

COMING UP...

AUGUST 23 - AUGUST 30

Sunday, August 23
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church
Trustees' Quarterly Meeting immediately following
worship service

Monday, August 24
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Tuesday, August 25
1:00 p.m. Grief/Caregiver Support Meeting
3:30 p.m. Rose Hill - Feeding Our Neighbors
6:00 p.m. Church Council 3rd Quarter Meeting

Wednesday, August 26
Noon Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Zoom (EPEC) Bible Study

Thursday, August 27
Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, August 30
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church
T-Shirt Sunday
Children & Youth Choir



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

CONTACT US
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Pastor's Cell (706) 992-9147
www.epworthumc.com

toni@epworthumc.com
(example: earnestine@epworthumc.com)

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/epworthcolumbus>
Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/epworthumchurchepworthumccolumbus1430>

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



August 23, 2026

POWER
LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
FOCUS TEXT: EXODUS 1:8-2:10, MATTHEW 16:13-20

Midwives. A post-partum mother. A pre-teen girl. Pharaoh's daughter. A carpenter's son. A group of fishermen. Not quite the people we expect to lead a leadership seminar. But in today's texts, these are precisely the people who use the power available to them to act for life and goodness in the face of oppression. Some acted on faith. Others acted in compassion but without knowledge of how God would use their actions. Shiphrah, Puah, Moses's mother, and Miriam (unnamed in this particular passage) all chose to defy the orders of a death-dealing Pharaoh, while Jesus teaches and empowers Peter and the other disciples to recognize and tell the truth in a society that attacks truth-tellers. If you can allow me to oversimplify two quite complex stories, in each case, in a society where one man or political entity sought to hoard all power, these leaders recognized the power they still had and acted.

To be honest, I think planning a worship service around the theme of power is difficult. We have a hard time deciding in our society today whether power is good or bad. On the one hand, we want to empower people to live and act in ways that create a just and flourishing community for all. On the other hand, we talk about "the powers that be" in less than flattering terms, and we lament the actions of the powerful that harm the powerless. How in the world are we supposed to plan worship around the theme of power when we're not quite sure if power is a good or a vice?

There's a proverb that says, "the dose makes the poison," and I think that's precisely the case with power. Too much, and it becomes a poison to ourselves and others. But if we eschew it altogether, we find ourselves tossed about by people who would gladly use their power to control others. The key is moderation, recognizing that power itself is not bad. How we use it makes all the difference.

So, use this opportunity in worship to help your congregation clarify the difference between power and how it's used. Take time to pray for wisdom and humility to use our power well. Confess the misuses of power we allow in our lives and communities. Sing hymns that call us to faithful use of our power, such as "Lord Whose Love in Humble Service" (United Methodist Hymnal 581), "A Charge to Keep Have I" (United Methodist Hymnal 413), or "God of Love and God of Power" (United Methodist Hymnal 578). Find space, too, to lift up the unusual yet powerful examples of leaders in our texts today. Consider telling the story of Exodus 1:8-22 from the perspective of Shiphrah and Puah. Are there other girls who follow in Miriam's footsteps to protect the innocent when they, too, are still quite young? What of mothers who do everything they can to make a way when there seems to be no way so that their kids can have hope for a future? Who are the truth tellers when the lies of the too powerful seem too loud to drown out? Find ways to connect leaders now and throughout history with the leaders in our texts today, illustrating how the gospel empowers us to use our power for God's purposes in communities where leaders seek to hold up their own power to the detriment of everyone else.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/lessons-in-leadership/week-1-thirteenth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a>

We hope to see you in church on Sunday and you are welcome to invite someone to come with you.

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: Class will resume on Sunday, August 30.
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 23, 2026
Ushers: Donny Davis
Financial Secretary: Steve Sawyer
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

August 16, 2026
Tithes & Offerings: \$2,660.25
Received To Date: \$148,484.63
Needed To Date: \$155,722.08

Attendance:
Sunday School 10
In-person Sunday Worship 50
Online Viewers 76
Total 126

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.

NATHAN PATTERSON SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Ever wondered why someone hasn't written a practical guide for effective living? The good news is someone did - his name was Solomon and the book of the Bible is Proverbs! We will be taking a deep dive into it, chapter by chapter, starting Sunday, August 30, at 9:15 a.m. in the Nathan Patterson Sunday School class. Please join us!

BIBLE STUDIES

Join us on Wednesdays for noon Bible Study and 6:30 p.m. EPEC Bible study classes. We are studying from the book "*Revelation (Life Change)*." Visit the church office to purchase a copy for \$15, or include it in your offertory envelope. Be sure to mark Bible study book on the envelope.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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

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?

GRIEF/CAREGIVER MEETING
Grief/Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next Support Meeting is Tuesday, August 25, 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.

ROSE HILL
We will meet in the Epworth kitchen and Fellowship Hall at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, to prepare bags to feed our neighbors in the Rose Hill community. Please join us if you are available to lend a hand.
- Epworth Mission Team Committee

T-SHIRT SUNDAYS
Each last Sunday of the month, you are invited to wear a spiritual T-shirt, your favorite team's T-shirt, etc. - a T-shirt that brings you joy in the Lord! Our next T-shirt Sunday is August 30.

ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL
Kick off the Fall Season with Loads of Fall Fun! Our Annual Fall Festival will be on Saturday, October 31, from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. We'll have fun, food, and Trunk or Treating! Volunteers are needed. Inflatables, games, face painting, popcorn/cotton candy and more! Further information upcoming. Contact person is Jas'Min Vontoure.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES
QUARTERLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

-Trustees Meeting, Chair, Glenn Griffin - Sunday, August 23, immediately following worship service.
-Church Council Meeting, Chair, Debra Johnson, Vice-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: If you have not submitted your report, please turn it in to the church office by noon on Monday, August 24.

66TH CHURCH HOMECOMING
2026 Theme: "Let's Celebrate Who We Are Now!"
Scripture: John 15:1-4 NIV

Epworth's 66th Church Homecoming is on Sunday, September 27, 2026! Join us for a joyful celebration during the worship service at 10:30 a.m. A delicious meal will be provided immediately after service with the Congregation to provide favorite dishes, drinks, and desserts; church to supply meat.

Food, setup, and cleanup volunteer sheets will be posted on the office window. Please sign up so we know what you're bringing and what help will be given.

Children's church is always available, with fun and games. Come and be a part of this special occasion and invite others!

CHARGE CONFERENCE
Charge Conference -Thursday, September 17, at 6:45 p.m. Presiding, Reverend Jeff Cook, Northwest District Superintendent.

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 23, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.

Thirteenth 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 "The Church's One Foundation" UMH 545 vv. 1, 2, & 5
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 16:13-20 Baron Conklin

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC "How Great is Our God" Mandi Battle
Praise & Worship Director
CCLI # 2967303, Song #4348399

SERMON "Unstoppable and Unafraid" 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 "There's Something About That Name" UMH 171
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.