

# COMING UP...

## FEBRUARY 01 - FEBRUARY 08

### Sunday, February 01

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

### Monday, February 02

11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

### Tuesday, February 03

6:00 p.m. Church Council Committee Meeting

### Wednesday, February 04

1:15 p.m. Bible Study  
6:30 p.m. Zoom (EPEC) Bible Study

### Thursday, February 05

Noon Prayer Team

### Sunday, February 08

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](http://www.epworthumc.com)

[toni@epworthumc.com](mailto:toni@epworthumc.com)

(example: [earnestine@epworthumc.com](mailto: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 Director .....	Jas'min Vontoure
Children's Ministry Assistant .....	Whitney Mennifee
Custodians.....	Martha Conklin
	Barbie Webb
Media Tech .....	Tristan Campbell
Music Director.....	Bob Lee
Nursery Worker .....	Martha Conklin
Pastor .....	Rev. Earnestine Campbell
Praise & Worship Director .....	Mandi Battle



February 01, 2026

## “CALLED FROM THE BEGINNING”

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY, YEAR A

Sunday's sermon was from the text, Isaiah 49:1-7 with the Sermon Title, “Called from the Beginning.” The call of God is never about personal greatness or perfection; it is about responding to His purpose. Isaiah's journey began with a vision in which he confessed his own brokenness, admitting he was a man of unclean lips among a people with the same need (Isaiah 6). Yet when God asked, “Whom shall I send?” Isaiah stepped forward, offering himself as he was. This is God's pattern: calling ordinary people, aware of their flaws, and inviting them into His greater plan.

Isaiah 49:1-7 shifts the focus to the Servant, whose message reaches far beyond Israel. In verse 1, the Servant proclaims that God's call came before birth, showing that God's plan is in motion long before we realize it. Isaiah's calling points to a greater Servant, Jesus Christ, chosen from the beginning to bring salvation not just to Israel but to the whole world. Verse 2 describes the Servant's preparation, comparing it to a sharpened sword and polished arrow, ready and set aside until the right time. Jesus, God in the flesh, lived in obscurity before His ministry began, showing that God's preparation is intentional and purposeful.

Verse 4 speaks to the honest frustration that often comes with following God's call: “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand, and my reward is with my God.” Both Isaiah and Jesus experienced rejection and disappointment. Isaiah saw his message ignored; Jesus was misunderstood, betrayed, and crucified. Still, both placed their trust in God, knowing that faithfulness is never wasted and that God's purpose will prevail, even amid difficulty and apparent failure. God uses what looks like failure in our eyes, in the systems of others, and in the world's understanding as stepping stones toward His mission and our true success. We simply need to trust Him, our calling, and the process.

God's vision for His Servant is expansive. In verse 6, God says, “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob... I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.” The Servant's assignment is not limited to one group but is meant to bring hope to all people. Jesus fulfills this mission by bringing God's light to every nation. Even when the Servant is despised, as described in verse 7, God assures that honor and recognition will come at the appointed time.

The passage centers on Jesus, the Servant called from the beginning, the Redeemer for a rebellious people, and the true light for the nations. Isaiah's life and message help prepare the way, and now we are invited to respond. How do we move forward? First, see yourself as God does: chosen, named, and prepared with purpose. Second, remember your calling is meant to reach others—consider who needs to experience God's light through you this week. Third, live with hope and urgency, letting your life reflect the reality of Jesus, both suffering Savior and coming King. Finally, step forward with humility and courage, trusting that the God who called you from the beginning will accomplish His work in you and through you. Let us carry Christ's light everywhere we go and in all we do and say. *Amen.*

*“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**

February 01, 2026

Ushers: David Hay

Financial Secretary: Donny Davis

Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

## **OUR STEWARDSHIP**

January 25, 2026

Tithes & Offerings:	\$9,740.00
Received To Date:	\$24,413.63
Needed To Date:	TBD

Attendance:	
Sunday School	14
In-person Sunday Worship	46
Online Viewers	117
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>

## **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 worshiping by livestream are: Put the name epworthumc first: [facebook.com/epworthcolumbus](https://facebook.com/epworthcolumbus) or [youtube.com/channel/UCZJhDYHDeeE-dnv5a5nQKjA](https://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.

