



# EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST

## April 2022

TELEPHONE(334) 298-3186  
WWW.EPWORTH-PC.ORG



by Rev. Grant Parker

## “Resurrection Probability”

Brother John Ed Mathison is, without a doubt, one of the most influential pastors in the United States. Indeed, his impact has been felt well beyond the borders of our country. With that said though, I am most grateful for the difference he has made to me personally through the moments of trial and testing in my life. John Ed reflects an admirable trait that Kipling once wrote about—that is, the capacity to “walk with kings yet still retain the common touch.”

In the April 8, A.D. 2007 edition of the Frazer (UMC) “Messenger”, Dr. Mathison wrote the following article entitled “Resurrection Probability.” With his permission, I share his comments with you—the finest church in this conference, in my opinion!

- The July 2002 edition of “Group” magazine shared an interesting resurrection report. In April 2002, Richard Swineburne, well-respected Oxford University philosophy professor, used a broadly accepted probability theory to defend the truth

of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He presented this at a high-profile gathering of philosophy professors at Yale University.

- Swineburne said in a “New York Times” interview, ‘For someone dead for 36 hours to come to life again is, according to the laws of nature, extremely improbable. But if there is a God of the traditional kind, natural laws only operate because He makes them operate.’
- Swineburne then used the Bayes Theorem to assign values to things like the probability that God is real, the behavior of Jesus during His lifetime, and the quality of witness testimony after His death. He then plugged the numbers into a probability formula and added everything up.
- The result was not surprising—a 97% probability that the resurrection really happened.

- A multitude of eyewitnesses in A.D. 33 were 100% sure that Jesus had been raised from the dead. This led Paul to say that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith (1 Corinthians 15:12-58). For him there was no chance of improbability because he experienced Jesus Christ personally (1 Corinthians 15:8).

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not a theory—it is a reality! His birth, life and ministry, death and resurrection literally split history down the middle!!!

I hope you will join us on Easter Sunday, April 17 at the Epworth United Methodist Church as we celebrate the reality of the resurrection. We will begin the celebration at 7:00 A.M., with an Easter Sunrise service in the parking lot of our Family Life Center (gym), followed by our three morning worship services at 8:30, 9:45 and 11:00 A.M. Remember that people are most receptive to an invitation to worship on Easter Sunday, so invite your family and friends as well!

See you Easter, and keep your hand in Jesus’ hand and your eyes on the Cross!

Brother Grant



**EASTER**  
**EGGSTRAVAGANZA**

Join us for our Easter Eggstravaganza on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time, for some snacks, games and an age-level Egg Hunt! Invite your friends and neighbors to this family event.

**DONATIONS:** Prepackaged snacks - cup cakes, sweets, salty snacks, fruit snacks, juice boxes, and small bottled water.

**VOLUNTEERS** needed for games, hiding eggs, marking off the "hunting grounds," set up and clean up. \*Sixth grade students may help hide eggs if not hunting the eggs!



**MONUMENTAL**  
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Your help is always needed and appreciated! Please sign up to help with DECORATIONS, TEACHING, CLEAN UP, KITCHEN, REGISTRATION, MUSIC, SOUND & VIDEO, NURSERY, PRESCHOOL. Check the website for online registration of Volunteers and Students.

\*Background checks submitted by the church are required for all volunteers.

**VBS VOLUNTEER WORKSHOP**— Will be held Sunday, April 24th at 4:00. All volunteers are encouraged to attend!

**SAVE THE DATE!!**

National Day of Prayer will be held at Epworth on Thursday, May 5, 2022. Please save that day to join us in celebrating this special service. It will begin at 12:00 noon with special music, speakers, and many prayers for our country. The theme this year will be 'EXALT THE LORD, WHO HAS ESTABLISHED US' based on Colossians 2:6-7 NASB

**WANT TO JOIN OTHERS IN PRAYER AT EPWORTH?**

Matthew 7:7-8 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds' and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." NIV  
Come every month to the Prayer Vigil held on the third Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be on April 19th, 2022 at 6:00 pm in the chapel at Epworth.

