

Do you ever feel like you are just going through the motions of life but don't really know where you're headed? Do you keep searching for meaning and purpose but come up short? Are you trying to lose weight, stop smoking, quit drinking? Has your doctor told you that you have to change your habits but you just can't find the motivation or you feel sabotaged? Are you in a relationship that you know is not good for you? Or are there divisions among your friends and family that you want to mend? Does the news make you want to crawl back under the covers and cry? Do you have healthy practices that make you come alive in body, mind and spirit?

## Are you ready for a Change?

*"I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me..." (Jeremiah 29:11-14).*

God created us out of love in God's very image to be persons of sacred worth and messengers of God's love and peace. But we have not always followed the plans God made for us. And during the season of Lent, we pay closer attention to the ways that God invites us to change our ways, our hearts, our lives, and the world around us. If you're ready for a change, come and join in worship that heals, empowers, restores, and transforms.

February 26	<i>Changing our Habits</i>
March 4	<i>Changing our Purpose</i>
March 11	<i>Changing our Relationships</i>
March 18	<i>Changing our Health</i>
March 25	<i>Changing our World</i>

I invite you to enter into the season of Lent open to God's invitation to you to live a more whole and holy life. Join us for worship Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. where we encounter God and find companionship and strength for the journey.

With Joy!  
Pastor Erica

### Daily Devotions for Lent now available four ways

On the web: just a click away on our website [www.epworthworchester.org](http://www.epworthworchester.org) (click Daily Reading)

In your Email: sent to you each day (sign up at [office@epworthworchester.org](mailto:office@epworthworchester.org))

On your E-book (Nook or Kindle): for just 99¢, order "From Death to Life From Death To Life - Devotions For Our Journey From Cross To Empty Tomb" by Rich Bimler

Booklets: available at the church

## Epworth Members Recognized with Good Samaritan Awards

During the celebration of Scouting Ministry on February 12, two of our members, Paul Wierzbicki and Gavin MacNeal, were recognized for the good works they have been doing. The Good Samaritan Award provides United Methodist churches a means to recognize an individual youth who demonstrates the attributes of the Good Samaritan described in Luke 10:25-37, ministry to others through outreach, humanitarian assistance or advocacy. Special thanks to the Epworth Methodist Men for purchasing the medals and certificates.

### *Paul Wierzbicki – Feeding the Hungry*

Paul received a Good Samaritan Award for his work with Carty Cupboard. Paul is a Life Scout with Troop 91. Paul first became involved with the pantry with his confirmation class in 2010. The confirmands decided to spend a day in “jail” until they were “bailed out” with food items from the Epworth congregation, friends and family. The food collected was donated to Carty Cupboard. The class not only brought the food to the pantry, they volunteered their time to help distribute the items to those in need. Paul enjoyed the experience so much that he spent some of his school vacation time handing out food at Carty Cupboard. Almost two years later, Paul still volunteers at the food pantry. He and his family move donations from Epworth UMC to Carty Cupboard on a regular basis and Paul helps with the distribution at the pantry. Paul is in the planning stages of his Eagle project. The project involves refurbishing a room at Epworth UMC to be used as an office for the Worcester Evening, Free Medical Service Program.

### *Gavin MacNeal – Embracing Membership*

Unlike many of his peers who seem to drift away from the church once confirmed, Gavin has taken his membership covenant seriously. This has not gone unnoticed at Epworth United Methodist Church and is why he was presented with the Good Samaritan Award. Gavin freely shares his presence, his gifts and his talents. Gavin attends worship regularly, and participates in Youth Group. A portion of his allowance goes in the collection plate every week. He has served in the Epworth Sunday School, sings in the Chancel Choir, plays in the Bell Choir, and mans the popcorn machine when Epworth opens its doors to Worcester First Night. He is an active participant in Epworth’s annual “The Church Has Left the Building” Mission day, painting murals at a local community center. He spent a week with the U.M. Army – Northeast and is looking forward to doing it again. Gavin is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Scout in Troop 54. Troop 54 recently transferred their charter to Epworth UMC and Gavin is excited to be meeting in his home church. He has earned the *God and Me* and *God and Family* awards.

## Spring Music Celebration

*featuring the choirs of*  
Epworth UMC  
*and*

Nouvelle Arche Seventh Day Adventist

Saturday, March 17, 4:00 p.m.

Reception will follow in Fellowship Hall

## Youth Lay Speaking

New England UMC's Lay Speaking Ministries has announced that a Basic Lay Speaking Class for Youth will be held March 3, 10 & 17, 2012 – Saturday's - 1 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Wesley UMC in Framingham, MA. All confirmed youth, grades 9 - 12, in all Districts are invited to attend. The purpose of this course is to encourage and provide training for young people to claim the ministries to which they are called. Contact Pastor Erica for registration.

## Looking ahead to Holy Week

### **PalmPassion Sunday** April 1

Worship and Potluck Lunch

### **Holy Thursday** April 5

We will join together with the Aldersgate United Methodist Church for our Holy Thursday service this year at 7:00 p.m. in the Epworth sanctuary.

### **Good Friday** April 6

We will join together with Covenant-St. Andrews, Aldersgate, and Wesley UMCs for Good Friday service at Wesley (stay tuned for exact time)

### **Easter** April 8

We will join together with the Worcester Area United Methodist churches as well as Park Congregational Church for Sunrise Service at Institute Park 7:00 a.m. followed by a breakfast at first Baptist Church/Park UCC.

Worship Celebration at Epworth 10:00 a.m.

## Change for Change

Throughout our Lenten series on “Change” we will invite local partners in ministry to share what they are doing to make a positive change in our community. We will collect donations to support those missions as well as take up a collection of change. Empty out those pockets, sock drawers, ash trays, and anyplace else that you can find the change that can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors in need. Bring your loose change to worship. In addition, we have Lenten coin folders which you can add a quarter to each day. These will also be used to benefit our local missions.