

Epworth Church

A Methodist Congregation

“Happy Thanksgiving”

by Rev. Grant Parker

I have stated numerous times from the pulpit that my favorite daily devotional is “Our Daily Bread.” ODB devotions are biblically based, highly relevant, and well-illustrated and written. I am sharing with you—with the author’s and publisher’s permission—the following Thanksgiving devotion, written by gifted author and speaker Elise Morgan, and published in the October 10, A.D. 2022 devotion provided by “Our Daily Bread Ministries.”

Brother Grant

In every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

READ Philippians 4:4-7

A study by psychologist Robert Emmons divided volunteers into three groups that each made weekly entries in journals. One group wrote five things they were grateful for. One described five daily hassles. And a control group listed five events that had impacted them in a small way. The results of the study revealed that those in the gratitude group felt better about their lives overall, were more optimistic about the future, and reported fewer health problems.

Giving thanks has a way of changing the way we look at life. Thanksgiving can even make us happier.

The Bible has long extolled the benefits of giving thanks to God, as doing so reminds us of His character. The Psalms repeatedly call God’s people to give Him thanks because “the LORD is good and his love endures forever” (Psalm 100:5) and to thank Him for His unfailing love and wonderful deeds (107:8, 15, 21, 31).

As the apostle Paul closed his letter to the Philippians—the letter itself a kind of thank-you note to a church that had supported him—he linked thankful prayers with the peace of God “which transcends all understanding” (4:7). When we focus on God and His goodness, we find that we can pray without anxiety, in every situation, with thanksgiving.

Giving thanks brings us a peace that uniquely guards our hearts and minds and changes the way we look at life. A heart full of gratitude nurtures a spirit of joy.

By Elisa Morgan

Save the Date!

Stewardship Sunday will be on November 24th. Please plan to turn in your Stewardship Commitment forms and join us for lunch immediately after the 11AM service!

November 2024

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



“SEE, I AM DOING A NEW THING!” Isaiah 43:19 NIV

The Five Areas of Stewardship!

There are many opportunities to use your **prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness** to advance the Kingdom of God—come learn how!

Important Stewardship Dates:

Sunday, November 3rd - Stewardship Presentation

Learn More about our church Stewardship!

Sunday, November 10th - Stewardship Speaker

Sunday, November 17th - Stewardship Speaker

Sunday, November 24th - Stewardship Sunday - Turn in completed Stewardship forms and join us for our Stewardship Luncheon 12 pm- Epworth will provide the meat and drinks and we ask that everyone bring a covered dish and join us for this wonderful time of fellowship. Everyone is invited!



All Ladies Invited to Celebrate Christmas

Please join us at 6:00 on 12/03/2024 to ring in the Christmas Season with food, fellowship, carol singing, and many laughs! **All ladies** of the church are invited to join us, and please sign-up a friend to bring with you. If you'd like, you may choose to participate in a gift-swap. **Participation is NOT REQUIRED**.... If you'd like to swap gifts, simply bring a wrapped present. (Limit \$15) We'll number them and draw for the gifts. A nursery will be provided at the church (if needed). See Diane Glass or Susan Wiggins if you have any questions. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room, and you'll need to sign-up **NO LATER THAN 11/14/24**. Hope you can join us!

(NOTE: If you make a reservation and do not cancel by 12/1, we must ask that you pay for the meal that's been ordered for you.)

WHAT: Ladies Christmas Dinner

COST: \$25.00 (checks payable to Epworth EMW)

WHEN: December 3, 2024 at 6:00 pm

WHERE: W.C. Bradley Co. Museum, 1017 Front Ave, Columbus

Epworth Methodist Women (EMW) would like to ask our Epworth congregation to help with their "**2nd Annual Bake Sale**". Please support our efforts by donating baked item(s), cookies, cakes, breads, and candy for the holidays. The proceeds raised are used to donate to charities to aid women and children in need. The bake sale will be held on Sunday, November 19th from 8:45 until 1:00. You may contact Vicky Moss at 706-325-8938 by text or email rp Moss47@gmail.com with your baked items to be donated. Baked items may be delivered on Sunday morning at 8:00 am in the Epworth Fellowship Hall. Please have your baked items in a non-returnable container. You may reach out to Vicky with any questions.

