

# Epworth United Methodist Church



by Rev. Grant Parker

The Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians is often called his "epistle of encouragement," because of the uplifting messages of inspiration frequently found in its verses. For example, in Philippians 4:13, he reminds us: "I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."

Martin Luther once said, "Frogs need storks!" In other words, the difficulties we frequently have to deal with in life—those trying times we endure—often actually work out for our best interest in due time, for it is often in those times and circumstances that we grow stronger—in our faith, our abilities, our endurance, and our relationship to, and our reliance upon, God. Perhaps that's why Joseph said to his brothers who had sold him into slavery, "you intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good."

(Genesis 50:20, NLT)

I was greatly encouraged by the following message that was written by my friend, Rev. Dr. John Ed Mathison, and published on January 14, A.D. 2007 in the Frazer UMC (Montgomery) newsletter, *The Messenger*. I share it now with you, with his permission, with hope that it will be as much a blessing to you as it has been to me.

October 2022

WWW.EPWORDH-PC.ORG  
(334) 298-3186

## "When Times Are Tough"

*In life we all face some tough situations. How we allow God to help us handle those situations determine their influence on our lives for the future. Any situation can make or break a person.*

*I read recently about a girl named Kyle Paxman. She was engaged to be married, and that engagement was broken at the last minute. That is tough. She had some decisions to make.*

*According to the Atlanta Journal Constitution, the 29-year-old Kyle turned what was to be her dream wedding into a fundraiser for women's charities. The event was held in Vermont with 125 ladies attending from across the country. All the proceeds of the silent auctions are going to the Vermont Children's Aid Society and CARE USA. Party-goers at the event got to chow down on the original wedding menu, including the cake. Kyle even decided to utilize the trip she had planned as a Tahitian honeymoon. She felt it might be good to spend some quality time with her mom, so she carried her mom with her. Kyle broke the*

*engagement when she found out that her fiancé was cheating on her.*

*Oftentimes, (we) will have little control over the outward circumstances (in our lives). Our attitude toward those circumstances and how we let God help us handle them is of utmost importance. God can help change a stumbling block into a steppingstone – a burden into a blessing – a tragedy into a triumph!*

*Trust Him...He already has the best answers for all of our questions and the best suggestions for how we should handle things.*

*I am convinced that our future is God's present—He is already there waiting for you and me! I pray that you will find hope, peace and comfort in knowing that by His power and presence, God can use even the negative circumstances and, yes—even the intentions of others to discourage, offend or harm us—for our eventual good!*

*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28, NIV)*

*Keep your hand in Jesus' hand and your eyes on the Cross, my brothers and sisters!*

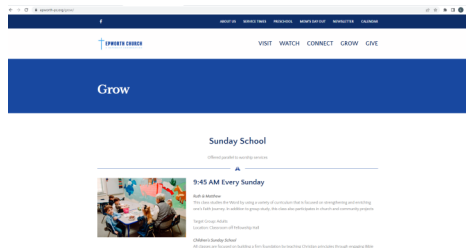
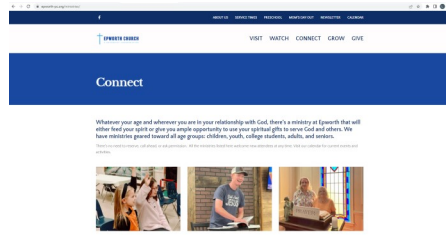
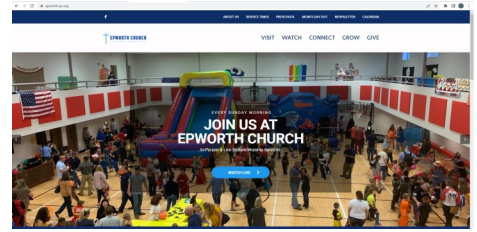
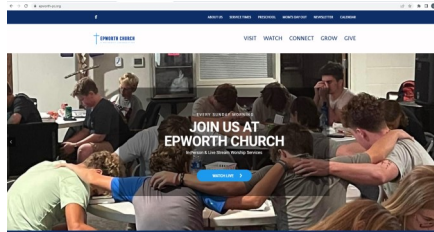
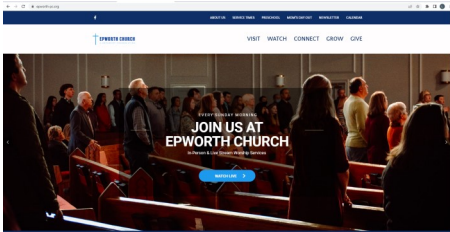
Brother Grant

