

COMING UP...
JANUARY 04 - JANUARY 11

Sunday, January 04
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person &
Online & Children's Church

Monday, January 05
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Thursday, January 08
Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, January 11
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
9:15 a.m. New Members' Class
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person &
Online & Children's Church



*The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of
Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

CONTACT US
2400 Devonshire Drive
Columbus, GA 31904

Church Office (706) 322-6973
Pastor's Cell (706) 992-9147
www.epworthumc.com

toni@epworthumc.com
(example: earnestine@epworthumc.com)

Facebook - EpworthUMC.com
Instagram - EpworthUMC.com
Youtube - epworthumccolumbus1430

CONTACTING YOU

Most of the church's communication is through e-mail. We send three e-mails each week—a newsletter on Monday, an email from the pastor and an email reminder of Sunday worship. We also use e-mail to send important meeting reminders and other information. Help us contact you by ensuring the church office has your current e-mail address.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

*Epworth's members are our ministers.
The professional staff who assist us are:*

Administrator Assistant.....Toni Thomas
Children's Ministry DirectorJas'min Vontoure
Children's Ministry AssistantWhitney Mennifee
Custodians.....Martha Conklin
Barbie Webb
Media TechTristan Campbell
Music Director.....Bob Lee
Nursery WorkerMartha Conklin
PastorRev. Earnestine Campbell
Praise & Worship DirectorMandi Battle



January 04, 2026

SEEING THE LIGHT

GLORY REVEALED
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, YEAR A

Epiphany is all about light. The star in the sky leads the magi to Jesus, the light of the world, the revelation of divine love who came to dwell among us. This is certainly a Sunday to contemplate and demonstrate the light reflected around us. Light candles on the altar, bring out some gold or other metals to reflect the light in the room. Take a moment in the service to draw everyone's attention to the light streaming in from the stained-glass windows. But don't forget the role darkness plays in helping us notice the light. I'm not talking about darkness, as in evil. I'm talking about the darkness that helps regulate our sleep-wake rhythms, draws us into a state of calm and peace, and even enhances our creativity. It is striking and worth our attention to remember that the magi noticed the star's light in the dark of night. They needed the darkness to be able to follow the light.

As the first Sunday of the new year, it is also a tradition in many congregations to pray the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer as part of committing ourselves to God in the year ahead. The prayer comes from a longer Service of Covenant Renewal in The Book of Worship. As you plan worship for this Sunday, look over this liturgy and consider what aspects you might want to include in your service, whether you use the whole service or just the covenant prayer. If you want an updated version of the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer, Rev. Jeremy Smith offers "Wesley's Covenant Prayer, revised." While Epiphany and the first service of the year do not always align, this year invites us to begin the new year with the revelation of the Christ child. Like the magi, we have wandered over the last year, sometimes across rough terrain and other times over smooth roads, to seek the promise that God is doing a new thing among us. When we renew our covenant together, we commit once again to continue on the path of the Christ child throughout the coming year. We choose to see, hear, touch, smell, and even taste the world around us as bearers and seekers of divine love.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/epiphany-of-the-lord-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/epiphany-of-the-lord-year-a-preaching-notes>

As we welcome the New Year, let us gather in worship, hope, and faith, trusting in the blessings God has prepared for us in 2026. We encourage you to invite family, friends, and neighbors to join us each Sunday to share in the joy and renewal we find in Christ. Together, let us seek God's presence, grow in faith, and celebrate the new beginnings He gives to us freely in worship together.

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." -- Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)

In Christ,

Pastor Earnie



Epworth connects and equips all kinds of people
to SEEK, SERVE, and SHARE Christ.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 AM

The Nathan Patterson Class
Study: Job 15-17
Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class
Study: Life Lessons From ACTS
Teacher: Glenn Griffin

The Seekers Class
Study: Wired Word
Teacher: Donny Davis

THOSE WHO SERVE
January 04, 2026

Usher: David Hay
Financial Secretary: Donny Davis
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP
December 28, 2025

Tithes & Offerings:	\$3,020.00
Received To Date:	\$165,745.63
Needed To Date:	\$247,800.00

Attendance:	
Sunday School	16
In-person Sunday Worship	46
Online Viewers	130
Total	176

2026 STEWARDSHIP
CAMPAIGN PLEDGE

Ephesians 6:17-18: “Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.” Commitment to Tithing- As we embark on our stewardship journey, we recognize the importance of our giving and how it connects us to God and our church community. Here are three essential points to consider: 1. The Word of God: Our giving is rooted in Scripture. By honoring God with our wealth, we align ourselves with His purpose and provision. 2. The Power of Prayer: Every pledge begins with prayer. Seeking God’s guidance allows us to make informed and faithful decisions about our contributions. 3. A Step of Faith: Pledging requires us to trust in God’s provision. When we step out in faith, we open ourselves to His blessings and the work He can accomplish through us. Amen.

