

Dec 2020/Jan 2021

Deadline for the  
February/March  
newsletter is  
January 15

# EPWORTH HAPPENINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## EPWORTH COVID UPDATE

As I write this, Epworth has been spared from a direct hit from the virus and yet we probably know someone who has been affected by the pandemic. With infections raging out of control Epworth has taken all the necessary precautions to remain open and allowing for in-person worship. We have continued to pivot to make the necessary changes to allow us to do ministry. Our groups and teams

are meeting using Zoom and some have even met together here at the church practicing all the measures to keep people safe. As you can see in this newsletter, we are being creative to help us stay connected and be in fellowship with one another.

Unfortunately, all reports and indicators show that the virus is out of control. Despite our best efforts I feel it necessary to suspend in-person worship effective November 29<sup>th</sup>. The decision comes with a heavy heart as we come into the Advent season. The risk is too great to those are attending and I am unwilling to take it.

## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

In the midst of this difficult year we can still be people of thanksgiving. Despite the troubles we face, there are still blessings to be found. This year the Triboro Clergy Association of Palmyra, Cinnaminson and Riverton is creating an online Thanksgiving Service and also on DVD. The pandemic situation limits our gatherings even for worship. Rather than just cancelling the service, our area clergy are putting together a service that can be shared from the safety of our homes. The interfaith worship service will be available Tuesday, November 24 through our Facebook page and also a link will be sent out through email. We hope you will take time and share this special service with us.



## NEW ADVENT DISCUSSION

His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh. In *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, best-selling author Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth. This Advent season we will come together to remember what's important. In the face of uncertainty and conflict, Christians reclaim the Christ Child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness.

Now more than ever, we invite you to reflect upon the significance of the Christ-child for our lives and world today! Join us on Wednesday evening at 7pm for discussion and fellowship. We will be meeting with Asbury on Zoom. Watch your email for the meeting link.



## SHARING THE LIGHT

One of our traditions of the season is lighting the advent wreath each Sunday morning. For many worshipping at home we want you to be part of this moment. As part of our worship you will be invited to light your own wreath with us. If you have an advent wreath, that is great. If you don't, you could make one or contact the church and you can get one from our youth. The youth has decorated advent wreaths for your home. You can come by and pick one up, or it can be delivered. We want the light of advent to shine for you this season!



## CHRISTMAS EVE 2020

As each season of our church calendar comes upon us in this time of the pandemic we are faced with new challenges. Easter, Memorial Day, All-Saints, and Harvest Home have all asked the question, "how will we celebrate this special time?" Advent and Christmas are no exception. We are stretching our imaginations to create activities and experiences that will lift us during this season.

Christmas Eve has a special place in all of our hearts with its many traditions, some tied to being worship to celebrate our Savior's birth. Recognizing this, we are planning two options to be together in worship.

A worship service of readings and carols will be available. This will feature the passages of the Christmas story we all love and have carols and other music of the season. A second service will also be created. This will be a traditional service with a message. Both of these services will be recorded and available online as we do each week and also on DVD upon request. They will be released around noon on Christmas eve so you may watch when it is most convenient for you.



## EPWORTH CHRISTMAS MERRIMENT

You are invited to be part of Epworth's First Christmas Merry-making Gathering. On Friday, December 11 at 7pm we will gather via Zoom for some seasonal fun. Together we will play some games, share memories

and traditions. Ugly sweaters are encouraged along with festive hats. Cookies, cider and hot chocolate will be offered if you make it. We might even include a few house tours! Mark your calendars and be ready we might even get a visit from the guy up north!



## ORDERING POINSETTIAS

Each year we marvel at the beauty of our sanctuary as it is wonderfully decorated for the Christmas season. A special part of this is when the poinsettias make their appearance the Sunday before Christmas.

Sadly, many of these beautiful plants are simply thrown away later. This year we are again offering something a little different when you are ordering poinsettias for Christmas. You will be able to order them as usual and take them home. But if you do not wish to take them home you can opt to make a donation instead for future decorations for the church. You will still be able to honor and remember loved ones with either choice. We believe we will still have plenty of flowers to adorn our sanctuary and be able to add and replace decorations as needed in the future.



## POINSETTIAS...FOR CHRISTMAS

Please contact Terry Neas at 856-786-8410 to place your order by December 16th.

☐

I would like to order a poinsettia at \$12.50 per plant.

☐

In lieu of ordering a poinsettia, I would like to make a \$12.50 donation towards sanctuary decorations.

