

# EPWORTH NEWS & NOTES

A Newsletter of Epworth United Methodist Church in Indianapolis

Summer Edition 2018



## Celebrating 60 Years Of Loving, Growing, and Serving!

### Let's Party!

The day of Pentecost is one of our favorite days of the Church calendar. With the blessing of the Holy Spirit, many people consider the day of Pentecost to be the 'birthday of the Church!' So, what better way to celebrate than by throwing a birthday party? Here's what it means for you:

#### **It's a birthday party, cake is required.**

Yum. Not only is Pentecost the birthday of the Church, but we'll also be celebrating the 60th Anniversary of our church. In the words of Marie Antoinette, 'Let them eat cake!'

#### **What's a birthday party without presents?**

No, we don't expect you to bring us gifts. Instead, we're merely asking that you help out as we put together gift bags for the homeless in a partnership with Wheeler mission.

#### **Did someone say party games?**

Oh, you didn't? Well, that's okay, we're going to play some anyway. As a matter of fact, you're invited to join in on the game of all games—The Pentecost Pentathlon!

PENTECOST PARTY  
MAY 20, 2018 | 12PM

Love By Serving

May 6

Love By Giving

May 13

Love By Sharing

May 20



THIS MAY

### In This Issue

- A Word from Pastor Rodney
- An Update from our Preschool
- Ministry Updates from around the Church
- Mission and Service Opportunities
- Safety and our Church
- How to Get Involved with Fish Fry
- And More!



## A Word From The Pastor

*I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection (Philippians 3:10a).*

That is a powerful statement that the Apostle Paul makes. It is one thing to want to know Christ. It is something entirely different to know the power of the resurrection. Most of us like to acknowledge that Jesus is important in our lives, but we limit that importance by refusing to accept all that Jesus has to offer to us.

As we discovered this past Lenten Season, Jesus invites us to the table over and over again. Each time we come to the table Jesus has something new for us. While we enjoy being at the table with Jesus, few of us are willing to accept all that Jesus has to offer. It is as if we have refused all the extra helpings of love and grace that are available. Worse yet, it's like we refused the best part—Dessert!

Easter isn't just about the Cross. Easter isn't just about sacrifice. Anymore than Easter is just about bunnies, colored eggs, and candy. Easter is about an empty tomb! Easter is about the power of resurrection! Easter is about New

Life! Easter is about the invitation to know Christ and the power of His resurrection.

There is new life here at Epworth. People are discovering week after week that their faith matters. People are learning to live their faith in new and powerful ways. People are learning to love their neighbors and one another.

If you are a regular attendee, Thank you for being a part of the richness that is Epworth. If you haven't been in awhile, come join us. While things have changed the message of God's love remains the same.

This Summer we want to help you make this summer a summer of lovin' and fun. Plan on joining us May 6 as we unveil a fun opportunity for you to love your neighbors. Plus join us May 20th after worship for a special luncheon and 60th church anniversary party.

*Rodney Frieden*

Senior Pastor



## Remember Our Mission Teams

Please pray for the following individuals as they depart on their mission trips this summer:

### The Jubilee Project Team:

Brenda Adkins, Ken Adkins, Steve Davidson, Pat Engel, Steve Knight, Lucinda Lautz, Dick Lautz, and Linda Linn

### The Mission

#### Guatemala Team:

Rodney Frieden, Riley Frieden, Aaron Taylor, Linda Linn, Jane Cookson, Vern Cookson, Mark Dorrell, Susie Dorrell, Dick Lautz, Lucinda Lautz, Brian Turpin, Angel Turpin, Nate Turpin, Natalie Turpin, Bethany Alley, Leif Billings, Emma Gage, Mat Billings, Teri Wann, and John Pfefferle.

# Preschool UPDATE

## Enrollment Update

In 2016-17 we were excited to announce that our enrollment peaked at 135 children. This year, we're both humbled and grateful that we now have 157 children enrolled in our preschool program. Looking forward to next year, we currently have 148 children enrolled, which is expected to increase throughout the summer. Currently, 106 children are registered for our summer camp, which is very similar to last years numbers. However, we are excited to bring on several new faces, including Emily Taylor and several other summer staff.

## All School Celebration

Our All School Celebration for the end-of-the-year will be held on May 8, 2018 from 5:45-7:30PM. For this event, we would love to provide our preschool teachers with an opportunity to interact with families and spend time with their students. That being said, we are currently seeking for several church members to help with food service and clean up for this event. If you would like to help out with this event, please contact our Preschool Director, Anndi Maguire, at [preschool@epworthindy.org](mailto:preschool@epworthindy.org).

