

Epworth United Methodist Church



by Rev. Grant Parker

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18, KJV)

From childhood on, we are taught to pray, thanking God for our blessings:

“God is great, God is good. Let us thank Him for our food. By His hands, we are fed. Thank you Lord, for our daily bread.”

Nonetheless, we are so often distracted by the busyness of life that we neglect to follow Paul’s Spirit-inspired command to the Thessalonians: “In every thing give thanks...!”

However, when we *do* remember to give thanks to God, we usually have no trouble recognizing *blessings* for which we should be thankful. So we begin to list our countless blessings in a litany of thanks to God—food, shelter, clothing, finances, good health, family, friends, etc. But how often do we stop to thank God for adverse situations—for hardships—for difficulties and trials?

Some people will say, “Remember—Paul tells us to give thanks *IN* every thing, not *FOR* every thing!” But, for the

record, the Apostle Paul also wrote to the Ephesians (5: 18, 20) the following instructions: “...be filled with the Spirit...always giving thanks *FOR* all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God!”

It’s easy to thank God for blessings, but how often do we thank Him for hardships? Vicki Huffman once wrote in the “Monroe (County) Journal” that

Matthew Henry knew how to thank God even for things he would not have chosen for himself. On the night he (Henry) was robbed, he prayed, ‘I thank Thee first because I was never robbed before; second, because although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third, although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed and not I who robbed.’

Reformer Martin Luther once said, “Frogs need storks!” In other words, we need trials—as well as pleasant experiences—in our lives. Hardship builds both faith and character. In

November 2022

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Thoughts on Thanksgiving

writing to the church in Rome, Paul says “We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance (perseverance), and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.” (Romans 5:3-5, RSV)

During this month traditionally known for Thanksgiving, let me challenge you in a different way. Begin each new day with prayer, not only by saying “Thank you God *FOR*...”, but also by praying “Thank you God, in spite of...!”

Keep the Faith, but Share the Gospel!

THANK YOU Epworth Church Family for your continued support of our Kidz Crew Children’s Ministry. Through your time, effort and financial support every year, all year, you continue to make the Epworth Church a great place for children and an outreach to the community. May God bless you as you are a blessing to others. Luke 6:38

Letha and the Epworth Kidz Crew

EPWORTH KIDZ CREW

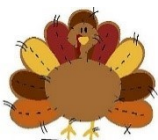
FALL HAPPENINGS

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



Happy Thanksgiving

No Cherub Choir or Kidz Cruise...Sunday afternoon, November 20th
No Wednesday Kidz Connections the week of Thanksgiving... November 21st—25th
No Preschool or Moms Day Out Thanksgiving week....Nov. 21st—25th.
Enjoy the holiday with your family!

DON'T FORGET!

Our CHERUB CHOIR is now preparing FOR THE
CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PROGRAM
Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Angels and Animals!
3 Year old through 1st Grade



Enter through the gym door. Practice in the Kidz Sunday School area.

Please encourage your child to participate on Sundays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. as we prepare for our Christmas Program on December 4, 6:00 pm. Christmas just isn't the same without our Cherub Nativity. Hope to see you soon!



CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

Saturday, November 19th 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join us for our annual CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP where kids make gifts to give to their family!

We will provide a pizza lunch OR you may send a sack lunch if your child would prefer something else or if your child has dietary restrictions.

PLEASE REGISTER your child's attendance by email: letha.parker@epworth-pc.org; text or phone: 205-799-8547; or by signing up on the Kidz bulletin boards in the Gathering Room or downstairs in the Kidz Crew area. **Child's name, age & grade, contact email and phone.**

HANGING OF THE GREENS PARTICIPANTS:

WHEN: Sunday, November 27th, Beginning of 11:00 Worship Service

WHO: Children ages 3 years through 6th Grade

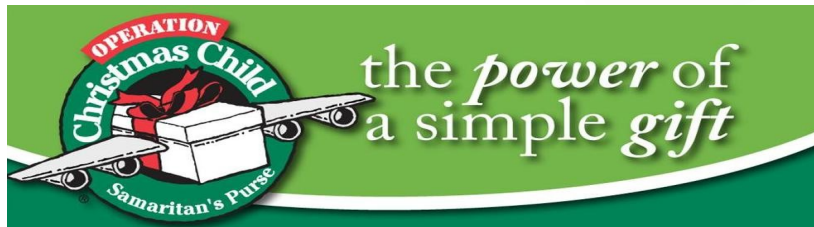
WHAT: Kids will bring in green branches and ornaments to be placed on the altar and the Chrismon Tree during the Hanging of the Greens Service.

INTERESTED? Please email or text Letha if your child/children will be participating. Thank you for this act of service as we share the Good News of Christ our Savior.
(letha.parker@epworth-pc.org/205-799-8547)

Anniversaries	
Nov 1	Lee & Catherine Milligan Curtis & Denise Wilkerson
Nov 14	James & Janice Parker Roy & Avan Redfoot
Nov 19	Larry & Sandra Rowan
Nov 20	Jason & Kristy Prins Austin & Mason White
Nov 22	Ted & Pam Shores
Nov 23	Skylar & Keagan Clark
Nov 25	Clint & Mallory Campbell

Happy Anniversary

Happy Birthday!