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_



## THE CHRISMONS TREE

In 1957 Francis Kipps Spencer, wife of the pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, Virginia, wanted to decorate a Christmas tree for her church that would be more suitable for a sanctuary than traditional bright ornaments. Thinking of the tradition of decorating a birthday cake with candles and the honoree's name, she began looking for something that would reflect the Christian faith. Mrs. Spence decided to place the name of Jesus and His title, Christ, on the tree using the Greek monograms and so "Chi Rho" became one of the earliest Chrismons, monograms for Christos, the Greek word for Christ. These simple monograms, some crosses, and clear lights decorated the first Chrismon tree. The tree itself symbolizes the eternal life Jesus Christ provides.

In following years, Frances Spence added other designs using signs and symbols used by early Christians (the fish), as well as designs that reference Jesus' life (the manger and cross), ministry (shepherd's staff), and leadership (Alpha and Omega). Chrismons are traditionally white and gold; white for purity, gold for majesty and glory. This tradition has spread to other denominations, including Anglican, Catholic, Methodist, and Reformed.

Our tree has more than 60 Chrismons (44 designs) handmade with love and care of white felt, cotton batting, gold thread and sequins, by a group of Epworth ladies nearly 60 years ago. Some time ago our MYF made Chrismons using white styrofoam, gold glitter and sequins. Unfortunately, we cannot find them. A live tree was used until 2003 when the present tree was purchased for safety and convenience.

There are 9 different styles of crosses on the tree. See if you can find them. Some of them can also be seen in our beautiful stained glass windows.

## GOOD NEIGHBOR MINISTRY

Over a year ago Asbury UMC and Rev. John Doll began a ministry to help the homeless in our tri-boro area. Each month the Good Neighbor Program provides thousands of dollars in assistance to those who need a place stay. Sometimes it may be for a night and other times for a week. They have been blessed to have St. Vincent de Paul through St Charles come along side in this mission. We share this with you so you may the good work that is being done with our sister Methodist church. Working together we are feeding, clothing and sheltering those who are in need in our community. As we traverse this giving season please consider supporting these important ministries. Just make a note in the memo portion of your gift and you can be sure it will find its home.



**December's Communion Offering will benefit The Good Neighbor Fund.**

**January's Communion Offering will go towards Apportionments.**

## A NOTE TO MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF EPWORTH –

*\*\*Epworth is closing the 2020\*\**

*Financial Books on January 3rd*

Some of us consider a year end gift to the church to "catch up" on our giving or to make an additional gift.

We are asking that all donations for 2020 be into the church, by no later than January 3, 2021. This will allow us to close the year and do the necessary work that needs to be accomplished in a timely manner. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.



## SHOP RITE CARDS

We want to thank everyone who has bought a Shop Rite card. We would love for more of our congregation to support this ministry. We receive 5% from the sale of those cards, which are available in denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100. Shop Rite cards make excellent Christmas gifts.

Cards are available to purchase in the church office during regular office hours. You can pay with cash or by checks made payable to "Epworth UMC".





## ESPECIALLY FOR THE KIDS AN ADVENT CALENDAR

We realize that many of our young people are home and unable to come out for Sunday School and are missing out this Christmas season on some the activities around Christmas.

With this in mind we have de-

signed an **advent calendar that is filled with a different activity each day** to help move closer to the "special" day. Also, there is a parent's guide to help you prepare and be ready to navigate the calendar. Each is available to be printed out. These will be available at our website on the children and youth page.

WHAT? You didn't know we had a page dedicated to our kids and youth. On this page you will find a link to virtual Sunday School where it offers new lesson each week. Nat, the host has energy that is contagious and fun. We post upcoming dates for our youth. Our goal is to help our kids continue to grow in their faith. Check it out and if you have an idea for the page contact PC.

## OFFICE HOURS

As the virus changes our world it seems daily, we have also needed to adapt our schedules in the office. Pastor Charlie can usually be found in the office Monday through Thursday 8am to at least noon. Tina's schedule varies with the demand of the boys' school schedule. Currently her hours are 1:30 to 3:30. If you need to meet with her it is recommended that you call before you come.

We continue to use the narthex door as the main door for the office. If you come and find the door locked, you can ring the bell for someone to come and let you in. Please remember your mask and practice distancing. We ask that if you do come into the church that you please let the office you are here. This will keep us all safe knowing who is here. Hearing people about the building and not knowing who is here is a bit disconcerting. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



## MARY'S CLOSET

We're back! Yes, Mary's Closet opened for business Saturday, November 7th on the grass and sidewalk of Fifth

Street. We offered cold weather outer wear for all family members. It was a beautiful day for all. Seeing our clients was a pleasure and they seemed thrilled to see us!

