

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



February 2023

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

February and the Power of Love

Valentine's Day is just around the corner! Visions of flowers, greeting cards, candy, and Cupid's little arrows inhabit the human mind. Truly, this is a time to celebrate love—and to express our love in many different ways.

God's way of expressing His love for mankind was truly unique! The Bible, God's Word, tells us in 1 John 4:10: "This is love; not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." That's good news! God's love for us, revealed in the giving of His precious Son (Jesus Christ) on the cross, can make a difference for us, eternally, if we only believe and accept Jesus as our Savior with simple, childlike faith. But God's love should also make a difference in us right here and now, and not just in the "hereafter!"

One major difference God's love for us should make in us is the way we

perceive and *receive* others. The very next verse (1 John 4:11) says, "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." And so we should! Not only should we love others, but we should *show* our love for others. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

There are so many ways we can express both our love and God's love for others. People all around us—in our homes, our classrooms, in our churches, on our jobs, strangers on the street, people in traffic, people at the grocery store—are starving to experience the love of God and His people. Truly, there are many different and creative ways to express love for others, but perhaps the most immediately effective way is in our attitude toward them. Are we friendly? Do we greet others with a kind word and a smile? Or do we give them the impression that we were born in the middle of "crabapple season?" All too often, we act as though we were born in the shade of a lemon tree, so to speak! But Jesus said, "By this



by Rev. Grant Parker

everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35, NIV)

How do others see you? Do they see a "sourpuss?" Or do they see you as a person who has the love of God and Jesus Christ in their heart? "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13, ESV).

In His love, and with mine,
Brother Grant

We *love* because

He first *loved* us.

1 John 4:19



Thank you again to all who sponsored wreaths through Wreaths Across America (WAA) to honor our Veterans in 2022.

YOU DID A MAGNIFICENT JOB !!

Your generosity, selflessness and love of our Veterans led Epworth to reach another record high in supporting Veterans through WAA this year. You sponsored 462 wreaths in memory of and to honor our Veterans. Your efforts resulted in Fort Mitchell National Cemetery (FMNC) receiving 776 wreaths in 2022, a 44% increase over what you accomplished in 2021. Your efforts contributed substantially to FMNC being able to cover more than 90% of the gravesites there.

WAA Day was Saturday, December 17, 2022. Epworth UMC persons placed 68 wreaths you sponsored for specific Veterans interred at Fort Mitchell, and they also placed wreaths on all gravesites in Section 12, approximately 1,000 wreaths. Additionally, we brought back 40 wreaths you sponsored for Veterans interred locally. Both Epworth buses supported WAA Day by shuttling those honoring our Veterans into and around FMNC on WAA Day. You should be proud of your tremendous work in making WAA Day 2022 at FMNC a truly great day. Thank you.

Flower Calendar

The 2023 Flower Calendar is posted on the Gathering Room board. Please sign up if you wish to put flowers in the church either in honor of or in memory of someone or on a special Sunday.



Anniversaries

Feb 3	Bill & Ronnie Badowski
Feb 5	Robert & Marina Meacham
Feb 6	Mark & Mary Ensley
Feb 7	Eddie & Abby Supan
Feb 10	Bryce & Becky Gaunt Bubba & Caylin Tate
Feb 20	Scott & Judy Burkes
Feb 24	Ralph & Pam O'Brien
Feb 28	Leo & Becky Ivey

Birthdays	
Feb 1	Gabriel Watson
Feb 2	Sylvia Curtiss Jimmy Mann Brandi Johnson Hank Baker
Feb 3	Kyle Page Ella Bell Delilah Kennedy
Feb 4	Liz Wise
Feb 5	Ron Hart Emma Cato
Feb 6	Adrianna Hartley
Feb 7	Andrew Head
Feb 8	Dustin Brassell
Feb 9	Kinsley Riepe
Feb 10	Bonnie Wilgis David Head Jess Thomas
Feb 11	Cody Kirkland Adam Norden Sheri Nishimura
Feb 12	Sue Barnes Randy Barnette
Feb 13	Carol Cain
Feb 14	Eleonore Hall Seabo Griggs
Feb 15	Amy Head
Feb 18	Mary Barnette Emma Head Grayson Bloodworth
Feb 19	Ben Johnson
Feb 21	Ralph O'Brien
Feb 22	Wendy Sieck
Feb 23	Katie Collins
Feb 24	Ronnie Head
Feb 25	Betty Register Stephanie Baker Miranda Griggs
Feb 26	Rejean Lee Karen Cameron

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 new members.