## Faithfulness

### In Review

First Quarter (Jan-Mar)

**Average Worship**

**Attendance:** 137

**Ministry Fund**

**Year-to-Date Giving:**

\$95,624

**Ministry Fund**

**Year-to-Date Expenses:**

\$123,473

**Mission Giving:**

\$8,917

**Debt Reduction:**

\$14,000

**Capital Giving:**

\$4,900



## Epworth Annual Fish Fry 2018 (June 14-16)

It is officially May, which means that we are gearing up for another wonderful year at the Epworth Annual Fish Fry!

Here's a rundown of everything you'll need to know:

### Donating Baked Goods

As always, we're in need of a great deal of baked goods for our Annual Fish Fry, including fruit pies, cakes, brownies, and cookies! If you'd like to donate these items, we ask that you please bring them to the church beginning on Wednesday, June 13. There are pie tins available at the Fish Fry Ticket Table and Welcome Center counter.

### Signing Up For A Shift

This year, each and every individual who signs up to work a shift at Fish Fry will be receiving a free t-shirt! To ensure that we have everyone's t-shirt size, we're asking that every individual who signs

## Pre-Sale Ticket Order Sheet

Pre-Sale Tickets are Gift Cards valued at \$10, but are sold at a discounted rate of \$8.50 prior to the Fish Fry. Pre-Sale Tickets will no longer be automatically sent to all members, but you may purchase Pre-Sale Tickets at our Registration Table in the Gathering Area, or by mailing in this Pre-Sale Ticket Order Sheet with your payment attached.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Tickets x \$8.50 = \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Cash

☐ Check



## Safety and Our Church

Events and headlines have made the issue of safety in public places a national conversation. Here at Epworth we have a Team of people that have been working on safety and response issues for over a year. The results of their work have helped us begin to update and adjust many of our policies and actions:

- New and additional AED machines are now throughout the building
- Stop the Bleed and updated First Kits have been placed throughout the building
- Updated directional and informational signs inside the building are being added
- Better outdoor signage has been installed plus signage was added to our entry doors
- A Fire Drill on a Sunday morning is being planned for the near future
- Locks have been changed and the alarm system has been updated
- Safe Sanctuary policies are being updated to ensure that all of our children and vulnerable adults remain safe and protected in our building

Epworth's Building Use Policy was updated effective January 1, 2018. An updated version of the policy is available in the Church Office. The updated policy has helped us better serve the many groups (both inside and outside the church) that utilize our building for meetings and activities.

The existence of our weekday Preschool program makes it important that we maintain restricted access to the building to ensure the safety and security of our children and teachers. Long gone are the days when we can leave the building unlocked or allow direct access to everyone. Therefore, we have updated the process for people gaining entry to the building outside

of Sunday Mornings. The new system balances concerns for security and hospitality and limits the need for keys to the church while restricting those that have access to alarm codes and after-hours access to the building. We believe that this new system allows for easy entry to the building for those needing access while maintaining safety and security protocols.

The process for gaining entry to the building remains simple during the week:



- Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm the Church Office and Building are open to the public
- Monday – Thursday 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm the Church Building is available via key-coded entry

Beginning June 1, 2018 there will no longer be a generic code to enter through the key-coded doors of the church. If you would like a personal code to enter the church front doors simply contact the Church Office and we will be happy to provide you a personal code for entry use. In addition, the Church is available for meetings and events on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday Afternoon by special arrangement with the Church Office per our Church Building Use Policy.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office or talk to a member of our Church Staff or Leadership Team.

## Upcoming Sermon Series

REFIGERATOR  
THEOLOGY

JUNE



Life  
in the

JULY



AUGUST

## Communications Update

If you've been around Epworth for a while, then you might have noticed some of the changes that have occurred with our weekly communications over the past several months. Some of you might be wondering: why did these changes occur, and how long are they going to last?

The major overhaul to our weekly communication system was eliminating a weekly bulletin in favor of a weekly newsletter. We're very excited to witness the impact our weekly newsletter has had in the overall engagement throughout Epworth's ministries as we have watched dozens of individuals take their next steps in faith, including but not limited to: attending a class, attending a small group, getting involved in a service project, and more!

This further engagement is exactly what we hoped to see in this process, and we're glad that this tool has helped others take their next steps. That being said, we humbly admit that this newsletter isn't finished adapting, and we've been very pleased with the feedback we've received. We look forward to continue reshaping how we communicate as a community of faith.

