



919/489-6557

www.epworth-umc.org

December 21, 2017

Dear Epworth Family,

I want to start by extending a special word of thanks to our music ministry for proclaiming God's word to us last Sunday. Thank you to Dave Lewis, Dr. Fred Ibberson, and the choir and instrumentalists for the wonderful cantata, "A New Birth, A New Beginning". It was powerful!

I also want to wish each of you a very blessed Christmas! I give thanks to God for your work within and beyond these walls as you share God's light and love.

Please make note of the following worship services and plan to join us to celebrate this precious season:

- **On Christmas Eve, December 24, we will have all three services---8:30 am, 9 am and 11 am** in the morning on this fourth Sunday of Advent. Some of our children will be sharing special music.
- **Then on Sunday evening we have two worship services--- one at 5:00 pm and one at 7:00 pm** as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. The Family Service is at 5:00. With the help of the children, we will tell the Christmas story through a reenactment. All are invited to participate! There is no practice! The service will conclude with communion and candlelight. At 7:00 PM, we gather for the reading of the Christmas story, the singing of favorite carols and the service will conclude with communion and candlelight.
- **On December 31, we will be having all three services---8:30 am, 9 am and 11 am.** What a wonderful and blessed way to finish out 2017 as we greet 2018!

My hope for all of you is that the Christ child be born again in your heart during this holy season.

One of my favorite carols is "In the Bleak Midwinter". This is the last stanza:

*What can I give Him, Poor as I am? —
If I were a Shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part, —
Yet what I can I give Him, —Give my heart.*

Blessings,
Karen H. Whitaker

SUNDAY, December 24 - Fourth Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve

8:30, 9:00, and 11:00

Sermon "Let It Be with Me" Rev. Dr. Sangwoo Kim

Hymns at 8:30 and 11:00

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" "Joy to the World"

Songs at 9:00: "Freedom Is Coming" "Almost There" "Silent Night"

"Joy to the World"

Scripture: Luke 1: 46b-55, Romans 16: 25-27, Luke 1: 26-38

Ushers 8:30 Mike Shiflett

11:00 Al West, Belo Shelton, Jim Goacher, Dave Thurmond

Counters Emily Dike, Chuck Darr

Liturgists 8:30 Maureen Oakes 11:00 Megan Whitaker

Greeters Bob Hodgins and Elaine Herndon Bus Driver Belo Shelton

Acolyte Caitlyn Fulp Youth Reader Elise Benware

Crucifer Hannah Morris

Altar Guild Kathy and Harry Dutton, Joyce Dalglish, Kenneth Roberts,
Judy Daymont

Nursery Marcey Harp, Theresa Shebalin, Susan Armour, Melissa Culp

HELP NEEDED Christmas Eve 7pm nursery worker needed! Be a blessing to our Christmas Eve visitors who have nursery-age children, see the Christ child in the children you play with, and still get to hear the service remotely. Please contact Amanda Wilson if you can serve.

A NOTE FROM LINDA ROYALL'S FAMILY

We appreciate the prayers and thoughtfulness of Epworth, the staff, and members of the congregation. Linda loved her church family and Epworth has always held a special part in her - and our family's - heart. Her faith was strong even through her illness and we hold on to the promises of the Lord knowing that she resides with Him, and we are thankful for His love.

In Christ,

Ted, Kelly, Jennifer, Stuart, and Kristy

ALTAR FLOWERS are needed for Jan. 21. If you would like to give the flowers on this Sunday, or any time during the new year, please contact Gloria Dewey, gkdewey@aol.com

COMING IN JANUARY (Jan. 21 and Jan. 28, Feb. 11 and 18, 5:30 - 7:30)

A course called Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders.

Participants must attend each session in order to receive a certificate. The certificate is issued by The National Council for Behavior Health and can be used to renew a variety of licenses. Participants will also receive a manual to take home. Registration is required. Minimum age is 18. Go to our church website or to <http://bit.ly/2CLlw24>

Church Staff

Rev. Karen H. Whitaker, Senior Pastor 919-210-6839 (cell) kwhitaker@epworth-umc.org
Dr. Sangwoo Kim, Pastor of Spiritual Formation 919-627-1357 (cell) sangwoo@epworth-umc.org
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Rev. Amanda Wilson, Coordinator of Children's Ministries awilson@epworth-umc.org
Carie Dupree, Coordinator of Youth Ministries 318-990-9730 (cell) cdupree@epworth-umc.org
Dr. Fred Ibberson, Organist fred.ibberson@gmail.com
Leigh Furman, Preschool Director director@epworth-preschool.org
Marcey Harp, Nursery Director
Marlin Lennon, Sexton

FROM STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE We are collecting a Love Offering for the church staff to show our appreciation for their dedication and performance. All year, they carry out the necessary duties required to complete Epworth's obligations and commitments both within our church and our surrounding communities. If you would like to participate, please make checks payable to Epworth and note "Love Offering" on the memo line. You may place your gifts in the offering, mail them in or bring them to the church office. We are all blessed to remain committed to doing His will....

