

Faith Matters

A Newsletter of Epworth United Methodist Church

Walking with 2020 Vision

The Calendar says it's 2020. Can you believe it?

I wish that the coming of 2020 on the calendar had brought with it 20/20 clarity for the world and us. Unfortunately we have no better vision for today or the future than when we turned the calendar to 2000.

I am hopeful that the year 2020 can bring us some clarity in our denomination, our church, and our own lives of faith. That's why I want to start the year with a series of messages I call — *Learning to Walk with 2020 Vision*. Yes, I know it's a bit corny, but it does make a point. We need to learn how to live with faith in a world that is out of focus and struggling to find a way forward.

Walking with Faith is a concept that is used over and over in the Bible. When our vision is clear—finding the path and getting places is easy. That's not our problem. Our problem is that most often we can't see the path or at best it is cloudy. So we will take time each Sunday to learn some practical and I might add easy things we can each do that will help us live and grow our faith. In other words, we will get some clear directions for walking (in faith) with 20/20 vision.

Join us in worship during January. We even have an incentive for you to join us called **Passport to Giving**. In simple terms we have a donor willing to make a donation in your name simply because you came to church! So don't leave this money on the table — earn some money for missions by coming to church. Look for information about this opportunity in the Newsletter.

See you Sunday, Pastor Rodney

Inside This Issue

Upcoming Events | 2

Opportunities to Grow | 3

Greetings from the Staff | 4

Opportunities to Serve | 5

2020 Budget and Calendar | Insert



It's time we started talking together about the things that can divide us. If we don't talk together, we will only be further divided.

@ the table is designed to bring us together once a month for a meal and a meaningful conversation. This isn't a debate with winners and losers, but just a chance to begin to understand the many different views that make up our family.

All ages are welcome **@ the table**.
WE gather Sunday January 12th.

Upcoming Events



Remember the days when families joined @ the table and had meaningful conversations? In the world of Social Media and instant access we have stopped talking face to face.

We want to change that.

Each month we will gather as a Church Family and share a meal @ the table.

As part of the meal, we will engage in honest conversations.

The purpose is not to convince anyone of the right or wrong view, but rather to help all @ the table to begin to understand the many different views that gather each and every week @ the table called Epworth.

Plan now to be a part of these catered meals and conversations.

@ the table there is a place for You!



January 12 - How do United Methodist Interpret Scripture?

February 2 - What does the Old Testament say related to Inclusion?

March 1 - How has Cultural Influenced our reading of the Bible?

April 5 - What does the New Testament say related to Inclusion?

May 3 - What did Jesus say?

June 7 - Where does the United Methodist church go from here?



You're invited to "DIG IN"
THIRD Sunday of every month from 6-7 p.m.

Jan 19, Feb 16, Mar 15, Apr 19, May 17

You bring money for your dinner
We'll provide the food for thought.

Share a meal together
Dig into a current event through the lens of faith

No Prep work required
Yes Shoes and Shirts required



DIG IN WB's Pizza

6165 Allisonville Road, 46220

If you plan to attend, let Pat Engel know or call Church Office

PASSPORT TO GIVING



Come to Church — Earn Money
You can earn up to a \$50 Mission Donation!

This is an offer too good to refuse.

I know you've heard them all.

But not this one!

Earn money for our Mission Partners by attending worship to start the New Year.

Yes — earn money by going to church!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3

1) Claim your Passport

2) Attend Church

Each week you attend stop by the Welcome Center.

And get your passport stamped

3) Select a Mission Partner

It can even be different each week.

Want to Double your Gift ?

Attend all 5 Sundays — \$5 x 5 = \$25

And your gift is doubled to \$50!

Pick up your Passport
Beginning January 5th

Get your Stamp Here

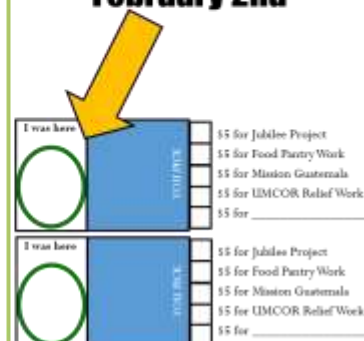
January 5th

January 12th

January 19th

January 26th

February 2nd



STUDENTS

Saturday January 18

Winter JAM Concert at the Fieldhouse

All ages - Adult Drivers Needed

Details will be announced in Sunday School

Sunday February 9

Lunch and Game Adventure

after Sunday School

Grades 4-12

Details will be announced in Sunday School

New Opportunities to Grow in 2020

New Sunday Morning Study - Reckless Love

Sunday Morning | 10:45 AM | beginning January 5

Pastor has recommended all small groups do this study in 2020. Discover how loving our neighbors is the best way to love God more fully. An optional book is available for all participants.