## Prayer Ministry

Prayer: It's simply a way of living in God's presence. All healthy relationships require communication, so we are intentional about giving those who are important to us our undivided attention, our listening ear and count on them to do the same for us.

Not surprisingly, that's the best way to live in God's presence as well.

So at Epworth, we encourage that communication in several ways:

- corporate prayer during worship
- prayer cards are available in the pew racks (fill out your request and place it in the offering basket during worship or hand it to a staff member)
- the prayer team who prays for specific requests immediately after worship at the prayer rail (anyone is welcome to join in the intercessory prayer or ask for someone to pray with them).

- the prayer chain that communicates prayer requests throughout the week
- the prayer labyrinth is made available throughout the year for you to walk the path in silence and commune with God
- short term classes are offered throughout the year that help develop prayer practices (Solitude and Silence will be offered on Monday evenings at 6:30 beginning September 10th-watch for sign up)
- the Pastoral Staff and our Stephen Ministers are always available on an individual basis to pray for and with you.

If you would like to be added to the list of those who get prayer requests by email (The Prayer Chain), contact Pat Engel at [engelp@epworthindy.org](mailto:engelp@epworthindy.org)



Prayer  
MINISTRY

## What Might Happen if I Serve in Children's Ministry?

*By Karen Brantingham*

Often times, it can be easy for us to turn away from a service opportunity because of our own fear or doubt. This is especially true when it comes to Children's Ministry. Many people are convinced that they can't do children's ministry because they are afraid that children won't like them, or even worse, because they have absolutely no idea what to expect.

We're here to say that the surprise that comes from working with children and youth is one of the things that makes traveling alongside them so much fun!

While teaching during Kid's Club you might find out that a child's favorite Ninja Turtle is Leonardo, and that child may or may not surprise you by pulling a small Leonardo out of their pocket to show you.

While leading Sunday School, when asking a child what they would like to be when they grow up, you might learn that they just want to be a dog.

It's amazing what kids will say and do when they are comfortable enough to share their lives in a place where they know they will be respected.

In Children's Ministry, the journey might be unpredictable, but the outcome is always the same. However, you shouldn't take our word for it! When our children were asked what they would like to say about Epworth Children's Ministries, they said, "I learn to love God here." Other children said, "We read from the Bible, and we learn to love the Bible."

Developing this love for God has been one of the most tremendous experiences of our lives as leaders, and we'd love to invite you to join children for this journey. If you're feeling God's call to serve in children's ministries, please contact our Director of Family Ministries, Aaron Taylor, at [taylora@epworthindy.org](mailto:taylora@epworthindy.org).





"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." - 1 John 3:16-18

## How You Can Get Involved With Fish Fry

Can you smell it? Can you taste it?

It's that time of year again, as we gear up for our Annual Fish Fry!

Here are a few ways you can get involved:

### Sign-Up for A Shift

There are three primary areas in which you can serve at our Annual Fish Fry: Food Support, In the Tent, or the Drive-Thru. Food Support is an inside job and might include things like breading fish and prepping food items. Serving in the tent could mean being a cash register, bussing tables, and more. Regardless of what you would like to do, make sure you sign up ahead of time for your free t-shirt!

### Baking

We're always in need of delicious treats including a variety of cakes and brownies! Have an old family recipe you think might delight our taste buds, we'd be happy to accept your donation!



# Shoe Drive Coming This August

Don't Toss Our Your Old Shoes!



# FAMILY CAMPING & RETREAT

SEPTEMBER  
14-16

# WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

WE want to help YOU throw a Neighborhood Block Party!

Want to find out how?

Join us for 'The Art of Neighboring' Training

May 6 @ 10:45AM OR May 7 @ 6:30PM

AN EPWORTH WEEKEND YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

AUGUST 24-26

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2018 INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS | VICTORY FIELD

Join Us For A Game?

SATURDAY

JULY 14

\$10

TICKETS AVAILABLE IN GATHERING AREA



**I ♥ MY  
CHURCH**

**COME FIND  
OUT WHY**



**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO SERVE YET?**

**EPWORTH  
ANNUAL  
FISH FRY  
JUNE 14 -16**



**60th Anniversary Luncheon**

**Sunday, May 20**

**12:00PM**

**Contact Office to Reserve Your Spot Today!**

## **Contact Us:**

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**Epworth United  
Methodist Church**