

# EPWORTH NEWS & NOTES

A Newsletter of Epworth United Methodist Church in Indianapolis

Lent Edition 2018

## @ the table



Remember the thrill of being invited to someone's home for dinner? Remember the days when families gathered around the dinner table and told stories about the activities and events of the day? Remember when having a 'surprise' guest at the table was fun and exciting, as you listened to their stories of travel and adventure?

During the coming weeks, we will

be exploring the many surprise encounters Jesus had with people at the dinner table.

Consider yourself invited to join us as we listen to the stories told around the dinner table nearly 2000 years ago. Come early or stay late and enjoy some coffee in our Gathering Area.

As we count the days until Easter, I hope you will find time to join us. We do things a little different at Epworth United Methodist Church, but you will find the message of God's love for you has never changed.

## MENU

### RSVP

*February 14*

### A Drink Before Dinner

*February 18*

### Proper Dinner Etiquette

*February 25*

### A Tax Deductible Meal

*March 4*

### An Unexpected Guest

*March 11*

### How To Throw A Party

*March 18*

### Extravagant Dessert

*March 25*

### Farewell Dinner

*March 29*

### Not Enough Time to Prepare

*March 30*

### A Table for Two

*April 1*

### More Of The Usual

*April 15*

## In This Issue

- A Word from Pastor Rodney
- A Note from John
- Unique Seasonal Events
- Mission and Service Opportunities
- 2018 Narrative Budget
- News from Preschool
- New Winter Courses
- Why Parenting Matters

Passion Week Services | 7:00PM

Ash Wednesday | 2/14

Maundy Thursday | 3/29

Good Friday | 3/30



# Loving

## Different Can Be Good: A New Currency



The University of Warwick in England completed a study that discovered that most people felt they needed to make more money than their friends and family in order to be happy about their income. It turned out that no matter how

much a person earned — as long as they knew someone who earned more — they weren't satisfied.

I know people who complain about what they can't afford, while they watch cable television on their big screen HDTV while eating hot pizza that was delivered to their door — that they ordered using their iPhone (the one with the unlimited texting and calling plan).

Monthly payments, credit card debt, little or no saving — all are normal. Are most of your quarrels in marriage about money? Normal. Spend more than you earn? Normal.

I hope that you've picked up on our recurring them throughout this past month — normal doesn't work!

Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive." But we live our lives completely the opposite. We live to gain, to hoard, to keep, to spend on ourselves, and all of that is **normal!**

**What if we lived weird? Jesus weird.**

*Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don't eat them and where thieves don't break in and steal them. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **Matthew 6:19-21 CEB***

I am proud of this church. In the midst of all that we have done for ourselves—new construction, upgrades, repairs, and programs—we have also more than tithed. We gave more than 16% of our offerings—nearly \$100,000 (yes, as a church we tithe and more) — to support mission work around the globe, around the corner, and throughout Indiana. That would seem like the normal thing to do—but less than half of our churches in Indiana do this. In other

words, **this church is weird!** But you already knew that. As a church, we got there this past year by making a commitment and making some choices about our priorities. In other words, by many other standards we did some weird things.

If how we give is a measure of how weird we are as a church, then I want to help you become weird. Here are 3 ways you can become a bit weird this year:

**1) Give Spontaneously.** This is the first level of giving. You see a need and you give.

**2) Give Strategically.** Strategic givers plan ahead so they can be generous. They are intentional. They make a pledge and then execute their giving plan. The strategic giver realizes that 'generous' is who we are and our giving grows out of who we are.

**3) Give Sacrificially.** This type of giving doesn't mean they give away everything. These givers are just willing to give away more rather than accumulate more. Actually many sacrificial givers are quite wealthy—they just don't live with wealth as their goal. These people delight in what they have, but they also delight in giving spontaneously, strategically, and sacrificially.

When we learn to live as a generous people, we become more like Christ. And don't worry. In your desire to be generous, start where you are. If you haven't been giving at all—then start. Start by giving spontaneously—see a need and meet it.

But don't stop there. Start saving—start cutting back so you can have more money to give. Are you struggling with finances? Let me know—perhaps we can help by offering a class to help like Good Sense or Financial Peace.

Make an impact in this world. Make an impact that can advance the Kingdom of God. Become a generous people, and as you become more generous you will discover that you're a bit weird. And that's okay, because it's a Jesus weird, and that kind of different is good.



