



Epworth News

God's Love in Action
Growing Disciples through Compassionate Relationships

September 2019

First Fruits

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

Lisa West
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

Dessiree Thomas
Preschool/Daycare Director

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.” -- James 1:17-22 (NRSV)

As a child, fall began for me - not with the beginning of school, nor the cooler weather - but with taking a car ride up to Millroad Orchard just north of Marion on Rt. 23. It was a yearly trip to get the first fruits of autumn -- the first picking of apples. I can remember rushing home to wash off an apple and taking that first bite. If we were lucky, mom had her stash of Kraft caramels in the pantry to make caramel apples, or she would have her recipe for apple pie with cinnamon crumb topping sitting on the counter. Who can resist those first fruits of fall -- that crisp, juicy bite of the first apple, the taste of mouth-watering apple cider, the unmistakable beauty of leaves turning colors?

My grandmother would resist those leaves turning colors and eventually falling off the trees. For her, it meant that her grandsons were back in school, and she would be alone in doing her yard work. (And now, Melissa and I have lost our two lawnmowers to Ohio Northern!) You see, there were three seasons in my grandmother’s life: grass, leaves, and snow – and she hated them all. I spent a lot of time at my grandparent’s house growing up – it was a home away from home. They lived just around the corner. I loved spending the night with them and taking inventory of what was in their house.

Grandma Avis always had this bowl filled with fruit sitting on top of the hutch. It was constantly overflowing with apples, oranges, bananas, and grapes. We were not allowed to touch it (in fact, I don’t recall anyone ever touching it). It was an elegant bowl, one that anyone would be happy to take to the “Antique Roadshow” to have appraised. (Somehow the bowl found its way to my sister’s house and was knocked off her hutch by a rambunctious dog, shattering it to a million pieces on the floor.) I always remember a heaping collection of fruit contained in that bowl and somehow, mysteriously, the fruit in the bowl never changed position. I unraveled the mystery when I was around four years old. When no one was looking, I took a risk. I will never forget the sensation as I popped that first grape in my mouth. The texture was like no other grape that I had ever had before – it was made of rubber. But it looked so real!

Can we taste the difference? James calls each one of us to be first fruits – not a mere representation of what we were created to be. It may look real...it may even feel real. But the truth is, it’s only plastic, plaster, wood, or wax. It is an imitation. It is only for show and decoration. It has no nutritional value. We are called to be so much more. In fulfillment of God’s own purpose, God gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would be and become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

James gives us some instructions on how we might be the first fruits that God has created us to be. One commentator suggests that “James is reminding us that Christians

are not simply willing to get through life . . . that disciples look to God for standards of behavior which challenge the conventional standards of society.”

First and foremost, James tells us that we are to be quick to listen and slow to speak. James reminds us that we are to listen and educate ourselves before we speak – we are to consider all sides of the debate before entering into it – we are to take the time to listen, and only then, form a response that is faithful to the word of truth that has been planted within us.

Have we listened to others: as a church, community, nation, and as the world – recognizing the most vulnerable and the most neglected in our midst; especially when it comes to the discussions that are taking place...about poverty, healthcare, drug abuse, the economy, and the myriad of other issues facing us? Or have we formed a reaction before the issues are even on the table? Or, worse yet, before everyone seated at the table or those who have not yet even been invited to the table have had an opportunity to speak? Are we quick to listen and slow to speak? Can you taste the difference between what James is calling us to become and what society is pulling us to be?

Next, we are to be slow to anger. We are to imitate the kind of patience that Paul speaks of in his letter to the church at Corinth... “...love is to be patient...not arrogant or rude.” (1 Corinthians 13) James tells his hearers that human anger can never become a vehicle for divine justice and that God’s work is a work of peace.

Above all, we are to be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. This “doing” is not about feelings – what feels right for us to do or doing what only makes us feel good. This “doing” is not contingent upon how much time we have to set aside in our busy schedules or what we can fit into our over-scheduled lives. This doing God’s work needs to happen amid life – in everything that we do - not just in a set-apart time for service and ministry.

Can we taste the difference?

