

COMING UP...
OCTOBER 12 - OCTOBER 19

Sunday, October 12
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person &
Online & Children's Church
UMM Meeting (following service)

Monday, October 13
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba
1:00 p.m. New Life Meeting

Tuesday, October 14
1:00 p.m. Grief/Caregiver Support Meeting

Wednesday, October 15
Noon Bible Study
7:00 p.m. EPEC Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, October 16
Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, October 19
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
9:15 a.m. New Members' Class
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person &
Online & Children's Church



*The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in Honor of
Joel Spencer's birthday by James and Donna Faircloth.*

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

staff's first name@epworthumc.com
(example: earnestine@epworthumc.com)

Facebook - EpworthUMC.com
Instagram - EpworthUMC.com
Youtube - epworthumccolumbus1430

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.....Danielle Lamb
Children's Ministry DirectorJas'min Vontoure
Children's Ministry Assistant.....Whitney Mennifee
Custodians.....Martha Conklin
Barbie Webb
Media TechTristan Campbell
Music Director.....Bob Lee
Nursery Worker.....Martha Conklin
Pastor.....Rev. Earnestine Campbell
Praise & Worship DirectorMandi Battle



October 12, 2025

"I'M CONFUSED ABOUT THE SHREWD"

Our Scripture lesson, Luke 16:1-13, on Sunday, confronted the complexities of stewardship, relationships, and the ethical dilemmas we face in our lives. In this parable, Jesus teaches us about resourcefulness and the importance of aligning our actions with God's values. He uses the example of cleverness and craftiness that may often appear unethical in the eyes of the reader. This can be a confusing message, especially in a culture that often celebrates shrewdness for its own sake.

In the sermon, we uncovered the deeper meaning of Jesus' teachings. Through this exploration of the text, we came to understand how to navigate the murky waters of ethical decision-making while remaining true to our faith. The revelation of the lesson was embedded in this scripture, and we discovered what Jesus is truly saying about our finances, work ethics, responsibilities, and relationships in a world filled with integrity issues and other complexities.

Luke 16:1-2
Jesus sets the stage with a manager who is about to lose his job because he has been wasteful. This situation resonates with many of us who have faced the fear of losing security. The manager, having mismanaged the master's resources, is called to account for his actions. It prompts us to consider our own responsibilities. Are we diligent in our work, or do we sometimes cut corners, have selfish motives, and ultimately risk our integrity?

Luke 16:3-5
In this moment of desperation, the manager devises a plan to secure his future. He realizes he needs to act quickly. This reflects a struggle we all face: do we take the easy route, manipulating situations for personal gain, or do we confront our challenges honestly? Is what the manager chooses to do—is it right to choose cunning over confrontation, resonating with the world's ethical lines that are often blurred?

Luke 16:6-7
As the manager reduces the debts of those who owe his master, we see a clever strategy at play. In the Jewish law, it was against the law for Jews to charge exorbitant interest, as outlined in Leviticus 25:36-37 and Deuteronomy 23:19-20. Yet, this manager had been doing just that, inflating the debts to profit from these inflated charges. Now, as he cuts back the amounts owed, he is not only relieving the debtors but also positioning himself to gain their favor for future assistance and to get his "severance package." This parallels modern practices where people face exorbitant interest rates—think credit cards, payday loans, and title pawns—that often lead to financial ruin. Medical bills, student loans, etc., can also become overwhelming, with high interest rates adding to the burden, much like how the manager had exploited those he served. Let's be wise and become financially educated and astute on investments, savings, and those things that allow us to be the lender and not the borrower (Deut. 15:6; 28:12).

Luke 16:8-9
Here, we encounter a surprising twist—the master praises the shrewd manager for his ingenuity. Jesus points out that the people of this world will go to extraordinary lengths to accommodate their needs, demonstrating cleverness and resourcefulness. Yet, as believers, we often fall short in our commitment to our faith. We cut corners on our time with Jesus, neglect to align our budgets to reflect our values, and fail to invest in the kingdom as we should. Jesus is illustrating that the world is more shrewd in business dealings than we are in our spiritual lives.

