



Quarterly Newsletter of Epworth United Methodist Church

December 2022 - January & February 2023

Winter 2022-23 Worship Schedule

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Combined Worship

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Online Live stream

On Epworth's YouTube page:

Epworth UMC Rehoboth Beach, DE

or Facebook Live:

(www.facebook.com/epworthUMC/live/)

Links are also on our webpage: epworth.faith

Wednesday, December 21
7:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service



Saturday, December 24
(Christmas Eve)

5:00 p.m. Praise Worship Service & Children's service

8:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols Worship Service

All Christmas Eve services are candlelight and communion

Beginning Sunday, November 27, 2022 there will be one Blended Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.



Pastor Vicki's Views

I love the scene in the movie, *Apollo 13*, where the manager comes into a room full of engineers and dumps a box of supplies on the table. The astronauts had gotten into trouble and were living on the module. However, the air filters on the Lunar module and Command module did not match, with one being square and the other round. The manager tells the engineers that they must make the filters work together for the astronauts to survive the return to earth. We do not see how they end up accomplishing their goal, but we know that they succeeded, and the astronauts returned safely.

I love this scene for several reasons. First, instead of focusing on what they did not have, or blaming people for the design, they gathered what supplies they did have. We often tend to look at what we lack and forget to see all that God has given us. Then the engineers did not give up or wish for more supplies. They took what they had and used them in new ways. They created a path forward using what they had on hand. Often crises force us into this kind of innovation. Yet we know we serve a God who makes a way out of no way. Finally, they kept their focus on this life-saving mission. As the director said, "Failure is not an option!" They knew the astronauts depended on them and gave their best to accomplish the goal.

Our Source Collaborative Team (see the picture) has been going through a similar process to design a path forward for Epworth to thrive. We have gathered our resources, attempting to gain a better insight into the gifts the congregation has. We also invited community partners to brainstorm with us, sharing their assets and obstacles to thriving. In a couple of weeks, on December 3, we will begin to pull all of the pieces together to discern where God desires for us to go next. By December 15, we will have three goals to help focus our energy to empower us to thrive. We have not focused on what we lack, but rather on what God has given to us. We believe we are so richly blessed by ALL OF YOU!! You bring energy and gifts and prayers and passions to our community and God invites us to pool these resources together to address challenges facing our wider community. We, too, will persist as we keep our eyes on the mission of Jesus which we join in the world.

Recently, we gathered a group of partners from La Esperanza, the Lewes Senior Center, the Epworth Preschool, the Lewes Charge, LRAC, CAMP Rehoboth, and our team. We listed strengths in our community and assets which their organization brings to the table. Then we asked them to highlight where they see successful partnerships, and to describe what a thriving community looks like. Finally, we talked about obstacles to thriving. Everyone who attended expressed a desire to gather again to share in this type of conversation.

Many of our relationships with partner organizations suffered from the pandemic shutdown. We have begun to rebuild these relationships and establish some new ones. We also noticed that our relationships at Epworth suffered from the pandemic shutdown. Many people moved into a place of fear and mistrust, creating relationship friction. We hope to address that concern by gathering everyone together in worship. One of the reasons we decided to shift to one service earlier than usual and extend it longer than usual involved creating space where people can get to know one another again, or for the first time. Many people have joined since the pandemic and the congregation as a whole has not

gotten a chance to develop relationships with these amazing gifts God has sent us.

So, we invite you to join us for ONE worship service. We will offer blended worship at that ONE service, with the praise team and the choir singing. We have such a gifted music program and it will bless all of us to share in their music together. We also pray that you will stay around for fellowship and get to know one another, either getting reacquainted or meeting someone new. We will offer questions to "break the ice" with one another at the end of each service, to make it easier for you to meet someone new. As we get to know one another more, we will continue to discover what makes our community so very amazing, as we experience the diverse gifts of our people. Won't you join us? Be part of our ONE worship!



Lewes Rehoboth Association of Churches Presents \$100,000 Grant to Domestic Abuse Shelter

Non-Profit Celebrates Support for Area Partners Through New Life Thrift Shop Sales

By Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith, Epworth's Pastor of Community & Communications

On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, the [Lewes Rehoboth Association of Churches](#) (LRAC) Board of Directors will present a check for \$100,000 to help [What is Your Voice](#), a local domestic abuse shelter, purchase land to expand its ministry. Jacqueline Sterbach, founder and Board President of What is Your Voice, will receive the check on behalf of the shelter. The grant comes with an additional \$36,000 a year for the next three years to support operations at What is Your Voice. The LRAC Board will make the presentation at the [New Life Thrift Shop](#), an LRAC-sponsored ministry that raises the funds the Board grants to organizations that share LRAC's mission to serve our Cape Henlopen School District neighbors in need of housing and food.

