

COMING UP...  
DECEMBER 07 - DECEMBER 14

**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/Children's  
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal  
Holy Communion

**Monday, December 08**  
1:30 p.m. Monday Ministry  
Zumba

**Thursday, December 11**  
Noon Prayer Team

**Sunday, December 14**  
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/Children's  
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal



**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)  
  
toni@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.....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

December 07, 2025

**SIGNS AND STORIES**  
TODA LA TIERRA ESPERA

Once upon a time... Not exactly words we associate with the Bible, but certainly words we associate with telling a story. We hear “once upon a time,” and our ears perk up. We’re ready to get lost in a tale that is both fantastical and all too human. But the wonder of stories is that they communicate truths deeper than mere facts. They help us discover truths about ourselves and our community, the way humans relate to one another, what it means to believe, and how we embody our beliefs. Now, hear me: I am not contesting the truth about the events in the Bible. Rather, I wonder if sometimes we get so caught up in the Bible as a telling of events that we miss the truth underneath the events.

This is particularly relevant for this week’s text and our Advent journey. Here we have John the Baptist, that locust-and-honey-eating prophet living in the wilderness and calling people then and now to repent. This is a story we might associate more with Baptism of the Lord Sunday, when we encounter the fulfillment, the “end of the story” of this passage. But this is Advent. We don’t resolve stories in Advent. We live in the tension of the not yet. And in this tension, John the Baptist invites us to repent, to change our story, to redefine our “once upon a time” in light of the good news—the good news John the Baptist hoped for but had not yet seen.

How might we all join in John the Baptist’s invitation to repent, recognizing that our confession and repentance writes in us and through us a story of good news and life-giving grace?

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/toda-la-tierra-espera/second-sunday-of-advent-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes>

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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  
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

December 07, 2025

Usher: David Hay  
Financial Secretary: Donny Davis  
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

November 30, 2025

Tithes & Offerings:	\$3,185.00
Received To Date:	\$152,865.63
Needed To Date:	\$227,976.00

Attendance:	
Sunday School	18
In-person Sunday Worship	48
Online Viewers	87
Total	135

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/UCZJhDYHDdeE-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.

PASTORAL COUNSELING

Our church partners with The Pastoral Institute to offer counseling for individuals and families at deep discounts. Call the church for more information or call the Pastoral Institute at 706-649-6500 to schedule an

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!

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 Lights on 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 Post Office Available - The 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 23, 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.

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

Lloyd Britton	Cheryl Jandreau	Annette Taff
Deborah Cooper	Natalie Kernodle	Michael Taff
Buddy Dunn	Bob Lee	Marjean Waters
Susan Dunn	Linda Lee	Lillian Wooldridge
John Grandon	Mildred Rodgers	
Jeanne Guilbeault	Ann Smith	
Chester Jakes	Susan Stark	

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

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

December 07, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.  
2nd Sunday of Advent  
The \* Denotes to please stand if able.

PRELUDE Bob Lee, Music Director

ENTER THE LIGHT OF CHRIST Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER Marguerite Hay, Worship Leader

\*CONFESSION & PARDON UMH No. 12, (see screen)

ADVENT LITANY/MOMENT David & Marguerite Hay

**First Reader:** Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

**All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God’s creation.**

**Second Reader:** We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

*Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.*

\*PRAISE SONG "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" UMH 204

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 Rev., Earnestine W. Campbell, Pastor  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

\*SCRIPTURE PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 Patricia Bronson  
Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Holy Is The Lamb" Mandi Battle  
Praise & Worship Director  
CCLI # 2967303, Song #5090897

SERMON "May He Do For Us" 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.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION Pastor & Congregation (see screen)  
\*Invitation UMH No. 12  
The Great Thanksgiving UMH No. 15-16  
Liturgy  
The Lord’s Prayer  
The Giving of the Bread and Cup UMH 14-15

\*CLOSING SONG "Go, Tell It On The Mountain" UMH 251 vv. 1 & 3  
Led by 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.