Rodney Frieden

Senior Pastor

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### Project Jubilee

#### Sneedville, Tennessee

Interested in a short term mission trip? We'll be headed to Sneedville for a long weekend trip from:

**May 10 — May 13**

to serve alongside our mission partners at The Jubilee Project.

For more information about this trip please contact Lucinda Lautz at [Ihlmk99@gmail.com](mailto:Ihlmk99@gmail.com).



### UMCOR Hurricane Relief

Would you like to join an UMCOR mission group to repair Hurricane Irma damage?

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has developed a special mission trip to repair homes affected by Hurricane Irma to residents in Sebring, FL.

The trip will take place from **March 11 - 17**. If you're interested in participating in this mission trip, please contact Lucinda or Dick Lautz at [Ihlmk99@yahoo.com](mailto:Ihlmk99@yahoo.com) or **(317)-730-4567**

### Extended Deadline for Mission: Guatemala



We have extended the deadline to register for our trip to Mission: Guatemala, July 28-August 5, until **March 11** when we will host our first team meeting for all of those going on the trip.

This meeting will take place before our Sunday evening courses, beginning at **4:00PM**.

If you would like more information about our trip to Guatemala, please contact either our Senior Pastor, Rodney Freiden, at [rodney.frieden@inumc.org](mailto:rodney.frieden@inumc.org) or our Director of Family Ministries, Aaron Taylor, at [taylora@epworthindy.org](mailto:taylora@epworthindy.org).

### Servant Spotlight

Norb Scher has been on a devoted mission to discover a proper solution to the food poverty issues plaguing Indianapolis. He began in 2005, when he partnered with Bruce Brantingham to transport items donated at Epworth United Methodist Church to various food pantries throughout Central Township. Norb has been delivering food to various food pantries for 13 years now, and has watched as the number of food pantries on his delivery routes continued to diminish.

Seven years ago, Norb began not only delivering items that were donated at Epworth, but also delivering fresh fruits and vegetables to Forest Manor Food Pantry because he felt all people needed fresh food, and not just canned or pre-packaged meals. Initially, Norb kicked in his own money to provide the fruits the vegetables declaring, "if I can play a round of golf, then I can help people to have fresh produce." Following his lead, the



people of Epworth United Methodist Church continue to financially support the gift of fresh produce. With Norb's encouragement, Epworth United Methodist Church decided last spring to begin delivering to Forest Manor twice a month as, over time, Epworth had become the primary source of food to this food pantry.

Through this ministry, Norb has grown many relationships throughout his time assisting at Forest Manor. One of them being a close friendship with Daisy, the head administrator at Forest Manor Food Pantry. Norb is pleased to hear Daisy's voice every time he calls in a delivery exclaiming, "Hi Sweetheart, are you bringing a delivery of food?"

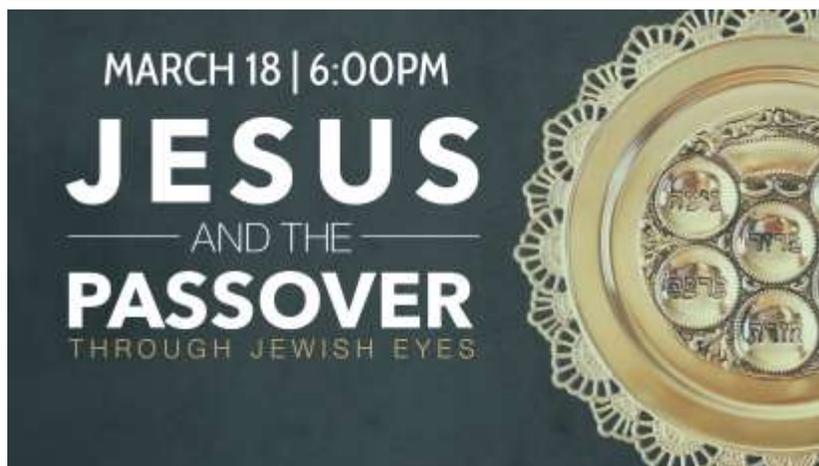
Over the past three years, Susie Scher has been assisting Norb behind the scenes by helping him make produce lists, shopping, and delivery. Norb and Susie have decided to continue to assist with Forest Manor Food Pantry, but are seeking others to take over the leadership of this ministry. They both know that it has changed their lives and the lives of those they have humbly and consistently served.

