

COMING UP...

MAY 10 - MAY 17

Sunday, May 10

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person & Online & Children's Church
UMM will meet immediately after service.
Happy Mother's Day

Monday, May 11

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

Tuesday, May 12

1:00 p.m. Grief/Caregiver Support Meeting
6:00 p.m. SPRC 2nd Quarter Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m. Finance 2nd Quarter Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 13

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

Thursday, May 14

Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, May 17

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church
The Church Council committee will meet immediately after worship service for their 2nd quarter meeting of the year.



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](https://www.facebook.com/EpworthUMC.com)
Instagram - [EpworthUMC.com](https://www.instagram.com/EpworthUMC.com)
Youtube - [epworthumccolumbus1430](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepworthumccolumbus1430)

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

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

"Voices at the Gate," Part I

JOHN 10:1-10
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MOTHER'S DAY

Our Sunday sermon was titled "Voices at the Gate," and the scripture was John 10:1-10. The Apostle John, who identifies himself as "the one Jesus loved," is writing these words during a time of Roman oppression, with hope for Israel's freedom and to share Jesus' teachings. This context shapes how we understand the interactions between Jesus and those around Him, including the leaders of God's people, the Pharisees, and how God's people should be served and led—especially as Jesus reveals Himself as the Good Shepherd, the faithful example.

To fully understand what's happening in John's narrative, we must look at the preceding texts for context. All of this unfolds on the Sabbath—a day of rest and worship. In John 9, we witness Jesus healing a man born blind, and the Pharisees are upset—not only because they couldn't perform such a miracle, but also because it occurred on the Sabbath. They question this healing with accusation, as their anger has grown since another time that they were upset with Jesus' power and authority, leading them to want to stone Him for what they perceive as blasphemy (John 8:59). This tension—rooted in their jealousy and undue antagonism—leads Jesus to confront the Pharisees' behavior, to call it out, and to bring understanding about what it means to be true shepherds to all and what those who are false look like.

(See Insert for Continuation)

In Christ,
Pastor Earnie



SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 AM

The Nathan Patterson Class

Study: Psalms 1-18
Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class

Class will resume next week
Teacher: Glenn Griffin

The Seekers Class

Study: Wired Word
Teacher: Donny Davis

THOSE WHO SERVE

May 10, 2026

Usher: David Hay
Financial Secretary: Donny Davis
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

May 03, 2026

Tithes & Offerings:	\$6,720.00
Received To Date:	\$101,687.59
Needed To Date:	\$82,441.85

Attendance:	
Sunday School	9
In-person Sunday Worship	57
Online Viewers	*N/A
Total	57

*Online service was unavailable due to technical difficulties.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

3 Pat Phillips	17 Sophie Aspinwall
4 Vicky Griffin	19 Emma Knight
6 Bill Thrower	21 Mildred Rogers
8 Rosemary DiSimone	
Madison Jackson	22 Lindsey Fossa
Debra Ledbetter	24 Robert Willis
10 Abby Knight	29 Corey Fossa
13 Anne Wilson	31 Nancy Hiller
15 Jennifer Lawson	

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](https://www.facebook.com/epworthcolumbus) 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, May 13

--- Noon Bible Study, in Questors Classroom. New Study, Book of Philippians.

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

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes will begin in May 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!

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!

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

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 the Word and engaging activities, grow in their biblical understanding, and experience the unique culture of the Southeast—faith, fun, and fellowship!

MISSIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS MAY MISSION

May Mission Opportunity - Consider these facts:

- Every 10 seconds, a child dies of malnutrition
- 45% of all deaths in children under five are caused by malnutrition
- Nearly one third of children under five suffer from malnutrition globally

MANA (Mother Administered Nutritive Aid) Nutrition, a non-profit based in Fitzgerald, GA, uses 2 million pounds of Georgia peanuts per month to produce RUTF (Ready to Use Therapeutic Food), a formula of milk, multivitamins, and peanut butter. This shelf staple product requires no preparation and treats acute severe malnutrition. Our goal is to purchase 1/2 pallet (22 boxes) of RUTF at \$40 per box. Each box contains 150 packets. Perhaps each family or church group can sponsor a box or it might be a great Mother's Day gift!