Feb. 6th—Becky Coreno

Feb. 13th—George Perdue

Feb. 20th—Bryce Gaunt

Feb. 27th—Susan Stillwell

Thanks,
Kathryn Perdue

The Epworth United Methodist Women's group is selling RADA products. You, your family, friends and co-workers can now place orders for RADA products through our online ordering site. The products will be shipped directly to your address.



For anyone placing orders the website is:
<http://www.radafundraising.com>

Type in zip code-36868
Select – Epworth
This will open up a page where you can look at the catalog or scroll down to shop.

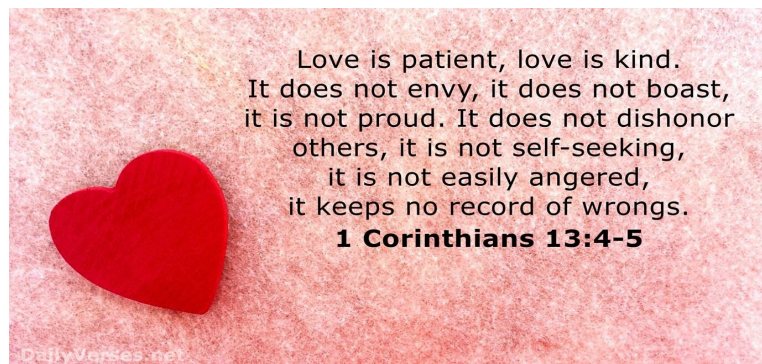
Bible Study on the Gospel of John

On Tuesdays 9:30 am - 11:00 am Keith Badowski will lead a Bible study on the Gospel of John. We will begin on Tuesday, February 14th (Valentine's Day). This will be an in-depth, section by section study which will run for 22 weeks (with breaks for holidays as needed). The study guide is \$10 (LifeChange John, Nav Press). Deadline to enroll and order your book is February 3rd.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

All Things According to the Spirit,

Keith





Youth Ministry Youth Ministry

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"



DO YOU KNOW OUR HISTORY?

In 1886 William “Shoestring” White, a member of The Methodist Society of Columbus, Georgia, met with a group in Girard, Alabama and saw the need for a place of worship. He mortgaged his own home in Columbus and built this eager group a one room church. This first church started as a mission with about twenty-five members, mostly women and children. The first service was held on December 15, 1886.

In 1943 Rev. R. K. Jones became pastor of the charge. Under his leadership, a new modern building was built at 1221 Seale Road in Girard, Alabama. It wasn't until 1952 that Epworth received its first full-time pastor with the appointment of Rev. George Gilbert.

In the early 1960's the path of the new 280/431 Bypass required a move for the congregation. Not to be deterred, the members held services in a barn and an elementary school building until land could be purchased and a new building could be constructed. For 30 years the church was located in Asbury Park.

In 1988 under the leadership of Dr. Larry Bryars, Epworth members voted to change locations once again. Land was purchased at the current location on Highway 280 and construction began soon after. The final service in Asbury Park was on December 2, 1990. Since the new church wasn't yet completed, services were held in a temporary location – not a barn this time but in the old Prichetts' fish camp. The first service in the new building was December 1, 1991, nearly one year after leaving the Asbury Park location. With the purchase of the property also came along a house adjacent to the church. This house was deemed the Youth House of Epworth.

In that same year of 1995, the church was damaged by fire. This time the temporary move was to the Central Activities Center. Members voted unanimously to rebuild the current structure and to begin the second phase of the building project, a new two-story educational building. Members moved back into the fully restored building in February 1996 and the educational building was completed later that year.

When Dr. Bryars and his family were moved in 1997, Rev. Michael McKnight became the pastor. He remained here for nine years.

