

COMING UP...

JANUARY 11 - JANUARY 18

Sunday, January 11

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person &
Online & Children's Church
UMM Meeting (following service)

Monday, January 12

11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba
1:00 p.m. New Life - Discussion Topic: Days 2
and 3 of Week 2; *Untangling Faith*

Tuesday, January 13

1:00 p.m. Grief / Caregiver Support Group
6:00 p.m. Trustees Quarterly Committee
Meeting

Wednesday, January 14

Noon Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Zoom Adult Bible Study

Thursday, January 15

Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, January 18

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
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](https://www.facebook.com/EpworthUMC.com)
Instagram - [EpworthUMC.com](https://www.instagram.com/EpworthUMC.com)
Youtube - [epworthumccolumbus1430](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepworthumccolumbus1430)

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 Director.....Jas'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 Director.....Mandi Battle

 **epworth**
united methodist church

January 11, 2026

POWER OF PRESENCE

GLORY REVEALED

BAPTISM OF THE LORD, YEAR A

After the pomp and circumstance of Christmas, Baptism of Our Lord Sunday can sometimes get overlooked. Whether that's because babies always steal the show or worship planners are tired and on vacation during the first two weeks of January, the remembrance of Jesus' baptism can get overlooked as we conclude Christmas and start looking forward to Lent. So, let me make a plug for observing Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, not just preaching about Jesus' baptism, but centering the worship service around the connection between Jesus' baptism, our baptisms, and our baptismal identity as the Body of Christ. In fact, this is a critical point that Baptism of Our Lord Sunday shows us—baptism isn't solely about cleansing us from sin. Baptism is about initiation into community with God and one another, and Jesus shows us the way into this community through his baptism.

Visually, this is a wonderful Sunday to emphasize water literally and symbolically. If you include the liturgy for Reaffirmation of Baptism during the service, make sure congregants have opportunities to hear and touch the water during the liturgy and when they come forward to remember their baptism. Include flowing blue fabric or floating candles on the altar to provoke thoughts and feelings of water. If you use screens during worship, you might try including a soft video of flowing water during the call to worship or the pastoral prayer. Music can also help give a sense of water. Some congregational songs include "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters" (United Methodist Hymnal 605), "Wade in the Water" (The Faith We Sing 2107), "When Jesus Came to Jordan" (United Methodist Hymnal 252), "Testify" (NeedtoBreathe), and "Water, River, Spirit, Grace" (The Faith We Sing 2253). Instrumental music, like piano and flute, can also provide a sense of peace, serenity, and belonging, especially if the music references familiar hymns and heart songs. These are all ways to invoke multisensory experiences that connect the congregation to the story of Jesus' baptism and to our stories as members of the body of Christ of all times and places.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/baptism-of-the-lord-year-a-lectionary-planning-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 18-19
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 11, 2026

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

OUR STEWARDSHIP

January 04, 2026

Tithes & Offerings:	\$7,828.00
Received To Date:	\$7,828.00
Needed To Date:	TBD

Attendance:	
Sunday School	13
In-person Sunday Worship	43
Online Viewers	115
Total	158

2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN PLEDGE

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](https://www.facebook.com/epworthcolumbus) first: [facebook.com/epworthcolumbus](https://www.facebook.com/epworthcolumbus) or [youtube.com/channel/UCZJhDYHDdeE-dnv5a5nQKjA](https://www.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.

BIBLE STUDIES

-- Noon Bible Study, Wednesday, January 14 in Questors Classroom. The book of Daniel, session 7.

-- Online Zoom, EPEC, Bible Study class, 7 p.m. The book of Exodus, lesson 7. If you are interested in participating, indicate on the back of the Connection Card in the appropriate section or email earnestine@epworthumc.com.

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	

THANK YOU MESSAGES

- Sincere gratitude to the following fundraising and committees for their donations to the General Fund:

United Women of Faith Bake Sale - \$647

United Methodist Men - \$1,000

- On behalf of the Women's Ministry: Thanks to all of the bakers, buyers, & people who donated to the cause! We could not do it without ALL of you!

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.

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD BLESSING

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.*

LEADERS' CONSECRATION SUNDAY

All leaders for the 2026 year, please plan to attend the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, January 18 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

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS DEADLINE

The deadline for contribution givings to be counted on the 2025 statement is Tuesday, January 13. Please mail your contribution, drop-off, or give online (text "Give" to 706-655-6768 or log on to Epworth's Website—select "More", "Donate", then "Give.") and mark your offertory envelope and online giving as "Dec. 31, 2025". If you have any questions, please call or email the church office at 706-322-6973 or church@epworthumc.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

QUARTERLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **Trustees Meeting**, Chair, Glenn Griffin
Tuesday, January 13, 6:00 p.m.
- **SPRC Meeting**, Chair, Michele Lancaster
Tuesday, January 20, 6:00 p.m.
- **Finance Meeting**, Chair, John Grandon; Convener, Donny Davis
Tuesday, January 20, 6:45 p.m.
- **Church Council Meeting**, Chair, Donna Faircloth; Convener, Marguerite Hay
Tuesday, February 03, 6:00 p.m.

*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.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- **Worship Committee Meeting**, Chair, Jeanne Guilbeault
Wednesday, January 21, 11:00 a.m.

*All Worship Committee members, please plan to attend as we plan for the 2026 year.

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 or Vonna Franks at 423-902-6134.

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.

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	

*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!*

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 11, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

*The * Denotes to please stand if able.*

PRELUDE Bob Lee, Music Director

ENTER THE LIGHT OF CHRIST Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER Worship Leader

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Apostles' Creed UMH No. 881

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAISE SONG** "How Great Thou Art" UMH 77 vv 1-4
Led by Susan Dunn, Song Leader

OFFERTORY APPEAL/PRAYER Worship Leader

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.

***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.

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD BLESSING Pastor
Glenn & Vicky Griffin, Stewardship Campaign, Co-Chairs

SHARING OF CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS Rev. Earnestine W. Campbell, Pastor
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

***SCRIPTURE** JOHN 1:1-14 Becky Britton
Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Redeemer" Mandi Battle
Praise & Worship Director
CCLI # 2967303, Song #3149757

SERMON SERIES HOW TO BEGIN AGAIN Pastor

SERMON "IS GOD DOING THE MOST?!" Pastor

***INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP** Pastor
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.

***CLOSING SONG** "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" UMH 133 vv. 1 & 3
Led by Susan Dunn, Song Leader

***LIGHT OF CHRIST BROUGHT OUT INTO THE WORLD** Acolytes

***BENEDICTION** Pastor

***POSTLUDE** Music Director

As we navigate through this season, we want to express our heartfelt concern for everyone's well-being, especially with the rise of COVID, RSV, and the flu. We kindly encourage everyone to refrain from hugging and to practice good hand hygiene as we care for one another. You are always invited to wear a mask.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. May God's blessings be upon you always.