

COMING UP...

DECEMBER 21 - DECEMBER 28

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

Monday, December 22
Zumba classes will resume after the Holiday
season.

Tuesday, December 23
1:00 p.m. Grief/Caregiver Support Group
will fellowship at a local venue for a holiday
lunch.

Wednesday- Friday December 24-26
Main office Closed in observance of the
Christmas Holiday

Wednesday, December 24
4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service/Children's Pageant

Thursday, December 25
Merry Christmas!

Sunday, December 28
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



*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

toni@epworthumc.com
(example: earnestine@epworthumc.com)

Facebook - [EpworthUMC.com](https://www.facebook.com/EpworthUMC.com)
Instagram - [EpworthUMC.com](https://www.instagram.com/EpworthUMC.com)
Youtube - [epworthumccolumbus1430](https://www.youtube.com/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 AssistantWhitney Mennifee
Custodians.....Martha Conklin
Barbie Webb
Media TechTristan Campbell
Music Director..... Bob Lee
Nursery WorkerMartha Conklin
Pastor Rev. Earnestine Campbell
Praise & Worship Director Mandi Battle



December 21, 2025

SIGNS AND FAITHFULNESS

TODA LA TIERRA ESPERA

Mary is pregnant; Joseph comes up with a contingency plan, and an angel throws new information into the mix that changes everything. Do you feel the frenzy in the story? That underlying sense that if one thing goes wrong, the entire narrative will erupt into chaos? Or is that just the Christmas Eve anxiety seeping in?

In these last few days before Christmas Eve, we, like Joseph, receive a call to faithfulness, to notice the signs before us, listen to the messengers among us, and follow. We must wonder when the significance of the choice to believe and follow the angel's directions sank in with Joseph. Clearly, he acted immediately, but when did the action gain meaning for him, for Mary, for the world?

In the Northern Hemisphere, this Sunday is also the longest night of the year, a time when many communities offer a Blue Christmas or Longest Night service. This year, consider how the themes of Blue Christmas might also be incorporated into the Sunday morning service. What does faithfulness look like in the face of grief? How do we follow the signs God gives us when our hearts are heavy with sadness? How does God dwell among us in the midst of the heartbreak in our individual lives, our communities, and our world? Perhaps the greatest gift we can give, the best answer we can offer to these hard questions, is the opportunity to rest in love and compassion, to pray together without insisting that we must be happy and carefree. The joy of last week does not negate the difficulty of living faithfully in a broken world. On this final Sunday of Advent, place an angel on the altar. Light the candle of love. Pray for the hurts of the world. Encourage one another to faithfulness with the assurance that God will guide us, like Joseph, with signs and messengers to live ready to welcome Emmanuel, God with us.

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

We hope to see you at church on Sunday,
and invite someone to attend as we continue in 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 21, 2025

Usher: Becky Britton & Diona Bronson
Financial Secretary: Donny Davis
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

December 14, 2025

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Tithes & Offerings: | \$4,850.00 |
| Received To Date: | \$162,725.63 |
| Needed To Date: | \$237,888.00 |

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Attendance: | |
| Sunday School | 6 |
| In-person Sunday Worship | 44 |
| Online Viewers | 110 |
| Total | 154 |

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/epworthumc) first: [facebook.com/epworthumc](https://www.facebook.com/epworthumc) 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.

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to Diona Bronson on graduating with her Bachelor of Science degree from Columbus State University in Elementary Education on December 12, 2025. Diona, we are so proud of you and we pray God's continuous blessing be upon you and your new journey. Amen.

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 are needed for Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, December 24th, 4:30 pm.

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 last Sunday today, 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 will resume in January 2026. 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

(Revised)

In Memory Of:

Jerome Guilbeault
Hank Guilbeault
Henry & Ernestine Guilbeault
Joan & Denman Smith
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

In Honor Of:

The Campbell Family
Rev. Earnestine, Robert, Tristan, and Lauren
Steven, Ron, & Glenn

Given By:

Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault
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

Given By:

Mary Bass
Jeanne Guilbeault

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

In Honor Of:

Lillian Wooldridge
Rev. Earnestine Campbell
"Sister Peppermint"

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

Given By:

Becky Britton
Marguerite Hay
A Friend

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 21, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.
4th 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 Worship Leader

ADVENT LITANY/MOMENT Robert Campbell, Lauren Campbell

Reader 1: Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary’s womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God’s love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

Reader 2: We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

Congregation: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world’s judgment.

Light the fourth candle (four candles) of the Advent wreath.

*PRAISE SONG "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" CH 250 vv. 1 , 3, & 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, & LOVE LIGHTS MOMENT
Rev. Earnestine W. Campbell, Pastor

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*SCRIPTURE MATTHEW 1:18-25 DeKara Berry
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 "But When We Awake" 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 "Away In A Manger" CH 262 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.