

Gathering for Worship

Welcome & Announcements | Pat Engel and Aaron Taylor
Call to Worship & Gathering Prayer

Worship: Our Gift to God

*Hymn of Worship | *Great is Thy Faithfulness* | Hymnal #140
Giving our Tithes and Offerings to God | Offertory | Adele Holevas

Song of Thanksgiving | *Praise God from Whom* | Hymnal #95
Prayer of Dedication

Listening for God

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Pray | Hymnal #985
Prayer Response | *O Come O Come Emmanuel* | Hymnal #311
Special Music | *Angels are Making Their Rounds* | Chancel Choir
The Message | Mary and the Angels Luke 1:39-45 | Pastor Rodney
Celebration of Thanksgiving

All are welcome at the table. Come to the front as directed, receive a piece of bread, dip into the cup, and eat. The altar rail is available for prayer and reflection.

Committing to God

*Song of Commitment | *Open My Eyes* | Hymnal #354
Words of Dismissal
*Song for Traveling | *Go Tell it* | Hymnal #251

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Volunteers:

This Week

Next Week

Ushers: Jeff and Kathy Karns, Karen Burch and Mich Hashimoto
Greeters: Mark Handy, Nancy Owens And Larry Whitham

Ushers: Larry and Donna Whitham Christine and Enson Billings
Greeters: Eric Borum, Brian Turpin Lynn Shoger

Usher Captains: Deb & Dennis Wood

Greeter Captain: Joe Smallwood

Our Mission:

To make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.

Prayers & Celebrations

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Refugees; Ken and Brenda Adkins' daughter, Amy; John Jentz's grandson; Diane Gann's mother and step daughter; Kena Updike's friend, Christi; Linda Linn; Joan Wooley, on the passing of her daughter-in-law, Jeannie; Brad Gilb's grandfather; Cathy Alley's brother; Jane Rominger's friend, Joanna; Karen Siebert's cousin; Kristy Thompson's grandpa; Jane Rominger's cousin Debbie; Dave Leonard; Alta Coplen's daughter; Val Miller; Erik Kassig; Jane Billheimer; Dorothy Thewlis; Wanda Weitkamp's brother; Donna Crimmons on the passing of her mother; the family of Carolyn Sowers; Brian Turpin's mom; and the people of Zimbabwe.

Staff Contact Information:

Rodney Frieden Senior Pastor rodney.frieden@inumc.org	Aaron Taylor Director of Family Ministry taylora@epworthindy.org	6450 Allisonville Rd Indianapolis, IN 46220 Office: (317)-251-1481 Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 am—3:00 pm
Pat Engel Director of Discipleship engelp@epworthindy.org	Anndi McGuire Preschool Director preschool@epworthindy.org	
John Phillips Director of Worship jdmusman@gmail.com	Patty Thomas Office Manager thomasp@epworthindy.org	

A Word From The Pastor

Welcome to Epworth. We are glad that you've joined us for worship today. We are in the season of Advent as we count the days until Christmas. This season we are taking a look at the Christmas Story from an unique view— The Family Portrait. You could say that the first Family Christmas Portrait is the Nativity - or the many ways that the Nativity has been portrayed through the years. We all know that the pictures and displays aren't accurate, but we accept them as they are because we like them. We will be examining the various parts of the Christmas Picture to uncover a more realistic view. Hopefully we can learn how the new picture might encourage our faith today.

God loves you, Jesus died for you, and how you live your faith matters
-Pastor Rodney

CONNECTION CARD

The Basics

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

I am:

- Visiting for the First Time
- A Frequent Visitor
- A Member

I'm Interested In:

- Signing up for the E-News
- Becoming a Member
- Other: _____

How Can We Pray For You?

- Add to Public Prayer List
- Add to Private Prayer List

CONNECTION CARD

I'm interested in . . .

- I/We will usher on Christmas Eve at ___ 6PM ___11PM
- I/We will attend the Solitude and Silence Class
- I/We will go caroling to our homebound members on Thursday, Dec. 14th at 3:45PM
- I/We would like to be a part of the prayer team who receives prayer requests by email

How Can We Help You Get Connected?

Your Weekly Feed:

Help Us Decorate The Christmas Tree!

Tonight, beginning at **6PM**, we invite our children and youth to join us as we decorate 'The Giving Tree' found in the Gathering Area. Have a favorite Christmas Ornament? Bring it with you, and tell us why!

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree found in our Gathering Area provides the opportunity to give gifts to those most vulnerable in our world. For more information about how you can help, visit The Giving Tree in our Gathering Area.

"Solitude and Silence"

A 12-week discussion and practice of entering into God's presence in a way that we can better hear God's voice. How do we empty our minds/hearts of all the clutter? How do we learn to really rest in God's presence? Begins **Jan 2, Tuesday** mornings at **9:45AM**. by signing up on your connection card today.

Christmas Caroling

To our Homebound members: **Dec. 14th** at **3:45PM**. Join us on that Thursday as we carpool to members' homes and share Christmas cheer through song with them. Sign up on your connection card.

Ushers Needed Christmas Eve

Please sign up on the connection card.

A Night In Bethlehem

We've heard the Christmas story, we've sung the Christmas carols, but what was that 'little town of Bethlehem' like on the night that Jesus was born? We invite you and your family to come and experience this unique event as you walk the streets of Bethlehem visiting shops, participating in activities, on **December 17**, at **6-8PM**.

Buddy Bags

Each year, Epworth partners with Allisonville Christian Church to provide food bags for students at John Strange Elementary School, where over 300 students receive food assistance at school. We call these food bags, 'Buddy Bags', and they serve to help eliminate hunger for children during vacation breaks away from school. We only give students what they can carry home with them, which means we need very specific items. Stop by our 'Serving' tables in the Gathering Area to pick up a full list of items needed to make these bags possible.

Annual 2018 Couples Retreat

At McCormick's Creek State Park Inn, **February 9 thru 11**. Get away for the weekend with church friends as we eat, laugh, play and worship together! Cost: \$28.00 (Friday meal per couple) + \$84.00(room per night, you can stay two nights or Friday night only). Make checks out to Epworth and give to Pat Engel.



Make Sure to Visit Our Giving Tree—Details Inside!



A One-of-a-Kind Event—December 17



New Classes Beginning This January—Details Inside