

COMING UP...
DECEMBER 14 - DECEMBER 21

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
Love Lights Observance

Monday, December 15
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry
Zumba

Thursday, December 18
Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, December 21
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
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Church Office (706) 322-6973
Pastor's Cell (706) 992-9147
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 DirectorJas'min Vontoure
Children's Ministry Assistant.....Whitney Mennifee
Custodians.....Martha Conklin
Barbie Webb
Media TechTristan Campbell
Music Director.....Bob Lee
Nursery Worker.....Martha Conklin
Pastor.....Rev. Earnestine Campbell
Praise & Worship DirectorMandi 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 14, 2025

SIGNS AND TRUTHS
TODA LA TIERRA ESPERA

The Third Sunday in Advent, often called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, is perhaps one of the most paradoxical Sundays in the liturgical calendar. Here we are in the middle of Advent, the days growing longer and darker, the tension of the already-and-not-yet coming of Christ at the forefront of our worship, and then—Rejoice! Light the pink candle; let the musicians take charge; let's sing and be glad! It's jarring, isn't it? But it's also fitting. We need joy as a companion on our journey. Perhaps we need it more than ever when darkness feels close at hand, literally or metaphorically. We can learn a lot from darkness. We need it, but we also need the light. We need the balance of sadness and joy, grief and rejoicing. We need to know that even when we can't find joy in our own hearts, we can somehow find it in community together.

In today's scripture passage, John the Baptist wants to know the truth about Jesus, and Jesus replies with (my paraphrase), "Well, what do you notice? What am I actually doing? The truth of who I am is in what I do." So, worship planners, what do you notice? What is Jesus doing among us? What is the truth about God that your congregation needs to witness in this season of Advent?

Most congregations have set traditions for Gaudete Sunday. For many, this is a significant music Sunday. You might sing a lot of hymns as a congregation or have the choir sing a cantata. You might have extra instrumentalists who enliven the storytelling and prayers of the community. All of this is good and right and beautiful. And we want to encourage you not to jump ahead to Christmas too fast. It can be tempting to make this a bit of a pre-Christmas celebration. We sing of the birth of Jesus, and then next week, we put him back in the womb until Christmas Eve.

I'm not saying it's wrong to sing about Jesus' birth on Gaudete Sunday. Instead, let today be about recognizing the signs of God's truth in the story of our waiting from the prophets to Elizabeth to Mary to the shepherds to John the Baptist...to now. Today is a day to rejoice in the ways Truth seeps in through the cracks and lights up our waiting with hope and joy. So, fill the altar with things that help us find our way—compasses, maps, scripture. Fill the space with singing and praying as we worship God, who saves and comes to live among us. Fill the hearts of the gathered community with the joy that comes from following the truth of God's love as we wait for the coming of Christ.
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/toda-la-tierra-espera/third-sunday-of-advent-year-a-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 11 - 14
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 14, 2025

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

OUR STEWARDSHIP

December 07, 2025

Tithes & Offerings:	\$5,010.00
Received To Date:	\$157,875.63
Needed To Date:	\$232,932.00

Attendance:	
Sunday School	8
In-person Sunday Worship	51
Online Viewers	105
Total	156

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](https://www.facebook.com/epworthcolumbus) first: [facebook.com/epworthcolumbus](https://www.facebook.com/epworthcolumbus) or [youtube.com/channel/UCZjhDYHDdeE-dnv5a5nQKjA](https://www.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 appointment.

CHRISTMAS STAFF APPRECIATION - THANK YOU MESSAGE!

From the Staff Parish Relations Committee:

We deeply appreciate your generous gifts this Christmas for Staff Appreciation. Thank you for helping us show love and gratitude to our staff. Your support is a true blessing!

-Michele Lancaster, SPRC Chair

From the Pastor & Staff:

Thank you for your abundance of generosity, Epworth family, that you express each year through your monetary gifts given for the Staff Appreciation. We are grateful for your gifts—they are a blessing, but you are the true blessing! We appreciate you and working together to do the ministry of God’s kingdom at Epworth as co-laborers in Christ!

-God bless you, Pastor Earnestine & Staff

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!

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.

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.

ADVENT SUNDAY OBSERVANCE 2025

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

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

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

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!

Love Lights for Loved Ones

In Memory Of:

Sarah Combs
Curtis Combs
Kathy Combs
John Rogers
Mildred Rogers
Judy Scanling
Sara & Julian
Jay Wagner
Dixie & Roy Scanling
Ed Scanling
Edith & Steve Grady
V. C. & Minnie Waters
Brady & Lillie Pope

Given By:

Lee Rogers
Lee Rogers
Lee Rogers
Lee Rogers
Lee Rogers
Fred Scanling
Fred Scanling
Fred Scanling
Fred Scanling
Fred Scanling
Fred Scanling
Marjean & James Waters
Marjean & James Waters

In Honor Of:

The Campbell Family
Rev. Earnestine, Robert, Tristan, and Lauren

Given By:

Mary Bass

Poinsettias for Loved Ones

In Memory Of:

Lloyd & Irene Britton

Mr. Frank & Mrs. Betty Leonard

Jane Grandon

Charlotte Bentley

Doug Franks

Parents

Judson Mullican

Douglas & Claudia Burt

Louise Patten

Anne & Emory Patten

Ray & Ruth Vaughn

Given By:

Becky Britton

Patricia Bronson

Martha Conklin

Martha Conklin

Vonna Franks

Glenn & Vicky

Griffin

Kristi & Chris

Lovelock

Theresa Mullican

Judson Patten

Judson Patten

Mary Patten

*The * Denotes to please stand if able.*

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.

Coffee Bar in the Welcome Center: Enjoy coffee and refreshments for the Sunday School and Worship Service hours every Sunday. Donations are appreciated.