

## COMING UP...

**MARCH 15 - MARCH 22**

**Sunday, March 15**

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

**Monday, March 16**

11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

**Tuesday, March 17**

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

**Wednesday, March 18**

Bible Studies will resume next week.

**Thursday, March 19**

Noon Prayer Team

**Sunday, March 22**

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



### 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  
(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 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

*The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

## WORSHIP THAT WINS!

PSALM 95  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A

Our Sermon on Sunday was "Worship That Wins!" from Psalm 95. Let's step into the world from which this psalm was written. While Psalm 95 doesn't name its author in the text, tradition and Hebrews 4:7 connect it to David. Most scholars believe it reached its final form after the Babylonian exile, around the 6th or 5th century BCE. The audience? A community scarred by invasion, defeat, and forced exile—some returning to a ruined Jerusalem, trying to rebuild not just their homes but their identity as God's people. Jerusalem's walls and temple were largely in ruins or under slow reconstruction. Socially, there was discouragement, confusion, and spiritual drift. People wondered: "Who are we now? Where is God? How do we worship in these changing times?"

Psalm 95 was written as both a call and a warning. It was meant to draw God's people back to authentic worship—worship rooted in gratitude, obedience, and open hearts for a people wounded by exile and uncertainty, is rooted in ancient tradition. It urges them not to fall into the trap of empty ritual or repeat the mistakes of the past, but to celebrate God's greatness and respond with trust and humility. The psalm's message transcends across centuries: it calls God's people, then and now, to authentic worship that transforms, endures, and brings rest.

*(See Insert for Key Insights & Takeaways)*

-Amen!

In Christ,

*Pastor Earnie*



## SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 AM

### **The Nathan Patterson Class**

Study: Job 31 - 32  
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 15, 2026

Usher(s): Becky Britton & Diona Bronson  
Financial Secretary: Patricia Bronson  
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

## **OUR STEWARDSHIP**

March 08, 2026

Tithes & Offerings:	\$4,460.00
Received To Date:	\$71,874.59
Needed To Date:	\$45,801.85

Attendance:	
Sunday School	12
In-person Sunday Worship	51
Online Viewers	110
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>

## **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/epworthcolumbus) first: [facebook.com/epworthcolumbus](https://www.facebook.com/epworthcolumbus) 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.

## **BIBLE STUDIES**

Bible Studies will resume next week.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Gifts to the General Fund were given to the glory of God and in memory of Trevor Whittington by the following people:

Nancy Bryant  
Tony & Angie Cheal  
*-To God be the Glory!*

## **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!*

## **CHILDREN & YOUTH GAME NIGHT**

Children & Youth Game Night - Our next Game Night is Friday, March 25, 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** **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!

## **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 IN FAITH (UWF) BOOK STUDY**

UWF Book Study - Sundays, February 16, March 30, and April 27, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Excitement is building for this online book group! Take part in honest conversations about race and racism with Christian sisters. Rev. Earnestine Campbell is asked to facilitate this virtual book study of *How to Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey Toward Racial Justice* by Jemar Tisby. Open to all women, this event is free; a link to access the gathering will be sent to those who register. Please contact Becky Britton for more details.

## **EASTER LILIES AND HYDRANGEAS**

Lilies and Hydrangeas for Easter - Order your Easter lilies and hydrangeas in memory or honor of a loved one. See the sign-up sheet on the office window in the Welcome Center. The order deadline is Sunday, March 29. The flowers can be picked up after the Easter service or during regular office hours. Call ahead and the office will have them prepared for pick up.

~Prices to be determined and announced soon.

## **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, and devotionals, please see links below:

<https://epworthumc.com/welcome/lenten-living-disciplines>

<https://epworthumc.com/welcome/journey-to-the-cross-2025>

*(Copies are available 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 - 9:00 a.m.; Easter Presentation - 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.

## **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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Key Insights from the Sermon

## 1. Worship That Wins Begins with Grateful Praise (Psalm 95:1-5; 2 Samuel 6; Daniel 3)

Psalm 95 was written as both a call and a warning. It was meant to draw God's people back to authentic worship—worship rooted in gratitude, obedience, and open hearts. It urges them not to fall into the trap of empty ritual or repeat the mistakes of the past, but to celebrate God's greatness and respond with trust and humility. So, picture this: a congregation gathered in a scarred city, longing for hope and restoration—into that reality, Psalm 95 rings out: "Come, let us sing... let us kneel... let us listen." This is a call to that kind of worship that wins—a worship that brings victory, transformation, and rest.