In 2006 Rev. Michael Siglar was appointed pastor. In October 2007 a contemporary worship service was begun with 134 attending the first service.

In June 2008, Epworth Church welcomed Rev. Grant Parker, his wife Letha, and their children to the church family. In January 2014, a Family Life Center housing a gym, youth and young adult ministries and classrooms was constructed, which more than doubled the size of the previously existing facilities. Brother Grant and Letha have begun their 15th year faithfully serving Epworth and the Phenix City community.

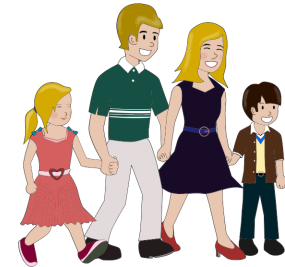


EPWORTH KIDZ CREW

THE WINTER GAMES ARE COMING!!

DADS AND DAUGHTERS AND MOMS AND SONS!

Join us for **THE WINTER GAMES** where Dads and Daughters will team up against Moms and Sons for some winter fun!



WHEN: Sunday, February 13th, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Epworth Gym

VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME!! Sign up with Letha

Kids through 6th grade bring your parents for some great winter games. "Extra" parents can help referee! REGISTER your name and the number in your family group at letha.parker@epworth-pc.org.

GET YOUR GAME ON!

"Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever." 1 Corinthians 9:25

ATTENTION PARENTS!

Check out the **PARENT CUE APP (free)** for great parenting resources designed for specific age groups. It also provides family devotionals for your children as they move through the stages of development.

YOUVERSION BIBLE APP also provides daily devotionals for children and teens. Download the **YOUVERSION BIBLE APP, free**

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY also provides great parenting resources. focusonthefamily.com

VBS MATERIALS ARE HERE!

Vacation Bible School will be Sunday June 11-15, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Please put these dates on your calendar. If you have a specific area for which you would like to volunteer, please text or email Letha. This year's VBS is **STELLAR: SHINE JESUS' LIGHT**

DON'T MISS THE FUN!



"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." -Matthew 5:16

February 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 9:00 am Preschool 10:00 am Cart workshop 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	2 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 6:30 pm UMW will meet in the Fellowship Hall	3	4
5 4:00 pm Admin Board 5:30 pm Cherub Choir and Kidz Cruise	6 Noon Happy Days	7 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm— Revelation Bible Study	8 9:00 am Preschool 10:00 am Cart workshop 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	9 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 6:00 pm—Men's Ministry 6:00 pm—Grief Meeting	10	11
12 4:00—5:30 pm The Kidz Winter Games Dads & Daughters and Moms & Sons	13 Newsletter Deadline	14 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm— Revelation Bible Study 	15 9:00 am Preschool 10:00 am Cart workshop 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	16 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool	17	18
19 5:30 pm Cherub Choir and Kidz Cruise	20 President's Day Office Closed	21 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm— Revelation Bible Study	22 9:00 am Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study 10:00 am Cart workshop 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	23 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool	24	25
26 5:30 pm Cherub Choir and Kidz Cruise	27	28 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm— Revelation Bible Study				

Donations Are Needed

Safe House Ministries in Columbus Ga, which feeds and helps the homeless, is in need of several items.

Any of the following would be greatly appreciated: coffee, creamer, sugar (individual packets), paper products, individual packs of mustard, ketchup, BBQ sauce, mayonnaise, canned goods, eggs, deer meat.

Please put your donation items in the box in the Gathering Room.

Your donations are greatly needed and appreciated.

EPWORTH'S MILITARY MINISTRY

- All currently serving military personnel, Veterans from all services, and military families: Please know that we respect you for the sacrifices you have made and the hardships you have endured for our country and us. You deserve our honor and respect every single day! Thank you.
- We have tentatively selected Thursday, 9 November 2023 for this year's Veterans Day Dinner. Please mark that date on your calendar and look for more information about that event soon.
- Please check our white military connection notebook on the counter in the Gathering Room. If you are current or former military, have a family member who serves or served in our military, or know someone who has a military connection, please add that information on the appropriate page in that book. We want to ensure we pray for and send periodic cards to all the current and former military personnel and their families.