# **BREAKING NEWS!!!!!!**



## **Epworth has a NEW CHURCH WEBSITE**

Our new website is now up and live. Please be patient as we are still making some small edits and changes. If there are any announcements and/or photographs that you would like to be considered to be placed on the website, please email your submissions to Jill Glass at [jglass@moetrans.com](mailto:jglass@moetrans.com) and copy the church email at [info@epworth-pc.org](mailto:info@epworth-pc.org).



*The SafeHouse is the day center and hub for SafeHouse Ministries. We opened our doors in November 2010 as a day center for homeless and formerly incarcerated men and women in our local area. The SafeHouse has since grown to provide for specific needs of our clients and resources to make their transition back into the community successful.*

SafeHouse is currently in real need of the following items:

- Men's Shoes
- Coffee mugs
- Stainless steel forks & spoons

If you can help with this, please put them in the blue SafeHouse Donations bin in the gathering room. Thank you for donating to this ministry.

# EPWORTH KIDZ CREW



## FALL HAPPENINGS

Sunday Nights, 5:30 pm

- \* Cherub Choir—Ages 3 years through 1st Grade
- \* Kidz Cruise—2nd through 5th/6th Grade

Wednesday Nights, 6:30—7:30 pm

- \* Kidz Connection—4 Years through 5th/6th Grade

## Fall Festival

Saturday, October 29th, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Join us for a fun filled afternoon of games, prizes, hayrides, inflatables, a cupcake walk and **TRUNK OR TREAT!**

Fall festival is right around the corner, and we are looking for **volunteers** and **donations** for this family fun event! **Needed donations include:** sweet snacks (individually wrapped brownies, cookies, etc.) packaged chips, goldfish snacks, juice boxes, cupcakes (for our cupcake walk), candy, pumpkins, gourds, hay, and cornstalks.

**TRUNK OR TREAT VEHICLES** are also needed. Deck out your car trunk or truck bed with family friendly themes and share candy at the end of our festival time!

If you are able to volunteer or sign up for a trunk or treat vehicle spot, please contact Letha Parker or Laura Johnson (letha.parker@epworth-pc.org or laurakeijohnson@gmail.com) or text Letha at 205-799-8547.

(Teens may receive community service hours for your volunteer time.)



## HELPING HANDS NEEDED!

VOLUNTEER IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED....

Sunday Morning Nursery: 8:30, 9:45, 11:00 (rotating schedule)

Monday Evening Nursery: Bible Study 6:30-7:30 (rotating schedule)

**Kidz Devotionals:** Youversion Bible App - Free mobile app with a daily video **Kids Bible**

**Experience** devotional for kids. This Bible App also has devotional plans for Kids and Parents

**PARENTING RESOURCES:**

<https://www.focusonthefamily.ca/parenting>

<https://homeword.com/articles/homeword-daily>



Anniversaries	
Oct 3	Jeffery & Jennifer Head
Oct 5	Garrett & Jill Glass
Oct 11	Trivius & Dorthea Caldwell
Oct 12	Steve & Michele Lake Jared & Bethany Martin
Oct 24	Wade & Kalen Sieck Justin & Chami Chedrick
Oct 25	Billy and Barbara Sides
Oct 26	Kevin & Sheri Nishimura
Oct 27	John & Judy Grimes