Remember to mark your gift "Mana!"

As always, thank you for your continued support. Blessings!

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 studies will be Monday, May 11 and Monday, May 18 at 7 p.m. 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).

MAGNOLIA MANOR MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

This offering supports The League of the Good Samaritan. For more information, see the flyer on the office window or in the fellowship hall. To give, mark "Magnolia Manor Mother's Day" on your offering envelope. The deadline is Sunday, May 10.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

QUARTERLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **SPRC Meeting, Chair, Michele Lancaster**
Tuesday, May 12 at 6:00 p.m.
- **Finance Meeting, Chair, John Grandon; Convener, Donny Davis**
Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m.
- **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 May 11 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.

SOUTH GEORGIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- Our 2026 South Georgia Annual Conference Session is set for May 31 - June 02, 2026.

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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) JUNE 17 - JUNE 20

- Vacation Bible School schedule:
 - Wednesday, June 17 – Friday, June 19, from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the church. Volunteers are needed. The signup sheet is on the church office window.
 - Annual Outing Adventure on Saturday, June 20th at Stars and Strikes, from noon - 4 p.m.

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

- Saturday, May 16, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 19, All day.

Continuation...

Now to Sunday's sermon text, John 10:1-10. Here, Jesus directly addresses the Pharisees, warning them about those who enter the sheep pen unlawfully, calling them thieves and robbers (John 10:1). This sharp warning is a definitive stance on how Jesus views the Pharisees' behavior regarding leading and shepherding God's people—the sheep—who are entrusted with God's sheep pen—the fold. He says they are illegitimate—not true shepherds—paralleling them with robbers and thieves trying to enter into position unlawfully and without godliness. Because of this, their voices are tainted, not of the things and ways of God—it is for self-aggrandizement. Their voices at the gate will lead God's people astray.

It is a reminder for us today to be mindful of the voices we allow to influence our lives. They can come from various sources—our church, small group gatherings, workplaces, homes, family, friends, or even cable news—and from our books and social media, with fraudulent opinions, traditions, and perspectives. With young people flocking to TikTok and older generations leaning toward Facebook, we must recognize that these platforms and others shape our perspectives in ways we might not realize and in ways that aren't healthy, because there are so many voices leading at the gate—connecting to our eyes, ears, minds, and spiritual gates. The Good Shepherd, Jesus, is explaining His role as the Good Shepherd to the bad shepherds, who are not protecting the portals where evil can enter the sheep and cause disease and decay; instead, they are like wolves in sheep's clothing, from whom the Good Shepherd protects the sheep. These voices can stir feelings of anger, resentment, and division, often leading us to marginalize others rather than embrace them as brothers and sisters in Christ. We must be careful about whom we listen to, especially in a world filled with conflicting messages. Jesus reminds us to return to His voice, which calls us to love and unity.

Reflecting on how shepherds lead, we see that in Western contexts, shepherds might push their sheep from behind. However, in Middle Eastern cultures, they lead from the front, calling their sheep by name. This close relationship is necessary for the sheep to follow the shepherd's voice; we, too, must recognize and know God's voice when He speaks to us. In John 10:3-4, Jesus emphasizes that His sheep hear His voice and follow Him. How do we know our Shepherd's voice? It starts with reading the Word, praying, and participating in worship, fellowship, and spiritual accountability relationships with those who are spiritually mature—grounded in the Word of God and applying it to their lives, where the faith is evident.

During biblical times, communal sheepfolds housed various flocks overnight, secured by a watchman—the shepherd. The shepherd protected his sheep from wolves and other threats. In our lives, we are called to shepherd one another—whether at home, in the church, or in our communities. We need the spirit of discernment to guard our hearts against influences that do not reflect God's truth and Word. It is a communal pen/fold. We have diverse people, like the sheep; however, the sheep still knew whose voice to follow when called. We have navigated the world the same way—whose influences are we listening to? Our past, our innate personifications, our social status, or finances—where are we in listening at the gate?

