

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



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

toni@epworthumc.com
(example: 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 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.*

“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

In-person Sunday Worship

Online Viewers

Total

*N/A

*N/A

87

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 worshiping 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
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
	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!

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/110Qt5rwiRVW3hheplbyeyzn5trzXdEF6q48hyd2STeA/edit>. Book link: amazon.com/Color-Compromise-American-Churhcs-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
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
Ralph & Sandy McGough
Danny Snider & Family
Michelle Slappy
Rev. Tim Pauk

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 08, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

The * Denotes to please stand if able.

PRELUDE

ENTER THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

*CONFESSON & PARDON

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

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.

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.

Rev. Earnestine W. Campbell, Pastor

Bob Lee, Music Director

Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

Marguerite Hay, Worship Leader

UMH No. 12

SHARING OF CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

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

SERMON

"WHAT GOD REALLY WANTS"

Pastor

Pastor

*INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

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

The Great Thanksgiving

Liturgy

The Lord's Prayer

The Giving of the Bread and Cup

UMH No. 12
UMH No. 13-14

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.