

# 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

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 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 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.

## **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

## **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/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**

## **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.

## 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 prompts:

### 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 you journey the Lenten season. Amen.

# 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>



## 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

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

# 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

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.*

Apostles' Creed UMH No. 881

## \*PRAISE SONG

"He Keeps Me Singing"

CH 746 vv 1-4

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](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

*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

Acolytes

## \*LIGHT OF CHRIST BROUGHT OUT INTO THE WORLD

Pastor

## \*BENEDICTION

Music Director

## \*POSTLUDE

## 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.*