

# COMING UP...

## MARCH 01 - MARCH 08

### Sunday, March 01

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

### Monday, March 02

11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

### Wednesday, March 04

1:30 p.m. Bible Study  
6:30 p.m. Zoom (EPEC) Bible Study

### Thursday, March 05

Noon Prayer Team

### Sunday, March 08

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



*The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of  
Lloyd and Irene Britton on their 85th Heavenly Anniversary by Becky Britton.*

## 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



March 01, 2026

## GUIDED BY THE PROMISE

RENEWED IN MERCY  
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A

Think about when you hop in the car and get ready to go to the grocery store or your favorite coffee shop that you've been to a thousand times before. Do you look up the address on the GPS to remind you how to get there, or do you just go, sometimes zoning out until you pull up and wonder how you got there? I'll admit, there are many times I fall into the latter category. But sometimes, when traffic is heavy, or I'm running behind, or I remember the construction I ran into the last time, I consult the GPS to see if there's a better route to take. Lent invites us to reassess our journey of faith in light of God's promise of life.

This Sunday, the gospel reading from John 3 is one that many people know by heart. Its familiarity is a comfort, yet we must not let comfort become complacency. As you plan worship this week, consider how to bring this text to life in new ways. Perhaps you could have a few children, or a child and an adult, act out the conversation between Nicodemus and Jesus. (And hey—what if the child played Jesus?) Perhaps you turn the pericope into a responsive reading where the congregation reads portions of the passage aloud together. You could also weave a song into the scripture reading, alternating portions of John 3 with a verse of a hymn like "Depth of Mercy" (United Methodist Hymnal 355) or "What Wondrous Love Is This" (United Methodist Hymnal 292).

Consider, too, how you might incorporate time for meditation and discernment as a response to the Proclamation of the Word. You might want to lead the community in a guided meditation centered around the Romans 4 reading for this week. What are the places you, as individuals and as a community, need to reorient to salvation as a gift of grace instead of a work? How might you sit with the blessedness of God's gift and recognize the work we do as the church as a response to the gift, not a means of earning what has already been given? You might want to pray a litany after the sermon, naming the gracious gifts of God all around you and seeking the Spirit's guidance in how to share the gift of grace in your neighborhood. Find ways that suit your congregation and context to renew your community's encounter with grace, to rest in and be inspired by mercy in this Lenten season.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/renewed-in-mercy/second-sunday-in-lent-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes>

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 25-27

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**

March 01, 2026

Ushers: David Hay

Financial Secretary: Donny Davis

Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

## **OUR STEWARDSHIP**

February 22, 2026

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Tithes & Offerings:   | \$20,740.00 |
| Received To Date:   | \$62,061.59 |
| Needed To Date:   | \$36,641.85 |
| Ash Wednesday Service Offerings:  | \$500.00    |
| *(The Ash Wednesday offerings will be donated by the Columbus area UMCs to the Methodist Children's Home and Carpenter's Way) |             |

Attendance:

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Ash Wednesday Service    | 112        |
| Sunday School            | 12         |
| In-person Sunday Worship | 48         |
| Online Viewers           | 162        |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>322</b> |

## **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. You are still invited to complete a Pledge card if you have not done so. God Bless you!

## 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](https://www.facebook.com/epworthumc) first: [facebook.com/epworthumc](https://www.facebook.com/epworthumc) or [youtube.com/channel/UCZJhDYHDDeE-dnv5a5nQKjA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZJhDYHDDeE-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.

## **MANY THANKS!**

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the Epworth Church family for the beautiful flowers on display in the Welcome Center that were given to the glory of God and in honor of my birthday. Your kind acts of love and support are truly appreciated.

