

COMING UP...

MARCH 08 - MARCH 15

Sunday, March 08

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person &
Online & Children's Church
UMM will meet immediately after
Worship Service

Monday, March 09

11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba
1:00 p.m. New Life

Tuesday, March 10

1:00 p.m. Grief/Caregiver Support
Meeting

Wednesday, March 11

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

Thursday, March 12

Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, March 15

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



*Don't forget to adjust your clocks one hour ahead.
Daylight Saving time starts at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 08.*

CONTACT US

2400 Devonshire Drive
Columbus, GA 31904

Church Office (706) 322-6973
Pastor's Cell (706) 992-9147
www.epworthumc.com

toni@epworthumc.com
(example: 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 AssistantWhitney Mennifee
Custodians.....Martha Conklin
Barbie Webb
Media TechTristan Campbell
Music Director..... Bob Lee
Nursery WorkerMartha Conklin
Pastor Rev. Earnestine Campbell
Praise & Worship Director..... Mandi Battle

 **epworth**
united methodist church

March 08, 2026

THREE TEMPTATIONS: ONE GOD

MATTHEW 4:1-11

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A

In our sermon on Sunday, "Three Temptations: One God," drawn from Matthew 4:1-11, we reflected on Jesus' temptation in the wilderness and were reminded that the struggles Jesus faced remain relevant to us today. Just as we are human, Jesus was fully human as well as divine. Led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Jesus encountered temptations that probed the deepest questions of identity, trust, and purpose. His forty days recall Israel's years of wandering, connecting his personal trial to the broader story of God's people learning faith in difficult places.

Point 1: Needs vs. Trust (Matthew 4:1-4): The first temptation—turning stones to bread—speaks to our longing for immediate satisfaction. Just as the Israelites in Exodus 16 and 17 doubted God's provision and craved comfort, Jesus could easily have been tempted to use his power to meet his own needs. Yet he chooses trust over quick fixes and over what seems to be the immediate need—starvation, exhaustion, and weariness—reminding us that "we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Our challenge is to trust God's timing and provision, even when our needs feel urgent and unmet.

Point 2: Power vs. Purpose (Matthew 4:5-7): The second temptation—testing Jesus by leaping from the temple—invites both Jesus and us to demand proof of God's promises and to seek power on our own terms. In this moment, Satan employs his usual trickery, twisting Scripture and presenting a false vision of power that serves self-interest rather than God's purposes. Jesus refuses to be manipulated by Satan, to act out of desperation or self-aggrandizement, or to force God's hand for personal gain. He recognizes that the devil's power and purpose are rooted in deception and can never match the authenticity of God's power and purpose. Instead, Jesus responds, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test," calling us to build our faith on a foundation of trust and obedience rather than spectacle, self-assurance, or arrogance. True faith does not bargain with God, but rests securely in God's purpose and love.

Point 3: Security vs. Surrender (Matthew 4:8-11): In the third temptation, Satan offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world in exchange for misguided worship. This is the lure of security versus surrender, or glory without obedience—challenging us to choose between security in the wiles of Satan or surrender to God. The Israelites in the wilderness succumbed to the false security of worshipping the golden calf (Exodus 32) in their time of weariness and insecurity. But what does Jesus do? Jesus quotes scripture: "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Jesus rejects the shortcut to "security," insisting that worship belongs to God alone—surrendering to his Father rather than accepting the world's offer of false security and importance. His character contrasts with the Israelites' idolatry in the wilderness—and so often, our own—challenging us to examine where we place our ultimate allegiance and what we are willing to compromise for influence or control.

