

COMING UP...

JULY 26 - AUGUST 2

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

Monday, July 27
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Tuesday, July 28
1:00 p.m. Grief/Caregiver Support Meeting
3:30 p.m. Rose Hill Meals for Neighbors

Thursday, July 30
Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, August 2
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church
Holy Communion



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 Director	Jas'Min Vontoure
Children's Ministry Assistant	Whitney Mennifee
Custodians.....	Martha Conklin
	Barbie Webb
Media Tech	Tristan Campbell
Music Director.....	Bob Lee
Nursery Worker	Martha Conklin
Pastor	Rev. 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.*

 **epworth**
united methodist church

July 26, 2026

"HARVEST POTENTIALS OR HOLLOW PERSONAS," PART II SERMON RECAP

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday Worship Service was truly divine, as we continued with Part II of the sermon, "**Harvest Potentials or Hollow Personas?**" Which one are we, and is it possible to experience both in our life's moments? Last week, we reflected on the blessing of God, focusing on how we, as followers of Christ, allow the Word—God/Jesus, the Sower—to plant seeds in our lives. This planting is transformative, turning our identities from mere believers into those who are highly favored and blessed through deep intentionality, receptiveness to, and perception of God's Word.

I discussed how we often let the world dictate our self-perception, leading us to abandon powerful declarations of our identity. Phrases like "doing too much with Jesus" have stifled our recognition of divine blessings. It's time to reclaim our voices and confidently declare our identity as blessed individuals. We need to embrace the truth that we are not just recipients of grace; we are highly favored children of God.

This brings us to the **Parable of the Sower** in Matthew 13:1-9. Here, Jesus uses the imagery of a sower scattering seed to illustrate how we receive God's Word. As He teaches by the Sea of Galilee, He describes how seeds fall on different types of soil, representing various heart conditions.

As I began my sermon, I shared a personal story from a recent pastor's conference about an unexpected higher value vehicle upgrade I received instead of the economy compact vehicle I had reserved. This upgrade experience reminded me of God's favor, emphasizing that He often blesses us beyond our expectations. Just like that upgrade, we need to recognize the favor already present in our lives when we operate in good soil, for as God's ground — His people to live our faith and evangelize to a lost world about the Good News of Christ — His grace and loving and salvific actions are always available to us.

In the parable, the seeds fall on different types of soil, and each reflects a different heart condition.

First, we have the **path with the seeds**: Scattered and landing, but they don't stand a chance. Jesus explains, "When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart" (Matthew 13:19). This represents hardened hearts—people so caught up in their routines or cynicism or just don't make the time that they cannot let the Word take root. Like travelers in a busy airport, announcements are made all day long, but after a while we tune the announcer out because other things have snatched our attention as we become distracted and can miss important information. We often miss out on God's blessings when we allow distractions to dominate our focus.

(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 107 - 119

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 26, 2026

Ushers: Donny Davis

Financial Secretary: Steve Sawyer

Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

July 19, 2026

Tithes & Offerings:	\$3,365.00
Received To Date:	\$137,678.38
Needed To Date:	\$137,402.08

Attendance:	
Sunday School	13
In-person Sunday Worship	52
Online Viewers	83
Total	135

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Jonathan Hutchinson
- 4 Baron Conklin
- 5 Faith Newton
- Chuck Salter
- 6 Ema Cheraiasi
- Kristi Stokes Lovelock
- 9 Kathryn Hargrove
- 15 Chris Conkle
- Diane Morris
- 16 Jenny Powell
- 18 Eva Cheraiasi
- 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](https://www.facebook.com/epworthcolumbus) first: [facebook.com/epworthcolumbus](https://www.facebook.com/epworthcolumbus) or [youtube.com/channel/UCZJhDYHDdeE-dnv5a5nQKjA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZJhDYHDdeE-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.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Stacey McManus
- Bill Watt
- 3 Warren Fowler
- 5 Jeff Stolpa
- 8 Callie Clark
- Vonna Franks
- 9 Loyd Johns
- Elsie Spanogians
- 11 Heather Morris
- 12 Helen Pharris
- 13 Collette Adamson
- 14 Joy Propst
- 18 Derek Hay
- 21 Joseph Ralls
- 22 Avery McManus
- Arlene Taff
- 23 Jan Shackelford
- 24 Ann Flynn
- Gary Tomlin
- Jo Wilkinson
- 26 Earl Phillips
- Bobby Smith
- 29 Randy Morris

MISSIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST MISSION

August Mission Opportunity - Our August mission is Wynnton Neighborhood Network (WNN). You may give canned goods, diapers, pet food, or contribute a monetary donation. Our goal is 300 items

As always, your support is greatly appreciated!

Did you know ... WNN supported 5,950 families in 2025?

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 706-29-0629 or Vonna Franks at 423-902-6134.

BIBLE STUDIES

Noon Bible Study will resume Wednesday, August 19.

EPEC Bible study will resume at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19. We will be in the book of Revelation. Further information to come on Book and Chapter reading.

