

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Epworth connects and equips
 all kinds of people to
 seek, serve, and share Christ.

Letting the Light Loose

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4:6 (NRSV)


Naamini familia tu katika kanisa letu ambao unaweza kusoma nini mimi kuandika hapa alizaliwa katika nchi nyingine na kuhamishwa hapa baadaye katika maisha. Wengi wa mkutano wetu hauwezi kusoma nakala hii kwa sababu njia pekee ni inaweza kueleweka ni kujua lugha ambayo imeandikwa. Hii si kosa. Nimeandika aya hii kuthibitisha kitu. Tunaweza tu kuelewa yale ambayo tunajua.

This first paragraph is a mystery to most of us. There are likely only a couple of people in our congregation who can read this text. The brokenness of this world is part of the reason we cannot read this. If we were one people of one language all around the world, then this would not happen.

As we take a look at this 2 Corinthians text this week, we must grapple with the reality of what Paul is saying to us. The “god of this world” (almost surely a reference to Satan) has made it difficult for people to see the light of the gospel. Those of us who know the teachings of Christ may still be blind to some of its greater depths. The values and ethics of the kingdom of God are often a polar opposite to the prevailing wisdom of society or culture. Our cultural expressions and particulars serve to do little more than divide us. And then, when religious people isolate themselves from the culture instead of building relationships with the world around us, we make it worse. Christ has called us to shine our lights into the world. But for a people who are used to darkness, light is uncomfortable at first.

Just like people who are in a dark room where someone suddenly turns on the lights, it is painful for a world used to darkness to be exposed to light. Sometimes, what is needed for people to come to faith is to share light one on one, a little bit at a time, as we get to know a new friend. Then, the blinders that have been put on by the enemy can be removed.

So let’s make some friends and spread some light. Let’s let the light loose!

In Christ,


The sanctuary flowers are given to
 the Glory of God and in memory of
 Kathy Combs by Lee Rogers.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Children’s Ministry DirectorLindsey Fossa
 Choir Director.....Lyn Pharris
 Church Administrator Susan Snider
 Contemporary Music Director.....Kayla Moss
 CustodiansMartha Conklin & Barbie Webb
 Interim Youth Minister.....Kristii Daniel
 Media & CommunicationsDawn Wilson
 Music DirectorBob Lee
 Nursery Worker..... Martha Conklin
 Pastor.....Tony G. Crosby

CONTACT US

bob@epworthumc.com
 dawn@epworthumc.com
 kayla@epworthumc.com
 kristii@epworthumc.com
 lindsey@epworthumc.com
 lyn@epworthumc.com
 martha@epworthumc.com
 susan@epworthumc.com
 tony@epworthumc.com
 Pastor (706) 329-2484
 Church Office (706) 322-6973
 www.epworthumc.com

THIS COMING WEEK

Sunday, February 11

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
 5:00 p.m. UMM Cake Auction

Monday, February 12

6:30 p.m. New Life UMW Meeting

Tuesday, February 13

11:00 a.m. GSRA Meeting
 6:30 p.m. AA Group Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Youth Meeting

Wednesday, February 14

5:30 p.m. Parents’ Night Out

Thursday, February 15

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
 12:00 noon Prayer Team Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Epworth Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, February 17

11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved
 5:00 p.m. AA Group Meeting

Sunday, February 18

Recognizing Ash Wednesday with guest
 speaker Bishop James King
 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

The Children's Classes

Kindergarten - 5th Grade: Margaret Gosden

The Youth Class

6th - 12th Grade: Kristii Daniel

The Friendship Class

Study: A Disciplined Faith

Teacher: Becky Britton

The Genesis Class

Study: Have You Ever Seen a Hearse...

Teacher: Leslie Morris

The Joy Class

Study: I Love Growing Older, but...

Teacher: Class

The Nathan Patterson/Wesley Class

Study: Genesis 6

Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class

Study: By Being Patient with Each Other

Teacher: Class

The Pathfinders Class

Study: Wired Word

Teacher: Suzy Revell

The Questors Class

Study: TBD

Teacher: Rev. Tim Paulk

The Seekers Class

Study: Wired Word

Teacher: Lillian Wooldridge

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 give our church name when scheduling an appointment at 706-649-6500. The Pastoral Institute is located at 2022 15th Ave., Columbus.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

The church sends two e-mails each week—a newsletter on Monday and a sermon preview on Friday. If you are not receiving these, please let us know!

THOSE WHO SERVE FEBRUARY 11, 2018

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Barbara Stubbs

Usher: Randy Morris

Acolyte: Usher

Children's Church: *Needed*

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Lillian Wooldridge

Ushers: James Faircloth, Steve Whittington

Acolyte: Ema Cherai, Emma Knight

Children's Church: Janet Cherai

Nursery Volunteer: Vicky Griffin

Financial Secretary: Shawn Jandreau

Turn Key: John Daniel

OUR STEWARDSHIP

February 4, 2018

Tithes & Offerings: \$9,851.00

Received To Date: \$27,644.35

Needed To Date:

Building Fund: \$0

ATTENDANCE:

Sunday School 73

Worship: 9 a.m. 41

Worship: 11 a.m. 66

107

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Youth Meeting - Tuesday, February 13, at 6:30 p.m. Join us and bring a friend!

Youth & Children Sunday School Classes - A great lesson and fun for all beginning at 10 a.m.

Parents' Night Out - Valentine's Day, February 14, 5:30-8:00 p.m., at the church.

Fun activities, pizza and more to keep your children, ages 4 and up, entertained while you enjoy an evening out. A \$10 donation per household would be appreciated. Epworth is safe sanctuary approved. RSVP by February 12, at epworthumc.com.

