

COMING UP...

Sunday, March 24

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

Monday, March 25

11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba
(MMZ)
2:00 p.m. Casserole Party for Rose Hill

Tuesday, March 26

2:00 p.m. Reachers' Meeting
3:00 p.m. Rose Hill

Wednesday, March 27

12:00 noon Bible Study

Thursday, March 28

12:00 noon Prayer Team
6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship
Service

Sunday, March 31

8:45 a.m. Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Easter Play
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person &
Online
Easter Egg Hunt Immediately Following
Service



*The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in Honor of
Lee Spencer's birthday by James and Donna Faircloth.*

CONTACT US

2400 Devonshire Drive
Columbus, GA 31904

Church Office (706) 322-6973

Pastor's Cell (706) 992-9147

www.epworthumc.com

staff's first name@epworthumc.com
(example: earnestine@epworthumc.com)

Facebook - EpworthUMC.com

Instagram - EpworthUMC.com

Twitter - @EpworthColumbus

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:*

Administrative Assistant.....Joy Propst
Children's Ministry Director.....Damien Brown
Custodians.....Martha Conklin & Barbie Webb
Media TechTristan Campbell
Music Director.....Bob Lee
Nursery WorkerMartha Conklin
PastorRev. Earnestine Campbell
Praise & Worship DirectorMandi Battle

 **epworth**
united methodist church

March 24, 2024

WHAT IS PALM SUNDAY?

By Rev. Ryan Dunn

This Sunday is called "Palm Sunday." The name comes from a story in the Bible in which Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem. Prior to this event, Jesus and his friends roamed the countryside teaching and performing miracles, gaining a lot of recognition. The people of Jerusalem were super-excited that Jesus was coming to their city to celebrate a big religious festival. In their excitement, the people grabbed palm branches to wave around and threw their cloaks before Jesus on the road. The whole scene might have looked something like an ancient tinker tape parade.

Today, we still commemorate Palm Sunday. It starts off a week of remembrance for Christians, often referred to as Holy Week. The week ends with the celebration of Easter, and throughout this week we mark the different events that led to Jesus' Resurrection and Easter. This means that Palm Sunday is a kind of paradoxical celebration. At worship services, there is likely a festive atmosphere. I have been part of many services where children wave palm branches and parade around the worship space shouting "Hosanna!" The paradox is that we celebrate knowing full well what came next in the story, after Jesus' triumphal entry: he was rejected, betrayed and crucified.

Just about everything in regard to Jesus was surprising. His teachings were surprising--sometimes in a refreshing way, often in a shocking way. His actions were surprising, evidenced in the people he often associated with. His entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday was surprising--because he rode in riding a young donkey. The events of Holy Week remind us that we humans often don't deal well with surprises, for the story of Jesus turns from celebration on Palm Sunday to rejection and death the following Friday. Thankfully, we know today that there was one more surprise to the Jesus story: the surprise of the Resurrection, which we'll celebrate on Easter Sunday. Easter is a reminder that though we may turn from God's surprises, God's love persists in an undeniable way. We can't keep God from surprising us.

(taken from (<https://www.umc.org/en/content/what-is-palm-sunday>))

This Sunday is a celebration of wonder. We celebrate that God continues to surprise and are welcoming in the miracle to come: the miracle of Resurrection. I hope you'll consider what surprises await you this Holy Week.

In Christ,

Earnestine



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: 2 Kings 13
Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class

Study: Journey to the Cross
Teacher: Glenn Griffin

The Seekers Class

Study: Wired Word
Teacher: Donny Davis

The Children’s Class at 9:30 a.m.