— *Pastor Earnestine*

## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

|    |                   |
|----|-------------------|
| 1  | Ellen Hutchinson  |
|    | Sue Vining        |
| 3  | Carrie Borum      |
|    | Joseph Hutchinson |
| 5  | Taylor Walsh      |
| 8  | Marjean Waters    |
| 9  | Becky Britton     |
|    | Sara Rice         |
| 14 | Joshua Brown      |
|    | Joy Shellnut      |
| 16 | Shawn Jandrea     |
| 18 | Jackson Phillips  |
|    | Shane Morris      |
| 29 | Talecia Wade      |
| 31 | TJ Daniel         |

## MISSIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS MARCH MISSION

**March Mission Opportunity** - For over 90 years, Open Door Community House has been a beacon of hope for encouraging women and children. Transitional housing, a school academy, a culinary training program & incubator, and a family empowerment program are just some of the Christ-centered achievements of Open Door. Please consider making your donation to Open Door Community House. Mark "Open Door" on your envelope. Thank you for your support of this worthy cause!

## **BIBLE STUDIES**

Wednesday, March 04

-- 1:30 p.m. Bible Study, in Questors Classroom. The book of Daniel, Sessions 8 & 9, Chapter 8.

-- 6:30 p.m. Online Zoom, EPEC, Bible Study class. The book of Exodus, lessons 10 & 11. If you are interested in participating, indicate on the back of the Connection Card in the appropriate section or email [earnestine@epworthumc.com](mailto:earnestine@epworthumc.com).

## **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!

## **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!

## 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 located in the Welcome Center.

**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.*

## **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. All women are invited to join. The next book study is Monday, March 16 at 7 p.m. and will continue monthly through May. To register, use the following link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/110Qt5rwiRVW3hheplbyeyzn5trzXdeF6q48hyd2STeA/edit>. Book link: [amazon.com/Color-Compromise-American-Churchs-Complicity/dp/0310113601/ref](https://www.amazon.com/Color-Compromise-American-Churchs-Complicity/dp/0310113601/ref).

## **CALLING ALL GRADUATES**

Attention All Graduates! If you are graduating from high school or college this year, please inform the church office by Monday, May 18 of what school you are graduating from. If graduating from high school, include what college/university you plan to attend.

## EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

### Church Family

Deborah Cooper  
Buddy Dunn  
Susan Dunn  
John Grandon  
Jeanne Guilbeault  
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

Martha Bone  
George Bowen  
Lloyd Britton  
Rebecca Britton  
Sarah Browder  
Stephanie Bryan  
Marilyn Buck  
Roger Buterbaugh  
Hattie Campbell  
Bruce Chapman  
Danny Chidester  
Hazel Dullin  
James & Sue Flowers  
David Garner  
Beth Goodwin

Robin Grantham  
Steve Guilbeault  
Billy Hill  
Charles Holmes  
Patricia Jefferson  
Carol Hall  
Kim Jordan  
Mary Kennedy  
Susan Land  
Cristina Mattocks  
Ann Mitchell  
Kathy McClintock  
Ralph & Sandy McGough  
Judy Patterson  
Rev. Tim Paulk

Cassie Prochaska  
Diane Propst  
Bertha Robinson  
Nona Robinson  
Willie Ryles  
Michelle Slappy  
Aundre Smith  
Maggie Smith  
Dora Spires  
Dana Thurston  
Amanda Kinsman Vines  
Robert Wagers  
Patricia Waldo  
Tammy White  
Diane Wiggins

Sam Wilson

Adams Family  
Family of Neil Gergun  
Grier Family Robbins Family

Janna Family  
Kuester Family  
McDaniel Family

Davis/Osborne Family  
Danny Snider & Family

### 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

March 01, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent

*The \* Denotes to please stand if able.*

## PRELUDE

Bob Lee, Music Director

## ENTER THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

## WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Marguerite Hay, Worship Leader

## \*CONFESSION & PARDON

UMH No. 12

**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

"O How I Love Jesus"

CH 92 vv 1 & 2

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.*

## OFFERTORY SELECTION

"You Raise Me Up"

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.

## SHARING OF CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

Rev. Earnestine W. Campbell, Pastor

*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

## \*SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 4:1-11

Patricia Bronson

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

"King of Glory"

Mandi Battle

Praise & Worship Director  
CCLI # 2967303, Song #7135918

## SERMON

"Three Temptations: One God"

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.*

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor & Congregation  
(See screen)

### Invitation

**The Great Thanksgiving**

UMH No. 12

UMH No. 13-14

### Liturgy

**The Lord's Prayer**

**The Giving of the Bread and Cup**

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

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### 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.