

COMING UP THIS WEEK...

Sunday, November 18

12:00 p.m. Thankful Together Lunch

3:00 p.m. Tony Crosby & Friends Concert

Tuesday, November 20

6:30 p.m. AA Support Group Meeting

6:30 p.m. Growing Christians UMW Meeting

Thursday, November 22

Thanksgiving Day/Office Closed

12 noon Thanksgiving Lunch

Friday, November 23

Office Closed

Sunday, November 25

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Tuesday, November 27

3:00 p.m. Reachers UMW Meeting

6:30 p.m. AA Support Group Meeting

6:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting

2019 FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2019 flower calendar is on the office window. The flower arrangement is \$50.

Questions or to request a date, call the office.

THANK YOU

SHIRTS STILL AVAILABLE

The Vintage Group would like to thank everyone who purchased sweatshirts and T-shirts. Our profit of \$582, will be donated to various charities; \$200 has been sent to Carpenter's Way Ranch and Arabella for Christmas. Some shirts are still available and sweatshirts can be ordered individually. See the sign-up sheet on the information board.

The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Linda Phillips by Jack Phillips.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Epworth's members are our ministers.

The professional staff who assist us are:

Children's Ministry DirectorLindsey Fossa

Choir Director.....Lyn Pharris

Church Administrator Susan Snider

Contemporary Music Director Kayla Moss

CustodiansMartha Conklin & Barbie Webb

Media & CommunicationsDawn Wilson

Music DirectorBob Lee

Nursery Worker..... Martha Conklin

Pastor.....Tony G. Crosby

CONTACT US

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Columbus, GA 31904

Pastor's Cell (706) 329-2484

Church Office (706) 322-6973

www.epworthumc.com

staff's first name@epworthumc.com

(example: tony@epworthumc.com)

Facebook - EpworthUMC.com

Instagram - EpworthUMC.com

Twitter - @EpworthColumbus

CONTACTING YOU

Most of the church's communication now is through e-mail. We send two e-mails each week—a newsletter on Monday and a sermon preview on Friday. We also use e-mail to send important meeting reminders and other information. Help us contact you by making sure we have your current e-mail address.

 **epworth**
united methodist church

November 18, 2018

**Building a Life of Generosity
Through Stewardship**

Simplicity is the only thing that sufficiently reorients our lives so that possessions can be genuinely enjoyed without destroying us... Simplicity sets us free to receive the provision of God as a gift that is not ours to keep and can be freely shared with others.

-Richard Foster

It is an interesting pattern most churches are in. We don't talk about stewardship enough. When we do, it is when we are asking for money. So I want to say a couple of things about this and I want to try to speak with clarity on behalf of what I know God wants from us in this part of our discipleship.

First of all, I am sorry we do not talk about stewardship enough. We are going to change that. Jesus taught about stewardship all the time and what we need to do with our money. There is no way a study of the *Foundations of Discipleship* would be complete without a thorough lesson on financial stewardship (which is, for what it's worth, much more than giving money to the church). It is probably negligence on our part that we don't speak of this more often. I am responsible for the pulpit and I will work on this. But when is the last time your Sunday School class or small group intentionally chose a study on financial stewardship? If we were more comfortable with the subject, we could find teachings on this topic anywhere throughout the life of our church because it is so important to Jesus.

Secondly, I do not apologize for asking for money for our church's ministries. Not one bit. Everything we are doing matters to the kingdom of God. Every dollar we spend has to do with making disciples of Jesus Christ and building the kingdom of God here in our own Epworth family, the community of Columbus, and around our nation and the whole world. We are called to be the church of Jesus Christ, a faithful part of The United Methodist Church, and a vibrant message of hope and love for our community. We have many ways to grow in all of these areas, but our priorities on spending reflect that we mean to do this and do it well.

So today, more than anything, I am reminding myself and all of you that God loves cheerful givers because it reflects that our hearts are in love with the same things God loves—people coming to faith and being loved in Jesus' name.

Join me as we seek to grow in our discipleship by truly becoming generous people who are careful stewards of all God has given us and all God is calling us to give.

