

## COMING UP...

**Sunday, February 24**

5:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting

**Tuesday, February 26**

3:00 p.m. Reachers UMW Meeting

5:00 p.m. Feeding Our Neighbors @ Rose Hill

6:30 p.m. AA Group Meeting

**Wednesday, February 27**

5:45 p.m. Wednesday Supper

6:15 p.m. Rev. Chris Barbieri's Program  
*40 Days with the Gospel of Mark*

6:15 p.m. Wacky Wednesday

7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, February 28**

12:00 noon Prayer Team Meeting

**Sunday, March 3**

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

5:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting

**Monday, March 4**

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

## SERVANTS NEEDED IN 2019

**9 a.m. Ushers:** 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

**11 a.m. Ushers:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays

**Children's Sunday School Helper:** 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

**Children's Church:** 9 a.m.: 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
11 a.m.: 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays

**Turn Key:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

To volunteer or for more information, contact the church office.

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is given to the family of Art Halouska, who passed away on Saturday, February 16.

*The sanctuary flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Matilda Smith by Bobby Smith.*

## OUR CHURCH STAFF

*Epworth's members are our ministers.  
The professional staff who assist us are:*

Choir Director .....Lyn Pharris  
Church Administrator.....Susan Snider  
Contemporary Music Director..... Kayla Moss  
Custodians..... Martha Conklin & Barbie Webb  
Music Director..... Bob Lee  
Nursery Worker .....Martha Conklin  
Pastor ..... Tony G. Crosby

## CONTACT US

2400 Devonshire Drive  
Columbus, GA 31904

Pastor's Cell (706) 329-2484  
Church Office (706) 322-6973

[www.epworthumc.com](http://www.epworthumc.com)  
staff's first name@epworthumc.com  
(example: tony@epworthumc.com)

Facebook - EpworthUMC.com  
Instagram - EpworthUMC.com  
Twitter - @EpworthColumbus

## CONTACTING YOU

Most of the church's communication is through e-mail and texting. We send two e-mails each week—a newsletter on Monday and a sermon preview on Friday and texts during the week. We also use e-mail to send important meeting reminders and other information. Epworth has a free text messaging solution hosted by Remind. Sign up now by texting '@epworth1' to 81010. Help us contact you by ensuring the church office has your current e-mail address.

**epworth**  
united methodist church

February 24, 2019

## Obstacles to Obedience: Biblical Illiteracy

*And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.*

—Nehemiah 8:12 (NRSV)

Over the years, this passage in the book of Nehemiah has become one of my favorites from the Old Testament.

The Israelites have been in foreign captivity for years. As they are re-establishing themselves in their homeland, they open the book of the law, begin to read the word of God aloud in the public square and they explain it. The people are so heartbroken because they are so far away from God's will for their lives that they mourn and weep aloud.

I wonder how long it has been since we have allowed God's word to affect us in that way. How long has it been since we have truly mourned our sin and how far we are away from what God wants for us? I fear we spend a great deal of our spiritual energy making ourselves feel better rather than really listening to what God's word is saying about how we ought to be living.

One of the *Obstacles to Obedience* that was submitted was that of not knowing the Bible. If this is the case, we are not the first in the history of God's people to struggle with not knowing God's word. However, we have no excuses like the people of old. The Bible is not in scrolls in the temple only to be heard from those who would read it aloud in worship. We have it accessible to us in multiple translations for little cost and many of us have free versions available on our smartphones or tablets. If we don't know God's word, it is nobody else's fault but our own.

It is time we take ownership of knowing what God has to say to us through the scriptures. We have no one to blame but ourselves if we don't know the Bible. It is as available and affordable as it has ever been. So today, we are going to be introduced (or re-introduced) to the Bible and what it is for the people of God. Not knowing the Bible is an excuse we have to put in the past if we take our discipleship journey seriously.

