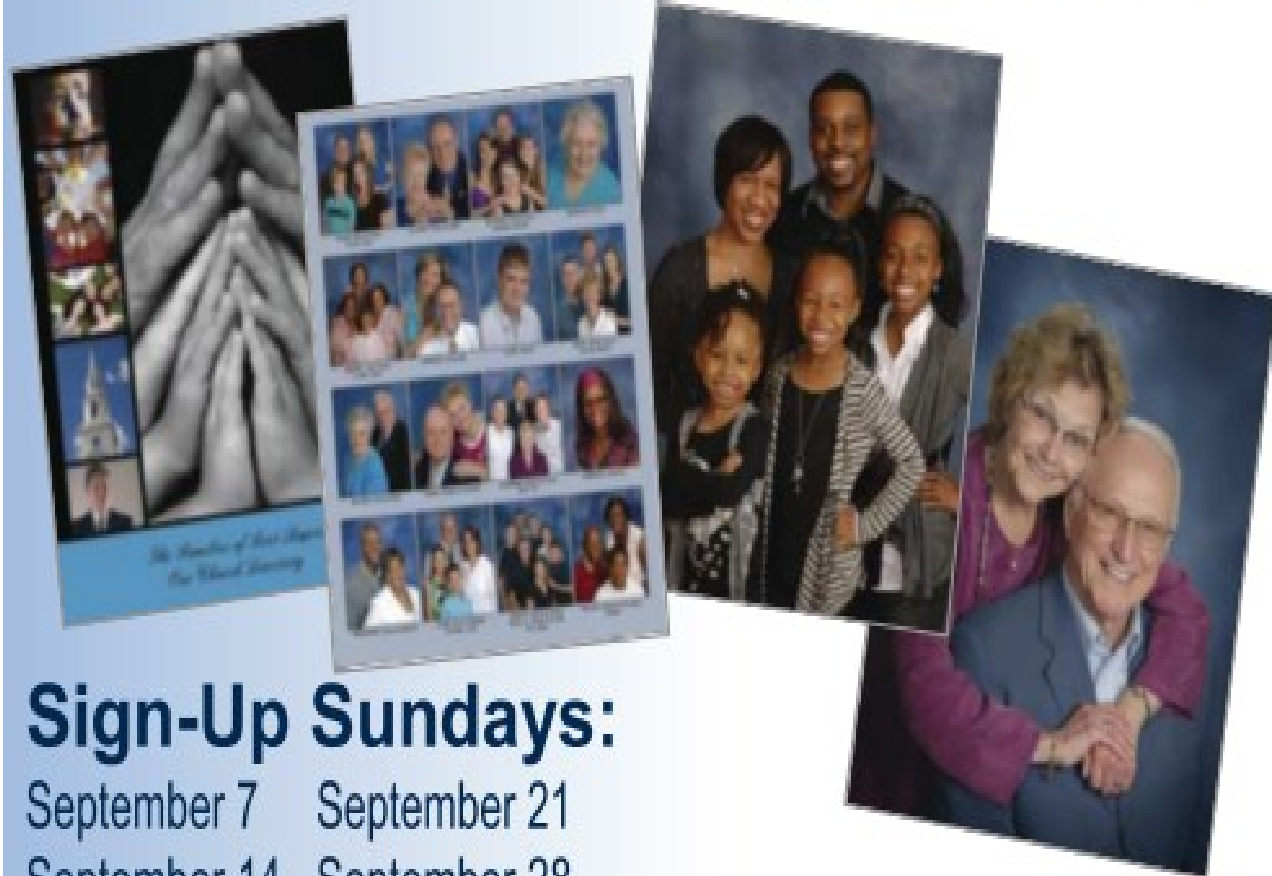
Those interested in creating Emergency Cleanup Buckets can get a list of supplies needed from the church office or the bulletin board in the hallway. Note: Because of the volatility of the contents, Emergency Cleanup Buckets are not shipped internationally but used exclusively in the United States.