**EPWORTH KIDZ PRESCHOOL AND EPWORTH MOM'S DAY OUT REGISTRATION**

Please contact Letha at [letha.parker@epworth-pc.org](mailto:letha.parker@epworth-pc.org) or 334-298-3186 to register your child for the Summer MDO or Preschool, ages 3 and 4, beginning in August.

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**LOOKING FOR 2022 KINDERGARTEN GRADUATES (K-5)**

The Epworth Kidz Crew would like to recognize all of our Kindergarten (K-5) Graduates by presenting them an Adventure Bible on Sunday, May 10th, at the 11:00 Worship Service. Please send information to the church office or to Letha by email or phone regarding any K-5 graduates this year. We don't want to leave anyone out, so please pass along the child's name, parents'

names, and the school which the graduate attends. Thank you for your help!  
[letha.parker@epworth-pc.org](mailto:letha.parker@epworth-pc.org)

**Visitation Volunteers**

The following people will accompany Brother Grant when he goes visiting on Monday nights. If you are listed here, please meet Brother Grant at 6:30 pm at the church to go with him to visit prospective members and current member.

- April 4—Tony Deal
- April 11—Susan Stillwell
- April 18—Sandra Arnold
- April 25—Jaime Singer

Blessings,  
Kathryn Perdue



## Looking for 2022 Graduating Seniors

We will honor our 2022 High School Seniors on May 15, 2022. We don't want to leave anyone out as we celebrate this special time in their lives. Please help us in making our list of graduates complete by taking a look at the list below. If you know of other Graduating Seniors who are members of or attend Epworth regularly, we need to make sure they get on our list. Please call the church office at 334-298-3186 with any names or contact Diane Glass @ 706-681-2107 or [dianeglass99@gmail.com](mailto:dianeglass99@gmail.com)

Thank you!

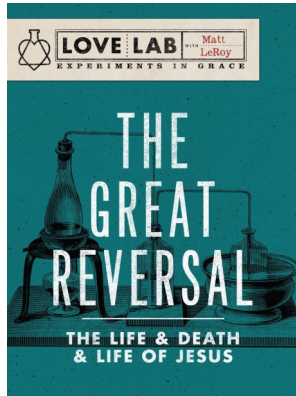
- Brooks Barbaree
- Emma Carroll
- Ava Clay
- Mackenzie Ensley
- Griffin Griggs
- Marley Hamilton
- Kabot Lake
- Adam Norden, Jr.

### **FUNFEST IS COMING!**

Saturday, June 4th,  
11:00- 2:00 Eastern Time  
Volunteers needed. Please contact the office by phone or email: 334-298-3186 or [epworth.umc@epworth-pc.org](mailto:epworth.umc@epworth-pc.org)  
Bring your family, friends, neighbors and anyone else you meet!

### Anniversaries

April 1	Wayne & Wanda Griffin
April 3	Seth & Becky Snedigar
April 5	Roy & Gail Hogge
April 7	Joe & Glenda Culver
April 16	Gene & Katherine Grantham
April 18	Doug & Cindy Cameron
April 21	Shane & Libby Clay George & Jennifer Gatewood



### **NEW UPCOMING BIBLE STUDY:**

#### **The Great Reversal: The Life & Death & Life of Jesus (Gospel of John)**

Starting on Tuesday, May 31st.  
9 total sessions, all on Tuesdays.

Meeting at Epworth in the Ruth & Matthew classroom.

9:30 am - 11:00 am

Led by Keith Badowski

Study guides cost \$15

**Deadline to order a book is May 9th.** Email Keith at [badowski.poet@gmail.com](mailto:badowski.poet@gmail.com) to order your copy today.

