

COMING UP...

JULY 19 - JULY 26

Sunday, July 19
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church

Monday, July 20
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Thursday, July 23
Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, July 26
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church
Baptism & Reaffirmation of Faith
T-Shirt Sunday



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](https://www.facebook.com/EpworthUMC.com)
Instagram - [EpworthUMC.com](https://www.instagram.com/EpworthUMC.com)
Youtube - [epworthumccolumbus1430](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepworthumccolumbus1430)

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 DirectorJas'Min Vontoure
Children's Ministry AssistantWhitney Mennifee
Custodians.....Martha Conklin
Barbie Webb
Media TechTristan Campbell
Music Director.....Bob Lee
Nursery WorkerMartha Conklin
PastorRev. Earnestine Campbell
Praise & Worship Director..... Mandi Battle

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



July 19, 2026

WAIT WITH EAGER LONGING

CORE FAITH
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ROMANS 8:12-25

For many of us, waiting is not our strong suit. As I write this, just a few days removed from Epiphany Sunday, the season of Advent is still fresh in my mind, and with it the sense of sitting in the liminal space of the kingdom of God, here and not yet. This is the kind of waiting I witness in Paul's words in Romans 8:19, except it's not just us who are waiting—it is all creation. I love the image of all creation groaning, because that's certainly what I want to do when I feel like I'm waiting in vain for everything in the world to get better. I groan. I lament. I complain. The stronger I feel it, the louder (and more annoying) I get. All I want is for someone to hear me and do something, to fix all the problems that seem too big to even comprehend but impact so many of us daily.

At the heart of the groaning are two things: (1) Something is not right; (2) I need someone else to listen and confirm that something is not right. This week, we have an opportunity to listen, join in, and do something alongside the groaning of creation. For some communities, creation care is top of mind; for others, it feels too big and overwhelming. Some of us have been touched by natural disasters, and our economies have been negatively affected by unpredictable weather. Some of us experience the effects of air and water pollution, while others rarely get more than a glimpse of green space. Whatever is happening in your community, focus there first. Pray for and with creation. Set up prayer stations or use images on slides to guide a time of prayer for our common home, beginning with your neighborhood. Find ways to draw those gathered into delight with creation. "Go touch grass" has become shorthand online for "disconnect and go be in nature," and while it is definitely a fad, it's also true. How do we help our congregants encounter the invitation and even the opportunity to "touch grass" in worship? Maybe it's filling the altar with flowers and rocks and wild things from outside, not a manicured floral arrangement, but something that celebrates the abundance of God's beauty and creativity in creation. Maybe it's having the children participate in a nature scavenger hunt during Sunday school and then share their treasures during the children's message.

By bringing together delight and prayer with creation, we are empowered to imagine what is ours to do, how we will reveal ourselves to be God's children (Romans 8:19) by caring for and with creation. How will we show creation that we are listening to the groaning? Consider including an invitation to discipleship that offers two or three small acts for congregants to choose from that they can do during the week ahead. Or, depending on the size of your congregation, have congregants brainstorm small things they could do with others sitting around them as a response to the sermon. And then, end the service with a blessing to pay attention, to groan alongside, and to follow the Spirit's nudging to act for the well-being of all creation, beginning right there in your own community.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/core-faith/week-3-eighth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a>

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 90 - 106

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

July 19, 2026

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

OUR STEWARDSHIP

July 12, 2026

Tithes & Offerings:	\$1,701.00
Received To Date:	\$134,313.38
Needed To Date:	\$132,822.08

Attendance:	
Sunday School	16
In-person Sunday Worship	70
Online Viewers	96
Total	166

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Jonathan Hutchinson
- 4 Baron Conklin
- 5 Faith Newton
- Chuck Salter
- 6 Ema Cheraisi
- Kristi Stokes Lovelock
- 9 Kathryn Hargrove
- 15 Chris Conkle
- Diane Morris
- 16 Jenny Powell
- 18 Eva Cheraisi
- 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

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](#) 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.

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

Saturday, August 8, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Tuesday, August 18, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

SANCTUARY & FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

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

QUESTORS CLASSROOM RESERVED

Tuesday, August 18, 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

WYNNTON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Epworth VBS children packed personal care bags for the clients that are served by the WNN food bank and filled quart Ziplock bags with dog food & cat food. The children were guided by the ladies from Epworth's United Women in Faith group. Children & adults serving side by side! Good job by all!



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!

BAPTISM & REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Our next baptism and reaffirmation will take place during the Sunday, July 26 worship service . If you are interested in being baptized or reaffirmed in your faith, contact the pastor at earnestine@epworthumc.com, 706-992-9147 or come forth during the designated time during worship.

GRIEF/CAREGIVER MEETING

Grief/Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next Support Meeting is Tuesday, July 28, 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.

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!

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

QUARTERLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

-SPRC Meeting, Chair, Michele Lancaster - Tuesday, August 4, 6:00 p.m.

-Finance Meeting, Chair, John Grandon; Convener, Donny Davis - Tuesday, August 4, 6:30 p.m.

-Lay Leadership Nominations Tuesday, August 11, 11:30 a.m.

-Trustees Meeting, Chair, Glenn Griffin - Sunday, August 23, immediately following worship service.

-Church Council Meeting, Chair, Debra Johnson, Co-Chair, Marguerite Hay - Tuesday, August 25, 6:00 p.m.

*Note: If you are a committee member and you are not able to attend, please notify your committee chair.

*Note: For committee chairs whose committees are not listed above, please schedule your committee meeting for planning and submit your meeting reports prior to the **August 18** reporting deadline in preparation for the Church Council meeting. These meetings can occur in person, via the church's Zoom or other ways. We want to make it convenient for all to attend and participate in the great ministry that God is doing through Epworth.

SANCTUARY/ALTAR FLOWER OPTIONS

If you would like to provide flowers for the sanctuary, the following options are offered:

1. Florist-provided fresh flower arrangement; \$85
2. Seasonal silk flower arrangement; \$40 donation to Epworth's General Fund.
3. Seasonal fresh flower bouquet arranged in-house; \$50 donation to Epworth's General Fund.

Please indicate your preference for the arrangement of your choice on the form attached to the flower calendar in the Welcome Center.

(Lilies, Hydrangeas, and Poinsettias will continue to be offered for purchase during Easter and Christmas.)

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	

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

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!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 19, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.

Eighth 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.*

*PRAISE SONG "My Hope Is Built" UMH 368 vv. 1 - 4
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 13:1-9, 18-23 DeKara Berry

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Never Lost" Mandi Battle
Praise & Worship Director
CCLI # 2967303, Song #7134788

SERMON "Harvest Potentials or Hollow Personas?" Part II 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 "It Is Well with My Soul" UMH 377 vv. 1 & 3
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.