

COMING UP...

AUGUST 2 - AUGUST 9

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

Monday, August 3
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Tuesday, August 4
6:00 p.m. SPRC Quarterly Meeting
6:30 p.m. Finance Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, August 6
Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, August 9
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church
UMM meeting following worship service



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/UCpworthumccolumbus1430)

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 DirectorMandi 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

August 2, 2026

"WHAT'S YOUR POTENTIAL LIKE?"

RECAP OF SERMON

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52

Sunday Worship Service was truly divine, as we continued with Part II of the sermon, "Harvest Potentials." Sunday's Worship Service continued with the Gospel of Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52. In the text, Jesus shares deep teaching and insights about the Kingdom of Heaven through relatable parables that resonate with our everyday experiences in biblical times. Matthew's choice to refer to it as the "Kingdom of Heaven" instead of the "Kingdom of God" like the other Gospels was intentional; he addressed a Jewish audience navigating significant turmoil, especially after the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple. This allowed him to discuss divine authority in a way that felt accessible, inviting those who felt marginalized to see themselves in the narrative.

As we explored the parables, Jesus introduces the idea of the Kingdom of Heaven as a transformative journey. This transformation often comes through our spiritual disciplines: prayer, reading the Word of God, devotion, gathering together, and worshiping through songs, hymns, and praises. These practices help us exercise our faith and strengthen our relationship with God. They create pathways for divine grace to flow into our lives. Reflecting on our Wesleyan theology of divine grace, the scripture points to prevenient grace as the grace that goes before us, gently nudging us toward God, even before we recognize our need for Him. It's that soft whisper in our hearts, prompting us to seek something greater. This is where the concept of justification comes in. Justification is about being made right with God, and it begins with recognizing our need for His grace. Just as the man in the parable searches for treasure, we, too, are on a quest for a relationship with God, seeking that justification that brings us into alignment with His will. Sanctifying grace is the grace we experience as we grow in our faith, helping us become more like Christ and live out our purpose as He calls us. These forms of grace work together, inviting us into a deeper relationship with God and transforming our lives from the inside out as we seek Christ in all things.

One of the most striking illustrations Jesus uses is the parable of the mustard seed. Though it is the smallest of seeds, when planted, it grows into a large tree that provides shelter for birds. This imagery speaks volumes to those who feel overlooked or insignificant. It reminds us that even the smallest acts of kindness, love, or faith can lead to extraordinary outcomes. On Sunday, during our Fourth Sunday T-shirt Sunday, I wore a T-shirt that said "Faith." The small mustard seed reminded me that faith can come in different amounts, however small, and can create significant change. There were two other persons who shared about their shirts—one had on a YMCA shirt, celebrating its remarkable 170-year history in the Columbus area with small beginnings, and another, a vibrant tie-dye design representing the beauty of diversity in God's creation. These shirts communally reflect how the Kingdom of Heaven embraces our uniqueness and the importance of community service, reminding us that great things can come from small beginnings and community, no matter its size.

(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

August 2, 2026

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

OUR STEWARDSHIP

July 26, 2026	
Tithes & Offerings:	\$2,457.00
Received To Date:	\$140,135.38
Needed To Date:	\$141,982.08

Attendance:	
Sunday School	3
In-person Sunday Worship	27
Online Viewers	111
Total	138

2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN PLEDGE

Ephesians 6:17-18: "Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." Commitment to Tithing- As we embark on our stewardship journey, we recognize the importance of our giving and how it connects us to God and our church community. Here are three essential points to consider: 1. The Word of God: Our giving is rooted in Scripture. By honoring God with our wealth, we align ourselves with His purpose and provision. 2. The Power of Prayer: Every pledge begins with prayer. Seeking God's guidance allows us to make informed and faithful decisions about our contributions. 3. A Step of Faith: Pledging requires us to trust in God's provision. When we step out in faith, we open ourselves to His blessings and the work He can accomplish through us. Amen.

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/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.

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, August 16 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, August 11, 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.

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.

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.
- 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...

I used Walker Hayes’ song “Fancy Like” as an illustration. In it, he captures the joy of finding happiness in simple moments, even during tough times. He and his daughter shared this small song on TikTok; the lyrics tell how small acts of joy can lead to significant blessings. Just like the success of the “Fancy Like” song that started small in a room at home - no professional lighting, choreography, etc. - boosted Applebee’s revenue exponentially, our small acts of faith can grow in ways we can’t even imagine. God takes those little seeds, nurtures them, and allows them to flourish, much like the mustard seed that grows into a mighty tree.