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 \$40.00 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

THANK YOU Epworth Church Family for your continued support of our Kidz Crew Children's Ministry. Through your time, effort and financial support every year, all year, you continue to make the Epworth Church a great place for children and an outreach to the community. May God bless you as you are a blessing to others. **Luke 6:38**

EPWORTH KIDZ CREW

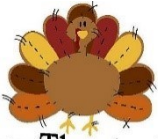
FALL HAPPENINGS

Sunday Nights, 5:30 pm

- * Cherub Choir—Ages 3 years through 1st Grade
- * Kidz Cruise—2nd through 5th Grade

Wednesday Nights, 6:30—7:30 pm

- * Kidz Connection—4 Years through 5th Grade



Happy Thanksgiving

No Cherub Choir or Kidz Cruise...Sunday afternoon, November 24th
No Wednesday Kidz Connections the week of Thanksgiving... November 25th—29th
No Preschool or Moms Day Out Thanksgiving week....Nov. 25th—29th
Enjoy the holiday with your family!

DON'T FORGET!

Our CHERUB CHOIR is now preparing FOR THE
CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PROGRAM

Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Angels and Animals!

3 Year old through 1st Grade



Enter through the gym door. Practice in the Kidz Sunday School area.

Please encourage your child to participate on Sundays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. as we prepare for our Christmas Program on December 8, 6:00 pm. Christmas just isn't the same without our Cherub Nativity. Hope to see you soon!



CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

Saturday, November 23rd - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join us for our annual CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP where kids make gifts to give to their family!

We will provide a pizza lunch OR you may send a sack lunch if your child would prefer something different or if your child has dietary restrictions.

PLEASE REGISTER your child's attendance by email: letha.parker@epworth-pc.org; text or phone: 205-799-8547; or by signing up on the Kidz bulletin boards in the Gathering Room or downstairs in the Kidz Crew area. **Child's name, age & grade, contact email and phone.**

HANGING OF THE GREENS PARTICIPANTS:

WHEN: Sunday, December 1st, Beginning of 11:00 Worship Service

WHO: Children ages 3 years through 5th Grade

WHAT: Kids will bring in green branches and ornaments to be placed on the altar and the Chrismon Tree during the Hanging of the Greens Service.

INTERESTED? Please email or text Letha if your child/children will be participating. Thank you for this act of service as we share the Good News of Christ our Savior.
(letha.parker @epworth-pc.org/205-799-8547)

Anniversaries	
Nov 1	Lee & Catherine Milligan Curtis & Denise Wilkerson
Nov 5	Chase & Benitra Morris
Nov 12	Taylor & Adriana Hartley
Nov 14	James & Janice Parker Roy & Avan Redfoot
Nov 19	Larry & Sandra Rowan
Nov 20	Jason & Kristy Prins Austin & Mason White
Nov 22	Ted & Pam Shores
Nov 23	Skylar & Keagan Clark
Nov 25	Clint & Mallory Campbell

Happy Anniversary

Happy Birthday!



Operation Christmas Child

Our Epworth Kidz will have the opportunity to pack an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox during Sunday evening Kidz Cruise and Wednesday evening Kidz Connections. If you would like to pack shoeboxes as a family, please have them returned to the church by Sunday, November 24th. If you would like to donate items for the shoeboxes, the Kidz Crew will be filling some shoeboxes during Sunday evening Kidz Cruise and Wednesday evening, Kidz Connections. Donations may be brought to one of the Kidz classes or placed in the Shoebox collection bin in the Gathering Room. The cost for shipping a shoebox is \$10.00. You may place the money inside the completed shoebox, or make a donation to the church for the purpose of shipping our Kidz Crew boxes. **We would like to fill at least 200 shoeboxes.**

Thank you for your support of this ministry project. The Epworth Family has proven itself to be a most generous group, supporting many ministries and outreach projects. May God bless you richly as you are a blessing to so many.

Visitation Volunteers

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

November 4th—Teri Medina

November 11th—Veterans Day—Office Closed

November 18th —Pam Shores

November 25th—Ross Goode

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.

Birthdays	
Nov. 3	John Henderson Emory Yohn
Nov. 4	Keith Badowski Stephen Curtiss Emily Byrd Cameron Brewer
Nov. 7	Emmett Meacham Brady Caulder
Nov. 8	Mary Frances Head Ame Shields Deareion Lewis
Nov. 9	Carlos Velazquez Cindy Tucker Gray Molly Bridges
Nov. 10	Michelle Word Dorthea Caldwell Andy Johnson Coco Meacham
Nov 11	Natalie Lawhon
Nov. 13	Hannah Lenoir
Nov. 14	Wynell King
Nov. 15	Mady Supan
Nov. 16	Roger Cassman Craig Coulter
Nov. 18	Reid Byrd Caleb Sheppard
Nov. 19	Brandon Culpepper Andrew Gil
Nov. 20	Marcia Myles Wade Sieck Leilani Bridges
Nov. 21	Jim Bloodworth Christi Badowski
Nov. 22	Michelle Shields
Nov. 23	Penny Verner
Nov. 24	Sawyer Moss
Nov. 26	Seth Atchinson
Nov. 27	Steve Gray
Nov. 29	Bethany Martin
Nov. 30	Rita Amerson



