

# Epworth Church

A Methodist Congregation



by Rev. Grant Parker

**October 2024**

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

## “Yes, Even the *Appearance of Evil!*”

Have you ever felt like no matter how hard you try, you *just* can't stay out of trouble. We've probably all heard it said of some people (not us, of course!) that, “Trouble is his—or her—middle name!” Jesus even taught us to pray by saying, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver **us** from evil.” (Matthew 6:13, KJV) Maybe you can relate to the following story, told only as a child could.

*Our teacher asked what my favorite animal was, and I said ‘Fried chicken.’ She said I wasn’t funny, but she couldn’t have been right, because everyone else laughed. My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal. I told my dad what happened, and he said my teacher was probably a member of an organization that loves animals very much. I do, too. Especially chicken, pork and beef. Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal’s office. I told him what happened, and he laughed, too. Then he told me not to do it again.*

*The next day in class my*

*teacher asked me what my favorite LIVE animal was. I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken. She sent me back to the principal’s office. He laughed, and told me not to do it again.*

*I don’t understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn’t like it when I am. Today, my teacher asked me to tell her what famous person I admired most.*

*I told her, “Colonel Sanders.” Guess where I am now...*

If we’re totally honest, we’ve probably all shared that child’s sentiments. Often, we have found it difficult to “stop sinning and start doing right,” as we’re told in Psalm 37:27 (CEV). But the Bible, which is God’s written word, provides us with the following advice that can ensure success in our endeavor, if we sincerely desire to live a life above reproach, and one that is morally consistent with His will, His word, and His way for us. He simply says to us in

1 Thessalonians 5:22 (KJV), “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” The New Living Translation of the Holy Bible makes that admonition even clearer: “Keep away from everything that even looks like sin.”

To put it in words that even I can understand, when I was growing up the old folks often shared with me this sage advice: “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!” I’ve learned—often the hard way, they were right, and that you can’t improve on the Word of God!

Keep your hand in Jesus’ hand and your eyes on the Cross!

Brother Grant

### **Prayer Chapel**

**October 6, 2024**

8:30 am - Vicky Moss

9:45 am - Shirley Goode

11:00 am - Marcia Myles

**October 13, 2024**

8:30 am - Don Harbuck

9:45 am - Gloria Griggs

11:00 am - Mary Pittman

**October 20, 2024**

8:30 am - Rendi Hall

9:45 am - David Bain

11:00 am - Pam Shores

**October 27, 2024**

8:30 am - Gary Dillard

9:45 am - Becky Coreno

11:00 am - Donna Zeigler

## *A message from our Youth Minister Daniel Cook*

In Matthew 14:22-33 we find a story most of us know, Peter walking on water. To jog your memory the story comes after Jesus and the disciples fed over 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish. After this miracle, Jesus sent the disciples ahead in a boat as He went to pray. During the night, the disciples' boat was battered by waves, and they were struggling against the wind. In the early morning hours, Jesus came to them, walking on the water. Seeing him, the disciples were frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost.

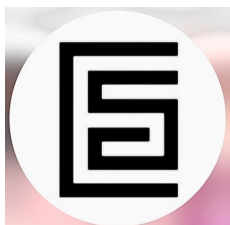
Jesus speaks out and tells the disciples, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Peter said, "Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water." Jesus invited Peter to come, and Peter stepped out of the boat and began walking on the water toward Jesus. As Peter stepped out of the boat things were going well until he began to look at the wind and the waves and began to sink. He then cried out for help and Jesus picked him up.

Many times when I hear that passage taught Peter comes up as the one who failed, the one who had little faith. I tend to look at this passage in a different light. Everyone in that boat could have asked Jesus to call them out in the water but only Peter did. Did the disciples who stayed in the boat think it was a ghost and choose not to go near it, did they lack faith that they could do as Jesus did and walk on water, or was the boat the safer option than getting out in the storm?

