

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Epworth connects and equips
 all kinds of people to
 seek, serve, and share Christ.

Stop It! - Stop Judging

[Jesus said,] "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone..."
 -John 8:7b (NRSV)

"...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;"
 -Romans 3:23 (NRSV)

Stop it!

The words are so easy to say, but when it comes to so many of the things we are talking about stopping, it is so difficult because our bad habits are just that - they are automatic behaviors. And one of the worst of our chronic misbehaviors is being judgmental.

If you think it is bad BEING judgmental, imagine the difficulty in PREACHING about this! It seems almost impossible to craft a sermon on this topic if the preacher comes to grips with his or her own sin. I don't know a single person who doesn't struggle with this. I know some who won't admit it, though. And that is why preaching about judging is so treacherous. Most of you know me well enough to know that I have my own struggles with this. I work hard to avoid my own predispositions toward wrong thinking, but I have to confess my own shortcomings in order to open this topic with you with integrity.

What I can say with confidence, however, is that I want to be better. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we should hold this in common. The most dangerous place to be on this issue (and really that of any habitual sin) is to deny it. Any counselor and most of us who have been counseled know that admitting we have a problem is the first step to seeking solutions or healing. If we could get through today and every person here could simply admit that we are people who at least sometimes are judgmental, it would be tremendous spiritual progress for all of us.

The most tragic result of our persistent inability to deal with our judgmentalism is that it causes us to fail at one of our primary goals. If we are judgmental, we cannot love. Loving requires looking at people for what they can be rather than what they are. Loving requires seeing past all of the categories into which we sort the diversity of humanity. Loving requires looking past failures and stereotypes into the common human spirit by which we are all included in Christ's sacrifice. Every person we meet is among the "whosoever" of John 3:16 that declares God's love for the world and the welcome of God for "whosoever believes in him". It took Christ's death on the cross to realize the fullness of that love. And it will take us dying to our own sinful desires for us to even come close to it.

So let's stop it! Stop judging and start loving. We really HAVE to do this.

In Christ,



2018 FLOWER CALENDAR

Sign up today to reserve your special Sunday.
 Each flower arrangement is \$50.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Children's Ministry DirectorLindsey Fossa
 Choir Director.....Lyn Pharris
 Church Administrator Susan Snider
 CustodiansMartha Conklin & Barbie Webb
 Media & CommunicationsDawn Wilson
 Music DirectorBob Lee
 Nursery Worker..... Martha Conklin
 Pastor..... Tony G. Crosby
 Contemporary Music Director..... Kayla Moss
 Interim Youth Minister.....Kristii Daniel

CONTACT US

bob@epworthumc.com
 dawn@epworthumc.com
 kayla@epworthumc.com
 kristii@epworthumc.com
 lyn@epworthumc.com
 martha@epworthumc.com
 susan@epworthumc.com
 tony@epworthumc.com
 Pastor (706) 329-2484
 Church Office (706) 322-6973
 www.epworthumc.com

THIS COMING WEEK

Sunday, January 28

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 12:15 p.m. Trustee Meeting

Tuesday, January 30

5:00 p.m. Rose Hill
 6:30 p.m. AA Group Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Youth Meeting
 7:00 p.m. Reachers Meeting

Wednesday, January 31

6:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal
 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper
 6:30 p.m. Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 1

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
 12:00 noon Prayer Team Meeting

Saturday, February 3

5:00 p.m. AA Group Meeting

Sunday, February 4

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

Monday, February 5

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, February 6

10:30 a.m. HIS Group

Thursday, February 8

12:00 noon Vintage Group (Ed's Country
 Cooking)

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

The Children's Classes
Kindergarten - 5th Grade: *Needed*

The Youth Class
6th - 12th Grade: Kristii Daniel

The Friendship Class
Study: A Strong Faith
Teacher: Class

The Genesis Class
Study: Have You Ever Seen a Hearse...
Teacher: Leslie Morris

The Joy Class
Study: I Love Growing Older, but...
Teacher: Class

The Nathan Patterson/Wesley Class
Study: Class Discussion
Teacher: Class

The New Connections Class
Study: Getting Along with Each Other
Teacher: James Johnson

