

November 2019

Faith Matters

A Newsletter of Epworth United Methodist Church

Identity Theft is a big problem in our culture and Americans are the largest group of victims.

According to a 2018 survey by The Harris Poll, **60 million** Americans have been affected by **identity theft**.

33 percent of U.S. adults have experienced **identity theft**, which is more than twice the global average.

In 2017, nearly 7% of consumers became victims of **identity fraud** — that's about **1 in 15** people.

Some of the biggest problems that **identity theft** victims are faced with are the lingering effects of having their identity stolen.

If the thief opened new accounts or committed a crime in the victim's name, it can be a long process to correct public records and credit.

The **average loss is over \$1,300 per person**. In total, **identity theft** victims lose over **\$15 billion** annually.

I could argue that this is an important topic in our lives in the world, Check out the info enclosed about a great learning opportunity to protect yourself from identity fraud and theft Sunday November 17th.

This is also an important topic in our lives as God's children. We have an identity theft problem in the church today, but not because our identity has been stolen. Instead we have given our identity away by buying the lies of the world. The end result our our identity in Christ hasn't been stolen because we have given it away. Join us Sundays in November as we seek to reclaim our Identity in Christ. It won't be easy, but it can be done.



See you Sunday,

Pastor Rodney



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Wednesday, November 6, 6:00PM

Charge Conference is an annual meeting for every church within a District to conduct the annual business of the local church.

At this meeting, you will learn about our congregation and other churches that will gather with us. Plus you will hear from our Conference Superintendent.

Upcoming Events



Identity Theft Protection Workshop and Luncheon November 17, 12:00PM | Lunch Provided

Presented by the United Methodist Financial Credit Union

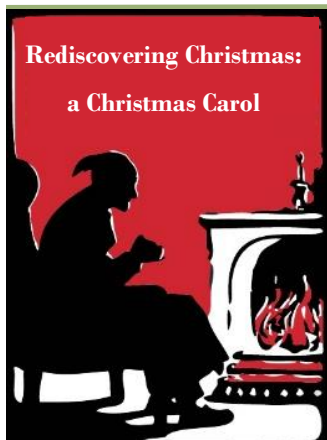
Identity theft and fraud is becoming more common and sophisticated than ever. Participants will learn methods that are used to access confidential personal and financial information, as well as tools to prevent identity theft. You will also learn some simple steps to take if identity theft should happen to your or your family. Please Register in advance.

Mark Your Calendar



Guest Speaker on November 10

During Sunday School, Andrew Peterson, a Special Olympian from here in Indianapolis, will stop by to share his incredible story. Be inspired by this Olympic Champion as he shares his story in the Sanctuary.



Christmas Drama/Musical Needs YOU !

Do you have the "acting bug?" This Christmas season we are designing a unique dramatic production scheduled for Sunday, December 22. We are in need of a number of different roles, two male, one female, and two children.

Want to sing in the Christmas Program, but not ready to join the Choir or Praise Team ... we've got a spot for you!

Contact John Phillips at jdmusman@gmail.com.



Order Your Christmas Poinsettias Now

You can order a Christmas Poinsettia which we use to decorate our sanctuary. Order one in honor of someone special or in memory of a loved one. Poinsettias are available for just \$10

Call the church office or stop by the Welcome Center to pick up an order form.



Family Pitch In and Carol Sing Sunday December 15 at NOON

Part of the joy of Christmas is the music.

And don't forget the Food !

Come gather around the table with your Epworth Church Family as we share a meal together and sing a few carols and songs.

Opportunities to Grow This Month



Sunday Morning

Next Steps Experience

Sunday Mornings | 10:45AM | Nov 3 and Nov 17

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 try to give you all of the tools that you'll need to follow Jesus with us here at Epworth. Throughout this class you will: Connect With Others, Have Fun, and Grow your Faith!

A Christmas Carol - The Story of Redemption and Hope

Sunday Mornings during Advent | 10:45AM | begins December 1

Several Sunday Morning Groups will be engaged in a four week study during Advent of Dicken's Classic *A Christmas Carol*. Read through the classic story and gain insight into the message of Christmas that permeates Dicken's tale. Listen for more details and join a group.

Mid-Week

Studies With The Staff: The Wisdom Literature

Tuesdays, 6:30PM | Wednesdays, 10:00AM | Beginning November 5/6

What does it mean to live a good life?

The books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job are collectively called The Wisdom Books and each have something to say about life and surprise, they don't always agree. Taught by Aaron Taylor.

