

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Prepare for Battle

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:10-11 (NRSV)

When is the last time you went out and saw a good movie?

It seems that everyone is talking about the much-anticipated release of the latest Marvel movie, “Avengers: Infinity War.” It’s the telltale story of good versus evil during an ongoing saga battle to defeat the enemy. The heroes in the movie are actually considered “SUPERHEROES” because they are stronger than the average man through the use of powerful weapons. Each one of them has a special tool used during battle, such as Thor’s hammer, Captain America’s shield, and Iron Man’s helmet that connects him to the computer that controls his suit. Individually, all of the superheroes have had successful movies where they win their battles, but this time it’s war. The only way there will be any hope to defeat the enemy this time is if all of them come together as a unified army of superheroes.

It’s a great story! But it’s not the first of its kind. In Ephesians 6:10-18, the Apostle Paul tells us about six essential pieces of armor worn by the Roman soldiers when heading into battle. Much like the superheroes, each piece of armor has a specific purpose and strength. He uses these six pieces as a metaphor for the spiritual armor that we should be wearing as Christians. He tells us to put on the Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Righteousness, Footwear of Peace, Shield of Faith, Helmet of Salvation, and to pick up our Sword of the Spirit. And although they are individually important, it’s necessary for all of them to come together if we are to know the incredible power they give us when faced with our biggest enemy.

The army of Avengers may be fighting their “Infinity War” in theaters, but it’s nothing compared to the war being fought by God’s army of Christians right here in our own backyards. Are you prepared?

Blessings,

Kristii

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Children’s Ministry DirectorLindsey Fossa
 Choir Director.....Lyn Pharris
 Church Administrator Susan Snider
 Contemporary Music Director Kayla Moss
 CustodiansMartha Conklin & Barbie Webb
 Interim Youth Minister.....Kristii Daniel
 Media & CommunicationsDawn Wilson
 Music DirectorBob Lee
 Nursery Worker..... Martha Conklin
 Pastor.....Tony G. Crosby

2018 FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2018 flower calendar is on the office window. Sign up to reserve your special Sunday. Each flower arrangement is \$50. Questions or to request a date, call the office.

CONTACT US

staff’s first name@epworthumc.com
 example: tony@epworthumc.com
 Pastor (706) 329-2484
 Church Office (706) 322-6973
 www.epworthumc.com

THIS COMING WEEK & BEYOND

Sunday, May 6	6:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal
Youth Sunday	6:30 p.m. <i>Joy Stealers</i> Study
4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class	7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer Service	Thursday, May 10
Monday, May 7	12:00 noon Prayer Team Meeting
10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry	12:00 noon Vintage Group Meeting
6:00 p.m. UMM Meeting	Sunday, May 13
Tuesday, May 8	9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
6:30 P.M. AA Group Meeting	10:00 a.m. Mother’s Day Pastry Breakfast
6:30 p.m. Youth Meeting	10:00 a.m. Sunday School
Wednesday, May 9	11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
6:00 p.m. Wednesday Supper	4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

The Children's Class

Kindergarten - 5th Grade: Margaret Gosden

The Youth Class

6th - 12th Grade: Kristii Daniel

The Friendship Class

Study: Giving From a Generous Heart

Teacher: Class

The Genesis Class

Study: Have You Ever Seen a Hearse...

Teacher: Leslie Morris

The Joy Class

Study: Class Discussion

Teacher: Class

The Nathan Patterson/Wesley Class

Study: Genesis 18

Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class

Study: 40 Days of Community

Teacher: John Grandon

The Pathfinders Class

Study: Wired Word

Teacher: Suzy Revell

The Questors Class

Study: Grace in a Tree Stump

Teacher: Glenn Griffin

The Seekers Class

Study: Wired Word

Teacher: Lillian Wooldridge

PASTORAL COUNSELING

Our church partners with The Pastoral Institute to offer counseling for individuals and families at deep discounts. Call the church for more information or give our church name when scheduling an appointment at 706-649-6500. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION

The church sends two e-mails each week—a newsletter on Monday and a sermon preview on Friday. If you are not receiving these, please let us know!

THOSE WHO SERVE

MAY 6, 2018

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Allison Jandreau

Usher: Nicholas Crosby, Jackson Phillips

Acolyte: Ema Cherai, T. J. Daniel

Children's Church: Janie Nellums

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Allison Jandreau

Ushers: Nicholas Crosby, Jackson Phillips

Acolyte: Ema Cherai, T. J. Daniel

Children's Church: Michele Thurman

Nursery Volunteer: Lisa Crosby

Financial Secretary: Steve Sawyer

Turn Key: Tony Crosby

OUR STEWARDSHIP

April 29, 2018

Tithes & Offerings: \$2,804.00

Received To Date: \$83,515.97

Needed To Date: \$107,879.96

Building Fund: \$0

ATTENDANCE:

Sunday School 78

Worship: 9 a.m. 37

Worship: 11 a.m. 82

119

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Youth & Children Sunday School Classes -

For a great lesson, wonderful fellowship in a Safe Sanctuaries approved environment, classes are by age/grade beginning at 10 a.m.

