

April 2019

# Faith Matters

A Newsletter of Epworth United Methodist Church

## Invitations from God



Lent is designed as a time of reflection. It begins with Ash Wednesday and the invitation to acknowledge our mortal nature. Fun way to start a journey—you came from Ash and you will return to Ash! We have continued our journey to Easter by examining the other invitations that God offers us.

Let's face it, invitations are a part of life. Over each of our lifetimes we are offered countless invitations of one kind or another. Some are cute. Some are spur of the moment. Some are expected, and let's be honest some are annoying. In our culture, the more invitations that come our way the more valuable we are considered to be – the more desirable we are. We gain status by saying yes to the invitations that come our way. We prove that we are important, wanted, and of course BUSY. Likewise, not being invited can send destructive messages that somehow mean we are not wanted or cared about.

The problem is that, as we say yes to more and more invitations, we become inattentive to the Divine invitations that come into our lives. So, join us on Sunday mornings this Lenten Season as we explore and hear some of the Divine invitations. These invitations from God include the invitation to be loved by God, and I believe that's the invitation everyone should hear!

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## HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday  
April 14  
9:30AM



Maundy Thursday  
April 18  
7:00PM



Good Friday  
April 19  
7:00PM



Easter Sunday  
April 21  
9:30AM

## What To Know: April 2019

**Holy Week:**  
**Maundy Thursday (April 18) | 7PM**  
**Good Friday (April 19) | 7PM**  
**Easter Sunday (April 21) | 9:30AM**

The season of Lent continues throughout the month of April. There are quite a few fun opportunities for you as we make our way to Easter!

Here is some information about what's ahead:

**Eco-Film: "A Fierce Green Fire: The Battle for a Living Planet"**  
*April 12, 7:00PM*

Join members of our Green Team for a film at First Friends (3030 Kessler Blvd) on April 12th at 7:00PM. The film, "A Fierce Green Fire", is the first big-picture exploration of the environmental movement spanning fifty years from conservation to climate change.

**Family Photo Scavenger Hunt | April 14, 12:00PM**

Join us for lunch at noon on April 14th. Afterwards you will receive eight Bible clues that have to do with the life and story of Jesus. The clues will lead you to eight places around the church where you will pose for a family photo.



**Baby Boomers Night Out | April 27, 5:00PM**

Looking for a way to spend quality time with fellow Boomers? Join us for Baby Boomers Night Out on April 27th at 5:00PM. We will gather to share a meal at Arni's, 4705 E 96th Street. To reserve your spot at the table, please contact our church office.

## Coming Soon:



**De-Escalation Training**

Are you uncomfortable when the emotions of others get carried away and escalate—especially difficult emotions like anger or sadness?

Most of us would like to avoid these situations; but, in today's world, it isn't

always possible. Join our Ready Church team on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 as we learn from Dr. Mark Snelson and Kathy Clausen some key behaviors to calm things down (de-escalation) and help you feel more comfortable and in control.

## Did You Know?

A Yoga Class for Seniors is offered at Epworth Mondays at 10AM and Thursdays at 1:15PM in our Schoolfield Room.



James Jafari (above) has made it his mission to help individuals maintain lifelong autonomy.

**Pricing:**

\$8.50/Drop-In      \$56/8-Class Package

Each class is 60 minutes in length, and both chair and mat options are available.

## Opportunities to Grow This Month



### *Sunday Morning*

#### Next Steps Experience

*Sunday Mornings | 10:45AM*  
*March 24—April 14*

Wondering what your next steps are here at Epworth? We believe that following Jesus is a journey, and everyone's journey is unique. That's why we give you a lot of coffee and all of the tools that you'll need to follow Jesus with us here at Epworth.

Throughout this four-week experience, we promise that you will:

- Connect With Others
- Have Fun
- Grow In Faith

### *Mid-Week*

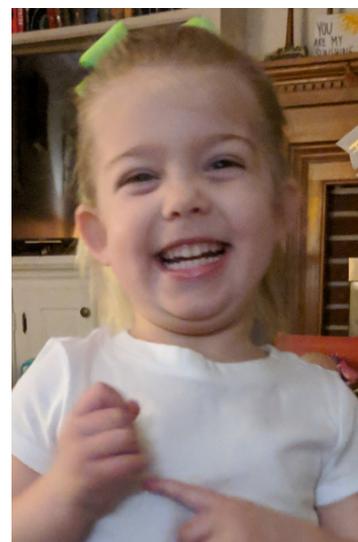
#### Studies With The Staff: A Way of Prayer

*Tuesdays, 6:30PM | Wednesdays, 10:00AM*  
*April 30—June 26*

Did you know that there is more than one way to pray? You can pray using Scripture, pray using icons, pray by spending time in silence, and more! Come and find a new way to pray, or rediscover a old one with our Director of Discipleship, Pat Engel.

Upon visiting Kids Club for the first time, Madison told us why everyone should be involved in a small group.

