



EPWORTH CHURCH APRIL 2024



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

by Rev. Grant Parker

“An Encouraging Word”

“Oh give me a home,
where the buffalo roam,

And the deer and the
antelope play.

Where seldom is heard, a
discouraging word,

And the skies are not
cloudy all day.”

“Where seldom is heard, a discouraging word.” What a pleasant thought! What a difference it would make in our home, in our churches, in our daily comings and goings, on the job, and in our hearts, attitudes, and our outlook on life in general if “seldom (was) heard, a discouraging word!”

The Bible tells us, in Ephesians 4:29, which states: “Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.”

I’ve always thought it quite a testimony to the ministry and the memory of the Apostle

Joseph that he was known by the nickname of Barnabas, which means the “Son of Encouragement” (Acts 4:36).

Have you ever met people

whose response to others and their outlook on life in general left you with the impression that they had been born into the crabapple family, so to speak? I have! But then, have we ever stopped to think if perhaps there were circumstances going on in that person’s life that caused him or her to react the way they do? Perhaps a kind or encouraging word is all that’s needed to relieve a person of a burden they’ve been carrying around, all alone, for some time! Listen again to what God says to us in the Bible: “Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an **encouragement** to those who hear them” (Ephesians 4:29, NLT). And besides, we all respond much better to positive comments than to negative criticism. A noble goal for all of us would be to make three, or five, or ten or *more* positive comments to another person before making the first negative comment. Husbands, wives, children, co-workers, bosses, employees, neighbors, friends, church members, pastors, boyfriends, girlfriends, even pets, like to

be encouraged on a regular basis. An encouraging word is often the difference between having a good day and having a bad day for many people. Try it today! Build someone up with a positive, cheerful, and encouraging comment! Who knows?

Your comment may be the main reason someone’s skies were “not cloudy all day.”

“An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up!” (Proverbs 12:25)

Keep the Faith, but Share the Gospel!

Brother Grant

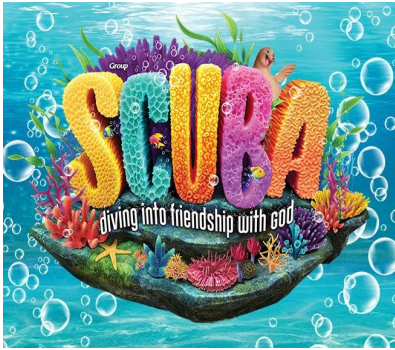
FUNFEST IS COMING!

Saturday, June 1st, 11:00- 2:00 ET
Volunteers needed. Please contact the office by phone at 334-298-3186 or email at info@epworth-pc.org

Bring your family, friends, neighbors and anyone else you meet!



EPWORTH KIDZ CREW



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SCUBA

"Diving into Friendship with God"
SUNDAY, JUNE 9th - THURSDAY, JUNE 13th
6:00—8:30 pm

Your help is always needed and appreciated! Please sign up to help with DECORATIONS, TEACHING, CLEAN UP, KITCHEN, REGISTRATION, MUSIC, SOUND & VIDEO, NURSERY, PRESCHOOL. Check the website for online registration of Volunteers

and Students.

**Background checks submitted by the church are required for all volunteers.*

Contact Letha: letha.parker@epworth-pc.org

VBS VOLUNTEER WORKSHOP will be held SUNDAY APRIL 21TH, at 4:00 pm. All volunteers are encouraged to attend!

MERGE SUMMER CAMP

AGES: Completed 3rd - 6th grades

MERGE DATES: Monday-Thursday, July 8th through 11th

REGISTRATION: We will be attending MERGE Camp in Shocco Springs.

Please make a \$50 deposit to secure your spot. Partial and full Scholarships are made available through the Fletcher Findlater Camp Scholarships.

For registration forms:

Contact Letha or the church office if your child is planning to attend. info@epworth-pc.org or letha.parker@epworth-pc.org

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 members, shut-ins and prospective new members.

April 1—Kathryn Perdue

April 8—Cheryl Bain

April 15—Tony Deal

April 22—Jaime Singer

April 29—Bryce Gaunt

EPWORTH KIDZ PRESCHOOL & EPWORTH MOM'S DAY OUT REGISTRATION

Please contact Letha at letha.parker@epworth-pc.org or 334-298-3186 to register your child for the Summer MDO or Preschool, ages 3 and 4, beginning in August.

