



EPWORTH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

June 2024

(334) 298-3186

WWW.EPWORTH-PC.ORG

Fear Not - Good Words from the Good Shepherd



by Rev. Grant Parker

In God's word, the Holy Bible, we read in Ephesians 2:8 that we are "saved through faith." In Acts 2:21 the Bible tells us, "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved!" It's a plain and simple fact: we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God—every person needs to be saved from their sins through a personal faith in Jesus Christ in order to have everlasting life in "the hereafter." (Romans 3:23, John 3:16)

But I am convinced that a personal faith in Jesus Christ also saves us to an abundant life of peace and joy and contentment right now, in "the here and now!" For example, one thing Jesus seems to want to save us from is fear. In fact, it's been said that the most frequent command in the Bible is "fear not," or some similar form of that command. Here's two examples.

A ruler of the synagogue came to Jesus one day and said, "My daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay hands on her, that she might live." Then someone from the ruler's house came to the man and said, "Your daughter is already dead, why trouble Jesus any further?" But ignoring what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear—only believe." (Mark 5:22-36)

Again, one evening, Jesus was on a boat with His disciples and a great wind came up. The waves started beating against the sides of the boat. The disciples were frightened, and I'm sure there was no small amount of weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth! They looked to find Jesus sound asleep. They woke Him and said, "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" Jesus rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace, be still." The wind ceased, and there was great calm on the water. Then He turned to His disciples (and to us as well, I believe) and said, "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" (From Mark 4:35-40)

Let me ask you a question today that only you can answer. Do you have fears in your life—in your heart or in your mind—for some reason today? Then let these good words from our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ comfort you: "Do not fear—only believe!" The One who calmed the raging sea can surely settle the storm that is surging within you!

Keep your hand in Jesus' hand and your eyes on the Cross!
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.

June 3rd—Tony Deal

June 10th—Maria Chedrick

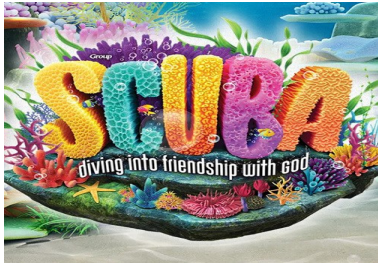
June 17th—Pam Shores

June 24th—No Visitation

Veterans Day Dinner

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 12, 2024, and watch for more information concerning this year's free Veterans Dinner soon.

EPWORTH KIDZ CREW



SCUBA

"Take kids deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. At Scuba VBS, kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about!"

VBS

Your help is always needed and appreciated! Please sign up to help with DECORATIONS, TEACHING, CLEAN UP, KITCHEN, REGISTRATION, MUSIC, SOUND & VIDEO, NURSERY, PRESCHOOL. You can register online at <https://vbspro.events/p/epworthvbsscuba2024> OR use the QR Code to complete volunteer and participant registration.



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

VBS VOLUNTEER WORKSHOP Will be held Sunday, June 4th at 4:00 pm.

All volunteers are encouraged to attend!

Dates for Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 9th through Thursday, June 13th 6:00—8:30 pm



Children are invited to attend a Summer Art Camp this June. There will be 2 sessions available:

- June 17-21 for grades 1-5
- June 24-27 for Preschoolers and Kindergarteners.
- The Cost is \$125 per child.
- All supplies are included.
- During the week the children will explore many different mediums of art in a relaxed, fun and Christian environment.

Please contact Amber McCart for more info!
mccart052606@yahoo.com or call/text 706-289-7533

COME JOIN KIDZ CONNECTIONS
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: 6:30-7:30 pm
Ages 4 years through 6th grade.

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.

MOM'S DAY OUT - Will be closed the week of May 28th and reopen for the Summer on Tuesday, June 18th.

MDO Summer Program will close the week of July 29th and the Fall program will open Tuesday, August 6th..

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS

COMING IN JULY!