How many times in your life have you stayed in the boat instead of stepping out into the places God is calling you? John Ortberg wrote a book titled, "If you want to walk on water you have to get out of the boat." He stated, "You will never experience the miracles God has in store for you if you stay within the safety of the boat." Oftentimes we miss out on what God has for us because we cling too tightly to our comfort.

Yes Peter struggled and some may say failed, I see that Peter is the only person other than Jesus who walked on water. When Peter stepped out of the boat he began walking towards Jesus. As you read this, what is God calling you to? What miracle is waiting for you that begins with a step out of your boat and into the journey with Jesus? Get out of the boat! Go with Jesus!





# EPWORTH STUDENT NEWS

## Wednesday Nights 6:00—7:30 pm

Series: Uncharted - When we start with God and stick with our faith family, we will unlock the life we're meant to live.

Join us on Wednesday night from 6:00 - 6:30 as we hang out in the gym, game room, and snack bar.

Now is a great time to get plugged in as a lot of new and exciting things are taking place.

## Fall Brawl

The Fall Brawl is back and is three weeks into this exciting time of getting to know each other, competition, inviting friends to join in the fun, and most importantly growing in our relationship with Christ.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Event</u>
Oct. 2nd	Sports/Friends	Inside Games
Oct. 9th	Water Night	Slip-n-Slide and Kickball
Oct. 16th	Dodgeball	Dodgeball
Oct. 23rd	White Out	Floor War
Oct. 30th	Sports	Volleyball
Nov. 6	OCC	OCC Box Night
Nov. 13th	Triple Points	All Points X3
Nov. 20th	End	Winner Announced

## 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.

## Winter Trip - Sold Out!

Ski Trip - If you did not sign up but would like to please see Daniel. We may be able to squeeze in one or two more, because sometimes people have to drop out unexpectedly.

Dates: December 27 - 30

Where: WinterPlace Ski Resort, Ghent, West Virginia

For: Students 7th - 12th grade

Cost: \$200-\$300

## Youth Scholarship Fund

Youth Ski Trip Sponsorship - The youth are excited about their upcoming trip this December to Winterplace Ski Resort in Ghent, WV. The trip reached capacity the first night of sign-ups! We do have some students and families attending the trip that will need help financially. If you would like to sponsor a student or help families with multiple children with the cost of camp you can give either through the offering plate or online. The cost per student is \$205. If you have any questions please see Daniel.



Anniversaries	
Oct 3	Jeffery & Jennifer Head
Oct 5	Garrett & Jill Glass
Oct 6	Pat & Sherri Taylor
Oct 11	Noah & Terrell Sartin
Oct 12	Steve & Michele Lake Jared & Bethany Martin
Oct 15	Tony & Monica Lawhon
Oct 24	Wade & Kalen Sieck Justin & Chami Chedrick
Oct 25	Billy and Barbara Sides

*Happy Anniversary*

*Happy Birthday!*

Birthdays	
Oct 1	Becky Ivey
Oct 3	Ellen Ward Sherry Martin
Oct 4	Alton Abbott
Oct 5	Connie Burell Marcia Zmijewski Billy Sides Brooke Durrance
Oct 6	Frank Wiggins Sophie Wilkerson
Oct 7	Poo Carrero Denise Wilkerson Mark Wooten Landon Beaver
Oct 8	Don Verner Wes Petsch
Oct 10	Joey Wade
Oct 11	Mike West
Oct 13	Derek Griggs
Oct 14	Drew Lurker
Oct 15	Cheryl Smith
Oct 17	Shane Barbaree Marilyne Williamson
Oct 18	Marquis Sanders Nate Riepe
Oct 19	Ralph Moss
Oct 20	Wayne Lake Debi Johnson
Oct 21	David Parker
Oct 22	Cody Burtt Jeff Coreno
Oct 23	Phyllis Nicholson
Oct 25	Liza Price
Oct 26	Virginia Hope Howard Walker Joanie Stephens
Oct 28	Kevin Sharpe
Oct 29	Blake Sigmon
Oct 30	Mary Katherine Atchinson



### Operation Christmas Child

The Epworth Kidz Crew will be packing Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse during the month of November. If you would like to make donations to our Kidz Ministry, please drop items for shoeboxes in the collection bin in the Gathering Room. All shoeboxes will be packed and ready to go by November 21st, and then we will

deliver them to the collection point in Phenix City on November 25th.