Blessings, David



White Rose

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

Bruce A. Campbell, the brother of Linda (Jed) Middleton, died on August 3, 2019.

We remember his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Prayer Quilts

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

- Gary Cox III for a healthy recovery,
- Carolyn Treanor Miller for successful recovery from a stroke,
- Deborah Bennett for peace of mind,
- Faith Taylor for a happy and healthy life.

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

Prayer Quilt Ministry

The Prayer Quilt Ministry is an important part of Epworth’s Outreach Ministry, giving hope and love to persons in a time of need or praise for special events. You are invited to join in the fellowship and creative art of quilt making. The joy happens when someone receives a quilt. Often, stories return of how it gave comfort to the receivers, allowing them to know that they are not alone. Our days and times are as follows:

1st Saturday of the month

11:00 am—2:00 pm

2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month

4:00 pm—6:00 pm

2nd and 4th Thursday of the month

4:00 pm—6:00 pm

LEAPIN’ OUTREACH CENTER September Focus

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

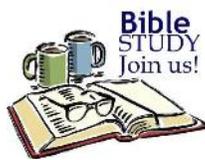
Pastoral Visits and Holy Communion

Rev. Hoffman visits regularly with persons who cannot always make it to church, as well as 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.

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.)

Staying Connected

Each Friday, the Church Office emails out an "E-blast" (Constant Contact Email) to the entire congregation updating us on important happenings in the life of our church. We want everyone to stay connected and informed. If you are not receiving the "E-blast," please check your spam folder or send us an email at churchoffice@epworthumc.org to make sure that we have your current email and contact information. Thanks for helping us to keep you connected and involved.



Our Wednesday Night Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, September 4th. We will meet in the Parlor from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. We hope you will join us.

Epworth's Kids Explorer's Club

We are offering something new this fall for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders while the youth group is meeting upstairs in the youth room. We will gather in the Coffee Shop for a meal and activity. Epworth Kids Explorer's Club will provide opportunities for older school-agers to grow on their faith journey and find ways to practice the Fruits of the Spirit with others in their family, their church, their community, and their world.

Sunday School

Children have an innate sense about God's presence. Godly Play invites children to explore their faith through Biblical stories, to gain religious language, and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. Epworth's Godly Play is offered on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:30am with our Joyful Spirits class, welcoming children preschool through Kindergarten, as well as our Bible Explorers welcoming children in 3rd through 5th grades. All are welcome to Epworth's Godly Play sessions.



G1 Youth Group News

Happy Fall everyone! Can't wait for Sunday School and G1 to start up again. I hope you all had a great summer. We will start Sunday School on Rally Day, Sunday, September 8th and plan to have G1 on September 15th from 5-7. If possible, please bring schedules of extra curricular activities so that we can coordinate future G1 events and potentially attend some of these things as a group to support one another. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas please feel free to contact me at 740-360-2700 or email jleffler33@gmail.com.
-- Lisa West, Youth Ministry Coordinator

Altar Flower Sign-Ups

Sign-ups are on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are still Sundays available. Look on the sign-up poster located outside the office door. 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 may contact the Church Office. You will receive a reminder from the Church Office at least one week prior to the Sunday that you have signed up to provide Altar Flowers. At that time, you will be asked the name(s) of the individual(s) whom you would like to memorialize or honor.

Children's Council Meeting

There will be a Children's Council Meeting on Sunday, September 15th at 9:30am in Alycia's office.



The Children's Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 15. We meet downstairs in the choir/music room at 9:00 am. All children ages 4 through grade 5 are welcome. After rehearsal, the children are taken to their Sunday School classes while parents are invited to fellowship in the Coffee Shop. We will provide a schedule of the dates that we will sing for worship when we meet September 15th. See you then!

Miss Melissa and Miss Ruth

Preschool/Daycare

We need YOU!

Epworth Preschool & Daycare will be parking cars in Epworth's parking lot during the Popcorn Festival as a fundraiser on Friday, September 6th and Saturday, September 7th. Please consider signing up for a time slot. Then, when you come to the festival, park in our parking lot and support Epworth Preschool & Daycare.