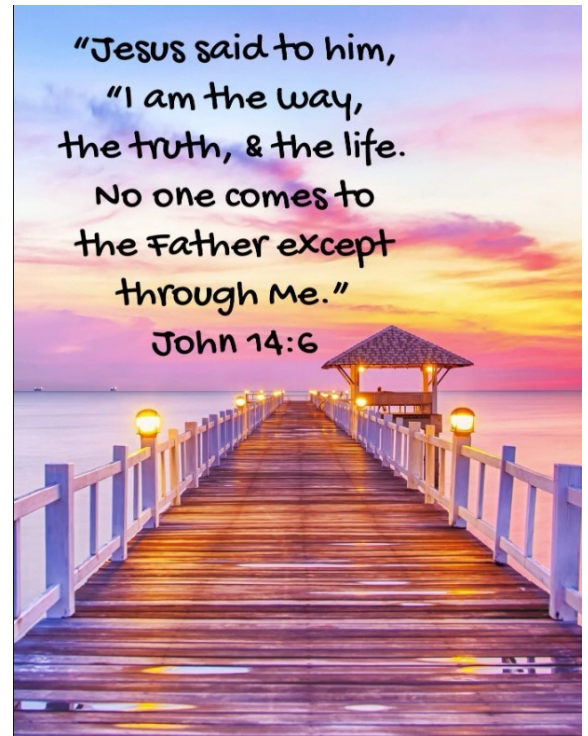
Tuesday, July 2nd, 16th & 23rd.
More details coming soon.

Anniversaries

June 3	Jimmy & Rendi Hall
June 4	Ron & Joy Garney
June 6	David & Laura Johnson Estin & Kaylee Martin
June 9	David & Joanie Stephens
June 12	Matt & Sheryl Bell
June 15	Joseph & Abrielle Wade
June 18	Tyler & Lindsay Petsch
June 20	Ron & Cindy Hart Steve & Ellen Ward Rusty & Dana Townsend Jacob & Amanda Head
June 22	Derek & Miranda Griggs Jeb & Melissa Bridges
June 25	Tony & Dee Dee Ellis
June 27	April & Denver Edwards
June 28	Billy Ray & Mary Frances Head Brandon & Marie Culpepper

Birthdays	
June 1	Annabell Shields Zachary Linsley
June 2	Bill Dykes Alissa Stone Adam Norden
June 3	Abrielle Wade
June 4	Gladys Breeland
June 5	Pixie Dillard
June 6	Chuck Clay
June 7	Sharon Cook
June 8	Tyler Garney
June 9	Vickie Griggs Ann Marie Findlater Keagan Clark River Harbuck
June 11	Helen Bush Sheryl Bell Seth Snedigar Charlene Brewer
June 12	Gloria Ellison
June 13	Grant Parker John Findlater Steven Head
June 14	Jared Head Olivia Martin Maggie Zeigler
June 15	Wyatt Beach Jeff Bradley Chloe Cameron
June 16	Merri Jane Evans Teresa Sanders Wyatt Sartin
June 17	Nancy Loofboro
June 19	Caden Clay
June 20	Bubba Roberts Griffin Griggs
June 21	Shane Clay Lydia Lake Marcus Sanders
June 22	Roy Hogge Shaun Cameron Justin Chedrick
June 24	Kim Burtt Gracie Glass
June 25	Abby Kate Atchinson Jill Glass

June 26	Rhonda Norden Gerritt Griggs Laura Wise
June 27	Brad Baker
June 28	Rusty Townsend Jennifer Page
June 29	Becky Coreno Gwen Morris
June 30	Joy Garney



CELEBRATING OUR CONFIRMANDS!!!!

We celebrate the completion of our 2024 Confirmation Class! Please congratulate the following young ladies on their decision to follow Christ in baptism and to unite with the Epworth Church Family!

Carsyn Townsend Mady Supan Gracie Glass

Congratulations to our 2024 Kindergarten Graduates!

Saylor Ketchum, Zada Sanford, Camden Munk, Wyatt Sartin, Keith Ridgeley, Scarlett Singer and Blake Saunders.



With the Summer comes new movies for family and children. If you would like to read movie reviews from a Christian perspective, go to <https://www.pluggedin.com> for more information regarding content. Plugged In provides movie reviews through the ministry of Focus on the Family.



PARENT CUE is a free app for parents of children and youth. It provides devotions for kids of specific age groups and parenting tips for talking with your children each day as you encourage them to grow spiritually and keep open the lines of communication.

A message from our Youth Minister Daniel Cook

The summer has officially arrived! Most of you have already made plans for a family vacation, pool days, and time to relax and enjoy the sunshine! During this time of relaxing and spending time with family and friends, this time can be leveraged to grow ourselves and others closer to Christ. Let's go into summer with a plan to make the most of the time we have this summer.

