

## COMING UP...

**Sunday, May 5**

5:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting

**Monday, May 6**

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

**Tuesday, May 7**

10:00 a.m. HIS UMW Group

6:30 p.m. AA Group Meeting

**Wednesday, May 8**

6:00 p.m. Praise Team Practice

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, May 9**

12 noon Prayer Team

12 noon Vintage Group Meeting @

Miles-To-Go-Too

**Sunday, May 12**

Mother's Day

Social Second Sunday

5:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting

**Sunday, May 19**

12 noon Safe Sanctuary Training/VBS Planning

## SERVANTS NEEDED IN 2019

**9 a.m. Ushers:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

**11 a.m. Ushers:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays

**11 a.m. Nursery Helper:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays

**Children's Sunday School Helper:** 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

Sundays

**Children's Church:** 9 a.m.: 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

11 a.m.: 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays

**Turn Key:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

To volunteer or for more information, contact the church office.

Other ministries within and outside the church are in need of willing hearts and hands. Contact Becky Britton from the Missions Committee for more info on these ministries.

## OUR CHURCH STAFF

*Epworth's members are our ministers.*

*The professional staff who assist us are:*

Choir Director .....Lyn Pharris

Church Administrator.....Susan Snider

Contemporary Music Director..... Kayla Moss

Custodians.....Martha Conklin & Barbie Webb

Music Director..... Bob Lee

Nursery Worker .....Martha Conklin

Pastor ..... Tony G. Crosby

## CONTACT US

2400 Devonshire Drive

Columbus, GA 31904

Pastor's Cell (706) 329-2484

Church Office (706) 322-6973

[www.epworthumc.com](http://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, 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

May 5, 2019

May the Lord Bless You  
and Keep You

*The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.  
So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.*

Numbers 6:24-27 (NRSV)

It may be one of the most familiar texts from the Bible. For those of us who were raised in the old United Methodist Youth Fellowship (commonly known as MYF), this was probably the last thing you heard or maybe said together each week at the end of your meeting. Russell Freeman, a UMC pastor and former youth minister, shares these thoughts in an online blog:

At the end of each gathering of youth we would meet in a circle, share a time of prayer, and then say those words from Numbers 6:24-26. These times were occasionally reverent and at other times they were less than reverent. There were tears and giggles. There was the girl whose hand you really wanted to hold and then weeks later you weren't sure you should be in the same circle. These were sacred times shared together as a group. They were times that combined youthful naiveté with the uncertain reality that the "real" world was just around the corner. They were not necessarily simpler times. Yet, in retrospect they were blessed times.

In preparation for this sermon series, I have engaged in some study around this awesome text. It is much more powerful and significant than we know. The text of this blessing is actually the oldest text of the Bible found in the ancient world. The text is engraved on amulets dating back to the first temple period.

Some also assert that this prayer, perhaps alongside the Lord's Prayer, is a prayer authored with God's own hand. It was given directly to Moses to be passed down to Aaron and his sons (the future priests of Israel). The entire blessing and its significance is forever solidified with the reasoning God gave for its speaking. It is by the speaking of this blessing that God's name is put on the Israelites and that they are blessed.

Someone recently made a humorous comment while we were together before a meal. They said something about who would bless the meal. And then someone said, well, it doesn't matter who says the blessing, it is God who blesses the meal. We laughed and knew the truth of the statement. But it is important for us to grasp that as we begin our study of this beautiful prayer. We can speak blessings, but it is God who actually blesses. There is surely power in the spoken word, but there is real power with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to bless and claim us as his own.

So today, as we are introduced to this profound prayer and begin to reflect upon what it means to be blessed and kept by the Lord, let us remember to praise God from whom all blessings flow and to trust God to hold us in the palm of his hand all the days of our lives.

In Christ,  




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

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

## 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: Called to Righteousness

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 19

Teacher: Bobby Smith

### **The New Connections Class**

Study: Class Discussion

Teacher: Class

### **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

## MAY SERMON SERIES

**May The Lord...** - One of the most beautiful blessings in the Bible is given to Aaron the priest in the book of Numbers. Many who grew up in the Methodist Youth Fellowship will remember the blessing as the "MYF benediction". This beautiful blessing, beginning with the phrase "May the Lord bless you and keep you..." is one of the most well-known in the scripture. Join us for four weeks of exploration of what it means to receive this blessing in our lives by God and to know the grace and peace of our loving Creator.

