

COMING UP...
OCTOBER 25 - NOVEMBER 1

Sunday, October 25
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church
T-Shirt Sunday
Epworth Children & Youth Sunday

Monday, October 26
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Tuesday, October 27
1:00 p.m. Grief/Caregiver Support Ministry
3:30 p.m. Feeding Our Neighbors

Wednesday, October 28
Noon Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Zoom (EPEC) Bible Study

Thursday, October 29
Noon Prayer Team

Saturday, October 31
End of Daylight Saving Time - Set clocks back 1 hour at bedtime.

Sunday, November 1
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church
All Saints Sunday
Holy Communion



CONTACT US
2400 Devonshire Drive
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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 Director Jas'Min Vontoure
Children's Ministry Assistant Whitney Mennifee
Custodians.....Martha Conklin
Barbie Webb
Media Tech Tristan Campbell
Music Director.....Bob Lee
Nursery Worker Martha Conklin
Pastor Rev. Earnestine Campbell
Praise & Worship Director..... Mandi Battle

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



October 25, 2026

TESTED
ALWAYS GIVE THANKS
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; REFORMATION SUNDAY
FOCUS TEXT: I THESSALONIANS 2:1-8

Worship planners, let me say upfront, moving from "chosen" to "tested" is hard. People who have been harmed by the church hear "God tests our hearts..." and are likely plotting their escape. People who have been in the church a long time may hear the same words and assume they know what they mean, when in fact, we could all use a refresher on what Paul is and is not doing in this passage (see Preaching Notes). So, as worship planners, how do we keep everyone engaged? How do we provide the safe space and the brave space to explore what Paul is talking about in today's passage?

First, we create a safe space by reminding ourselves of the truth of who God is and who God calls and empowers us to be. We recall how God chooses us in the call to worship. We sing of God's never-failing, always-active love. We pray for one another and our world in the context of God's faithfulness to listen to our pain and to act for the flourishing of all creation. We prepare the congregation for the possibility that the scripture may hit a few buttons, but we're going to wrestle with it, not just accept easy, surface-level readings.

Then we create a brave space by encouraging vulnerability with boundaries, critical thinking, and mindfulness. This is a place where the preacher and, possibly, the worship leader/liturgist will do much of the heavy lifting. We have to admit the harmful ways passages of scripture have been used, endeavor to ask hard questions of God and the Bible, and expect that we are all doing our best and none of us has the full picture. That's why we need one another! But we do all of this with boundaries in place. We don't expect others to agree with us, but we do expect others to address our disagreements with charity and respect. We may leave the worship space with more questions than answers. This is not an invitation to blame those who lead worship, but an opportunity to listen for what God might be saying to us. Brave spaces welcome critical thinking—unpacking the text, being curious and open to new ways to read the same words, and examining multiple viewpoints. To do all of this, we have to be mindful. So, perhaps you begin and end proclamation with a time of silent meditation or a guided practice for paying attention to our bodies, our breathing, and the space we inhabit together. It is difficult to be brave when we're distracted and disconnected from ourselves and from one another.

If you are in a season of stewardship, I encourage you to avoid the idea that God is somehow testing our giving. This can lead to a transactional understanding of faith that leans dangerously close to prosperity gospel teachings. Rather, give thanks that God who chooses us also empowers, encourages, and supports us in the growth of our faith, because that's what the testing is really about. God isn't grading us. God invites us, by grace, to join in the process of being molded and formed to be more like Christ, so that we may be a community of thanksgiving and generosity modeled after our generous Creator.

https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/always-give-thanks/week-2-twenty-second-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 9
Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class
Study: *The Seasons of God* by Richard Blackaby
Teacher: Glenn Griffin

The Seekers Class
Study: Wired Word
Teacher: Donny Davis

THOSE WHO SERVE

October 25, 2026

Ushers: Zuri Mennifee & Skylar Simmons
Financial Secretary: Steve Sawyer
Acolytes: Jawan Lias, Jr. and Cameron Miles

OUR STEWARDSHIP

October 18, 2026

Tithes & Offerings:	\$4,990.88
Received To Date:	\$155,825.51
Needed To Date:	\$169,462.08

Attendance:	
Sunday School	15
In-person Sunday Worship	45
Online Viewers	101
Total	146

2026 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 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.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Debra Johnson
- Darlene Shirley
- 4 Leslie Morris
- 5 Blaire Willis
- 11 Deborah Cooper
- 12 Alexandra 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

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 Welcome Center and need to be returned no later than Sunday, November 15! Monetary donations are also appreciated. Mark your pew envelopes "Thanksgiving". Thank you for your support of this worthy cause!

STANDING IN FAITH: BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and our Epworth family joins together in prayer, love, and solidarity. We pause this month to honor the courageous survivors who inspire us, lift up those currently fighting the battle, and lovingly remember the loved ones we have lost.

As good stewards of the bodies and lives God has entrusted to us, we also encourage one another to stay proactive about health, early detection, and regular medical screenings. Whether you are a fighter, a survivor, or a caregiver carrying a heavy load, our church family is here to walk, pray, and stand with you. We know with confidence that no one fights this fight alone; God is always in control.



UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

GRIEF/CAREGIVER MEETING

Grief/Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next Support Meeting is Tuesday, October 27, 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.

FELLOWSHIP HALL & CLASSROOMS RESERVED

- QUESTORS CLASSROOM RESERVED

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

- FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

Tuesday, October 27, 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 17, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WING RESERVED

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

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 November 29.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME CHANGE

Fall Back: Sunday, November 1, 2026, Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. local time (clocks move back 1 hour to 1:00 a.m.) Set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, October 31, 2026.



EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

Regina Bridges		
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	

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 25, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost; Reformation Sunday
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 Skylar Simmons
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,2400
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 "Grace Greater than Our Sin" UMH 344 vv. 1 & 4
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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER - CONGREGATIONAL Riley Brantley & Khloe Simmons

THE LORD'S PRAYER
"Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen."

*SCRIPTURE 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8 Jaleah Lias

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 "When It Seems Like Failure" 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" UMH 378 vv. 1,2,3,6
Praise & Worship Director

*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.