The first way we can take advantage of our summer break is to spend more time reading God's word. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." If you are not already reading your Bible now is a great time to start a Bible reading plan. There are many resources available to help you start reading your Bible. As you are sitting at the pool, on the beach, or at your table drinking your morning coffee take a few minutes to allow God to speak to you through the Bible.

The second way we can take advantage of our summer break is by being intentional with the time we have with our family. As we spend more time together enjoying vacations or pool days, remember Deuteronomy 6:6-9, "6 And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. 7 Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. 8 Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." This instructs us to teach God's commands to our children all of the time, no matter where we are. As you travel, sit beside a pool, or stand around a grill, find ways to have meaningful conversations about Christ.

The third way we can take advantage of our summer break is to grow our relationships closer together and closer to God. As you get together this summer with family and friends, be intentional to make the most of your time with fellow believers. Hebrews 10:24-25, says, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Instead of having just another pool day, maybe you start a small group with your friends around the pool or you make a plan to go spend time with someone who needs encouragement.

If we are not intentional with the time we have it will be easily wasted and we come to the end of the summer missing out on opportunities to grow in our faith and to grow with those around us. As you go throughout this summer make the most of the time you have with your family and friends. Now go and enjoy the sunshine!!!

Epworth Students Upcoming Events:

Merge Youth Summer Camp

Please be in prayer for the students and leaders who will be attending camp this summer. Merge Youth Camp is taking place June 12 - 15. We are expecting God to do great things in the lives of our students this week!

Youth Camp Sponsorship:

It's not too late to sponsor a student for youth camp. We have students who need help financially to be able to attend camp. Any amount will be extremely helpful and greatly appreciated. You can give online to the Youth Camp/Scholarship Fund or in the offering on Sunday morning. If you give in the offering please make a note letting us know it is for Youth Camp.

Volunteer Opportunities :

We need teenagers to help with FunFest and Vacation Bible School. This is a great time to serve alongside other teenagers and be the hands and feet of Jesus! This also is a good way for students to get volunteer hours needed for school. FunFest is June 1 and VBS is June 9-13. If your student can help please let us know.

June Wednesday Night Series - Worth Sharing

There are some things we just have to share. A funny video, some encouraging words, or a profound moment of kindness are all things we've probably shared this week. When we share, we just want the people we care about most to experience what we have. We're quick to send videos to each other, but how easy is it for us to share our faith? Maybe it's not that we don't want to share, but we might have a hard time overcoming some of our obstacles or insecurities. During this four-week series, we'll take a look at the story of Samuel and the ways that God called him to share his faith through words and action. Together, we'll explore how God invites us to share the good news, why sharing the good news should start with prayer, what to do when sharing the good news requires risk, and how sharing the good news can happen every day.

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.

Summer Schedule

This summer there will be many opportunities for students to connect through different outings, events, and services. Along with the schedule below there will be certain Wednesday nights we have Wednesday night services at someones house enjoying a cookout and swimming, along with other intown events happening on Thursdays. It will be an exciting summer that you do not want to miss!

Fun Fest - June 1st

- Six Flags - June 3rd
- Sunday Funday - June 9th (after the 11:00 service - we will be back to help with VBS)
- VBS - June 9th - 13th
- Merge Youth Camp - June 12th - 15th
- Braves Game - June 17th
- White Water - July 22nd

Things to come in 2024:

Dnow (Youth weekend) - August 16-18

A DNOW (Disciple Now) weekend is a youth retreat that is designed to be "at home" for 6th -12th graders. There are several elements to a DNOW weekend: worship services, small groups, and events around town.

- Fall Trip - October (Date TBD)
- Ski Trip - December 27th - 30th



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA (WAA)

- We're off to a great start with WAA this year: we have already sponsored enough wreaths to ensure Fort Mitchell National Cemetery receives 732 wreaths.
- However, we still need to sponsor 137 wreaths by the WAA closing date in late November to beat the record we set last year.
- An explanation of the WAA wreath program and forms for sponsoring wreaths are on the Military Bulletin Board in the Gathering Room and on a table in the hallway.
- Let's sponsor enough wreaths to break our previous year's record for the sixth year in a row.

Volunteers are needed for Mobility Worldwide. God has equipped you with the skills that you need. You only need to be willing. We are open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday from 9:00am -12:00pm.

