

Faith Matters

A Newsletter of Epworth United Methodist Church



Faith At Home in February

As for he and my house we will serve the Lord. That was Joshua's declaration and it makes a great needlepoint to hang on the wall of your home. But what does it really mean?

Join us for a series of messages designed to take your Sunday morning Faith—HOME. We will discover how your faith can directly impact your life at home and your family.

Church is great, but home is where you live each and everyday.

BTW, as you read this I am in Israel leading a group of nearly 50 people as they explore the places that Jesus walked. You can track this group as they travel by following my blog FAITH MATTERS @ rodneymfrieden.com.

We are off to a great start in this New Year. Stay on the path, keep walking, and keep the faith.

See you Sunday, Pastor Rodney



ASH WEDNESDAY
BEGINS THE SEASON OF LENT

February 26th

7:00 PM

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table

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**.

Next gatherings

Sundays February 2 & March 1

Upcoming Events



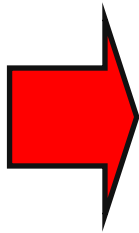
Remember the days when families joined @ the table and had meaningful conversations?
 In the world of Social Media and instant access we have stopped talking face to face.
 We want to change that.
 Each month we will gather as a Church Family and share a meal @ the table.

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?



Everyone loves a good story. A good story can instill a variety of emotions in us, from extreme sadness to a sense of euphoria. Jesus knew the power of a good story and He told lots of them to the crowds and to His disciples. They were called parables. And these stories told by Jesus have been told over and over and with good reason. A good story is worth telling ... over and over. Plan to Join us for a special series of messages this Lent. On our way to Easter we will listen again to the stories Jesus told. We will try to hear them the way the disciples heard them, but we will also try to hear them with a 21st century ear. And like any good story we will be entertained and hopefully we will be challenged by Jesus' words to live our faith in new and compelling ways. And I think that's why Jesus told the stories to begin with.

The stories begin Ash Wednesday @ 7:00 pm and Sunday March 1st 9:30 am

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

STUDENTS

**Sunday February 9
 Lunch and Game Adventure
 after Sunday School
 Grades 4-12**

Details will be announced in Sunday School

Opportunities to Grow

Call to Prayer

Every Monday 2–7 PM

The sanctuary will be available for a guided time of prayer as we seek guidance and answers for who we are as a Church-Epworth, as a Conference and Denomination. In the midst of the Church's growing divide with respect to the LGBTQ community we need better direction. Additionally there will be staff led time of prayer on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM.

New Sunday Morning Group for Youth grade 4-12

Sunday Morning | 10:45 AM

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 —we have a spot for you!

A Small Group for Everyone—Reckless Love

Every Sunday | 4:30-5:30 PM

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.

Monthly Evening Small Group Opportunity - Dig In

February 16th | 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.

Join the Conversation @ the table

March 1 | 11:45 AM



How has culture influenced Scripture?

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, gather @ the table for a catered lunch and guided conversation.

NEW Studies coming in March

Genesis to Revelation a Bible Study with Pastor Rodney

Tuesday Evening | 6:30 PM | begins March 3

OR Wednesday Morning | 10:00 AM | begins March 4

The Bible is called the story of God, but when you the Bible it can seem that the story is disconnected and confusing. Pastor Rodney will use his gift of teaching and storytelling to help you discover the Story of God's love that is consistently woven in the stories from Genesis to Revelation. All are welcome.

Exploring Spiritual Disciplines

Thursday Morning | 10:00AM | begins March 5

Join the discussion as we explore the Spiritual practices that help us walk in faith in our relationship with God. This is part of the Companions in Christ Series being led by Pat Engel.

2020 RETREATS

Reserve Your Spot

Contact Pat Engel for more info.



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

**PASSPORT
TO GIVING**



A generous gift, a silly promotional idea, and your attendance have combined to provide over \$5000 for missions. Our Mission partners as you designated will be receiving these bonus gifts in March. Thank you for being here and helping us support our partners!