Thank you, and Merry, Merry Christmas to all...

UPCOMING PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED

Growing thru Grief is a free, open, confidential program sponsored by a coalition of area religious and civic organizations to provide support and comfort to those who mourn. Following the presentation, we break into small group discussions. Small group discussions will be the focus of the meetings through December and on January 2. On January 9, Nell Noonan will discuss "The Myth of Closure," and on the 23rd, Bill Dahl will open discussion on "How Am I Doing?" Meetings are held year-round on Tuesdays. Come to St. Paul's Lutheran Church 1200 W. Cornwallis, at 4 pm for coffee and cookies. Meetings are 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

ERIN ENGEL'S CAPSTONE CELEBRATION PANCAKE LUNCH!

In my senior year I did a Capstone Project in Haiti. My project was teaching people to read music. In this I designed a curriculum and brought down simple instruments for the students to use. If you love music, learning about Haiti, or even just pancakes, please come enjoy some delicious food and listen to my Capstone presentation on Sunday, January 14 following 11:00 worship. Lunch is free, but donations for Haiti are accepted. Everyone is welcome!

A CONTRIBUTION has been made to Music Ministries in honor of David Lewis in appreciation for the beautiful Cantata last Sunday from Elaine Herndon and Bob Hodgins.

Finance Office News

Thank you to all of you who have turned in your pledge cards for 2018. If you haven't yet filled one out and would like to do so, please stop by the church office and pick one up or contact Meg Bass at mbass@epworth-umc.org and a card can be mailed or emailed to you. AND We ask everyone to faithfully complete their 2017 financial promises to Epworth UMC. All gifts received by December 31, 2017, will be reflected in your 2017 giving statements which will be mailed mid-January 2018.

Christmas Eve Special Offering

We will be receiving a special offering at our evening Christmas Eve services. In October of 2016, Hurricane Matthew hit North Carolina with devastating effects. Thousands of people were forced from their homes. Many are still displaced. The NC Conference Disaster Response Team is coordinating recovery and rebuilding efforts. To aid in these efforts, the Corridor District is adopting a home repair project for Ms. Pearly Thompson (age 90) of Lumberton. This offering will be directed solely to this individual project. If you would like to make a contribution, please make checks payable to Epworth UMC and include '**S00263-Corridor Christmas Offering**' on the memo line.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM EPWORTH'S YOUTH GROUP



DECEMBER 2017

24 Fourth Sunday in Advent Christmas Eve 7:30 Praise Team Rehearsal 8:30, 9:00 and 11:00 WORSHIP 9:50 Sunday School 5:00 Christmas Eve Family/Children's Service 7:00 Candlelight Communion Svc.	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS The Church Office will Be closed this Week.	26 .	27	28 7:00 AA	29	30 9:30 a.m. Sewing Sisters
31 7:30 Praise Team Rehearsal 8:30, 9:00 and 11:00 WORSHIP 9:50 Sunday School	JAN. 1, 2018 HAPPY NEW YEAR Church Office Closed	2 6:45 Men's Fellowship 10:30 Staff Mtg. 1:00 Sarah Circle 6:00 Yoga 7:00 Boy Scouts	3 3:15 Tutoring 3:30 Prayer Group 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Chancel Choir	4 7:00 AA	5 7:00 UMYF Lock in	6
7 7:30 Praise Team Rehearsal 8:30, 9:00 and 11:00 WORSHIP 9:50 Sunday School	8 1:00 Book Group 3:30 Tutoring 7:00 Trustees 7:30 Orchestra	9 6:45 Men's Fellowship 10:30 Staff Mtg. 6:00 Yoga 7:00 Boy Scouts	10 3:15 Tutoring 3:30 Prayer Group 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Chancel Choir	11 7:00 AA	12	13

Epworth United Methodist Church declares itself a Reconciling Congregation, seeking to welcome all persons, regardless of age, race, ethnicities, disabilities, gender or sexual orientation, into the discipleship of Christian living and proclaim our commitment to seek the reconciliation of all persons to God and to each other through Jesus Christ