

# Epworth Methodist Church



**Rev. Grant Parker**

**September 2023**

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

## “Ten Steps to Being a Friendly Church”

My good friend, Dr. George Mathison, was the pastor of Auburn United Methodist Church for over a quarter of a century. Brother George “retired” at Annual Conference in June A.D. 2016.

I recall an article that Dr. Mathison published several years ago in “The Village Methodist,” his church’s newsletter, in which he reminded his congregation that the summer months, especially July and August, are the two months when people are most likely to relocate, moving from one home to another. Accordingly, Brother George encouraged his members to be on the lookout for moving vans in their neighborhoods and for new faces in their community, for it is during a time of transition that people will be looking for a church home where they can best make a contribution and where their needs can be met. I am also convinced that the recent advent of a new school year presents us with still other opportunities for outreach and evangelism. Brother George further instructed his good people in factors that seem to lend a “friendly church” atmosphere to people seeking a church home, citing another Methodist pastor in the South Georgia Conference, Dr. Don Kea. Listed below are their ten steps to being a friendly church (with some “add ons” of my own).

1. **Smile at people!** It takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to

smile. Your smile is one of your finest assets. Use it!

2. **Speak to people**, even if you do not know their names. A cheerful word of greeting can often disperse the dark clouds of a bad day.

3. **Call people by name.** The sweetest music to anyone’s ears is often the sound of their own name.

4. **Be friendly and helpful.** Lend a hand and look for ways to help someone, especially those who “look lost.” If you want friends, then be a friend.

5. **Be cordial.** Speak and act as if every thing you do for others is a genuine pleasure. Try to look happy and you may very well be happy.

6. **Be genuinely interested in people.** Try not to limit yourself to a few friends when there are so many likeable people around you. Try to make people feel as though they are the most important person in the world as they are speaking with you.

7. **Be generous with praise, cautious with criticism.** Try to follow the adage: “Praise in public, chastise in private.”

8. **Be considerate of the feelings of others.** Often there are three sides to a controversy...yours, the other person’s, and the right one.

9. **Be alert to give service** (back to number 4 above). It’s been said that the true mark of success

in life is not measured by the number of people who serve you, but rather by the number of people you serve.

10. **Add to all the above a good sense of humor.** “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.” (Proverbs 17:22)

Welcome and invite people to Epworth Methodist Church, a friendly church where every worship service is a celebration and a reunion of old friends! Keep your hand in Jesus’ hand and your eyes on the Cross!

### ***The Backpack Buddy Program Needs Your Help!***

Epworth participates in the Backpack Buddy program in conjunction with Feeding the Valley to send food to children who might not otherwise have something to eat on the week-ends. Last year Epworth delivered 90 bags each week to Ridgecrest Elementary and 5 each week to Lakewood Primary. We are looking for people to help us with the packing and delivering of the bags on a rotating basis. Please contact Christi Badowski at 334-614-2656. If you would like to donate towards this program, make your check out to Epworth and note that it is for the Backpack Buddy Program. Corporate sponsors cover most of the costs for the food (120 per child), but any donations are appreciated. These funds are also used to purchase small goodies for the children for each holiday. We also want to thank all our volunteers from last year: Carol Addison, Rich and Becky Coreno, Susan Wiggins, Ellen Simmons, and Alana Watson.

| Anniversaries |  |
|---------------|--|
| Sept 1        | J.W. & Carol Martin                                |
| Sept 2        | David & Cheryl Bain                                |
| Sept 3        | Curt & Sylvia Curtiss<br>Steve & Sherry Martin     |
| Sept 8        | Kyle & Jennifer Page<br>Michael & Crystal Berklite |
| Sept 10       | Seth & Mary Katherine<br>Atchison                  |
| Sept 18       | Jimmy & Ann Mann                                   |
| Sept 22       | Scott & Robin Hebert                               |
| Sept 26       | Adam & Rhonda Norden                               |
| Sept 27       | John & Minnie Henderson                            |

Happy Anniversary

Happy Birthday!