Please help us reach our Church Goal of 200 shoeboxes by:

- \*Donating appropriate items
- \*Packing your own shoeboxes and delivering them to the church on or before Nov. 24th.
- \*Donating financially to help fund the \$10 per box needed for shipping

[www.samaritanpurse.org](http://www.samaritanpurse.org)

### Visitation Volunteers

The following people will accompany Brother Grant on visitation visits on:

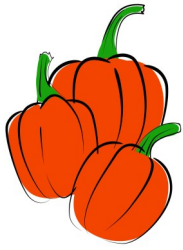
October 7th—Maria LaMee

October 14th—Office Closed (Columbus Day)

October 21—Tony Deal

October 28—Jaime Singer

Please meet Brother Grant at 6:30 pm at the church. If you are unable to do so, please contact Kathryn Perdue, 334-298-2948.



# EPWORTH KIDZ CREW

## FALL HAPPENINGS

Sunday Nights, 5:30 pm

\* Cherub Choir—Ages 3 years through 1st Grade

\* Kidz Cruise—2nd through 5th/6th Grade



## Fall Festival

Sunday, October 20th, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Join us for a fun filled afternoon of games, prizes, hayrides, inflatables, a cupcake walk and **TRUNK OR TREAT!**

Fall festival is right around the corner, and we are looking for **volunteers** and **donations** for this family fun event! **Needed donations include:** sweet snacks (individually wrapped brownies, cookies, etc.) packaged chips, goldfish snacks, juice boxes, cupcakes (for our cupcake walk), candy, pumpkins, gourds, hay, and cornstalks.

**TRUNK OR TREAT VEHICLES** are also needed. Deck out your car trunk or truck bed with family friendly themes (add a Bible verse or Christian principle or saying that goes with your theme) and share candy at the end of our festival time!

If you are able to volunteer or sign up for a trunk or treat vehicle spot, please contact Letha Parker (letha.parker@epworth-pc.org or text Letha at 205-799-8547.)

(Teens may receive community service hours for your volunteer time.)

## Angel Tree

Angel Tree is a program of Prison Fellowship that serves incarcerated parents by providing a pathway for strengthening and restoring their relationships with their children and families. Angel Tree is a unique program that gives Epworth an opportunity to share Christ's love with families of prisoners. The program connects parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts given on the parent's behalf.

When a mother or father is in prison, the pain of separation from their child can be acute, but an Angel Tree gift, delivered in the parent's name, can help restore and strengthen the relationship and act as a symbol of God's love. Epworth has been participating in the Angel Tree Program for over twenty years. Many children, their families and prisoner parent have been blessed by this program.

Epworth will be participating with the Angel Tree program again this year. We will not be asking you to sponsor a specific child, buy and wrap presents and deliver to the church. Several options were given from Prison Fellowship Ministries and it has been decided that we will provide gift cards to each child. We are asking for donations so that we can provide a \$35.00 gift card to each child on behalf of their incarcerated parent. We feel this is the safest way to be able to carry on this worthwhile program. Please make your donations to Epworth Church and earmark/memo for Angel Tree.

You have always been a very generous and loving church and I look forward to us being a part of Angel Tree again this year and praying for those we serve.

Pam Shores, Your Angel Tree Coordinator

# October Prayers for 31 Days

The Epworth Prayer Ministry is inviting you to participate in a special month of prayer during October. In these turbulent times we live in today, prayer is a welcome relief to problems we see around us. “O my God, lean down and listen to me. Open your eyes and see my despair.....I make this plea, not because I deserve help but because of your mercy. O Lord, hear. O Lord forgive. O Lord listen and act!” Daniel 9:18-19.

Prayer is what moves the hand of God. Please join us starting the first day of October until October 31, 2024.

