

COMING UP...

JUNE 28 - JULY 5

Sunday, June 28
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church
T-Shirt Sunday

Monday, June 29
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Wednesday, July 1
Bible Studies will resume after the Summer Break.
11:30 a.m. The Fellowship Hall is reserved for the Kiwanis Club.

Thursday, July 2
Noon Prayer Team

Friday, July 3
The main office will be closed in observance of Independence Day.

Sunday, July 5
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
Holy Communion



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 28, 2026

"WHEN THE STORMS ARE STEPPING STONES"

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MATTHEW 10:24-39 NIV

What a powerful Worship Service we had on Sunday, along with the recognition of Father's Day and our Graduates! Our Scripture was Matthew 10:24-39, and our Sermon title was "When Storms Are Stepping Stones." In this passage, Jesus teaches His disciples that following Him won't always be easy—there will be challenges, misunderstandings, and even "storms" along the way. But He tells them that these trials are not meant to defeat them or us; instead, they can become stepping stones that strengthen our faith and draw us closer to God and in confidence to spread the Gospel.

Matthew 10:24-25:

Life is full of symbolic storms—seasons of chaos, conflict, and uncertainty—just like the physical storms we've experienced in the tri-city area. As we reflect on Jesus' words in Matthew 10:24-39, we find that He offers guidance to the disciples and to us on facing the challenges often called metaphorical storms as we strive to live out the gospel and let Christ transform our lives.

Matthew 10:26-27:

Jesus prepares His disciples—and us—for the reality that following Him won't always be easy. He calls His disciples to obedience, emphasizing that discipleship means being a learner and a follower of His teachings. To be a disciple requires us to follow instructions, which naturally leads to obedience. Jesus reminds us, "A student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master." If He faced trials, rejection, and accusations, we too should expect challenges. He teaches that if they speak badly about Him, they will probably speak negatively about us too.

Matthew 10:28:

The text lets us know we will endure hardship, but it also conveys another essence, speaking to the importance of order within groups, the church, and organizations, in leadership, and in working together so that we strive in His Kingdom and as a team of believers without hurt, sabotage, and the absence of Christian love. Jesus shows that there is a divine order to things and that righteous (biblical teachings) leadership is to be followed; however, while we are called to be obedient, it does not mean we cannot express our thoughts respectfully. Sharing our opinions can strengthen our relationships—be it in our church, personal lives, or communities—but everything should be done decently and in order. Leadership in Christ is not about domination or authoritarian rule; rather, it reflects the love and guidance of the One who has been anointed to lead us.

(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 79 - 89

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 28, 2026

Usher: Donny Davis

Financial Secretary: Steve Sawyer

Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

June 21, 2026

Tithes & Offerings: \$1,500.00

Received To Date: \$119,450.59

Needed To Date: \$119,082.08

Attendance:

Sunday School *15

In-person Sunday Worship 55

Online Viewers 102

Total 157

* Seekers and New Connections classes were combined.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

3 Regina Bridges

7 James Faircloth

12 MacKenzie Morris

13 C.S. DiSimone

14 Susan Yaksh

19 Philip Kernodle

20 Alyssa Francisco

25 Aaron Jackson

27 Lori Aspinwall

28 Natalie Kernodle

29 Blount King

30 Lauren Campbell

Martha Conklin

Stephanie Clack

Olive Propst

Amanda Morris

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/epworthumc) first: [facebook.com/epworthumc](https://www.facebook.com/epworthumc) 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.

T-SHIRT SUNDAY

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 July 26.

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

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

- Saturday, August 8, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

SANCTUARY & FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

Saturday, August 15, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

3 Jonathan Hutchinson

4 Baron Conklin

5 Faith Newton

Chuck Salter

6 Ema Cherai

Kristi Stokes Lovelock

9 Kathryn Hargrove

15 Chris Conkle

Diane Morris

16 Jenny Powell

18 Eva Cherai

21 Ron Sawyer

22 Debby Macon

26 Cheyenne Wilson

27 Scott Akers

Frank Karastury

28 Susan Dunn

29 Barre' Whittington

30 Fraser Wooldridge

31 Jeremy Chase

Trudy Harris

Payton Mobayyeni

MISSIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY MISSION

July Mission Opportunity - Our July mission is the Chattahoochee Valley Imagination Library. The Imagination Library provides high quality, age appropriate books directly to over 4,000 children's homes in the Chattahoochee and Muscogee Counties of Georgia as well as Russell County, Alabama. All children from birth until their 5th birthday, are eligible.

Our goal is to provide 25 children a year's supply of books at \$31 per child. A dollar-for-dollar match, up to \$500, is available for this month's mission.

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!

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.

GRIEF/CAREGIVER MEETING

Grief / Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next Support Meeting is Tuesday, July 14, 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.

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

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

Continuation...