In Christ,



Epworth connects and equips all kinds of people to SEEK, SERVE, and SHARE Christ.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

**The Children's Class (K-5)**  
Teacher: Rosemary DiSimone

**The Youth Class (6-12)**  
Teacher: Sam Cherai

**The Friendship Class**  
Study: Living With God's Loving Assurance  
Teacher: Class

**The Genesis Class**  
Study: The Wired Word  
Teacher: Leslie Morris

**The Joy Class**  
Study: Class Discussion  
Teacher: Class

**The Nathan Patterson/Wesley Class**  
Study: Exodus 9  
Teacher: Bobby Smith

**The New Connections Class**  
Study: Welcome Home  
Teacher: James Johnson

**The Questors Class**  
Study: Living With God's Loving Assurance  
Teacher: Gary Tomlin

**The Seekers Class**  
Study: Wired Word  
Teacher: Suzy Revell

**The Young Adult Class**  
Study: Jesus & the Beanstalk  
Teacher: Becky Britton

## SAFE DRIVING COURSE

The Vintage Group and AAA is offering a safe driving course on Thursday, March 14, from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall. This is a state-approved course. Check with your auto insurance provider for possible discount on course completion. The minimum age to participate is 25 and the cost is \$20 and payable on the day of the class. No meal will be provided. Bring your own lunch. Register on the sign-up sheet on the information board. The course is open to the congregation and their family and friends.

## THOSE WHO SERVE

February 24, 2019

**9:00 a.m. Worship Service**  
Greeter: Mary Lee Crews, Charles & Faith Newton  
Usher: Shawn Jandreau, Steve Sawyer  
Acolyte: Usher  
Children's Church: Whitney Weyeneth

**11:00 a.m. Worship Service**  
Greeter: Suzy Revell, John & Jane Grandon  
Usher: Janie Nellums, Carole Zimmerman  
Acolyte: Ema Cherai  
Children's Church: Volunteer  
Nursery Volunteer: Allison Jandreau  
Financial Secretary: Bryan Pruet  
Turn Key: Baron Conklin

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

February 17, 2019

Tithes & Offerings: \$1,964.46  
Received To Date: \$38,505.50  
Needed To Date: \$41,611.08

Attendance:  
Sunday School 70  
Worship: 9 a.m. 40  
Worship: 11 a.m. 57  
Total 97

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

**Wacky Wednesday & the Nursery** - We will begin at 6:15 p.m., this week, to accommodate Rev. Chris Barbieri's program. Join us!

**VBS Workshop - To Mars & Beyond** - We will travel to Tucker, GA, on Saturday, March 2, to attend a workshop for a hands-on experience for this year's VBS. See the sign-up sheet on the information board to attend or for more information.

**Youth Group** - We will meet Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m. in the youth room.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**Reachers UMW Meeting** - Tuesday, February 26, at 3 p.m., in the fellowship hall.

**AA Support Group Meeting** - every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., in the Questors classroom.

**Wednesday Supper and Lenten Bible Study**  
Join us as we welcome the author of our church Lenten Bible study, Rev. Chris Barbieri, on Wednesday, February 27. The program will begin at 6:15 p.m. Sign up for supper reservations on the information board. The meal is free and begins at 5:45 p.m. Adult menu: chicken pot pie, cornbread, salad and dessert. Children's menu: chicken nuggets and mac & cheese.

**Epworth Facebook Group an Option for Lenten Study Group** - We are encouraging everyone to gather in small groups as we journey through our Lenten study of the Gospel of Mark. For those who cannot participate in a small group, there will be online discussions with each other about the daily scripture readings during Lent via Epworth's Facebook group. Contact Tony if you have any questions about joining the church's Facebook group.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting** - Monday, March 5, at 10 a.m., in the fellowship hall.

**HIS UMW Group Meeting** - Tuesday, March 5, at 10:30 a.m., in the fellowship hall. Hostesses are Jan Shackelford, Sue Vining and Carole Zimmerman. Jan will present the program. This is the last month to bring items for the Open Door's Showering Program. Bring the food item you signed up to bring for lunch.

**Upper Room Devotional Sale** - March/April issue is available in the welcome center. Price as noted.

**Ash Wednesday Worship** - We will have a special service on March 6, at 6:30 p.m. The worship will feature guest preacher, Rev. Paul Coats, and special music from Epworth's talented musicians as well as a string quartet from the Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus. The service will be a beautiful opportunity to enter into a holy Lent together as we prepare our hearts for the glorious feast of Easter.

**Prayer Team Meeting** - Thursdays at noon at the church in the Nathan Patterson classroom. Contact Margaret Gosden for more info.

**Ladies Bible Study** - Every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in the Questors classroom. Contact Debra Johnson if interested in attending.

**Daylight Saving Time Begins** - Spring forward by adjusting clocks ahead one hour by March 10.

**New Life UMW Meeting** - Monday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m., in the Questor's classroom.

**United Methodist Men's Meeting** - Monday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall.

**Epworth Text Messaging Service** - Epworth has a free text messaging solution hosted by Remind. Sign up now by texting '@epworth1' to 81010. After that, enter your name and disregard other questions about parent/teacher/student/etc. Contact Tony with questions.