### Birthdays

April 1	Pat Vance
April 2	Kenny Smith Lance Brooks
April 3	Maggie Yeilding
April 4	Diane Velazquez Chase Morris
April 5	April Edwards AnnaLee Watson
April 6	Jay Coulter Ann Marie Rollo
April 7	Jerry Obert Brad Word Becky Gaunt Scott Hebert Garrett Burts
April 9	Emily Hogge Sumner Singer Ella Yeilding
April 10	Kathryne Baker Christina Yeilding Davis Gaunt Christie Collins James Word, Jr.
April 11	Bradley Durrance
April 12	Kathryn Perdue
April 14	Robin Hebert Fisher Clark
April 18	Trivius Caldwell Crystal Barnette
April 18	Aaron Gil
April 19	Shirley Goode Scott Dillard
April 20	Mary Ensley Wes Shields Brynleigh Berklite Adalynn Hess
April 22	Brian Sieck Mason Redmond White Annabelle Johnson
April 23	Colton Lurker
April 24	Caden Barnette
April 25	Skip Myles Patti Denzik
April 26	Gentry Lee
April 27	Kay Hall Gracie Atchinson
April 28	Mary R Pittman
April 29	Sara Nicholson Linda Findlater Shane Collins
April 30	Ashley Bloodworth





# Youth Ministry Youth Ministry

## Sunday Night Life

Life is Better Together

5:00—6:30 pm Every Sunday

## Wednesday Night Youth

6:00—7:30 pm 6:00—6:30 pm

Hangout time (snack bar open)



Dear Epworth family,  
Thank you all for the outpouring of love and prayers during the recent passing of my mother, Rebecca Beverly. My family and I continue to be overwhelmed by the goodness of God, Brother Grant, Mrs. Letha and our entire church family. Our comfort rests in the promise that, as Believers, we will see her again.  
  
Please continue to pray for us.  
In Christ's love,  
Donna Beverly Zeigler

## Lenten Luncheon

Everyone is invited to Epworth's Lenten Luncheon April 4th at 12:00 noon EST until 1:00 pm in the church fellowship hall and will not last over one hour. It is planned so you can come during your lunch time. There will be a simple lunch, at no cost to you, with a devotional given by members of our community. What a great time for food, fun and fellowship.

Please come and invite a friend.

# April 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>12:00 Lenten Luncheon</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study	<b>6</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	<b>7</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool Service	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 11 am <b>Cherubs sing &amp; Adult Choir Cantata</b> 3:00 pm <b>Eggstravaganza</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study	<b>13</b> 9:00 am - Mom's Day Out & Preschool 6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool <b>12:00 Maundy Thursday—Communion</b> 6:30 pm <b>Maundy Thursday Service</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>EASTER</b> <b>7:00—Sunrise Service</b>  <b>3 regular Sunday morning services</b>  No Children or Youth activities	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study  6:00 Prayer Vigil	<b>20</b> 9:00 am—Mom's Day Out & Preschool 6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	<b>21</b> 9:00 am - Mom's Day Out & Preschool  6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 4:00 pm VBS meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study	<b>27</b> 9:00 am - Mom's Day Out & Preschool 6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	<b>28</b> 9:00 am - Mom's Day Out & Preschool	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## HELP US IDENTIFY OUR MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN

- Epworth UMC is extremely proud of and likes to honor its current and former military personnel:
  - \* On special days such as Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day, Veterans Day, etc.
  - \* Throughout the year by praying for them and sending them cards and notes to let them know we are praying for them.
- We have identified 68 military personnel who attend or are family members of Epworth attendees, and their names are on our military bulletin board in the gathering room.
- **We suspect there are more, and we need your help to identify them!**
- If you are or know a current or former military person who attends Epworth or who is a family member of an Epworth attendee, and whose name is not already on our bulletin board, please let Pastor Grant
- [grant.parker@epworth-pc.org](mailto:grant.parker@epworth-pc.org) or 334-298-3186 or Ross Goode
- [camovet@ctvea.net](mailto:camovet@ctvea.net) or 706-464-5089 know.
- **Help us honor and pray for all our military personnel by name!**

## JOIN EPWORTH'S SECURITY MINISTRY TEAM

- Members of our Security Ministry Team volunteer during every service to help ensure the safety of our worshippers and the sanctity of our services.
- The more Security Ministry Team members Epworth has, the less often any one of them needs to volunteer. We can certainly use your help. We will train you before you serve.
- Positions on our team do not require much physical activity – you can walk, drive the golf cart, or just sit.
- Join us! If you are interested or know someone who is, please let Pastor Grant ([grant.parker@epworth-pc.org](mailto:grant.parker@epworth-pc.org) or 334-298-3186) or Ross Goode ([camovet@ctvea.net](mailto:camovet@ctvea.net) or 706-464-5089) know.