"We show the love of Christ by providing mobility and dignity to human beings living in the developing world who cannot walk."

HELP US KEEP EPWORTH CHURCH SAFE

- 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.
- It's a shame we have to think about security while we are in God's House, but we believe it is a prudent precaution.
- We need your help:
 - * Stay alert whenever you are at Epworth.
 - * Report anything out-of-the-ordinary to our staff or security team.
 - * Pick up a one-page information sheet from the Gathering Room Counter to see how you can prepare.

If you have a comment or suggestion concerning our security, or 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 (RCGoode525@gmail.com or 706-464-5089.) know.

Prayer Chapel Schedule

June 2, 2024

8:30 am Vicky Moss
9:45 am Shirley Goode
11:00 am Marcia Myles

June 9, 2024

8:30 am Jaime Singer
9:45 am Gloria Griggs
11:00 am Kathryn Perdue

June 16, 2024

8:30 am Michelle Word
9:45 am Teri Medina
11:00 am Pam Shores

June 23, 2024

8:30 am Gary Dillard
9:45 am Becky Coreno
11:00 am Carol Cain

June 30, 2024

8:30 am Miranda Griggs
9:45 am Vickie Griggs
11:00 am Sylva Curtiss

June Greeter Schedule

June 2, 2024

8:30 am Hilda Bozzelli
9:45 am Vicky Moss
11:00 am Marcia Myles

June 9, 2024

8:30 am Sandra Rowan
9:45 am Cheryl Smith
11:00 am Emily Hogge

June 16, 2024

8:30 am Joanie Stephens
9:45 am Kalen Sieck
11:00 am Pam Shores

June 23, 2024

8:30 am Meg Clark
9:45 am Sheryl Bell
11:00 am Becky Coreno

June 30, 2024

8:30, 9:45 & 11:00—TBD

June 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 FunFest 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
2 3:00 pm Council on Ministries Meeting 4:00 pm VBS Volunteer Meeting	3 12:00 pm— Happy Days “Covered Dish” Luncheon	4 9:30 am Bible Study	5 6:00 –7:30 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	6 6:30 pm Methodist Women’s Ministry meeting	7	8
9 5:00 pm VBS Volunteers Meet in Fellowship Hall 6:00—8:30 pm First Night of Vacation Bible School	10 6:00—8:30 pm Vacation Bible School	11 Newsletter Deadline 9:30 am Bible Study 6:00—8:30 pm Vacation Bible School	12 6:00—8:30 pm Vacation Bible School 6:30 pm Pastor’s Bible Study Youth Camp	13 6:00—8:30 pm Vacation Bible School Youth Camp	14 Youth Camp	15 Youth Camp
16	17	18 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out 6:00 pm— Prayer Vigil	19 6:00 –7:30 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	20 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out	21	22
23	24	25 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out	26 6:00 –7:30 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	27 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out	28	29
30						



Sound Choices Baby Bottle Boomerang

Every week Sound Choices ministers to women & girls that are facing an unplanned pregnancy. They do this by providing free pregnancy testing, a trusted advocate to talk with, an ultrasound, and referrals for community resources. These women are given the opportunity to hear the gospel, see the value of their life and the life of their unborn baby, and understand how much God loves them.

Starting **Mother's Day**, May 12th, we will distribute baby bottles from Sound Choices Pregnancy Clinic. Please take **one** per family. We are asking that you take the bottles home, fill them with a check, cash or coins, and return them to the church on Father's Day, June 16th.

This year's goal is \$5,000! We can do this! By filling your Baby Bottle, you are introducing expectant moms to their baby via ultrasound, and also introducing them to Jesus Christ & the hope He provides. Women who visit Sound Choices are invited to attend **FREE**:

- Weekly Parenting Classes
- Bible Studies
- Confidential Abortion Recovery Counseling to women who are hurting from a past abortion experience. If you need to talk to someone about a past abortion, please email info@SoundChoicesPC.org or call 706.322.5024.

Keep filling those Baby Bottles throughout this week with your spare change, as we celebrate changed hearts! Whether your bottle is full or empty, Sound Choices asks you to return each bottle, because they re-use these bottles. **By returning each one, we help them to be good and faithful stewards of the funds you donate, and the income which God provides for the crucial ministry they offer.**