

COMING UP...

DECEMBER 28 - JANUARY 04

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

Monday, December 29

11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Wednesday, December 31 - Friday, January 02

Main office Closed in observance of the
New Year Holiday

Thursday, January 01

Prayers for a Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 04

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 flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor and memory of
Hank Guilbeault by Jeanne Guilbeault.*

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/channel/UCpworthumccolumbus1430)

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 AssistantWhitney Mennifee

Custodians.....Martha Conklin

Barbie Webb

Media Tech.....Tristan Campbell

Music Director.....Bob Lee

Nursery WorkerMartha Conklin

PastorRev. Earnestine Campbell

Praise & Worship Director.....Mandi Battle

 **epworth**
united methodist church

December 28, 2025

SIGNS AND POWER

TODA LA TIERRA ESPERA

Four days ago, we were rejoicing at the manger. Today, we hear a story that, unfortunately, is an all-too-familiar tale of powerful rulers using violence to maintain their control and influence. It is a tragic, haunting story, so we encourage you to take care with how to present the story in worship. "Trauma-Informed Worship: Guidelines for Intergenerational Worship" provides some guidelines. We want to treat this story with care in ways that demonstrate love and compassion with our neighbors who are young and/or have experienced trauma, for whom the story may be triggering. We cannot shirk from telling the truth about our world, both then and now. Hiding or ignoring the worst that we can do to one another from one another permits violent systems and actors to continue doing harm.

However, in the context of worship, our job is not to give a news report about atrocities committed. Our job is to point to God at work, even in the worst of what we do to one another. That is the sign this week—the sign of God at work, empowering life in the face of death-dealing powers. So, sing the Christmas carols. Forefront the donkey and the angel(s) on the altar, reminders of those God sends to help deliver us. Have the choir or a small ensemble sing the "Coventry Carol," a carol from the sixteenth century that recounts today's scripture lesson in song. Notice how this carol points toward how we, as followers of Christ, might respond to the story of "Herod's raging." Pray for the world. Name the places where "Herods" are using their power to hurt and silence the innocent and lowly. Pray for the Spirit to empower all Christians to be messengers and deliverers of life, peace, and hope in the midst of violent powers, so that we may be signs that point to the Incarnate Christ.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/toda-la-tierra-espera/first-sunday-after-christmas-day-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes>

As we prepare to welcome the New Year, let us gather in worship, hope, and faith, trusting in the blessings God has prepared for us in 2026. We encourage you to invite family, friends, and neighbors to join us each Sunday to share in the joy and renewal we find in Christ. Together, let us seek God's presence, grow in faith, and celebrate the new beginnings He gives to us freely in worship together.

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." -- Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)

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 28, 2025

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

OUR STEWARDSHIP

December 21, 2025

Tithes & Offerings:	\$8,130.00
Received To Date:	\$162,725.63
Needed To Date:	\$242,844.00

Attendance:	
Sunday School	7
In-person Sunday Worship	47
Online Viewers	124
Total	171

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](https://www.facebook.com/epworthumcfirst) 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.

WAYS TO SERVE

Serve God in worship and ministry, aluminum can collecting, purchase of Epworth cookbooks, volunteer with Feeding Our Neighbors at Rose Hill group, participate in the monthly Mission Focus (a different organization each month), join the Prayer Shawl Ministry making shawls, reach out to our homebound and nursing home folks, usher, greet, just to name a few. Direct questions to Bobby Smith or the church office. Let us help you connect!

MISSIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS JANUARY MISSION

January Mission Opportunity- Our January Mission is bus passes for persons known to the Fellowship at Rose Hill. A 31 day unlimited bus pass is \$53 or \$23 for a person, ages 18 and under. Bus passes are a blessing for those without a car. Please support their needs and consider this request. You can mark your donation as "Bus Passes". As always, thanks for your gifts!

LEADERS' CONSECRATION SUNDAY

All leaders for the 2026 year, please plan to attend the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, January 21 to be consecrated before God.

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit-fruit that will last-and so whatever you ask in my name the Father." John 15:16

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD

Stewardship Pledge Card consecration will be Sunday, January 11 at 10:30 a.m. Worship Service for all persons who have returned their pledge cards. If you have not yet returned your card, and are led by God to do so, please turn those in via the office, offering plate, or email for those who are not present to do so. We will consecrate these cards, bestowing a blessing upon them and you at the altar on this Sunday as we live out the Word of God, Power of Prayer, and Step of Faith: 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. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

GRIEF/CAREGIVER SUPPORT MEETING

Grief / Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next Support Meeting is Tuesday, January 13, at 1:00 p.m. For more information, contact Martha Conklin at 706-329-0629.

AMARYLLIS BULB SALE

The Men's Group is sponsoring an Amaryllis Bulb sale. The Amaryllis, known as The Christmas Flower, produces big, beautiful red flowers and is easy to grow indoors or outdoors. The bulbs are only \$4 each. Thanks in advance for your contributions. All proceeds will directly benefit the Epworth UMC operating budget.

CHRISTMAS PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Photo Opportunity - The beautiful Christmas decorations and props from the Christmas play are still up in the Fellowship Hall, providing a lovely backdrop for photos. If you or your family and friends would like to take pictures to create lasting memories or to use as a Christmas postcard next year, please do so no later than Sunday, January 18.

CHILDREN & YOUTH GAME NIGHT

Children & Youth Game Night - Our next Game Night will be announced at a later date.



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!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 28, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.

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

*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 "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" CH 277 vv. 1 & 3
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.

OFFERTORY SELECTION "The Prayer" David Hay
CCLI # 2967303

*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 2:13-23 Baron Conklin

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC "O Holy Night" Mandi Battle
Praise & Worship Director
CCLI # 2967303, Song #32015

SERMON "Outwitting the Wicked" 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 "Joy to the World" CH 270 v v. 1 & 4
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.