

COMING UP...

MARCH 29 - APRIL 05

Sunday, March 29
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship In-person & Online & Children's Church
Children & Youth Choir

Monday, March 30
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Wednesday, April 01
No Noonday Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Zoom (EPEC) Bible Study

Thursday, April 02
Noon Prayer Team
6:00 p.m. Holy Thursday - area UMC churches combined service at St. Mary's Rd. UMC located at 3993 St. Mary's Rd., Columbus, GA 31907.

Friday, April 03
Good Friday - The church will be closed.

Sunday, April 05
9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Children's & Youth Easter Presentation
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person & Online & Children's Church
Easter Egg Hunt immediately following Worship Service



-The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in observance of Palm Sunday 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

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 Tech.....Tristan Campbell
Music Director.....Bob Lee
Nursery WorkerMartha Conklin
PastorRev. Earnestine Campbell
Praise & Worship Director.....Mandi Battle



March 29, 2026

"SEEN BY GOD," PART II

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13
PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

GOD SEES THE OVERLOOKED AND THE ORDINARY (VV. 6-7)

Sunday's Service was filled with God's anointing. Our Scripture was 1 Samuel 16:1-13, and the Sermon title was "Seen by God," Part II. Israel wanted to fit in with the nations around them—to have a king who looked the part, to find security in what seemed impressive. But God's people were always meant to be different, to trust His leadership even when it didn't match the world's standards.

When Samuel arrived in Bethlehem to anoint a new king, he saw Jesse's eldest son, Eliab—tall, impressive, someone who looked like he could lead an army - I would imagine. Samuel thought, "Surely this is the one God has chosen!" But God stopped him right there and said, "Don't look at his appearance or his height. People look at the outside, but the Lord looks at the heart." (v. 7)

David wasn't even invited to the gathering—he was out in the fields doing the ordinary, humble work of tending sheep. Yet that's exactly where God's eyes found him. Maybe you've felt ordinary, overlooked, or like you're in the background while others are chosen first. But God sees you. He delights in using the unexpected and the unnoticed for His purposes.

God isn't searching for perfect people, but for people with honest, receptive hearts. David is chosen not for his looks, but for his heart—his desire to worship, his courage, his willingness to repent and follow God, even after failure.

God Looks for the Heart, Not Perfection (vv. 8-10)

Samuel watched as seven of Jesse's sons walked in, each one impressive in their own way. Paraded before them to be anointed. But God said "no" to each of them. It wasn't about their resumes, their strength, or their family position. God wasn't looking at their stature or their ability as warriors —He was looking for someone with an honest, open heart.

David was chosen not for his outer qualities, but because he was willing to worship, to take risks in faith, and to repent when he failed. God's "no" to the others wasn't a rejection—it was making space for a better "yes." God's rejection of this situation was God's preparation of another who had been selected.

(See Insert for Continuation)

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 35-37

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 29, 2026

Usher(s): UWF

Financial Secretary: Donny Davis

Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

March 22, 2026

Tithes & Offerings:	\$1,143.00
Received To Date:	\$74,637.59
Needed To Date:	\$54,961.85

Attendance:	
Sunday School	5
In-person Sunday Worship	48
Online Viewers	65
Total	113

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 first: facebook.com/epworthcolumbus](https://www.facebook.com/epworthcolumbus) 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, April 01

--Noon Bible Study will not meet this week

-- 6:30 p.m. Online Zoom, EPEC, Bible Study class. The book of Exodus, lessons 12 & 13.

MANY THANKS

A special thank you is extended to member Theresa Mullican for her very generous donation of \$20,000.00 to the General Fund. We are grateful for your heartfelt and selfless generosity, which will aid in fulfilling the holy ministry at Epworth. May God's blessings continue to be upon you!

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.

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE! 2ND ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

BOOTS, BLING, & THE WORD!

Friday - Saturday, April 17 - 18, 2026.
(Friday at 6 p.m. & Saturday at 9 a.m.)

Epworth UMC's very own Pastor Earnie will be the Guest Inspirational Speaker for the conference, hosted at Alethia Church. See the flyer in the Welcome Center for details and the QR code to register. Join us for uplifting messages and an inspiring weekend!

CHILDREN & YOUTH GAME NIGHT

Children & Youth Game Night - The date for our next Game Night will be announced soon.

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

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, April 20 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.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual South Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church will be held
May 31 - June 02, 2026.

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. at St. Mary's Road UMC

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.

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.

~Hydrangeas are \$25.00 and Lilies are \$20.00.

HOLY THURSDAY

Epworth UMC will participate in a Holy Thursday service combined with other area United Methodist churches on April 02 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Road UMC located at 3993 St. Mary's Rd., Columbus, GA 31907. You are encouraged to come out for this special service.

