

COMING UP...

FEBRUARY 15 - FEBRUARY 22

Sunday, February 15

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

Wednesday, February 18

6:00 p.m. Epworth UMC will host a  
combined **Ash Wednesday** service  
along with other area United Methodist  
churches.

\* *No Bible Study Classes*

Thursday, February 19

Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, February 22

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](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



February 15, 2026

WHAT GOD REALLY WANTS: MICAH 6:1-8

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Introduction: A Divine Courtroom Drama

Micah 6:1-8 opens with a striking image: God summons His people into a cosmic courtroom, with the mountains and hills as witnesses. This scene isn't just for ancient Israel and Judah, but for every generation that wonders what God truly desires. In Micah's time, society was marked by injustice, corruption, and empty ritual—a world not so different from our own. The question posed to God's people then is the same for us today: What does God really want from us, as His followers?

Country in Crisis: The World of Micah

Micah preached during a tumultuous era of economic inequality, political instability, and spiritual confusion. The powerful seized land, the vulnerable suffered, and even religious leaders were swept up in corruption. Idolatry reigned, and rituals had become hollow traditions. Yet, in the midst of this chaos, God's voice broke through—not with condemnation alone, but with a call to remember His faithfulness: how He delivered His people from Egypt, guided them through the wilderness, and blessed them against all odds.

The Heart of the Matter: God Calls the Roll

God's challenge to His people is both gentle and piercing: "My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you?" (Micah 6:3). The people, in turn, thought religious rituals and sacrifices would satisfy God. But their outward actions masked hearts untouched by justice, mercy, or humility—the opposite of the "fruit of the Spirit." Through Micah, God reveals that He is not interested in empty ceremony; He wants an authentic relationship and ethical living. God's requirements are clear and simple: act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him (Micah 6:8). This is a call to integrity in our dealings, compassion in our relationships, and deep humility before God. Where do we see today that people, leaders, and ourselves are acting antithetical to God's ways?

Living Out God's Requirements: Justice, Mercy, and Humility

Micah's words echo through the centuries as a timeless pattern for genuine faith. Acting justly means standing up for the oppressed and ensuring fairness in every sphere of life. Loving mercy calls us to embody kindness and forgiveness, especially when it is hard. Walking humbly, not arrogantly, anchors us in dependence on God, keeps pride in check, and opens us to His transformation instead of ours and the world. These themes are not theoretical ideals but practical commands that tell us how we interact at home, at work, and in our communities. Like the original audience, we are commanded by God to move beyond ritual into a faith that changes the world around us, including those near and far.

Final Thoughts and a Challenge: The Fruit of the Spirit in Action

In the sermon, as we closed, I challenged our congregation to put Micah's message into action by living out the fruit of the Spirit described in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. This week, let's apply these qualities in our lives, our relationships, our workplaces, and every place where we connect with others. By doing so, we answer God's call—not with empty words, but with lives marked by justice, mercy, and humility, through an internal change within our hearts, actions, and thoughts. That is what God really wants, and that is how our Christian faith can transform not just ourselves but also others who need to know the truth about how we are to live in humanity and to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. (Matthew 28:19)

-----  
*"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 22-24  
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 15, 2026

Ushers: Becky Britton & Diona Bronson  
Financial Secretary: Patricia Bronson  
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

February 08, 2026

Tithes & Offerings: \$8,861.08  
Received To Date: \$36,176.59  
Needed To Date: TBD

Attendance:  
Sunday School 14  
In-person Sunday Worship 49  
Online Viewers 74  
Total 113

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](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.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Leah Flynn Stewart

6 James Johnson

10 Cheryl Jandreau

14 Virginia Etter

16 Billy Bickerstaff

17 Kyndel Clark Niggemann

19 Mary Lee Crews
- 22 Alison Bullock  
Melonie Phillips

23 Earnestine Campbell

26 Emma Davis  
Mason Friend

27 J. C. DiSimone  
Mike Morris

CHRISTIAN CHARITY

Epworth has a new kitchen freezer! The new freezer was donated by Robert "Bobby" Smith, to the glory of God and in memory of Matilda Milner Smith.  
- Epworth UMC is grateful for the generosity.

CHILDREN & YOUTH GAME NIGHT

Children & Youth Game Night - Our next Game Night is Friday, March 13, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. All Epworth children/youth are encouraged to invite friends to come out for the Word, snacks, fun, and fellowship!

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!

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study classes will not be held Wednesday, February 18 because of Ash Wednesday Service.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes will begin in March 2026 for youth ages 12 to 17! Confirmation is a journey where young people deepen their understanding of faith, learn about the teachings of UMC, and become professing members of our church through their baptized faith and baptism preparation. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to this spiritually enriching experience, developing their growth and commitment to God and the church. Don't miss this opportunity to support your child's faith journey!

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](https://amazon.com/Color-Compromise-American-Churchs-Complicity/dp/0310113601/ref).