# October Prayers for 31 Days

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Pray For:</b>		1 Epworth to be Christ centered	2 Our New Pastor	3 Christ Centered Families	4 Church Workers & Volunteers	5 Epworth's Impact in Community
6 USA Spiritual & Scriptural Revival	7 Children's Programs	8 Election in America	9 At Risk Children and Teens	10 Youth Programs	11 Justice System & Courts	12 Our Religious Freedoms
13 Increase in Church Attendance	14 Bible Study Groups	15 Men as Husbands and Fathers	16 Women as Wives and Mothers	17 Single Men and Women	18 Global Methodist Church	19 Relief to People in Poverty
20 People in Crisis and Illness	21 Elderly and Shut ins	22 Our Schools, Educational Systems	23 Preschool and Mom's Day Out	24 Pre-Born Babies	25 Homeless People	26 End of Violence on our Streets
27 Hungry Children and Families	28 Blessings for Epworth	29 Less Racial Tension in America	30 Peace, Understanding in the World	31 Everyone to know Jesus		

# October 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>October 31 Days of Prayer</b>		<b>1</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  9:30 am—Bible study "Ezekiel"  6:30 pm—Bible study "Zechariah"	<b>2</b>  9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  6:00 pm Youth  6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	<b>3</b>  9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  <b>6:30 pm Methodist Women's meeting (Fellowship Hall)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>  4:00 pm—Charge Conference  4:30—5:30 pm Youth  5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir	<b>7</b>  <b>12:00 pm— Happy Days "Covered Dish" Luncheon</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  9:30 am—Bible study "Daniel"  6:30 pm—Bible study "Zechariah"	<b>9</b>  9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  6:00 pm Youth  6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	<b>10</b>  9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  <b>6:00 pm Men's Ministry</b>  <b>6:00 pm—Grief Meeting led by Minnie Henderson</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>  <b>4:00 pm—Council on Ministries</b>  4:30—5:30 pm Youth  5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir	<b>14</b>  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>  <b>Columbus Day</b>  <b>(Office Closed)</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  9:30 am—Bible study "Daniel"  6:30 pm—Bible study "Zechariah"  <b>6:30 pm— Prayer Vigil</b>	<b>16</b>  9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  6:00 pm Youth  6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	<b>17</b>  9:00 am - Mom's Day Out & Preschool	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>  <b>4:00—5:30 pm—Fall Festival</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>6:00 pm— New Men's &amp; Women's Monday Night Bible Study</b>	<b>22</b>  9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  9:30 am—Bible study "Daniel"  6:30 pm—Bible study "Zechariah"	<b>23</b>  9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  6:00 pm Youth  6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	<b>24</b>  9:00 am - Mom's Day Out & Preschool	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>6:00 pm— Men's &amp; Women's Monday Night Bible Study</b>	<b>29</b>  9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  9:30 am—Bible study "Daniel"  6:30 pm—Bible study "Zechariah"	<b>30</b>  9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool	<b>31</b>  9:00 am - Mom's Day Out & Preschool		



## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA (WAA)

- Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day, which is Saturday, December 15, 2024.
- As you know, WAA 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 cemeteries.
- 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 945 wreaths last year. Already this year, you have sponsored enough wreaths to ensure Fort Mitchell will receive 732 wreaths.

- We need to sponsor approximately 140 more wreaths between now and Thanksgiving to surpass the record we set last year. Please help us do that to honor our Veterans even more this year.
- Wreaths cost \$17 for one; \$34 for two; \$85 for five, etc., and for every two wreaths you sponsor, WAA will provide a third wreath free to Fort Mitchell.
- Sponsor your wreaths today! Pick up a form from the military bulletin board in the gathering room or the table outside the Sanctuary, 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.



### **The Epworth Methodist Women will be selling Priester's Pecans in September and October.**

Please support the ladies as they raise funds to donate to charities that aid women and children in need. We should receive the ordered items in 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 service on October 6th and 13th.

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