In Christ,



Epworth connects and equips all kinds of people
to SEEK, SERVE, and SHARE Christ.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

The Children's Class

Kindergarten - 5th Grade: Margaret Gosden

The Friendship Class

Study: Jacob Forms a Relationship with God
Teacher: Rev. Tim Paulk

The Genesis Class

Study: If You Are Going the Wrong Way...
Teacher: Leslie Morris

The Joy Class

Study: O Say Can You See?
Teacher: Class

The Nathan Patterson/Wesley Class

Study: Genesis 45
Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class

Study: What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
Teacher: Doug Franks

The Questors Class

Study: Jacob Forms a Relationship with God
Teacher: Glenn Griffin

The Seekers Class

Study: Class Discussion
Teacher: Suzy Revell

The Young Adult Class

Study: Jesus & the Beanstalk
Teacher: Becky Britton

THOSE WHO SERVE

November 18, 2018

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Debra Johnson, Anne Wilson
Usher: Available
Acolyte: Usher
Children's Church: Whitney Weyeneth

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Bobby & Carolyn Knox, Maxine Willis
Ushers: David Hay, Fraser Wooldridge
Acolyte: Eva Cherai, C. S. DiSimone
Children's Church: Becky Britton
Nursery Volunteer: Lillian Wooldridge
Financial Secretary: Lillian Wooldridge
Turn Key: James Johnson

OUR STEWARDSHIP

November 11, 2018

Tithes & Offerings:	\$5,693.00
Received To Date:	\$251,316.00
Needed To Date:	\$291,910.48
Building Fund:	\$0.00

ATTENDANCE:

Sunday School	87
Worship: 9 a.m.	45
Worship: 11 a.m.	69
	114

YOUTH & CHILDREN

Youth Group Meeting - Tuesday, November 27, at 6:30 p.m., in the youth room.

Just A Little Christmas - A children's Christmas program will be presented on Sunday, December 16, at 4 p.m. We are calling all children to participate! Please contact Whitney Weyeneth at whitneyweyenth@hotmail.com, if your child can be a part of the program, if you would like to volunteer or for more information. Thank you!

Advent Workshop - A children's program on Sunday, December 2, from 4-7 p.m., in the fellowship hall. There will be games, crafts, sing-a-longs and hot dog supper. For ages 3 years to teens. Parents may drop children off and use the time to go Christmas shopping.

Volunteers Needed for Children's Advent Workshop - The bah-hum-bug got you down? Come volunteer at the Advent Workshop and help a little pair of hands make crafts and gifts. Guaranteed to make you feel better and put you in the Christmas spirit. Contact Margaret Gosden or Whitney Weyeneth with questions or to volunteer.

MISSIONS

November Mission Focus- Love Lights - We will celebrate Love Light Sunday on December 2, in our worship services. See the form in this week's bulletin for more information. Forms are due by Thursday, November 29.

Epworth to Receive Donations from AmazonSmile - This Christmas, we know you are shopping online and we know Amazon is one of your favorites. You can donate a portion of your purchases to Epworth by going to smile.amazon.com to make your purchases and by choosing "Epworth (Columbus) United Methodist Church" as your charity to support. Especially remember us when making large purchases. 0.5% of the purchase price of most items will be donated. Every dollar counts!

Opportunities to Serve - Communion homebound servers, Helping Hands Ministry, aluminum can recycling, purchase of Epworth cookbooks, Feeding Our Neighbors at Rose Hill, Open Door Showering Program, Prayer Shawl Ministry, collection of aluminum can tabs for Ronald McDonald House, Box Tops for Education, medical equipment and plastic caps and lids. Direct questions to Becky Britton, Barbara Stubbs or the church office.

Tree of Life Memorial - Memorials can be made for members of the Epworth UM or Hamp Stevens UM churches. The minimum donation for an engraved leaf is \$50. Forms are in the information rack in the foyer or on our website. The tree is displayed in the narthex. Money received helps supplement the budget.

Servants Needed - If you feel led to volunteer in serve to the church or would like more information on positions available, please contact the church office.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

UMW World Thank Luncheon - today, November 18, at noon, in the fellowship hall. The congregation is invited. Menu: homemade soup, corn bread, crackers, dessert, and tea. There will be a short program after the meal. Price: \$1 per UMW Member; non-UMW members eat free and all children and spouses are \$2 each. Money raised will go toward the World Thank offering.

Tony Crosby and Friends - to play in concert today, November 18, at 3:00 p.m., in the sanctuary at St. Luke United Methodist Church. A love offering will be taken to benefit the Open Door Community House "Youth in Unison" children's orchestra program.

Growing Christians UMW Meeting - Tuesday, November 20, at 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall.

Office Closed - Thursday & Friday, November 22 & 23.