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> Ave., Columbus.

## EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

### Church Family

Fred & Emilie Carswell	Jimmy Bridges	Gladys Plant	Andrea Carbaugh
Vanessa Desoto	Ron & Betty Sawyer	Thrower Family	Sibyl Wells
Keri McElvey	Barbara Stubbs	Kernodle Family	Daniel Family
Elsie & Jim Spanogians	Helen Batastini	Annette Taff	Doug Franks
Billy Bullock			

### Extended Church Family

Steve & Carol Guilbeault	Michael Taff	David Olson	Mark Oliver
Dotty Baker	Ricky Clark	Robbins Family	Andrew Wade
Laurie Osteen	Preston Silvernail	Dora Spires	Willie Ryles
Judy Patterson	Cassie Prochaska	Billy Hill	Kim Jordan
Dorothy Ogg	Bruce Chapman	Charles Holmes	Marilyn Buck
Danny Chidester	Beth Goodwin	McDaniel Family	Garnett Shackelford
Adams Family	Hattie Campbell	David Garner	Dana Thurston
Ralph & Sandy McGough	Diane Wiggins	Stephanie Bryan	Robin Grantham

### Assisted Living/Nursing Home

Covenant Woods - Linda Coleman, Carol Osteen	River Place - Betty Cummings, Elizabeth Harbert, Jane Sanders
Kings Bridge (Atlanta, GA) - Blount King	River Towne Center - Jerry Williams
Magnolia Manor - Doris Halouska Cammie Van Over	The Landings - Gladys Plant
Phenix City Health Care - Anne Whitehurst	The Lodge (Bessemer, AL) - Lorene Carlisle 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. Thank you for your help.*

## MISSIONS

**February Mission Focus - *Open Door Classic*,** Saturday, March 9. Donations will support ODCH programs of ministry. See Becky Britton or sign up at [opendoorcommunityhouse.org](http://opendoorcommunityhouse.org) to join the Epworth team. See the insert in today's bulletin for more information. To donate through the church, mark your offering envelope "Open Door Walk."

**Volunteers Needed for Annual Conference in June 2019** - The Northwest District is hosting this year's conference. We need your help in serving at Annual Conference, June 2-4. Let us know how and when you can volunteer. Contact the church office or fill in your connection card in worship. Thank you!

**Special Called General Conference Meeting Now in St. Louis** - As many of you are aware, The United Methodist Church is having a special called session of our denomination's top policy-making body, the General Conference. Our bishops called the meeting to deal with the escalating tensions in our church over the issues surrounding same-sex marriage and the ordination of LGBTQI individuals as clergy. The South Georgia conference has an information page, [www.sgaumc.org/wayforward](http://www.sgaumc.org/wayforward), that will be helpful to you to seek good information about what is happening and how that may affect us. Please continue to pray for our General Conference and the wisdom of our elected leaders as they seek a path forward for us as a denomination.

**Wynnton Neighborhood Network January 2019 Report** - The Network served 1,924 bags of food to 476 families which included 583 children. We helped 39 families with utilities spending \$2,800.14. Thank you for your generosity in giving time, money and food.

**Wynnton Neighborhood Network Dire Need of Food Items**- WNN is in immediate need of any can or dry goods and cereal. They have had a surge of clients needing food. Place items on the mission cart.

**Feeding Our Neighbors at Rose Hill** - Tuesday, February 26. Preparations begin at 5:15 p.m.; serving at 5:45 p.m. Contact Debra Johnson or Becky Britton to volunteer to serve or help with meal preparation.

**2019 Flower Calendar** - The calendar is attached to the office window. Arrangements are \$50 each. Sign up to purchase flowers for the sanctuary. To request a date, contact the church office for availability.

**Epworth VBS T-shirts for Donations** - See the table in the welcome center to select past years' VBS T-shirts for a donation to the Children's Ministry while supplies last.

**Vintage Shirt Sale** - Hurry and get your shirts! A few are still available and sweatshirts can be ordered individually. See the sign-up sheet on the information board or any Vintage member to order.

**Save Your Yogurt Cups** - The children are collecting empty, clean cups for an upcoming project. Place them in the marked container in the Orange room of the children's wing.

**Can Recycling** - Leave aluminum cans outside the back kitchen door. They will be picked up and recycled by the HIS UMW Group. Money collected will go toward various missions.

**A Taste of Epworth Cookbooks** - Purchase your copy(s) from the welcome center for \$5 each. Proceeds support missions.

