

And Are We Yet Alive?

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...Ephesians 2:4-5 (NRSV)

Our resident episcopal leader, Bishop R. Lawson Bryan, has been proclaiming a steady and unchanging message since his appointment to South Georgia. He has been calling us to be “alive together in Christ.” His inspiration for this message is found in the word from Paul to the church at Corinth. After telling us how we were dead in our sins, he reminds the church they have been made “alive together with Christ” and by his grace, they have been saved.

As several of us from Epworth are traveling this weekend to our Annual Conference, the theme of our meeting is “Alive Together in Worship.” One of my greatest joys in pastoral leadership is planning and leading us in worship. Many tell me they are thankful for my enthusiasm. If I have to answer the question of what makes me “come alive” for Christ, it is the opportunity to sing, to pray, to praise, to commune, and to proclaim and hear the word of God. Believe it or not, I enjoy GOING to worship as much as I enjoy LEADING worship. I will be attending worship this morning even though I am away from you. I am excited about the chance to go with my family and sit in a congregation and receive the blessing of good music, biblical preaching, and the chance to receive Holy Communion as a participant rather than as a presider.



This past year, our conference set out a goal of increasing our worship attendance by 10%. It was a lofty goal. A few churches succeeded. Many grew but not to that threshold. Others didn’t quite make the mark. Our attendance has held rather steady over the last year.

But being “alive together in worship” is not just about how many people are here. That DEFINITELY matters and when our attendance is a little low, I am concerned. I am concerned not just because I need our numbers to be good. I am concerned about our collective spiritual well-being when there is a trend toward placing a lower value on being present with the family of God to encounter our Lord in word, prayer, song, and sacrament. Sure, it is summertime. There will be times I will be away for meetings and conferences and possibly even a little rest.

Surveys suggest that many people who attend worship often fail to sense a meaningful encounter with God while there. That is such a tragic thought for me. I know the sermon isn’t always a home run. I know that better than anyone. Sometimes, we might not have the best music for the day or it might not be your favorite songs. Other times, we just might be feeling down because of things going on in our lives. But, I wonder how often the reality is we simply forget or take for granted what great love God has for us and the mighty act of salvation that has been done in our lives! Indeed, when we Methodists gather at our conference we will sing “And Are We Yet Alive?” We sing this because we need to ask each other this question. May we be able to give the answer the hymn text suggests—“Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace!”

In Christ,

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR CHURCH STAFF	
Children’s Ministry Director	Lindsey Fossa
Choir Director	Lyn Pharris
Church Administrator	Susan Snider
Contemporary Music Director	Kayla Moss
Custodians	Martha Conklin & Barbie Webb
Interim Youth Minister.....	Kristii Daniel
Media & Communications	Dawn Wilson
Music Director	Bob Lee
Nursery Worker.....	Martha Conklin
Pastor.....	Tony G. Crosby
The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of all the June birthdays by Martha Conklin.	
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	
Monday, June 4	Sunday, June 10
10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting	Social Second Sunday
Tuesday, June 5	9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
10:30 a.m. HIS UMW Group Meeting	10:00 a.m. Sunday School
6:30 p.m. AA Group Meeting	11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
6:30 p.m. Youth Meeting	Monday, June 11
Wednesday, June 6	6:30 p.m. New Life UMW Meeting
6:00 p.m. Wacky Wednesday	6:30 p.m. UMM Meeting
6:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal	Wednesday, June 13
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	6:00 p.m. Wacky Wednesday
Thursday, June 14	6:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal
12:00 noon Prayer Team Meeting	No Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

The Children's Class

Kindergarten - 5th Grade: Margaret Gosden
6th - 12th Grade: Kristii Daniel

The Friendship Class

Study: Justice and Sabbath Laws
Teacher: Class

The Genesis Class

Study: Have You Ever Seen a Hearse...
Teacher: Leslie Morris

The Joy Class

Study: O Say Can You See?
Teacher: Class

The Nathan Patterson/Wesley Class

Study: Genesis 21
Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class

Study: 40 Days of Community
Teacher: Doug Franks

The Questors Class

Study: Grace in a Tree Stump
Teacher: Glenn Griffin

The Seekers Class

Study: Class Discussion
Teacher: Class

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. The Pastoral Institute is located at 2022 15th Ave., Columbus.