*Happy Anniversary*

*Happy Birthday!*

Birthdays	
Oct 1	Becky Ivey
Oct 3	Ellen Ward Sherry Martin
Oct 5	Connie Burell Marcia Zmijewski Billy Sides
Oct 6	Sophie Wilkerson
Oct 7	Poo Carrero Denise Wilkerson Mark Wooten Landon Beaver
Oct 8	Don Verner Ryley Sims
Oct 10	Joey Wade
Oct 11	Mike West
Oct 13	Derek Griggs
Oct 14	Drew Lurker
Oct 15	Cheryl Smith
Oct 17	Shane Barbaree Marilyne Williamson
Oct 18	Marquis Sanders Nate Riepe
Oct 19	Ralph Moss
Oct 20	Wayne Lake Debi Johnson
Oct 21	David Parker John Grimes
Oct 22	Kevin Nishimura Cody Burtt Jeff Coreno
Oct 23	Phyllis Nicholson
Oct 25	Vivian Obert Liza Price
Oct 27	Meagan Burkes
Oct 28	Kevin Sharpe
Oct 29	Blake Sigmon
Oct 30	Mary Katherine Atchinson



### Operation Christmas Child

The Epworth Kidz Crew will be packing Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse during the month of November. If you would like to make donations to our Kidz Ministry, please drop items for shoeboxes in the collection bin in the Gathering Room. All shoeboxes will be packed and ready to go by November 20<sup>th</sup>, and our Epworth

Youth will deliver them to the collection point in Phenix City on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Please help us reach our Church Goal of 200 shoeboxes by:

- \*Donating appropriate items
- \*Packing your own shoeboxes and delivering them to the church on or before Nov. 20
- \*Donating financially to help fund the \$10 per box needed for shipping

[www.samaritanaspurse.org](http://www.samaritanaspurse.org)

### Visitation Volunteers

The following people will accompany Brother Grant on visitation visits on:

- October 3 - Jaime Singer
- October 10 - Susan Stillwell
- October 17 - Tony Deal
- October 24 - Steve Ward
- October 31 - Marcia Myles

Please meet Brother Grant at 6:30 pm at the church. If you are unable to do so, please contact Kathryn Perdue, 334-298-2948.

### **Our Faithfulness**

Total Annual Budget	\$961,418.56
Budget YTD	\$719,293.26
Actual Contributions YTD	\$631,845.57





# Youth Ministry

Life is **better** together.

We would love to have you join us for youth each week.

Sun. 9:45 am Contemporary Worship Service

Sun. 11:00 am Small Groups

Sun. 5:00—6:30 pm Youth "Sunday Night Life"

Wed. 6:00—7:30 pm "Wednesday Youth Group"

**SNL**  
SUNDAY NIGHT LIFE







## JOIN EPWORTH'S SECURITY MINISTRY TEAM

Investigator Joiner from the Phenix City Police Department is scheduled to present "Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE)" training at our church at 6 p.m. on Thursday, 27 October 2022. We'll provide more details soon.

- You may not see them, but members of our security ministry team volunteer during every service and special church-wide events to help ensure the safety of our worshippers and the sanctity of our services.
- The more security ministry team members Epworth has, the less frequently any one of them needs to volunteer. We can certainly use your help. We will train you before you serve.
- Many 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.



## Veterans Day Dinner

- Epworth is planning to host another free dinner this year to honor our military men and women, our Veterans, and their immediate families.
- We are planning to conduct this year's dinner on Veterans Day, Friday, 11 November 2022.
  - \* The theme of this year's dinner will be Wreaths Across America (WAA), and we are excited that our guest speaker will be the area coordinator for WAA from Fort Benning, GA.
  - \* Tim Maggart, an Army Veteran who is an award-winning singer/songwriter and a staunch supporter of WAA, will provide the entertainment.
- \* We want to give our military and veteran personnel and their families a great, catered meal, warm fellowship, some patriotic entertainment, great door prizes, and information concerning how WAA supports Veterans worldwide.
- \* If you are a member or attendee at Epworth, we want to ensure we send you a personal invitation so you and your family can attend.
- The "Epworth Military Connections" page on our military bulletin board in the Gathering Room shows all the active, retired, and Veteran military personnel we believe we have at Epworth. We suspect there are more, and we need your help so we can invite and honor them, too!
- 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 334-297-3186) or Ross Goode ([camovet@ctvea.net](mailto:camovet@ctvea.net) or 706-464-5089) know.
- Give us the names of other Epworth military connections, mark your calendars for 11 November 2022, and look for more information concerning our Veterans Day Dinner soon.

