



A Newsletter of Epworth United Methodist Church

Greetings Epworth !

It is clear that we are experiencing something new in our lifetimes and unprecedented times require unprecedented action. So we are doing something that in all my year's of ministry I have never done ...

There will be **NO Public Worship Services at Epworth for the next 4 weeks.**

And yes, that means No Palm Sunday, No Maundy Thursday, No Good Friday, and No Easter Services in the Church building.

**This includes shutting down all activities in the church building until after Easter as well.**

This decision was made based on a number of factors, but foremost in those factors was the safety and well-being of our congregation and community at large. Now with that announcement, I have much more to share with you.

Epworth is not shutting down. We are not closed.

We are going to be the church in the coming weeks that extends far beyond our corner on Allisonville Rd.

Be encouraged that we were made for this time. Be aware of those around you that may be in need - maybe not today, but in the days and weeks ahead. Afterall, I have heard it said, that how you live your faith matters!

**So let me remind you that the church isn't a place. The church isn't just a building.**

So if you ask me where Epworth is I say ...

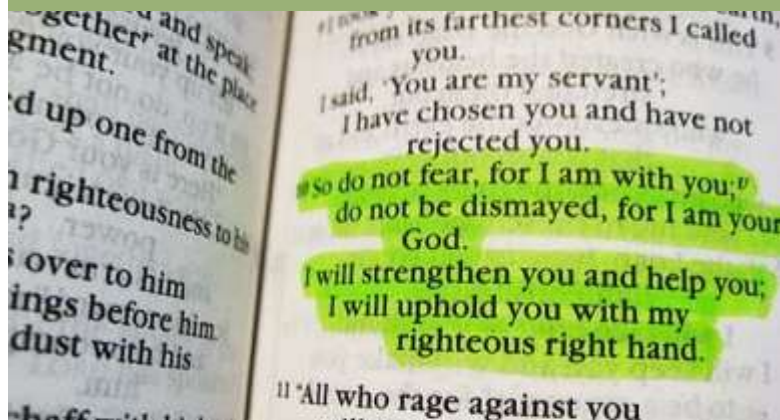
*Epworth is at home raising families, it is in office buildings scattered around the city, it is in hospitals and doctor's offices, it is in schools, it is in retail stores, it travels around the country and the globe ... and on Sunday mornings at 9:30ish a good part of our church family gathers at the corner of 65th and Allisonville to worship together and to be encouraged to go and be the church for another week.*

We can be frustrated by this or can we view this as an opportunity to do something special in our communities to show our care for those at greatest risk and to demonstrate that the church is far more than a gathering place on the weekend.

Now is the time to live your faith and to love others in a way that makes a difference.

Could it be that this Easter the church will be more even powerful scattered throughout our communities sharing the love of Jesus than singularly gathered in our buildings for worship?

**Pastor Rodney**



Do not be afraid!

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This is the time for the church to live out the commandment to love our neighbors. Remember your at risk neighbors. What can you do to help them? God has not changed. And the God that calmed the storms with but a word is still in control.

I am mindful of the words of a creed from the Church of Canada that are good words for us to remember and declare at this time:

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

Who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

## 2020 by the numbers

Current thru February

2020 Average Worship = 141

2020 Ministry Giving: \$69,186

2020 Ministry Expense: \$77,406

2020 Capital Giving: \$10,004

2020 Capital Expense: \$7,769

2020 Missional Giving: \$7,135

2020 Missional Expenses: \$5,535

## *Giving is Worship*

GIVING BACK TO THE ONE WHO FIRST GAVE



Many of you have inquired how to continue your giving during this time of crisis. The ministry work of the church continues forward and we are seeking to be good stewards now as always.

How can I continue to give?

1. Mail your offering to the church.  
Please do not send cash.
2. Go online to [www.epworthindy.org](http://www.epworthindy.org) and select giving on the main page. Follow the prompts to create an account for online giving. You can do this one-time or set something up to automatically give every month.
3. Our ministry partner that handles our online giving has also set up the ability for you to give over the phone. Call VANCO Client Services at 800.675.7430 and let them know you would like to give to Epworth and they will assist you.

And thank you for your generosity!

# HOW to STAY CONNECTED DURING SELF ISOLATION

Let's talk about the large **elephant in the room** regarding public worship over the weeks and weekends to come. While there are no public events at Epworth that doesn't mean we have closed the Church nor does it mean you cannot stay connected.

We will have a weekly worship service each week.  
We will have weekly Bible Study with the Pastor.  
We will have weekly prayer time with Pat.

How will this happen?

In short with TECHNOLOGY and you !  
To engage with these events you will need a smart phone or a computer with internet access.



You will want to connect with the church through FACEBOOK. So, yes, you will need to create a FACEBOOK account and LIKE the Church FACEBOOK PAGE.