Small Group Opportunity

Men's Small Group

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month | 7:00-8:00PM

Are you a guy looking for an informal, unique way to take that next step in your journey of faith? Consider joining our Men's Group which meets twice a month to discuss a new topic each week. Hosted by Steve Knight.

If you need help finding a group or study, visit the Welcome Center or contact Pat Engel. There are opportunities for all!

Did You Know?

Couples Retreat 2020



February 7-9, 2020

Join us at the Canyon Inn, located in beautiful McCormick's Creek State Park, for a weekend of fun and fellowship!

Registration has already started! Contact Pat Engel for more info.

Signs of Growth

- Congratulations to Lonnie and Lyndsay (Curran) Mitchell on their marriage!
- 265 Pairs of Shoes were donated last month for Soles for Jesus!
- We welcome 6 New Members : John Phillips, Elizabeth Cudjoe, Teresa Hamill, Tracy Butler, Chris and Katie Nicholson



Looking ahead to 2020

Stewardship is not the same as Fundraising

Without the generosity of the congregations in the past, we would not be able to experience the church that we know today. It is up to us to continue the tradition of generosity. We want people to understand not only the story of how we got here, but to also understand the story of where we are going as a church.

The story we will tell belongs to God, but it is our story as well.

Our story is about how together we take part in acts of Loving, Growing, and Serving. Our story is about lovingly inviting people to come to worship, Sunday School, Bible study, Small Groups, Youth group, Family Ministry Events and all the other programs and events that are a part of Epworth. Ours is a story of helping each other grow in faith through Christian education and worship. Our story is a story of service to others through discovering the needs of people and finding ways to meet those needs. Our story is also about supporting ministries and missions that reach beyond our local community and impact the world through our connection to The United Methodist Church.

Stewardship is not new, but it has somehow morphed into fundraising and the selling of church programs. We need to once again reclaim the concept of Stewardship in the Church. So remember two important principles regarding the process of stewardship and setting a budget here at Epworth: 1) We do not pledge to a budget - We pledge to give out of our love for God 2) The church is charged with acting as stewards of your gifts - that means the church is not a fundraising group. Church Leadership will develop a budget by establishing priorities for the church and then acting as good stewards with the gifts that are pledged and given. Therefore the budget will be developed after the Stewardship Campaign and shared with the church AFTER the pledges are made. Watch your mailbox later this month for your opportunity to pledge your gifts. We need your pledge to best plan for the coming year.

Financial Update:

All numbers reported through 10/30/19

Year-to-Date Missional Giving: \$68,693

Year-to-Date Capital Giving: \$64,504

YTD Operational Giving: \$314,689

YTD Expenses: \$346,549

What's next for us at Epworth?

Sunday October 20th immediately following worship, Epworth convened a special meeting of the church. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the church about the "What's Next? Conference" that Pastor Rodney and Randy Siebert attended at Adam Hamilton's church in Kansas. The conference was focused on providing direction and hope as the United Methodist Church prepares for General Conference in May 2020 and another debate over LGBTQ issues of inclusion.

As General Conference approaches the reality that some type of church division will occur is growing and that has led to a great deal of anxiety. As was shared, much of the anxiety has occurred because of the lack of communication between differing parties. During the course of our meeting, we discovered that even at Epworth not only are we of differing opinions, but our perception of other's views is not accurate either.

Pastor Rodney shared a plan for the coming year that will bring our congregation together to pray together, study together, and talk with one another. The goal is not that we will all come away with the same views or opinions, but instead by being together and sharing with one another we will grow closer together as a community of faith. And we will gain a better understanding of our own faith. In the end, it will be best if we know who we are individually and as a congregation should the need to vote on any matters. And that knowledge will help eliminate fear of the unknown—in ourselves and in our church.