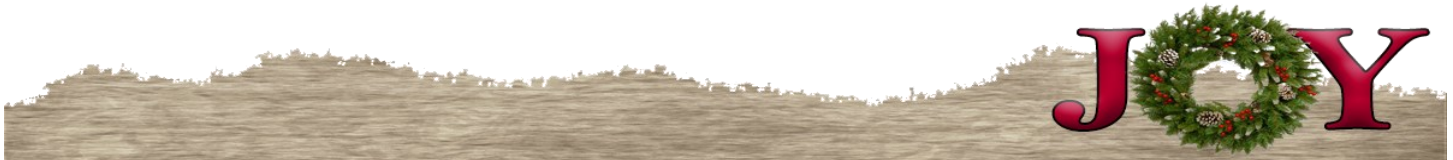
The New Lift Thrift Shop, managed by Andrea Caswell and staffed by over a hundred [volunteers](#), has grown from passionate beginnings in several area churches to a six-day-a-week ministry that has made possible grants of over \$500,000 to ministry partners in 2022. Nearly half these funds support the [Community Resource Center](#), a ministry birthed as LRAC's Lend a Hand outreach program in 1985 which offers financial assistance to over a thousand families annually, a day center and job center for homeless, and a food rescue program distributing over 30,000 bags of food.

Other ministry partners supported by New Life Thrift Shop proceeds in 2022 include [Family Promise of Southern Delaware](#) (addressing root causes of family homelessness), [Lighthouse for Broken Wings](#) (homeless shelter and transition housing), West Side New Beginnings (enrichment for West Side children), [Cape Henlopen Food Basket](#) (USDA food distribution program), [The Way Home](#) (helping previously incarcerated citizens transition back into the community), Lewes After School Program, and most recently, What is Your Voice.



The Lewes Rehoboth Association of Churches was established in 1983 as a collaborative effort of nine local churches to come together to serve those in need in the community. Each church had some form of outreach to the community and decided to combine their efforts to better coordinate their work to assist and support individuals and families in the Cape Henlopen School District. In January 2022, LRAC transitioned its leadership to a nine-member Board of Directors, elected annually by representatives from the eleven current member churches:

- The Episcopal Parish of All Saints' Church & St. George's Chapel
- Bethel United Methodist Church
- Coolspring Presbyterian Church
- Epworth United Methodist Church
- Faith & Israel United Methodist Charge
- The Lutheran Church of Our Savior
- Metropolitan Community Church of Rehoboth Beach
- St. Edmond Roman Catholic Church
- St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church
- St. Peter's Episcopal Church
- Westminster Presbyterian Church



EPWORTH

Breakfast with Santa

Written by *Mickie McManamon*

The elves of Epworth United Methodist Church are busy making plans for the Christmas holiday season.

Schell Brothers and Epworth will host Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 3, from 9-10 a.m.

A member of the Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas, Santa Jerry, will visit with guests at Epworth's Dec. 3 breakfast event from 9-10 a.m.

Santa is fluent in American Sign Language and will be accompanied by Mrs. Claus. Ticket prices are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children (please plan to pay cash at the door).

Please [sign up](#) for this event (or call 302-227-7743 x111) for reservations as seating is limited.



Christmas Joy! 365 is a Mission of
Epworth United Methodist Church



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Cookie Walk - Moments Matter

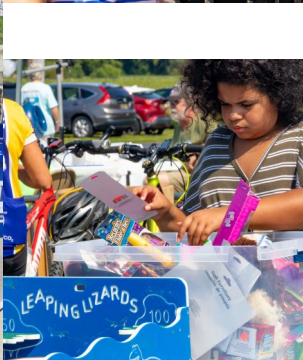
By Mickie McManamon

Epworth's Infamous Cookie Walk returns on December 10. We are so excited to have this well attended event back.

The cookie walk will be held at 9 a.m., Saturday, December 10, and will continue while supplies last. The price for cookies is \$10 per pound. Epworth members and friends are asked to bake five dozen or more cookies (no store-bought or ready-made dough cookies, please) and bring them to the church narthex on Friday, December 9, between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the Bayside Entrance.



Epworth's 125th Anniversary Celebration



125th Anniversary (continued)



EPWORTH

Social Justice—Moments Matter

Written by Bob Paulen

LOVE YOUR MOTHER -- EARTH!

As we celebrate the gift of Christ in our lives this holiday season, here a few “gift ideas” for Mother Earth and all our fellow travelers on our fragile island home. First, however, I want to remind you of the context for this gifting:



- 1) 10 BILLION plastic bags are used each week in America and only 1% are recycled!
- 2) 2,500,000 plastic bottles are used HOURLY by Americans!
- 3) 7,000 YEARS pass before plastic is degraded in landfills!
- 4) 100,000 mammals & sea birds are killed by ocean debris each year!

Here are a “baker’s dozen” GIFTING IDEAS for you, me and each other:

1. Carry reusable bags to the store.
2. Use a reusable water bottle, every time.
3. Stop using plastic straws.
4. Carry a travel mug.
5. Repurpose plastic bottles around your house.
6. Buy powder detergent instead of liquid which comes in plastic bottles.
7. Buy in bulk—the larger portions you buy, the less packaging you use and the fewer trips you make which cuts down on your carbon footprint.
8. Don’t use a disposable razor. Your planet isn’t disposable, so why should you razor be?
9. Frequent restaurants that use only paper or foil for takeout.
10. Choose natural fibers. Synthetics include plastic and other microfibers.
11. Reuse and Repurpose—this avoids the use of plastic packaging.
12. Lobby government officials to insist that they build us a certified plastic recycling facility.
13. ...it’s up to each of us to gift Mother Earth as we have been gifted planet earth!

“The earth is the Lord’s and they that dwell within.” Psalm 24 & 1 Cor. 10:26

