

COMING UP...

SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 4

Sunday, September 27
66th Church Homecoming Celebration
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church
Epworth's Children & Youth Sunday
Homecoming Meal following service

Monday, September 28
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

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

Thursday, October 1
Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, October 4
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 by the family of Mary Bass to the
Glory of God and in honor of Epworth UMC Homecoming.

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



September 27, 2026

CELEBRATING 66 YEARS OF HISTORY
HOMECOMING POEM

*Janis Day's Homecoming Poem from September 27, 2009,
tells the story of Epworth*

*From 2010 - September 27, 2026 The Poem Narrative story
is written from the Pastoral/Historian Team
(below & in the insert)*

This story begins in a land across the sea,
in Epworth of England in 1703
when a baby was born - a child for Susanna Wesley.
Now this boy named John, his faith weathered the storm.
In a sermon one day....that he didn't want to hear
what happened to him -- he felt very clear
in his life ... he had a major transformation . . .
through prayer and faith came a new denomination.
That's why we're here -- from a heart strangely warmed
a congregation of believers - the Methodist were formed.

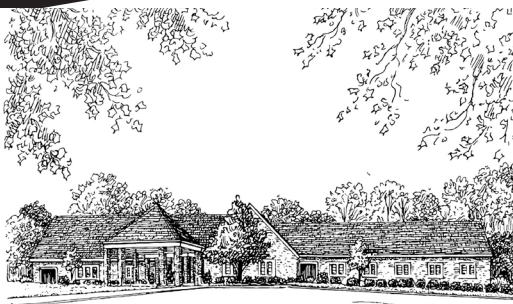
Now years in the future, our story goes on
when a church was needed --- so a survey had shown.
In the year 1960, the month it was five . . .
a first sermon was preached --- close by . . . Rosemont Drive.

This location was changed when a petition was raised but
these Methodist were tough -- hardly phased them at all
they met in a classroom in a church called St. Paul.
They continued to grow and moved quite a lot
before they would purchase a 3 acre plot.
The lot finally purchased - but construction was slow --
each Sunday they'd meet -- now to Sherwood they'd go.

The 25th of September, the year 1960 . . . a day of elation
a new church was formed amid trials and tribulation.
We became a church in a Fellowship Hall.with the help of a
preacher -- his name Reverend Ball.

There was one final move for this church on the run . .
.finally in their building -- they could worship God's son. The
day it was Easter, the year '64 our faith had a building . . . and
we opened up the door.

Our numbers would grow and our building would too . .
.cause we remained focused . . . the Lord's work we must do.
But late in the '80's...things didn't seem right our focus had
shifted to -- ourself -- not on the Light.



Epworth United Methodist Church Columbus, GA

Our church was in trouble. . .broken, needing
a fix of guidance, discernment...but -- just the
right mix.
We needed direction, so on the Bishop we'd call .
. . decisions, appointments, -- "Methodist stuff"
- big and small.

Because of this growth -- our church is too small
and that's why you're here for this...dinner call.
We need more space, more bricks and some
mortar. . .we'll get it, I'm sure . . . we've got Ernie
Porter.

The Vision . . . we can build it . . .
'cause God's back in our heart. . .
the way that it was -- way back at the start.
We must remain focused . . . after all
-- we are God's people . . .

Excited . . . you Bet! . . . we're gettin' a steeple.
With blueprints in hand, we thought we were
ready
but things they would change -- our focus not
steady.

We've heard that all things are done in God's
season
so why did it stop -- what was the reason?



SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 AM

The Nathan Patterson Class
Study: No class due to Homecoming
Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class
Study: No class due to Homecoming
Teacher: Glenn Griffin

The Seekers Class
Study: No class due to Homecoming
Teacher: Donny Davis

THOSE WHO SERVE

September 27, 2026
Usher: Zuri Mennifee and Skylar Simmons
Financial Secretary: Steve Sawyer
Acolytes: Jawan Lias, Jr. and Cameron Miles

OUR STEWARDSHIP

September 20, 2026
Tithes & Offerings: \$1,775.00
Received To Date: \$165,506.63
Needed To Date: \$178,622.08

Attendance:
Sunday School 11
In-person Sunday Worship 43
Online Viewers 73
Total 116

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.

GRIEF/CAREGIVER MEETING

Grief/Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next
Support Meeting is Tuesday, October 13, 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.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | |
|--------------------------------|
| 1 Debra Johnson |
| Darlene Shirley |
| 4 Leslie Morris |
| 5 Blaire Willis |
| 11 Deborah Cooper |
| 12 Alexzandra Mobayyeni Gordon |
| 14 Kristii Daniel |
| 17 Cora Buchanan |
| 19 Ginny Dozier |
| Brittni George |
| Scott Stokes |
| 21 Bob Lee |
| 23 Ann Smith |
| 26 Steve Sawyer |
| 27 Conover Swofford |
| 30 Julie Friend |

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!

UMM MEETING

UMM will meet immediately following worship
service on Sunday, October 11. All male
members and worshippers of Epworth are
invited to attend.
- Frank Karastury, UMM President

CHILDREN & YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Support the Epworth UMC Children's Ministry
by purchasing a raffle ticket for just \$5! Prizes are
as follows: The 1st prize will be a \$30 gift card
and an EUMC tumbler; the 2nd prize will be a
30 gift card and an EUMC tumbler; the 3rd prize
will be a \$30 gift card and a \$30 voucher toward
a custom hand-painted banner from Hand
Painted Banners by Jas'Min. Tickets are available
from any Children's Ministry child or volunteer
through 12:30 p.m. on October 24; winners will
be announced at 1:00 p.m. and do not have to be
present.

ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

Kick off the Fall Season with Loads of Fall
Fun! Our Annual Fall Festival will be on
Saturday, October 24, 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

66TH CHURCH HOMECOMING

Sunday, September 27, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.
2026 Theme: "Let's Celebrate Who We Are Now!"
Scripture: John 15:1-4 NIV

We are excited to announce that Bishop James R.
King, Jr., a retired bishop of The United Methodist
Church, will be the guest preacher for our 66th
homecoming service. After serving the Louisville and
South Georgia Episcopal Areas, he has been a Bishop
in Residence at Gammon Theological Seminary and
St. Luke United Methodist Church (2017 - 2023),
during his retirement. He is also the CEO of Christlike
World Ministries and has authored several impactful
works, including the "CLU Christlike Love Unit" and
"Disciple - Line A Way to a Christlike World." He also
hosts the "Hello Beautiful People" podcast. Join us as
we welcome Bishop King to share a relevant message,
wisdom, and faith with our church community.

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 are 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!

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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WING RESERVED

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

Continuation of Poem Narrative...

We continue to thrive, in person and online,
Worship on every platform, sharing the gospel divine.
From Sunday’s embrace to groups through the week,
Epworth connects hearts with the faith that we seek.
On Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok’s call,
We share the good news, welcoming all.
And through our podcasts, the message goes beyond these walls.

Baptism in water, in word and in song,
Immersion, sprinkling, or pouring—all voices belong.
We welcome each one, every tradition embraced,
United in worship, encased in grace.
With faith professed or reaffirmed, new members join,
Epworth’s embrace—one heart, one sign, one faith.

Then Fall Festival fun lit up autumn’s retreat,
With trunk-or-treats, inflatables, games, and sweets.
Food and fellowship, laughter filled the air,
And the annual Sidney Mac Chili Cook-Off was there.
A harvest of joy, memories so drawn—
Community gathered on our church lawn.

Thanksgiving bags, abundant and neat,
Fixings for dinners, a seasonal treat.
Extra groceries, dollars in hand,
Epworth’s generosity always in demand.

Christmas arrived with shimmering light,
Pageants and candles, a magical night.
Love Lights glowed for those we adore,
The Christmas Post Office opened its door.
Offerings gathered, gifts from the heart,
To Brown Bag, Rose Hill, and Open Door, we’d part.
Gift cards for Wynnton, kindness anew—
The spirit of Christmas in all that we do.

Through Lent we journeyed, following Christ,
Ashes and palms, with worship rejoiced.
Holy Week echoed with stories retold—
Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter’s bright gold.

We gathered for breakfast, delicious and bright,
Then children, youth, and adults brought the Christmas play to light.
Worship filled Easter morning with reverence and grace,
And the egg hunt closed the day with laughter in that place.

The calendar turned, events filled with cheer:
VBS soared in July’s embrace,
With beautiful decorations for all to see,
And lessons inspired by Galatians 5:22–23.
The week ended with joy at Launch, a theme park treat,
Backpacks blessed and ready for school bells to ring.

Missions united, compassion displayed,
For Wynnton Network, food and aid for people.
Pet food, toiletries, dollars given.
Casseroles baked, for Rose Hill’s care,
Bus passes, Open Door honored, MANA’s hope we bring.
Each mission completed, each heart open wide,
Epworth in action, with love as our guide.

From worship to ministry and mission in all that we do,
Epworth keeps thriving—online and in the pew.
With open doors and open hearts,
We serve and rejoice as each new year starts.
For sixty-six years, our church family’s grown,
Rooted in our Scripture, John 15:1–4, as Christ has shown.
With our theme, “Let’s Celebrate Who We Are Now,” shining through,
A tapestry of cultures, many voices in the pew.
Together we flourish, diverse yet one—
Epworth united, with Christ as our sun.

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 27, 2026 • 10:30 a.m. Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 66th Church Homecoming Celebration Epworth's Children and 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	Khloe Simmons	
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	Apostles' Creed UMH No. 881	Margaret Gosden
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. <i>Amen.</i>		
*PRAISE SONG	Medley: "Great Things He Has Done"	CH 54 - 56 Led by Susan Dunn, Song Leader
CELEBRATING 66 YEARS OF HISTORY	DeKara Berry, Church Historian	
OFFERTORY APPEAL/PRAYER	Rev. Earnestine W. Campbell, Pastor	
<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 Worshippers, 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>		

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. <i>Amen.</i>		
HOMECOMING CELEBRATION SONG	"I'm So Blessed"	Children & Youth Choir
SHARING OF CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS	Pastor	
<i>Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.</i>		
*SCRIPTURE	JEREMIAH 29:10-14	JaLeah Lias
Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.		
People: Thanks be to God.		
INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PREACHER	Pastor	
SPECIAL MUSIC	"Holy Forever"	Mandi Battle Praise & Worship Director CCLI # 2967303, Song #7201044
SERMON	"The Plan"	Bishop James R. King Jr. Retired Bishop, United Methodist Church
*INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP	Pastor	
<i>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.</i>		
*CLOSING SONG	"Great is Thy Faithfulness"	Praise & Worship Director CH 139 vv. 1 & 3
*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.		
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