The Forgotten and the Heart That Matters (vv. 11–13)

There’s a kind of fairy-tale quality to this story—the overlooked child who becomes king. It’s the biblical version of Cinderella. Samuel is impressed by Eliab’s looks and height, but God reminds him—and us—that what matters is the heart. All the obvious candidates are passed over. When Samuel realized none of the sons present was the one, “So he asked Jesse, ‘Are these all the sons you have?’” Jesse almost shrugs: “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. He is tending the sheep.” Even his own father didn’t think to include him. Yet it’s that very child, the one tending the flock, who is chosen. with the smelly sheep — hot days, cold nights. Considered unclean for worship. Surely, he can’t be the one. Even his own father didn’t expect him to be chosen. Shepherding is more than a job—it’s a symbol of care, responsibility, and courage. David’s role as a shepherd points to the kind of leader God wants: someone who will guide, protect, and serve. There’s a powerful contrast with Saul’s selection - but ultimately God’s rejection. Both Saul and David are chosen by God, both are anointed by Samuel, and both are seized by God’s Spirit. But while Saul was picked for his stature, David was chosen for his heart—and the Spirit remains with him, not just for a moment, but as a lasting presence.

David’s life must have seemed like a closed door to opportunities like this to his family and others. He had been overlooked and passed by in comparison to his brothers. Sometimes, when doors close or opportunities pass us by, it’s simply God preparing us for something greater. It may be a door closed to an application being answered, to a job being secured, or a promotion long overdue, to a relationship being healed, or a financial blessing. God has not forgotten you. You are seen by God!

But God saw David’s heart in the pasture. Samuel called for him, and as soon as David arrived, God told Samuel, “This is the one.” Samuel anointed David, and God’s Spirit came powerfully upon him from that day on.

David’s time in the field—hidden, overlooked, and even underappreciated—wasn’t wasted. It was God’s training ground, preparing him for something bigger. Maybe you feel like you’re in that season now—doing unnoticed work, feeling left out. But God is using it to shape your character and heart for what He has ahead.

Life in God’s church isn’t about having the biggest platform or fitting a certain mold. It’s about showing up with consecration, courage to serve, and staying true to your calling, even when others overlook you.

Take Rocky Balboa from Rocky IV. Rocky was clearly smaller and less imposing than Ivan Drago, the Russian champion. The world saw Drago’s size and strength and assumed Rocky didn’t stand a chance. But Rocky kept training, pushed through pain, and stepped into the ring anyway. Through sheer determination and heart, he won not just the fight, but also respect and even the hearts of those rooting against him. It’s not about how you start but how you finish.

Or look at Sha’Carri Richardson, an American renowned champion track-and-field sprinter nationally and internationally. She isn’t the tallest sprinter nor does she have the largest imposing stature. She’s won medals for her college, her country, and for herself, showing that success comes from the right kind of strength, focus, and embracing who you are—not from fitting someone else’s expectations.

David, who had been overlooked in the pasture, became the one who led the nation in God’s battles and worship and brought God’s presence back to the people. David’s dance unto the worship of the Lord was more than a celebration—it was the joy of someone who knew what it meant to be “seen by God,” to be raised up from low places, and to lead out of a heart shaped in humble circumstances. Your life may feel stuck in the “pasture”—hidden, isolated, or unappreciated. Maybe your nights are long, your work is thankless, or the people closest to you don’t see your real value. But God does. God uses the lonely places, the hard places, to prepare you for a greater purpose. Just as He did for David, God can write a new chapter for you—one where you move from isolation to influence, from tending sheep to leading and excelling. So don’t despise your pasture season. Trust that God is preparing you for the palace and His plan, for leadership, for worship, and for blessing others. Like David, your story isn’t over regardless of where you are currently placed.

That’s what the church is called to be: a community where we don’t measure worth by appearance, but by heart and faithfulness. We may get overlooked or underestimated, but God values and uses those who are willing and authentic. Jesus was overlooked, but He was the ultimate, true, and living King from the lineage of David. Everybody has a story — use it for His glory!

~Amen!

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 29, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.

Palm/Passion Sunday

*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**

"Hosanna, Loud Hossana"

UMH 278 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 and select "Donate." On Communion Sunday, please place your Communion Offering in the basket near the altar.

OFFERTORY SELECTION

"The Holy City"

Baron Conklin

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 118:1-2, 19-29

Becky Britton

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***CONGREGATIONAL SONG**

"He Has Made Me Glad"

Song Leader
CH 214

SERMON

"Open Those Gates!"

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**

"Alleluia"

Song Leader
UMH 186 vv. 1 - 3

***LIGHT OF CHRIST BROUGHT OUT INTO THE WORLD**

Acolytes

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor

***POSTLUDE**

Music Director

COFFEE BAR ON SUNDAYS