We are grateful to Pastor Charlie and Cliff Mason for their help in getting racks and tables outside.

Our abundance of winter inventory allowed a great "shopping" experience. So much to choose from!

We anticipate offering a Christmas Closet Day in December. It will be smaller than in past years but hopefully we can fulfill decorating needs.

Our emergency calls are being met and we remain available for just about any need.

Joseph's House remains an important mission for us. We have developed a very special relationship with some of the residents and have come to know their needs. We pray with them and remind them of God's love. In addition to shoes and clothing we would like to offer small bibles and devotional books. It is a project we will concentrate on in January.

Our group is spending a Saturday in November at Columbus Market to sell new women's sweaters and jewelry. The proceeds will purchase children's underwear and socks for distribution in February.

Covid has disturbed that which we call normal. It has shaken us all and changed our routine, but it has not changed our hearts. We remain committed to our mission. The support of our Church family is greatly appreciated. We could not do what we do without your generous donations. Thank you!

In the next newsletter look for new and exciting activities being planned for Spring!



## BREAD OF LIFE ANGEL TREE

This year we will be handling the Angel Tree differently. Instead of angels with specific gifts, we are asking for monetary donations that will be used to purchase generic gifts for each family based on the children's ages (Checks can be made out to Epworth UMC and noted as Angel Tree) We have also created a wish list on Amazon for anyone who would like to do their own shopping and pick something from the list. The name of the list is Epworth Angel Tree. The link is:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2L8LJKXLSKAJH?ref>

We are also asking for small items that could be used as stocking stuffers. These items can be dropped off at Epworth during office hours or at the food pantry on Wednesdays between 1 and 3 pm or Thursdays 7 to 8 pm.

Please call Claudia Naus (856-298-8030) or Barbara Beitz (856-906-6290)



## CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE [www.palmyranjumc.org](http://www.palmyranjumc.org)



Need to know about an upcoming event? Have a question about finding something in the Bible? Want to be up to date with what a group is doing? Give online? See a worship service? Catch up on a daily devotion? You can do all these things and more through our website. Take a moment and check it out. And we are not done. In the coming weeks we will be adding a bulletin board with information about things happening at Epworth and the community. A calendar so you can look ahead and make plans. If you have idea for our website please let the office know. So check it out!



The General UMW Meeting for Saturday, December 12, 2020 has been cancelled.

**Deborah Circle** will meet at 7:30 pm, Thursday, **December 17, 2020, and January 21, 2021**, via ZOOM. We will continue discussing Fred Rogers' book of important things to remember and how they apply to our lives today.

**Grace Circle** - Due to Covid, we will not be meeting in person during the next few months. However, we are still planning on Zooming with each other! Please watch your email for scheduled days and times. Stay well! Cheryl Quickel and Lisa Warner



## GRACE CIRCLE'S ANNUAL NUT SALE

The Epworth Nut sale has been run by Grace Circle since 2006. It

was started back in 1989 (we think) by the Health & Welfare Committee as part of the Southern NJ conference of the UMC. The base profits from the Nut Sale go to the Woman's Association of Methodist Hospital in Philadelphia, the Pastor's Friendship Fund and the Epworth Youth Group. Last year our profit was \$1827 which was dispersed to the funds above and also to COVID Relief in NJ, Joy Phillips – Missionary, UMCOR, Neighborhood Center in Camden, Animal Welfare Society in Voorhees and Mary's Closet.

We are starting out 2020 sale today. It is a little different since we cannot sell in church this year. The order form can be found on our website at [www.palmyranjumc.org](http://www.palmyranjumc.org). We have names to contact on the order form by text, call or email. We will have pick up on Sundays from 11-12, and Wednesdays from 5-6 pm. Please let us know if you have any questions by calling, texting or emailing one of us. The sale will run until December 20<sup>th</sup>.



## PLANNED GIVING

As we enter into the holiday season, our thoughts turn to hope and anticipation - through the birth of Jesus Christ and God's sharing of

his infinite love for us by sending his son into our world. We, too, can share our love for this marvelous gift by considering ways in which we can ensure that future members of Epworth and our extended community have the means to carry on the important work of spreading God's word.