STAY CONNECTED

In-Person & Livestreaming Worship - Join us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Options for worshipping by livestream are: Put the name epworthumc first: facebook.com/epworthcolumbus or youtube.com/channel/UCZjhDYHDdeE-dnv5a5nQKjA as close to 10:30 a.m. as possible or as close to the time of other livestream services.

Likes, Shares & Reviews Matter - Take time to like the Epworth Facebook and Youtube pages to become a follower of these social media platforms, like the posts and/or videos, share, or comment. It only takes a few seconds and only a few minutes to write a review of your experience at Epworth through Facebook, Google, or Yelp. This is a way to let our community know about us.

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 call the Pastoral Institute at 706-649-6500 to schedule an appointment.

THANK YOU MESSAGE

Great appreciation and kudos go to the children, youth, and their families for the Christmas Pageant play titled, “Sister Peppermint’s Classic: Orphanage and Elderly Retreat” (For Sale). Thank you to our amazing Children’s Ministry leaders, Jas’Min Vontoure and Whitney Mennifee for a job well done! Thank you to Belinda Lias, aka, Sister Peppermint - for writing an outstanding playscript and work unto the Lord.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Matthew Conklin	20 Patsy Ann Aspinwall
6 Robert Campbell	Marguerite Hay
8 David Hay	Joyce Hickson
12 Pam Clark	21 Kelli McManus
Vanessa DeSoto	24 Barbie Webb
17 Ella Kate Conkle	25 Camden Fossa
Cindy Stolpa	Hope Thrower
18 Linda Lee	29 Lorene Carlisle
19 Mason Morris	

MISSIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS
JANUARY MISSION

January Mission Opportunity- Our January Mission is bus passes for persons known to the Fellowship at Rose Hill. A 31-day unlimited bus pass is \$53 or \$23 for a person, ages 18 and under. Bus passes are a blessing for those without a car. Please support their needs and consider this request. You can mark your donation as "Bus Passes". As always, thanks for your gifts!

AMARYLLIS BULB SALE

The Men's Group is sponsoring an Amaryllis Bulb sale. The Amaryllis, known as The Christmas Flower, produces big, beautiful red flowers and is easy to grow indoors or outdoors. The bulbs are only \$4 each. Thanks in advance for your contributions. All proceeds will directly benefit the Epworth UMC operating budget.

LEADERS' CONSECRATION SUNDAY

All leaders for the 2026 year, please plan to attend the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, January 21 to be consecrated before God.

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit-fruit that will last-and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father." John 15:16

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD

Stewardship Pledge Card consecration will be Sunday, January 11 at 10:30 a.m. Worship Service for all persons who have returned their pledge cards. If you have not yet returned your card, and are led by God to do so, please turn those in via the office, offering plate, or email for those who are not present to do so. We will consecrate these cards, bestowing a blessing upon them and you at the altar on this Sunday as we live out the Word of God, Power of Prayer, and Step of Faith: Ephesians 6:17-18: “Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS
& OPPORTUNITIES

QUARTERLY COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

-Trustees Meeting, Chair, Glenn Griffin - Monday, January 12 at 6:00 p.m.
-SPRC Meeting, Chair, Michele Lancaster - Tuesday, January 20 at 6:00 p.m.
-Finance Meeting, Chair, John Grandon - Tuesday, January 20 at 6:45 p.m.
-Church Council Meeting, Chair, Donna Faircloth - TBA

*Note: If you are a committee member and you are not able to attend, please notify your committee chair.

*Note: For committee chairs whose committees are not listed above, please schedule your committee meeting for planning and submit your meeting reports prior to the January 23 reporting deadline in preparation for the Church Council meeting. These meetings can occur in person, via the church's Zoom or other ways. We want to make it convenient for all to attend and participate in the great ministry that God is doing through Epworth.

GRIEF/CAREGIVER SUPPORT
MEETING

Grief / Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next Support Meeting is Tuesday, January 13, at 1:00 p.m. For more information, contact Martha Conklin at 706-329-0629.

CHRISTMAS PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Photo Opportunity - The beautiful Christmas decorations and props from the Christmas play are still up in the Fellowship Hall, providing a lovely backdrop for photos. If you or your family and friends would like to take pictures to create lasting memories or to use as a Christmas postcard next year, please do so no later than Sunday, January 18.

CHILDREN & YOUTH GAME NIGHT

Children & Youth Game Night - Our next Game Night will be announced at a later date.