This part of the passage reminds us that we can negotiate with those exorbitant expenses that weigh us down. Just as the manager had the debtors write down new amounts owed, we too can take action. If you're struggling under the weight of predatory lending or overwhelming bills, don't accept those high interest rates or unfair practices as a given. Call your lender. Negotiate your costs. Ask for lower payments or reduced interest. This is part of what Jesus is teaching us: we don't have to accept the exorbitant prices or burdens we've entered into or placed on ourselves because of desperate times or bad decisions. God always provides a way of escape.

Luke 16:10-13
In these closing verses, Jesus emphasizes the importance of faithfulness in small matters. Our character is revealed in how we handle our responsibilities. We are reminded that we cannot serve both God and money. This is a poignant call to evaluate our priorities. Are we bearing witness to our faith in how we manage our resources—time, talents, gifts, and finances? Are we living in a way that reflects our commitment to God's values over worldly gains and excuses?

In closing, as we reflect on the parable of the shrewd manager, we confront the challenge of examining our practices of stewardship and integrity. Jesus calls us to be wise and faithful in our dealings, even when faced with moral ambiguity. As Christians, we must consider how we manage our time and resources. We should not be dishonest with our employers or disregard our integrity in our jobs or with each other in our relationships. Instead, let us strive to honor God through our relationships and work, maintaining the highest standards of integrity and diligence. Let us commit to living with purpose, using our resources wisely, and extending grace to others. We must remember that God is the Master, watching over everything we do. Just as the master in the parable knew what the manager was doing when he commended him for cutting the prices, God knows our actions and intentions. This serves as a reminder that He sees all—every decision we make and every commitment we uphold. Amen!

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: Esther 9, 10
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

October 12, 2025

Usher: Donny Davis
Financial Secretary: Donny Davis
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

October 05, 2025

Tithes & Offerings:	\$6,742.00
Received To Date:	\$137,369.63
Needed To Date:	\$183,372.00

Attendance:	
Sunday School	16
In-person Sunday Worship	41
Online Viewers	151
Total	192

2025 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](https://www.facebook.com/epworthcolumbus) first: [facebook.com/epworthcolumbus](https://www.facebook.com/epworthcolumbus) or [youtube.com/channel/UCZJhDYHDeeE-dnv5a5nQKjA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZJhDYHDeeE-dnv5a5nQKjA) as close to 10:30 a.m. as possible or as close to the time of other livestream services.

Likes, Shares & Reviews Matter - Take time to like the Epworth Facebook and Youtube pages to become a follower of these social media platforms, like the posts and/or videos, share, or comment. It only takes a few seconds and only a few minutes to write a review of your experience at Epworth through Facebook, Google, or Yelp. This is a way to let our community know about us.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Attention all new members!

You are asked to join the New Members' Class on Sunday, October 19, at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you became a member of Epworth in 2024 or 2025, this class is specifically for you and for all other interested persons. It’s a great opportunity to deepen your understanding of our Christian faith through Biblical principles and the United Methodist Church's practice and application of the interpretation of the Biblical texts and spiritual disciplines. This class will help you continue developing and maturing in your faith journey. Also, if you have not returned your new member’s packet, please do so as soon as possible. If you haven’t received one, please notify the church office. We look forward to seeing you there!

SANCTUARY/ALTAR FLOWER OPTIONS

Due to the recent florist price increase, the following options for Sanctuary flowers 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.)

MISSIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER MISSION

October/November Mission Opportunity - Our October/November Mission is the Thanksgiving-themed dinner grocery bag for Wynnton Neighborhood Network. This family-oriented mission gift will provide an entire Thanksgiving meal (minus the turkey) for a food-insecure family. Each paper bag contains a list of needed items, as well as a coloring page. The bags are available in the Whitehurst Welcome Center and need to be returned no later than Sunday, November 16! Monetary donations are also appreciated, mark your pew envelopes 'Thanksgiving'. Thank you for your support of this worthy cause!

CHILDREN & YOUTH GAME NIGHT AND UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Attention all Epworth members, there will not be a game night in October due to the Fall Festival. Game nights will resume in November with scheduling information to be announced.

ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

Kick off the Fall Season with Loads of Fall Fun! Our Annual Fall Festival will be on Saturday, October 25, from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

We'll have fun, food, and Trunk or Treating! Candy donations and volunteers are needed for this event, please see sign-up sheets located on the window of the church office. Inflatables, games, face painting, popcorn/cotton candy and more!

Fall Festival t-shirts are available to order (\$25), please see Jas'Min.

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER & FAMILY& CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MEETING

Thank you to all those serving in the Family & Children's Ministry and everyone who signed up to volunteer for the Fall Festival! A short ministry and volunteer meeting will be held after service next Sunday, October 19, in the Fellowship Hall.

Fall Festival shirts are in. Please see Jas'Min if you ordered a shirt or if you would still like to order one.

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

Saturday, October 25, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday, November 04, from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES
CHARGE CONFERENCE

Charge Conference-Sunday, October 26, directly following 10:30 a.m. worship service. Presiding, Reverend Jeff Cook, Northwest District Superintendent. All church council members and leaders are asked to attend and any interested persons.

PLASTICWARE NEEDED

Epworth needs plasticware packets (with napkin) for use in our Rosehill Ministry. A collection box will be available in the Whitehurst Welcome Center. Thanks and God bless you all!

GRIEF/CAREGIVER SUPPORT MEETING

Grief / Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next Support Meeting is Tuesday, October 14, 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.

UMM GROUP MEETING

The United Methodist Men's (UMM) Group will now meet the second Sunday of each month, The next meeting is today, October 12th, immediately following the Worship Service. We will meet in the Nathan Patterson classroom. All men are invited!

PODCAST: INTERNSHIP & SOCIAL MEDIA - COMING SOON!

We are excited to introduce the Epworth Podcast, a platform designed to not only evangelize but also to engage in meaningful dialogue around holistic well-being, spirituality, societal issues, justice causes, and ministry and mission work. The podcast will feature relevant subject matter experts and special guests—creating space for individuals to inform and share. If you're interested in helping create the podcast room or know someone who would like to intern for the podcast, setup, etc., and digital marketing specialist, please contact the pastor at earnestine@epworthhumc.com.

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

Annette Taff	Lillian Wooldridge	Jeanne Guilbeault	Cheryl Jandreau
Mildred Rodgers	Betty Paulk	Susan Stark	Michael Taff
John Grandon	Linda Lee	Lloyd Britton	Susan Dunn
Bob Lee	Marjean Waters	Deborah Cooper	Buddy Dunn
Ann Smith	Natalie Kernodle	Chester Jakes	

James and Donna Faircloth & Family	Family of Myra Tucker
Mary Lee Crews & Family	Earl & Melonie Phillips & Family
Ann Smith & Family	Frank Karastury & Family
Ron Sawyer & Family	Barre' and Steve Whittington and Family

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	Ralph & Sandy McGough
Diane Wiggins	Cristina Mattocks	David Garner	Kathy McClintock
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	Amanda Kinsman Vines	
George Bowen	Martha Bone	Danny Snider & Family	Davis/Osborne Family
Tammy White	Sam Wilson		

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 October 12, 2025 • 10:30 a.m. Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost The * Denotes to please stand if able.		
PRELUDE	Bob Lee, Music Director	
ENTER THE LIGHT OF CHRIST	Children/Youth Ministry	
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	"My Hope Is Built"	UMH 368 vv. 1, 2, 3 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 Worshippers, text or go to epworthumc.com and select "Donate." 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. Amen.		

MISSION APPEAL		Bobby Smith, Missions Chair
SHARING OF CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS		Pastor
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.		
*SCRIPTURE LESSON	LUKE 16:19-31	Becky Britton
Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God. People: Thanks be to God.		
SPECIAL MUSIC	"He Sees You"	Mandi Battle Praise & Worship Director CCLI # 2967303, Song #7133616
SERMON SERIES	"When the Dust Settles"	Pastor
SERMON	"Favor Ain't Late?!"	Pastor
*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	"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"	UMH 526 vv. 1, 2 Led by 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.		