

# COMING UP...

JULY 5 - JULY 12

**Sunday, July 5**  
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship  
In-person & Online & Children's Church  
Holy Communion

**Monday, July 6**  
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

**Wednesday, July 8**  
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. VBS

**Thursday, July 9**  
Noon Prayer Team  
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. VBS

**Friday, July 10**  
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. VBS

**Saturday, July 11**  
Noon - 4:00 p.m. Annual Outing Adventure  
Launch Trampoline Park

**Sunday, July 12**  
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship  
VBS Recognition/Celebration (Please wear your  
VBS T-Shirt).  
Back-to-School Blessings & Giveaway



*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](http://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 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



July 5, 2026

## "GO WHERE YOU'RE WANTED"

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
MATTHEW 10:40-42

Our Worship Service was filled with the Holy Spirit on Sunday. On T-Shirts Sunday, we shared stories through the shirts we wore—each one a witness to our faith or a sign of the unity and diversity we strive for in our world as believers in Christ. Matthew 10:40-42 was our text, and our Sermon Title was “Go Where You’re Wanted.”

In Matthew 10, Jesus sends out the twelve. He gives them power—authority to heal, to cast out demons. But He also warns them: this journey will not be easy. There will be rejection. There will be persecution. To follow the leader is sometimes to suffer what the leader suffers. Discipleship means being a learner, walking in the same shoes, and enduring hardship for the sake of the Gospel. However, we are not sent to do a mission without Jesus leading and guiding us. In the sermon text, 10:40-42, Jesus prepares His disciples for the challenges ahead and emphasizes the importance of hospitality, compassion, and those who receive a blessing who receive them, ultimately receiving Him and God. Welcoming those who share His message is about recognizing the divine presence in our interactions.

During the sermon, I used a story illustration titled “Rejection and A Psalm of Praise” [1] about Madeleine L'Engle, the author of A Wrinkle in Time. She was rejected by eight publishers. On her fortieth birthday, another rejection letter landed in her hands. She almost gave up. But God stirred her spirit. She picked up that manuscript, tried again, and soon after, her book found its home and was published. Sometimes, rejection is part of our testimony. It builds resilience. Her story became her psalm of praise—faith in action. Her book was sent to a publisher where it was—she was—wanted.

**Matthew 10:40:** Hear His words: “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.” When we welcome others, we are embracing Christ. Every act of kindness—every meal shared, every newcomer greeted—is an invitation for God to move in our midst. Jesus’ message tells us that there is a blessing in being accepted after being rejected by us and others. Just as the early church faced challenges, we are called to show kindness and understanding in our communities. When we welcome one another, we participate in something sacred that reflects Christ’s heart in our lives. This text stresses the importance of hospitality, reminding us that being welcomed by others and welcoming others are key parts of our Christian life. We must confront our own barriers—like pride and self-doubt—that can hinder authentic care, as well as those of others, in a Godly way. With God’s grace, we can navigate these challenges and strive to live out our faith through genuine acts of welcome and showing others the blessings of doing the same.

“Rejection & A Psalm of Praise” [1]

1. Jen Pollock Michel. Taken from Teach us to Want: Longing, Ambition, and the Life of Faith by Jen Pollock Michel Copyright (c) 2014 by Jen Pollock Michel. Published by InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL. [www.ivpress.com](http://www.ivpress.com).

(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

July 5, 2026

Usher: David Hay  
Financial Secretary: Donny Davis  
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

June 28, 2026

Tithes & Offerings:	\$8,639.79
Received To Date:	\$128,090.38
Needed To Date:	\$123,662.08

Attendance:	
Sunday School	11
In-person Sunday Worship	41
Online Viewers	122
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>

### 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

## 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](https://www.facebook.com/epworthcolumbus) 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.

### GRADUATE THANK YOU MESSAGES

I would like to sincerely thank my church family for recognizing me as a graduate. Your love, prayers, encouragement, and support have meant so much throughout this journey. I am truly grateful for this honor and for having such a caring church family to celebrate this milestone with me.

*Thank you, and God bless you all - Diona J. Bronson*

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to my Epworth church family for the beautiful Graduate Recognition on Sunday, June 21. I am truly grateful for the gifts and support from the church, the United Methodist Men, and for the lovely FAMU monogrammed prayer shawl from the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Your kindness and generosity are a real blessing to me.

*With love and in Christ, Lauren G. Campbell*

### FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

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

### SANCTUARY & FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

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



### AMERICA250 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As our nation celebrates 250 years, we pause to thank God for the blessings of liberty and to pray for His continued guidance. While we give thanks for our country, let us also remember that our ultimate freedom is found in Christ. May we use our gifts of liberty to love and serve one another, shining His light in our communities. Let's come together and pray for peace, wisdom, and unity.

## 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	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

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### *Continuation...*

**Matthew 10:41 states:** “Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward.” This implies that by welcoming those who speak for God, individuals open themselves to receive the spiritual insights and blessings that come from that prophetic voice. It emphasizes that recognizing and honoring God’s messengers enriches the believer’s understanding and relationship with Him. The act of welcoming is not just a cordial gesture; it invites the transformative power of God’s message into one’s life. This implies that by welcoming those who speak for God, individuals open themselves to receive the spiritual insights and blessings that come from that prophetic voice. A prophet’s reward is receiving the kingdom of heaven - that is all God’s goodness for us here on earth and in heaven to come.

