

COMING UP...

APRIL 19 - APRIL 26

Sunday, April 19

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person & Online & Children's Church
Children & Youth Ministry Outing, Strawberry Patch, Reynolds, GA

Monday, April 20

11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Tuesday, April 21

1:00 p.m. CSU Wesley

Wednesday, April 22

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

Thursday, April 23

Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, April 26

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



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

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



April 19, 2026

"GOD WILL BLESS YOUR CRISIS," PART I

JOHN 20:19-31
2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Our Sermon Sunday was titled "God Will Bless Your Crisis" from John 20:19-31. The Gospel of John was written by the Apostle John, one of Jesus' closest disciples—the one called "the disciple whom Jesus loved." John writes as an eyewitness, wanting us to not just know about Jesus but to truly believe in Him. His gospel is personal, direct, and full of moments that bring us closer to Christ. What's happening in this passage? It's the evening of the first Easter Sunday—the day Jesus rose from the dead. The disciples are gathered in a locked room, full of fear and uncertainty, not yet understanding what God has done. Into that crisis, Jesus comes in—alive, whole, and speaking peace. This post-resurrection moment changed everything.

Last Sunday, we were in Matthew 28:1-10, in our Resurrection Series—Series 40, Chapter 28—because it's the 40th book in the Bible and the first in the NT, Episode 28, for the 28th Chapter. Sermon title: "One Message: One Tomb." We walked with the two Marys as they came to the tomb. We saw the angel, heard the earthquake, and stood in awe as Jesus met them. Three powerful messages sounded from that scene: 1) Hope that Shakes the Ground of Darkness—The women are standing on shaking ground. 2) Does God know who you are? The angel knew the women and their purpose. 3) God calls us to See, Go, and Tell. He can bless even the most shaking ground. Those women, the angel, and Jesus were the people in last week's episode. God met them in their fear and confusion, blessing them right where they stood. Maybe you felt that in your own life this week.

Now, today's Scene: From the Tomb to the Locked Room

We move forward in the story—Series 43, Episode 20 (Gospel of John, Chapter 20) of the Resurrection Story. The scene shifts from the empty tomb to a room full of 10 disciples, wrestling with doubt and fear. Fear of some Jewish leaders and, I would imagine, the Roman soldiers. They had witnessed what had happened to Jesus as they scattered far from Him. The question shifts, too: Not just does God know who you are, but can God bless you in your crisis? Can He meet you behind locked doors, in the battle in your mind, in the middle of your health, financial, or relationship crisis or a work situation, in the middle of your financial crisis, and still speak peace over your life? That's where John takes us.

Brief Narrative: John's Version vs. Matthew's at the Tomb

John's account of the resurrection in John 20:1-18, and how it differs from last week's Matthew 28:1-10 text. In John's Gospel, Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb alone, finds the stone rolled away, and runs to Peter and John. Peter and John see the linen wrappings but don't fully understand. Mary stays, weeping—until Jesus speaks her name and opens her eyes to who He is. The encounter is intimate, personal, and transformative. Jesus sends her to tell the disciples: "I have seen the Lord!" The focus is on being known by the risen Lord. Now, the story moves from the garden to the locked room. The disciples are in crisis—afraid and hiding from the world. John 20:19-31 presents three points about how God meets us in our crisis.

(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 40 - 41

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 19, 2026

Usher(s): Becky Britton & Diona Bronson

Financial Secretary: Patricia Bronson

Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

April 12, 2026

Tithes & Offerings: \$5,045.00

Received To Date: \$91,745.59

Needed To Date: \$68,701.85

Attendance:

Sunday School 17

In-person Sunday Worship 56

Online Viewers 106

Total 162

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3 Alan Krout	23 Janet Cherias
4 Mary Bass	24 Jason DiSimone
5 Cordelia DiSimone	Julie Jackson
8 Christi Chase	Carter McManus
10 Merritt Friend	Davis McManus
15 Chelsea Chase	Reese Phillips
Judson Patten	25 Donny Davis
18 Elin McManus	29 Bret Vinson
10 Jamie Spencer	30 Mike Friend
21 Helen Howard	Christi Stephens

BIBLE STUDIES

Wednesday, April 22

--- Noon Bible Study, in Questors Classroom. The book of Daniel, Sessions 11 & 12, Chapters 10 - 12.

-- 6:30 p.m. Online Zoom, EPEC, Bible Study class. The book of Exodus, lessons 14 & 15.

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/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.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is extended to members, Buddy and Susan Dunn. Buddy's sister, Virginia "Jennie" Bailey, passed away on Saturday, April 11, 2026, and will be memorialized on Saturday, April 18, 2026, in Brandon, MS.
- Please keep the family in prayer.
- *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

MEMORIAM

- A Memorial Leaf was given in memory of *Harold W. Morris, Sr.*, by Jeanne Guilbeault.
- A Memorial Leaf was given in memory of *Harold W. Morris, Sr.*, by The Vintage Group.
- A Memorial Leaf was given in memory of *Linda S. Smith*, by New Life Group
.- Gifts to the General Fund were given in memory of *Roe Ann Stubbs' brother, Bobby Schmidt*, and in memory of *Harold Morris, Sr.*, by Buddy & Susan Dunn.
- *To God be the Glory!*

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to Lauren Campbell as she will be graduating with her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Florida A&M University!
- You are cordially invited to attend the graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 02, 2026, at 2 p.m.
- Lauren, we are so proud of you and we pray God's continuous blessing be upon you and your new journey.
Amen!

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.

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!

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).

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!

