

The chief priests and legal experts heard this and tried to find a way to destroy him. They regarded him as dangerous because the whole crowd was enthralled at his teaching.

-Mark 11:18b (CEB)

I do not live a perfect faith. There are a number of issues where I know my own personal discipleship is lacking. One of those is the idea of taking risks for my faith.

It is far easier to study, reflect, and think about the complexities and simplicities of faith in Christ than it is to challenge the status quo of the world with the radical message of the gospel. In order to understand why Jesus was crucified, we have to understand that Jesus was willing to confront all that was wrong with the world and the political and religious powers of the day. We have to let ourselves realize that Jesus was dangerous because his message was a challenge to the “powers that be.”

We also have to come to a sense of reality about how that is still the case. I spoke with someone today who shared with me about attending a church in 1968 in Macon, Georgia where a row of deacons stood in the back of the church ready to make sure no black person attended this all-white church. Now, several decades later, we can see with more clarity how sinful that was. But at the time, religious leaders and political leaders felt it was right.

We struggle with issues today on various “sides” of theological debates. People take stands and fight boldly in the name of Jesus on both sides of most issues. And yet far too many of us play it safe and don’t let our faith ever make us be seen as “dangerous.” Somehow, I am sure that if I am ever questioned for my sins, there will be many more of omission than of commission. I do enough wrong, but I am afraid I leave more right undone. I believe many are like me in this way.

Jesus was a person of word and deed. He courageously stood in opposition to the powers and principalities of this world. He was indeed a danger to the status quo. But somehow, I believe I should be, too.

The message today may make me a hypocrite, but I need to hear difficult teaching as much as I need to offer it. It might just be time for us to quit playing it so safe and live a little dangerously. The kingdom may just depend on it.

In Christ,



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

COMING UP...

Sunday, April 7

5:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting

Monday, April 8

6:30 p.m. New Life UMW Group Meeting

6:30 p.m. United Methodist Men’s Meeting

Tuesday, April 9

6:30 p.m. AA Group Meeting

Wednesday, April 10

5:00 p.m. Deadline to Order Easter Lilies

6:00 p.m. Praise Team Practice

6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper

6:30 p.m. Lenten Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Wacky Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 11

9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study

12 noon Prayer Team

12 noon Vintage Group Meeting

Friday, April 12

11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Bible Study

Saturday, April 13

11:00 a.m. Spring Fling & Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 14

Social Second Sunday

5:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting

HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Palm Sunday - (April 14) - Special Music

Service at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - (April 18) - Worship at

7 p.m.

Easter Sunday - (April 21) - Contemporary

9 a.m. & Traditional at 11 a.m.

Invite your family and friends!

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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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.

The sanctuary flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Lyn Pharris’ birthday by Steve Pharris.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

The Children's Class (K-5)

Teacher: Margaret Gosden, Teresa Salter

The Youth Class (6-12)

Teacher: Jason or Rosemary DiSimone

The Friendship Class

Study: Call and Mission

Teacher: Class

The Genesis Class

Study: The Wired Word

Teacher: Leslie Morris

The Joy Class

Study: Meeting with Nathan Patterson

Teacher: Class

The Nathan Patterson/Wesley Class

Study: Exodus 16

Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class

Study: Intentional Love

Teacher: James Johnson

The Questors Class

Study: Call and Mission

Teacher: Glenn Griffin

The Seekers Class

Study: Wired Word

Teacher: Lillian Wooldridge

The Young Adult Class

Study: Jesus & the Beanstalk

Teacher: Becky Britton

THOSE WHO SERVE

April 7, 2019

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Becky Britton, Janie Nellums

Usher: Diane Morris

Acolyte: Usher

Children's Church: Janie Nellums

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Susan Davis, Chuck Salter

Usher: Donny Davis, Doug Revell

Acolyte: Eva Cherai, Jake DiSimone

Children's Church: Becky Britton

Nursery Volunteer: Lillian Wooldridge

Financial Secretary: Steve Sawyer

Turn Key: Rev. Tony G. Crosby

OUR STEWARDSHIP

March 31, 2019

Tithes & Offerings:	\$6,829.00
Received To Date:	\$75,739.50
Needed To Date:	\$77,277.72

Attendance:	
Sunday School	58
Worship: 9 a.m.	33
Worship: 11 a.m.	65
Total	98

CHILDREN & YOUTH

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

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

Volunteers Needed for Spring Fling - Saturday, April 13, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Contact Whitney Weyeneth to volunteer.

Mark Your Calendar for VBS - Monday - Friday, June 24 - 28. Make plans to join us!

MISSIONS

April Mission Focus - Our goal is to collect 300 food items for Wynnton Neighborhood Network. Items needed: canned soup, fruit, vegetables, meat, tomato products and mac & cheese. Place items on the mission cart in the hallway near the youth room. A printed list is available on the information rack.

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!

Vintage Shirt Sale - 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.

Vidalia Onion Sale to Benefit Open Door's Children Ministry - See the sign-up sheet to place an order for 10 lb. or 25 lb. bags of onions. The onions will be delivered by the second week in May. Make checks payable to Kiwanis Club of Greater Columbus.

Box Tops for Allen Elementary - We continue to collect Box Tops for Education for Allen Elementary school. Place the Box Tops in the yellow folder on the mission cart.

Wynnton Neighborhood Network March 2019 Report - The Network served 1,360 bags of food to 348 families which included 345 children. We helped 25 families with utilities spending \$1,667.06. Thank you for your generosity in giving time, money and food. Thank you to those who recently helped with much needed food items.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

New Life UMW Group Meeting - Monday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m., in the Questors classroom.

United Methodist Men Meeting - Monday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday Supper - April 10, at 6 p.m. Sign up on the information board or contact the church office to make reservations. Menu: Cornish hen, steamed veggies, potato casserole, rolls, salad and dessert.

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

Vintage Group Meeting - Thursday, April 11, at noon, in the fellowship hall; covered dish. See the sign-up sheet on the information board to designate your covered dish.

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.

Spring Fling & Community Easter Egg Hunt Our church family is partnering with a house church in our neighborhood for a celebration of Easter together with our Spring Fling on April 13, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The event will include an Easter egg hunt, pictures with the Easter bunny, cookie decorating, and a hot dog lunch. Easter egg hunts will begin at 11:15 a.m., with the youngest children and then every 10 minutes or so after for each older group. Please bring large plastic eggs, candy, and toys (that fit in Easter eggs), and spread the word to your friends and family to join the celebration.

Growing Christians UMW Group - Tuesday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall.

2019 FLOWER CALENDAR

Sign up to purchase flowers for the sanctuary in honor or memory of loved ones. The calendar is attached to the office window with available dates. Arrangements are \$50 each.

MEMORIAM

Given to the Children's Fund in memory of

Gladys Plant by Suzy & Doug Revell.

Given to the General Fund in memory of

Andrea Carbaugh by the HIS Group UMW.

Given to the Parsonage Fund in memory of

Tim Cox by Lee Rogers.

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

Fred & Emilie Carswell	Jimmy Bridges	Plant Family	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			

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	
Magnolia Manor - Doris Halouska	River Towne Center - Jerry Williams
Cammie Van Over	The Lodge (Bessemer, AL) - Lorene Carlisle
Phenix City Health Care - Anne Whitehurst	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