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

Lloyd Britton	Cheryl Jandreau	Annette Taff
Rebecca Britton	Natalie Kernodle	Michael Taff
Deborah Cooper	Bob Lee	Marjean Waters
Buddy Dunn	Linda Lee	Lillian Wooldridge
Susan Dunn	Mildred Rodgers	
John Grandon	Ann Smith	
Jeanne Guilbeault	Susan Stark	
Chester Jakes		

Mary Lee Crews & Family	Ron Sawyer & Family
James and Donna Faircloth & Family	Ann Smith & Family
Frank Karastury & Family	Barre' and Steve Whittington and Family
Earl & Melonie Phillips & Family	Family of Myra Tucker

Extended Church Family

Patricia Waldo	Steve Guilbeault	Robbins Family	Kuester Family
Dora Spires	Willie Ryles	Judy Patterson	Cassie Prochaska
Billy Hill	Kim Jordan	Grier Family	Bruce Chapman
Carol Hall	Charles Holmes	Marilyn Buck	Danny Chidester
Beth Goodwin	McDaniel Family	Stephanie Bryan	Adams Family
Hattie Campbell	Robin Grantham	Dana Thurston	Diane Wiggins
Cristina Mattocks	David Garner	Kathy McClintock	Amanda Kinsman Vines
Ann Mitchell	Patricia Jefferson	Susan Land	Aundre Smith
James & Sue Flowers	Robert Wagers	Sarah Browder	Mary Kennedy
Maggie Smith	Hazel Dullin	Family of Neil Gergun	Janna Family
Roger Buterbaugh	Diane Propst	Ralph & Sandy McGough	
George Bowen	Martha Bone	Danny Snider & Family	Davis/Osborne Family
Tammy White	Sam Wilson	Michelle Slappy	Linda Walker
Bertha Robinson	Nona Robinson	Rev. Tim Paulk	

Independent/Assisted Living/Nursing Home

Oaks @ Maple Ridge - Helen Pharris	The Lodge (Bessemer, AL) - Lorene Carlisle
Kings Bridge (Atlanta, GA) - Blount King	Wesley Glen (Byron, GA) - Nancy Hiller
River Place - Anne Wilson	
Oaks @ Grove Park - Ron Sawyer	

Tree of Life Memorial
for Epworth UMC and Hamp Stevens UMC

Given by The Friendship Class in memory of Jean F. Morris
whose generosity and caring spirit made this world a better place.

You may remember a family member or friend, now deceased, on the lasting Tree of Life Memorial that graces the entrance of our Sanctuary. Consider commemorating their life with a leaf placed on this handcrafted piece of art.

Memorials can be made for members of the Epworth United Methodist or Hamp Stevens United Methodist churches. Initiated by the Friendship Sunday School to honor Jean’s life, it is carried forward by Epworth’s Board of Trustees.

Complete the section below and return it with your gift made out to Epworth UMC. With limited space, we will only be able to include names on the leaf-no other messages. The minimum donation for an engraved leaf is \$50.

Name of Donor: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Donation Amount: _____

Names to be Engraved: 5 rows of up to approximately 12 characters on each row

SAMPLE

Sebastian
Williamson

Jim & Jean
Williamson
& Family

Please continue to pray for our homebound people. They would love a call or text!
If the prayer list needs to be updated, please call, email, or leave a note with updates at the church office. Thank you for your help!

<u>ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>		
January 04, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.		
<i>The * Denotes to please stand if able.</i>		
PRELUDE	Bob Lee, Music Director	
ENTER THE LIGHT OF CHRIST	Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers	
WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER	Marguerite Hay, Worship Leader	
*CONFESSION & PARDON	UMH No. 12	
<p>People: Merciful God, We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.</p> <p>Leader: Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!</p> <p>People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.</p>		
*PRAISE SONG	"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"	CH 686 vv. 1, 2, 3, 6 Led by Susan Dunn, Song Leader
OFFERTORY APPEAL/PRAYER	Worship Leader	
<i>During the offering, please place your offering in the collection plates as they are passed or text the word "GIVE" to (706) 655-6768. For our Online Worshippers, text or go to epworthumc.com and select "Donate." On Communion Sunday, please place your Communion Offering in the basket near the altar.</i>		
OFFERTORY SELECTION	"More Than Wonderful"	David Hay CCLI # 2967303

*RESPONSE	Doxology	
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.		
SHARING OF CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS		
	Rev., Earnestine W. Campbell, Pastor	
<i>Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.</i>		
*SCRIPTURE	JOHN 1:1-9	Patricia Bronson
Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.		
People: Thanks be to God.		
SPECIAL MUSIC	"The First Noel"	Mandi Battle Praise & Worship Director CCLI # 2967303, Song #31047
SERMON	"How To Begin Again"	Pastor
*INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP	Pastor	
<i>You can become a member of Epworth by either professing your Christian faith for the first time or by transferring your existing membership from another Christian church.</i>		
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION	Pastor & Congregation (see screen)	
INVITATION *THE GREAT THANKSGIVING UMH NO. 15-16 *THE LORD'S PRAYER *THE GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP THE PRAYER AFTER THE COMMUNION		
*CLOSING SONG	"The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power"	CH 334 vv. 1 & 2 Led by Susan Dunn, Song Leader
*LIGHT OF CHRIST BROUGHT OUT INTO THE WORLD	Acolytes	
*BENEDICTION	Pastor	
*POSTLUDE	Music Director	
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COFFEE BAR ON SUNDAYS		
Coffee Bar in the Welcome Center: Enjoy coffee and refreshments for the Sunday School and Worship Service hours every Sunday. Donations are appreciated.		