MISSIONS

United Methodist Men Cake Auction

Sunday, February 11, at 5 p.m. In the past, UMM has supported many projects within the church and community with your generous donations. Please come out and support this fun event with a baked item or to purchase an item.

Mission Focus for February - *Open Door*

Classic, Saturday, March 3. Registration; 7:30 a.m., for the run and 8:30 a.m., for the walk. Donations will go to support ODCH programs of ministry, including community, homeless, and poverty. If you would like to join the Epworth Team, sign up at opendoorcommunityhouse.org or see Becky Britton or the church office. To donate, mark your offering envelope with "Open Door."

Campbell's Labels for Education - We are no longer accepting Campbell's labels. The company has cancelled the program.

Bench Project from Recycled Plastic - Collect clean and free-of-metal caps and lids to obtain a bench for the playground. We are now collecting caps to make a second park bench. Place them in the container on the Mission Cart or in the kitchen. Thanks to all who participated. For more information, contact Susan.

Can Recycling - Leave aluminum cans outside the back kitchen door. They will be picked up and recycled by the HIS Group.

Volunteers Needed for Magnolia Manor - Rev. Vickie Scott, the chaplain at Magnolia Manor campus in Columbus, is seeking to increase the presence of United Methodist churches in our senior adult ministries. Contact Tony if you are interested.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Social Second Sundays - People of all ages are on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and more. We encourage everyone to share something from the church, a ministry you participate in or any church activity today. Let's let our friends and family know that we are excited about what God is doing at Epworth in us and through us.

Epworth's New Website - We have gone live! Go online at epworthumc.com and check it out.

New Life UMW Meeting - Monday, February 12, 6:30 p.m., at the church in the Questors classroom. Janice Tomlin will be our hostess.

Fellowship Hall Reserved - Tuesday, February 13 and Saturday, February 17.

Wednesday Night Supper - There will be no supper on February 14, Ash Wednesday. Next supper will be February 21, at 6 p.m. Sign up!

Choir Rehearsal - Thursday, February 15, at 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday for Sunday Morning - We are anticipating a powerful worship experience on Sunday morning, February 18. We will have "Ash Wednesday on Sunday Morning" to begin our Lent season. Special music will be featured at both services. Bishop James King will preach. Then a special time of Holy Communion and ashes will invite us to observe a holy Lent together. Don't miss it!

Sunday & Wednesday Lenten Study - *He Chose the Nails*, by Max Lucado, begins on February 21. We will offer this study twice weekly, on Sundays at 4 p.m., and on Wednesdays, at 6:30 p.m.

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

Fred & Emilie Carswell	Blount King	Gladys Plant	Trudy Harris
Vanessa Desoto	Ron & Betty Sawyer	Thrower Family	Kitty Crockett
Sibyl Wells	Keri McElvey	Shackelford Family	Kernodle Family
Judy Scanling	Barbara Watson	Joe Flynn	Lillian Wooldridge
Elsie & Jim Spanogians	Andrea Carbaugh	Glenn Griffin	Daniel Family
Anne Wilson	Jane Grandon	Jimmy Bridges	

Extended Church Family

Steve & Carol Guilbeault	Michael Taff	David Olson	Doyle Adams
Dotty Baker	Ricky Clark	Robbins Family	Andrew Wade
Miranda "Randy" Jones	Laurie Osteen	Preston Silvernail	Dora Spires
Willie Ryles	Judy Patterson	Cassie Prochaska	Billy Hill
Kim Jordan	Kristy Stier	Dorothy Ogg	Bruce Chapman
Amanda Hay	Marilyn Buck	Danny Chidester	Beth Goodwin
Luby Family	Henry Dunn	Adams Family	Ginger Jarvis
Ralph & Sandy McGough	Diane Wiggins	Stephanie Bryan	Robin Grantham
McDaniel Family	Katherine Naegele	Al Fohan	



Assisted Living/Nursing Homes/Homebound

Calvary Community - Lou Williams	River Towne Center - Jerry Williams
Magnolia Manor - Doris Halouska, Cammie Van Over	Savannah Grand - Linda Coleman
Phenix City Health Care - Anne Whitehurst	The Lodge - Lorene Carlisle
River Place - Betty Cummings, Elizabeth Harbert	Wesley Glen (Byron, GA) - Nancy Hiller

(Please continue to pray for our homebound people. They would love a visit!)

*If the prayer list needs to be updated, please call, email the church office
or leave a note with updates. Help us minister effectively by
calling the church office about yourself or a family member. Thank you for your help.*

We Love Because He First Loved Us....
I John 4:19

 **Parent's Night Out**
Valentine's Day
February 14, 2018
Epworth United Methodist Church
2400 Devonshire Drive
5:30 - 8:00 p.m. 
Ages 4 and up
Asking \$10 Donation per household

Fun activities, Pizza, and a Movie to keep
your children safe and entertained while you
enjoy a quiet dinner together!

 *Please RSVP by February 12
at epworthumc.com/children*

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



Helping Hands Ministry

Sponsored by Epworth UMW

Are you living alone? Do you need someone to help you with replacing light bulbs? AC filters? Batteries in a smoke detector? Have you given up driving? Do you need a ride to the doctor? Grocery store? The local drug store?

Helping Hands Ministry just may be for YOU! Epworth's UMW will connect you with volunteers at Epworth to help you with these tasks. If you have questions, feel free to ask Becky Britton or Barbara Stubbs more about this new ministry for those who live alone.

Complete one of the forms at the bottom of this sheet if you want to be part of this ministry. Put the form in the collection plate, give it to Becky Britton or Barbara Stubbs personally or to Susan Snider in the church office.

Those who need HELP:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Those who will VOLUNTEER to help:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____