

COMING UP...

APRIL 12 - APRIL 19

Sunday, April 12

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

Monday, April 13

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

Tuesday, April 14

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

Wednesday, April 15

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

Thursday, April 16

Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, April 19

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

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

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



April 12, 2026

"THREE MESSAGES: ONE TOMB"

MATTHEW 28: 1-10
EASTER SUNDAY

What a powerful and awesome Resurrection Worship Service we had on Sunday! Our Scripture was Matthew 28:1-10, and the Sermon title: "Three Messages: One Tomb!"

Recap – The Story of Jesus' Ministry to the Cross So Far

Before we explore the Resurrection story, Matthew, a former tax collector turned disciple, wrote his gospel to a Jewish audience living under Roman occupation. He wanted them to see Jesus as the promised Messiah. The world was divided by politics, economics, and religion. The Jewish people struggled under Roman rule, with leaders like Pilate desperately clinging to power. The religious elite—the Pharisees and Sadducees—wanted Jesus dead because His righteousness exposed their hypocrisy and fear.

Now, let's imagine the story unfolding like a binge-worthy series—Netflix, Hulu, or your favorite streaming service. This is "Season 40"—the 40th book of the Bible—Matthew. Today, we're in Episode 28: The Resurrection. But before the joy of the empty tomb, there was the drama of betrayal, trial, and crucifixion. The story has been building with powerful moments: Jesus' baptism and temptation, the Sermon on the Mount, miracles and healings, sending out the disciples, teaching through parables, confronting religious leaders, and revealing His glory at the Transfiguration.

Then comes Passion Week: the triumphal entry, cleansing the temple, deep teachings, betrayal, the Last Supper, prayer in Gethsemane, arrest, unjust trials, Peter's denial, and ultimately the cross. The tomb becomes the intersection of death and hope. On Friday, Jesus is crucified and buried. On Saturday, He rests in the tomb. Now, at daybreak, the story reaches its climax.

Tensions have been rising. Jesus' ministry threatened the religious leaders. The crowds were divided. When Jesus is arrested, the high priests and Sanhedrin want Him dead—not just silenced, but executed as a blasphemer and a threat. Pilate, the Roman governor, finds himself caught. He knows Jesus is innocent, but he's afraid of the crowd and afraid for his own position. If a riot breaks out, Caesar will hear, and Pilate could lose everything—his authority, paycheck, and access to power. Pilate is performing for His superior and the other unrighteous. Sometimes, we too are tempted to compromise our values and our God to keep our place, our comfort, our reputation, and our integrity. But as followers of God, our loyalty must be to Him, not the culture and who we think we should be positioned with and in their good graces.

At the trial, the people—given a choice—set a criminal, Barabbas, free, instead of Jesus. The crowd chooses violence over righteousness and hate over love, and the innocent One is condemned. Jesus, sinless, takes the cross and pays the price for our sins. He stands in our place, bearing the cost of all injustice, and turns the world's verdict upside down. The tomb becomes the place where God's love overcomes hate and death.

(See Insert for Continuation & Takeaways)

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 38

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

April 12, 2026

Usher(s): David Hay & Fraser Woolridge

Financial Secretary: Donny Davis

Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

April 12, 2026

(Sunday School was not held due to Easter activities.)

Tithes & Offerings:	\$8,244.00
Received To Date:	\$86,700.59
Needed To Date:	\$64,121.85

Attendance:	
Easter Sunday Play	40
In-person Sunday Worship	83
Online Viewers	124
Total	207

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).

JOB WELL DONE

A gift was given to the general fund in recognition and appreciation of Robert Campbell's awesome accomplishment with the prayer garden.

- From a friend in Christ

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 15

-- Noon Bible Study, in Questors Classroom. The book of Daniel, Session 11, Chapters 10 & 11.

-- 6:30 p.m. Online Zoom, EPEC, Bible Study class. The book of Exodus, lessons 13 & 14.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES

Christian sympathies are extended to:

- Members, Linda and Bob Lee. Linda's sister, Carolyn McCarty, passed away on Wednesday, April 01, 2026 and was funeralized on Thursday, April 09, 2026, at Kirkland Memorial Baptist Church.