**Calendar of Events**

**March Birthdays**

Say a prayer and write a note...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service 5:30p-Youth Meeting	<b>4</b> 10:00a-Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting	<b>5</b> 10:30a-HIS Group UMW Meeting 6:30p-AA Support Group Meeting	<b>6</b> Ash Wednesday 6:30p-Ash Wednesday Service 7:30p-Choir Practice	<b>7</b> 12:00p-Prayer Team	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7:30a-Open Door Walk Classic
<b>10</b> Social Second Sunday Daylight Saving Time begins 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service 5:30p-Youth Meeting	<b>11</b> 6:30p-UMM Meeting 6:30p-New Life UMW Meeting	<b>12</b> 6:30p-AA Support Group Meeting	<b>13</b> 6:00p-Wednesday Night Supper 6:00p-Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30p-Lenten Bible Study 6:30p-Wacky Wednesday 7:00p-Choir Practice	<b>14</b> 9:00a-AAA Safe Driving Course 12:00p-Prayer Team	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service 5:30p-Youth Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:30p-Growing Christians UMW 6:30p-AA Support Group Meeting	<b>20</b> 6:00p-Wednesday Night Supper 6:00p-Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30p-Lenten Bible Study 6:30p-Wacky Wednesday 7:00p-Choir Practice	<b>21</b> 12:00p-Prayer Team	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 12:00p-Fellowship Hall Reserved
<b>24</b> 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service 5:30p-Youth Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 3:00p-Reachers UMW Meeting 5:00p-Feeding Our Neighbors @ Rose Hill 6:30p-AA Support Group Meeting	<b>27</b> 6:00p-Wednesday Night Supper 6:00p-Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30p-Lenten Bible Study 6:30p-Wacky Wednesday 7:00p-Choir Practice	<b>28</b> 12:00p-Prayer Team	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service 5:30p-Youth Meeting						

- 1 Ellen Hutchinson
- Sue Vining
- 3 Carrie Borum
- Joseph Hutchinson
- 4 Bobby Clark
- Matthew Ledbetter
- 5 Tim Paulk
- Taylor Walsh
- 8 Marjean Waters
- 9 Becky Britton
- Sara Rice
- 11 Bill Dozier
- 12 Betty Sawyer
- 13 Kristi Coroi
- 14 Joshua Brown
- Joy Shellnut
- 15 Trevor Whittington
- 16 Shawn Jandreau
- 18 Shane Morris
- Jackson Phillips
- 22 Kaysen Wilson
- 31 T.J. Daniel
- David Weyeneth

**A Birthday Prayer**

May God bless you today and each day that follows,  
 May you hear His voice and follow His footsteps,  
 Be comforted by His care and live in His grace now and forever, Amen.



Saturday, March 9, 2019

Beginning at Woodruff Park across from Whitewater Express

Time:

**Fun Run and 5K Runner registration: opens at 7:30 a.m.  
at Woodruff Park (not Big Dog)**

**Walker Registration: 8:00 a.m.**

**Fun Run starts at 8:30 a.m.**

**5K Run starts: 9:00 a.m., Walk starting immediately after  
runners leave**

(\*See back side for important information\*)

Route:

Along Columbus and Phenix City Riverwalk and Uptown Columbus

Activities:

1 Mile Children's Fun Run, Walk, 5K Run, Prizes and Awards

Register online at:

[www.odch.org](http://www.odch.org)

(scroll down to Open Door Classic logo and click)

For more information call 706-323-5518.

All proceeds benefit the ministries of Open Door Community House.

## Programs of Ministry

### MISSION STATEMENT

Empower people in our community to realize their full potential as children of God.

#### COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Mathews Promise Academy  
The Open Door Institute  
Senior Adult Program

#### HOMELESS MINISTRIES

Welcome Home  
Showering Program for the  
Homeless  
Virginia D. Jackson Home  
for Women  
HOME

CIRCLES  
IN  
COLUMBUS

Things you need to know the day of the event:

- Choose either the 5K run **OR** the Walk, but **NOT both**
- Runners keep to the right side and walkers to the left on the route
- Packet pick up for Fun Run and 5k Runners will be at Big Dog downtown on Friday, March 8 from 12 - 6 p.m. If you aren't able to pick up your packet on Friday, you will need to come to Woodruff Park Saturday morning to get it.



OPEN DOOR  
COMMUNITY HOUSE

2405 Second Avenue, Columbus, GA 31901

(706) 323-5518

[www.odch.org](http://www.odch.org)

