

COMING UP...

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 07

Sunday, November 30  
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

Monday, December 01  
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry  
Zumba

Thursday, December 04  
Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, December 07  
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  
Holy Communion



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

CONTACT US  
2400 Devonshire Drive  
Columbus, GA 31904

Church Office (706) 322-6973  
Pastor's Cell (706) 992-9147  
[www.epworthumc.com](http://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.....  
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

epworth  
united methodist church

November 30, 2025

SIGNS AND TIMES  
TODA LA TIERRA ESPERA

Stop. Take a moment. Breathe deeply. We have arrived—again—at the beginning of the journey. That's the strange thing about this season. Advent sits us down in the liminal space of God's already-and-not-yet kingdom and asks us to wait. Now, if you're around young children for any length of time, you will be reminded that waiting is very hard. Whether it's in the car, the grocery store line, or a doctor's office, my child despises waiting. About five minutes in, I start getting "How much longer, Mom? I have nothing to do! I'm bored!!!" Not too long ago, tired of hearing, "I'm bored" and, honestly, a little concerned that my twenty-first-century child perhaps needed to experience boredom a little more because boredom requires us to be creative (more on that another time), I decided it was time to teach him to live into the boredom. So, now, every time he says he's bored, I require that he do a mindfulness exercise with me where he has to tell me five things he can see, four things he can touch, three things he can hear, two things he can smell, and one thing he can taste. Of the many benefits this activity has, it requires him (and me) to de-center our discomfort at waiting so that we can pay attention to what is happening around us. Perhaps this is the role of Advent— to teach us to pay attention and figure out what is ours to do as we faithfully wait for the birth of the Christ child and the fulfillment of God's kingdom.

We encourage you to use the first week of Advent to set the stage for the season to come. In this series, we will explore the signs God gives us in our waiting, those lessons and encounters that guide us along our journey. For many, this season is where we use dark blue or purple paraments or cloth on the altar. Consider adding a clock or multiple kinds of clocks to your altar space to reference the "times" of "Signs and Times." Add gold accents or candles to help capture the light and play up the contrast of light and darkness, as both are our teachers and companions on the Advent journey.

Also, consider what you want your congregation to take into the Advent season. Perhaps you want to encourage everyone to do a daily breath prayer practice based on a scripture for each week of Advent, such as: (breathe in) Help me wait and be ready, (breathe out) to encounter Jesus wherever I go.

Perhaps there's a hymn that will act as a unifying or "theme" song throughout Advent. Examples include "Toda la Tierra/All Earth Is Waiting" (United Methodist Hymnal 210), "Wait for the Lord" (Worship & Song 3049), or even "New Redemption Song" performed by Over the Rhine. Using a prayer or a song that threads throughout Advent invites congregants to practice paying attention to God's guidance in the midst of our waiting as the body of Christ.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/the-days-are-surely-coming/twenty-third-sunday-after-pentecost-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes>

We hope to see you at church on Sunday,  
and invite someone to attend as we enter into the Advent Season.

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 8, 9  
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

November 30, 2025

Usher: United Women of Faith (UWF)  
Financial Secretary: Donny Davis  
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

November 23, 2025

Tithes & Offerings:	\$694.00
Received To Date:	\$149,680.63
Needed To Date:	\$223,020.00

Attendance:	
Sunday School	10
In-person Sunday Worship	44
Online Viewers	110
Total	154

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 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.

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 next Sunday, December 14, 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!

NATHAN PATTERSON SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Why do bad things happen to good people? Why is there so much calamity in the world? What do we know about Satan? For the answers to these questions and more, join us as we study the Bible and explore the book of Job in the Nathan Patterson Sunday School class at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays.

ADVENT SUNDAY OBSERVANCE 2025

Advent Sunday Obeservance-November 30. December 7, 14, and 21. Encouraging all to come out for the special season and invite others. Advent readers needed.

MISSIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS  
DECEMBER MISSION  
ADVENT - CHRISTMAS  
OPPORTUNITIES

December Mission Opportunity - We have a three-pronged set of activities for December. Funds from our Love lights, the Christmas post office, and the December Christmas offering will be divided among Open Door Community House, Brown Bag of Columbus, Dasmascus Way, and the Fellowship at Rose Hill. As always, thanks for your gifts!