SERVANTS NEEDED

If you feel led to volunteer or would like more information, please contact the church office.

THOSE WHO SERVE

JUNE 3, 2018

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Janie Nellums
Usher: Diane Morris
Acolyte: Usher
Children's Church: Janie Nellums

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Sandra Burns
Ushers: Donny Davis, Doug Revell
Acolyte: Eva Cherai, Jake DiSimone
Children's Church: Debra Johnson
Nursery Volunteer:
Financial Secretary: Steve Sawyer
Turn Key: John Daniel

OUR STEWARDSHIP

May 27, 2018

Tithes & Offerings:	\$1,836.25
Received To Date:	\$105,677.19
Needed To Date:	\$133,263.48
Building Fund:	\$0.00

ATTENDANCE:

Sunday School	68
Worship: 9 a.m.	54
Worship: 11 a.m.	<u>61</u>
	115

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Youth & Children Sunday School Classes -

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

Youth Meeting - Tuesday, June 5, at 6:30 p.m., in the youth room.

Wacky Wednesday - June 6 from 6 - 8 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Questions or to make dinner reservations, see Lindsey Fossa.

VBS - Rolling Rivers - Monday - Friday, June 25-29, 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. You may register online at epworthumc.com or see Lindsey Fossa.

MISSIONS

June Mission Focus - Allen Elementary School Clinic. Items needed: 3 oz paper cups, self-adhesive bandages, zip closure sandwich bags, pump hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. Children themed items would be great. Place items on the mission cart.

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.

Epworth To-Do List - For a list of church projects the Trustees have identified as needing attention, please see the information board. If you are interested or have the needed skills, contact John Daniel.

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

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.

Can Recycling - Leave aluminum cans outside the back kitchen door. They will be picked up and recycled by the HIS Group. Money collected will go toward various missions.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Emma Knight by profession of faith through confirmation and Isaac & Whitney Weyeneth joined by transfer of membership all on Sunday, May 27. The Weyeneth children are Joshua, Micha and David.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Summer Sermon Series - Our sermons will be themed around "Our Favorite Bible Verses." We are asking everyone to share a verse or two from the Bible that has really helped you through a difficult time or has given you wisdom or guidance through the years. You can submit verses using the bulletin inserts or by visiting our website.

Prayer Team Meeting - Thursdays at noon at Margaret Gosden's home.

South GA Annual Conference - Sunday - Tuesday, June 3-5, in Jekyll Island, GA.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting - Monday, June 4, at 10 a.m., in the fellowship hall.

HIS Group UMW Meeting - Tuesday, June 5, at 10:30 a.m., in the fellowship hall. Our hostesses are Jan Shackelford, Sue Vining and Carole Zimmerman. Jan will present our Program. Our "mission" is monetary donations for Brown Bag. Please bring your assigned dish to share.

UMM Meeting - Monday, June 11, at 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall.

New Life UMW Meeting - Monday, June 11, at 6:30 p.m., at Marguerite Hay's house.

Fellowship Hall Reserved - Friday & Saturday, June 15-16, for a vendor sale on Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. A donation from the sale will go to Epworth's youth group.

Epworth Goes to Epworth - November 6-14, our pastor will host a trip to England for the Wesley Heritage Tour. The cost is \$3,400 per person. Visit wesleytour2018.info for details. Extensions to the trip are available for an additional cost: 3 days on your own in London (\$700) or a 4-day journey to Ireland (\$1,300).

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	Hattie Campbell	

Assisted Living/Nursing Homes/Homebound

Magnolia Manor - Doris Halouska, Cammie Van Over	River Towne Center - Jerry Williams Savannah Grand - Linda Coleman
Phenix City Health Care - Anne Whitehurst	The Lodge - Lorene Carlisle
River Place - Betty Cummings, Elizabeth Harbert, Jan Sanders	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