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

QUARTERLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **Trustees Meeting, Chair, Glenn Griffin**
Sunday, April 26, following worship service
- **SPRC Meeting, Chair, Michele Lancaster**
Sunday, May 03, following worship service
- **Finance Meeting, Chair, John Grandon; Convener, Donny Davis**
Sunday, May 03, following worship service
- **Church Council Meeting, Convener, Marguerite Hay**
Sunday, May 17, following worship service

*Note: If you are a committee member and you are not able to attend, please notify your committee chair.

*Note: For committee chairs whose committees are not listed above, please schedule your committee meeting for planning and submit your meeting reports prior to the January 30 reporting deadline in preparation for the Church Council meeting. These meetings can occur in person, via the church's Zoom or other ways. We want to make it convenient for all to attend and participate in the great ministry that God is doing through Epworth.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY OUTING

- The Children and Youth Ministry is going to the Strawberry Patch, Reynolds, GA, this Sunday after the Worship Service! We're excited for this sweet outing, and even more events are on the way-including Game Nights as we alternate between fun activities and outings.

- Reach out to parents, grandparents, and guardians you know to invite their children and youth to be part of the transformative ministry at Epworth! Here, they can participate in Word and engaging activities, grow in their biblical understanding, and experience the unique culture of the Southeast—faith, fun, and fellowship!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

Vacation Bible School will be held Wednesday, June 17 – Saturday, June 20. More details and flyers will be available soon.

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

Continuation...

Point I: God Steps Into Our Locked Rooms

The disciples are behind locked doors, paralyzed by fear—afraid that what happened to Jesus could happen to them. Maybe you've been there, locked up by worry, anxiety, or fear of what others might do or say. But Jesus doesn't let locked doors keep Him out. He shows up right in the middle of their crisis and bestows six blessings after blessing upon them—right in the place of their greatest fear of safety, and with hope and faith gone, in Jesus being alive. Let's look at six blessings from John 20:19-23:

1) Peace (v.19): Jesus' first words are, "Peace be with you." Not condemnation, not criticism—peace. He settles their anxious hearts and reminds them that He is the Prince of Peace.

2) Joy (v.20): After He showed them His hands and side, "the disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord." Jesus turns their fear into joy—He gives them a reason to rejoice even in crisis.

3) Peace Again (v.21): Jesus says a second time, "Peace be with you!" Before sending them out with purpose, He repeats His blessing of peace—because we need to hear it more than once. Jesus knows our tendency to slip back into fear, so He grounds His commission in His peace. He gives us peace for every step of our journey, not just in the locked room, but as we are sent into the world.

4) Sent (v.21): Jesus says, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." He gives them a mission, declaring that they are worthy to continue His work, even though they had scattered from Him. Your crisis does not disqualify you from God's calling.

5) The Holy Spirit (v.22): "He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" Jesus doesn't just leave them with words—He empowers them with His very presence and bestows the Holy Spirit upon them, the Spirit who will guide and strengthen them. The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) tells us that the Spirit produces fruit in us—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—even in the midst of crisis. Jesus is letting them know that they are worthy to receive the Holy Spirit, even in a locked room—a padded cage that offered a false sense of comfort. Are we locked in the padded room that caged us in from fulfilling our purpose, goals, and the call of God in our lives?

6) The Authority to Forgive (v.23): "If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." Jesus entrusts them with the ministry of reconciliation to carry the message of forgiveness to the world. What a blessing—to be called to help set others free. We need to forgive others for their sins and forgive ourselves for our sins, and when people won't forgive, we have to let it go and let God!

See how, in the middle of their crisis, Jesus bestows blessing after blessing. The peace He gives isn't just the absence of conflict; it's the presence of God in our crisis. When fear takes over, His peace and all the blessings of His Spirit can settle troubled situations and transform us from the inside out. That's the blessing God wants for us—not just to calm the storm outside, but also to plant the fruit of His Spirit deep inside so we can know His presence in any storm.

Think about how fear works—it isolates, it paralyzes, and it convinces us that danger is always around the corner. The disciples must have replayed the events of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion, wondering if they were next. Fear has a way of locking us up—emotionally, spiritually, even physically. But the good news is Jesus knows where to find us, and He's not afraid of our locked doors. When He comes in, He doesn't just change the situation—He changes us. The Holy Spirit brings peace and all the fruit of Galatians 5:22-23 so that even in our most anxious, fearful places, God's blessing can be breathed upon us and we grow. This growth in the Holy Spirit is about discipline. When we practice the fruit of the Spirit, we practice our faith in Christianity. We know the person by his/her fruit. If the person exhibits these spiritual principles, then we know the fruit the tree bears is good—i.e., the person is living out their faith as Jesus teaches us, and the same for us as we examine our walk and faith.

That's where our story meets us today: in the place where fear is real, but Jesus' presence is greater. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is alive in you. God doesn't wait for the crisis to pass to bless you—He steps into it, speaks peace, and grows our faith and redirects our situations. Whatever locked doors you're facing, whatever fears you carry, whatever your trauma, whatever your disappointment, and whatever your situation or condition, remember: God will bless your crisis. He will meet you where you are, breathe peace into your spirit, and send you out with His purpose and the Holy Spirit.

~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 & 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 19, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.

3rd 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

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.

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

***PRAISE SONG**

"He Lives"

UMH 310 vv. 1 & 3
Led by Bob Lee, 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

Rev. Earnestine W. Campbell, Pastor

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

***SCRIPTURE**

JOHN 20:19-31

DeKara Berry

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Holy Spirit"

Mandi Battle
Praise & Worship Director
CCLI # 2967303, Song # 6087919

SERMON

"God Will Bless Your Crisis," Part II

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**

"The Old Rugged Cross"

Song Leader
UMH 504 vv. 1 & 3

***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.