

# Epworth Methodist Church



Rev. Grant Parker

September 2024

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## “Ten Steps to Being a Friendly Church”

My good friend, and fellow pastor in our Global Methodist Connection, Dr. George Mathison, has been a blessing and mentor to me for more years than either of us would like to admit.

I recall an article that Dr. Mathison published several years ago in “The Village Methodist,” his former 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, 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!

Brother Grant





**The Epworth Methodist Women will be selling Priester's Pecans in the month of September.** 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 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 9/22 and 9/29.

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

### **MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS**

The Men's Ministry will provide a 4-S Luncheon (soup, sandwiches, salad and sweets) Sunday, Sept. 8th, 11:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited.

The Men's Ministry will have their regular meeting Thursday, Sept. 12th at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### **BIBLE STUDY ON ZECHARIAH**

Bible Study on the book of Zechariah will begin on the second Tuesday of September ( 9/10/2024) at 6:30 pm, led by Sherri and assisted by Wayne Sheffield.

<b>Anniversaries</b>	
Sept 1	J.W. & Carol Martin
Sept 2	David & Cheryl Bain
Sept 3	Curt & Sylvia Curtiss Steve & Sherry Martin
Sept 8	Kyle & Jennifer Page Michael & Crystal Berklite
Sept 10	Seth & Mary Katherine Atchison
Sept 16	Brian & Penny Garney
Sept 18	Jimmy & Ann Mann
Sept 19	Tony & Darlene Deal
Sept 22	Scott & Robin Hebert
Sept 26	Adam & Rhonda Norden
Sept 27	John & Minnie Henderson

<b>Birthdays</b>	
Sept 2	Catherine Milligan
Sept 3	Adicia Coulter
Sept 4	Debbie Page
Sept 5	Briella Rose Wade
Sept 8	Don Harbuck
Sept 9	Bob Stanton Bob Wisor Jason Prins Kalen Sieck Reagan Beach
Sept 10	Colton Head
Sept 11	Sherri Sheffield Sabrina Wade Kason Prins
Sept 13	Bryan Baker Jeb Bridges
Sept 14	Bubba Tate Brandon Sanford Brayden Lurker Raylee Rollo
Sept 15	Pam Shores Marsha Posey
Sept 16	Minnie Henderson Caroline Pippins Brody Sharpe Urijah Berklite
Sept 17	Austin White Ava Clay
Sept 18	Butch Lenoir Jessica Griggs
Sept 19	Raylan Petsch
Sept 21	Clint Campbell
Sept 23	Kristy Prins Joey Druash
Sept 25	Ross Goode Kaylee Martin
Sept 27	Scott Yeilding Brindlea Griffin
Sept 29	Jeff Carrero
Sept 30	Dudley Taylor

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

September 9—Karen Cameron

September 16—David Bain

September 23—Becky Coreno

September 30—Kathryn Perdue

\*no one scheduled for September 2 - Labor Day

# EPWORTH KIDZ CREW



## FALL HAPPENINGS

We kicked off our new school year with **Backpack Sunday**. Thank you for your participation. Now it is time to gear up for Fall with these activities....

9/4 Wednesday, 6:30-7:30

**Kidz Connections** (4 years – 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

9/8 Sunday Worship Service

**Grandparents Day recognition**

9/8 Sunday, 5:30-6:30

**Cherub Choir**, ages 3 years – 1<sup>st</sup> grade

**Kidz Cruise**, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

10/26 Saturday, 4:00-6:00

**Fall Festival**

### EVERY SUNDAY:

**Sunday School (9:45)**, ages 3 years – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Kidz Church (11:00)**, serves ages 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade as well.



**FALL COLLECTIONS FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** may be turned in to Kids' classes or placed on the Gathering Room Counter. We will be packing Shoeboxes in November.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED....

Children's activities planning & preparation.