Poinsettias for Christmas - To purchase a red poinsettia for \$20 each in memory or honor of a loved one, see the sign-up sheet on the church office window or contact the church office. The plants will be placed in the Sanctuary through Christmas Eve. You are encouraged to pick up your poinsettias after one of the services. The deadline to order is Wednesday, December 10. Quantity limited.

Sock/Glove/Hat Drive and More - We are sponsoring a drive to collect ONLY women’s and children's socks, mittens/gloves, scarves, and hats/toboggans for Damascus Way. The deadline is Sunday, December 21.

Wrapping Paper and Tape Drive - We are sponsoring a drive to collect wrapping paper and tape for gift wrapping for children in need at Open Door. The deadline is Friday, December 12.

Love lights - We will celebrate Love Light Sunday, December 14, in our worship service. For a \$5 donation, your loved one will be remembered or honored in the December 14 bulletin. You may list a couple, such as a set of parents. Complete the form in the bulletin and submit it with a \$5 gift for each name to be listed, in the offering plate, or deliver them to the church office no later than Tuesday, December 9.

Christmas Decoratings - Friday, November 28, 11:00 a.m - Decorating the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary for Christmas. Coordinator, Seeker’s Sunday School class.

Christmas Post Office Available - Christmas Post Office Raises Funds for Missions and is open in the foyer to mail your Christmas cards to fellow members for 25¢ each. Money collected will go to the Helping Our Neighbors at Christmas offering. This is a great way to connect and save money! Remember to check to see if you have any Christmas cards! Donations will be accepted through Sunday, December 21.

UPCOMING EVENTS  
& OPPORTUNITIES

CHRISTMAS EVE/CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE/CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

Christmas Eve/Candlelight Service/Children's Pageant - Wednesday, December 24 at 4:30 p.m. Parents/Guardians: Children's Pageant Rehearsal every Sunday through Sunday, December 21, during Children's Church hour. Please bring the children to participate.

GRIEF/CAREGIVER SUPPORT  
MEETING

Grief / Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next Support Meeting is Tuesday, December 9, at 1:00 p.m. For more information, contact Martha Conklin at 706-329-0629.

CAKE SALE COMING

Cake Sale for the Holidays! Everyone needs a cake sometime over the holidays. We are asking for homemade cake donations for a very worthy cause (our church budget!). Cakes will be sold every Sunday after service starting November 23rd and continuing through Christmas. If you can donate a homemade cake, please choose a Sunday that works best for you and call Becky Britton at (706)326-2436 to get on the schedule. Thanks in advance for your contributions. All proceeds will go directly to the Epworth UMC operating budget.

"STILL THANKFUL" MEAL

Preparation - Tuesday, December 2, from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. at the Epworth Fellowship Hall for the Rosehill Fellowship.

CHILDREN & YOUTH GAME NIGHT

Children & Youth Game Night - Our next Game Night will be held in December with dates to be announced.





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	Michelle Slappy	Linda Walker
Bertha Robinson	Nona Robinson		

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

November 30, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.  
1st Sunday of Advent  
*The \* Denotes to please stand if able.*

PRELUDE Bob Lee, Music Director

ENTER THE LIGHT OF CHRIST Children/Youth Ministry

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER Marguerite Hay, Worship Leader

\*PRAISE SONG "He Has Made Me Glad" CH 214  
Susan Dunn, Song Leader

ADVENT LITANY/MOMENT Patricia Bronson & Diona Bronson

**Reader One:** The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God’s reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God “shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:4).

**Congregation:** Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God’s reign has come and is coming among us.

**Reader Two:** We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God’s call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" CH 391

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](http://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 Worship Leader  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

\*SCRIPTURE ISAIAH 2:1-5 Becky Britton

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Come Jesus Come" Mandi Battle  
Praise & Worship Director  
CCLI # 2967303, Song #7154136

SERMON "Come Home" Debra Johnson, Speaker  
Certified Lay Minister, UMC SGA Conference

\*INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP Debra Johnson  
*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 "How Great Thou Art" CH 147 vv. 1, 4  
Led by Praise & Worship Director

\*LIGHT OF CHRIST BROUGHT OUT INTO THE WORLD Acolytes

\*BENEDICTION Debra Johnson

\*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.