

COMING UP...

JANUARY 25 - FEBRUARY 01

Sunday, January 25

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

Monday, January 26

11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Tuesday, January 27

3:30 p.m. Rose Hill Fellowship Meal Preparation
6:00 p.m. Trustees Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 28

Noon Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Zoom (EPEC) Bible Study

Thursday, January 29

Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, February 01

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



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."
-- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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 DirectorJas'min Vontoure
Children's Ministry AssistantWhitney Mennifee
Custodians.....Martha Conklin
Barbie Webb
Media TechTristan Campbell
Music Director..... Bob Lee
Nursery WorkerMartha Conklin
Pastor Rev. Earnestine Campbell
Praise & Worship Director Mandi Battle



January 25, 2026

CARRYING THE LIGHT

GLORY REVEALED

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY, YEAR A

The light has come. We've received the light and the call to bear the light to all the nations. Got it. Can do. Easy peasy, lemon squeezy. Right?! Well...maybe not. The rubber meets the road when we begin carrying the light into a world that likes to hide things in the shadows, push people to the margins, and threaten anyone who declares that things should be otherwise. We quickly discover that carrying the light doesn't get rid of fear. But, as the psalmist demonstrates this week, the light does show us how to not let fear control us and keep us from living in the glory of God's salvation. I'll let Derek Weber's Preaching Notes speak for themselves, but I do want to pull out a few of the themes he unpacks to inform how we plan worship this week.

First, Psalm 27 shows us that we are called to meet fear with love—not the “warm and fuzzy” kind of love, but the love of togetherness with God and one another. So, during the call to worship or opening prayer, consider how you can acknowledge the fears and troubles that congregants bring with them into the space. This might look like a liturgy of welcoming or a call-and-response prayer that names our troubles and hands them over to God, who tends and cares for the things that weigh on our hearts. In keeping with Psalm 27:4, how might you name your gathering—not the physical space, necessarily, but the people who come together in the space—as part of God's dwelling place? How do we come home together as a community in and with God?

Second, having found our refuge in God, we respond in joyful worship. This joy is not a neglect or willful ignorance of the problems in the world, but a choice to respond in joy because of who God is and what God is doing among us. Perhaps you sing “I have the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart” as a sung response during the prayers of the people, or maybe you have a witness to joy during the response to the proclamation. Or instead of passing the peace, you could pass the joy as a community. If all else fails, let the children lead. We often need the perspective of a child to help us recognize the small, everyday opportunities for joy that surround us!

Finally, seek God. Now, that probably sounds too simplistic and trite, but it is all too real. Search for God at work in the world. Remind the community that we are gathered as followers of God's good news. Not the bad news, not the tragic news, and certainly not the “I'm giving up and moving to Mars” news. We are people of good news because our story begins, ends, and roots its meaning in God's life-giving, never-failing love.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/glory-revealed/third-sunday-after-the-epiphany-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes>

Take a Look Back and Let's Have a Discussion...

Recap of Sermons from January 4 and 11, 2026 (See insert page in the bulletin)

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 20-21
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 25, 2026

Ushers: Donny Davis
Financial Secretary: Steve Sawyer
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

January 18, 2026
(Sunday School and Worship Service were cancelled due to inclement weather)*

Tithes & Offerings:	\$3,127.63
Received To Date:	\$14,673.63
Needed To Date:	TBD

Attendance:	
Sunday School	*N/A
In-person Sunday Worship	*N/A
Online Viewers	95
Total	95

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/UCZJhDYHDeeE-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.

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!

ROSE HILL FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Preparation - Tuesday, January 27 at 3:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

LEADERS' CONSECRATION SUNDAY

All leaders for the 2026 year, please plan to attend the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, January 25 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

BIBLE STUDIES

Wednesday, January 28

-- Noon Bible Study, in Questors Classroom. The book of Daniel, Session 8.

-- 6:30 p.m. Online Zoom, EPEC, Bible Study class. The book of Exodus, lesson 8. If you are interested in participating, indicate on the back of the Connection Card in the appropriate section or email [earnestine@epworthumc.com](#).

WAYS TO SERVE IN 2026

Ways to serve: Serve God in worship and ministry, Aluminum can collecting, purchase of Epworth cookbooks, volunteer with Feeding Our Neighbors at Rose Hill group, participate in the monthly Mission Focus (a different organization each month), join the Prayer Shawl Ministry making shawls, reach out to our homebound and nursing home folks, usher, greet, just to name a few. Direct questions to Bobby Smith or the church office. Let us help you connect! We will be happy to help!

UPCOMING EVENTS
& OPPORTUNITIES

QUARTERLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Trustees Meeting, Chair, Glenn Griffin**
Tuesday, January 27 at 6:00 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 30 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Epworth UMC will host a combined Ash Wednesday service along with other area Methodist churches on February 18 at 6:00 p.m. Rev. Dr. Adriane Burgess, Pastor of St. Mary's Road UMC, will be the guest preacher along with St. Mary's Road choir.

SANCTUARY/ALTAR
FLOWER OPTIONS

If you would like to provide flowers for the sanctuary, the following options are offered:

1. Florist-provided fresh flower arrangement; \$85
2. Seasonal silk flower arrangement; \$40 donation to Epworth's General Fund.
3. Seasonal fresh flower bouquet arranged in-house; \$50 donation to Epworth's General Fund.