| Birthdays |   |
|-----------|---|
| Sept 2    | Catherine Milligan  |
| Sept 3    | Adicia Coulter  |
| Sept 8    | Don Harbuck   |
| Sept 9    | Bob Stanton<br>Bob Wisor<br>Jason Prins<br>Kalen Sieck<br>Margaret Word Logan<br>Reagan Beach |
| Sept 10   | Colton Head   |
| Sept 11   | Sherri Sheffield<br>Sabrina Wade<br>Kason Prins   |
| Sept 13   | Bryan Baker<br>Jeb Bridges  |
| Sept 14   | Bubba Tate<br>Brandon Sanford<br>Brayden Lurker<br>Raylee Rollo                               |
| Sept 15   | Pam Shores<br>Marsha Posey  |
| Sept 16   | Minnie Henderson<br>Caroline Pippins<br>Brody Sharpe<br>Urijah Berklite                       |
| Sept 17   | Austin White<br>Ava Clay  |
| Sept 18   | Butch Lenoir<br>Jessica Griggs  |
| Sept 21   | Clint Campbell  |
| Sept 23   | Kristy Prins<br>Joey Druash   |
| Sept 25   | Ross Goode<br>Kaylee Martin   |
| Sept 27   | Scott Yeilding  |
| Sept 29   | Jeff Carrero  |
| Sept 30   | Dudley Taylor   |

## Ladies - Please Join Us !!!

### Attention Epworth Men & Women!

#### -- An Open Invitation to the Church --

At our meeting on 9/7/23, the Epworth Methodist Women will be hosting a guest speaker from Columbus Hospice. Many of you have used their services in your time of need, and now is your chance to see if there is anything you can do to help "repay" them - - and I don't mean simply writing them a check. (Although that is always needed, too!) If you've never needed their services, you can always "pay it forward".

Columbus Hospice is the only NOT-FOR-PROFIT hospice service in our area. In addition to financial contributions, they rely on our community to give of our time and talents to help others during a difficult time in their lives. Please come to the Fellowship Hall on 9/7/23 at 6:30 to hear a short presentation on volunteer opportunities, as well as other information about the organization.

The following people will accompany Brother Grant for visitation in September.

September 11 - Ross Goode

September 18 - Pam Shores

September 25 - Cheryl Bain

\*no one scheduled for September 4 - Labor Day

Thank you,

Kathryn Perdue

### Our Faithfulness

|                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Budget YTD               | \$550,390.23 |
| Actual Contributions YTD | \$522,456.32 |

# EPWORTH KIDZ CREW



## FALL HAPPENINGS

We have had a great summer with **VBS, Terrific Tuesdays and Blue Lake Camp**, and we kicked off our new school year with **Backpack Sunday**. Now it is time to gear up for Fall with.....

**Cherub Choir, ages 3 years – 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and Kidz Cruise, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade-5<sup>th</sup> grade, Beginning Sunday, September 10, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

Don't miss out on the opportunities offered to our kids throughout the year.

**Sunday School (9:45), and Kidz Church (11:00), ages 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

**KIDZ CONNECTIONS (ages 4 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) on Wednesday evenings at 6:30.**

## Welcome to our newest Little Lambs!

**Kennedy Blaire Humphries**, born June 7<sup>th</sup>, to Olivia and Judson Humphries.



**William "Will" Harris Brown**, born July 27<sup>th</sup>, to Michelle and Justin Brown.

**Whitten Gunnar Petsch**, born August 8<sup>th</sup>, to Lindsay and Tyler Petsch.

## PRESCHOOL AND MOM'S DAY OUT



We are off to a great start with the new school year! I would like to thank the Teachers and Staff for the marvelous job they are doing with these children and families.

### Preschool Staff:

K3 Teachers—Tiffany Livingston & Savannah Ridgeley

K4 Teachers—Amber McCart & Tiffany Bowens  
Chapel on Thursdays—Led by Becky Coreno, Christi Badowski, Diane Cowart

### MDO Staff:

Puddle Jumpers Class—Amie Cooper & Jessie Smith

Tadpoles Class—Crystal Berklite, Monica Lawhon & Michele Brown

Pollywogs Class—Amanda Fisher, Harley Greene & Vicky Moss

**Substitutes Needed:** If you are interested in helping us with either of these programs as a **substitute**, please contact Letha for an application.



### Operation Christmas Child:

We would like to encourage every family to donate at least one Shoebox to be given to Samaritan's Purse in November. These boxes will not only bring joy to those children who receive them, but the Gospel of Christ will also be shared with those who may have never heard. Please check out the web site for Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child for "How to pack a shoebox." [samaritanaspurse.org](http://samaritanaspurse.org)

Shoebox deadline for our church is **Sunday, November 19.**

## HELPING HANDS NEEDED!

VOLUNTEER IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED....

