

COMING UP...

JUNE 21 - JUNE 28

Sunday, June 21
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church
Graduate Recognition Sunday
Father's Day Observance

Monday, June 22
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Tuesday, June 23
1:00 p.m. Grief/Caregiver Support Meeting
3:30 p.m. Rose Hill - Feeding Our Neighbors

Wednesday, June 24
Bible Studies will resume after the Summer Break.
11:30 a.m. The Fellowship Hall is reserved for the Kiwanis Club

Thursday, June 25
Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, June 28
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
T-shirt Sunday



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



June 21, 2026

FROM THE CROWD TO CALLED

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; FATHER'S DAY
EPWORTH'S GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY
MATTHEW 9:35-10:8

Sunday's Sermon came from the text Matthew 9:25-10:8; the sermon title was "From the Crowd to Called." The pretext in Matthew 9:1-34 took us to Jesus, who, during His ministry, sometimes felt frustrated—not just with religious leaders and the crowd, but also with those closest to Him. We can find challenges, conflicts, and healings within other connections and even in brief moments with strangers during our day-to-day activities. These interactions with people we may not know but who share the same space or moment can sometimes bring enlightening truths and make for unexpected growth. Each person we meet brings their own story and struggles, reminding us that even brief encounters with a stranger can have significant potential for compassion and understanding.

I made this point with a story by Stephen Covey about "The Man on the Subway," [1] a rider who was judged for his rambunctious children and the father, the "Man," who didn't bring them under control, leading to judgment and irritation. We often judge others based on what we see, but everyone has a story with pain, struggle, or need. Jesus asks us to look at people with kindness, just like He did. Whether our needs are physical, emotional, financial, or spiritual, God's healing is for all of us if we let Him in—this is our call to show compassion.

In our sermon text, Matthew 9:35-38, we see that today, many of us—individually and as a community—may be facing various struggles, whether physical, emotional, mental, or financial. Just as Jesus called upon His disciples to give care to those in need, He also gave deep compassion for those who are grieving. Jesus will call his disciples to help those in need as He did as well as show compassion for those who are grieving.

The end of the Covey story is that the children on the subway had just lost their mother, his wife, which silenced Covey into deep reflection and sincere regret for having been irritated and frustrated. He had compassion for the man and began to care by listening and giving sympathy. Compassion still matters today, reminding us that everyone has a personal story, and their pain can show up in ways we don't understand. Jesus shows us how to respond—not with judgment, but with kindness. We are called to give grace to others and to ourselves. As we go on, I encourage everyone, both as individuals and as a church, to think about how we can either create division or bring healing. Let's tend to the brokenness around us while trusting that Jesus can bring change. If we let God work through us, healing and hope are possible, even when the world feels divided.

(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: Psalms 73 - 78
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

June 21, 2026

Ushers: Becky Britton & Diona Bronson
Financial Secretary: Patricia Bronson
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

June 14, 2026

Tithes & Offerings:	\$2,621.00
Received To Date:	\$117,950.59
Needed To Date:	\$114,502.08

Attendance:	
Sunday School	11
In-person Sunday Worship	51
Online Viewers	67
Total	118

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

3 Regina Bridges	27 Lori Aspinwall
7 James Faircloth	28 Natalie Kernodle
12 MacKenzie Morris	
13 C.S. DiSimone	29 Blount King
14 Susan Yaksh	30 Lauren Campbell
19 Philip Kernodle	Martha Conklin
20 Alyssa Francisco	Stephanie Clack
	Olive Propst
	Amanda Morris
25 Aaron Jackson	

STAY CONNECTED

In-Person & Livestreaming Worship - Join us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Options for worshipping by livestream are: Put the name [epworthmc](https://www.facebook.com/epworthcolumbus) first: facebook.com/epworthcolumbus or youtube.com/channel/UCZJhDYHDeeE-dnv5a5nQKjA as close to 10:30 a.m. as possible or as close to the time of other livestream services.