Come be a part of the Epworth Prayer Ministry on Tuesday, November 14th at 6:00 pm. God calls us to pray! We will meet in the chapel. Prayer requests will be asked for and we will be praying for the future of our church, our Alabama Emerald-Coast Conference and the Global Methodist church as a whole. We have much to pray about for the direction of our church. Come be a partner in prayer!

The Bible says "May my prayer come before you: turn your ear to hear my cry." Psalms 88:2 NIV



Please plan to join us for Family Night, Bible Bingo and Chili Cookoff November 17th at 5:30 pm. Come join us for food, fellowship, Bingo and lots of fun prizes! Additional details coming soon!

"I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens Me."

Philippians 4:13



Please plan to join us Monday, November 25th at 10:00 to decorate our church for Christmas. Your help is needed and everyone is welcome. Additional details coming soon.

Veterans Day Dinner

- Epworth is planning to host its free Veterans Day Dinner this year to honor our military men and women, our Veterans, and their immediate families.
- We want to give our military and veteran personnel and their immediate families a great, catered meal, warm fellowship, a dynamic speaker, some patriotic entertainment, and great door prizes.
- If you are a member or attendee at Epworth, we want to ensure we send you a personal invitation so you and your family can attend.
- The "Epworth Military Connections" page on our military bulletin board in the Gathering Room shows all the active, retired, and veteran military personnel we believe we have at Epworth. We suspect there are more, and we need your help so we can honor them and invite them, too!
- If you are or know a current or former military person who attends Epworth or who is a family member of an Epworth attendee, and whose name is not already on our bulletin board, please let Pastor Grant (grant.parker@epworth-pc.org or 334-298-3186) or Ross Goode (RCGoode525@gmail.com or 706-464-5089) know.

REMEMBER SECURITY

- LOCK YOUR VEHICLES
- DON'T LEAVE VALUABLES IN SIGHT
- BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS
- IF YOU SEE ANYTHING STRANGE, TELL SOMEONE
- KNOW WHAT ACTIONS TO TAKE IN AN EMERGENCY (SECURITY FLYER ON GATHERING ROOM COUNTER)



A message from our Youth Minister Daniel Cook

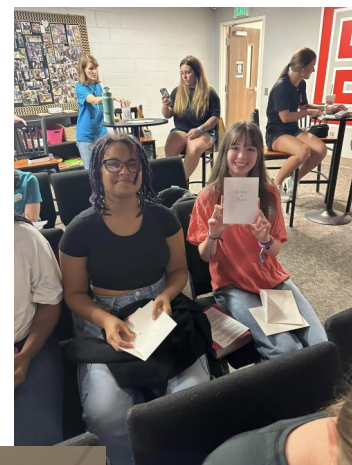
"To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." — Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV)

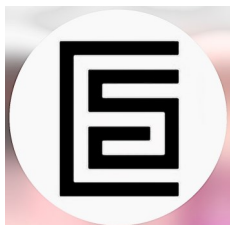
As the autumn season approaches, the leaves transform into vibrant colors of red, orange, and gold, reminding us of the changing seasons in our lives. Just as leaves must fall, we too experience times of transition, making way for the new.

This change is necessary for growth, just as trees shed their leaves to conserve energy for the winter ahead. Similarly, we may need to release certain habits, relationships, or thoughts holding us back in our walk with Christ. These areas could have been beneficial or okay at one stage in our life, but now God is preparing us for something more.

God invites us to trust Him in these moments, knowing He has a purpose in our transitions. As we remove certain things out of our lives, we make room for God to fill us with more of Him. Just as trees go through a stage of death, areas in our lives sometimes need to go through that same process to experience new growth, just as trees do when spring rolls back around.

What can you let go of, and how can you embrace the new opportunities God has for you? As you go through this season of change remember the promise you have found in Romans 8:28 - "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them."





