



Epworth Church

A Methodist Congregation

August 2023

Tel. (334) 298-3186

www.epworth-pc.org

“Blessed Are the Peacemakers...”

In His “Sermon on the Mount,” Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God” (Matthew 5:9). No one enjoys bickering in the home, at school, on the job, or in the body of Christ (the church) more than Satan, for he is the author of confusion!

Although I have to admit I find the following steps all too convicting in my own life and in the manner in which I relate (or fail to relate!) to others at times, I am convinced that these principles are nonetheless helpful in becoming the peacemakers Jesus wants us to be:

1. Allow for differences of opinion and perspectives with other people. It’s been said that “among the greatest gifts I can give to you are our differences, for our likenesses we already have.” Accept the fact that your way may not *always* be the only way or even the best way.

2. Learn to forgive others. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus continues in Matthew 6:14-15, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

3. Learn to distinguish people from problems. A difference of opinion does not necessarily signal a personal attack against *you* by the other person. Don’t equate the two.

4. Learn to distinguish the trivial from the essential. Most arguments revolve around things that, in the overall eternity of things, are really not that important after all. “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...” (Matthew 6:33).

5. Clarify the other party’s position. Arguments often stem from differences in *understanding* rather than differences of *opinion*.

6. Learn to laugh. Lighten up! Don’t take things so seriously (see # 4 above).

7. Learn to control your tongue. We’d come out better and probably do less damage if we let dogs run loose and put leashes on our tongues, rather than the other way around! “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” (James 1:19). It seems like we might save ourselves a great deal of trouble if we ask ourselves these three questions before we speak: “Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?” Read James 1:26 and James 3:3-5. My parents provided braces for me when I was young in order to straighten my teeth. But there have been times when, much to my regret, I wished they had invested in a muzzle to curb by mouth instead.

8. Learn to love one another, *in spite of* each other. Love for the brothers and sisters in the family of God, as well as in our



by Rev. Grant Parker

families at home, should be a trademark of a Christian. Our Master Jesus said, “By this will all know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

9. Pray *for* each other and pray *with* each other. If you have a conflict with another person, pray for that person. Go to that person and pray with them about the problem. Ask them to forgive you. Let them know you forgive them as well.

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” (Romans 12:18)

Keep the Faith but Share the Gospel,
Brother Grant

Visitation Volunteers

The following people will accompany Brother Grant when he goes visiting on Monday nights. Please meet Brother Grant at 6:30 pm at the church.

Aug. 7th—Becky Coreno
Aug. 14th—Belle Lee
Aug. 21st—Pam Shores
Aug. 28th—Jaime Singer

Blessings,
Kathryn Perdue

Birthdays	
Aug 3	Rachel Veasey Susan Stillwell
Aug 4	Johnny Burell Jimmy Hall
Aug 5	Nell Griggs Lee Milligan James Word Sebastian Culpepper
Aug 9	Cade Bloodworth
Aug 10	Edith Gentry
Aug 12	Dana Townsend
Aug 13	Veronica Sanders
Aug 14	Juan Gil
Aug 15	Henry Gentry Jeffery Rollo Pennie Ranew
Aug 16	Steve Martin Jodi Wisor
Aug 17	Katherine Grantham Erin Word
Aug 18	June Chadwick Melissa Bridges
Aug 19	Mark Sanders Amira Kennedy
Aug 20	Annette Harris
Aug 22	Shirley Wilkerson
Aug 23	Katie Ketchum Emily Sanford
Aug 24	Thelma Courson David Jones Jeremiah Moss Josh Bradley
Aug 26	Reid Yeilding
Aug 28	Frankie Lake Geri Druash Timothy Parker
Aug 31	Judy Smith Jake Brewer



Happy Anniversary!