Through these three tests—Needs vs. Trust, Power vs. Purpose, Security vs. Surrender—Jesus reveals what it means to be faithful. His victory is not just a personal triumph, but a model for us. Temptation is not a sign of failure or abandonment; it is where character is shaped, and trust in God is strengthened. Even when we are weary, isolated, or uncertain, God remains with us, offering strength to resist and grace to begin again. Starvation—our fasting—is a way for God to remove the attachments we don't need: people, substances, social media, our favorite news stations or anchors that we've made into our gods, unforgiveness, failures, pasts that haunt us, and closed doors. We are challenged to let go and let God—just as Jesus did! God's delays are not His denials. After the forty days and forty nights of Jesus' fasting and victory over temptations, the angels came and ministered to him. What a victory and triumph over trials and evil! The angels will minister to you—trust God, trust his purpose, and find security in him!

As we journey through Lent and face our own wilderness experiences, may we, like Jesus, find courage to trust God's Word and Spirit. The invitation of Matthew's Gospel is to meet Jesus anew—not only as the Messiah but also as the one who shows us the path of humility, obedience, and love. "One God" is greater than these "three temptations" and every temptation. May that assurance guide us in every test we face.

-Amen!

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 28 - 30
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 08, 2026

Usher(s): Fraser Wooldridge
Financial Secretary: Donny Davis
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

March 01, 2026

Tithes & Offerings:	\$5,353.00
Received To Date:	\$67,414.59
Needed To Date:	\$41,221.85

Attendance:	
Sunday School	9
*Seekers Class did not meet	
In-person Sunday Worship	52
Online Viewers	105
Total	157

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 Jandreau
18	Jackson Phillips
	Shane Morris
29	Talecia Wade
31	TJ Daniel

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/UCZJhDYHDeeE-dnv5a5nQKjA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZJhDYHDeeE-dnv5a5nQKjA) as close to 10:30 a.m. as possible or as close to the time of other livestream services.

BIBLE STUDIES

Wednesday, March 11

-- Noon Bible Study, in Questors Classroom. The book of Daniel, Session 10, Chapter 9.

-- 6:30 p.m. Online Zoom, EPEC, Bible Study class. The book of Exodus, lessons 11 & 12. If you are interested in participating, indicate on the back of the Connection Card in the appropriate section or email earnestine@epworthumc.com.

A THANK YOU FROM THE PASTOR

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Children's Ministry for the beautiful card, kind words, and the love gift that touched my heart more than you can imagine. You all are a wonderful blessing sent from God to Epworth, to me, and to the people of God. Keep striving and elevating in Christ as you continue to be the hands and feet of Him!

~ In Christ and with love, Pastor Earnie

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH OUTING TO TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY, AL

Eight of our children, along with the children's ministry team, enjoyed a memorable outing to Tuskegee University on Saturday, February 28. This enriching event gave our young people the opportunity to learn about and celebrate this significant historical higher education institution chapter in our country's history during Black History Month. They were inspired, informed, and enjoyed the fun and fellowship with each other!

Special thanks to Patricia Bronson, Family and Children's Coordinator, and Children's Ministry Leadership team members Jas'Min Vontoure and Whitney Mennifee for your teamwork and leadership!

Be sure to visit our Facebook page to see pictures from this fun and educational event!

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!

A SPECIAL FUNDRAISER OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR CHURCH

- We are excited to announce a special opportunity to support our church through the book, *The Journey of Abraham and Sarah: Faith, Failure, Fulfillment*, authored by Pastor Earnestine Campbell. This inspiring book grew out of our Noonday and Zoom Bible study classes and offers a wonderful opportunity for personal growth and spiritual deepening within our faith.

- With a donation of \$20 or more, you can join this transformative journey through the lives of Abraham and Sarah, exploring their struggles and the grace of God. Books are available for purchase in the Welcome Center, or you can order a copy on Amazon. Your contributions for this fundraiser during our "Journey to the Cross" will help advance our church's mission and ministry. Thank you for your continued support!

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 - 9:15 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.*

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

The Worship Committee will meet
Wednesday, March 25 at 11 a.m.

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 08, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.

Third 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

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**

"My Savior's Love"

CH 348 vv 1, 2, & 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 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**

PSALM 95

Becky Britton

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Worship That Wins!"

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**

"O How He Loves You and Me"

Praise & Worship Director
CH 349 vv. 1 & 2

***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.