We couldn't have said it better ourselves!



"There are SO many new friends!"

- Madison Siebert, Age 3

## Signs of Growth

### New Groups Launched:

- Youth Girls Small Group which gathers twice a month.
- Youth Guys Small Group which gathers twice a month.
- Just Faith (Phase II) was launched in March.

### Welcome New Members! (Confirmation 2019)

- Leif Billings
- Enson Billings
- Jonathan Capodagli
- Emma Gage
- Adonya Mitchell

# What's Next?

## By Pastor Rodney Frieden

A special called General Conference of the Global United Methodist was held in St. Louis at the end of February. The Conference was called in hopes of bringing to an end a decades-long debate over human sexuality, LGBTQ rights, same-sex marriage in the church, and ordination of LGBTQ candidates. The Conference was to help us find a way forward together as a church. In one way the Conference was successful in that a plan called the Traditional Plan was passed. This plan held in place the existing limits and restrictions related to all of the issues. It also included defined penalties for failing to comply and sought to provide a way for churches and clergy to leave the UMC that could no longer in good conscience remain.

I had hoped for something better. I had hoped for a WAY FORWARD for everyone. Why did I hope? Because as United Methodist in a Wesleyan Tradition, we have always been a people of AND—not a people of Either/Or. Open our Book of Discipline and Doctrine and it begins with the Mission AND Ministry of the Church. Continue reading and you will discover we are a people of the AND: Faith and Good Works; Justification and Assurance; Sanctification and Perfection; Mission and Service; Nurture and Mission; Theological Thinking that is Critical and Constructive; Faith that is Individual in nature and communal in practice; and mission work that is contextual and incarnational.

Unfortunately in St Louis last month, I believe we acted not as a church of AND but rather a church of EITHER/OR. And so while I hoped that something would change, it did not. And it is amidst that confusion and frustration that we now ask, What's next for us?

There is reason to be anxious about the future of the UMC. But do not be anxious about the future of THIS CHURCH. I am excited and hopeful. I believe that something NEW is coming ... What it is ... what it will be ... what our part is in it ... I don't know ... it's too early to know ... but it is coming. SO in the meantime ... what can you do?

Don't let the results change how you feel about your church.

The work we are doing – building relationships – declaring God's love for all – and helping people find ways to live their faith in meaningful ways is just important today as it was last month and last year. We still have the ability to affirm and love ALL people each and every day. We still have the same opportunity we have always had.

We are still the Church at the corner of 65<sup>th</sup> and Allisonville. Now that may be asking too much for some, and if so let us know and allow us to help you find a new place to call home. For those that remain, let us journey together to EASTER. Let's fill the parking lot (and the pews) every Sunday. Make a visible declaration to all that can see - We are here. EVERYONE IS WELCOME and Easter is still coming! See you Sunday!



On March 14, Lynn Baize, Leadership Table Chair, and Neal Shoger, Finance Chair, met with the Indiana United Methodist Loan and Savings Ministry to sign new loan documents which re-finance the balance still owed on our Phase 1 and Phase 2 building and equipment upgrades. This new agreement will benefit the church in both the short and long run. Well done Leadership Table!

## Financial Update:

*All numbers reported through 2/28/19*

**Year-to-Date Missional Giving: \$17,619**

**Year-to-Date Capital Giving: \$21,037**

**YTD Operational Giving: \$72,311**

**YTD Expenses: \$80,954**

**And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." - Revelation 21:5**



## Serving in Missions Both Locally & Globally

### All Church Work Day

As you know, it takes a lot of hard work to keep our campus beautiful. So, every so often, we are called to roll up our sleeves, get a little dirty, and work hard to take care of this place we love so much.

Many hands make light work, so we need as many people as possible to join us as we clean up our campus, inside and out.

What type of work will we be doing? We're glad you asked! We'll be doing plenty of landscaping work such as trimming shrubs, mulching, and cleaning up our creek. There will also be plenty of work indoors as we clean out and organize several of our storage spaces throughout the church.



## April 27 8:00AM - 2:00PM

### Please Bring the Following (If You Have Them):

- Rakes
- Work Gloves
- Wheelbarrows
- Shovels
- Chainsaws



**IMPACT 2818 EVENTS**  
Church Camp  
Residential & Day Events  
Six Indiana Locations



Learn more about our upcoming trips and events below:

### A Summer to Remember—BOGO Summer Camp

United Methodist Summer Camps have proven to be incredibly impactful for children and youth. We want to help as many children and youth as possible attend camp. Therefore, for every child from our congregation who registers for summer camp, we will send one of their non-Epworth friends for free! That's right, a BOGO for summer camps!

### Jubilee Project—July 14-20 (Tennessee Mission Trip)

*20 Spots Already Filled!*

We have planned another intergenerational mission trip to visit our mission partners at Jubilee Project in Sneedville, TN this summer. We are offering this trip at the low cost of \$50/person! For more information, visit our Welcome Center.