New Sunday Morning Study - The Walk

Sunday Morning | 10:45 AM | beginning January 5

Join this group on Sunday morning as they dig even deeper into the topics introduced by the Sunday Sermon. We will learn about the key actions that will help improve our walk of faith in 2020.

New Sunday Morning Group for Youth

Sunday Morning | 10:45 AM | beginning January 5

Fellowship Hall has lots of room and we are using it. 4th Grade and up meets in Fellowship Hall. We start with Food and Games—because we can. We then divide up for age appropriate discussions. Join us for the food, or the games, or the discussion—we have a spot saved for you!

New Sunday Evening Study - Reckless Love

Sunday | 4:30-5:30 PM | beginning January 5

Pastor has recommended all small groups do this study in 2020. Discover how loving our neighbors is the best way to love God more fully. An optional book is available for all participants.

New Weekday Study - Transforming Discipleship

Thursday Morning | 10:00AM | beginning January 9

Want to develop some new habits? Don't know where to start? Discover Christ's presence in your life through weekly discussions and readings. Contact Pat Engel to reserve your spot and to get started.

New Sunday Morning Study - Understanding the Bible

Sunday Mornings | 10:45AM | beginning January 12

Reading the Bible is often a goal, but rarely a reality. Why is that? In part because, while the Bible is easy to read, it is hard to understand. In just 4 weeks with Pastor Rodney you will discover some secrets that will make the Bible easier to read and understand.

New Monthly Evening Small Group Opportunity - Dig In

3rd Tuesdays of the month | 6:00-7:00PM

@ WB's Pizza 6165 Allisonville Road

You bring money for dinner. We'll provide the food for thought. Share a meal together and then Dig Into a current event through the lens of faith. All are welcome.



The Conversation begins in 2020 @ the table



The dinner table used to be the place where difficult topics were discussed, but that has become an event of the past. We want to change that. We have a lot to talk about as a church family. So, once a month, we'll gather @ the table for a catered lunch and some guided conversation.

January 12 - How do we read Scripture?

2020 RETREATS

Reserve Your Spot

Contact Pat Engel for more info.

Couples Retreat 2020

A weekend of fun and fellowship!

February 7-9, 2020

\$90/night

Canyon Inn

McCormick's Creek State Park
Only Space for 6 Couples Remain

Women's Retreat

A ladies only weekend getaway!

April 25-26, 2020

\$40

Epworth Forest on Lake Webster
Register Now to reserve your spot

Family Camping

A family fun weekend getaway
For the entire Church Family!

September 18-20, 2020

\$55/site

Turkey Run State Park
**Register and Pay by March 8th
to ensure a camping spot**

Congratulations!

Aaron Taylor begins January 5 as Assistant Pastor for St Paul UMC in Bloomington, IN.

Pastor Rodney and Sherry Frieden will celebrate 25 years of marriage on December 31.



Looking ahead

FROM The Desk of Pat Engel, Director of Discipleship

Companions on the journey, Spiritual author, Henri Nouwen wrote: "How do we wait for God? We wait with patience. But patience does not mean passivity. Waiting patiently is not like waiting for the bus to come, the rain to stop, or the sun to rise. It is an active waiting in which we live the present moment to the full in order to find there the signs of the One we are waiting for." And you all have waited well.

As we've awaited Christ's coming, you've fed lots of hungry people, clothed lots of hurting folks, you've studied the scriptures and those who interpret them. You've welcomed strangers who've since become part of the Epworth family, you've asked the hard questions that come with following Christ in a modern society, and you've rolled up your sleeves when hard work needed doing. You've said "YES" to leadership and last minute helping out, you've given of all your resources—money, time and prayer. Well done good and faithful servants. As we move into 2020, there is still more to learn, more to give, more room in our classrooms and sanctuary and in our hearts.

My prayer for Epworth in the coming year is that God will continue to reveal to us opportunities to be Christ wherever we are needed and that, together, we'll have the good sense to continue living in the present moment by saying "YES" to God's invitations. Looking forward to another leg of the journey with all y'all!

