



Epworthy News

God's Love in Action
Growing Disciples through Compassionate Relationships

May 2017

Epworth United Methodist Church

249 E. Center Street

Marion, Ohio 43302

740-387-8344

churchoffice@epworthumc.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Friday 9:30 am—3:30 pm

Sunday Worship

8:30 am Worship

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship

Rev. David L. Hoffman

Pastor

Alycia Orcena

Director of Ministries
with Children and Families

Molly Levings

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Paula Aparis

Financial Secretary

Paula Dunn

Church Secretary

Pat Murphy

Director of Chancel
and Bell Choirs

Kathy Walczak

Organist

Connie Slob

Head Custodian

Aaron Breece

Part-Time Custodian

Page Gustin

Preschool/Daycare Director

Outstretched Hands

Since the Middle Ages, when armed soldiers approached each other, they extended empty hands in order to show that they were advancing in peace. Today, in our society and within our culture, our out-stretched hands still provide us with many opportunities. By extending our hands, we are able to define our own personal space that exists around us. By extending our hands, we are able to ward off potential conflict. By extending our hands in prayer, we are able to show reverence to God. By extending our hands, we are able to reach out and offer help to others. By wetting a finger and extending our hand, we are able to tell which way the wind is blowing; or by extending our hands, we are able to determine if the sprinkle on our face is from a squirt gun or from rain that is falling from the sky. By extending our hand, we are able to shake the hand that is stretching out to us and wave back to the hand that is waving to us.

It is this last opportunity -- the one of welcoming and being welcomed – that we are called to imitate and celebrate. This is not just an opportunity; it is a privilege to share in the experience of welcoming and being welcomed into the lives of others.

In Matthew 10:40-42, Jesus deals with welcoming -- but not in the usual way that we think of when it comes to welcoming and showing hospitality to others. Jesus turns the tables, and we become the ones who are being welcomed and shown hospitality. We are the ones to whom the outstretched hand is being extended. Instead of being the ones who are offering the hospitality and welcome, we are urged by this text to be the ones who will receive the hospitality and welcome from others. These instructions of Jesus come at the end of a section of scripture where Jesus is briefing the disciples upon what they can expect, as they set out in mission to serve others. “Whoever welcomes you, welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple -- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

I am sure that the disciples must have been really confused when they first heard Jesus’ words. I am sure that questions were raised in their minds as to why Jesus was giving them instructions that seemed more appropriate for the individuals and crowds who were to welcome them instead of the one’s being sent out. Did Jesus have the wrong note cards? Were there crowds surrounding them that just are not mentioned in the text? I don’t think so. I believe that this message was meant for the disciples. And I am sure, that after some reflection, the disciples came to understand that Jesus used these instructions as a way to help them to define their own identity; as a way to help them to understand their calling; and as a final test to their willingness to be sent out to others.

Jesus’ instructions can help us to be a more welcoming congregation. It can help us as individuals to be more welcoming and welcome-able.

We, like the disciples, are called to be welcomed into the lives of others, and because of this, it is necessary for us to routinely examine ourselves. “Whoever welcomes you, welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me.” These instructions give the disciples an identity as it relates the disciples to Jesus and then to God. The disciples are to represent Christ. They are to receive the welcome and hospitality that is extended to them.

If we think about it, each time that we are seen as a representative of Christ and are willing to receive the hospitality that is extended to us, we are providing an opportunity for the one that is welcoming us to receive Christ into their midst. What if we brought this awareness of our role and identity into every interaction? How would that change our interactions with our family, our co-workers, or even those with whom we disagree?

Would the awareness of our identity change our actions and attitudes and allow us to be better welcomed and welcoming of others?

As followers of Christ, each of us have taken on the same identity as rooted in our baptism, but in no way are we to be considered identical. I am reminded of this daily by being an identical twin and then by raising identical twins. Several folks have shared with me the implied insight that being a twin should make it easier to raise twins. I am not sure that is the case. The only thing that growing up as a twin has afforded me is the knowledge of how much trouble, by acting together, that twins can get into.

As Christians, we each have the same identity, but we are in no way called to be identical. Each of us has been gifted in different ways. God has created us to be and become unique individuals. We are called to be good stewards and use those unique gifts and abilities in representing Christ to others.

