

COMING UP...

Sunday, March 24

5:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting

Tuesday, March 26

3:00 p.m. Reachers UMW Meeting

5:00 p.m. Feeding Our Neighbors @ Rose Hill

6:30 p.m. AA Group Meeting

Wednesday, March 27

6:00 p.m. Praise Team Practice

6:00 p.m. Wednesday Supper

6:30 p.m. Study with Marguerite Hay

6:30 p.m. Wacky Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 28

9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study

12 noon Prayer Team

Friday, March 29

11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Bible Study

Saturday, March 30

3:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved

Sunday, March 31

12:15 p.m. Children's Ministry Meeting

5:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting

REV. STEVE PATTON TO BE APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT

Bishop Lawson Bryan has announced that the Rev. Steve Patton will be appointed to succeed the Rev. Dr. Buddy Cooper as the Northwest District Superintendent. Rev. Patton is currently the pastor at Wesley UMC at Frederica on St. Simons Island. He previously served the Pine Forrest UMC in Dublin, GA and the Trinity UMC in Waycross, GA. Rev. Patton is a gifted leader and a humble servant of God who will surely be a fine leader for us in our district.

The sanctuary flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Lee Spencer's Birthday by James & Donna Faircloth.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

*Epworth's members are our ministers.
The professional staff who assist us are:*

Choir DirectorLyn Pharris
Church Administrator.....Susan Snider
Contemporary Music Director..... Kayla Moss
Custodians.....Martha Conklin & Barbie Webb
Music Director..... Bob Lee
Nursery WorkerMartha Conklin
Pastor Tony G. Crosby

CONTACT US

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Church Office (706) 322-6973

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

Facebook - EpworthUMC.com
Instagram - EpworthUMC.com
Twitter - @EpworthColumbus

CONTACTING YOU

Most of the church's communication is through e-mail and texting. We send two e-mails each week—a newsletter on Monday and a sermon preview on Friday and texts during the week. We also use e-mail to send important meeting reminders and other information. Epworth has a free text messaging solution hosted by Remind. Sign up now by texting '@epworth1' to 81010. Help us contact you by ensuring the church office has your current e-mail address.

 epworth
united methodist church

March 24, 2019

The Contrast of God's Way vs. Our Way

You ignore God's commandment while holding on to rules created by humans and handed down to you.

—Mark 7:8 (CEB)

One of the greatest efforts in futility throughout human history has been the push to legislate morality.

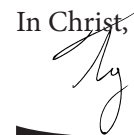
What is moral or right is not universally agreeable to all. Even the foundational idea that we should not kill other people is up for discussion in the realms of war, capital punishment, abortion, self-defense, and euthanasia. Throughout history, there is a repeated effort to write laws or civil codes that identify certain behaviors that are wrong or not acceptable to the society at large. These are different in varying places, times, and cultures.

In the Old Testament, we believe that God gave the law to the ancient Israelites and that expressed God's will for how people were to live with and treat one another and how people were to show their reverence for and worship of God. But despite the idea that these laws were the expression of God directly, it is clear from the Old Testament and from the witness of Christ that God has always been more concerned about purifying the motives of the heart rather than drawing boundaries based upon lived-out behavior. Most of the Sermon on the Mount is devoted to clarifying God's expectation that the desires of our hearts are what truly need healing and restoration. We are not measured only by our behavior, but more importantly we are evaluated based upon our deepest desires.

In Jesus's day, the Pharisees and other religious elites had become the epitome of a legalistic and law-based faith rather than a faith that taught the purity of heart. Jesus had great disdain for this way of thinking. Over the years, the religious leaders had added volumes of laws in order to clarify every detail of what right living looked like. But Jesus saw all of this addition to God's original law as a great error. One could follow every detail of these man-made laws and still miss the vision of the kingdom of God. God's kingdom is about changing hearts that produce holy living.

The kingdom of God is built in the world by grace taking root in our lives and changing our deepest desires and wants. And then with a new heart, we live a new life that changes the world. This is God's way.

It's time for some kingdom building, but it needs to start with us.

In Christ,




Epworth connects and equips all kinds of people to SEEK, SERVE, and SHARE Christ.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

The Children's Class (K-5)
Teacher: Rosemary DiSimone

The Youth Class (6-12)
Teacher: Sam Cherai

The Friendship Class
Study: Calling to Salvation
Teacher: Class

The Genesis Class
Study: The Wired Word
Teacher: Leslie Morris

The Joy Class
Study: Class Discussion
Teacher: Class

The Nathan Patterson/Wesley Class
Study: Exodus 14
Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class
Study: Gracious Hospitality
Teacher: James Johnson

The Questors Class
Study: Class Discussion
Teacher: Gary Tomlin

The Seekers Class
Study: Wired Word
Teacher: Lillian Wooldridge

The Young Adult Class
Study: Jesus & the Beanstalk
Teacher: Becky Britton

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is given to Daniel Carbaugh and their family on the death of his wife, Andrea Carbaugh, who passed on Monday, March 18.

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 give our church name when scheduling an appointment at 706-649-6500; located at 2022 15th Ave., Columbus.