The Pathfinders Class
Study: Wired Word
Teacher: Suzy Revell

The Questors Class
Study: Class Discussion
Teacher: Gary Tomlin

The Seekers Class
Study: Wired Word
Teacher: Lillian Wooldridge

PASTORAL COUNSELING

Our church partners with the Pastoral Institute to offer counseling for individuals and families at deep discounts. Call the church for more information or give our church name when scheduling an appointment at 706-649-6500. The Pastoral Institute is located at 2022 15th Ave.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

The church sends two e-mails each week—a newsletter on Monday and a sermon preview on Friday. If you are not receiving these, please let us know!

THOSE WHO SERVE JANUARY 28, 2018

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Mary Lee Crews
Usher: Shawn Jandreau, Steve Sawyer
Acolyte: Usher
Children's Church: Anne Wilson

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Suzy Revell
Ushers: Janie Nellums, Carole Zimmerman
Acolyte: Eva Cheraisi, Emma Knight
Children's Church: Suzy Revell
Nursery Volunteer: *Needed*
Financial Secretary: Lillian Wooldridge
Turn Key: James Johnson

OUR STEWARDSHIP

January 21, 2018

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Tithes & Offerings: | \$3,802.00 |
| Received To Date: | \$15,985.34 |
| Needed To Date: | \$ |
| Building Fund: | \$400 |

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| ATTENDANCE: | |
| Sunday School | 61 |
| Worship: 9 a.m. | 38 |
| Worship: 11 a.m. | 63 |
| | 101 |

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Youth Meeting - Tuesday, January 30, at 6:30 p.m. Come and bring a friend!

Youth & Children Sunday School Classes - A great lesson and fun for all in a Safe Sanctuaries approved environment. Classes for all ages at 10 a.m. each Sunday.

Volunteers Needed in the Children's Ministry

Children's Sunday School – 4th Sundays
Children's Church 9 a.m. – 2nd Sundays
Children's Church 11 a.m. – 3rd Sundays
Nursery 11 a.m. – 4th Sundays

MISSIONS

Mission Focus for January - is our partner church, the Sugutek Church near Eldoret, Kenya. This is the childhood church of our own Janet Cheraisi. Mark your offering envelope "Kenya church" with your donation.

Can Recycling - Leave aluminum cans outside the back kitchen door. They will be picked up and recycled by the HIS Group. Money collected will go toward various missions.

Epworth Volunteers Needed - Positions available: Turn Key, Usher, Nursery helper, Children's Sunday School teacher, Children's Church teacher, Wednesday Night Children's teacher and Wednesday Night clean-up helper. If you feel led to volunteer, please contact the church office for more information. We will help you find your talent and add you to the schedule.

Feeding Our Neighbors at Rose Hill UMC

We will provide supper on Tuesday, January 30. Preparations will begin at 5 p.m.; serving at 5:45 p.m. If you want more information about serving or helping to prepare the meal, contact Debra Johnson or Becky Britton.

United Methodist Men Cake Auction

Sunday, February 11, at 5 p.m. UMM (and their secret assistants) are asked to bake cakes, pies, cookies and more to sell at the auction to raise funds. In the past, UMM has supported many projects within the church and community with your generous donations.

Bench Project from Recycled Plastic - Collect clean and free-of-metal caps and lids to obtain a bench for the playground. We are now collecting caps to make a second park bench. Place them in the container on the Mission Cart or in the kitchen. Thanks to all who participated. For more information, contact Susan.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Wednesday Night Supper - January 31, at 6 p.m. Sign up to make supper reservations on the information board. Menu: Tomato or Chicken Noodle Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, salad bar and dessert.