Our identity as followers of Christ calls us to recognize that we are not only connected to Christ, but that we are also connected with one another. We are called to share the burdens, the cares, and the concerns of all of those around us. We are challenged to value and honor all of God's creation and respect the differences and diversity that exists within that creation, recognizing that each of us has been created uniquely and perfectly in the image of God.

The text refers to the disciples as being welcomed as those who are the bearers of differing gifts. Jesus says that some are to be welcomed as prophets; some as righteous persons; and some as disciples.

In the 12th chapter of First Corinthians, Paul elaborates on this theme of identity and speaks about the different gifts that each of us have been given. "Now there are varieties gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom; and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another the working of miracles; and to another -- prophecy...For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body..."

Each of us is given the responsibility to share the gifts that we have been given. Each of us must be willing to use these gifts as we seek to be welcomed by others. We must not put our gifts out of the reach of one another. We must use the gifts that we have been given to help one another. When we are invited to respond to hands that our outstretched to us.

As this text suggests, our identity and our gifts are useless unless we are willing to be welcomed by others. In order to be welcomed, we must be willing to put ourselves in a position to be welcomed by others. Sometimes this requires us to be sent out to unfamiliar territory away from areas of security and familiar surroundings. Sometimes this requires us to recognize the hospitality of those whom we have neglected that live right around us. Sometimes this requires us to allow ourselves to become dependent upon others who can offer their help and assistance.

Some of you may be asking, "What are the benefits for putting oneself in the position to be welcomed?" Jesus, in his instructions to the disciples, speaks of a reward -- a reward given both to those who are sent out and to those who welcome the ones being sent. This reward is the gift of relationship and the grace and the peace that God offers. This relationship, grace, and peace is offered to us because of the one who first made himself available to be welcomed -- the one whose hands are outstretched; the one whose hands were outstretched to heal the sick; the ones whose hands were outstretched to teach the disciples a way of peace; the one whose hands were outstretched to welcome the strangers; the one whose hands were outstretched offering water to the woman at the well; the one whose hands reach out to welcome us. Let us go and do likewise!

White Roses

A white rose was placed on the altar during worship in celebration of the life of the following individual:

- Rick Gilbert, the husband of Sharon Gilbert, the father of Stefanie (Julie) Beeney, and the grandfather of Kensie, who died on March 25, 2017.

We remember his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Red Roses

A red rose was placed on the altar during worship to celebrate the births of the following individuals:

- Dawson William Dranschak, the son of Chris and Melissa Dranschak, who was born on March 19th. The proud grandparents are Joe and Jeannie Dranschak. The proud great-grandmother is Jeannine Caudill.
- Jace Matthew Forry, the son of Matt and Jena Forry, who was born on April 6th. The proud grandparents are Bob and Marilyn Forry. The proud great-grandmother is Nancy Dasher.

Prayer Quilts

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

- Marty Voll for successful treatments and healing.
- Jace Matthew Forry for a happy and healthy life.
- James Daniel Ulmer for confidence in the medical team, successful surgery, and patience during recovery.
- Alice McGraw for healing and strength.

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

Pastoral Visits and Holy Communion

Rev. Hoffman visits regularly with persons who cannot always make it to church and with those who are residents at assisted living and extended care facilities. Often these requests come from individuals themselves and sometimes from family members. If you would like Rev. Hoffman to visit and to bring Holy Communion, please call the Church Office, and a visit will be scheduled.

Thank You

Thank you so much for awarding me a very generous grant to help support my college education. This scholarship will help me achieve my goal and I am very appreciative.

Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Boston Osborne

Thank you Epworth UMC for including me as a scholarship recipient for 2017. I am very excited about attending the Methodist Theological Seminary (MTSO) in the fall, and more excited about the path that it may lead me as I continue to work with the children and families here at Epworth.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Alycia Orcena

Women4Women Knitting for Peace

Greetings to everyone from Westerville. I will again be collecting knitted items for Women4Women Knitting for Peace in August. We appreciate all your hard work. Finished items can be taken to the church office for safe-keeping until I come to retrieve them.