Matthew 10:32-33:

Jesus really makes it clear about practicing our faith and sharing our faith with others. He says, “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.” It is vital for us to stand up for our beliefs, especially when life gets hard. Just like a lighthouse stands firm against the crashing waves, we’re encouraged to openly express our faith, even when we feel scared or uncertain. When we acknowledge Jesus in our lives, our Lord, we’re not just showing our love for Him; we’re also inviting His support in our struggles.

Matthew 10:34-36:

In a world where people and institutions often operate in dark corners for personal gain and power, and it seems like dishonesty will win—sometimes at the expense of the vulnerable—we may also encounter situations where deceit, unkindness, and manipulation seem to prevail, but we must not fret or fear. The truth will come to light in due season, and justice will prevail. Jesus tells us that these hidden actions will ultimately be revealed.

Even when others misunderstand or criticize us for speaking God’s truth to the point of division, we are to stand firm—not because we’re better than anyone else, especially our Lord and Savior, but because He is with us. Jesus gives us the power to do good in His name, but He also warns us that trouble will come. Our comfort isn’t in avoiding “storms”—the times of “darkness”—but in knowing He is with us every step of the way, which can seem like a sword of division to those in these situations and antithetical to the teachings of Jesus.

However, it is His righteousness that is spoken in confronting people and things of darkness. The "sword" Jesus brings isn't a weapon to hurt others—it's the Word of God, which brings clarity and helps us see truth. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Ultimately, the “sword” of God’s Word gives us the strength to face challenges and speak truth, even when we face opposition, bringing righteousness, clarity, and justice.

Today, we see injustice and suffering in our world. Many have been hurt by people and systems that are unfair and unjust, and often those responsible are not held accountable. But Jesus assures us that all will eventually be made straight—justified through Him. There will come a time when the truth comes out, and justice is done. Praise God that it won’t always be like this! This “sword” that exposes and disrupts the false sense of “peace” is needed in our families, all relationships, churches, organizations, governments, and even within ourselves.

Matthew 10:37-39:

Jesus’ words about division can be hard to hear—especially as we think about family on Father’s Day. He’s not telling us to turn against our families. Instead, He calls us to name what’s wrong and speak the truth, even if it causes tension. The truth of His Word can feel sharp because it cuts through what’s false. Jesus doesn’t want us to pretend everything is peaceful when it’s not. He calls us to face life’s chaos and conflict honestly, holding onto the truth even when it’s difficult. Jesus isn’t advocating that we be against one another simply because of our family ties. Rather, He calls us to understand the need to identify sin and call it out. When we do so, it often leads to division, as the truth of His Word serves as a sword, cutting through pretense—warning us against entering a false sense of peace. It may seem we are living in harmony, but in reality, we can still be surrounded by chaos. Jesus calls us to navigate through the storms of life, honoring the truth, no matter how difficult it may be.

Sometimes, following Jesus means standing apart—even when it’s hard, or others don’t understand. We’re not called to division for its own sake, but to stay true to what’s right. God’s Word isn’t meant to hurt, but to heal, clarify, and set people free from fear and lies. Whether it’s family, friends, or members of our church, we’re asked to let God’s Word work—even when it’s uncomfortable or brings distance. These times help us grow. Just as muscles must be stressed and torn to rebuild stronger, so too can our faith be strengthened through trials.

As we think about these teachings, let’s remember Jesus’ promise that God cares for even the sparrows—and that we matter even more to Him. When we feel alone for standing up for the truth, God sees us and honors our faithfulness.

The storms of conflict, chaos, fear, injustices we face—in our families, our communities, or in our own hearts—are not wasted. In Christ, these storms become stepping stones that shape us and move us forward. As Jesus says in Matthew 10:34-39, following Him can mean hard choices, but He calls us to put Him first and carry our cross.

Even when the sky is dark and the winds blow in our situations, relationships, and evangelizing for Christ, we can trust that Jesus, our Teacher, is with us. Let’s face these storms, our crises, and concerns about faith, knowing that the One who calms the storm walks beside us as we take our first steps in new faith.

As you go, think about this: How can this storm become a stepping stone? What is Jesus teaching me through this trial, or the challenges we face in life, with truth, even to those close to us? How can we be encouraged to use faith in places of uncertainty and be encouraged and transformed? May we all find the courage to follow Him—through every storm, into the light, and onto the next step He has for us.
Amen.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

June 28, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

*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**

"Many Gifts, One Spirit"

UMH 114 vv. 1 - 3

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.

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.

SHARING OF CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

Rev. Earnestine W. Campbell, Pastor

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

***SCRIPTURE**

MATTHEW 10:40-42

Margaret Gosden

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"How Great Is Our God"

Mandi Battle
Praise & Worship Director
CCLI # 2967303, Song #4348399

SERMON

"Go Where You're Wanted"

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**

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

UMH 334
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.