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

4 Leah Flynn Stewart	22 Alison Bullock
6 James Johnson	Melonie Phillips
10 Cheryl Jandreau	23 Earnestine Campbell
14 Virginia Etter	26 Emma Davis
16 Billy Bickerstaff	Mason Friend
17 Kyndel Clark Niggemann	27 J. C. DiSimone
19 Mary Lee Crews	Mike Morris

## MISSIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS

### **FEBRUARY MISSION**

**February Mission Opportunity** - Our February Mission is "Casseroles for a Cause." Our casseroles serve the Fellowship at Rose Hill as well as needs of church members. The following items are requested: 50 pull top cans of Cream of Chicken soup. Cash donations are appreciated and will be used to purchase perishable casserole ingredients. Mark your donation "Casseroles" on your offertory envelope. Thanks!

**Calling all Cooks!** Epworth will have a "Casserole Party!" Our goal is to make at least 20 casseroles to be used for meals with the Fellowship at Rose Hill, as well as meeting the needs of our church family. Come on down and join in the fun for our first party of 2026! We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, February 10 at 1:00 p. m. See you then!

## **BIBLE STUDIES**

Wednesday, February 04

-- 1:15 p.m. Bible Study, in Questors Classroom. The book of Daniel, Session 8, Chapter 7.

-- 6:30 p.m. Online Zoom, EPEC, Bible Study class. The book of Exodus, lesson 9. If you are interested in participating, indicate on the back of the Connection Card in the appropriate section or email [earnestine@epworthumc.com](mailto:earnestine@epworthumc.com).

## **UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH (UWF) BOOK STUDY**

The UWF is hosting a book study on *The Color of Compromise* by Jemar Tisby, an insightful look at the American Church's history, race, and practices. Rev. Earnie has been asked to facilitate this study, and all women are invited to join as we learn how history can inform and help enlighten our understanding of how Church and race impact the body of Christ as we continue in growing as a "Beloved community" in the Body of Christ. Sessions are via Zoom on Mondays at 6 p.m., starting February 16 and continuing monthly through May. To register, use the following link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/110Qt5rwiRVW3hheplbyeyzn5trzXdeF6q48hyd2STeA/edit>. Book link: [amazon.com/Color-Compromise-American-Churhcs-Complicity/dp/0310113601/ref](https://amazon.com/Color-Compromise-American-Churhcs-Complicity/dp/0310113601/ref).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **& OPPORTUNITIES**

## QUARTERLY COMMITTEE

### **MEETINGS**

-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.

## **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.)

## EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

### Church Family

Lloyd Britton  
Rebecca Britton  
Deborah Cooper  
Buddy Dunn  
Susan Dunn  
John Grandon  
Jeanne Guilbeault  
Chester Jakes

Cheryl Jandreau  
Natalie Kernodle  
Bob Lee  
Linda Lee  
Mildred Rodgers  
Ann Smith  
Susan Stark

Annette Taff  
Michael Taff  
Marjean Waters  
Lillian Wooldridge

Mary Lee Crews & Family  
James and Donna Faircloth & Family  
Frank Karastury & Family  
Earl & Melonie Phillips & Family

Ron Sawyer & Family  
Ann Smith & Family  
Barre' and Steve Whittington and Family  
Family of Myra Tucker

### Extended Church Family

Patricia Waldo  
Dora Spires  
Billy Hill  
Carol Hall  
Beth Goodwin  
Hattie Campbell  
Cristina Mattocks  
Ann Mitchell  
James & Sue Flowers  
Maggie Smith  
Roger Buterbaugh  
George Bowen  
Tammy White  
Bertha Robinson

Steve Guilbeault  
Willie Ryles  
Kim Jordan  
Charles Holmes  
McDaniel Family  
Robin Grantham  
David Garner  
Patricia Jefferson  
Robert Wagers  
Hazel Dullin  
Diane Propst  
Martha Bone  
Sam Wilson  
Nona Robinson

Robbins Family  
Judy Patterson  
Grier Family  
Marilyn Buck  
Stephanie Bryan  
Dana Thurston  
Kathy McClintock  
Susan Land  
Sarah Browder  
Family of Neil Gergun  
Diane McGough  
Martha Bone  
Sam Wilson  
Nona Robinson

Kuester Family  
Cassie Prochaska  
Bruce Chapman  
Danny Chidester  
Adams Family  
Diane Wiggins  
Amanda Kinsman Vines  
Aundre Smith  
Mary Kennedy  
Janna Family  
Davis/Osborne Family  
Linda Walker

### Independent/Assisted Living/Nursing Home

Oaks @ Maple Ridge - Helen Pharris  
Kings Bridge (Atlanta, GA) - Blount King  
River Place - Anne Wilson  
Oaks @ Grove Park - Ron Sawyer

The Lodge (Bessemer, AL) - Lorene Carlisle  
Wesley Glen (Byron, GA) - Nancy Hiller

*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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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