In order to stay connected to our college students, the Church Office is in need of updated college addresses for our college students and recent college graduates. You are invited to email updated college addresses to churchoffice@epworthumc.org or include the updated addresses on the Sunday morning Friendship Cards. Thank you for helping us to stay connected.

Do you know the names of the people sitting around you?

Help us to build a tool that will put names with faces.
Be a part of our new family directory program –
we need YOU to make our new family album complete!

**Each family will receive a complimentary
8x10 portrait and free directory for participating!**



Sign-Up Sundays:

September 7 September 21

September 14 September 28

Photo Dates:

Wednesday through Saturday

October 8, 9, 10, & 11

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October 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 PS/DC Teachers meeting (Rm. 301) 1:15pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	2 Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am WisdomKeepers Luncheon (Rm. 109) 11:30am	3	4 Prayer Quilt Ministry (Rm. 111) 11:00am
5 World Communion Sunday Hamilton Book Study (Rm. 109) 5:00pm	6 Walking through Grief (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Spiritual Formation (Rm. 210) 7:00pm Boy Scout Meeting (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	7 Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Children's Council (Rm. 210) 6:30pm DC4K (Rm. 206) 6:30pm Divorce Care (Rm. 205) 6:30pm SPRC (Rm. 111) 7:00pm	8 Church Directory Photographs Bell Choir 6:00pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	9 Church Directory Photographs Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 6:00pm Trustees (Rm. 210) 7:00pm	10 Church Directory Photographs	11 Church Directory Photographs Circles: Allies and Families 5:30pm
12 Worship Committee 11:30am Hamilton Book Study (Rm. 109) 5:00pm	13 UMW (Pastor's Office) 6:30pm Walking through Grief (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Boy Scout Meeting (Rm. 106) 7:00pm AMI Circle (Pastor's Office) 7:30pm	14 Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 4:00pm Getting Ahead (Rm. 109, Rm. 201) 5:00pm DC4K (Rm. 206) 6:30pm Divorce Care (Rm. 205) 6:30pm	15 NEWSLETTER INFORMATION DUE Bell Choir 6:00pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	16 Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am Getting Ahead (Rm. 109, Rm. 201) 5:00pm Administrative Council 7:00pm	17	18 PS/DC (Rm. 109) 9:00am
19 Preschool/Daycare Cemetery Tour Hamilton Book Study (Rm. 109) 5:00pm	20 Lay Leadership (Rm. 210) 6:00pm Walking through Grief (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Boy Scout Meeting (Rm. 106) 7:00pm PS/DC Board (Rm. 210) 7:00pm	21 Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Getting Ahead (Rm. 109, Rm. 201) 5:00pm DC4K (Rm. 206) 6:30pm Finance Committee (Rm. 210) 6:30pm Divorce Care (Rm. 205) 6:30pm	22 Bell Choir 6:00pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	23 Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am Getting Ahead (Rm. 109, Rm. 201) 5:00pm Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 6:00pm	24	25
26 Capitol Area North Charge Conferences 2:30pm	27 Missions (Rm. 210) 6:30pm Walking through Grief (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Boy Scout Meeting (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	28 Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 4:00pm Getting Ahead (Rm. 109, Rm. 201) 5:00pm	29 Bell Choir 6:00pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	30 Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am Getting Ahead (Rm. 109, Rm. 201) 5:00pm	31 Come Join Us Class making Buckeyes Halloween	