Confirmation Class - May 6, at 4:00 p.m., in the youth room.

Youth Meeting - Tuesday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m., in the youth room.

Mother's Day Breakfast - Pastries will be served on May 13, at 10 a.m., for all mothers. Sponsored by the children.

MISSIONS

May Mission Focus - The Mission Committee is asking for monetary donations to support the 2018 youth mission trip to Indianapolis, IN. Mark your offering envelope "youth missions."

The League of the Good Samaritan - Sunday, May 13, we will collect donations for Magnolia Manor. You may give in honor or memory of a special woman in your life. For more info, see the bulletin insert next week.

Tree of Life Memorial - Memorials can be made for members of the Epworth UM or Hamp Stevens UM churches. Fill out a form and return it with your gift made out to Epworth UMC. The minimum donation for an engraved leaf is \$50. Forms are in the information rack in the foyer or on our website.

Bench Project from Recycled Plastic - Collect clean and free-of-metal caps and lids to obtain a bench for the playground. We are now collecting to make a second park bench. Place them in the container on the Mission Cart or in the kitchen. Thanks to all who participated.

Epworth Volunteers Needed - Positions available: Turn Key, Usher, Nursery helper, Children's Sunday School teacher, Children's Church teacher. If you feel led to volunteer, please contact the church office for more information. We will help you find your talent and add you to the schedule.

Thanks Epworth - for collecting a total of 425 food items and giving \$75 for Wynnton Neighborhood Network. WNN is very appreciative for all your donations to help those in need.

A Taste of Epworth Cookbooks - Pick up your copy(s) from the welcome center for \$5 each.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Upper Room Devotionals - May/June issue is available in the welcome center. Price as noted.

Evening Prayer Service - Join us May 6, at 6:00 p.m., as we come together to seek the Lord and lift our church, our community, and one another in a special worship service focused on prayer. Prayer is the heartbeat of the ministry of the church.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting - Monday, May 7, at 10:00 a.m., in the fellowship hall.

UMM Meeting - Monday, May 7, at 6:00 p.m., in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday Supper & Study - May 9, supper at 6:00 p.m. Sign up to make supper reservations on the information board. Menu: spaghetti (veggie and meat), garlic bread, salad bar and dessert. We are studying *Joy Stealers*, by Rob Renfroe, at 6:30 p.m. Read chapter 5 on Guilt.

Vintage Meeting - Thursday, May 10, at noon, at Rose Hill Seafood Restaurant, on Hamilton Rd., Columbus. Please sign up on the information board.

Mother's Day Breakfast - Pastries will be served Sunday, May 13, at 10 a.m. to our moms.

New Life UMW Meeting - Monday, May 14, as early as 4:00 p.m., at Theresa Mullican's river house. We will have a hot dog supper at 6:00 p.m. Carpool and call Theresa if you need directions.

Epworth Goes to Epworth - November 6-14, our pastor will host a trip to England for the Wesley Heritage Tour. The trip cost is \$3,400 per person. Visit wesleytour2018.info for more details. Extensions to the trip are available for an additional cost.

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

Fred & Emilie Carswell	Blount King	Gladys Plant	Trudy Harris
Vanessa Desoto	Ron & Betty Sawyer	Thrower Family	Kittye Crockett
Sibyl Wells	Keri McElvey	Shackelford Family	Kernodle Family
Judy Scanling	Barbara Watson	Joe Flynn	Lillian Wooldridge
Elsie & Jim Spanogians	Andrea Carbaugh	Glenn Griffin	Daniel Family
Anne Wilson	Jimmy Bridges	Rabon Family	

Extended Church Family

Steve & Carol Guilbeault	Michael Taff	David Olson	Doyle Adams
Dotty Baker	Ricky Clark	Robbins Family	Andrew Wade
Miranda “Randy” Jones	Laurie Osteen	Preston Silvernail	Dora Spires
Willie Ryles	Judy Patterson	Cassie Prochaska	Billy Hill
Kim Jordan	Kristy Stier	Dorothy Ogg	Bruce Chapman
Amanda Hay	Marilyn Buck	Danny Chidester	Beth Goodwin
Luby Family	Henry Dunn	Adams Family	Ellen Pilgreen
Ralph & Sandy McGough	Diane Wiggins	Stephanie Bryan	Robin Grantham
McDaniel Family	Al Fohan	Mark Oliver	Charles Holmes
Dana Thurston	Stan Hames		

Assisted Living/Nursing Homes/Homebound

Calvary Community - Lou Williams	River Towne Center - Jerry Williams
Magnolia Manor - Doris Halouska, Cammie Van Over	Savannah Grand - Linda Coleman
Phenix City Health Care - Anne Whitehurst	The Lodge - Lorene Carlisle
River Place - Betty Cummings, Elizabeth Harbert	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. Help us minister effectively by calling the church office about yourself or a family member. 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