Thank you!
Jackie Mitchell

Membership Classes

Join us for our next series of membership classes to be held on Wednesdays, May 10th and 17th from 6:00pm until 7:30pm in the Pastor's Office. Whether you are new to the church or have been attending for a while, you are invited to be with us. Those participating in the class will be received into membership on Sunday, May 21st at the 10:30am worship service. If you would like to sign up for the class, would like more information, or have questions, please contact the church office at 740-387-8344 or at churchoffice@epworthumc.org

Children's Council

There will be a Children's Council Meeting on Sunday, May 7th, at 9:15am in Pastor David's Office. There will not be Children's Council Meetings during June and July.

Dinner and a Movie for Grown Ups!

What about a dinner and a movie for grown ups? Join us on Friday, May 26th for dinner and a movie in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a potluck dish (popcorn will be served during the movie). Dinner will begin at 6:00 pm, with the movie following about 6:45 pm. Please bring a lawn chair or comfy chair to sit on to enjoy the movie.

Movie Hint: the story of three women who work as engineers, computer programmers, and mathematicians at NASA and through their dedication, talent, and knowledge, help to put more than one man in space!

LEAPIN' OUTREACH MINISTRY May Focus

This important ministry helps people in need in the Marion area. All personal needs items donated by Epworth members support this ministry. The focus item for May is **toilet paper**. Place items in the basket outside the church office near the food pantry items. Thanks for making a difference!

WisdomKeepers

WisdomKeepers will meet on Thursday June 1st, at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall. Please consider joining us for devotions, hymns, communion, and lunch. If you are in need of transportation, please call the church office at 740-387-8344. The elevator doors are open anytime after 10:30am.

"Be patient, God isn't finished with us yet."

Honoring Graduates...

In an effort to honor, celebrate, and recognize those who will be graduating from high school and college, we invite you to submit the names of those graduating, the school and/or degree, and if they are continuing their education, where they will be attending in the fall and what degree they will be pursuing. If you are receiving or have received a college degree at any point during the 2016-2017 school year, please submit that information to the church office at churchoffice@epworthumc.org. Names submitted by May 15th will be honored on Graduation Sunday, May 21st.

Neighborhood Supper

Epworth UMC will be hosting the neighborhood supper at St. Paul's Episcopal on Tuesday, May 2nd. It starts at 5:15pm, and we prepare the meal right before we serve the people in our community who come to the dinner. Extra hands are always appreciated. For more information contact the church office at 740-387-8344.

Hospitalized? Having Surgery? Need Pastoral Care? Please contact the church office at 740-387-8344 or call Rev. Hoffman directly at 614-949-7570 so that we may be attentive to your needs. (NOTE: The hospitals are no longer allowed to notify the church when anyone is admitted; therefore, it is up to the family to let us know if this happens.)



Vacation Bible School

Epworth UMC VBS

June 12–16th

9:00 am—11:45 am

Grades:

Preschool—6th Graders

All are welcome!

Register online at:

<http://2017.cokesburyvbs.com/epworth2017> or

complete the form below

Epworth UMC VBS

(register online or fill out this form)

<http://2017cokesburyvbs.com/epworth2017>

Child's Name: _____

Date of Birth: / / Age: _____ Grade Completed: _____

Gender: Male Female

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Special Needs/Allergies: _____

Person responsible for picking up at VBS: _____

Phone number: _____

Relationship to child: _____

T-shirt size: XS S M L XL Adult S Adult M Adult L Adult XL
(\$7.00 each)

Do you agree to allow photos of your children to be used in church presentations or promotional materials?

Yes No

Epworth UMC Mission Committee



On behalf of Leapin' Outreach and the Missions Committee we would like to thank you for your generous donations of clothing, bedding, towels and shoes. We collected over 6 truckloads of items. This picture is just part of what was collected that day.

Once again

The Mission Committee thanks you!

Preschool/Daycare



April was very busy at Epworth Preschool & Daycare! The Easter Bunny came to visit and hide Easter eggs on Good Friday. Daycare classes got to search in the courtyard to find eggs filled with treats!

Students in all Preschool and Daycare classes have made art all year long that was displayed in the hallway during the Week of the Young Child Art Fair! Drawings, paintings, and crafts lined the hallways with works from our little artists. Students and teachers also celebrated the week by having a Spirit Week. Each day, everyone at the PSDC wore a special outfit for each day of the week. We had so much fun!