- The family of Harold Morris. Harold Morris passed away on Wednesday, April 08, 2026, and will be funeralized on Tuesday, April 14, at 1 p.m. at McMullen Funeral Home. Please keep these families in prayer.

- *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

THANK YOU MESSAGE

Thank you to our amazing children & youth along with the Children's Ministry leaders, Jas'Min Vontoure and Whitney Mennifee, for a wonderful Easter presentation titled "From the Manger to the Empty Tomb." Thank you is also extended to Quenton Brantley, Tristan Campbell, Martha Conklin, Belinda Lias, Jawan Lias, Sr., Cordero Miles, & Van Vontoure for their support.

The following children & youth participated to give honor and glory to our risen Savior, Jesus Christ:

Ivy Brantley

Riley Brantley

Brooks Lias

Jawan "Jr." Lias

Cameron Miles

Chloe Miles

Nova Moore

Khloe Simmons

Skylar Simmons

MISSIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL MISSION

April Mission Opportunity - Our April mission is Wynnton Neighborhood Network (WNN). In its 41st year, WNN provides food items, utility assistance, diapers, and pet food. A new list of needed items is located in the Welcome Center. Our goal is 300 items. Monetary donations are always appreciated.

~Thanks for your support of this worthy cause!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes will begin in April 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!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3 Alan Krout

4 Mary Bass

5 Cordelia DiSimone

8 Christi Chase

10 Merritt Friend

15 Chelsea Chase

Judson Patten

18 Elin McManus

20 Jamie Spencer

21 Helen Howard

23 Janet Cherai

24 Jason DiSimone

Julie Jackson

Carter McManus

Davis McManus

Reese Phillips

25 Donny Davis

29 Bret Vinson

30 Mike Friend

Christi Stephens

CHILDREN & YOUTH GAME NIGHT

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

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

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!

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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

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!*

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.

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

-Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

-Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

-Tuesday, May 19, All day

The Resurrection Episode Begins

Now, as dawn breaks on the third day, we're at the turning point—if it were a series like the shows we like to binge-watch, I would call Matthew 28:1-10 Season 40 for the 40th book in the Bible and Episode 28 for Chapter 28. Jesus' ministry has been building up for the season's finale. Three messages from the empty tomb, and one God reveals His power, promise, and unity in resurrection.

Point 1: Hope that Shakes the Ground of Darkness

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary stand out as models of courage. We are not sure who the other Mary was. The Scripture tells us they walked together. I imagine them leaning on each other as they made their way to the tomb at dawn (Matthew 28:1). Mark's Gospel gives us more detail: "When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body" (Mark 16:1). These women were not just present at the resurrection—they had witnessed the crucifixion with their own eyes (Matthew 27:55-56, 61). They saw Him suffer and die, but in their grief, they chose to seek Him and moved from afar to near. Their journey to the tomb was not safe or easy—they had to have done it afraid, but they kept moving, together, in faith to take care of His body, according to Mark, in preparation for His burial. Then, the earth shook with an earthquake as God sent His angel from heaven with a message for the women: "He is not here—look at where He lay" (Matthew 28:6).

Mary Magdalene's story is especially powerful. Luke tells us Jesus healed her of seven demons (Luke 8:2). She knew what it meant to be broken, to be set free, to have her life restored. Many of us can relate—carrying our own issues, disappointments, regrets, traumas, or pain that others have caused us. The good news is that Jesus still heals, delivers, and restores. The women at the tomb remind us: even when hope seems lost and fear is all around, Jesus meets us and often uses unsuspecting "angels," people, and ways we didn't imagine to help in the midst of our issues and brings new life when we feel we are standing on dark, shaking ground. His presence, His power, and His resurrection give us hope to go on and to witness about His goodness and all He has done for us.