Anniversaries	
Aug. 4	Chris & Tammy Garrison
Aug. 5	Brad & Stephanie Baker
Aug 7	Rob & Christina Linsey
Aug 8	Wayne & Frankie Lake
Aug 9	Kevin & Cathy Sharpe
Aug 10	Payton & Donna Zeigler
Aug 18	Jeffery & Ann Marie Rollo
Aug 21	Ronnie & Cathy Head
Aug 24	Joe & Mary Barnette
Aug 26	Brad & Michelle Word
Aug 27	James & Ouida Baker Jeff & Danielle Bradley
Aug 29	Bob & Carol Stanton
Aug 30	James & Meg Clark

School Supplies Drive

Please help provide some much-needed school supplies for our Partner in Education, Ridgecrest Elementary School. The Epworth Women's group is asking for your help in providing any of the items below of which school children are always in need:

Pencils, glue sticks, tissues, crayons, colored pencils, scissors (safety type for kids), construction paper, hand sanitizer, clorox wipes, wide rule notebook paper, 12" rulers, backpacks.

Please place your items in the collection bin in the Gathering Room marked **"School Supplies"**. We will deliver to the school ANY school supplies you decide to donate! The kids and teachers at Ridgecrest really need our help. **THANK YOU!!!!**

JOIN EPWORTH'S SECURITY MINISTRY TEAM

- You may not see them, but members of our security ministry team volunteer during every service and special church-wide event 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 and help keep Epworth safe! If you are interested or know someone who is, please let Pastor Grant (grant.parker@epworth-pc.org or 334-298-3186) or Ross Goode (camovet@ctvea.net or 706-464-5089) know.



August 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 No Mom's Day Out	2 6:00 pm—Youth 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Crew	3 No Mom's Day Out 6:30 pm Methodist Women's meeting	4	5
6 BackPack Sunday Celebrated at the 9:45 and 11:00 Services	7	8 9:00 am Mom's Day Out Preschool Orientation	9 Preschool Orientation 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Crew	10 9:00 am Mom's Day Out Preschool Orientation 6:00 pm Men's Ministry meeting	11	12 <i>Fellowship</i> <i>Hall Reserved</i>
13 4:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting	14 Newsletter Deadline	15 9:00 am Mom's Day Out 9:00 am Preschool Begins 9:30 am—Bible Study 6:00 pm Prayer Vigil	16 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study, Bible Study & Kidz Crew	17 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool	18 TBD—Men's Yard Sale Work Day	19 8:00 am— 2:00 pm Men's Ministry Yard Sale
20	21	22 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study	23 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study, Bible Study & Kidz Crew	24 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool	25	26 <i>Gym</i> <i>Reserved</i>
27	28	29 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study "Daniel"	30 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study, Bible Study & Kidz Crew	31	Sundays 8:30 am Traditional Service 9:30 am Coffee & Donuts 9:45 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional	

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 Thursday, 9 November 2023.
 - *We want to give our military and Veteran personnel and their families a great, catered meal, warm fellowship, a top-notch speaker, patriotic entertainment and some great door prizes.
 - *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 honor them and invite 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 9 November 2023, and look for more information concerning our Veterans Day Dinner soon.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA (WAA)

- Wreaths Across America Day, which is Saturday, December 16, 2023, 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.
- 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.
- You have done a great job with WAA every year. Your love for our Veterans, your generosity, and selflessness have caused you to grow from ensuring Fort Mitchell received 145 wreaths in 2018 to 776 wreaths last year. Already this year, you have sponsored enough wreaths to ensure Fort Mitchell will receive 432 wreaths. Let's sponsor enough wreaths to beat our last year's record – only 230 more wreath sponsorships to go!
- 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.

LET'S SUPPORT OUR LIVING AND FALLEN VETERANS THRU WAA EVEN MORE THAN WE DID LAST YEAR!

EPWORTH KIDZ CREW

BACKPACK SUNDAY

"Blessing of the Backpacks" will be Sunday, August 6th, at both the 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. church services in the Sanctuary.

Bring your backpack to church on Sunday, August 6th, during either the 9:45 or 11:00 service. We will bring our backpacks to the altar as we pray for the upcoming school year. All students, educators, school administration and staff are invited to join us during this special time of prayer in the Sanctuary.

EPWORTH MOM'S DAY OUT & EPWORTH KIDZ PRESCHOOL

Our MDO program will resume on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning August 8th.

PRESCHOOL will have parent/teacher/child appointments scheduled for Tuesday through Thursday, August 8th, 9th and 10th.

PRESCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN TUESDAY, AUGUST 15TH, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.