So, picture this: a congregation gathered in a scarred city, longing for hope and restoration—into that reality, Psalm 95 rings out: "Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation." Worship that wins always begins with gratitude—for who God is and what He has done, even in the hardest seasons. We see this in David's uninhibited praise when the Ark was brought into Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:14–15), and in the courageous faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who refused to bow to Nebuchadnezzar's idol (Daniel 3). Their actions remind us that genuine worship stands firm and overflows with thanksgiving, no matter the circumstances.

David, overwhelmed by gratitude, danced before the Ark with all his might (2 Samuel 6:14–15)—setting aside his dignity to give God his all in worship, no matter who was watching. In our day, we too are called to bring our truest selves before God, letting joy and gratitude overflow.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow to Nebuchadnezzar's idol in Daniel 3, even when threatened with the furnace. Their courageous worship in exile is a model for us: standing firm in faith, honoring God in a world with many competing voices.

## 2. Worship That Wins Listens and Responds (Psalm 95:6-7a; Daniel 6)

Psalm 95:6 invites us to deeper surrender: "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." True worship is not just singing, but humbling ourselves, listening carefully, and responding in obedience. Daniel modeled this in exile; despite the threat of the lions' den, he continued to kneel and pray faithfully (Daniel 6:10–11). His life shows us the courage it takes to listen to God's voice and respond, even when the world pressures us to do otherwise.

Daniel's example brings this home. Daniel, even when threatened with the lions' den, continued to kneel and pray faithfully (Daniel 6:10–11). His worship was not just public, but deeply personal—a pattern of listening and surrendering to God, no matter the cost.

## 3. Worship That Wins Remembers and Repents (Psalm 95:7-11; Exodus 17)

Psalm 95:7b-11 takes a turn, warning us not to repeat the mistakes of the past: "Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah..." Israel's journey in the wilderness (Exodus 17) warns us against letting doubt and disappointment harden our hearts. When the Israelites quarreled with Moses and questioned God's presence at Meribah, God still provided water, but their hardened hearts became a cautionary example for us. Worship that wins remembers God's faithfulness, repents of stubbornness, and continually returns to His mercy.

In Exodus 17, the Israelites, facing thirst and fear, quarreled with Moses and questioned if God was truly among them. God still provided water, but their hardened hearts became a cautionary tale—reminding us not to let wilderness seasons, disappointments, or unanswered prayers drive us away from God's promises.

Psalm 95 stands as both an invitation and a warning: a call to joyful, surrendered worship and a reminder to remain openhearted and faithful. As we follow Jesus Christ, the true Rock of our salvation, let us offer worship that is grateful, obedient, and repentant—worship that moves the heart of God, brings honor and adoration to His name, and leads us into His promised rest. This is the faithfulness to which we are called—a life of worship that truly wins.

## Takeaways for This Week

- ~Begin every day with gratitude: name something you're thankful for as an act of worship and a shield against spiritual drift.
- ~Make time for silence and scripture: invite God to speak, and listen for his guidance in the stillness.
- ~ Bring your struggles honestly: if you notice stubbornness, disappointment, or doubt, talk it out with God - ask him to soften your heart and renew your trust, just as I invited you to do in the message.
- ~ Let your gratitude overflow: share one story of God's goodness with someone this week, letting worship spill out into real relationships and encouragement.

**Worship that wins is not about perfection—it's about a grateful, listening, and repentant heart. This is the worship that brings real victory and rest, in every season.**

~Amen.

# **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**March 15, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.**

**Fourth 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**

"He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought"

UMH 128 vv 1 - 3

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.*

## **\*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**

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

DeKara Berry

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

"I Trust in God" & "God Is"

Mandi Battle

Praise & Worship Director  
CCLI # 2967303, Song #7206001

## **SERMON**

"Seen By 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.*

## **\*CLOSING SONG**

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Praise & Worship Director  
UMH 474 vv. 1 - 3

## **\*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.