COMING UP...
NOVEMBER 15 - NOVEMBER 22

Sunday, November 15
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church

Monday, November 16
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Wednesday, November 18
1:15 p.m. Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Zoom (EPEC) Bible Study

Thursday, November 19
Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, November 22
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church
T-shirt & Hat Sunday

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 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.

epworth
united methodist church

November 15, 2026

ENTER THE JOY

IT WILL BE LIKE THIS

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
FOCUS TEXT: MATTHEW 25:14-30

Whom do you serve? Elsewhere in the book of Matthew, Jesus says, "No one can serve two masters…You cannot serve God and wealth" (Matthew 6:24). And then, we have this parable that portrays a master driven by wealth and productivity, a parable we often try to make fit the "kingdom of heaven," because aren't all of Jesus' stories, especially in Matthew 25, about the kingdom of heaven? As Derek Weber proposes in the preaching notes, perhaps this is not a parable about the kingdom of heaven but the kingdom of this world, a story meant to tell us about the kingdom of heaven based on what it's not. Now, I'll stop there and let Derek get into the nitty-gritty of this interpretation of the parable of the talents. But this question, "Whom do you serve?" is a good question for us to ask as worship planners because, as we see in Matthew 25:23, whom we serve determines the joy we enter. As you prepare for worship this week, do you want to invite your people into the joy of the world or the joy of the kingdom of heaven, a joy dependent on wealth and productivity or on God's love and grace?

As you prepare the liturgy for this Sunday, take stock of the prayers, call to worship, and rituals you will engage in as a community. Do they portray God as a master with high expectations or a loving parent who nurtures and enables us to live as disciples of Jesus Christ through love and grace? Are there undercurrents in the ways your church talks about and prays to God that resonate with the old adage (not found in the Bible): "God helps those who help themselves"? This is a wonderful Sunday, not just to demonstrate a different understanding of God's kingdom, but to explain it. So often, we either assume everyone knows why we do what we do in worship or we assume that explaining what we're doing in worship will be boring or take the meaning out of it. Maybe this is a good Sunday to preface the prayers of the people with a note about how we pray to a loving God who listens to all of us, who works for the good of all of us, and who does not play favorites or prioritize those who "prove" their faithfulness to God. You may think your congregants know this, but knowing it in our heads and knowing it in our bones are two different things.

Then, perhaps most importantly, find the joy--not the joy in material things or the joy that waits until we're no longer stressed or anxious or fearful or tired, but the joy that meets us where we are and reminds us we are children of God, citizens of God's kingdom. This is not joy we have to manufacture, but joy we create room for. Give people space to find some calm in worship. Acknowledge the difficult things we all carry right now. Tell stories of the good that is happening in your congregation, no matter how small it might seem. Show pictures of a senior-adult outing or of the children's choir practicing. Invite everyone to have a two-minute dance party to shake it all out. Even simply turning to one another to say in worship, "I'm glad you're here today," may be one of the few positive interactions some of our congregants have all week. In a world that puts us in competition with one another and values us for our productivity, may church be a place where we enter into the joy of belonging to God and to one another for no other reason than that we are all children of God.

https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/it-will-be-like-this/week-2-twenty-fifth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a

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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 12
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

November 15, 2026

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

OUR STEWARDSHIP

November 8, 2026

Tithes & Offerings:	$910.00
Received To Date:	$164,155.51
Needed To Date:	$183,202.08

Attendance:	
Sunday School	*5
In-person Sunday Worship	51
Online Viewers	105
Total	**156**

*Seekers and New Connections did not meet .

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6 John Grandon
7 Diona Bronson
9 Evans Cheriasi
13 Buddy Dunn
15 Lillian Wooldridge
17 Jas'Min Vontoure
21Alison Jandreau
22 Margaret Gosden
25 Janie Nellums
Annette Taff
Maxine Willis

STAY CONNECTED

In-Person & Livestreaming Worship - Join us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Options for worshiping 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.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Jeanne Guilbeault and Michele Lancaster for their contributions of branches, berries, and silk flowers for arrangements for the sanctuary. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

- The Worship Committee

FALL FESTIVAL DEBRIEFING & CHRISTMAS PLANNING MEETING

There will be a meeting to debrief from the Fall Festival and to discuss Christmas activity planning on Sunday, November 22, immediately after worship service.