Time slots needing to be filled are listed to the right. If you would like to help, please complete the form and return it to Epworth Preschool and Daycare. Contact Dessiree at dthomas@epworthumc.org, 740-361-7521 or 740-387-1062 to find out which time slots have been filled and which are still available.

Your help is greatly appreciated! Thank you in advance for your help and support of Epworth Preschool and Daycare.

Parking - Marion Popcorn Festival at EUMC Lot

1/we can help park cars at the following times:

Friday (9/6) 4:00-6:30pm _____

Friday (9/6) 6:30pm-9:00pm _____

Saturday (9/7) 3:00pm-5:00pm _____

Saturday (9/7) 5:00pm-7:00pm _____

Saturday (9/7) 7:00pm-9:00pm _____

Name(s) _____

Phone Number _____



Card Making Ministry

We **will not** be having our card making ministry on Monday, September 2nd. See you on Monday, October 7th.

United Methodist Women- Women in Action

Our first gathering after summer break will be Monday, September 9th at 6:30 in the Parlor. UMW will be serving a meal after the 10:30 Service on Sunday, September 22nd. UMW will be volunteering at Leapin Ministries on Thursday, September 19th at 9:15 a.m. Meet in the church parking lot at 9:15 or meet us there whenever you can. UMW has committed to assembling flood buckets for the Festival of Sharing. If you are interested in participating in purchasing items or helping to assemble them, please contact Carole Agler cagler@roadrunner.com, or 740-361-5597. Looking ahead, UMW will be taking orders in early October for Take and Bake Casseroles again! All women of Epworth are invited and encouraged to join us for any of our events or activities. We are beginning a new year, so it's a great time to start if you have been considering coming! We would love to have you! -- Carole Agler, UMW President

WisdomKeepers

WisdomKeepers will gather on Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall. We start with devotions and communion followed by singing hymns and a luncheon tea. This event will be a special treat; Joy Boyer has graciously agreed to host a Mad Hatter Tea Party. You are invited to bring a favorite teacup and saucer if you like. If you would like to wear a Mad Hatter hat, that will add to the fun. Please feel free to invite a friend and join us for fun and fellowship. Hope to see you on October 3rd.

BE PATIENT;
GOD ISN'T FINISHED WITH US YET!!!

News from UMC Missions

Let Leapin' Outreach help you with your unwanted clothing items! On Sunday, October 6th (one day only) before and after church, the Mission Committee will be on hand in the church parking lot to take your donations. We will be collecting clothing, shoes, blankets, and towels. Clothing and shoes are needed for all ages from infants to adults. Bring your items with you to church on October 6th, and items will be taken directly to Leapin' Outreach. The Missions Committee and Leapin' Outreach thank you for your help!



**Come join us for a
Rally Day Luau!**

Sunday September 8th
in the West parking lot
following the 10:30 service

Please RSVP to the church office

Thank You, Epworth!!!

Here is the final report on the knitting items collected from Epworth. I was "blown away" by your support of this ministry! We sent over 100 more donated items than last year! We received 112 hats for kids, 14 preemie hats, 31 baby bunting/hats, 58 wash cloths, 1 adult hat, 6 baby blankets, 2 scarves for kids, 1 headband, 10 large adult scarves, 9 large scarves, 4 small blankets, 6 mittens, 6 peace pal dolls, and 1 blanket. There were 261 items. In addition to the items \$385.00 was collected and will be used for shipping and as a donation to Knitting4Peace.

Thanks again for your generosity.
Blessings, Jackie Mitchell



Epworth Family Hayride and Cookout

Join us Sunday, October 6, for our annual evening of fun and fellowship at the farm! Our event will be 4:00pm - 6:00pm at Lehner's Farm located at 2920 OH-203 Radnor. The cost for Children and Adults is \$6 and \$3 for Seniors. which includes hayride and activities. Hotdogs and 's'more fixin's will be provided. Please bring a side dish, dessert, or snack to share. Please pay at the door; just let them know you are with Epworth UMC to receive the discount.