Please indicate your preference for the arrangement of your choice on the form attached to the flower calendar in the Welcome Center.

(Lilies, Hydrangeas, and Poinsettias will continue to be offered for purchase during Easter and Christmas.)

Sermon Recaps from January 4 and 11, 2026

Part I - “How to Begin Again” (John 1:1–5)

1. Author and Audience

The Gospel of John was written by the Apostle John, one of Jesus’ closest disciples. Most scholars believe he wrote this Gospel between 65 and 80 AD, during a time of great change and tension for early Christians. John’s audience included both Jews and Gentiles who were learning how to live out their faith in a world filled with different cultures and beliefs. He wrote so that people would know Jesus is the Son of God and that believing in Him gives true and lasting life.

2. The Incarnation: God Became Flesh (vv. 1-3)

John begins his Gospel by connecting back to Genesis 1—the story of creation—where God brought everything into existence by His word. John says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made” (John 1:1-3). This means Jesus was not only present at creation, but everything was created through Him. Then John makes it clear: “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14). God Himself came to earth as a real human being. Jesus is fully God and fully man, and because He lived among us, He understands our lives, struggles, and needs—making Him completely relatable to us.

3. Jesus, the Light and Life (vv. 4-5)

“In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:4-5). Jesus gives spiritual life and reveals God’s truth. Darkness—sin, confusion, despair—cannot defeat Him.

Part II – “Is God Doing the Most?” (John 1:6–18)

4. God’s Active Work: Raising Up a Witness (vv. 6-8)

God not only sent Jesus but also sent John the Baptist as a forerunner, fulfilling Isaiah 40:3 (NIV): “A voice of one calling: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.’” John the Baptist’s mission was to point people to Jesus, the true Light, so that all might believe. John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus, was himself a unique figure—he wore camel’s hair and ate locusts and wild honey (Matthew 3:4). He didn’t come to fit anyone’s expectations or mold, but God chose him with his distinct personality and style to do His will. This reminds us that God uses all kinds of people, with different backgrounds and appearances, to accomplish His purposes.

5. Receiving and Rejecting the Light (vv. 9-13)

Many did not recognize or receive Him (John 1:10–11). But “to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (v. 12). New life and identity begin when we trust and follow Jesus.

6. God Came in the Flesh—Jesus, Fully Human and Fully Divine (vv. 14-15)

John 1:14–15 says, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth... John testified concerning him.” This means that God Himself entered our world as Jesus—taking on a real human body, yet never ceasing to be fully divine. Jesus is not just a figure from history; He is the same yesterday, today, and forever—present at creation, working in our lives now, and reigning over the future. He is omnipresent (everywhere at once), omnipotent (all-powerful), and omniscient (all-knowing). In Jesus, we see God’s glory up close: His power, love, and truth made real in human form, so we can truly know Him and trust Him with every part of our lives.

7. Grace Upon Grace—What It Means (vv. 16-18)

“From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace” (John 1:16). This means God’s kindness, help, and forgiveness are given to us in endless supply through Jesus Christ, but it is not a license to sin. His coming, ministry, death, and resurrection open the door for us to experience God’s grace every day. This is offered to us as a “means of grace” through Christ’s Baptism, which marks us as God’s own, and in Holy Communion, which reminds us of Christ’s sacrifice.

As recipients of grace and followers of Christ, we are called to practice spiritual disciplines—prayer, reading and meditating on Scripture, fasting, spreading the Gospel, evangelism, and serving others. These habits help us grow in faith and reflect God’s love to the world. As followers of Jesus, who is both fully God and fully human, we are called to live out our faith by practicing spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible reading, fasting, sharing the Gospel, evangelism, and serving others. Jesus taught us to forgive others as He forgave us—showing mercy but also setting healthy boundaries when needed. Our daily lives become a testimony to God’s grace when we live this way. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 5:16, “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” When we forgive, serve, and let our light shine, we are living proof that we can begin again with God and His Word. Remember, God has always done the most for us—giving His Son, His Spirit, and daily grace so we can keep starting fresh. With Him, every day is a true new beginning, and He will do the Most in our lives!

Takeaways: How to Begin Again and Let God Do the Most!

- * New beginnings start with Jesus (the Word), who is God in human form and knows our every need.
- * Grace upon grace means we are forgiven, loved, and helped by God every day through Jesus and the sacraments.
- * We live out our faith with spiritual disciplines: prayer, Scripture, fasting, sharing the Gospel, and serving.
- * We are called to forgive others as Jesus forgave us, with wisdom and love. God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way; now, we are called to prepare the way for others by letting our light shine.

Will you receive God’s grace, forgive others, practice these disciplines, and let your light shine this year? With Jesus, every day is a chance to begin again.

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!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 25, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.
Third Sunday after the Epiphany
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 "My Hope Is Built" UMH 368 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.

LEADERS' CONSECRATION Pastor
(See Screen)

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

*SCRIPTURE ISAIAH 49:1-7 DeKara Berry
Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Good Good Father" Mandi Battle
Praise & Worship Director
CCLI # 2967303, Song #7036612

SERMON SERIES HOW TO BEGIN AGAIN Pastor
SERMON "CALLED FROM THE BEGINNING" 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 "Way Maker" Praise & Worship Director
CCLI # 2967303, Song #7115744

*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.