We will also be utilizing EMAIL.  
***Does the church have your email?***  
If you are not sure, send an email to [thomasp@epworthindy.org](mailto:thomasp@epworthindy.org) NOW so that you are included in this flow of information.



For our small groups and worship we will be utilizing ZOOM as a means of conference call by phone and/or video and to teach some of our small group studies. You will get an invite by email.



Faith Matters is Pastor Rodney's blog. You will be able to read the sermons and other stories. Go to [rodneyefrieden.com](http://rodneyefrieden.com) To connect or subscribe. You can even catch up on the recent Holy Land Trip.

[www.epworthindy.org](http://www.epworthindy.org) also will have the archive of the audio recordings of all the sermons current and past.

**Stay Connected!**



## Remembering Our Homebound Members

Would you take time to send them a note of encouragement and love?

All addresses are Indianapolis unless noted

**Wayne Beck**  
8140 Township Line Road #3415 46260

**Neva Bell**  
8505 Woodfield Crossing #328 46240

**Shirley Boles** c/o Heritage Woods  
9600 E. 146<sup>th</sup> St. Noblesville 46060

**Bill Carr**  
11851 Cumberland Road Fishers 46037

**Charmain Carson** c/o Hearth at Windermere  
9745 Olympian Dr. Fishers 46037

**Alta Coplen**  
2626 Colleton Way Suite D 46240

**John Deuser** c/o The Forum  
8505 Woodfield Crossing Blvd 46240

**Norm and Nancy Mason**  
8140 Township Line Road #4409 46260

**Verna Jean Meek** c/o Greenwood Health & Living  
937 Fry Road Greenwood 46142

**Jack Miller** c/o Copper Trace  
1250 W. 146<sup>th</sup> St. Westfield 46074

**Bonnie Muller** c/o The Forum  
8505 Wood field Crossing Blvd 46240

**Mary Pence**  
7235 Riverwalk Way N #316 Noblesville 46062

**Pete and Mary Peterson**  
8140 Township Line Road #2415 46240

**Fran Resener**  
10312 Allisonville Road Fishers 46038

**Harriett Sebald**  
8505 Woodfield Crossing Blvd #314 46240

**Ellie Stanley**  
11050 Presbyterian Dr. Sycamore #217 46236

**Betty Wilson** c/o Woodland Terrace  
689 Pro-Med Lane #117 Carmel 46032

**Betty Wolf**  
1790 E. 54<sup>th</sup> St. #126 46220





### What can we expect in the weeks to come?

#### Sunday

##### Worship

- Facebook LIVE
- ZOOM — email invitation to join
- Audio available on Website
- Read the Message on Blog and Facebook

#### During the Week

- Prayer on Facebook
- Prayer Guide for the Week sent by EMAIL
- Pastor Bible Study via Zoom
  - Request an email invitation to join
- Mid Week Devotion/PRAYER
  - Facebook LIVE
  - ZOOM — Request email invitation to join
- Weekly EMAIL with News and Updates



#### What is Zoom?

Many are already familiar with Zoom as it is one of the leading video and phone conference software apps on the market and is widely used by business and schools to allow virtual meetings to take place when face to face meetings aren't possible. The INUMC uses this application for many of their meetings to allow people to participate without traveling for a short meeting. You do not need an account to participate. You will receive an invitation to join a meeting. Then simply follow the directions on your phone or your computer screen to download the app—YES it is safe to download. You will then be able to listen, watch, participate, and even ask questions in real time during classes.

### A Prayer from Pat ... for you

God our protector, good morning.  
 This week has been difficult Lord...  
 a few of us know someone who has gotten  
 this most recent virus, but all of us have been  
 affected by it.  
 Work and school...disrupted.  
 Public events...cancelled.  
 Basic supplies...scarce.  
 Loved ones in nursing homes....unreachable.  
 We don't like it.  
 We don't really understand it.  
 We are ready for it to be over.  
 But until it is, we rest in the assurance of your  
 presence in our lives and in the lives of those  
 who are suffering.  
 And that presence is most felt in the company of  
 our faith community ... so we are grateful for  
 being connected.  
 Keep us mindful of those who we cannot touch  
 and grant us time and space to check on them.  
 Keep us vigilant in caring for others and  
 for ourselves.  
 Hear our prayers of angst and frustration.  
 Keep us still long enough to hear your response  
 of peace and protection.  
 And may we hold closely the words of the  
 Psalmist:  
 I lift up my eyes to the hills...from where does  
 my help come? My help comes from the Lord  
 who made heaven and earth.  
 God will not let your foot be moved.  
 God who keeps you will not slumber.  
 The Lord will keep your going out  
 and your coming in from this time on  
 and forevermore.  
 In the name of the one who trusted you  
 in life and in death, Amen.