In May, we will celebrate PSDC teachers with Teacher Appreciation Week (May 1-5) and a PSDC Staff Appreciation Dinner on May 23rd. Committees from the church graciously provide small gifts for the teachers during their week, while PSDC Board members provide the dinner. We are so lucky to have congregational support of the Preschool & Daycare! Thank you all so much!

We will have a few housekeeping projects this summer to do in the Daycare. If you would like to help out "behind the scenes", please contact the Director, Page Gustin for more details (pgustin@epworthumc.org or 740-387-1062). Volunteers will be needed to help clean out a few storage areas. Let her know if you are willing to help. ☺

Enrollment for Fall Classes is fast approaching. If someone you know is looking for a Preschool or Daycare, please invite them to fill out an enrollment packet. They are available at the Front Desk, Monday – Friday from 6am – 6pm.



Epworth Travelers

Butterflies and Paints- - Friday, May 19th Travel just a short distance, but have a day filled with much to see, do, and experience! We will visit the Columbus Museum of Art in the morning and the Franklin Park Conservatory in the afternoon. Many new exhibits will be available to view, as well as year round exhibits at both places. Lunch will be on your own, and you can choose to eat in the museum café, the conservatory, or pack a picnic. There will be a mystery stop en route back to Marion. The cost is \$64.00 per person. The deadline to register is May 15th. The tour departs at 8:45am and returns at approximately 6:00pm.

United Methodist Women: Epworth Women in Action

All women of the church are invited to join us for the annual Spring Fling and bring along any significant women in your lives. Bring your mother, daughter, aunt, friend, etc! The date is Monday, May 8. The gathering will begin at 6:00pm with light appetizers, and the delicious meal will be served at 6:30pm. The menu is ham loaf, cheesy potatoes, BBQ green beans, tossed salad, rolls/butter, and pudding. The program is Believe (Christian Singing Group). Tickets will be available before and after church April 23, April 30, and May 7. You may also email or call Carole Agler at cagler@roadrunner.com or 740-389-3547. There is no charge for tickets; we just need to know how many we will be serving.

-- Carole Agler UMW President

Health and Wellness

Heat Emergencies

Imagine: you and your friends finally made it to a baseball game between your favorite team and their biggest rival. It is an afternoon game in August and the hottest day of the year, as luck would have it. The seats were close to the top with no shade. You can almost guess what happens - One of your friends becomes unresponsive. What is happening and what can you do?

Heat illnesses can result when people become overheated in a hot environment and heat emergencies can be life threatening. Three things that can occur are heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.

Heat cramps are caused by activity in a hot environment, are usually in the lower legs or stomach muscles, and may occur along with heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Symptoms include muscle pain, cramping, spasms, and heavy sweating. Have the person stop the activity, sit quietly in a cool place, and give them a sports drink or water. For abdominal cramps, continue resting in a comfortable position. For leg cramps, stretch the muscle by extending the leg and flexing the ankle. Apply pressure to the cramped area.

Heat exhaustion is caused by activity in a hot environment, and usually causes heavy sweating. This may lead to dehydration, and depletion of salt and electrolytes in the body, if the person does not get enough fluids. Unrelieved heat exhaustion may develop into heat-stroke, a true medical emergency. Symptoms include heavy sweating, thirst, fatigue, and heat cramps. Later signs and symptoms include headache, dizziness, nausea, and vomiting. Move the victim from the heat to rest in a cool place. Loosen or remove unnecessary clothing. Give a sports drink or water to drink, if they are able to swallow without vomiting. Cool the victim by placing wet clothes on the forehead and body, sponge the skin with cool water or spray the skin with water from a spray bottle. Seek medical care if the person does not improve within 30 minutes.

Heat stroke is a life-threatening emergency and is more common during hot summer months. It may develop slowly over several days, or more rapidly when engaged in strenuous activity in the heat. The victim may be dehydrated and not sweating when heatstroke gradually develops, or may be sweating heavily from exertion. Convulsions and cardiac arrest can occur in extreme cases. Heatstroke causes a body temperature of 104 degrees or higher and is different from heat exhaustion:

- In heatstroke, the victim's skin is flushed and feels very hot to the touch; in heat exhaustion, the skin may be pale and clammy.
- In heatstroke, the victim becomes very confused and irrational and may become unresponsive or have convulsions; in heat exhaustion the victim is dizzy or disoriented.