# October 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 5:00—6:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir 5:30 pm—Bible Study	<b>3 12:00 Happy Days Luncheon</b> 6:30 pm— “Man Church” in Youth Room 6:30— “Woman Church” Bible study “True Spirituality”	<b>4</b> 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study “Daniel” 6:30 pm—Bible study “Book of Revelation”	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	<b>6</b> 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool <b>6:30 pm UMW (Fellowship Hall)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9 8:30 —1:00 pm Blood Drive</b> 5:00—6:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir 5:30 pm—Bible Study	<b>10 Office Closed Columbus Day</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study “Daniel” 6:30 pm—Bible study “Book of Revelation”	<b>12</b> 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	<b>13</b> 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool <b>6:00 pm Men’s Ministry</b> <b>6:00 pm—Grief Meeting led by Minnie Henderson</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15 Youth Saturday Morning:                      9:00 am Prayer .....and.....                      9:30 Serve Day</b>
<b>16 4:00 pm Council on Ministries</b> 5:00—6:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir 5:30 pm—Bible Study	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm— “Man Church” in Youth Room 6:30— “Woman Church” Bible study “True Spirituality”	<b>18</b> 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study “Daniel” 6:00 pm—Prayer Vigil 6:30 pm—Bible study “Book of Revelation”	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	<b>20</b> 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 5:00—6:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir 5:30 pm—Bible Study	<b>24</b> 6:30 pm— “Man Church” in Youth Room 6:30— “Woman Church” Bible study “True Spirituality”	<b>25</b> 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study “Daniel” 6:30 pm—Bible study “Book of Revelation”	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	<b>27</b> 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 6:00 pm—Church Safety and Security Training Meeting in the Sanctuary - Open to everyone.	<b>28</b>	<b>29 Fall Festival</b>
<b>30 Stewardship Kickoff</b> 5:00—6:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir 5:30 pm—Bible Study	<b>31</b> 6:30 pm— “Man Church” in Youth Room 6:30— “Woman Church” Bible study “True Spirituality”					



## **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA – 2022**

Wreaths Across America Day, which is Saturday, December 17, 2022, is approaching fast.

As you know, Wreaths Across America Day is the day we honor both our living and fallen Veterans by sponsoring wreaths thru WAA and placing them on the gravesites of Veterans interred at Fort Mitchell National Cemetery, Fort Benning Cemetery, and other local cemeteries.

We'll work primarily again this year with Fort Mitchell National Cemetery.

You have done a great job with WAA every year. Your love for our Veterans, coupled with your generosity and selflessness, have caused you to grow from being responsible for ensuring Fort Mitchell received 145 wreaths in 2018 to ensuring Fort Mitchell received 537 wreaths last year. Already this year, you have sponsored enough wreaths to ensure Fort Mitchell will receive 378 wreaths this year.

Wreaths cost the same this year as they did last year: only \$15 for one; \$30 for two; \$75 for five, etc., and for every two wreaths you sponsor, WAA will provide a third wreath free to Fort Mitchell.

Sponsor your wreaths today! Pick up a form from the military bulletin board in the gathering room, put your check marked for "WAA" in the offering plate, or sponsor wreaths on the Epworth website. Contact Mary Pittman or Ross Goode if you have questions or need more information.

We'll keep you posted on our progress and give you reminders and more information soon.