Wednesday Night Study - Wednesday, January 31, at 6:30 p.m., by our pastor on the study of Bishop Reuben Job's book, *Three Simple Questions*. Books are available for \$5 each in the Whitehurst Welcome Center.

Adult Bible Study - Every Thursday at 9:30 a.m., in the Questors classroom. Contact Debra Johnson if you are interested.

Prayer Team Meeting - Thursdays at noon at Margaret Gosden's home.

HIS Group - Tuesday, February 6, 10:30 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Our hostesses will be Brenda Karastury and Helen Howard. Barbara Stubbs will present the program. Bring the covered dish for which you signed up. Our mission project continues to be the "Showering Program" at Open Door.

Ash Wednesday for Sunday Morning - We are anticipating a powerful worship experience on Sunday morning, February 18. We will have "Ash Wednesday on Sunday Morning" to begin our Lent season. Special music will be featured at both services. Bishop James King will preach. Then a special time of Holy Communion and ashes will invite us to observe a holy Lent together. Don't miss it!

Congratulations to Susan Snider on the birth of her grandson, Conor Larkin Henigin, on January 24, weighing 6 lbs. , 10 oz. , and 18" long.

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Fred & Emilie Carswell | Blount King | Gladys Plant | Trudy Harris |
| Vanessa Desoto | Ron & Betty Sawyer | Thrower Family | Kitty Crockett |
| Sibyl Wells | Keri McElvey | Jan Shackelford | Kernodle Family |
| Judy Scanling | Barbara Watson | Joe Flynn | Lillian Wooldridge |
| Elsie & Jim Spanogians | Andrea Carbaugh | Glenn Griffin | Daniel Family |

Extended Church Family

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Steve & Carol Guilbeault | Michael Taff | David Olson | Doyle Adams |
| Dotty Baker | Ricky Clark | Robbins Family | Andrew Wade |
| Miranda "Randy" Jones | Laurie Osteen | Preston Silvernail | Dora Spires |
| Willie Ryles | Judy Patterson | Cassie Prochaska | Billy Hill |
| Kim Jordan | Kristy Stier | Dorothy Ogg | Bruce Chapman |
| Amanda Hay | Marilyn Buck | Danny Chidester | Beth Goodwin |
| Luby Family | Henry Dunn | Adams Family | Ginger Jarvis |
| Ralph & Sandy McGough | Diane Wiggins | Stephanie Bryan | Robin Grantham |
| McDaniel Family | Katherine Naegele | | |

Assisted Living/Nursing Homes/Homebound

| | |
|---|--|
| Calvary Community - Lou Williams | River Towne Center - Jerry Williams |
| Magnolia Manor - Doris Halouska, Cammie Van Over | Savannah Grand - Linda Coleman |
| Phenix City Health Care - Anne Whitehurst | The Lodge - Lorene Carlisle |
| River Place - Betty Cummings, Elizabeth Harbert | Wesley Glen (Byron, GA) - Nancy Hiller |

(Please continue to pray for our homebound people. They would love a visit!)

*If the prayer list needs to be updated, please call, email the church office
or leave a note with updates. Help us minister effectively by
calling the church office about yourself or a family member. Thank you for your help.*

Helping Hands Ministry

Sponsored by Epworth UMW

Are you living alone? Do you need someone to help you with replacing light bulbs? AC filters? Batteries in a smoke detector? Have you given up driving? Do you need a ride to the doctor? Grocery store? The local drug store?

Helping Hands Ministry just may be for YOU! Epworth's UMW will connect you with volunteers at Epworth to help you with these tasks. If you have questions, feel free to ask Becky Britton or Barbara Stubbs more about this new ministry for those who live alone.

Complete one of the forms at the bottom of this sheet if you want to be part of this ministry. Put the form in the collection plate, give it to Becky Britton or Barbara Stubbs personally or to Susan Snider in the church office.

Those who need HELP:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Those who will VOLUNTEER to help:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____