Call 911, move the person to a cool place, and remove outer clothing. Cool the victim quickly by one or more of the following: wrap the victim in a wet sheet and keep it wet; sponge the victim with cold water; spray the skin with water from a spray bottle then fan the area and/or place ice bags or cool packs beside the neck, armpits, and groin. Keep cooling the victim until their temperature drops to approximately 100 degrees. Start cardiopulmonary resuscitation as needed and protect a victim having convulsions from injury.

To prevent heat emergencies wear loose, lightweight clothing, rest frequently in shady or cool areas, drink adequate fluids both prior to and during activity, and avoid exertion if overweight or elderly. Avoid strenuous activities from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. in summer months.

Sources: National Safety Council – *First Aid, CPR, and AED*; Ohio Dept. of Public Safety: *First Aid Handbook for Child Day Care Personnel*

-- Jeannine Caudill

Chapel Hill House Work Day

Chapel Hill House will be hosting their annual Spring Community Work Day on Saturday, May 6th from 9 am to 2 pm. We invite all those who would like to share the opportunity to prepare the outdoor areas of the cabin and the woods for our opening season. Our day's work will involve everything from carrying wood, painting picnic tables, to hauling stone, and cleaning the playground area. All ages, individuals, groups, and talents are welcome, but please be cautious of small children attending as there will be large machinery used that day. A light lunch will be served to nourish all of the generous souls who have given their time to help families with children dealing with cancer. It's amazing how much fun hard work can be when we all work together for such a wonderful cause. Bring a pair of work gloves and maybe a pair of boots! God bless you all. For more information about Chapel Hill House visit

www.chapelhillhouse.org Although signing up is not necessary, we would like to have an idea as to the number attending so we can be sure to have enough food. Please call Annie Joseph at 740-360-4273. Thank you!

Summer Camp

Don't forget to register your child(ren) for summer church camp. Scholarships of \$100 for a single camper to one camp and \$150 for a family to a weekend family camp are available thanks to the generosity of Epworth UMC church members and Children's Council Scholarship Fund fundraisers. Please complete your online registration for your camper, print out your confirmation receipt, and submit to Alycia Orcena for reimbursement up to the allocated scholarship amount. Please register at

www.westohiocamps.com Catalogs are available in Alycia's office.



Men's Chorus

Calling all men! A men's chorus is forming now to sing in Church on a Sunday in June.

Please indicate your interest to the Church office at 740-387-8344 or Dan Erickson at daerickson@roadrunner.com

Family Camp

CALLING ALL FAMILIES

You are invited to join Epworth families and attend the West Ohio United Methodist Summer Family Camp, July 21-23, held at beautiful Camp Otterbein near Logan, Ohio. For the past two years, we have sent families to this weekend outdoor getaway and a good time has been had by all. Wouldn't it be even more fun, if we all went together!? Check your calendar and let's get registered! Families can be defined in ANY combination—parent(s), grandparent(s), siblings, cousins, etc! Gather together with your family and take time to renew your love and connections with one another. This weekend provides the setting for laughter, play, relaxation, and a chance to rekindle the fire of your faith together. While at camp, take a moment to look at each family member's God-given gifts and their unique strengths. Enjoy all the favorite camp activities like swimming, cooking out, getting messy in the mud pit, and riding down the giant waterslide. It's the perfect time for fellowship and intimacy with the family.

Lodging: You will stay together as a family during much of the weekend, especially overnight. You will stay in air conditioned cabins, have the option to stay in one of the treehouses, or bring your own tent!

UMW—Women-in-Action
presents...

Annual Spring Fling

Let Your Faith Bloom!

Monday, May 8th

Gathering at 6:00 pm
light appetizers
Meal served at 6:30 pm

Menu:

Ham Loaf
Cheesy Potatoes
BBQ Green Beans
Tossed Salad
Rolls/Butter
Pudding

Program:

Believe,
(Christian Singing Group)

Epworthy News

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

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage PAID

Marion, OH 43302

Permit No. 41

Rev. David L. Hoffman, Pastor
Alycia Orcena, Director of Ministries with Children and Families
Molly Levings, Youth Ministry Coordinator
Page Gustin, Director of Epworth Preschool and Daycare

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

God's Love in Action
Growing Disciples Through Compassionate Relationships

Please Note:

**The Church Office will be closed on
Monday, May 29th for Memorial
Day.**