K-4 - 5th Grade
Teachers: Damien Brown & Margaret Gosden

THOSE WHO SERVE

March 24, 2024

Usher: David Hay
Financial Secretary: Steve Sawyer
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

March 17, 2024

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Tithes & Offerings: | \$2,840.00 |
| Received To Date: | \$41,774.01 |
| Needed To Date: | \$56,598.24 |

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Attendance: | |
| Sunday School | 22 |
| In-person Sunday Worship | 56 |
| Online Viewers | 25 |
| Total | 81 |

Financially Speaking - As holistic believers of Christ, let’s remember to give of our time, talents, and gifts—this includes our financial givings as we remember our pledges. Our church wants to make sure you have the opportunity to give: during Worship, by mail or drop off at the office, text “Give” to 706-655-6768 or log on to Epworth’s Website—select “More” then “Donate” “Give.”

STAY CONNECTED

In-Person & Livestreaming Worship - Join us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Options for worshipping by livestream are: epworthumc.freeonlinechurch.com/live, facebook.com/epworthcolumbus or youtube.com/channel/UCZJhDYHDeeE-dnv5a5nQKjA as close to 10:30 a.m. as possible.

Reviews Matter - Take 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. Use your social network to share events at our church with family and friends.

Text, App & Website Giving - Our church wants to make sure you have the opportunity to give. Text “Giving” to 706-655-6768, download Epworth’s App from the App Store for free or visit Epworth’s website to make a donation online. Thanks for your continued support to Epworth’s ministries.

HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE

Please join us on Thursday, March 28 at 6:00 p.m. for this special Holy Week service and invite others.

NEW SANCTUARY/ALTAR FLOWER OPTIONS

Due to the recent florist price increase, the following options for Sanctuary flowers are offered:

- 1. Florist-provided fresh flower arrangement; \$85
- 2. Seasonal silk flower arrangement; \$40 donation to Epworth's General Fund.
- 3. Seasonal fresh flower bouquet arranged in-house; \$50 donation to Epworth's General Fund.

Please indicate your preference for the arrangement of your choice on the form attached to the flower calendar on the office window.

(Lillies, hydrangeas, and poinsettias will continue to be offered for purchase during Easter and Christmas.)

MISSIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

March Mission Opportunity: Open Door Community House - Open Door Community House began in the basement of Hamp Stevens Methodist Church in 1924. Now, 100 years later, Open Door still works to empower impoverished people in our community to realize their full potential as children of God. Your donation will help them to serve another century. To read their story, go to www.odch.org. Please mark your check/pew envelope "Open Door." Thanks!

Partygoers, Save the Date! - Epworth will sponsor a "Casseroles for A Cause" party on Monday, March 25 at 2:00 p.m. Our goal is to make 25 casseroles. Hope you can attend!

Children & Youth Game Night - Children & Youth Game Night is held every second and fourth Friday from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. All Epworth children/youth are encouraged to invite friends to come out for snacks, fun, and fellowship! Our next Game Night is Friday, April 12.

UWF Book Study: "So You Want to Talk About Race" - Excitement is building for this new venture, an online book group! We will be meeting on Sunday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. on March 24, April 28, and May 19. Take part in honest conversations about race and racism with Christian sisters. Earnestine Campbell will facilitate this virtual book study of "So You Want to Talk About Race", a New York Times bestseller by Ijeoma Oluo. 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 and to purchase the book (\$8.50).

Candy Needed for Easter - The Children’s Ministry is asking for individually-wrapped candy and plastic eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt. No nut products, please. You can place your donations in the black tote found in the Welcome Center no later than Friday, March 29. Thank you!

Fellowship Hall Reserved:
-Monday - Wednesday, April 8 - 10
-Saturday, April 13

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

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. Each lily is \$30 and hydrangeas are \$25. The order deadline has been extended to Sunday, March 24; there are only 7 lilies left, so sign up now! 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.

Children's Ministry Easter Play - Rehearsals for the Easter play on Sundays during the Children's Church hour and during Game Night. Parents/grandparents, bring the children to church and let them be a part of telling the Easter Story on Easter Sunday. What a powerful way for our children to participate in and honor the resurrected story of Christ!