The earth shakes, the angel appears, and the guards tremble, but the angel tells the women, "Do not be afraid." Their courage in the face of loss also becomes part of the first message from the tomb—God's power conquers death. Even in the darkest situations, in the grief of a loved one, there is hope on shaky ground.

Point 2: Does God Know Who You Are?

Suddenly, heaven breaks open the ordinary. Matthew 28:2 tells us, "There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it." The angel's appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was white as snow (Matthew 28:3; see also Mark 16:5, which calls him "a young man dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side").

Imagine this scene: the angel rolls away the stone—not out of exhaustion, but as a demonstration of calm authority. Joseph of Arimathea had rolled the stone in front of the grave—so it was light work for the angel (Matthew 27:59–60). He sits on the stone, unbothered, not pacing, but resting, simply waiting for the two women to arrive. The stone, sealed with a cord and official seal like a crime scene (Matthew 27:66), could not hold Jesus. No seal or guard could keep the Righteous One from rising, even though some of the chief priests and elders of His own faith had crucified Him under false allegations and false witnesses (Matthew 27:1-10).

In this world, people are sometimes unjustly imprisoned or given sentences that far exceed the crime. It is not supposed to be this way, but people in power often abuse and misuse their authority for personal gain and non-altruistic motives. Jesus' ministry on earth was one of advocacy, justice, equity, care, and love—He is an equal-opportunity Savior. In the resurrection account, God uses both women and a man (the angel) to deliver the good news (Mark 16:5). No one is left out of God's story; Jesus lifts up the overlooked and brings justice to the oppressed and the marginalized.

The angel sends the women to tell the disciples. On their way, Jesus meets them, calls them by name, and brings them close. He knows them. Does God know who you are? Yes! The resurrection is personal, not just cosmic. Jesus meets us in our grief and fear, reminding us that God sees us and calls us by name. No matter how overlooked you feel, you are known by the Risen One.

Point 3: See and Go and Tell

Jesus then gives the women a mission: "Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." The message isn't meant to stay at the tomb. The women become the first preachers, sharing the good news. The empty tomb is a new beginning, and the three messages—women: courage and hope; the angel: a knowing messenger; and Jesus Himself—send us out to become messengers, too.

Notice—Jesus didn't just let the angel do all the talking. He met the women Himself, greeted them personally, and gave them the message directly (Matthew 28:9–10). In this scene, I would say that He made sure they knew He was alive, that they were seen, valued, and commissioned. In a society that often overlooked women, Jesus entrusted them with the most important news in the Christian faith story and history.

And He didn't stop there—He included the other men, too. The message was for "my brothers," the disciples—go tell them! Jesus' resurrection is for all: women and men, young and old, those who were present at the cross and those who ran away. No one is left out of God's redemption story.

Just as Jesus personally entrusted His message to the women and sent them to the men, He personally calls each of us. We are invited to receive His hope, healing, and forgiveness—and then to go and tell. The good news of the resurrection is meant to move: from the angel to the women, to the disciples, to the whole world.

So don't let anyone tell you what you can or can't do—regardless of your gender, your race, your socioeconomic status, or your past. If Jesus called women who were once marginalized and men who had failed Him, He can and does call you. You are qualified not by the world's standards, but by His grace. God empowers all of us to tell the story.

We are empowered to fulfill our purposes when we spend time reading the Bible for ourselves, so you'll have the right understanding and knowledge. Don't just take someone else's word for it—see for yourself what God's Word actually says. Spend time in prayer, devotion, and before God. It makes all the difference in our lives.

Let us be faithful to carry the resurrection of Jesus. Let us go and tell—across generations, communities, and beyond—because the tomb is empty; it means hope is alive. So go and tell the story of Christ's ministry and resurrection—regardless of what people may say negatively about your faith, about Jesus, or about the gospel. Even when others lack faith, or doubt, or criticize, keep spreading the Good News: Jesus Christ is risen! We serve a risen Savior, and because of Him, we are empowered and saved. If we accept Him and seek to live a righteous life, we are forgiven of our sins and given a new purpose. You may face negativity when sharing the gospel. But keep the faith; trust in His resurrected power—freeing us from sin, giving us salvation, and the power of renewal!