Next, Jesus shares the parable of the yeast. Just a small amount of yeast mixed into a large batch of flour works quietly but effectively, transforming it from the inside out. Yeast often symbolizes impurities and foreign elements that can taint what is pure. In Exodus 12:15, God instructs the Israelites to remove all yeast from their homes for seven days as part of the purification process during Passover. This command shows the importance of cleansing oneself from what does not belong. However, Jesus reinterprets this symbolism, showing us that despite our imperfections and mistakes, God can still work through us. The yeast, while initially an impurity, can also represent God’s transformative grace. It shows how even our past traumas and failures can be woven into something beautiful, reminding us that the Kingdom of Heaven is not about being perfect but about being willing to allow God to use us, flaws and all.

The treasure hidden in a field is another compelling illustration. Here, Jesus tells the story of a man who stumbles upon a hidden treasure while working in a field. Recognizing its huge value, he covers it back up and goes off to find the money needed to buy the field, searching through his couch cushions, closets, and pockets. It’s interesting to note that he didn’t tell the field owner what he had discovered. This act of discretion teaches us an important lesson: when we find something as precious as a relationship with Jesus, we sometimes need to keep it close to our hearts. People can easily talk us out of pursuing faith, serving in the church, or letting go of the burdens that hold us back. The person’s determination to secure the treasure reflects the urgency we should have in seeking our own spiritual fulfillment, even if it requires sacrifice or keeping things private for a while.

Jesus then shares the story of a merchant in search of fine pearls. When he finds one of exceptional quality, he sells all he possesses to acquire it. This speaks to our quest for meaning in life, encouraging us to pursue the truth of God’s Kingdom wholeheartedly. Just as McKenzie gave everything for her pearl, we’re called to seek and invest in what truly matters—our relationship with God and our purpose He has called us to.

In today’s time, I am reminded of the story of philanthropist McKenzie Scott, who has given away millions of dollars, which illustrates the Kingdom’s principles beautifully. I believe that she has discovered her own treasure in the form of purpose and calling, and her willingness to give back to those in need exemplifies the spirit of the pearl of great worth. Although she keeps a portion for herself, her generosity shows how God continually replenishes her because she understands the value of sharing her blessings. I believe this spirit of giving enriches her life and undoubtedly blesses those charity organizations she gives to, exhibiting on Earth what the Kingdom of Heaven looks like.

Another poignant parable in this chapter is the dragnet, where professional fishermen cast their nets into the sea and drag them along the bottom. They catch all kinds of fish but must separate the good from the bad, throwing back what isn’t useful. This imagery reflects our faith journey; sometimes, we need to sift through our experiences and challenges to discern what aligns with our values and what does not, as they align with God’s Word. It serves as a reminder that our faith can sometimes feel like a mixed bag—there are moments of clarity and purpose, and there are also times when we struggle to hold onto our beliefs amid life’s storms.

Throughout these parables, Jesus frequently uses the phrase, “The Kingdom of Heaven is like...” This isn’t just a stylistic choice; it’s an invitation for us to engage deeply with these concepts. It challenges us to reflect on our own lives and consider how we can incorporate the characteristics of the Kingdom. It prompts us to look beyond our current limitations and recognize the divine potential within ourselves and our surroundings.

In essence, the Kingdom of Heaven represents a realm where the ordinary becomes extraordinary through the transformative power of seeking God and exercising spiritual disciplines. It reassures us that our struggles and challenges are not in vain; they can be intertwined into a greater purpose.

As we reflect on these parables, let’s ask ourselves: What is your potential like? Are we willing to embrace small beginnings and recognize the hidden treasures in our lives? By doing so, we honor God’s work within us and become vessels for His Kingdom, inviting others to experience the beauty of a life transformed by faith. The Kingdom of Heaven is indeed a treasure worth pursuing, and it starts with the willingness to see the extraordinary in the ordinary through Christ. *Amen.*

See back....

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

Lloyd Britton	Cheryl Jandreau	Annette Taff
Rebecca Britton	Natalie Kernodle	Michael Taff
Deborah Cooper	Bob Lee	Sue Vining
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!

ORDER OF WORSHIP		
August 2, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.		
Tenth 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	"Let Us Break Bread Together"	UMH 618 vv. 1 - 3 Led by Susan Dunn, Song Leader
OFFERTORY APPEAL/PRAYER	Worship Leader	
<i>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 Worshipers, text or go to epworthumc.com and select "Donate."</i>		
<i>On Communion Sunday, please place your Communion Offering in the basket near the altar.</i>		
OFFERTORY SELECTION	"Amen"	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.		
SHARING OF CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS	Rev. Earnestine W. Campbell, Pastor	
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.		
*SCRIPTURE	MATTHEW 14:13-21	Patricia Bronson
Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.		
People: Thanks be to God.		
SPECIAL MUSIC	"I Am Yours"	Mandi Battle Praise & Worship Director
SERMON	"When Not Enough Is More Than Enough"	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	
<u>COFFEE BAR ON SUNDAYS</u>		
Coffee Bar in the Welcome Center:		
Enjoy coffee and refreshments for the Sunday School and Worship Service hours every Sunday.		
~Donations are appreciated.		