At the core of these verses is a call to deepen our understanding of hospitality. Welcoming one another isn’t just a suggestion; it’s a vital part of our Christian duty that shows God’s own nature, but Jesus is talking about how the others whom we minister to and are in their presence are blessed to welcome us. Genuine hospitality requires us to see even the smallest acts of kindness, like offering a drink of water, as significant in God’s eyes. This perspective reshapes our understanding of service, reminding us that it’s not about grand gestures but about the everyday moments when we can show love and support. We must also confront our own barriers—like pride and self-doubt—that can hinder our ability to connect authentically. Through God’s grace, we can navigate these challenges and work to live out our faith through acts of compassionate welcome.

**The verse follows with:** “Whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous.” This highlights that extending hospitality to those who embody righteousness can also lead to spiritual rewards. By welcoming righteous individuals, believers cultivate relationships that reflect God’s character, fostering a community of faith that nurtures spiritual growth. Such connections encourage believers to embody the values of righteousness and compassion in their own lives.

The call to receive and be received is also expressed in Matthew 25:40, where Jesus says, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” This reinforces the idea that our interactions with others are deeply interconnected with our spiritual journey. Welcoming a prophet or a righteous person brings significant spiritual rewards, connecting us to God’s mission. By extending hospitality and kindness, we create opportunities for others to also be a blessing in their own right.

Ultimately, these show that welcoming prophets and righteous individuals is a reciprocal relationship that enriches one’s spiritual journey, opening the door to divine blessings and deepening one’s commitment to living out God’s mission.

Compassion also plays a necessary role in this journey. When we act with compassion, we invite others to experience the love and blessings that come from knowing Christ. Our treatment of those in need directly correlates with our relationship with Him, as shown in Matthew 25:31-46, where Jesus emphasizes that whenever we serve the vulnerable, we are serving Him. This is a powerful reminder that our actions can bring blessings not only to those we help but also to ourselves.

**Matthew 10:42:** In Jesus’ time, offering a cup of cold water was a simple act, but it held deep meaning. In the hot, dry climate of ancient Israel, water was precious. To give someone cold water was to offer them refreshment at your own expense, a true gift of kindness and hospitality. It was more than just meeting a physical need—it was a sign of welcome, respect, and care.

When Jesus says, “And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, truly I tell you, he will never lose his reward,” He’s pointing to something powerful about the heart of service. “Little ones” here can mean children, but it also refers to those who are humble, vulnerable, or seemingly unimportant in the world’s eyes.

Children, especially in that culture, had no status and nothing to give in return. They couldn’t offer favors, money, or influence. Giving to them was pure generosity—a gesture with no expectation of repayment and no hidden motive. Jesus lifts up this kind of giving: the kind that expects nothing back, the kind that flows from love alone.

So when we offer even a small kindness, like a cup of cold water, to those who can’t return the favor, we are living out the heart of the gospel. It’s not about the size of the gift but the spirit in which it’s given. God sees—and God rewards—every act of love, no matter how small, when it’s done in His name.

In closing, welcoming a prophet or a righteous person is more than an act of kindness—it’s a spiritual exchange that deepens our faith and draws us closer to God’s mission. When we embrace others and share Christ’s love, we open ourselves to blessings that transform both us and those we welcome. This is our calling: to show up as believers, to be a blessing, and to reflect Christ’s love in every space—church, relationships, marriages, friendships, work, stores, and wherever life takes us.

By creating places where all feel valued and accepted, we share the Good News and invite transformation. In doing so, we are a blessing rather than a burden—living in Christ by giving others the opportunity to be a blessing as well. When we show up in places and spaces, the text reveals we are doing exactly what God calls us to do: receiving the Word, being transformed, and receiving the gift of Christ’s love.

This act of giving and receiving not only enriches our own spiritual lives but also allows others to experience the joy of being a blessing themselves. Jesus teaches us that those who practice hospitality, kindness, and compassion are blessed and are welcoming—we are called to do the same as believers, whether in church, in marriages, in our dating relationships, in friendships, at work, in stores, or wherever life takes us. This divine exchange strengthens our relationships, our communities, and our world and answers our call to reflect God’s love and spread His word in every space, while knowing the difference between being accepted and not is also about Him—we go where we are wanted. *Amen.*

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 5, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.

Sixth 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** Marguerite Hay, Worship Leader

**\*CONFESSION & PARDON** UMH No. 12

**People: Merciful God,**

**We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have failed to be an obedient church.**

**We have not done your will,**

**we have broken your law,**

**we have rebelled against your love,**

**we have not loved our neighbors,**

**and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

**Leader:** Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**\*PRAISE SONG** "One Bread, One Body" UMH 620 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](http://epworthumc.com) and select "Donate."*

*On Communion Sunday, please place your Communion Offering in the basket near the altar.*

**OFFERTORY SELECTION** "All My Praise" David Hay

**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.

**SPECIAL MISSION ANNOUNCEMENT** Bobby Smith

**SHARING OF CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS** Rev. Earnestine W. Campbell, Pastor

*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

**\*SCRIPTURE** MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30 Patricia Bronson

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** "From Burden to Blessing" 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.*

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** Pastor & Congregation  
(See Screen)

**Invitation** UMH No. 12  
**The Great Thanksgiving** UMH No. 13-14

**Liturgy**  
**The Lord's Prayer**  
**The Giving of the Bread and Cup** UMH No. 14-15

**\*CLOSING SONG** "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power" CH 334 vv. 1 & 2  
Praise & Worship Director

**\*LIGHT OF CHRIST BROUGHT OUT INTO THE WORLD** Acolytes

**\*BENEDICTION** Pastor

**\*POSTLUDE** Music Director

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## 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.