Amen!

Takeaways

God still calls us to hope and courage through our faith. The resurrection reveals God's complete work through the women, angels, and Jesus in this text. The tomb is empty—one God invites us into new life through Jesus' resurrection. Don't trade your values for comfort, privilege, or position. The world may choose Barabbas, but we choose Jesus, the innocent One who paid the price for our sins on the Cross at Calvary. Go and tell about Jesus—the world's true hope. Carry the resurrection news into every episode of your life, regardless of your gender, race, or socio-economic status—knowing you are known by Him, loved, and called by God. Because early Sunday morning, He arose with all power in His hands and authority!

Amen!

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

Lloyd Britton	Cheryl Jandreau	Annette Taff
Rebecca Britton	Natalie Kernodle	Michael Taff
Deborah Cooper	Bob Lee	Marjean Waters
Buddy Dunn	Linda Lee	Lillian Wooldridge
Susan Dunn	Mildred Rodgers	
John Grandon	Ann Smith	
Jeanne Guilbeault	Susan Stark	
Chester Jakes		

Mary Lee Crews & Family	Ron Sawyer & Family
James and Donna Faircloth & Family	Ann Smith & Family
Frank Karastury & Family	Barre' and Steve Whittington and Family
Earl & Melonie Phillips & Family	Family of Myra Tucker
Family of Harold Morris	

Extended Church Family

Patricia Waldo	Steve Guilbeault	Robbins Family	Kuester Family
Dora Spires	Willie Ryles	Judy Patterson	Cassie Prochaska
Billy Hill	Kim Jordan	Grier Family	Bruce Chapman
Carol Hall	Charles Holmes	Marilyn Buck	Danny Chidester
Beth Goodwin	McDaniel Family	Stephanie Bryan	Adams Family
Hattie Campbell	Robin Grantham	Dana Thurston	Diane Wiggins
Cristina Mattocks	David Garner	Kathy McClintock	Amanda Kinsman Vines
Ann Mitchell	Patricia Jefferson	Susan Land	Aundre Smith
James & Sue Flowers	Robert Wagers	Sarah Browder	Mary Kennedy
Maggie Smith	Hazel Dullin	Family of Neil Gergun	Janna Family
Roger Buterbaugh	Diane Propst	Ralph & Sandy McGough	
George Bowen	Martha Bone	Danny Snider & Family	Davis/Osborne Family
Tammy White	Sam Wilson	Michelle Slappy	Linda Walker
Bertha Robinson	Nona Robinson	Rev. Tim Paulk	

Independent/Assisted Living/Nursing Home

Oaks @ Maple Ridge - Helen Pharris	The Lodge (Bessemer, AL) - Lorene Carlisle
Kings Bridge (Atlanta, GA) - Blount King	Wesley Glen (Byron, GA) - Nancy Hiller
River Place - Anne Wilson	
Oaks @ Grove Park - Ron Sawyer	

*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

April 12, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.

2nd Sunday of Easter

*The * Denotes to please stand if able.*

PRELUDE Bob Lee, Music Director

ENTER THE LIGHT OF CHRIST Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER Marguerite Hay, Worship Leader

***CONFESSION & PARDON** UMH No. 12

**People: Merciful God,
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

Leader: Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

***PRAISE SONG** "I Will Sing of My Redeemer" CH 517 vv. 1-4
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 (See Screen)
Rev. Earnestine W. Campbell, Pastor

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

***SCRIPTURE** JOHN 20:19-31 Becky Britton

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Good Good Father" Mandi Battle
Praise & Worship Director
CCLI # 2967303, Song #7036612

SERMON "God Will Bless Your Crisis" 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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION Pastor & Congregation (see screen)

INVITATION

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING UMH No. 15-16

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

*THE GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

THE PRAYER AFTER THE COMMUNION

***CLOSING SONG** "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power" Song Leader
CH 334 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.