Epworth Fall Trips



All trips are escorted and led by Pastor David Hoffman and/or Alycia Orcena and open to Epworth members, guests, friends, and family. Unless otherwise noted, your ticket price is all inclusive and includes transportation on a luxury coach, entrance fees, driver tip, and an afternoon snack. Lunch is on your own. Mark your calendars for the following fall trips: (A \$25.00 deposit will hold your space, with the balance to be paid one week prior to departure.)

- ⇒ **Friday, September 20th - First Ladies Tour** - \$79.00 (8:15am departure) Join us as we travel to the First Ladies Museum with our own special guest tour guide, the Reverend Daniel Kiger. Our day will find us visiting a variety of places, as well as a stop for lunch, as we learn about the First Ladies and some Ohio connections.
- ⇒ **Tuesday, October 15th - Sweet Stops of Ohio** - \$79.00 (8:30am departure) Join us for a tour to the eastern parts of Ohio where we will find some yummy, sweet stops. This could include a sweet jams, ice cream, chocolate, and of course, a bakery. A stop at Lehman's General Store is on the list, as well as a nice place for lunch.
- ⇒ **Thursday, November 7th - Ohio's Wild West** - \$79.00 (8:15am departure) After two tours to the eastern parts of Ohio, perhaps we should journey out west to see where the buffalo of Ohio roam...or at least the home of a famous sharp shooter.
- ⇒ **Monday, December 2nd - Christmas Mystery Tour** - \$79.00 (9:00am departure) Join us for our 4th annual Christmas Mystery Tour. Our day will include some holiday sights and sounds, an opportunity for unique holiday shopping, and of course, some lights before returning home. Note the 9:00am departure, as we will arrive back to Epworth after dark. Please feel free to come into the church to see the holiday displays before boarding the bus.

- First Ladies Tour (Friday, September 20th) \$79.00 (\$25.00 will hold a seat)
- Sweet Stops of Ohio (Tuesday, October 15th) \$79.00 (\$25.00 will hold a seat)
- Ohio's Wild West (Thursday, November 7th) \$79.00 (\$25.00 will hold a seat)
- Christmas Mystery Tour (Monday, December 2nd) \$79.00 (\$25.00 will hold a seat)

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Please circle one: senior admission (60+) general admission (18-59)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please make checks payable to Epworth UMC with Epworth Travelers in the subject line
Return registration form and payment to Alycia Orcena, Epworth UMC, 249 E. Center Street, Marion, Ohio 43302 Questions: Call 740.387.8344 or email: aorcena@epworthumc.org

Festival of Sharing

This year, we will focus on flood buckets due to the many areas that have had flooding and tornados.

Our goal is to assemble 20 Emergency Cleanup Buckets along with Hygiene Kits and School Kits. Please use the lists of kit items shown below. There will be a display table in the hallway outside of the church office with boxes (either under or next to the table). You may place any items which you are willing to donate into the boxes provided. This display will be in place from August through September 8, 2019, and we will assemble the kits on September 10. For more information, visit www.fosohio.org or www.cwsglobal.org.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support,
Linda Middleton

ASSEMBLING KITS

All items must be new.

No additional items should be added to the kits.

Do not include personal notes, artwork, checks, or cash.

Do not decorate kits and components with religious or governmental symbols.

View kit assembly videos at cwskits.org.

Emergency Cleanup Buckets enable people to manage the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood, hurricane, tornado, or other disaster here in the United States.

Supplies needed:

- One five gallon bucket with re-sealable lid (if bucket has been used, clean well; but do not use if it has held chemicals of any kind)
- Four scouring pads
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen reusable cleaning towels (e.g. Easy Wipes)
- One 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) only—liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-16 oz. bottle of liquid household cleaner that can be mixed with water (no spray bottles)
- One package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline (two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.)
- Five dust masks
- Two heavy duty waterproof/dishwashing gloves
- One pair work gloves-cotton with leather palm or all leather
- 24-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll and removed from carton
- One 6 to 9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent

All cleaning items must be new; all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tightly and seal with packing tape.

Value: \$75 Processing cost: \$3 per Kit



Hygiene Kits make all the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

Supplies needed:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15x28 to 16x32 (no fingertip, bath, dish towel, or microfiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package
- One bath size bar of soap in the wrapper
- One toothbrush in the package
- Ten standard size Band-Aids

All items need to fit inside a one-gallon plastic zipper closure bag. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal before boxing. Do not add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each Hygiene Kit just prior to its journey.