*NURSERY - 9:45 and 11:00 services*

*KIDS' CLASSES SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS*

*PAINTERS & DECORATORS*

Please contact Letha Parker at 334-298-3186 or [letha.parker@epworth-pc.org](mailto:letha.parker@epworth-pc.org)

# Epworth Youth

Hello everyone!

If I had not had the chance to meet you, my name is Daniel Cook and I am the new Youth Pastor. My wife, Abby, and I along with our children Mayson, Micah, Colby, Levi, and Lex would like to say thank you to our Epworth Church family for the warm welcome that you have extended to us over the past few weeks. Thank you for loving our family and helping us through the transition period that comes with joining a new church. .

Phenix City is both mine and Abby's hometown so seeing a vibrant youth ministry in this city means a lot to us. I look back on my years as a member of a youth group and reflect on the friendships, memories, and life change that took place during those years of my life and want that same thing for your teenagers, my teenagers, and the teenagers in this area.

We are looking forward to the opportunity to come alongside families and teenagers during this critical time in their lives to help them on their journey with Christ. We truly see this as a partnership and can't wait to see all God will do through this ministry.

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who came out to the Back 2 School Bash. We had a great turnout and saw a lot of new faces! We hope to build on this momentum as the school year officially gets going! Below are some events your students can get involved with:

## Wednesday Nights

### **September Series: Beyond Belief (A series on doubts & questions)**

Join us on Wednesday night from 6:00 - 6:30 as we hang out in the gym, game room, and snack bar. From 6:30 - 7:30 we have our youth service and then hang out for a few minutes after.

### **Fall Brawl**

The youth group has been split into teams and each week those teams compete against each other for points and prizes. At the end of the event one team will receive "???" prizes."

### **Contemporary Service - Sundays at 9:45 am**

Come! If you do not have someone to sit with...come sit with us.

### **Small Group - Sunday Mornings at 11:00**

This is a great place for your child to connect with God and other students in a small environment.

### **Winter Ski Trip**

Dates: December 27 - 30

Where: WinterPlace Ski Resort, Ghent, West Virginia

For: Students 7th - 12th grade (Only 24 spots are available and those include adult chaperons)

Cost: \$300 (estimated cost)





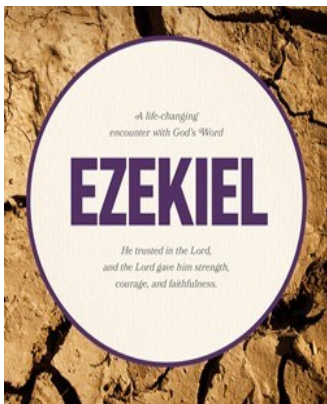


The Epworth Methodist Women will be selling Priester's Pecans in the month of September. Please support the group as they raise funds to donate to charities that aid women and children in need. We should receive the ordered items in mid to late October — Just in time to help you with your holiday cooking! They also make wonderful gifts, and come packaged in Priester's Signature 1-lb. bags.

Items available will be natural pecan halves, milk chocolate pecans, praline pecans, roasted & salted pecans, natural medium pecan pieces, honey glazed pecans, milk chocolate peanuts, peanut brittle, and whole pecan pies. - - YUMMY!!!!

Please see any member of EMW to place your orders. We'll also be available in the Gathering Room between services 9/17 and 9/24 (tentative).

For additional information text Diane Glass @ 706-681-2107.



### Tuesday Morning Bible Study

The next book of the Bible we will study is Ezekiel. \$10 to order your study guide. Deadline to enroll is September 16th.

Group starts meeting on Tuesday, September 26th at 9:30 am. Any questions contact Keith Badowski at (334) 614-0577.

### Ezekiel by The Navigators

*Uncertain about the Future?*

*Ezekiel faced immense uncertainty about the future—not so different from what we're experiencing in our own time. The Old Testament book named after him portrays how Ezekiel sought to trust God and consistently obey*

*Him despite difficult circumstances. Ezekiel expressed to God his honest reactions, emotions, and questions. He trusted in the Lord, and the Lord gave him strength, courage, and faithfulness. Witness Ezekiel's rugged relationship with God, and let his example lead you into a deeper, more heartfelt relationship of your own.*