September 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 LABOR DAY Office & PSDC Closed Boy Scout Meeting (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	2 Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Neighborhood Supper (St. Paul's Episcopal) 5:15pm SPRC (Rm. 111) 7:00pm	3 PSDC Teachers meeting (Rm. 205) 1:15pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106)	4 Children's Ministry: Selling Popcorn in Courtyard Popcorn Festival Parade Membership & Nurture (Rm. 111) 5:15pm	5 Popcorn Festival	6 Popcorn Festival Prayer Quilt Ministry (Rm. 111) 11:00am
7 Children's Choir Practice Begins Directory Picture Sign Ups Sunday School Kick-Off Preschool Meet the Teacher 2:00pm	8 Preschool Begins/Orientation Day PSDC (Rm. 109, Rm. 112) 9:00am United Methodist Women (Rm. 208) 6:30pm Walking through Grief (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Boy Scout Meeting (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	9 Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Evelyn Kendal Circle (Rm. 205) 1:00pm Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 4:00pm Children's Council (Rm. 210) 6:30pm	10 Bell Choir 6:00pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	11 Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am Parenting 1,2,3,4 Class (Rm. 201, Rm. 205) 1:30pm Circles: Allies and Families 5:30pm Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 6:00pm Trustees Meeting and Tour (Rm. 210) 6:00pm	12	13
14 1st Sunday for Choir Directory Picture Sign Ups Hamilton Book Study (Rm. 109) 5:00pm	15 NEWSLETTER INFORMATION DUE Lay Leadership (Rm. 109) 6:00pm Walking through Grief (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Boy Scout Meeting (Rm. 106) 7:00pm PSDC Board (Rm. 210) 7:00pm	16 Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am DC4K (Rm. 206) 6:30pm Finance Committee (Rm. 210) 6:30pm Divorce Care (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Stewardship Committee (Rm. 205) 7:30pm	17 Bell Choir 6:00pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	18 Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am Parenting 1,2,3,4 Class (Rm. 201, Rm. 205) 1:30pm Administrative Council 7:00pm	19	20
21 Congo Team Sharing Directory Picture Sign Ups FESTIVAL OF SHARING KITS DUE Hamilton Book Study (Rm. 109) 5:00pm	22 Worship service at Kingston 6:00pm Missions (Rm. 210) 6:30pm Walking through Grief (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Boy Scout Meeting (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	23 Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 4:00pm Divorce Care (Rm. 205) 6:30pm DC4K (Rm. 206) 6:30pm	24 Bell Choir 6:00pm Bible Study (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Nar-Anon (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	25 Bible Study (Rm. 210) 10:00am Parenting 1,2,3,4 Class (Rm. 201, Rm. 205) 1:30pm Quilt Class (Rm. 111) 6:00pm	26	27 Festival of Sharing - Otterbein University 8:00am
28 Directory Picture Sign Ups Worship at Primrose 2:00pm Hamilton Book Study (Rm. 109) 5:00pm	29 Walking through Grief (Rm. 205) 6:30pm Boy Scout Meeting (Rm. 106) 7:00pm	30 Men's Breakfast 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am DC4K (Rm. 206) 6:30pm Divorce Care (Rm. 205) 6:30pm				

Epworth News

Epworth United Methodist Church
249 East Center Street
Marion, Ohio 43302-3873

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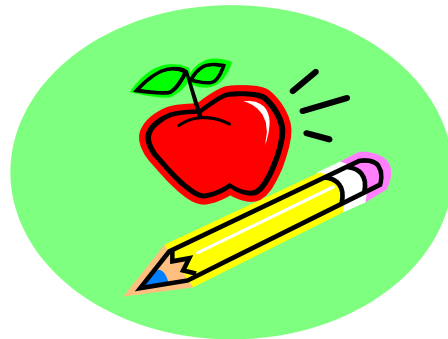
Marion, OH 43302

Permit No. 41

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

God's Love in Action
Growing Disciples Through Compassionate Relationships



A Back To School Prayer...

Loving God, sometimes a new school year seems exciting or scary or both. Sometimes school is great, and sometimes it is hard. But we know that whether we are excited or scared, you are with us. We know that whether school is great or hard, you are with us. We thank you for always being with us. Help us to remember to show our thanks for your gift of learning by doing our best every day. Amen.