

COMING UP...

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 30

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

Monday, August 31
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Wednesday, September 2
Noon Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Zoom (EPEC) Bible Study

Thursday, September 3
Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, September 6
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church
Holy Communion



-The sanctuary flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Marguerite Hay's mother, Mary Nell Oliver.

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 - <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
Pastor Rev. Earnestine Campbell
Praise & Worship Director Mandi Battle

epworth
united methodist church

August 30, 2026

ACCEPTANCE
LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
FOCUS TEXT: EXODUS 3:1-15, MATTHEW 16:21-28

I've recently started trying a new approach in my parenting. For some context, I am what some would call a "gentle parent." Now, I know that has many different connotations, so let me explain. For me, being a "gentle parent" is really about teaching my child to navigate his emotions by being present, listening, and helping him recognize and respond in healthy ways to what he's feeling. In our world, there are no bad emotions; there are only good and harmful ways we respond to them. But that's not the new part. Recently, I've realized that he is at an age where he has a greater capacity to navigate uncomfortable feelings, like boredom and dislike, but he doesn't have a lot of practice. So, when we need to do something that he doesn't like to do, I go to him and say, "Hey, we need to _____. You have thirty minutes to wrap your head around the fact that we are going to do this." More often than not, I get some whining and complaining and resistance, to which I respond, "I hear you. This isn't something you want to do. It still has to be done. You have twenty-five minutes to wrap your mind around that." And nine times out of ten, he does. He accepts that the thing he doesn't like is, in fact, going to happen, so when it's time, he's ready.

As I read our texts for today, I kept wondering if God in the burning bush or Jesus pulling Peter aside felt like I do when I say, "You have twenty-five minutes to wrap your head around this." That sense of knowing the other person will not respond well to what you are saying yet knowing that they need to move from resistance to acceptance. How often are we on the receiving end of the call to lead, ready with all the reasons we can't or shouldn't or don't want to?

Perhaps worship is a gathering where we can help one another move through our resistance toward acceptance of God's call in our lives. Though we all have unique calls, we share a mission to live as the body of Christ and to build the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven, or, as the Council of Bishops recently articulated, "to form disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections." However we describe our mission, we can probably all agree that it's not an easy ask. There are many barriers to loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously in our world. So, let worship be a time where we help address those barriers through prayer, song, and proclamation. Offer time to sit with all the "I don't want tos." Give the resistance some space to breathe in silent prayer or journaling. And then, encourage one another toward acceptance. Pray a litany of acceptance and encouragement that sets aside the resistance and points the community toward our shared mission. Remind one another that we are not alone; God is with us and has given us this faith community to help us on our way. Commit to moving forward together in grace, acknowledging that some days acceptance will seem far away. Remind one another that on those days, we lean on God and our fellow members in the body of Christ to keep going, believing for and with one another that God who calls us will never leave or forsake us as we learn and re-learn these lessons in leadership.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/lessons-in-leadership/week-2-fourteenth-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: Proverbs 1:8-30

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 30, 2026

Ushers: Jawan Lias, Jr., Zuri Mennifee, and Khloe Simmons

Financial Secretary: Donny Davis

Acolytes: Jawan Lias, Jr. and Cameron Miles

OUR STEWARDSHIP

August 23, 2026

Tithes & Offerings: \$2,350.00
Received To Date: \$150,834.63
Needed To Date: \$160,302.08

Attendance:
Sunday School 13
In-person Sunday Worship 49
Online Viewers 121
Total 170

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 | |

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, on Sundays 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.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Breandon Kane | 22 Michele Lancaster |
| 8 Evans Cheraisi | Steve Whittington |
| | 23 Kelly Conkle |
| 9 Belinda Lias | 25 Sandra Burns |
| 11 Earlene Gresham | Gracie Conkle |
| Tristan Campbell | 27 Jeanne Guilbeault |
| 13 Joe Macon | Matthew Ralls |
| 15 Janice Tomlin | 28 Stacey Pruett |
| 16 Jackie Weese | 29 Audrey Kernodle |
| 18 Glenn Griffin | |
| 19 Jason Conklin | |
| Jerry Williams | |
| 20 Natalie 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?*

GRIEF/CAREGIVER MEETING

Grief/Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next Support Meeting is Tuesday, September 8, 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.

IT'S A PARTY!
You're invited ... to a party! Epworth will sponsor a casserole making "party" on Tuesday, September 15 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come help us make 25+ casseroles! No need to RSVP - just come and join us! - *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 September 27.

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

-Church Council Meeting,
Chair, Debra Johnson,
Vice-Chair, Marguerite Hay -
Tuesday, September 1, 6:00 p.m.

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

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.

QUESTORS CLASSROOM RESERVED

Tuesday, October 27, 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

Tuesday, November 17, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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 30, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Epworth's Children & Youth Sunday
*The * Denotes to please stand if able.*

PRELUDE Bob Lee, Music Director

ENTER THE LIGHT OF CHRIST Jawan Lias, Jr. and Cameron Miles
Acolytes

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER Jaleah Lias
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 "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" UMH 160 vv. 1, 3, & 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

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 16:21-28 Cameron Miles

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Chasing After You" Children & Youth Choir
CCLI # 2967303, Song #6198781

SERMON SERIES "Word and Wisdom" Pastor

SERMON "Beyond Human Thinking" 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 "This Little Light of Mine" UMH 585 vv. 1 - 3
Song Leader

*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.