I am reminded of another pen/fold—those who heard Jesus' voice and have professed that He is Lord and Savior, followed and lived according to His teaching and their faith, and were covered in Jesus' grace and mercy, His love and sacrifice that cover a multitude of our sins—will be in eternal life in heaven with our Heavenly Father. It is the ultimate hope and blessed assurance of living Christlike, serving Christ, and practicing living with each other in the beauty of diversity here on earth that will take us to our most important and final destination: our reward to be received in heaven, into eternal life (Colossians 3:24).

In closing, as we navigate our lives, let's be attentive to the voices at our gates, discerning them, and follow the one true Shepherd who leads us to abundant life. Reflecting on our roles as shepherds in our own lives—leaders in our churches, homes, jobs, sports fields, and stores—let's listen carefully to what Jesus is saying about the Voices at the Gate. In our upcoming Sunday's sermon, "Voices at the Gate," Part II, we will continue seeking and gaining an understanding and revelation of Jesus' teachings in this passage as we conclude the sermon. Discernment and checking who's at the gate, shepherding our biblical understanding, beliefs, perspectives, and emotions, will lead us to an abundant life if we're led by "WDJS"—the meaning of that will be revealed on Sunday (John 10:10). *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
 James and Donna Faircloth & Family
 Frank Karastury & Family
 Earl & Melonie Phillips & Family
 Family of Harold Morris

Ron Sawyer & Family
 Ann Smith & Family
 Barre' and Steve Whittington & Family
 Family of Myra Tucker

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

May 10, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.

6th 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** "For the Beauty of the Earth" UMH 92 vv. 1, 2, & 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.

OFFERTORY SELECTION "Shout to the Lord" David Hay

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.

SPECIAL MISSION ANNOUNCEMENT Bobby Smith

SHARING OF CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS Rev. Earnestine W. Campbell, Pastor

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

***SCRIPTURE** JOHN 10:1-10 Becky Britton

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC "What a Beautiful Name" Mandi Battle
Praise & Worship Director
CCLI # 2967303, Song # 7068424

SERMON "Voices at the Gate," 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** "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" UMH 133 vv. 1-3
Praise & Worship Director

***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.

MOTHER'S DAY CARNATIONS

In Honor Of:

*Mary Bass
Jeanne Guilbeault
Annette Taff*

*Vicky Griffin
Keri Robbins
Lindsey Woods*

*Rev. Earnestine Campbell
Belinda Lias
Janie Nellums*

Linda Lee

*Alexis Newman
Shelley Newman
Angela Peavy
Allison Sparks*

*Mary Bass
Rev. Earnestine Campbell
Martha Conklin
Susan Dunn
Jeanne Guilbeault
Dr. Sandi Hortman
Janie Nellums*

Given By:

*Becky Britton
Becky Britton
Becky Britton*

*Glenn Griffin
Glenn & Vicky Griffin
Glenn & Vicky Griffin*

*Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault*

Bryan Lee

*Janie Nellums
Janie Nellums
Janie Nellums
Janie Nellums*

*Toni Thomas
Toni Thomas
Toni Thomas
Toni Thomas
Toni Thomas
Toni Thomas
Toni Thomas*

MOTHER'S DAY CARNATIONS

In Memory Of:

*Boots Beard
Helen Wallace*

*Ann Fohan
Frances Griffin*

*Carol Guilbeault
Earnestine Guilbeault
Joan Smith*

*Willie May Howe
Mary Nell Oliver
Kate Reed*

*Cora Inez Hortman
Nancy Pearl Jones
Emmie Rachel McCurley
Florie Jones McCurley*

*Brenda Karastury
Julia Karastury*

*Doris Lee
Ruby Spires*

Elsie Barr

*Ann Patten
Ruth Vaughn*

*Lillie Pope
Minnie Waters*

Given By:

*Regina & Jimmy Bridges
Regina & Jimmy Bridges*

*Glenn & Vicky Griffin
Glenn & Vicky Griffin*

*Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault*

*Marguerite Hay
Marguerite Hay
Marguerite Hay*

*Sandi McCurley Hortman
Sandi McCurley Hortman
Sandi McCurley Hortman
Sandi McCurley Hortman*

*Frank Karastury
Frank Karastury*

*Bob & Linda Lee
Bob & Linda Lee*

Janie Nellums

*Mary Patten
Mary Patten*

*Marjean Waters
Marjean Waters*