Mark Your Calendar! Brunch, Easter Play, Worship & Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 31: **Breakfast:** 8:45 a.m. We are asking you to bring a casserole dish, fruit, grits, sausage, or biscuits. Beverages will be provided. Sign up on the Easter Brunch list in the Welcome Center. Bring your dish no later than 8:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday. Coordinator, Vonna Franks (vfanks57@aol.com); **Easter Play,** 9:30 a.m.; **Worship,** 10:30 a.m.; **Easter Egg Hunt** immediately following Worship. This is a community event. Please invite your family, neighbors, and friends! Sunday School classes will not meet this Sunday.

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 call the Pastoral Institute at 706-649-6500 to schedule an appointment. PI is located at 2022 15th Ave., Columbus, GA.

A Taste of Epworth Cookbooks - Need a gift to give? Purchase a copy from the Welcome Center for \$5. Proceeds support missions.

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Annette Taff | Becky Britton | Lillian Wooldridge | Jeanne Guilbeault |
| Vanessa Desoto | Cheryl Jandreau | Susan Stark | Barbara Watson |
| Ginny Stallings | Mildred Rodgers | Janis Day | Anne Flynn |
| Marjean Waters | Deborah Cooper | Jane Grandon | Buddy & Susan Dunn |
| Fraser Wooldridge | Emilie Carswell | Betty Paulk | |
| Amanda Kinsman | Debra Johnson | | |
| Family of Austin Kernodle | Bob Lee | | |
| Barbie Webb & Family | Family of Kittye Crockett | | |
| Lorene Carlisle & Family | Vonna Franks & Family | | |
| Family of Fred Carswell | Family of Carolyn Gambill | | |
| Margaret Gosden & Elsie Spanogians & Family | | | |
| Family of James and Donna Faircloth | | | |
| Mary Lee Crews & Family | | | |
| Ann Smith & Family | | | |
| Ron Sawyer & Family | | | |

Extended Church Family

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Steve Guilbeault | Michael Taff | Noland Barefield | Mark Oliver |
| Kane Family | Patricia Waldo | Robbins Family | Chris Lovelock |
| Kuester Family | Dora Spires | Willie Ryles | Judy Patterson |
| Cassie Prochaska | Billy Hill | Kim Jordan | Grier Family |
| Carol Hall | Bruce Chapman | Charles Holmes | Marilyn Buck |
| Danny Chidester | Beth Goodwin | McDaniel Family | Stephanie Bryan |
| Adams Family | Hattie Campbell | Robin Grantham | Dana Thurston |
| Ralph & Sandy McGough | Diane Wiggins | Cristina Mattocks | David Garner |
| Ann Mitchell | Patricia Jefferson | Paul Karastury | Kathy McClintock |
| James & Sue Flowers | Robert Wagers | Davis/Osborne Family | Bill Stubbs & Family |
| Sarah Browder | Aundre Smith | Maggie Smith | Danny Snider |
| Hazel Dullin | The Thrower Family | Sandy Hortman | |
| Belinda Lias | Mary Kennedy | | |
| Susan Land | | | |

Independent/Assisted Living/Nursing Home

| | |
|--|--|
| Covenant Woods - Helen Pharris | The Lodge (Bessemer, AL) - Lorene Carlisle |
| Kings Bridge (Atlanta, GA) - Blount King | The Thrive @ Green Island - Jack Phillips |
| River Place - Anne Wilson | 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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 24, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.

Palm/Passion Sunday

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE Bob Lee, Music Director

ENTER THE LIGHT OF CHRIST Children/Youth Ministry

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER Damien Brown, 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 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" Led by Susan Dunn
UMH No. 278

CHILDREN’S SERMON Damien Brown & Children

CONGREGATIONAL SONG "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" Led by Susan Dunn
UMH No. 277

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 Pastor

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

LORD’S PRAYER Pastor & Congregation

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*SCRIPTURE LESSON MARK 11:1-11 Becky Britton

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.
People: Thanks be to God.'

SPECIAL MUSIC "My Redeemer Lives" Mandi Battle
CCLI License # 2967303 Song #4243463

SERMON “The Donkey and the King” 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 "How Great Thou Art" vv. 1 & 4 Led by Mandi Battle
UMH No. 77

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.