# April

Every Sunday:  
Worship: 9:30AM | Sunday School: 10:45

## April 2

- ♥ 9:00AM Brown Bag Craft Group
- ♥ 4:00PM The Journey
- 📖 6:30PM Studies w/ The Staff: Church History
- ♥ 6:30PM Women's Small Group

## April 3

- ♥ 9:00AM Men's Coffee Group
- 📖 10:00AM Studies w/ The Staff: Church History

## April 4

- 📖 6:30PM Thursday Night Bible Study

## April 7

- 📖 10:45AM Next Steps Experience

## April 9

- ♥ 9:30AM Caregiver Support Group
- 📖 6:30PM Studies w/ The Staff: Church History

## April 10

- ♥ 9:00AM Men's Coffee Group
- 📖 10:00AM Studies w/ The Staff: Church History

## April 11

- 📖 6:30PM Thursday Night Bible Study

## April 13

- ♥ 6:30PM Movies w/ A Message

## April 14

- 📖 10:45AM Next Steps Experience
- ★ 12:00PM Family Scavenger Hunt

## April 16

- 📖 6:30PM Studies w/ The Staff: Church History

## April 17

- ♥ 9:00AM Men's Coffee Group
- 📖 10:00AM Studies w/ The Staff: Church History
- ♥ 11:30AM Grief Support Group

## April 18

- 📖 6:30PM Thursday Night Bible Study
- ★ 7:00PM Maundy Thursday Service

## April 19

- ♥ 9:30AM Dorcas Circle (United Methodist Women)
- ★ 7:00PM Good Friday Service

## April 24

- ♥ 9:00AM Men's Coffee Group

## April 25

- ♥ 1:00PM Book Club
- 📖 6:30PM Thursday Night Bible Study

## April 27

- 🔧 8:00AM All Church Work Day
- 🏠 Women's Retreat

## April 28

- 🏠 Women's Retreat

## April 30

- ♥ 9:00AM Men's Coffee Group
- 📖 10:00AM Studies w/ The Staff: A Way of Prayer

Legend: ♥ Small Groups 📖 Classes/Studies 🔧 Service Opportunities 🏠 Retreats ★ Events



# May

Every Sunday:  
Worship: 9:30AM | Sunday School: 10:45

## May 1

- ♥ 9:00AM Men's Coffee Group
- 📖 10:00AM Studies w/ The Staff: A Way of Prayer

## May 2

- 📖 6:30PM Thursday Night Bible Study

## May 5

- 📖 11:45AM De-Escalation Training
- 📖 4:30PM Christian Essentials Small Group

## May 7

- ♥ 9:00AM Brown Bag Craft Group
- ♥ 4:00PM The Journey
- 📖 6:30PM Studies w/ The Staff: A Way of Prayer
- ♥ 6:30PM Women's Small Group

## May 8

- ♥ 9:00AM Men's Coffee Group
- 📖 10:00AM Studies w/ The Staff: A Way of Prayer

## May 9

- 📖 6:30PM Thursday Night Bible Study

## May 11

- ♥ 6:30PM Movies with a Message

## May 12

- 📖 4:30PM Christian Essentials Small Group

## May 13

- ♥ 1:30PM Celebration Circle

## May 15

- ♥ 9:30AM Caregiver Small Group
- 📖 10:00AM Studies w/ The Staff: A Way of Prayer

## May 16

- ♥ 9:00AM Men's Coffee Group
- 📖 10:00AM Studies w/ The Staff: A Way of Prayer
- ♥ 11:30AM Grief Support Group

## May 17

- 📖 6:30PM Thursday Night Bible Study

## May 19

- 📖 4:30PM Christian Essentials Small Group

## May 21

- 📖 10:00AM Studies w/ The Staff: A Way of Prayer

## May 22

- ♥ 9:00AM Men's Coffee Group
- 📖 10:00AM Studies w/ The Staff: A Way of Prayer

## May 23

- ♥ 1:00PM Book Club

## May 26

- 📖 4:30PM Christian Essentials Small Group

## May 28

- 📖 10:00AM Studies w/ The Staff: A Way of Prayer

## May 29

- ♥ 9:00AM Men's Coffee Group
- 📖 10:00AM Studies w/ The Staff: A Way of Prayer

## May 30

- 📖 6:30PM Thursday Night Bible Study

Legend: ♥ Small Groups 📖 Classes/Studies 🛠 Service Opportunities 🏠 Retreats ★ Events



**Keep These Dates In Mind:**

**Sunday, April 14**

*Family Photo Scavenger Hunt | 12:00PM*

**Thursday, April 18**

*Maundy Thursday Service | 7:00PM*

**Friday, April 19**

*Good Friday Service | 7:00PM*

**Want A Paper Copy?**

From now on you'll be receiving our monthly newsletter electronically. If you would like to receive a paper copy, please contact our office.

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or

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**Epworth United  
Methodist Church**