Operation Christmas Child

Our Epworth Kidz will have the opportunity to pack an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox on **Wednesday, November 16th**. If you would like to pack shoeboxes as a family, please have them returned to the church by Sunday, November 20th. If you would like to donate items for the shoeboxes, the Kidz Crew will be filling some shoeboxes during Sunday evening Kidz Cruise and Wednesday evening, Kidz Connections. Donations may be brought to one of the Kidz classes or placed in the Shoebox collection bin in the Gathering Room. The cost for shipping a shoebox is \$10.00. You may place the money inside the completed shoebox, or make a donation to the church for the purpose of shipping our Kidz Crew boxes. **We would like to fill at least 200 shoeboxes.**

Thank you for your support of this ministry project. The Epworth Family has proven itself to be a most generous group, supporting many ministries and outreach projects. May God bless you richly as you are a blessing to so many.

Visitation Volunteers

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

November 7th—Don Verner

November 14th—Ross Goode

November 21st—Becky Coreno

November 28th—Mary Frances Head

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.

Birthdays	
Nov. 2	Kipp Waldrop
Nov. 3	John Henderson Emory Yohn
Nov. 4	Keith Badowski Stephen Curtiss Emily Byrd Cameron Brewer
Nov. 5	Kathryn Hall Rosemary Barnhill
Nov. 7	Emmett Meacham Brady Caulder
Nov. 8	Mary Frances Head Ame Shields Deareion Lewis
Nov. 9	Carlos Velazquez Cindy Tucker Gray Molly Bridges
Nov. 10	Michelle Word Dorthea Caldwell Andy Johnson Coco Meacham
Nov. 12	Katherine Elkins
Nov. 13	Hannah Lenoir
Nov. 14	Wynell King Christian Linsley
Nov. 16	Roger Cassman Craig Coulter Conner Snedigar
Nov. 18	Reid Byrd
Nov. 19	Brandon Culpepper Andrew Gil
Nov. 20	Marcia Myles Wade Sieck Leilani Bridges
Nov. 21	Jim Bloodworth Christi Badowski
Nov. 22	Michelle Shields
Nov. 23	Penny Verner
Nov. 24	Sawyer Moss
Nov. 26	Seth Atchinson
Nov. 27	Steve Gray
Nov. 29	Bethany Martin
Nov. 30	Rita Amerson



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"



Save the dates 2023...

Passion Conference

12th grade, College, and Young Adults (18-25 years old)

January 3rd - 5th, 2023

State Farm Arena

Atlanta, GA.

Cost: TBD

Mission Trip

(Lead Team Generate Camp)

11th & 12th Grade, College and Young Adults

June 3rd - 7th, 2023

Covenant College Lookout Mountain, GA

Cost: \$150

NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE AND LOCATION

Youth Camp

Upcoming 6th grade thru 12th grade

July 21st-25th, 2023

Shocco Spring

Talladega, AL.

Cost: TBD

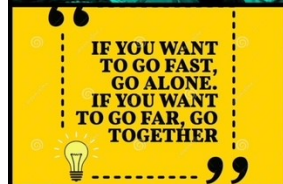
Local Mission Outreach

Summer 2023

All Students

Bi-City area

More info coming soon.





Please plan to join us Monday, November 21st at 10:00 to decorate our church for Christmas. Your help is needed and everyone is welcome. Additional details coming soon.



Come be a part of the Epworth Prayer Ministry on Thursday, November 15th at 6:00 pm. God calls us to pray! We will meet in the chapel. Prayer requests will be asked for and we will be praying for the future of our church, our Alabama West Florida Conference and the United Methodist Church as a whole. We have much to pray about for the direction of our church. Come be a partner in prayer!

The Bible says "May my prayer come before you: turn your ear to hear my cry." Psalms 88:2 NIV



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 or 334-298-3186) or Ross Goode (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.

November 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 All Saints Day 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study "Daniel" 6:30 pm—Bible study "Book of Revelation"	2	3 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 6:30 pm UMW (Fellowship Hall)	4	5
6 2:30 pm—Cluster Charge Conference @EUMC 5:00—6:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir	7 12:00 Happy Days Luncheon 6:30 pm— "Man Church" in Youth Room 6:30 — "Woman Church" Bible study "True Spirituality"	8 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study "Daniel" 6:30 pm—Bible study "Book of Revelation"	9 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	10 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 6:00 pm Men's Ministry 6:00 pm—Grief Meeting led by Minnie Henderson	11 7:00 pm Veteran's Day Dinner	12
13 Veteran's Recognition 4:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting 5:00—6:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir	14	15 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study "Daniel" 6:00 Prayer Vigil 6:30 pm—Bible study "Book of Revelation"	16 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	17 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool	18	19 9:00 am—12:00 pm Children's Christmas Workshop
20 9:15 am—12:30 pm UMW Bake Sale 12:00 pm Stewardship Luncheon 5:00—6:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir	21 10:00 am Decorate Church for Christmas 6:30 pm— "Man Church" in Youth Room 6:30— "Woman Church" Bible study "True Spirituality"	22 Office Closed for Thanksgiving	23 Office Closed for Thanksgiving	24 	25	26 Hanging of the Greens Rehearsal Time—TBD
27 11:00 Service Hanging of the Greens Service 5:00—6:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir	28 6:30 pm— "Man Church" in Youth Room 6:30— "Woman Church" Bible study "True Spirituality"	29 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study "Daniel" 6:30 pm—Bible study "Book of Revelation"	30 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections			



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. ***Wreath orders due by noon Monday, November 21st.***

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.