COMING UP...

NOVEMBER 8 - NOVEMBER 15

Sunday, November 8
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
In-person & Online & Children's Church
UMM will meet immediately after worship service.

Monday, November 9
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba
1:00 p.m. New Life

Tuesday, November 10
1:00 p.m. Grief/Caregiver Support Ministry

Wednesday, November 11
11:00 a.m. Worship Committee Meeting
Noon Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Zoom (EPEC) Bible Study
Veterans Day - The church office will be open.

Thursday, November 12
Noon Prayer Team

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



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 8, 2026

KEEP AWAKE

IT WILL BE LIKE THIS

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
FOCUS TEXT: MATTHEW 25:1-13

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
the day is drawing nigh.

(African American Spiritual, public domain)

Every time I read this Sunday's gospel lesson, I feel this African American spiritual resonating in my bones. I've sung multiple arrangements over the years, but the simplest, most straightforward versions are the best. It's just you, a chorus of other people, and this powerful marriage of tune and text sinking into the marrow, echoes of hope in the midst of profound and unjust suffering, a musical witness to the persistent belief that the good news of Jesus defies the power of the oppressor. I could wax poetic about this spiritual all day, but lest you think this is only for churches with large choirs, there is a singable, public domain version here that congregations of all sizes can sing. I'm not recommending that your congregation sing "Keep Your Lamps" this Sunday just because it directly references Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Rather, this is an opportunity for the whole community to sing an interpretation of this text together. Through a simple, repetitive text paired with a minor tune full of pathos sung in community with others, "Keep Your Lamps" interprets Matthew 25:1-13 by drawing us toward one another, calling us to persevere in the midst of—not despite—the difficulties we face. Through this spiritual, the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids becomes not about judgment but about leaning in, supporting one another, and reminding one another that through Christ and in community together, we have hope.

Throughout this series, we're using the gospel texts in the lectionary to explore how Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven. It's striking to me that Jesus doesn't give us a list of action items complete with timelines, quotas, and scheduled progress reports. Imagine having a monthly check-in with Jesus: "The goal is world peace. We laid out a plan to make it happen, and you are, let's see, two thousand years overdue on all tasks. Help me help you figure out the barriers here so we can make some progress."

But no, we don't have a business plan or to-do lists. We have stories--stories that are culturally specific to Jesus' day, yet all-too-human. We have parables that we, unfortunately, often read at a surface level when deeper meanings await us if we will stop and pay attention. So, this week, as you explore what it means to keep awake, consider the stories that shape your community. Where do some of those stories need a little extra light and attention? What are the stories we've forgotten or neglected? What are the stories that we need to replace about ourselves and our community so we can stay awake to what God is doing among us? Perhaps these aren't questions we, as worship planners, must answer, but the questions we need to raise with our congregations in worship because the questions keep us awake and attentive to the work God lays before us to build the kingdom of heaven here and now.

https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/it-will-be-like-this/week-1-twenty-fourth-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 11
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 8, 2026

Ushers: John Grandon
Financial Secretary: Donny Davis
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

November 1, 2026

Tithes & Offerings:	$6,200.00
Received To Date:	$163,255.51
Needed To Date:	$178,622.08

Attendance:	
Sunday School	11
In-person Sunday Worship	42
Online Viewers	75
Total	**117**



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.

UMM GROUP MEETING

The United Methodist Men (UMM) Group meet on the second Sunday of each month after worship service. The next meeting is today, November 8. All men are invited!

- Frank Karastury, UMM President

GRIEF/CAREGIVER MEETING

Grief/Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next Support Meeting is Tuesday, November 10, 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.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

The 4th Quarter Worship Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, November 11, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in the Questors Classroom.

- Jeanne Guilbeault, Committee Chair

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!

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

Attention all bakers!
Epworth will hold our 2nd Annual Cake Sale beginning Sunday, November 22. If you can bake and donate, please contact Becky Britton at 706-326-2436. Cakes, pies, or cookies are all good ideas. This sale yielded over $700 to Epworth's budget last year and we are prayerfully hopeful to do as well or better this year! We will have items for sale before Thanksgiving and before Christmas. Thanks in advance for baking and buying!

-Ann, Becky, and Janie

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

- Tuesday, November 17, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WING RESERVED

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

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

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*.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

A Birthday Prayer

May God bless you today and each day that follows. May you hear His voice and follow His footsteps. Be comforted by His care and live in His Grace now and forever. Amen.

*If you are an Epworth member and your birthday is not listed, please fill out your connection card with your birthday so we don't miss your day!

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 8, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.
Twenty-fourth 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 - 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 4:13-18 Becky Britton

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 "After the Silence Breaks" 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** "This Little Light of Mine" UMH 585 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.