Value: \$15 Processing cost: \$2 per Kit



CWS Kit Collection

The United Methodist Women and the Mission Committee invite us to gather items and assemble kits for the annual Church World Service Festival of Sharing. You may work individually, as a family, with co-workers, or with a small group to gather and assemble kits. **Completed kits may be brought to the church on or before Sunday, September 8, 2019.**

Church World Service Festival of Sharing
September 14, 2019
Otterbein University, 33 Collegeview Road
Westerville, OH 43081

School Kits give children in impoverished communities and refugee camps some of the basic tools for learning.

Supplies needed:

- One pair of blunt scissors removed from the package (rounded tip only)
- Three 70-count bound notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper)
- One 30-centimeter/12" ruler
- One hand-held pencil sharpener removed from the package
- One large eraser (no pencil cap erasers)
- Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers (remove from the package)
- One box of 24 crayons
- One 12"x14" to 14"x17" finished size cotton or lightweight, kid-friendly or solid colored (no logos) canvas bag with cloth handles (no reusable shopping bags or backpacks)

• All items must be packed inside of the cloth bag. The website myshopangel.com has affordable bag options for purchase.

Value: \$15 Processing cost: \$2 per Kit



Eat a Heart Healthy Diet.

- The nutrition facts on the food label can help you make healthy food choices.
- Choose foods that are 'low salt' or 'low sodium'.
- Limit foods that have 'trans fat'. Too much trans fat can cause heart attacks.
- Cut back on sugar. Sugar is also labeled as 'glucose', 'fructose', 'sucrose', and 'corn syrup'.

**Know the Signs of a Heart Attack.**

The signs of a heart attack can be different for women than they are for men.

- Heavy ache in your chest or back between your shoulder blades
- Sharp pain in your upper body
- Shortness of breath
- Breaking out in a cold sweat
- Unusual or unexplained tiredness
- Feeling dizzy or light-headed
- Feeling sick to your stomach

Get the Facts About Aspirin.

Daily use of aspirin to prevent heart attacks or a stroke is not right for everyone.

- Ask your healthcare provider if you should use aspirin.
- If aspirin is right for you find out:
 - How much you should take.
 - How often you should take it.
 - How long you should take aspirin. Some products combine aspirin with other ingredients and are not meant for long-term use
- Tell your healthcare provider about all of the medicines and supplements you take. Your risk of bleeding may be higher if you use aspirin while also taking certain medicines, vitamins, or herbs.

Manage Your Health Conditions.

Common health problems like high blood pressure, diabetes, and high cholesterol can increase your risk of heart disease.

- Take your medicines as directed. Do not stop taking your medicines until your doctor says that it is OK.
- If you have diabetes, check your blood sugar level.
- Get your blood pressure and cholesterol tested.
- Ask your doctor how you should manage your health conditions during pregnancy.
- Some women need a device to help their heart work. Talk to your doctor about the device that is best for your heart problem.

This fact sheet was developed by the FDA Office of Women's Health. To learn more about heart health for women, go to the FDA website: www.fda.gov/womenshearthealth

**Save these October/November Dates!**

October 6 - Hayride at Lehner's Farm

October 26 - Make a Difference Day

November 23 - Children, Youth & Family Journey to Bethlehem
(An Advent Experience) 9:30-11:00am

Epworth News

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

Non-Profit Organization

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Marion, OH 43302

Permit No. 41

Rev. David L. Hoffman, Pastor
Alycia Orcena, Director of Ministries with Children and Families
Lisa West, Youth Ministry Coordinator
Dessiree Thomas, Director of Epworth Preschool and Daycare

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

God's Love in Action
Growing Disciples Through Compassionate Relationships



September 2nd - Labor Day reminder - the church office is closed

September 5th - Church Office closes at noon

September 5, 6, 7—Mark your calendar for the annual Marion Popcorn Parade and Festival

September 8th - Sunday School Begins

September 8th - Rally Day