Thank you, Norb and Susie, for your dedication to transform the world as disciples of Jesus Christ.

## Something Different

Developing an effective communications strategy continues to be a priority of the Leadership Table. As such, throughout Lent, we will be transitioning to a new weekly bulletin that is centered around information and being an effective tool to help guide individuals to their next steps here at Epworth.

As a result of this transition, one of the particular changes that will occur with our new bulletin will be the removal of the Order of Worship in favor of sharing the songs we will sing each week. In a sense this is nothing new, as one might remember an old hymn board like the one to the right.



## Special Guest: Sunday, March 4

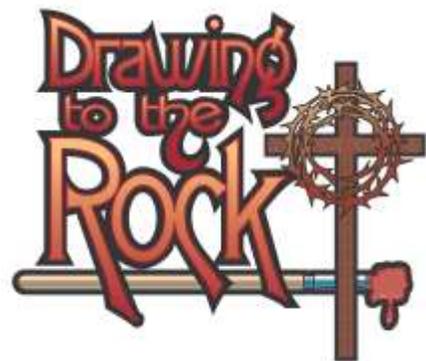
On Sunday, March 4 we will be joined in worship by Kerry from Drawing to the Rock Ministries.

Kerry was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. Kerry came to know Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior at the age of nine. Early in his childhood he discovered his passion for art. His pursuit for more knowledge and skill led him to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree in Painting from Mississippi State University. After several years working in the commercial art industry, he opened his own art studio called KBJ Studios. After six successful years, Kerry felt called by God to become

a minister. Kerry sold his business and moved his family to Texas to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where he received the Masters of Communication Arts degree in 1993.

After graduation from seminary, Kerry accepted the position of Exhibit Designer with the Home Mission Board (now called North American Mission Board) in Atlanta, Georgia. In 2006, Kerry and his wife, Twyla, were commissioned as Church Planting Missionaries where they started two churches in Atlanta, Ga and one in Indianapolis, IN. They are now serving as Evangelism Catalyst Missionaries in Marietta, GA.

Kerry is also President of Drawing to the Rock Ministries, Inc. Kerry travels all over the world communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ using visual art.





Growing

## Experience the Holy Land from Afar



Would you like to follow Pastor Rodney and fellow members of Epworth as they travel to Israel this month? It's as easy as signing up with your e-mail on Pastor Rodney's blog page.

In order to sign-up, simply type 'rodneymfrieden.wordpress.com' into your internet browser, and look for the 'Follow Blog Via E-mail' section on the left of your screen. Simply type in your e-mail and click the 'Follow' button and you'll receive any and all updates from the Holy Land straight to your e-mail!

Can't figure it out, or would like assistance? We'll host a special oppor-



**BEGINNING FEBRUARY 25 | 5:00PM**

EXPERIENCING LENT

THROUGH

Disney

*For families with kids, and those who are kids at heart.*

## Which Way, Lord?

Exploring Life's Purpose in the Journeys of Paul

**BEGINS FEBRUARY 18 | 10:45AM**



APRIL 21—22  
LAKE WEBSTER

\$40 | DUE BY MARCH 4

**FAITH & MEDIA MEN'S RETREAT** **MARCH 31**  
9:00AM-2:00PM  
Register By March 18



**PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY**

The Gospels contain the greatest story ever told. But how much of the story do you understand? Join Pastor Rodney as he guides us through the life of Jesus - His birth, teachings, and death. Allow the stories to come to life in new ways that can inform our faith today and provide a greater understanding of the greatest story ever told.

## Our Faithfulness In Review

**2017 Average Worship Attendance = 149**

**2017 Ministry Fund Year to Date Giving: \$446,272 vs 2017 Expenses: \$437,517**

**2017 Mission Giving - YTD \$84,100**

**2017 Total Capital Giving - \$27,499    2017 Total Phase II Building Giving - \$83,525**

# @ the table

Sundays In February

A special surprise awaits the first 100 families to join us on Sunday, February 18



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

## Stories from the Holy Land



**RECEIVE A FREE SPECIAL GIFT!**

Everyone in attendance will receive a free gift from Israel!

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