Thanksgiving Lunch - sponsored by the Seekers Sunday School Class, invites the congregation to share a meal on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, at noon, in the fellowship hall. Turkey, dressing, and ham will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share. Call the church office or sign up on the information board by Sunday, November 18, so that we have a place set for you.

Wednesday Night Supper & Study- on November 28, at 6 p.m. Make reservations by signing up on the information board or email or call the church office. Menu: breaded pork chops, potato casserole, corn or black eyed peas, rolls, salad and dessert. Bible study, led by Tony, and Wacky Wednesday, led by Whitney, begin at 6:30 p.m.

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

Fred & Emilie Carswell	Blount King	Gladys Plant	Trudy Harris
Vanessa Desoto	Ron & Betty Sawyer	Thrower Family	Kitty Crockett
Sibyl Wells	Keri McElvey	Jackie Chambers	Kernodle Family
Fred Scanling	Barbara Watson	Helen Batastini	Lillian Wooldridge
Elsie & Jim Spanogians	Andrea Carbaugh	Glenn Griffin	Daniel Family
Anne Wilson	Jimmy Bridges	Annette Taff	Barbara Stubbs

Extended Church Family

Steve & Carol Guilbeault	Michael Taff	David Olson	Doyle Adams
Dotty Baker	Ricky Clark	Robbins Family	Andrew Wade
Laurie Osteen	Preston Silvernail	Dora Spires	Willie Ryles
Judy Patterson	Cassie Prochaska	Billy Hill	Kim Jordan
Dorothy Ogg	Bruce Chapman	Charles Holmes	Marilyn Buck
Danny Chidester	Beth Goodwin	Luby Family	Garnett Shackelford
Adams Family	Ellen Pilgreen	Jessica Kelley	Dana Thurston
Ralph & Sandy McGough	Diane Wiggins	Stephanie Bryan	Robin Grantham
McDaniel Family	Hattie Campbell	Mark Oliver	

Assisted Living/Nursing Homes/Homebound

Covenant Woods - Linda Coleman	River Place - Betty Cummings, Elizabeth Harbert, Jane Sanders
Magnolia Manor - Doris Halouska, Cammie Van Over	River Towne Center - Jerry Williams
Phenix City Health Care - Anne Whitehurst	The Lodge (Besserman, AL) - Lorene Carlisle Wesley Glen (Byron, GA) - Nancy Hiller

(Please continue to pray for our homebound people. They would love a visit!)

If the prayer list needs to be updated, please call, email the church office or leave a note with updates. Help us minister effectively by calling the church office about yourself or a family member. Thank you for your help.

Love Lights for Loved Ones

On December 2, we will celebrate Love Light Sunday in our worship services. On that day, we will have the traditional lighting of the love light tree, as we remember and honor our loved ones. This tradition coincides with the start of the season of Advent, as we prepare for God's gift to us at Christmas.

For a \$5 donation, a white light can be lit in memory of a loved one. One light may also be turned on for a couple, such as a set of parents. Complete the form below to purchase a Love Light. Submit it, along with a \$5 gift for each name to be listed, in the offering plate or deliver them to the church office by Thursday, November 29.

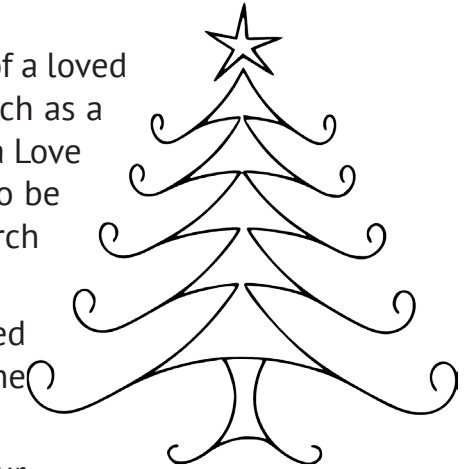
Love Light contributions this year are being combined with a Christmas Offering to serve our Neighbors in the month of December.

Our Missions Committee has selected three of our partners in ministry to receive our offering this year:

Open Door Community House - started out of the Hamp Stevens Methodist church in 1935, still serving children and women with great love.

Brown Bag of Columbus - provides groceries to low-income elderly individuals in Columbus and Phenix City.

The Fellowship of Rose Hill UMC - provides meals, clothes and shares the gospel with those in need within the community.



Name of Giver: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Honor of: _____