CELEBRATING OUR GRADS - GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Join us Sunday, June 21, 2026, during the worship service hour, as we honor and give recognition to our graduating members who submitted their graduation information. The following graduate recognitions are:

~ **Diona Janay Bronson, Columbus State University**

Diona graduated from Columbus State University in Columbus, GA, on December 12, 2025, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. She is currently a 5th grade teacher at Blanchard Elementary. Diona is also working toward her Master's degree in Elementary Education with a Reading Endorsement.

~ **Lauren Gabrielle Campbell, Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University**

Lauren graduated from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, FL, on May 2, 2026, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, with a concentration in Marketing. Currently, Lauren is working during the summer break and considering several universities for her Master of Business Administration (MBA) in the fall semester. She has received acceptance at Georgia State University with a partial academic scholarship.

Congratulations, graduates, and to God be the glory!

BLESSED FATHER'S DAY

Today, we celebrate and honor the men who model Christ's love in our homes and community. Fathers - Thank you for your patience, your guidance, and the foundation of faith you build for the next generation. May God bless you, strengthen you, and fill your hearts with joy!



MISSIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE MISSION

June Mission Opportunity - Our June mission is Brown Bag of Columbus. Since July 1987, this nonprofit agency provides a 15 item bag of groceries once a month to low-income seniors. They have asked Epworth for two items: canned corn (15oz) & canned green beans (15oz). You are also welcome to make monetary donations to Brown Bag. As always, your support is greatly appreciated!

CHILDREN'S & 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!

ROSE HILL - FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

It's that time again! Join us on Tuesday, June 23, at 3:30 pm in the Epworth kitchen to help prepare meals for the Rose Hill Community.

GRIEF/CAREGIVER MEETING

Grief / Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next Support Meeting is Tuesday, June 23, at 1:00 p.m. All Epworth members are invited and encouraged to invite friends to come out for support and encouragement. For more information, contact Martha Conklin at 706-329-0629 or Vonna Franks at 423-902-6134.

T-SHIRT SUNDAYS

On the fourth Sunday of each month, you are invited to wear a spiritual T-shirt, your favorite team's T-shirt, etc. - a T-shirt that brings you joy in the Lord! Our next T-shirt Sunday is June 28.

A SPECIAL FUNDRAISER FOR VBS

Please support our children and youth by purchasing a VBS T-shirt for \$25. All proceeds will benefit the Children's & Youth Ministry. **The deadline to order is July 5, 2026.**

- Contact Jas'Min Vontoure for purchase.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

JULY 8 - JULY 11

Vacation Bible School schedule:
-Wednesday, July 8 – Friday, July 10,
from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the church.

-Volunteers are needed. The signup sheet is on the church office window.

-You can register online using this VBS registration link: <https://www.jotform.com/build/251553961689067>.

- Annual Outing Adventure on Saturday, July 11 at Launch Trampoline Park from noon - 4 p.m.:
7607 Veterans Pkwy, Columbus, GA 31909

Back-to-School Blessings & Giveaway

-We will conclude VBS and enter into Back-to-School ministry with a Back-to-School Giveaway on Sunday, July 12, during the worship service.

School supply donations are requested and are due by Friday, July 10. See the list below for donations needed. Please drop off donated items in the green tote located in the Welcome Center. Monetary donations are appreciated; please mark on your offertory envelope "Back-to-School Giveaway."

Binders (1-2 inch binders with pockets)
Composition notebooks
Three-prong folders with pockets
Pencils
Color pencils
Notebook paper
Sheet protectors
Highlighters
Markers
Glue sticks
Hand sanitizer
Band aids
Scissors
Pencil pouch
Kleenex
Ziploc bags

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

~ Every Wednesday, from June 17 thru the month of July - 11:00 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

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

Continuation...

In 9:37, Jesus specifically makes it known that caring for the crowds required shepherding, with many to be cared for; the harvest was huge—their needs were upon His heart. The disciples are called to shepherd the people. Jesus didn't choose perfect people—He chose those who were willing. Just as the disciples were ordinary people, so are we today. God isn't looking for flawless resumes. He sees hearts that say yes. Our calling is not about having it all together but being open to taking the next step he calls us into and working together as one with the spirit of love, kindness, and compassion.