- Substitutes for classrooms
- **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS FOR 9:45 AND 11:00 SERVICE**

### **PRAYING TRUTH OVER YOUR KIDS....**

**Speak these truths over kids and pray for them to internalize and believe them.**

- I am fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:13-14)
- I am loved by Jesus, and I get to share His love too. (John 13:34, 35)
- I was made in the image of God and am an image-bearer. (Genesis 1:27)
- I am chosen by God. I am valuable to Him. My life tells of His wonder. (1 Peter 2:9)
- I am a citizen of heaven; this world is not my home. (Philippians 3:20)
- I am a child of God and an heir of Christ. I am led by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:14-17)
- I have value because God loves me and sent Jesus to die for me. (Romans 5:8)
- I am set free from sin through Christ. I am forgiven and made righteous. (Ephesians 1:7)
- God has good plans for my life; plans for a hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)
- The peace of God will guard my heart and my mind through Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)
- I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13)
- I do not have a spirit of fear and timidity, but God has given me a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)

**What kids believe about themselves is the foundation on which they build their lives, beliefs, and relationships.**

The words we speak over kids, the lessons and Bible stories we teach (and the way we teach the Bible), the songs we sing, the conversations we have, and the advice and comfort we offer are all planting seeds that will grow into the fruit of identity that comes from being rooted in Christ.

# Epworth Youth News

*From Student Pastor Daniel Cook*

Hello everyone!

Albert Einstein once said, "Time flies when you are having fun." This quote has been true for my family over the past year since I started serving as the Youth Pastor. In ministry, if you can find people you enjoy being around, who love Jesus, and have a heart for people, you set yourself up for success. The youth ministry has seen success over the past year because of the people at Epworth, their love for the Lord, and their passion for the next generation.

Here is a quick look at where we have been and where we are going:

This past summer we had a great time getting to know each other better, as well as growing in our relationship with Christ. At youth camp, this group took huge steps of faith as individuals and as a group in worship, prayer, and new depths in their relationship with Christ. Epworth Students had nine students come forward for baptism last month.

The youth ministry has seen growth numerically over the past year. We hosted our first-ever Fall Brawl and saw many visitors, and many of them became regular attendees. We went on our first ski trip and took 24 students to experience something that many of them never experienced before. The youth Sunday school class also saw growth. Some weeks we have 15 - 20 in attendance.

The true stars of the ministry are the exceptional leaders who come week after week to minister to these students. We have seen growth numerically with the leaders and God continues to send the right people to help the ministry continue to grow. We have a good mix of personalities, ages, and giftings that make it possible to reach different teenagers. Without these leaders, it would be impossible to do all the things you see happening in the youth ministry.

As thankful as we are for all God has done this past year we believe there are greater things ahead. In August we started separating Jr. High and Sr. High students on Wednesday nights. This will help us provide age-targeted lessons, small groups, and conversations to each group. This will help the students connect better with their peers and leaders. This will also help the younger students transition better into the youth ministry.

We are getting ready to start back our breakfast devotions for students again after seeing much success with these last year. This upcoming year we will return to Winterplace, West Virginia for another year of skiing. We are jumping back into the Fall Brawl this month. We know we will attend Merge Youth Camp again next summer and are looking to add a mission trip as well.

I am grateful to be a part of this church and to be able to lead the student ministry. I am thankful for the adults who I am able to serve alongside week after week to reach the next generation. Most of all I give all praise, glory, and honor to God for the many ways we have seen Him move in and through this group this past year. I am excited to see what this next year holds for Epworth Students and Epworth Church.



# Epworth Students Upcoming Events and News:

## New Ministry

We have started a new Jr. High ministry on Wednesday nights! We start off together in the youth room for announcements, worship, and games then we will split off for teaching. This will allow us the opportunity to best minister to each group with age appropriate teachings. This will also give the ministry an opportunity to meet together but also allow time for the groups to meet with just their age. The leaders and teachers will rotate between the two groups to build relationships with all students.

## Sunday Nights

After we return from our summer break from Sunday nights the student ministry will start to meet once a quarter on Sunday nights for a mission/outreach project. This will give students an opportunity to serve alongside each other as we serve our community and local programs. These serving opportunities will be announced in the coming weeks as they are planned.

## Wednesday Nights

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, small groups 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.