2024 KINDERGARTEN (K-5) GRADUATES

RECOGNITION:

May 5th during the 11:00
Worship Service

Please email or text Letha with your K-5 student's name, parent's names and the name of the student's school.

Kindergarten Graduates will receive an Adventure Bible at the beginning of the 11:00 Worship Service.

SAVE THE DATE!!

National Day of Prayer will be held at Epworth on **Tuesday May 2nd**. Please save that day to join us in celebrating this special service. It will begin at 12:00 noon with special music, speakers, and many prayers for our country. The theme this year is: **“LIFT UP THE WORD—LIGHT UP THE WORLD”**

WANT TO JOIN OTHERS IN PRAYER AT EPWORTH?

Matthew 7:7-8 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." NIV

Come every month to the Prayer Vigil held on the third Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be on April 16th at 6:00 pm in the chapel at Epworth.

A Time to Pray In Our Chapel During the Morning Worship Services

April 7, 2024 Celebration Sunday

10:30-11:15 am - Shirley Goode

11:15-12:00 noon - Marcia Myles

April 14, 2024

8:30 am - Sheryl Bell

9:45 am - Gloria Griggs

11:00 am - David Bain

April 21, 2024

8:30 am - Pat Roberts

9:45 am - Kason Prins

11:00 am - Pam Shores

April 28, 2024

8:30 am - Gary Dillard

9:45 am - Becky Coreno

11:00 am - Mary Pittman

Birthdays	
April 1	Pat Vance Cheryl Bain
April 2	Kenny Smith Lance Brooks
April 3	Josh McCart Maggie Yeilding
April 4	Diane Velazquez Chase Morris
April 5	April Edwards AnnaLee Watson
April 6	Jay Coulter Ann Marie Rollo Maggie Sieck
April 7	Jerry Obert Brad Word Becky Gaunt Scott Hebert Garrett Burts
April 9	Emily Hogge Sumner Singer Ella Yeilding
April 10	Kathryne Baker Christina Yeilding James Word, Jr.
April 11	Bradley Durrance
April 12	Kathryn Perdue
April 14	Robin Hebert Fisher Clark
April 19	Shirley Goode Scott Dillard
April 20	Mary Ensley Wes Shields Brynleigh Berklite Adalynn Hess
April 22	Brian Sieck Mason Redmond White Annabelle Johnson
April 23	Colton Lurker
April 25	Skip Myles Patti Denzik
April 26	Gentry Lee
April 27	Kay Hall Gracie Atchinson
April 28	Mary R Pittman
April 29	Linda Findlater

Anniversaries

April 1	Wayne & Wanda Griffin
April 3	Seth & Becky Snedigar
April 5	Roy & Gail Hogge
April 16	Gene & Katherine Grantham
April 18	Doug & Cindy Cameron
April 21	Shane & Libby Clay George & Jennifer Gatewood



Epworth Mother-Daughter Banquet

Please join us for another great annual Epworth **Mother-Daughter Banquet on Friday, May 10th, 6:30 P.M. EDT, in the Church Fellowship Hall.** Tickets are Adults - \$15.00 and Children (under 12) - \$10.00. A tremendous bargain for good food, great fellowship, great entertainment, door prizes and lots of love and laughter! This is a very special annual event in our church with daughters and mothers ranging in age from 2 years to 90+ years attending!

If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet on the Gathering Room Bulletin Board. Also, we need the wonderful men in our church to sign up to be waiters for the Mother-Daughter Banquet. What a nice way to honor the most important women in your lives. Door Prize donations are also welcomed! Hanging baskets, flowering plants, and gift cards are just a few suggestions for great door prizes.

Don't miss out on the fun of this great annual tradition at Epworth. It's a wonderful way to begin your Mother's Day celebration with your personal family and your church family. Invite your Mother, Sisters, Daughters, Granddaughters and Friends for an entertaining evening of Christian sisterhood and fellowship! It's A Time for Love & Laughter!

Additional information coming soon.



Looking for 2024 Graduating Seniors

We will honor our 2024 High School Seniors on May 5, 2024. We don't want to leave anyone out

as we celebrate this special time in their lives. Please help us in making our list of graduates complete by taking a look at the list below. If you know of other Graduating Seniors who are members of - OR -- attend Epworth regularly, we need to make sure they get on our list.

Please call or email the church office with any names at info@epworth-pc.org / 334-298-3186 or contact Diane Glass @ 706-681-2107 / dianeglass99@gmail.com

Thank you!