November

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

November 4

7:00PM Solitude & Silence Class

November 5

9:00AM Brown Bag Craft Group

4:00PM The Journey

6:30PM Studies w/ the Staff: The Wisdom Books

6:30PM Women's Small Group

7:00PM Men's Small Group

November 6

9:00AM Men's Coffee Group

10:00AM Studies w/ the Staff: The Wisdom Books

6:00PM Annual Charge Conference

6:00PM Conscious Discipline Class

November 7

6:30PM Thursday Night Bible Study

November 9

8:00AM Lay Servant School

9:00AM Building & Grounds Work Day

November 11

1:30PM Celebration Circle

7:00PM Solitude & Silence Class

November 12

9:30AM Caregiver Small Group

6:30PM Studies w/ the Staff: The Wisdom Books

November 13

9:00AM Men's Coffee Group

10:00AM Studies w/ the Staff: The Wisdom Books

6:00PM Conscious Discipline Class

7:00PM Youth Small Groups

November 14

6:30PM Thursday Night Bible Study

November 15

9:20AM Dorcas Circle

November 17

12:00PM Lunch & Learn: Identity Fraud

November 18

7:00PM Solitude & Silence Class

November 19

6:30PM Studies w/ the Staff: The Wisdom Books

7:00PM Men's Small Group

November 20

9:00AM Men's Coffee Group

10:00AM Studies w/ the Staff: The Wisdom Books

11:30AM Grief Support Group

6:00PM Conscious Discipline

November 21

6:30PM Thursday Night Bible Study

November 25

7:00PM Solitude & Silence Class

November 26

6:30PM Studies w/ the Staff: The Wisdom Books

November 27

9:00AM Men's Coffee Group

10:00AM Studies w/ the Staff: The Wisdom Books



December

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

December 3

- 9:00AM Brown Bag Craft Group
- 4:00PM The Journey
- 6:30PM Studies w/ the Staff
- 6:30PM Women's Small Group
- 7:00PM Men's Small Group

December 4

- 9:00AM Men's Coffee Group
- 10:00AM Studies w/ the Staff
- 11:30AM Grief Support Group

December 5

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

December 7

- TBD A Night In Bethlehem Set-Up

December 8

- 5:00PM A Night In Bethlehem

December 9

- 1:30PM Celebration Circle

December 10

- 9:30AM Caregiver Small Group
- 6:30PM Studies w/ the Staff

December 11

- 9:00AM Men's Coffee Group
- 10:00AM Studies w/ the Staff
- 7:00PM Youth Small Groups

December 12

- 6:30PM Thursday Night Bible Study

December 15

- 12:00PM Church Pitch-In & Carol Sing

December 17

- 7:00PM Men's Small Group

December 18

- 9:00AM Men's Coffee Group

December 19

- 6:30PM Thursday Night Bible Study

December 22

- 9:30AM Special Music Program During Worship
- 4:00PM Service of Hope

December 24

- 6:00PM Family-Friendly Christmas Eve Service
- 11:00PM Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service





Make An Impact
*In Our Church, Our Community,
and Our World*

Sunday, December 8 @ 5:00 PM

This has quickly become an annual event focused on the children, but we will have something for all ages.

During "A Night in Bethlehem", you will get to explore the town of Bethlehem on the night of Jesus' birth.

Through hands-on experiences, you will learn about the story of Jesus' birth and why this

baby is so important. Volunteers are still needed to help put together this event. To volunteer, visit our Welcome Center or call the church office.

A brief planning meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, November 10** after Sunday School—no RSVP needed.



**Can you spare
an hour
of your time?**

Monthly Cleaning Night at Preschool
Help keep our classrooms clean & healthy
November 12 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Cocoa And Carols
Help serve Cocoa to Families
Listen to our Students Sing
**December 13 and December 17
8:45-9:30 AM**

Christmas Sharing Week
Can you play an instrument?
Want to entertain people for 30 minutes?
**December 11,12,13,16,17
8:45-9:15 AM**

To Volunteer call the Church Office or
Email: preschool@epworthindy.org

SPECIAL COLLECTION — Winter Clothing Drive

As the winter weather prepares to roll in, our Food Pantry Clients could use some help staying warm.

On Sunday December 1, we will be collecting the following items:

- Hats
- Scarves
- Gloves
- Queen-Sized Blankets

The food pantry primarily serves adults and there are more men than women. Remember this as you shop for these donations.



Please bring your donations to Epworth on or before **Sunday, December 1**. We will collect these items in the Sanctuary and they will be delivered as part of the Food Pantry donations.



Volunteer in our Nursery?

We feel very fortunate that Epworth has had a "baby-boom" as of late! With all of our new little friends running (or crawling) around, we could use a few extra hands each Sunday to help out! If you are interested in helping out please call the church office or visiting our Welcome Center.

Christmas Eve Service

Family Service | 6:00pm

Traditional Service | 11:00pm



Keep These Dates In Mind:

- Wednesday, November 6, 6:00PM**
Charge Conference at Epworth
- Sunday, November 17, 12:00PM**
Identity Theft Workshop and Luncheon
- Sunday, December 8, 5:00PM**
A Night In Bethlehem

Join us for Worship Sunday Morning 9:30AM

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

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Epworth United
Methodist Church