

COMING UP...
OCTOBER 19 - OCTOBER 26

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

Monday, October 20
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Tuesday, October 21
7:00 p.m. EPEC Zoom Bible Study

Wednesday, October 22
Noon Bible Study

Thursday, October 23
Noon Prayer Team

Saturday, October 25
11:00 a.m. Epworth Annual Fall Festival

Sunday, October 26
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
T-Shirt Sunday
Charge Conference directly following
10:30 a.m. service



*The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in Honor of
Reverend Earnie by the Epworth Family.*

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

epworth
united methodist church

October 19, 2025

"FAVOR AIN'T LATE?!"

Sunday's sermon, titled "Favor Ain't Late" and based on Luke 16:19-31, was transformative. Jesus tells of a rich man and a poor man named Lazarus. In the first century, this message was crucial for highlighting social inequality, compassion, Jesus' life, and the reality of life after death. The rich man is dressed in expensive purple and enjoys lavish meals, while Lazarus, covered in sores, hopes for scraps at his gate and is so neglected that dogs lick his wounds.

Through this parable, Jesus challenges us to reflect on our responsibility and compassion toward others. The rich man ignores Lazarus even though he could help. In the same way, many in our world today lack basic needs—food, healthcare, and safety. Jesus teaches that we are responsible for caring for others, echoing Matthew 25:40: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these... You did for me." Likewise, John Wesley stressed that faith must be shown through compassionate, just actions.

(Luke 16:19) In the first century, this scripture addresses the Christian church, highlighting social inequality, Christian example, and the reality of heaven and hell. Jesus gives a vivid portrayal of a rich man in luxurious purple—a rare, expensive color—who feasts constantly, perhaps wiping his hands with bread and discarding it for servants to pick up.

(Luke 16:20-21) By contrast, this Lazarus is poor and suffering, covered in sores and longing for food from the rich man's table. He sits at the gate, desperate and surrounded by dogs that lick his wounds—a stark image of neglect.

(Luke 16:22-23) Jesus's parable warns about social responsibility. The rich man, despite his wealth, ignores Lazarus's needs. This neglect reflects today's issues—many still lack food and healthcare, while others have the means to help, as seen in the risk to end school meal programs.

(Luke 16:24) As Jesus teaches, He emphasizes our social responsibility, resonating with the sentiment found in Matthew 25:40: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." John Wesley also reinforced social accountability and compassion as core tenets of faith in our "Methodism."

In Luke 16:25-26, the narrative takes a decisive turn. The rich man eventually finds himself in Hades, tormented and pleading for relief. It's likely that his descent was accompanied not just by demons but perhaps a mock funeral procession, complete with paid mourners who grieved for him, ironically highlighting the disconnect between his earthly status and his spiritual reality. Meanwhile, Lazarus, who suffered in life, is carried away by angels to Abraham's side—a beautiful depiction of hope and divine favor.

Next, in Luke 16:27-28, the use of "angels" in the plural is significant; it suggests, to me, a grand procession, contrasting with the rich man's solitary fate. The rich man, now acutely aware of his circumstances, asks Abraham to send Lazarus to cool his tongue with just a drop of water, and to warn his five brothers about hell, yet he never directly addresses Lazarus, revealing his deep-seated sense of superiority and entitlement even in his demise.

Luke 16:29-31 concludes this part of the story as Abraham's response underscores the chasm that exists between them, illustrating that there is no crossing over once one's fate is sealed. He tells the rich man that his brothers have Moses and the prophets to listen to, emphasizing that they have enough guidance to understand the moral implications of their actions. This connection between the Old and New Testaments reminds us that we need the full context of the Bible and must be spiritually conscious not to isolate them. Jesus craftily ties the teachings of the Old Testament into the New Testament, urging us to heed the messages of compassion and responsibility.

The imagery of Lazarus at the gate of the rich man's palace reflects the stark realities we see today, where the homes of the wealthy—celebrities, government officials, professional athletes—stand in stark contrast to the lives of those struggling just outside their gates. It serves as a powerful reminder that while some live in luxury, many others are left to fend for themselves, despised, and often invisible to those who have the means to help.

This parable serves as a reminder that wealth can often lead to selfishness, a disconnect from God, and a disregard for the marginalized. The rich man had every opportunity to demonstrate kindness and compassion and to exemplify the fruit of the Spirit described in Galatians 5:22-23, yet he failed to show these qualities toward Lazarus, who was suffering just outside his gate.

It's also important to remember that Jesus was not against people having wealth. Figures like Abraham, King David, and King Solomon had riches but were known for their hearts towards God and their generosity. Ultimately, the message from this parable is clear: it's not about the wealth one possesses, but how we use our resources to care for those in need.

As the story concludes, we see the rich man's pleas go unanswered, and Abraham tells him that he cannot send Lazarus to warn his brothers. This illustrates a vital truth—our actions in this life have eternal consequences. There's no second chance after death, no purgatory. The urgency lies in how we live now, ensuring we embody the love and compassion that Christ calls us to show.

In closing, let us reflect on the favor of God, which is not contingent upon our earthly circumstances. Regardless of our struggles or what we lack, we must hold onto the promise that God's favor can transform our situations. Even in our lowest moments, He is working to restore and make us whole again. Let us live with a heart of compassion, always mindful of those around us, and ensure that we do not ignore the needs of others, especially the marginalized and vulnerable. God is turning things around in your favor, reminding us that our actions today resonate into eternity.

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: Job 1
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 19, 2025

Usher: Becky Britton & Diona Bronson
Financial Secretary: Patricia Bronson
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

October 12, 2025

Tithes & Offerings:	\$2,906.61
Received To Date:	\$140,369.63
Needed To Date:	\$188,328.24

Attendance:	
Sunday School	14
In-person Sunday Worship	49
Online Viewers	150
Total	199

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 this 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!

HONORING WONDERFUL YOU!

In honor of Pastor Appreciation Month, the entire congregation here at Epworth would like to give our heartfelt thanks to Reverend Earnie for your leadership and constant care for this house of God. We are truly blessed to have you as our Pastor!



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.

FALL FESTIVAL DONATIONS NEEDED

Your help is needed to provide families with loads of Fall Fun at our Annujal Festival! All donations are welcome, a green donation bin is in the Whitehurst Welcome Center for your convenience, monetary donations please mark your pew envelopes "Fall Festival".

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 this Sunday, October 19, in the Fellowship Hall.

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 28, 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.

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.

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

Saturday, October 25, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday, November 04, from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday, November 08, from 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Tuesday, November 18, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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 19, 2025 • 10:30 a.m. Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost <i>The * Denotes to please stand if able.</i>		
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	"'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"	CH 581 vv. 1, 2, 4 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 17:5-10	DeKara Berry
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	"The Faith Factor!"	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	"Jesus Loves Me"	CH 185 vv. 1, 3 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.		