

COMING UP THIS WEEK...

Monday, January 7

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

Tuesday, January 8

10:30 a.m. HIS UMW Goup Meeting

6:30 p.m. AA Group Meeting

Wednesday, January 9

6:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 10

12:00 noon Prayer Team Meeting

12:00 noon Vintage Group Meeting

Saturday, January 12

Fellowship Hall Reserved

6:00 p.m. Dinner & Show

Sunday, January 13

Social Second Sunday

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

2019 FLOWER CALENDAR

Sign up to purchase flowers for the sanctuary in 2019. The 2019 flower calendar is located on the office window. The flower arrangements are \$50 each. Questions or to request a date, call the church office.

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 give our church name when scheduling an appointment at 706-649-6500. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Pastoral Institute is located at 2022 15th Ave., Columbus.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Epworth's members are our ministers.

The professional staff who assist us are:

Choir Director Lyn Pharris

Church Administrator..... Susan Snider

Contemporary Music Director..... Kayla Moss

Custodians..... Martha Conklin & Barbie Webb

Music Director..... Bob Lee

Nursery Worker Martha Conklin

Pastor Tony G. Crosby

CONTACT US

2400 Devonshire Drive

Columbus, GA 31904

Pastor's Cell (706) 329-2484

Church Office (706) 322-6973

www.epworthumc.com

staff's first name@epworthumc.com

(example: tony@epworthumc.com)

Facebook - EpworthUMC.com

Instagram - EpworthUMC.com

Twitter - @EpworthColumbus

CONTACTING YOU

Most of the church's communication is through e-mail and texting. We send two e-mails each week—a newsletter on Monday and a sermon preview on Friday and texts during the week. We also use e-mail to send important meeting reminders and other information. Epworth has a free text messaging solution hosted by Remind. Sign up now by texting '@epworth1' to 81010. Help us contact you by making sure the church office has your current e-mail address.

 **epworth**
united methodist church

January 6, 2019

Lights, Lies, and Loot

Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."
Matthew 2:8 (NRSV)

Today is the Feast of the Epiphany. It doesn't often fall on a Sunday, so it is a rare opportunity for us to get to celebrate on the actual day of this observance rather than the nearest Sunday.

This story contains the best and worst of humanity all at once, as so much of the scripture does. We have the beauty and majesty of kings from the East observing the rising of the star and interpreting from the heavens the birth of him who is to be called King of the Jews. They bring the best of gifts to offer him—gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Then, we have the insecurity of King Herod on display as he lashes out in paranoia ordering the deaths of all infants ages two and younger in order to ensure that this threat to his power is vanquished. God's power and providence is at work in this story so Herod's orders do nothing but cause unimaginable anguish and grief for thousands of families. But God's plan is still in order to work itself out through the story of Jesus Christ.

By talking about "lights, lies, and loot," I am intending to draw together the extremes of our human experience. The light of the world has come, but the people prefer darkness rather than light. The "loot" that the wise men brought Jesus, seen by many as the financial means by which they endured the flight to Egypt until it was safe for them to return home, is particularly ironic because the escape to Egypt wouldn't have been needed if the wise men had never come seeking to worship him who would be called the King of the Jews.

So, in spite of the craziness and unpredictability of this world and our deeply held Wesleyan understanding of free will, we have to trust that in many ways God's greater powers and plans are at work. We cannot always understand how or why, but we have to trust that if we come to Christ offering to worship him and give to him that somehow, God's plans will be honored and his purposes will play out.

So, let's walk into the world of lights, lies, and loot on this beautiful Epiphany Sunday.

In Christ,



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

Happy New Year!

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

The Children's Class (K-5)

Teacher: Margaret Gosden, Terresa Salter

The Youth Class

Teacher: Class

The Friendship Class

Study: Hold Fast to God's Love

Teacher: Class

The Genesis Class

Study: If You Are Going the Wrong Way...

Teacher: Leslie Morris

The Joy Class

Study: Class Discussion

Teacher: Class

The Nathan Patterson/Wesley Class

Study: Exodus I

Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class

Study: Class Discussion

Teacher: Class

The Questors Class

Study: Class Discussion

Teacher: Class

The Seekers Class

Study: Class Discussion

Teacher: Suzy Revell

The Young Adult Class

Study: Jesus & the Beanstalk

Teacher: Becky Britton

SERVANTS NEEDED IN 2019

9 a.m. Ushers: 1st-3rd Sundays

11 a.m. Ushers: 2nd and 4th Sundays

Children's Sunday School Helper: 2nd-5th Sundays

Children's Church: 9 a.m.: 2nd-5th Sundays
11 a.m.: 4th Sundays

Greeter 9 a.m.: 2nd Sundays

Turn Key: 1st and 5th Sundays

If you feel led to volunteer or would like more information, please contact the church office.

There are other ministries within and outside the church where you may feel led to volunteer. For more info on these ministries, contact someone from the Missions Committee.