In 10:10, Jesus gave His disciples the power to heal impure spirits—those are the evil and demonic spirits—and to heal the sick. Evil isn't just a word thrown loosely or something from a horror movie, but we see it when people hurt each other or groups of people, create division and sabotage, anger, jealousy, disparities, oppression, and suppression.

I want to emphasize that when I speak about "evil," it should not be confused with mental illness. Although Jesus calls for this illness to be healed as well. It's important to distinguish between the two. Evil, as defined in the Greek context, relates to malicious intentions, while mental illness is a complex condition that deserves understanding and compassion.

We must be intentional about not excusing evil by conflating it with mental health struggles. There are times when actions stem purely from evil intentions, driven by selfish desires, greed, hatred, etc. As a community of believers, it's our responsibility to confront these issues within ourselves, our churches, and our communities and country. We must engage in the work Jesus began—promoting love, kindness, and compassion.

The authority given to the disciples has several main aspects of their mission—vv. 5-8:

1. Authority Over Impure Spirits: Jesus empowers them to confront spiritual forces of evil, as He did in His ministry, showing us that we must be consistent in our authority over such forces.
2. Healing Power: By giving them the ability to heal, raise the dead, Jesus gives His compassionate nature through His followers, making the point that healing covers the body, mind, and spirit and change dying things in our lives — I'm speaking symbolically as well.
3. Growth: The disciples, in their growth, life, and spiritual maturity, are in an ongoing process of growth and act as representatives of Jesus, living out His love and mission in their communities.
4. Empowerment for Ministry: This begins their transition from learners to active participants in His ministry, called to engage directly in the work of the Kingdom.
5. Divine Commission: The authority given is divinely sanctioned, emphasizing that their mission is not their own but rooted in Jesus' authority.

Matthew 28:18, Jesus says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." This foundational truth empowers us to act with confidence, understanding that we are backed by His authority. Our mission is expansive, reaching every corner of the world, and it compels us to move in faith.

However, we must also acknowledge the challenges ahead. Jesus warns that while we are called to this mission, we will face resistance and hostility. In Matthew 10:22, He states, "You will be hated by everyone because of me." Following Christ is not merely a call to comfort; it is a call to courage. When we feel unqualified, we must remember that God often chooses ordinary people for extraordinary tasks.

As we gather as a community of believers, we must ask ourselves: How can we respond to the needs around us? Are we willing to move out of our comfort zones, knowing that we are called from the crowd to the front lines of ministry as growing disciples? Jesus sends us forth not just to witness but to act. Our mission is to proclaim that the Kingdom of Heaven is near through both word and deed — the way we live out our faith and care for others.

I pray that we work to accept this calling and growth, ready to help and lift up those who are still looking for a guide and need healing and the Word. We are part of a bigger story—a journey that began with Jesus and continues today as believers. Let's remember we carry Christ's authority. Each of us has a part to play. Let's embrace forward into our calling, knowing we have God's help and support. Amen.

https://thepastorsworkshop.com/sermon-illustrations/steven-covey-the-man-on-the-subway-id_352

ORDER OF WORSHIP

June 21, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost; Father's Day

*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
(See Screen)

FATHER'S DAY LITANY

Leader: For earthly fathers who mirror the unconditional love of our Heavenly Father,

Congregation: We thank you, O Lord.

Leader: For those who have nurtured our faith, guided our steps, and taught us wisdom,

Congregation: We thank you, O Lord.

Leader: For grandfathers, uncles, mentors, and father figures who step forward to protect and care for the vulnerable,

Congregation: We thank you, O Lord.

Leader: For men who are weary from the weight of responsibility, and for fathers who are separated from their children,

Congregation: Lord, grant them strength and peace.

Leader: For fathers who mourn the loss of a child, and for children who miss their fathers today,

Congregation: Lord, grant them your comfort.