UPCOMING EVENTS  
& OPPORTUNITIES

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Mark Your Calendar! Join us this Lenten Season as we engage in the Journey of Christ to the Cross.

Lenten Season - Wednesday, February 18 through Saturday, April 04, 2026. For fasting disciplines, see the color insert.

Ash Wednesday Service - February 18 at 6:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday Service - March 29 at 10:30 a.m.

Holy Thursday Service - April 02 at 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday - April 03

Easter Sunday Service - April 05: Breakfast- 8:45 a.m.; Easter Play - 9:30 a.m.; Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.; Easter Egg Hunt - immediately following Worship Service.

- Candy Needed for Easter - The Children's Ministry is asking for individually-wrapped candy and plastic eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt. You can place your donations in the green tote found in the Welcome Center no later than Thursday, April 02.

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.  
- Refreshments will be served immediately following service.

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

-Friday, February 20, from 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.

-Saturday, February 21, from 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

# JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Lenten Season

Wednesday, February 18 through Saturday, April 04, 2026.

Our fasting disciplines are as follows:

~ **Inward and Outward Lenten Living Disciplines**

Connecting Worship and Daily Living in Lent, visit:

<https://epworthumc.com/welcome/lenten-living-disciplines>

~ **2025 Daily Devotional: The Boards of Laity of the  
North and South Georgia Conferences of the UMC**

To read or view the devotionals, visit:

<https://epworthumc.com/welcome/journey-to-the-cross-2025>



## My Preparation for Easter

Lent is a time to prepare for Easter. It is a necessary prelude. The death and resurrection of Christ are true whether or not I prepare for Easter. However, without my heart and life being ready, I may not experience the depth and power of Christ's death and resurrection. So with my brothers and sisters, I commit myself to disciplines for conversion from sin and death to love and life in Jesus Christ. With the aid of the list below, I make the following commitments to discipline and growth for the next six weeks:

(Check the ones you desire or feel prompted to do; circle the ones you then decide to do.)

### Inward and Personal Disciplines

Spend time in solitude each day.

Share in the Lenten Series on Sunday evenings.

Read a book for inner growth.

Read twice through the gospel of the lectionary cycle you are in (Matthew and John in 2014)

Begin to keep a journal of prayer concerns, questions, reading.

Focus on thanksgiving, rather than on asking, in prayer.

Give myself a gift of three hours to do something I always say I don't have time to do.

Find a way to go to bed earlier or sleep in so I get enough rest.

Make a list of people with whom I need to be reconciled. Pray for them and let Jesus guide me in my thinking and feeling toward them.

Take control of my life by \_\_\_\_\_.

Go to all of the Holy Week services as an act of love and waiting with Jesus.

Take one hour to inventory my priorities and plan how I will reorder them.

Give up a grudge or a rehearsal of a past event.

Forgive someone who has hurt me.

Dance my prayers to a favorite tape or CD.

Use The Sanctuary for Lent (epub, available from Cokesbury).

Other promptings:

### Outward and Social Disciplines

Take on some loving task:

Plan to visit a "shut-in" neighbor or church member weekly.

Write a letter of affirmation once a week to a person who has touched my life.

Go on the Women's Retreat (dates \_\_\_\_\_)

Listen and respond to Christ's call to a ministry of service:

Go to coffee or dinner with someone I want to know better.

Begin to recycle waste from my home and workplace.

Give blood and recall the cross.

Say "NO" to something that is a waste of money and time.

Pray to God to help me resist racial prejudice and to give me courage in opposing it.

Decide to become a member of the church and speak to a pastor or lay leader.

Rebuke the spirit of criticism and my own tongue out of control.

Find a way to live out the baptismal promise to "resist evil, injustice, and oppression" in the power and liberty God gives us by \_\_\_\_\_.

Dance prayers to my favorite music.

May God's blessings, strength and peace be upon you as journey the Lenten season. Amen.

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 15, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.  
Transfiguration Sunday  
The \* Denotes to please stand if able.

PRELUDE Bob Lee, Music Director

ENTER THE LIGHT OF CHRIST Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER Worship Leader

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed UMH No. 881

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

\*PRAISE SONG "He Keeps Me Singing" CH 746 vv 1-4  
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 Worshippers, 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.

\*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 MATTHEW 17:1-9 DeKara Berry  
Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "That's My King" Mandi Battle  
Praise & Worship Director  
CCLI # 2967303, Song #7195920

SERMON SERIES HOW TO BEGIN AGAIN Pastor  
SERMON "Shelters or Silence?" 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.*

\*CLOSING SONG "Good Good Father" Praise & Worship Director  
\*LIGHT OF CHRIST BROUGHT OUT INTO THE WORLD Acolytes  
\*BENEDICTION Pastor  
\*POSTLUDE Music Director

COFFEE BAR ON SUNDAYS

Coffee Bar in the Welcome Center: Enjoy coffee and refreshments for the Sunday School and Worship Service hours every Sunday. Donations are appreciated.

*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.*