**NEWS &
UPDATES**

STAY INFORMED

Did you know you can stop by the Welcome Center each Sunday and pick up what we call a 'Green Sheet'? It has information about small groups and upcoming activities and events. They are also available in each of our Sunday Morning classrooms.

2020

Looking ahead

NEW YEAR

Leadership Table @ Work**Staff Search Update**

A search began after Christmas for a candidate who will help us continue to build a strong discipleship program for our children, youth, their parents, and young adults.

The first round of interviews has taken place with the qualified candidates that applied. We hope to have extended an offer to a person to serve as **Director of Student and Young Adult Discipleship** by the end of February. If you have any questions, please direct them to Pastor Rodney or the Chair of Staff Parish, Lucinda Lautz.

2020 Fish Fry

The Leadership Table will be hearing an update from the Fish Fry Team on a new and revised plan Fish Fry during their February meeting. If you would like to be part of the planning team call the church office.

2019 Finance Update:

2019 Missional Giving: \$71,731

2019 Mission Expenses: \$71,660

2019 Capital Giving: \$73,358

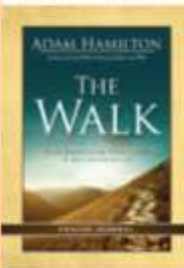
2019 Capital Fund Expenses: \$80,718

2019 Operations Giving: \$430,405

2019 Operations Expenses: \$439,406

2019 Giving Statements were sent January 15th.

If you did not receive a statement or have a question regarding your giving statement, please call the church office.

Walking with 20/20 Vision a Call to Action

During January, Pastor Rodney gave some clear directions for walking in faith with 20/20 vision. He reminded us weekly that there are things we do on our own and with others.

He provided us with some essential practices and goals to help us in our walk of faith. We even have journals available to help you stay on track with your walk this year.

WORSHIP

Be an 'Honor Roll' Attendee in Worship (attend 80-90%)

Pray Daily: Say 'Thank You' to God five times each day

STUDY

Join a small group and study with others

Read the Bible on your own at least five verses each day

SERVE

Find a place to serve with others here at Church

Individually commit Five Acts of Kindness each week

SHARE

Invite five new people to church this year

GIVE

Regularly give to the church to support the ministry

Act generously towards others five times each month



Let's say a quiet thank you to Epworth members from the past. They have left us a spiritual legacy that continues to be a positive force in Indianapolis.

Some of them also left us a legacy of Christian stewardship by remembering Epworth in their estate plans. Their witness has allowed us to establish an Endowment. Their gifts continue to grow and the earnings have enriched our us throughout these past years. From student and mission scholarships to enhancements to our building and updated equipment, their love and commitment bless us each day. What a legacy!

We encourage each of you to consider leaving that kind of legacy as you consider your own estate plans. For more information please feel free to contact the endowment committee:

John Roederer, Rick Schaefer, Laura Davidson, Larry Witham, Jody Harland, Mark Dorrell, and Dorothy Suther

Make An Impact

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

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!



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



Ongoing Service Opportunities

St. Vincent House

prepare and serve Saturday breakfast
Apr 4, Jun 6, Aug 1, Oct 3, Dec 5

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

Celebrating Our Stitchers!

***Making Love Gifts, Healing Hearts,
One stitch at a time.***

This month we celebrate these nimble-fingered folks who stitch in the name of God to make a difference in the lives of others.

This past year, they created:

97 Layettees	92 Fleece Blankets
31 Baby Blankets	14 Quilts
2 Fidget Quilts	

Groups who received these gifts of love include:

- IMPD Victims Assistance
- Raphael Healthcare
- Wee Ones Program
- Brianna's Hope (INUMC)
- Jubilee Project (Mission Trip)



Can you spare some time To help our Preschool?

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

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, February 2, 11:45 AM
@ the Table Luncheon and Discussion
Wednesday, February 26, 7:00 PM
Lent begins with Ash Wednesday Service
Sunday, March 1, 11:45 AM
@ the Table Luncheon and Discussion

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