Leader: For the grace to forgive our fathers' human imperfections, and the wisdom to honor them in spirit and truth,

Congregation: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Leader: Let us pray. God of all creation, we lift up all fathers and father figures. Strengthen them in times of struggle, rejoice with them in moments of joy, and guide them to follow the faithful example of St. Joseph. May their families be havens of Your peace.

All: Amen.

PRAISE SONG "Faith of Our Fathers" UMH 710 vv. 1 & 2
Led by Susan Dunn, Song Leader

FATHER'S DAY PRESENTATION Rev. Earnestine W. Campbell, Pastor

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 Worshipers, 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.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Rev. Earnestine Campbell, UMM, &
The Prayer Shawl Ministry

SHARING OF CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

Pastor

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 10:24-39

DeKara Berry

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

"When the Storms Are Stepping Stones"

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

"A Charge to Keep I Have"

UMH 413 vv. 1, 2, & 4
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.

FATHER'S DAY HERSHEY BARS

IN HONOR OF:

All Epworth Dads
Wes Brown
Frank Butler

Robert Campbell
Donny Davis
Buddy Dunn
Glenn Griffin
David Hay
Frank Karastury
Bob Lee
Joseph Lias
Judson Patten
Bobby Smith

Buddy Dunn

John Barrett
Mira Barrett
Bill Dunn
Scottie Zimmerman

Glenn Griffin

Britton Robbins
Tim Woods

Quenton Brantley
Robert Campbell
Donny Davis
Buddy Dunn
Steve Guilbeault
David Hay
Frank Karastury
Joseph Lias
Bobby Smith

Pastor Bob McCurley

John Nellums
Buddy Newman
Kyle Newman
Cam Peavy
Steve Sparks

Judson Patten

John Grandon
Frank Karastury

Donny Davis

James Waters

GIVEN BY:

Mary Bass
Mary Bass
Mary Bass

Becky Britton
Becky Britton
Becky Britton
Becky Britton
Becky Britton
Becky Britton
Becky Britton
Becky Britton
Becky Britton
Becky Britton
Becky Britton

Henry & Susan Dunn

Buddy, Susan, & Henry Dunn
Buddy, Susan & Henry Dunn
Buddy, Susan, & Henry Dunn
Buddy, Susan, & Henry Dunn

Vicky Griffin

Glenn & Vicky Griffin
Glenn & Vicky Griffin

Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault

Dr. Sandi McCurley Hortman

Janie Nellums
Janie Nellums
Janie Nellums
Janie Nellums
Janie Nellums

Mary Patten

Bobby Smith
Bobby Smith

Toni Thomas

Marjean Waters

FATHER'S DAY HERSHEY BARS

IN MEMORY OF:

Tom McCall

Charles Davis
Aldus Mackey

Joel Barrett
Paul Barrett
Henry Dunn, Sr.
Scott Dunn

Lonnie Whitehurst

Hilton Baker

Lance Knight

Alfred Fohan
Ollie Griffin, Jr.

Jerry Burt
Hank Guilbeault
Denman Smith

J. Herbert Jones
Robert McCurley
William McCurley

Dudley Lee
B.E. Spires

Bob Nellums
Ralph Pasquarello

Emory Patten

Ray Vaughn

Thomas Pierce Knight
Robert C. Smith

Brady A. Pope
V.C. Waters

GIVEN BY:

Mary Bass

Donny Davis
Donny Davis

Buddy, Susan, & Henry Dunn
Buddy, Susan, & Henry Dunn
Buddy, Susan, & Henry Dunn
Buddy, Susan, & Henry Dunn

Margaret Gosden

Margaret Gosden &
Elsie Spanogians

Margaret Gosden, Hayden,
Jacob, & Emma Knight

Glenn & Vicky Griffin
Glenn & Vicky Griffin

Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault

Dr. Sandi McCurley Hortman
Dr. Sandi McCurley Hortman
Dr. Sandi McCurley Hortman

Bob & Linda Lee
Bob & Linda Lee

Janie Nellums
Janie Nellums

Judson Patten

Mary Patten

Bobby Smith
Bobby Smith

Marjean Waters
Marjean Waters