

COMING UP...

SEPTEMBER 13 - SEPTEMBER 20

Sunday, September 13
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church
UMM will meet following worship service.

Monday, September 14
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba
1:00 p.m. New Life Meeting

Wednesday, September 16
1:15 p.m. Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Zoom (EPEC) Bible Study

Thursday, September 17
Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, September 20
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church



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

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 DirectorMandi Battle



September 13, 2026

SERMON RECAP: "WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM?"

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

What a powerful worship we had Sunday! Our text came from Matthew 17:14-21, and our sermon title was "What's Wrong with Them?" I started the sermon at the high peak of the pulpit area and then made my way down to the flat sanctuary floor. As I moved, I never lost connection with microphone power, amplifying my voice. I ensured that my volume and amplification never diminished. That structural flow mirrors the earlier passage of Matthew 17. Jesus had just been on the Mount of Transfiguration, doing a transforming work in all His glory. Then, He stepped down onto the flat plain of the valley. The shift in environment didn't alter His authority; the location did not change His power.

But then came the turning point: the media tech pulled the fader down and brought the sound completely to zero. The microphone never left my hand, but the power vanished. This brings us straight into Matthew 17:14-21, setting up the logical progression of our sermon text: What's wrong with them, what's wrong with us, and what's wrong with me?

First, what's wrong with them? In verses 14-16, a desperate father kneels (gonypeteō) before Jesus, pleading for a son dealing with violent convulsions and epilepsy driven by a demonic state. The boy was constantly falling into fire and water, creating a household of pain, trauma, and collective, lingering PTSD. Yet, the disciples were completely unable to do anything to heal him. Why? Because they had allowed their connection to be cut off from Jesus when He was distant in proximity. They would have never lost connection with Jesus' healing power if they had continued in belief, walked in faith, and actively practiced their spiritual disciplines. Instead, they fell into what seems like a lazy, natural routine. We don't know exactly what they were doing down there in the valley while Jesus was on the mount of transfiguration, but they were likely just congregating together, gathering, talking, thinking about what they were going to eat, and wondering what they were going to do next. They had a stellar résumé from Matthew 10 and an elite reputation, but because it seems they had neglected their devotional life of faith, the tech at the master board might as well have pulled their fader down to zero.

(See Insert for Continuation)

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 3
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

September 13, 2026

Ushers: John Grandon
Financial Secretary: Donny Davis
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

September 6, 2026

Tithes & Offerings:	\$5,755.00
Received To Date:	\$162,139.63
Needed To Date:	\$169,462.08

Attendance:	
Sunday School	9
In-person Sunday Worship	40
Online Viewers	119
Total	159

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

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/UCZJhDYHDeeE-dnv5a5nQKjA](#) as close to 10:30 a.m. as possible or as close to the time of other livestream services.

BIBLE STUDIES

Join us on 1st, 3rd, & 5th Wednesdays for Bible Study at 1:15 p.m. and on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at noon. 6:30 p.m. EPEC Bible study classes will still take place every Wednesday. 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.

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!

UMM GROUP MEETING

The United Methodist Men's (UMM) Group meet the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting is today, September 13, immediately following the Worship Service. We will meet in the Nathan Patterson classroom. All men are invited!

GRIEF/CAREGIVER MEETING

Grief/Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next Support Meeting is Tuesday, September 22, 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.

MISSIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER MISSION

September Mission Opportunity - Our September mission is Casseroles for a Cause. We will need the following items: 50 cans of Cream of Chicken soup (pull-tab cans, please), 1 lb bags of white rice, and Ritz style crackers. Monetary donations will help purchase the perishable items for our casseroles. As always, your support is greatly appreciated!

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.

CHILDREN & YOUTH GAME NIGHT

Children & Youth Game Night - Our Game Night will restart in September. All Epworth children/youth are encouraged to invite friends to come out for the Word, snacks, fun, and fellowship!

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.

BACK CLASSROOM SUITE RESERVED

Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

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 momentous occasion and invite others!

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Charge Conference - Thursday, September 17, at 5:30 p.m. Presiding, Reverend Jeff Cook, Northwest District Superintendent.

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.



Continuation...

Jesus steps into this failure with heavy authority and disappointment. In verse 17, He rebukes them as an "unbelieving and perverse generation" and refuses to accept their lack of faith, healing the boy at that moment. The Greek word *diastrephō* means warped or twisted out of shape. One of my phrases to use is, “Don’t get it twisted.” (Lo!) Their culture had twisted faith from a dependent covenant relationship into a transactional, performative religious show. The disciples asked in private, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" (v. 19), and Jesus diagnosed the issue: they were lacking faith (v. 20). He doesn't say they have no faith, but little faith (*oligopistos*), meaning a faith distracted by the size of the crisis. He counters this with the mustard seed—a useful, essential seasoning in first-century Judea, known for both its seasoning and medicinal purposes. It was the smallest seed they handled, yet it holds massive potential inside the Kingdom, growing into the largest of garden plants because the efficacy belongs to the Object of faith Jesus, not our own strength.

Second, what’s wrong with us? We pull the plug on our connection with God because we get entirely too consumed by everyday life, routines, and commitments. We spend our days scrolling mindlessly on our phones or engrossed in mobile apps, managing our packed schedules, and running church programs on auto-pilot. We try to handle deep heart hurts, traumas, and mental health struggles by simply trying to use our own strength and old prayers and anointing. We can be busy doing things for God, but we lose our active, dependent faith in Him, leaving our modern lives spiritually unamplified.

Third, what’s wrong with me? I had to face my own spiritual blindness/shortcomings while out on the walking trail. For five months, I walked past a massive part of a fallen tree pushed into the dirt, constantly annoyed and wondering why no one would pick up the debris and broken branches. I was so busy judging the outer mess that I missed what God was saying in the message. Five months later, I stopped and looked closer—the fallen tree was still green and sprouting leaves. It was broken, it was knocked down, and it didn't look like it used to, but it had never lost its ultimate connection to the root system. It was still flourishing because it stayed tied to the source.

If life has knocked you into the dirt, hear this: just as the desperate father brought his son to Jesus, despite the boy’s violent convulsions and the trauma of falling into fire and water, you too can reach out for healing. The father’s faith, even in the face of despair, reflects the belief that Jesus can restore what seems broken. Just like the microphone that changed location yet still carried the same amplification, or the broken tree that remains connected to its root system, continuing to thrive. As long as you stay connected and plugged into your faith, your brokenness cannot stop God’s transforming power.

This week, let’s focus on a positive context. Ask yourself: What is right with you? Take inventory of the spiritual disciplines you are actively practicing—like morning prayer, scripture reading, or silent worship—to keep your heart plugged into the power of Jesus Christ, amplifying His goodness in your life, and as you connect with others, making disciples for Jesus Christ and the transformation of the world. Matthew 28:19
~*Amen*

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

September 13, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.

Sixteenth 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 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" UMH 400 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 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 17:22-27 Becky Britton

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC "What a Beautiful Name" Mandi Battle
Praise & Worship Director
CCLI # 2967303, Song #7068424

SERMON SERIES "Word and Wisdom" Pastor

SERMON "Free, Yet Fixed" 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 "Amazing Grace" Praise & Worship Director
UMH 378 vv. 1, 2, 3 & 6

*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.