

COMING UP...

Sunday, January 20

5:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting

Monday, January 21

6:30 p.m. SPRC Meeting

Tuesday, January 22

6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

6:30 p.m. AA Group Meeting

Wednesday, January 23

6:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Wednesday Supper

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Wacky Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 24

12:00 noon Prayer Team Meeting

Sunday, January 27

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

PASTORAL COUNSELING

Our church is continuing our partnership with The Pastoral Institute in 2019 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.

2019 FLOWER CALENDAR

Sign up to purchase flowers for the sanctuary. The calendar is on the office window. Arrangements are \$50 each. To request a date, call or email the church office. Most January-March Sundays are available.

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 ensuring the church office has your current e-mail address.

 epworth
united methodist church

January 20, 2019

Obstacles to Obedience: Me

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

Romans 7:15 (NRSV)

Lord, lead me not into temptation. I can find it all by myself.

Unknown

The pope has made big news recently by suggesting that a phrase in the Lord's Prayer is not a good translation of the original. He has waded into quite a theological debate. By praying "lead us not into temptation", there is the implication that the Lord is the one who tempts. Some translations say "save us from the time of trial". This past Advent, the Roman Catholic Church in France used new language. The Catholic faithful are no longer saying: "Do not submit to temptation" but "Do not let us enter into temptation."

Theologians have argued for years about the real source of temptation. I still believe in the reality that God has a genuine adversary in Satan. Others have given up on the idea of Satan altogether. But it didn't surprise me when I began to ask about what people see as obstacles to discipleship in their life that one of the top answers would be ourselves.

Paul saw this clearly. When writing about the spiritual struggle within, Paul gave us some of my favorite verses of the Bible. Paul doesn't understand his own actions. The things he wants to do he doesn't and the things he wants to avoid he does anyway. Paul is struggling within his own self in a way that all of us know all too well.

One of my favorite sayings is, "Lord, lead me not into temptation. I can find it all by myself." Perhaps the pope is really on to something. It sure seems that much of the time I don't need anybody's help to do the wrong thing and be the wrong kind of person. I seem to slip into that without much trouble. It is maybe the best argument ever for the original sinful nature. We just know we are "prone to wander" as the old hymn says.

So today, we begin to look at the things that come between us and the relationship with God that we desire. Before we get into much detail, we are going to acknowledge that in many ways we are our own worst enemy. If we can get past us, well we can do great things. The good news is God is ready to help us do exactly that.

In Christ,



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

To order sanctuary flowers, see above.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

The Children's Class (K-5)

Teacher: Margaret Gosden, Terresa Salter

The Youth Class

Teacher: David Hay

The Friendship Class

Study: Submit to God in Christ

Teacher: Rev. tim Paulk

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 3

Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class

Study: Class Discussion

Teacher: Class

The Questors Class

Study: Submit to God in Christ

Teacher: Glenn Griffin

The Seekers Class

Study: Class Discussion

Teacher: Suzy Revell

The Young Adult Class

Study: Jesus & the Beanstalk

Teacher: Becky Britton

YOUTH & CHILDREN

Youth Group Meeting - Sunday, January 20, at 5:30 p.m. in the youth room. You're welcome to invite a friend.

Wacky Wednesdays - each week at 6:30 p.m. The children's program includes lessons, crafts, and songs and is for children Pre-K to 5th grade. Join us for supper at 6 p.m.

Youth & Children Sunday School Classes - For a great lesson, wonderful fellowship in a Safe Sanctuaries approved environment, classes are by age/grade beginning at 10 a.m.

THOSE WHO SERVE

January 20, 2019

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Debra Johnson, Anne Wilson

Usher: Volunteer

Acolyte: Usher

Children's Church: Whitney Weyeneth

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Bobby & Carolyn Knox, Maxine Willis

Ushers: David Hay, Fraser Wooldridge

Acolytes: Eva Cherai, C. S. DiSimone

Children's Church: Becky Britton

Nursery Volunteer: Lillian Wooldridge

Financial Secretary: Lillian Wooldridge

Turn Key: James Johnson

OUR STEWARDSHIP

January 13, 2019

Tithes & Offerings: \$4,329.04

Received To Date: \$13,970.04

Needed To Date: Waiting on Budget Approval

Attendance:

Sunday School 73

Worship: 9 a.m. 48

Worship: 11 a.m. 65

Total 113

SERVANTS NEEDED IN 2019

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

11 a.m. Ushers: 2nd 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

To volunteer or for more information, contact the church office. Other ministries within and outside the church are in need of willing hearts and hands. For more info on these ministries, contact someone from the Missions Committee.