THOSE WHO SERVE

January 6, 2019

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Becky Britton, Janie Nellums

Usher: Diane Morris

Acolyte: Usher

Children's Church: Janie Nellus, Whitney Weyeneth

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Susan Davis, Chuck Salter

Ushers: Donny Davis, Doug Revell

Acolyte: Eva Cherai, Jake DiSimone

Children's Church: Debra Johnson

Nursery Volunteer: Lisa Crosby

Financial Secretary: Steve Sawyer

Turn Key: Rev. Tony Crosby

OUR STEWARDSHIP

December 30, 2018

Tithes & Offerings: \$15,394.26

Received To Date: \$312,420.26

Needed To Date: \$329,985.76

Attendance:

Sunday School 35

Worship: 11 a.m. 76

YOUTH & CHILDREN

Youth Meeting Day Change - The youth will begin meeting on Sundays. Tentative start date is January 13, at 5 p.m. Look for more information to follow.

Wacky Wednesdays - begins on January 16, at 6:30 p.m. The children's program includes lessons, crafts, and songs. For children Pre-K to 5th grade.

Recycle Your Christmas Cards - The children are collecting the fronts of used Christmas cards to use for a project. Donate yours by placing them in the box on the mission cart.

MISSIONS

January Mission Focus - Southwest Georgia Storm Relief - January will offer us an opportunity to continue to reach out to our neighbors to the south of us as they recover from the recent hurricane. We will receive offerings throughout the month of January. We are also looking for opportunities to take volunteers to join mission teams as they actively work in the area. Watch your e-mail and bulletin for more information.

Feeding Our Neighbors at Rose Hill - Tuesday, January 29. Preparations begin at 5:15 p.m.; serving at 5:45 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering to serve or help to prepare the meal, contact Debra Johnson or Becky Britton.

Wynnton Neighborhood Network Nov. & Dec. 2018 Report - The Network served 3,508 bags of food to 876 families which included 1,036 children during both months. We helped 95 families with utilities spending \$6,467.37. Epworth provided approximately 63 bags of food that were distribute for Thanksgiving.

THANK YOU

Your Epworth staff and our families would like to thank the congregation for your generous gifts to the staff appreciation. We are truly blessed to be in ministry with you all.

MEMORIAM & HONORARIUM

Given to the December Mission in memory of Bill Pharris by Helen Pharris.

A donation to the Choir Fund received from Buddy and Susan Dunn is in appreciation for Stacey Pruet's special help while we were both ill, and also for Jamie Johnson and Doug & Vonna Franks helping Jeff Stolpa with Wednesday supper preparations while we were unable to be there.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting - Monday, January 7, at 10 a.m., in the fellowship hall.

UMM Meeting - Monday, January 7, at 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall.

Finance Committee Meeting - Monday, January 7, at 7:30 p.m., in the Questors classroom.

HIS UMW Group Meeting - Tuesday, January 8, at 10:30 a.m., in the fellowship hall. Our hostess will be Becky Britton, who will also present our program. Bring your mission items for Open Door Showering program. As you are able, bring the dish for which you signed up.

Vintage Group Meeting - Thursday, January 10, at 12 noon, at Cook's Hotdogs near Moon Rd. Sign up for lunch reservations on the information board.

Dinner & Show - Saturday, January 12, at 6 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Your donation of \$15 will go to augment our budget. The United Methodist Men want to give you an evening of good food and great music with pianist extraordinaire, Tony Crosby, as he serenades you with a variety of selections. Then, relive a moment in time as the king of Rock & Roll's 1973 Aloha from Hawaii concert is recreated. Limited seating. Purchase your tickets today!

Wednesday Night Supper & Study - begins January 16, at 6 p.m. Make reservations by signing up on the information board, emailing or calling the church office. Menu: baked spaghetti, garlic toast, salad and dessert. A Bible study/devotion begins at 6:30 p.m., each week.

Church Council Meeting - Tuesday, January 22, at 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship Hall.

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

Fred & Emilie Carswell	Jimmy Bridges	Gladys Plant	Trudy Harris
Vanessa Desoto	Ron & Betty Sawyer	Thrower Family	Sibyl Wells
Keri McElvey	Barbara Stubbs	Kernodle Family	Barbara Watson
Helen Batastini	Lillian Wooldridge	Annette Taff	Daniel Family
Elsie & Jim Spanogians	Andrea Carbaugh		

Extended Church Family

Steve & Carol Guilbeault	Michael Taff	David Olson	Doyle Adams
Dotty Baker	Ricky Clark	Robbins Family	Andrew Wade
Laurie Osteen	Preston Silvernail	Dora Spires	Willie Ryles
Judy Patterson	Cassie Prochaska	Billy Hill	Kim Jordan
Dorothy Ogg	Bruce Chapman	Charles Holmes	Marilyn Buck
Danny Chidester	Beth Goodwin	Luby Family	Garnett Shackelford
Adams Family	Ellen Pilgreen	Jessica Kelley	Dana Thurston
Ralph & Sandy McGough	Diane Wiggins	Stephanie Bryan	Robin Grantham
McDaniel Family	Hattie Campbell	Mark Oliver	David Garner

Assisted Living/Nursing Home

Covenant Woods - Linda Coleman, Carol Osteen	River Place - Betty Cummings, Elizabeth Harbert, Jane Sanders
Kings Bridge (Atlanta, GA) - Blount King	
Magnolia Manor - Doris Halouska, Cammie Van Over	River Towne Center - Jerry Williams
Phenix City Health Care - Anne Whitehurst	The Lodge (Bessemer, AL) - Lorene Carlisle
	Wesley Glen (Byron, GA) - Nancy Hiller

Please continue to pray for our homebound people. They would love a visit!

If the prayer list needs to be updated, please call, email the church office, or leave a note with updates. 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


