

COMING UP...

FEBRUARY 08 - FEBRUARY 15

**Sunday, February 08**  
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person &  
Online & Children's Church  
Holy Communion  
Children's and Family Ministry will meet  
immediately following Worship Service.  
UMM will meet immediately following Worship  
Service.

**Monday, February 09**  
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba  
1:00 p.m. New Life

**Tuesday, February 10**  
11:30 Grief/Caregiver Support Luncheon  
1:00 p.m. Casserole "Party" in the Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, February 11**  
Noon Bible Study  
6:30 p.m. Zoom (EPEC) Bible Study

**Thursday, February 12**  
Noon Prayer Team

**Sunday, February 15**  
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person &  
Online & Children's Church



**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](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 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

*The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of  
Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

 **epworth**  
united methodist church

February 08, 2026

"CALLED FROM THE BEGINNING"

FIFTH 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.*

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*"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 08, 2026

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

OUR STEWARDSHIP

February 01, 2026  
(Sunday School and Worship Service were cancelled due to inclement weather)\*

Tithes & Offerings: \$2,901.88  
Received To Date: \$27,315.51  
Needed To Date: TBD

Attendance:  
Sunday School \*N/A  
In-person Sunday Worship \*N/A  
Online Viewers 87  
Total 87

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.

BIBLE STUDIES

Wednesday, February 11

-- Noon Bible Study, in Questors Classroom. The book of Daniel, Sessions 7 & 8, Chapter 7.

-- 6:30 p.m. Online Zoom, EPEC, Bible Study class. The book of Exodus, lessons 9 & 10. If you are interested in participating, indicate on the back of the Connection Card in the appropriate section or email [earnestine@epworthumc.com](#).

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

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!

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is extended to Steve and Barre' Whittington, whose son, Trevor Whittington, passed away on Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

Please be in contact and prayer with Steve and Barre'.  
*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

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/110Qt5rwiRVW3hheplbyeyzn5trzXd eF6q48hyd2STeA/edit>. Book link: [amazon.com/Color-Compromise-American-Churchs-Complicity/dp/0310113601/ref](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS  
& OPPORTUNITIES

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

**Mark Your Calendar! As we're eagerly waiting for the season of the Journey of Christ to the Cross, please keep the following dates in mind. More details to follow:**

Ash Wednesday Service - February 18

Palm Sunday Service - March 29

Holy Thursday Service - April 02

Good Friday Service - April 03

Easter Sunday Service - April 05

ASH WEDNESDAY

Epworth UMC will host a combined Ash Wednesday service along with other area United 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.

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY  
MINISTRY

The Children's, Youth, & Family Ministry will meet immediately after Worship Service on Sunday, February 08. We will discuss preparations for the Easter play and other youth related activities. All interested persons are invited to attend. Chair: Patricia Bronson

GRIEF/CAREGIVER SUPPORT  
MEETING

Grief / Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next Support Meeting will be a luncheon on Tuesday, February 10, at 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Martha Conklin at 706-329-0629 or Vonna Franks at 423-902-6134.

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

February 08, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.

Fifth 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 Marguerite Hay, Worship Leader

\*CONFESSION & PARDON UMH No. 12

**People: Merciful God,  
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have failed to be an obedient church.  
We have not done your will,  
we have broken your law,  
we have rebelled against your love,  
we have not loved our neighbors,  
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

**Leader:** Forgive us, we pray.  
Free us for joyful obedience,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
Hear the good news:  
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God's love toward us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

\*PRAISE SONG "Medley: Majesty, Worship His Majesty/He is Lord" UMH 176/177  
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 Worshipers, text or go to [epworthumc.com](http://epworthumc.com) and select "Donate." On Communion Sunday, please place your Communion Offering in the basket near the altar.*

OFFERTORY SELECTION "I Can Only Imagine" David Hay

\*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.

SHARING OF CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS Rev. Earnestine W. Campbell, Pastor

*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

\*SCRIPTURE MICAH 6:1-8 Patricia Bronson

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Holy Forever" Mandi Battle  
Praise & Worship Director  
CCLI # 2967303, Song #7201044

SERMON SERIES HOW TO BEGIN AGAIN Pastor

SERMON "WHAT GOD REALLY WANTS" 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.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION Pastor & Congregation  
(See screen)

**Invitation** UMH No. 12  
**The Great Thanksgiving** UMH No. 13-14  
**Liturgy**  
**The Lord's Prayer**  
**The Giving of the Bread and Cup** UMH No. 14-15

\*CLOSING SONG "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power" Praise & Worship Director  
CH 334 vv. 1,2

\*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.*