MISSIONS

January Mission Focus - Southwest Georgia Storm Relief - We are continuing to reach out to our neighbors to the south 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. Contact Debra Johnson or Becky Britton to volunteer to serve or help with meal preparation.

Join the Home Communion Team - One of the most important ministries in our church is keeping homebound members connected to worship and the sacraments. Our Home Communion team works to ensure that communion is served at least quarterly to members of our church and others who desire it. If you'd like to be a part of this team, we will have a meeting after the 11 a.m. worship service on February 3. You can be trained and placed on the schedule. Contact Bryan Pruet or Tony Crosby if you are interested in joining the team.

Opportunities to Serve - Home Communion servers, Helping Hands Ministry, aluminum can recycling, purchase of Epworth cookbooks, Feeding Our Neighbors at Rose Hill, Open Door Showering Program, Prayer Shawl Ministry, collection of aluminum can tabs for Ronald McDonald House, Box Tops for Education, medical equipment and plastic caps and lids. Ushers, greeters and turn keys are always needed. Direct questions to Becky Britton, Barbara Stubbs or the church office.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Staff-Parrish Relations Committee Meeting
Monday, January 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the Questors classroom.

Church Council Meeting - Tuesday, January 22, at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Contact Debra Johnson with questions or regrets.

Wednesday Night Supper & Study- January 23 at 6 p.m. Make reservations by signing up on the information board, emailing or calling the church office. Menu: baked chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, roasted veggies, rolls, salad and dessert. Join us as Tony brings the study series, *Come to the Table*, which begins at 6:30 p.m. each week.

Ladies Bible Study - Every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in the Questors classroom. Contact Debra Johnson if interested in attending.

Prayer Team Meeting - Thursdays at noon at the church in the Nathan Patterson classroom.

Reachers UMW Group Meeting - Tuesday, January 29, at 3 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Meeting Reminders and Announcements to Be E-Mail Only - In order to be good stewards of the church's resources and reduce unnecessary postage costs, we will generally no longer send postcards to announce committee and council meetings. Postcards are often slow to be delivered and are now an unneeded expense and task for the office staff. Most meetings will have announcements in the bulletin as well, but we will always notify via e-mail. If you are not receiving the twice weekly e-mail newsletters from the church, please contact us to be sure we have your preferred e-mail address on file, so you can receive these important notices.

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Fred & Emilie Carswell | Jimmy Bridges | Gladys Plant | Andrea Carbaugh |
| 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 | | | |

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 | David Garner | Dana Thurston |
| Ralph & Sandy McGough | Diane Wiggins | Stephanie Bryan | Robin Grantham |
| McDaniel Family | Hattie Campbell | Mark Oliver | |

Assisted Living/Nursing Home

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

A letter from Mrs. Sue Hiers of Wynnton Neighborhood Network on the impact Epworth made for Muscogee County residents in 2018.

Good afternoon all!

I hope everyone is having a healthy and prosperous New Year. Unfortunately, last year was a record year for the Network. Thanks to your extraordinary generosity we were able to meet the food needs of 4,550 families during the year. Those families contained 11,900 people, including 5,450 children. That was just six families more than our previous record year of 2015 and more than 200 greater than last year. This year's families had 650 more people than in 2015 and 700 more than last year. This year is starting out with a very high demand for our services as well.

Our mission is to provide an emergency source of food for people in temporary need. Of the families we served last year, two-thirds came to us only once for help. Another 21% came to us a second time, while 7% came to us three times and only 5% came all four times allowed per year. In addition, approximately two-thirds of the people who came to us in 2017, did not come back in 2018. That means your generosity gets spread to many more people, not just a few.

We also stretch the resources you provide, so we can serve more people in need. Last year, we spent approximately \$60,000 on groceries, or roughly \$13 per family. That money provides an average of 50-60 pounds of food which includes fresh vegetables and frozen meat, as well as, canned and dry goods and toiletries.

We also assisted 475 families with electricity and gas for about \$32,000; about 75 fewer than last year.

May God bless you all for your amazing generosity and please continue to remember us in the coming year.

Sue Cheney Hiers
Wynnton Neighborhood Network