We have started our annual Fall Brawl! The group is split into teams and compete against each other for 8 - 12 weeks to see who will win the grand prize at the end of the competition. Events during the Fall Brawl will be a dodgeball tournament, slip-n-slide kickball, flour fight, visitor night, trivia night, game night, and much more.

## 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.

## Ski Trip: December 27 - 30

We have started sign ups for our ski trip at Winterplace Ski Resort in Ghant, West Virginia. This year we are staying in a cabin on the slopes! This will be a great trip spending time together growing closer to each other and to Christ. Since we are staying in a cabin, spots are limited so make sure you sign up early! Contact Daniel for more details and what is needed to sign up at [daniel.cook@epworth-pc.org](mailto:daniel.cook@epworth-pc.org) or (334)298-3186.



# September 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  <b>Labor Day Office Closed</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool	<b>4</b> 9:00 am Preschool  6:00 pm Youth  6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  <b>6:30 pm Epworth Methodist Women</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15 am—Celebrate Grandparents  11:00 am - 1:00 pm 4-S Luncheon  5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir starts back!	<b>9</b> <b>Happy Days "covered dish" Luncheon</b>  6:30 pm—Men's & Women's Bible Study	<b>10</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  9:30 pm— <b>Tuesday Bible Study</b>  6:30 pm— <b>Tuesday Night Bible Study "Zechariah"</b>	<b>11 Newsletter Deadline</b> 9:00 am Preschool  6:00 pm Youth  6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	<b>12</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  <b>6:00 pm— Men's Ministry meeting</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>  5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir	<b>16</b>  6:30 pm—Men's & Women's Bible Study	<b>17</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  9:30 pm— <b>Tuesday Bible Study</b>  6:00 pm— <b>Prayer Vigil</b>  6:30 pm— <b>Tuesday Night Bible Study "Zechariah"</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00 am Preschool  6:00 pm Youth  6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>  2:00 pm—Baby Shower for Chami Chedrick  4:30 pm Admin. Board Meeting  5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir	<b>23</b>  6:00 am (Start) <b>Day of Prayer</b>  6:30 pm—Men's & Women's Bible Study	<b>24</b>  6:00 am— <b>Day of Pray (Last Hour)</b>  9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  9:30 pm— <b>Tuesday Bible Study</b>  6:30 pm— <b>Tuesday Night Bible Study "Zechariah"</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00 am Preschool  6:00 pm Youth  6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>  5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir	<b>30</b>  6:30 pm—Men's & Women's Bible Study					



## **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA (WAA)**

- Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day, which is Saturday, December 14, 2024, is approaching.
- 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.
- If you are sponsoring wreaths to Honor specific Veterans, don’t forget to give us their names.

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

## **EPWORTH’S MILITARY CONNECTION**

- Please help us identify every military man or woman connected to Epworth who is:
  - ⇒ Currently serving in any branch of our country’s military services, including the reserve and national guard forces.
  - ⇒ Has retired honorably from serving in any of our military services.
  - ⇒ Has served honorably in any of our military services.
- Our military connections include our members, attendees, and relatives of our Epworth members and attendees.
- Pastor Grant wants to identify every single military connection we have so we can:
  - ⇒ Pray regularly for them and their families.
  - ⇒ Send them birthday greetings on their birthdays.
  - ⇒ Invite them to our annual Veterans Day Dinner, which is being planned for Tuesday, 12 November, this year.
  - ⇒ Honor them on our Military Bulletin Board in the Gathering Room.
  - ⇒ Provide them assistance, as possible.
- Please review our “Epworth Military Connections” white notebook on the counter in the Gathering Room. If you know a military connection who is not listed or whose information we need to update, please let Pastor Grant ([grant.parker@epworth-pc.org](mailto:grant.parker@epworth-pc.org) or 334-298-3186) or Ross Goode ([rcgoode525@gmail.com](mailto:rcgoode525@gmail.com) or 706-465-5089) know, or write needed additions or changes on the page inside the notebook’s front cover.



## *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 8<sup>th</sup>  
from 5:30 to 6:30!!!!***

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

Ms. Diane  
Mrs. Letha

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