## THOSE WHO SERVE

May 5, 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, Rev. Chuck Salter

Usher: Donny Davis, Doug Revell

Acolyte: Eva Cherai, Jake DiSimone

Children's Church: Becky Britton

Nursery Volunteer: Volunteer

Financial Secretary: Steve Sawyer

Turn Key: Rev. Tony Crosby

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

April 28, 2019

Tithes & Offerings:	\$3,518.50
Received To Date:	\$94,501.09
Needed To Date:	\$101,055.48

Attendance:	
Sunday School	49
Worship: 9 a.m.	35
Worship: 11 a.m.	<u>52</u>
Total	87

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

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

**VBS Planning & Safe Sanctuary Training** - Sunday, May 19, following the 11:00 service. Lunch will be provided. Contact Whitney Weyeneth with questions.

**Mark Your Calendar for VBS** - *To Mars and Beyond*, Monday-Friday, June 24-28, from 9 a.m.-12 noon. Make plans to join us! Register at [www.epworthumc.com](http://www.epworthumc.com). Contact Whitney Weyeneth to volunteer.

## MISSIONS

**May Mission Focus** - We are collecting monetary donations for Magnolia Manor's, *The League of the Good Samaritan*, a benevolent fund that covers the cost of care when residents are unable to pay. See the insert/envelope in this Sunday's bulletin. You may send donations directly with the enclosed envelope or place "Magnolia Manor" on your offering envelope to give through the church. If you would like to volunteer, contact Rev. Scott at 706-324-0987.

### **Coffee & Calendaring** - You're Invited!

Thursday, May 9, at 8 a.m., at Open Door Community House Auditorium on Second Ave. Come celebrate our Seniors Ministry with free breakfast and discover new opportunities to serve at-risk seniors.

**Vintage Group 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 to order.

**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.

### **Volunteers Needed for Annual Conference**

The Northwest District is hosting this year. 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.

**Tree of Life Memorial** - Memorials can be made for members of the Epworth UM or Hamp Stevens UM churches. The minimum donation for an engraved leaf is \$50. Forms are in the information rack in the foyer or on our website.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**2018/2019 Graduates** - Contact the church office if you are graduating from high school or college (winter 2018 or spring 2019), so we can celebrate with you. Graduates' breakfast is Sunday, May 19, beginning at 8 a.m.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting** - Monday, May 6, at 10 a.m., in the fellowship hall.

**HIS UMW Group Meeting** - Tuesday, May 7, at 10:30 a.m., in the fellowship hall. Brenda Karastury and Ann Smith will be our hostesses. Jan Shackelford will present the program.

**Vintage Group Outing** - We will meet and have lunch at Miles-To-Go-Too, on Warm Springs Rd., Columbus, at noon, on Thursday, May 9.

**Upper Room Devotional Sale** - May/June issue is available in the welcome center. Price noted.

### **Epworth to Host Methodist Missionary**

**Next Sunday** - Several churches in the Columbus area are hosting United Methodist missionaries next Sunday, May 12. These are new missionaries in training who are learning how to tell their story and connect with local churches for support. One will be with us to present during the Sunday School hour. We are inviting any Sunday School class who would be willing to use your class time next week to listen to the presentation in the fellowship hall.

### **Retirement Celebration for Rev. Dr. Buddy**

**Cooper** - Please join us as we honor Rev. Cooper at St. Paul UMC, Wildwood Ave., on Sunday, May 19; drop-in anytime from 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; remarks at 5 p.m.

**Online Reviews Matter** - Have You Written One? Take a few minutes to write a review of your experience at Epworth through Google, Facebook or Yelp.

## EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

### Church Family

Fred & Emilie Carswell	Jimmy Bridges	Doug Franks	J. T. Morgan
Vanessa Desoto	Ron & Betty Sawyer	Thrower Family	Sibyl Wells
Keri McElvey	Barbara Stubbs	Kernodle Family	Daniel Family
Billy Bullock	Helen Batastini	Annette Taff	

### 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	David Garner
Cristina Mattocks			

### 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



---

---

---

---

---