Blessings, Pat

A New Staff position is in the works for 2020

As we look ahead to 2020, Epworth Leadership remains committed to the importance of ministry **to and with** our families and their children. A search is being conducted for a candidate who will help us continue to build a strong discipleship program for our children, youth, their parents, and young adults. We hope to have the new position of Director of Student and Young Adult Discipleship hired by Easter. If you have any questions, please direct them to Pastor Rodney or the Chair of Staff Parish, Lucinda Lautz.

FROM The Desk of John Phillips, Music Director

Dear Epworth Family,

As I reflect on the musical life of our wonderful church this past year, I am awed, amazed, and filled with joy. I am incredibly blessed to work in a church that is filled with loving and dedicated people. We are not the biggest music ministry, but we have talented people who love to make music and glorify God. I can't believe that I am in my 10th year of music ministry at Epworth. I started as Praise Team director and now am blessed to direct the Chancel and Bells choirs as well. We continue to grow in the number of people participating in music ministry. The bell choir has tackled challenging music with great success, the Praise Team continues to lead us in worship and are being challenged to minister as they lead. The Chancel Choir is growing in numbers and we are blessed by our paid section leaders who add so much to our worship. We are beyond blessed to have Tammy Anderson as our accompanist, the woman can really tickle the ivories and has an amazing spirit! As I look ahead to 2020, my hope is to keep building on the solid foundation that we have in place. To add musicians and singers and to hopefully tap into unexplored talent both musically and theatrically! As always, if you would like to be a part of worship ministry, please let me know! We would love to have you join us!

John

FROM Anndi Maguire, Preschool Director

We continue to run at near capacity and are blessed by a great staff of teachers. We are also thankful for the ministry partnership that continues to grow with the church. I can't wait to see what 2020 brings as we look forward to the completion of the room remodels and another amazing school year.

Anndi

Make An Impact

*In Our Church, Our Community,
and Our World*

Ongoing Service Opportunities

St. Vincent House

prepare and serve Saturday breakfast

Feb 1, Apr 4, Jun 6, Aug 1, Oct 3, Dec 5

Contact Pat Engel or call Church Office to help

Gleaner's Food Panty

Sort and prepare food for distribution

Mar 7, May 9, July 11, Sept 12, Nov 14

Contact Pat Engel or call Church Office to help



The Jubilee Project Trip Sneedville, Tennessee

April 23-26, 2020

We will work and help as needed to provide food for the hungry; clothing for the needy; access to clean water; home access for the disabled; and basic home repair ... plus have some fun!

Contact the Church Office for more information

Epworth Maintenance Ministry

Got Time? Got Skills?

We've got projects and tools

We just need you!

Sign up at Welcome Center



NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Families remember special days. We are in need of a few people to help lead a new church family ministry. We want to keep track of birthdays and anniversaries of our church family. There are endless possibilities. Are you the one we need? Contact the Church Office.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

So many places to serve. Not sure where to start?



We have a survey that can help you find your place.

Pick one up at the Welcome Center and find your spot!



Can you spare some time To help our Preschool?

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

January 15 8:00 am

Families will be registering for our 2020-2021 school year. We need volunteers to greet families and help serve coffee and donuts as they wait to register.

January 16 6:30-8pm

February 19 6:30-8pm

April 22 6:30-8pm

Come get to know and work alongside preschool parents as we deep clean classrooms to keep staff and children healthy.

February 26 Noon

Show appreciation for our Teachers by serving and providing lunch for the staff during their Professional Development Day

SPRING 2020

The date will be determined later, but we will need help removing leaves and sprucing up the playground for the warmer weather.

May 12 5:45-7:30pm

End of School Year Celebration - there are many opportunities to be involved in making this fun event successful! There will be food service, petting zoo, pony rides, tattoos, face painting, and music too!



Keep These Dates In Mind:

Sunday, January 5, 9:30 AM

Your Passport to Giving begins

Sunday, January 12, 4:00PM

@ the Table Luncheon and Discussion

Wednesday, February 26, 7:00 PM

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday Service

Join us for Worship Sunday Morning 9:30AM

Beginning in February, you will receive our monthly newsletter by email.

Doing it this way is a great financial savings to the church. If you would like help getting a physical copy, please contact our office.

(317) 251-1481

thomasp@epworthindy.org



6450 Allisonville Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220



**Epworth United
Methodist Church**