

February 2017

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Epworth Welcomes Missionary

By Tina Weiler | February 2017



On Sunday, February 5th we will welcome Louise Ragan. She is a missionary with World Gospel Mission and has been in North Africa. She returned in December 2016. Louise is working to build a team to go to Egypt later in 2017. She stated she is “waiting on the Lord for this team to come together; and will also talk about their newsletter”. She will share with us her mission work in North Africa.

Child and Family Ministries Meeting

By Tina Weiler | February 2017



Children & Family Ministries

On Sunday, February 19th immediately after the service, we will be having a meeting in the Fellowship Room to discuss our Family and Children Ministries. Everyone is invited to this meeting. For more information, please contact the church office.

ShopRite Gift Cards

By Amy | February 2017



ShopRite Gift Cards
*available 1st & 3rd
Sundays of the month*

\$25 • \$50 • \$100

ShopRite
Gift Card
SHOPRITE



Do you do your shopping at Shop Rite? Do you get Shop Rite gift cards from Epworth? Did you know we receive 5% from the sale of those cards? This is free money that is available to us. Cards are easy to use and even easier to get.

In 2015, the UMW raised over \$1900 through the sale of Shop Rite cards. For 2016, the proceeds were \$2700. Thank you to everyone who helped support this ministry.

Gift cards are available in denominations \$25, \$50 or \$100 and are sold in the church office and on Sundays before worship. Payment can be made by checks made payable to “Epworth UMW” or exact cash.

Hospitality Table

By Tina Weiler | February 2017



Ten thousand ***thank you's*** to the folks who host the Sunday morning hospitality table: Jean Cook, Julie Given, Andy String, Ed Maher, Jo Malessa, Janet Neff, Joan Schwering, Lynn Truax, and Janet Neff and also to all who contribute to it.

We are currently looking for new members for our team. If you are willing to help with this ministry please call the church office.

Epworth Remembers

By Tina Weiler | February 2017



Roseanna Schill was the loving wife of Ray Schill and the mother of Bill Schill, Debbie Mason, Lynda Weston, and Kurt Schill. She was a member of Epworth for over 50 years. Roseanna raised her four children in the church having them attend Sunday school, during which time she helped teach when her youngest child was in the nursery program. She encouraged her children's participation in the Chancel and Youth choirs, the MYF program, and as acolytes. Roseanna was very proud of the fact that her children and all 10 of her grandchildren were baptized at Epworth. Her legacy lives on through her family's continued involvement in the church.

It is important that we remember those who have been part of our faith journey both individually or here at Epworth. Is there someone you wish to be remembered? The Memorial Endowment Plaque offers the opportunity to keep the memory of these special people before us while knowing that the gift of \$100 ensures the future ministry of Epworth. (If a name is already there you can still make a gift in their memory) Contact Jean Cook, Pastor Charlie or the church office for more information.

Epworth's Got Talent

By Tina Weiler | February 2017



Join us on Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 6 pm. Brush up your act, your song, your wit, your good and not-so-good jokes, and get ready to have a really good time! For the success of the evening, it is important that you sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex. If there is not a minimum of at least 12 acts by February 5th, the show will have to be cancelled. Please help us prepare for a fantabulous evening! For more information, please contact Jo Malessa or Eva Schultz.

Shrove Tuesday

By Tina Weiler | February 2017



SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent in the churches that observe Lent. *Shrove* is the past tense of the word *shrive*, which means to hear a confession, assign penance, and absolve from sin. In the Middle Ages, especially in Northern Europe and England, it became the custom to confess one's sins on the day before Lent began in order to enter the penitential season in the right spirit. Shrove Tuesday is a reminder that Christians are entering a season of penance and was originally a solemn day. But over the centuries, in anticipation of the Lenten fast that would begin the next day, Shrove Tuesday took on a festive nature. That is why Shrove Tuesday is also known as Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras (which is simply French for Fat Tuesday). This year we will be holding a Pancake Supper on February 28 from 5-7pm. All are invited to stop by and enjoy this simple meal as we move into the Lenten Season.

Youth Hockey Night

By Amy | February 2017



Please join us in the church gym on Friday February 3 for Youth Hockey Night. Youth in grades K through 6th grade will play from 6 pm to 7:30 pm. Older youth will play from 7:30 pm to 9 pm. Friends and parents are welcome!

We will supply basic equipment (sticks, hockey balls, and nets) but feel free to bring your own sticks or protective gear if you wish. See Holly or [Joe Garemore](#) with any questions.

Graceful Conversations

By Tina Weiler | February 2017



March 4, 2017 9:30am ~ 3:30pm

A Gathering to Discern Greater New Jersey's hopes for the future of The United Methodist Church

In the meeting on March 4 at the Mission and Resource Center in Neptune, we will discuss the following questions and consider the seven options below as we develop our recommendation for the Commission on the Way Forward.

- In our diverse and global existence, what is the shared mission/purpose of the Church?
- Is there a proactive way for us to live together in our differences that doesn't presume that we will resolve our differences? What would it be?
- What might be a form of unity that would empower us living together?
- What is our witness and what can be our witness to the world in relation to our differences?

The following are suggestions made by different people and groups who seek a solution for the current impasse regarding The United Methodist Church and homosexuality.

1. We continue as we are, no change to The Book of Discipline. If we chose this option, what would you need to participate in the life of the church?
2. We change The Book of Discipline to allow gays and lesbians to be ordained and to permit same gender weddings. If we chose this option, what would you need to participate in the life of the church?
3. The annual conference determines who is fit and ready for ordination and whether to allow clergy to perform same gender weddings. If we chose this option, what would you need to participate in the life of the church?
4. Local congregations decide whether they will accept an openly gay or lesbian pastor and whether their pastor celebrates same gender weddings. If we chose this option, what would you need to participate in the life of the church?

5. The church has authority on these matters by geographic region (we are organized into regions by the Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States). If we chose this option, what would you need to participate in the life of the church?
6. We divide into separate denominations based on gay and lesbian ordination and same gender marriage. If we chose this option, what would you need to participate in the life of the church?

Other suggested ideas.

If you are interested in joining Pastor Charlie at this gathering please contact the church office immediately as registration closes on February 10.

Women's Spirituality Group

By Tina Weiler | February 2017



The Women's Spirituality Group is an informal group that meets the third Tuesday of every month at 7:15 pm. We discuss the current study topic. We have just started reading "The Women of Easter" by Liz Curtis Higgs, about the three Marys: Mary of Bethany, Mary of Nazareth, and Mary of Magdalene, the witnesses to the resurrection. Our next meeting is February 21st, when we will be discussing chapters 3 and 4. Anyone looking to grow in faith and fellowship is welcome to join us. For more information, please contact Jean Cook, Diane DeMore or the [church office](#).