Landon Beaver	Central High School
Mia Bell	Central High School
Micah Cook	Central High School
Cason Page	Central High School
Emma Wilson	Central High School

CELEBRATION
Sunday
APRIL 7TH

GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

UNITE AS THE BODY OF JESUS CHRIST
COMING TOGETHER AS ONE TO WORSHIP

9:15 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL

- ALL ADULT SUNDAY CLASSES WELCOME
- MEET IN THE GYM
- DONUTS, FRUIT & COFFEE

10:30 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE

- COMMUNION
- ONE COMBINED SERVICE
- MUSIC FROM CHOIR, PRAISE BAND & CHERUB CHOIR

JOIN US FOR A COVERED DISH LUNCHEON AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

EPWORTH CHURCH
A Methodist Congregation

April 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 12:00 pm Happy Days Covered Dish Luncheon NO—Men's Bible Study and Women's Bible Study	2 NO MDO OR PRESCHOOL SPRING BREAK 9:30 am Bible Study	3 NO PRESCHOOL SPRING BREAK 6:00 pm—Youth 6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	4 NO MDO OR PRESCHOOL SPRING BREAK 6:30 pm Methodist Women's group will meet in the Fellowship Hall	5	6
7 Celebration Sunday 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Joint Celebration Service 12:00 pm Covered Dish Luncheon 4:00 pm Confirmation Class 5:30 pm Cherub Choir and Kidz Cruise	8 6:30 pm—Men's Bible Study and Women's Bible Study	9 9:00 am—Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible Study 6:30 pm—Finance Committee Meeting	10 9:00 am - Preschool 6:00 pm—Youth 6:30 pm—Wednesday Night Classes & Kids Konnections	11 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 am—Mom's Day Out & Preschool 6:00 pm—Men's Ministry 6:00 pm—Grief Ministry	12	13
14 4:00 pm Confirmation Class 5:30 pm Cherub Choir and Kidz Cruise	15 6:30 pm—Men's Bible Study and Women's Bible Study	16 9:00 am—Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible Study 6:00 Prayer Vigil	17 9:00 am—Preschool 6:00 pm—Youth 6:30 pm—Wednesday Night Classes & Kids Konnections	18 9:00 am - Mom's Day Out & Preschool 6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	19	20
21 4:00 pm Confirmation Class 5:30 pm Cherub Choir and Kidz Cruise	22 6:30 pm—Men's Bible Study and Women's Bible Study	23 9:00 am - Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study	24 9:00 am - Preschool 6:00 pm—Youth 6:30 pm—Wednesday Night Classes & Kids Konnections	25 9:00 am - Mom's Day Out & Preschool	26	27
28 3:00 Administrative Board Meeting 4:00 pm Confirmation Class 5:30 pm Cherub Choir and Kidz Cruise	29 6:30 pm—Men's Bible Study and Women's Bible Study	30				

A message from our Youth Minister Daniel Cook

Time to tend the garden

Spring is officially here and with spring comes: more sunshine, weather for cookouts and outdoor activities, and baseball season. Go Braves! This time of year many will begin the task of growing a garden in their backyard. My family is not known to have green thumbs as we once had a cactus die at our house. How does one do that you may ask? I am not sure, but we were able to succeed at killing a cactus. From the little I know about gardening I do know it takes a lot of work to reap the benefits of a garden.

Gardening requires maintenance: ground preparation, planting, watering, fertilizing, mulching, and yes, pulling weeds. Gardening also takes time and often takes months before the plants grow and produce. It takes a lot of passion, dedication, and patience to take a piece of ground from a plot of dirt to a garden that has life and produces plants. There are many correlations between our personal lives and growing a garden.

In John 15 we see that once we are grafted into the vine of God, which is through Jesus Christ, we will bear much fruit. In Galatians 5 Paul states, “that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” For that fruit to be present in our life takes work sometimes. Surrendering our life to God and allowing Jesus to be the Lord and Saviour of our life is the planting of the seed. As we tend to the garden of our soul daily, we are allowing opportunities for that fruit to grow in our lives and soon be harvested.

We must not neglect the daily work or soon the ground could become overtaken by weeds and dry dirt. Wayne Grudem says, “Perhaps a great help in keeping your heart is just the old-fashioned disciplines” of the Christian life: Bible reading, private and corporate prayer, worship, obedience to God’s word, caring for the needs of others, sharing Christ with others, giving to the Lord’s work, fellowship with God’s people.” Just as a farmer tends to his garden daily, we must tend to our hearts daily. If we do not, we run the risk of sins choking out the fruit God wants to grow in our lives.