One way to accomplish this is to consider making a gift to the Epworth Planned Giving program. By contributing to an endowment fund or remembering Epworth through your will or estate plan, your gift will benefit the Epworth community in multiple ways:

- You are preparing our church building for the future by assisting with its capital needs.
- You are preparing our church programmatically for the future by providing funding for new ministries as times change and new needs arise in the community.
- You are helping to protect against potential hard times by providing the funds to meet financial needs at such times..
- And you are increasing Epworth's financial standing so that future investments can be made in response to expanding community ministries.

To learn more about how you can help to secure our future and continue our good works, please contact Jean Cook, Marilyn Bilotti, Carol Fenton, Debbie Mason, or Neil Sel-lars.

## HOST A ZOOM MEETING

If your group is looking to have a Zoom meeting, we can schedule the meeting for you. Contact the church office with information for your meeting and designate someone to serve as a host. The meeting will be scheduled and a link provided which can be sent out to members. We will share instructions with the "host" so they can run the technology part of the meeting. Staying connected during these difficult times is vital to keeping Epworth strong. We hope you will embrace the Zoom technology for your group.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

*Tangible evidence of the love and prayers of our congregation*

***Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*** *Isaiah 43:19*

Shawls have been around for millennium and used in prayer by various faiths for centuries, but the *ministry* of shawls being created in prayer and given in love is very new. It was begun by a group of women who participated in the first Women's Leadership Institute at Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1998, 22 years ago. This ministry is now world-wide and is practiced by persons of various faiths and traditions.

Epworth's PSM began in 2005. In the beginning, shawls were made for Epworth's immediate church family, but soon we had requests for shawls for their relatives and friends and today we accept all requests for shawls. We also try to keep an eye and ear out for folks in the need of prayer and comfort. This is hard to do under the limitations imposed by the COVID pandemic and so we ask for your help in that.

Please do not hesitate to request a shawl of comfort or celebration or to pass on a name to the PSM team. Contact the church office or a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team: Barbara Beitz, Ann Magonigal, Jo Malessa, Claudia Naus, Liz Rosvold, Bunny Zimmerman, Cheryl Quickel, Audrey Worthy, Sandy Davis, and Noelle Rose.



Next meetings: Thursdays, Dec. 9, 2020  
Jan. 14, 2021  
2:00 pm via ZOOM

## December Birthdays

### **OVER 18 BIRTHDAYS**

Kimberly	Bohley	12/01
Peter	Kuhn	12/02
Barbara	Beitz	12/03
Tara	Hicks	12/04
Wesley	Perkins	12/04
Joseph W.	Cintron	12/05
Diane	Dunn	12/05
Mary	Letton	12/08
Joseph	Garemore	12/11
Dale	Neas	12/11
Vincent	Verrico	12/11
Kira	Blosfelds	12/12
Michael	Forbes	12/12
Timothy	Beitz	12/18
Timothy	Weiler	12/20
Debbe	Barnett	12/22
William	Conley	12/22
Sara	Scheffler	12/22
Beth	Perkins	12/24
Fay	Bassett	12/28
Beth	Quattrocchi	12/29
Diane	Soper	12/29
Erin	Scanlon	12/30
James	Davidson, III	12/31

### **10 to 18 BIRTHDAYS**

Drew	Quattrocchi	12/15/2002
Meredith	Wariner	12/17/2007

### **UNDER 10 BIRTHDAYS**

Makenzie	Babiasz	12/24/2015
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## January Birthdays

### **OVER 18 BIRTHDAYS**

Holly	Garemore	01/01
Sharon	Wariner	01/01
Rick	Dunn	01/03
Cynthia	Beitz	01/04
Deborah	Hicks	01/05
Florence	Wallin	01/05
Joy	Catania	01/06
Lynda	Weston	01/07
Scott	Hancock	01/09
Marjorie	Witwer	01/09
Nancy	Thomas	01/12
Elizabeth	Pelkey	01/15
Andrew	Riley	01/16
Matthew	Weston	01/19
Dolores	Rabil	01/21
Letha	McClellan	01/25
Steven	Schwering	01/25
Jane	Lindh	01/29
G. William	Tippenhauer	01/29

### **10 to 18 BIRTHDAYS**

Grace	LePage	01/04/2002
Meran	Warren	01/04/2008
Jailyn	Cintron	01/12/2006
TJ	Schill	01/11/2005
Owen	Weiler	01/19/2004

### **UNDER 10 BIRTHDAYS**

Gracyn	Bohley	01/07/2016
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