# September 2023

| SUN  | MON   | TUES  | WED  | THURS  | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|---|--|--|-----|-----|
|  |   |   |  |  | 1   | 2   |
| 3  | 4<br><b>Labor Day</b><br><b>Office Closed</b>   | 5<br>9:00 am<br>Mom's Day Out<br>& Preschool<br>9:30 am—Bible<br>study  | 6<br>9:00 am<br>Preschool<br>6:00 pm Youth<br>6:30 pm<br>Classes, Pastor's<br>Bible Study &<br>Kidz Konnections  | 7<br>9:00 am<br>Mom's Day Out<br>& Preschool<br><b>6:30 pm</b><br><b>Epworth</b><br><b>Methodist</b><br><b>Women</b>   | 8   | 9   |
| 10<br><br>5:30 pm Kids<br>Cruise and<br>Cherub Choir<br>starts back!   | 11<br><b>Happy Days</b><br><b>"covered dish"</b><br><b>Luncheon</b><br><br>Newsletter<br>Deadline | 12<br>9:00 am<br>Mom's Day Out<br>& Preschool<br><b>6:30 pm—</b><br><b>Adult Bible</b><br><b>study</b><br><b>"Daniel"</b>   | 13<br>9:00 am<br>Preschool<br>6:00 pm Youth<br>6:30 pm<br>Classes, Pastor's<br>Bible Study &<br>Kidz Konnections | 14<br>9:00 am<br>Mom's Day Out<br>& Preschool<br><b>6:00 pm—</b><br><b>Men's Ministry</b><br><b>meeting</b><br><b>6:00 pm—Grief</b><br><b>Ministry</b><br><b>meeting</b> | 15  | 16  |
| 17<br><b>4:00 pm</b><br><b>Administrative</b><br><b>Board Meeting</b><br><br>5:30 pm Kids<br>Cruise and Cherub<br>Choir            | 18<br><b>6:00 pm -</b><br><b>"Man Church"</b><br><b>KICK-OFF</b>                                  | 19<br>9:00 am<br>Mom's Day Out<br>& Preschool<br><b>6:00 pm—</b><br><b>Prayer Vigil</b><br><b>6:30 pm—</b><br><b>Adult Bible</b><br><b>study</b><br><b>"Daniel"</b>                       | 20<br>9:00 am<br>Preschool<br>6:00 pm Youth<br>6:30 pm<br>Classes, Pastor's<br>Bible Study &<br>Kidz Konnections | 21<br>9:00 am<br>Mom's Day Out<br>& Preschool  | 22  | 23  |
| 24<br><b>4:00 pm</b><br><b>Council on</b><br><b>Ministries</b><br><b>meeting</b><br><br>5:30 pm Kids<br>Cruise and Cherub<br>Choir | 25<br><b>6:00 pm—Man</b><br><b>Church</b>   | 26<br>9:00 am<br>Mom's Day Out<br>& Preschool<br><b>9:30 am New</b><br><b>Bible Study</b><br><b>"Ezekiel"</b><br><b>6:30 pm—</b><br><b>Adult Bible</b><br><b>study</b><br><b>"Daniel"</b> | 27<br>9:00 am<br>Preschool<br>6:00 pm Youth<br>6:30 pm<br>Classes, Pastor's<br>Bible Study &<br>Kidz Konnections | 28<br>9:00 am<br>Mom's Day Out<br>& Preschool  | 29  | 30  |



## **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!**

### **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 ! 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.



### **Man Church Coming Soon!!**

Join us for our Fall 2023 Kick-off Gathering on Monday, September 18th. Plan to greet, eat and meet. Look forward to seeing you for this great time of fellowship.



## *Sunday Funday for Kids!!!*

We want to equip your child with the tools he or she needs to build a  
**strong foundation in Jesus Christ.**

It would be ***so wonderfully awesome*** if your child could participate in our Sunday night programs! We report to the downstairs gym entrance at 5:30, breaking into groups to meet from 5:30 to 6:30. ***We will be learning God's Word through music, stories, experiments and activities .....***

When we start children in their early years, the stories and Bible verses are planted in their sweet little hearts and heads, and stay with them.... **FOREVER!!!!**

***K-3 thru 1<sup>st</sup> Grade:*** will meet with Ms. Diane (Glass), Mrs. Emily & Mrs. Kalen  
(Working on our annual Christmas Nativity Pageant)

***2<sup>nd</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> Grades:*** will meet with Mrs. Letha, Mrs. Amber and Mr. Josh

***We start Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>  
from 5:30 to 6:30!!!!***

Call, text or email if you have any questions at all.

Ms. Diane  
Mrs. Letha

706-681-2107  
205-799-8547

[dianeglass99@gmail.com](mailto:dianeglass99@gmail.com)  
[letha.parker@epworth-pc.org](mailto:letha.parker@epworth-pc.org)