EPWORTH STUDENT NEWS

Events in November:

Wednesday Nights

November Series: "Back Into It" is 4-weeks of challenging students to a greater burden, boldness, and belief in salvation. "Back Into It" will challenge students to share their stories, increase spiritual curiosity, invite family and friends far from God into their spiritual lives, and trust in the power of the Gospel.

Fall Brawl

The Fall Brawl is coming to an end with a final push to see who will win the Fall Brawl 2024. This event is a time of competition, community building, and inviting friends. We have seen many new faces over the past two months as students have invited their friends to be apart of Epworth Students!

Date	Theme	Event
11/6	OCC	OCC Box Night
11/13	Triple Points	All points x3
11/20	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 and to grow together as they navigate what it means to follow Christ.

Youth Sponsorship 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.



BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR KIDS

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.

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 was created with a purpose and God has prepared good works for me to do. He will give me everything I need to do them. (Ephesians 2:10)
- I am chosen by God. I am valuable to Him. My life tells of His wonder. (1 Peter 2:9)



Wreaths Across America is a charitable organization that works to:

Remember our fallen Veterans
Honor those who are serving
Teach children the value of freedom

Epworth's most visible way in showing our support is by sponsoring wreaths for our living, fallen and deceased Veterans. Every year on WAA Day (December 14th this year), WAA lays wreaths on the grave sites of Veterans in over 4,200 locations in the US, abroad and at sea.

Please show your support by sponsoring wreaths before the **deadline on November 29th**
Wreaths are \$17 each, five for \$85, etc.; for every 2 wreaths sponsored, WAA supplies one more wreath free to Fort Mitchell.

You can sponsor your wreaths on our website www.epworth-pc.org or by check/cash

ONLINE: select the "Give" tab > "Give Now (Non-Budget)" > Fund drop down box "Wreaths Across America"

CHECK OR CASH: Turn in to church office, put in offering plate, or give to Mary Pittman or Ross Goode.

However you sponsor your wreaths, please turn in the form on the opposite side so we will understand your intentions clearly.

Have questions/need more information, please contact Mary Pittman, mary.pittman@epworth-pc.org or Ross Goode, rcgoode525@gmail.com

WAA WREATHS TO HONOR VETERANS - 2024 AFTER SPECIAL DEAL

WREATHS SPONSORED

BY:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

NUMBER OF WREATHS TO SPONSOR: _____ **AMT OF CK/CASH/ONLINE:** _____

(Cost of Wreaths: 1=\$17; 2=\$34; 5=\$85, etc. For every two you sponsor, WAA will provide one free wreath to FMNC.)

VETERANS YOU WANT TO HONOR OR REMEMBER: (NAME, RANK, SERVICE, LIVING, WHERE INTERRED, ETC.)

DO YOU WANT TO LAY THE WREATHS YOURSELF? YES _____ NO _____

IF NOT YOU, WHO SHOULD LAY THE WREATHS? _____

(Note: Epworth has a team that is willing to lay any wreaths at FMNC and help you, as needed.)

*Make checks payable to Epworth.....Memo:"WAA" if for FMNC; "Local" if for local cemeterises.

*Please ensure we can understand your intentions; attach another sheet or talk to Mary Pittman or Ross Goode.

November 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Stewardship Kick-off 5:00—6:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir	4 12:00 Happy Days Luncheon 6:00 pm— Men’s & Women’s Monday Night Bible Study	5 9:00 am - NO Mom’s Day Out & Preschool— Election Day 9:30 am—Bible study “Daniel” 6:30 pm—Bible study “Zechariah”	6 9:00 am MDO & Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	7 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 6:30 pm EMW (Fellowship Hall)	8	9
10 Veterans Recognition 5:00—6:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir	11 Veterans Day Office Closed	12 9:00 am—Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study “Daniel” 6:30 pm—Bible study “Zechariah” 7:00 pm— Veterans Dinner	13 9:00 am - Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	14 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool	15	16
17 5:30 pm— FAMILY NIGHT Chili Cook-off & Bible Bingo	18 6:00 pm— Men’s & Women’s Monday Night Bible Study	19 9:00 am—Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study “Daniel” 6:00 pm—Prayer Vigil 6:30 pm—Bible study “Zechariah”	20 9:00 am - Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	21	22	23 9:00 am— 12:00 pm Children’s Christmas Workshop
24 9:15 am—12:30 pm EMW Bake Sale 12:00 pm Stewardship Luncheon No Kids or Youth Activities	25 10:00 am Decorate Church for Christmas	26 Office Closed for Thanksgiving	27 Office Closed for Thanksgiving	28	29	30
						