There is no shortcut to gardening, just as there are no shortcuts in our walk with Christ. There may be days that you are tending to your heart through the disciplines mentioned above and you wonder if it is making a difference. Just remember, the most important time of growth for a plant is what happens under the soil - the fruit is just the reward. In your life, the most important part of what God is doing in your life happens where no one else can see it, in your heart. The fruit that others see is the reward after the prayer, reading, and knocking on heaven’s door day after day. Keep watering, keep weeding, and keep fertilizing because the time of harvest will come!



Events in April:



Youth Summer Camp Sign Ups

We have filled all our spots for youth camp this summer. This will be an exciting opportunity for the students to experience. If you would like to help send these students to camp please make a donation to the Youth Camp/Scholarship Fund. The total cost of the trip is \$250 per student. Any amount will help offset the cost that each student will pay.

April Wednesday Night Series - Quest

Quest is 4-weeks encouraging students to get to know God better so they can get to know themselves better. Quest will challenge students to dig up the differences between who they think they are, who they are told they are, and who they truly are. It's time to stop looking in the wrong places to find your identity and discover who you truly are.

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 service that includes a time of games, teaching, and worship. Once a month we split off into small groups to discuss the topic of the night and talk about how we can apply it to our lives.

Sunday Mornings Worship

We invite all families and teenagers to attend a Sunday morning worship service. As you know there are three to choose from, with most teenagers attending the 9:45 service. We would love to see your family worship with us!

Small Group - Sunday Mornings at 11:00

Following the 9:45 service there is a class offered for all teenagers. Some may call it Sunday School and others call it a Small Group, no matter what you call it, it is important. This is a place for teenagers to talk through the Bible and life with other teenagers to grow together as they navigate what it means to follow Christ.

Senior Recognition & Breakfast

We will honor our 2024 High School Seniors on May 5, 2024. This will be a day we celebrate the accomplishments of our High School Seniors as they are recognized during the 9:45 service. To help make this a special day we are asking all seniors to send in a baby picture and a current picture to be shown during the service. To help make it personal we also have a questionnaire each senior will need to fill out before May 5th. Please send pictures to Daniel at daniel.cook@epworth-pc.org and to get the link to the questionnaire.

Things to come in 2024:

- Senior Recognition - May 5th
- Fun Fest - June 1st
- VBS - June 9th - 13th
- Youth Camp - June 12th - 15th
- Six Flags - June (Date TBD)
- White Water - July (Date TBD)
- Braves Game - June or July (Date TBD)
- Dnow - August (Date TBD)
- Fall Trip - October (Date TBD)
- Ski Trip - December 27th - 30th



MERGE
YOUTH: SUMMER

- When: June 12 - 15
- Cost: \$250
- Where: Shocco Springs Conference Center, Talladega, AL

How to sign up:
Fill out a permission form (pick up from youth room) and return it with a \$50 deposit

2024 MERGE YOUTH CAMP THEME:
REP THE KING

Spots Available: 25 (for leaders and students)

HELP EPWORTH OBSERVE MEMORIAL DAY 2024



- Memorial Day, the national holiday on which we honor all our fallen veterans, those men and women who died while serving in our Armed Forces, will be on 27 May this year.
- At Epworth, on 26 May, the Sunday before Memorial Day, we'd like to honor any fallen veterans our church or families have, and we'd also like to honor all our members or relatives of our members or attendees who served in our armed forces and have since passed away – our deceased veterans.
- We request your help: if you have a fallen or deceased veteran in your family or know of any in our Epworth community families and are not sure we are aware of that veteran, or if you have questions, please let us know. Please identify your fallen or deceased veterans and provide photographs, if possible, to Pastor Grant (334-298-3186 or grant.parker@epworth-pc.org) or Ross Goode (706-464-5089 or camovet@ctvea.net).

JOIN EPWORTH'S SECURITY MINISTRY TEAM

- Members of our Security Ministry Team volunteer during every service to help ensure the safety of our worshippers and the sanctity of our services.
- The more Security Ministry Team members Epworth has, the less often any one of them needs to volunteer. We can certainly use your help. We will train you before you serve.
- 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 contact the church office at (334) 298-3186 or Pastor Grant at grant.parker@epworth-pc.org