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!

WNN HOLIDAY GIVEAWAY

It's almost time for the Wynnton Neighborhood Network (WNN) Holiday Food Giveaway! Epworth's Missions Committee conducted an inventory of previously donationed items and compiled a list of the "MOST needed" items as follows:

Evaporated Milk
Mac and Cheese
Peanut Butter (regular size jars as they are easier to pack)
Cans of Pumpkin
Cans of Yams
Jelly (any flavor)
Chicken broth (boxes or cans)

As always, your help is greatly appreciated!

T-SHIRT & HAT SUNDAY

On Sunday November 22, our last Sunday before Thanksgiving, you are invited to represent with your favorite spiritual or team related T-shirt/hat - apparel that brings you joy in the Lord!

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Decoratings - Friday, November 27, 10:00 a.m - Decorating the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary for Christmas. Coordinator, Seeker's Sunday School class.

"Still Thankful" Meal Preparation - Tuesday, December 1, from 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. in the Epworth Fellowship Hall.

Holiday Donations Opportunities - Christmas Missions opportunities coming soon!

-Christmas Post Office
-Damascus Way
-Open Door
-Poinsettia Fundraiser
-Sock/Glove/Hat Drive and More
-Love Lights

Christmas Eve/Candlight Service/Children's Pageant - Sunday, December 20 during Sunday School hour - (Sunday School classes will not meet). Christmas Eve/Candles Service will be held Thursday, December 24, at 4:30 p.m.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

Sale Dates:
Sunday, November 22, Sunday, December 13, & Sunday, December 20

If you would like to donate a cake, pie, or cookies, please contact
Becky Britton at 706-326-2436.
Our sale table will be at the front door, before and after services.
Get ready for some really special treats!

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

- Tuesday, November 17, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 1, 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WING RESERVED

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

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

Regina Bridges
Lloyd Britton
Rebecca Britton
Deborah Cooper
Buddy Dunn
Susan Dunn
John Grandon
Jeanne Guilbeault
Cheryl Jandreau
Natalie Kernodle
Bob Lee
Linda Lee
Mildred Rodgers
Ann Smith
Susan Stark
Annette Taff
Michael Taff
Sue Vining
Lillian Wooldridge

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

Extended Church Family

Patricia Waldo
Dora Spires
Billy Hill
Carol Hall
Beth Goodwin
Hattie Campbell
Cristina Mattocks
Ann Mitchell
James & Sue Flowers
Maggie Smith
Roger Buterbaugh
George Bowen
Tammy White
Bertha Robinson
Steve Guilbeault
Willie Ryles
Kim Jordan
Charles Holmes
McDaniel Family
Robin Grantham
David Garner
Patricia Jefferson
Robert Wagers
Hazel Dullin
Diane Propst
Martha Bone
Sam Wilson
Nona Robinson
Robbins Family
Judy Patterson
Grier Family
Marilyn Buck
Stephanie Bryan
Dana Thurston
Kathy McClintock
Susan Land
Sarah Browder
Family of Neil Gergun
Ralph & Sandy McGough
Danny Snider & Family
Michelle Slappy
Rev. Tim Paulk
Kuester Family
Cassie Prochaska
Bruce Chapman
Danny Chidester
Adams Family
Diane Wiggins
Amanda Kinsman Vines
Aundre Smith
Mary Kennedy
Janna Family
Davis/Osborne Family
Linda Walker
Marjean Waters

Independent/Assisted Living/Nursing Home

Oaks @ Maple Ridge - Helen Pharris
Kings Bridge (Atlanta, GA) - Blount King
River Place - Anne Wilson
Oaks @ Grove Park - Ron Sawyer
The Lodge (Bessemer, AL) - Lorene Carlisle
Wesley Glen (Byron, GA) - Nancy Hiller

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!

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

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 15, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.
Twenty-fifth 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** "I Love to Tell the Story" CH 444 vv. 1, 2, & 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.

***SCRIPTURE** 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24 Dekara Berry

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Holy Spirit" Mandi Battle
Praise & Worship Director
CCLI # 2967303, Song #6087919

SERMON "When You Feel Like Disconnecting" 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** "Soon and Very Soon" CH 757 vv. 1 -3
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.