THOSE WHO SERVE

March 24, 2019

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Mary Lee Crews, Charles & Faith Newton
Usher: Shawn Jandreau, Steve Sawyer
Acolyte: Usher
Children's Church: Whitney Weyeneth

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: John & Jane Grandon, Suzy Revell
Usher: Janie Nellums, Carole Zimmerman
Acolyte: Ema Cherai
Children's Church: Volunteer
Nursery Volunteer: Lillian Wooldridge
Financial Secretary: Bryan Pruet
Turn Key: Baron Conklin

OUR STEWARDSHIP

March 17, 2019

Tithes & Offerings:	\$4,785.00
Received To Date:	\$65,793.50
Needed To Date:	\$65,388.84

Attendance:	
Sunday School	68
Worship: 9 a.m.	32
Worship: 11 a.m.	70
Total	102

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Youth Group - We meet Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m. in the youth room.

Children's Ministry Meeting - Sunday, March 31, after the 11 a.m. service. The meeting is for anyone interested in volunteering for the children's ministry in any way. Sign up for lunch reservations on the information board.

Wacky Wednesdays - each week at 6:30 p.m. The children's program includes lessons, crafts, and songs and is for children Pre-K to 5th grade.

MISSIONS

March Mission Focus - Casseroles for a Cause for Rose Hill Ministry. Pick up the provided recipe and pan from the narthex. Make the casserole and return it by Easter Sunday, April 21. Place the casserole in the freezer in the kitchen.

Feeding Our Neighbors at Rose Hill - Tuesday, March 26. Preparations begin at 5:15 p.m.; serving at 5:45 p.m. Contact Debra Johnson or Becky Britton to volunteer to serve or help with meal preparation.

Donations Needed for Easter Egg Hunt - The children's ministry is asking for donations of large plastic eggs, individually wrapped candy (no chocolate) and small toys that will fit into plastic eggs.

Save Your Yogurt Cups - The children are collecting empty, clean cups for an upcoming project. Place them in the marked container in the Orange room of the children's wing.

Volunteers Needed for Annual Conference in June 2019 - The Northwest District is hosting this year's conference. We need your help in serving at Annual Conference, June 2-4. Let us know how and when you can volunteer. Mark your connection card or contact the church office. Thank you!

A Taste of Epworth Cookbooks - Purchase your copy(s) from the welcome center for \$5 each. Proceeds support missions. The books make great gifts.

Vintage Shirt Sale - Hurry and get your shirts! A few are still available and sweatshirts can be ordered individually. See the sign-up sheet on the information board or any Vintage member to order.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Wednesday Supper & Study - March 27, at 6 p.m. Sign up on the information board or contact the church office to make reservations. Menu: soup, sandwich, salad and dessert. At 6:30 p.m., we will have a devotion given by Marguerite Hay.

Ladies Bible Study - Every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in the Questors classroom. Currently studying the Gospel of Mark.

Brown Bag Bible Study - The pastor is leading a weekly small group on Fridays at 11:30 a.m. on our Gospel of Mark study. Bring your own lunch as we fellowship and study together.

Epworth Shirt Recognition Sunday - The Vintage Group invites everyone who has an Epworth T-shirt or sweatshirt to wear it to church on Sunday, March 31. Thank you for showing your Epworth spirit.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting - Monday, April 1, at 10 a.m., in the fellowship hall.

HIS UMW Group Meeting - Tuesday, April 2, at 10:30 a.m., in the fellowship hall.

Fellowship Hall Reserved - Tuesday afternoon. April 2 to Saturday evening, April 6.

Lilies for Easter - Order your Easter lilies now on the information board. Each lily is \$13. Order deadline is Wednesday, April 10.

General Conference Update Session April 3, 6:30 p.m. - Now that the special called 2019 General Conference is complete and the South Georgia Conference has shared detailed information about how our conference will be responding, the pastor will share information on Wednesday, April 3, at 6:30 p.m. There will be a brief time for questions and answers.

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

Fred & Emilie Carswell	Jimmy Bridges	Gladys Plant	Carbaugh Family
Vanessa Desoto	Ron & Betty Sawyer	Thrower Family	Sibyl Wells
Keri McElvey	Barbara Stubbs	Kernodle Family	Daniel Family
Elsie & Jim Spanogians	Helen Batastini	Annette Taff	Doug Franks
Billy Bullock	Crosby Family		

Extended Church Family

Steve & Carol Guilbeault	Michael Taff	David Olson	Mark Oliver
Dotty Baker	Ricky Clark	Robbins Family	Andrew Wade
Laurie Osteen	Preston Silvernail	Dora Spires	Willie Ryles
Judy Patterson	Cassie Prochaska	Billy Hill	Kim Jordan
Dorothy Ogg	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	Janice Knox	

Assisted Living/Nursing Home

Covenant Woods - Linda Coleman, Carol Osteen	River Place - Betty Cummings, Elizabeth Harbert, Jane Sanders
Kings Bridge (Atlanta, GA) - Blount King	River Towne Center - Jerry Williams
Magnolia Manor - Doris Halouska Cammie Van Over	The Landings - Gladys Plant
Phenix City Health Care - Anne Whitehurst	The Lodge (Bessemer, AL) - Lorene Carlisle Wesley Glen (Byron, GA) - Nancy Hiller

Please continue to pray for our homebound people. They would love a visit!

*If the prayer list needs to be updated, please call, email the church office,
or leave a note with updates. 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