ROSE HILL MEALS FOR NEIGHBORS

On Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 3:30 p.m. we will prepare meals in the Epworth kitchen for our neighbors. You are invited to come out and help.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

QUARTERLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

-Worship Team Meeting
Wednesday, July 29, 11:00 a.m.

-Lay Leadership Nominations
Wednesday, July 29, Noon

-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.

-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.)

Continuation...

Next is the **rocky ground**: Here, the seed sprouts quickly but wilts under the sun. Jesus says, “But since they have no root, they last only a short time” (Matthew 13:21). This is where we see a shallow response to faith—a burst of enthusiasm that disappears when life gets tough. Think about those New Year’s resolutions: we start strong, signing up for gym memberships, but by February, we often revert to old habits. Our treadmills become clothes and dust collectors, and our workout shoes stay hidden in the closet (LOL). Spiritual growth requires more than just emotional highs. It demands depth and commitment.

Then we encounter the **thorny ground**: This soil is filled with distractions—things like worries about daily life, the pursuit of wealth, and pressures that can choke our spiritual growth. Jesus warns that these thorns compete for our attention, making it hard to nurture our faith. Picture accumulating plastic bags in your life, cluttering your space until you can’t see clearly. If we’re not careful, our lives can become so cluttered with worries that we struggle to spend quality time with God. Matthew 6:33 reminds us to seek first the kingdom of God, prioritizing our spiritual lives and rising above distractions that threaten our growth.

Finally, we arrive at the **good soil**: This is the heart condition we all aspire to—where the seed takes root and flourishes. Jesus tells us that the one who hears the Word and understands it “produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown” (Matthew 13:23). Galatians 5:22-23 reminds us that the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—are the results of a life rooted in Christ. These verses were the theme of our VBS scripture a couple of weeks ago, and they continue to resonate in our lives today if we let them take root and live them out.

Throughout the sermon, the concepts of harvest potential, hollow personas, and radical rootedness in Christ were focuses. The term “radical” comes from the same root as “radish,” meaning “root.” In spiritual terms, being radical means going deeper—digging your roots firmly into Christ. It’s about nurturing the love and action of Christ in our lives, accepting Him as the one who paid the price on the cross for us.

I shared a story to illustrate this idea of radical living. "Getting to the Roots"

"The word radical comes from the same root as the word radish and literally means “root.” It’s truly a root word! But apart from the painful pun, it has something to teach us. So often, when we think of something radical, it conjures up images of something “way out there.” In spiritual matters, radical is more often rootlike, something “deep in here.” The most radical way of living is in complete submission to God. But where does this posture come from? It grows out of the twin virtues of humility and belief. I think of these as the two roots from which we draw sustenance to live the life of surrender."

– Barry L. Rowan, *The Spiritual Art of Business: Connecting the Daily with the Divine*, (IVP, 2023).

Likewise, the soil, the believers of Christ, cultivate a radical commitment, understanding that true growth requires effort and intention. Likewise, when we embrace a radical faith, we are called to dig deep into our spiritual lives, allowing the Word to take root and flourish.

As the sermon concluded, I asked us to reflect on our own souls. Are we allowing God’s Word to transform us? As believers, we are the soil. The question is: how do we receive the Word? Are we nurturing our faith amid distractions? Each of us has the potential to be good soil, ready to grow and bear fruit.

In closing, let’s recognize that every seed sown has the potential for a miraculous harvest. Just as my upgrade to that candy-apple-red Audi was a moment of divine favor, God wants to elevate us on our spiritual journeys. As we consider our lives, we must ask ourselves: **What is your soul like? What are you doing and saying in Christ? Where have you not allowed your heart to change deeply? Are you living with harvest potential or merely a hollow persona?**

See back....

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

Lloyd Britton	Cheryl Jandreau	Annette Taff
Rebecca Britton	Natalie Kernodle	Michael Taff
Deborah Cooper	Bob Lee	Sue Vinings
Buddy Dunn	Linda Lee	Marjean Waters
Susan Dunn	Mildred Rodgers	Lillian Wooldridge
John Grandon	Ann Smith	
Jeanne Guilbeault	Susan Stark	

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	Chester Jakes

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!

*The * Denotes to please stand if able.*

Bob Lee, Music Director

Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

Worship Leader

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.*

UMH 405 vv. 1 & 2
Led by Susan Dunn, Song Leader

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.

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.

Rev. Earnestine W. Campbell, Pastor

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

DeKara Berry

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Mandi Battle
Praise & Worship Director
CCLI # 2967303, Song #1537904

Pastor

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.

BAPTISMS Pastor & Marguerite Hay, Lay Leader

Children: Brook Lias (Parents: Jawan Lias, Brittany Lias)
 Youth: JaLeah Lias (Parents: Jawan Lias, Brittany Lias)
 Youth: Jawan Lias, Jr. (Parents: Jawan Lias, Brittany Lias)

UMH 572 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.