

An Invitation to Join
COMPANIONS
in Christ

Companions in Christ Companions in Christ is a rhythm of reading a weekly article, engaging in daily reflective exercises, and a weekly group meeting. Participants share their spiritual journeys, explore the Bible, learn to pray and to recognize the presence of God, discern God's unique call on our lives, and build strong friendships with each other. Small groups meet for 28 weeks from October to May, and are scheduled around the needs of the participants. We expect to have one daytime group and one evening group this year.

Contact Rev. Erica Robinson-Johnson
at 508-752-2376
or pastor@epworthworchester.org
to sign up or to learn more.

Men's Bible Study **Monday nights 7:00 p.m. in October**

Weekly time of exploring the Bible together. No experience necessary. Group meets for one hour on Mondays. We'll read the scripture for the upcoming Sunday and share prayer requests with each other. All men are welcome. Sign up in advance or just drop in when you can.

Change the World

A study for youth and adults
Six Sundays beginning in October, 11:30 a.m.

Jesus called us to follow him, to live a life of active faith, feeding the poor, healing the sick, welcoming the alien, and rescuing the desperate. It's easy to get stuck in our religious habits of just going to church, tossing a few bucks in the offering plate, and occasionally reading our Bible—but Jesus has bigger plans for us. We are called to be his hands and feet in the world. He wants to use us to change the world. Sign up at the church or email office@epworthworchester.org to register (and let us know if you need childcare).

Cultural **POTLOCK** **Sunday October 16**

Bring food from your family, cultural, national heritage to share with others at this bi-annual event. Lunch begins after worship, about 11:30 a.m.

Worcester Area United Methodist Youth Group

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in youth group every Wednesday night 7-9 p.m. for an hour of fellowship and praise band rehearsal (bring an instrument or just hang out) and an hour of study and conversation on topics of interest to the group. This month, we will meet at Wesley UMC (114 Main St). Each month also includes outings for mission and fun. Here is our fall schedule:

Oct 9: Central Rock for rock climbing; Noon-4 p.m. Pizza lunch before we go.

Oct 23: Worcester CROP Walk; Noon-3
To raise money for the hungry in our community.

Nov 11-12: 7 pm - 9 am Youth Lock-In!!
We will be learning about our Spiritual Gifts - what they are, which ones we possess, and how we can use them in our lives to serve God! We will also be playing games like Sardines and Werewolf, as well as making cookies. Don't miss out!

December TBA: Christmas Card making and caroling to shut-ins.

Please feel free to contact counselors Emi or Phil Smith (508-713-7854 / 508-713-7855) or Pastor Erica at 508-752-2376 for more information and to sign up for any of these activities.

Interested in Joining the Church?

New members will be received Sunday, October 9, during worship at 10:00 a.m. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of Epworth Church, please contact Pastor Erica at 508-752-2376 or email pastor@epworthworchester.org.

Vision Team Update and Call to Prayer

The Vision Team joined with a few other representatives from the congregation for a retreat in September to discern where God is leading us as a church in the next five years. We had a great day together in prayer, Bible study, and discussion around the possibilities and opportunities as well as the challenges we face as a church.

The work continues...and we will meet again in October to further clarify our long-range strategy for how we will shape our mission and ministry and provide the necessary resources for our work together in the near and distant future. *Please join the team in praying every day that God will guide our work and help us discern God's plans for us.*

The next Vision Team retreat is Saturday, October 15, 9-5. The Team will present its recommendations to the church council Tuesday, November 1, and to the entire church at the Church Conference Sunday, November 27, 4:00 p.m.

**Central MA District Announces
ADDITIONAL
Fall 2011 Lay Speaking Course**

**Wesley UMC, 114 Main St., Worcester
Oct. 22, 29 and Nov. 5 - 1:00 to 6:00 pm**

Lay Speaking Ministries Basic Course

The Lay Speaking Ministries Basic Course focuses on the many ways lay speakers are called to be in ministry. Completion of the Basic Course is required for Lay Speaker certification.

Leading in Lay Pastoral Care – Advanced Course

This course offers insights into the life span and the dynamics of contemporary life to help you reach out with God's love and care to others—whether the community of faith or the extended community.

*For more information and/or to register,
please contact Mike Fisher
at mikeyfish@prodigy.net*

**A Heart of Prayer:
Turning Our Hearts and Minds
Toward God in All Things**

*Four Wednesday evenings, 7:00 – 9:00, focused on
praying throughout our lives and days:*

- *October 19: "Praying With and For Creation"
- *October 26 "Praying in Times of Difficulty"
- *November 2 "Praying for Peace and Pursuing It"
- *November 9 "Not Monks But Praying Always Anyway"

United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Rd.,
Worcester; \$15/session

**God's Secretaries:
The Making of the King James Bible**

*The 2011 Harrell F. Beck Lectures
Celebrating the 400th anniversary of the KJV
With Adam Nicolson*

Monday, October 24, 7:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Worcester, MA
Free and open to the public
Sponsored by the Massachusetts Bible Society

Come! Let us Rejoice!

Celebrate the Appointment of our new
District Superintendent
Rev. Rene Perez

Sunday, October 23rd at 4:00pm

First United Methodist Church of Westborough
120 West Main Street, Westborough, MA 01581
Childcare will be available.
Refreshments... of course!



Coming Soon!

World Communion Sunday Oct 2
Baptism and reception of new members Oct 9
Spaghetti Supper October 8
Cultural Potluck October 16
CROP Walk October 23
Celebration of new DS October 23

Save the dates:

Fall Fair Nov 5
The Church has Left the Building Nov 13
Clothing Sale Nov 19
Thanksgiving Service and Luncheon November 20
Church/Charge Conference November 27 4:00 p.m.

**Check out the new and improved...
www.epworthworchester.org**

Bookmark this page or make it your home page to keep up with all the latest Epworth news!

Special thanks to Martin Bates for designing and updating the website.

*Holiday
Fair*

And Swedish Meatball Luncheon

**Saturday, November 5
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Don't miss this annual event which includes a bake sale, crafts, jewelry, art, gifts, and more!

Bring your appetite! The Coffee Shop will be serving delicious, homemade Swedish buns and coffee in the morning, followed by a Swedish Meatball Luncheon. There will be apples and apple cider from **Keown Orchards**, baked goods, and vendors like **Thirty-One Gifts, Tastefully Simple, Osborne Books, Handmade Bows, Tasty Treats,** and many more!

So, stop by to eat and visit the vendor tables to get some holiday shopping done early!!

Interested in a vendor/crafter table? Please contact Jen Carlsen at jenal1974@gmail.com for more information.