

COMING UP THIS WEEK...

Sunday, December 2

4:00 p.m. Children's Advent Workshop

Monday, December 3

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

Tuesday, December 4

Election Site-Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. AA Support Group Meeting

Wednesday, December 5

6:00 p.m. Supper

6:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Wacky Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 6

12:00 noon Prayer Team Meeting

Sunday, December 9

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

2019 FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2019 flower calendar is on the office window. The flower arrangements are \$50. Questions or to request a date, call the office.

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 give our church name when scheduling an appointment at 706-649-6500. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Pastoral Institute is located at 2022 15th Ave., Columbus.

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.



December 2, 2018

**Let Every Heart
Prepare Him Room**

*Joy to the World; The Lord is come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let every Heart prepare him Room,
And Heaven and Nature sing.*

—Isaac Watts

“Joy to the World!” is probably one of the best known and well loved Christmas songs. It has been a staple for many years. The text that we sing was originally written in 1719 by Isaac Watts (known as the father of English hymnody). The tune that we know now was written by Lowell Mason in 1848. The text of the hymn is based on Psalm 98, which is the Psalm the lectionary assigns for use on Christmas Day.

The first verse of the hymn includes the phrase “let every heart prepare him room.” This idea has been on my mind for the last few days. What does it mean for us to make room in our heart for Jesus if we are Christians who have, for the most part, supposedly already asked Jesus “into our heart”?

James Howell, a North Carolina UMC pastor, wrote a book a few years ago called, *Shepherds, Why This Jubilee?* It is a book of Advent devotionals based upon Christmas carols. He has this to say about “Joy to the World”:

What Jesus wants for Christmas is a vacancy, an opening, some room. He can't be crammed into my heart if I keep everything I've ever accumulated. I have to do some letting go; I have to begin my spring cleaning in the early days of winter. For me to say yes to Jesus, I will have to say no to a few (or many) other things. Is Jesus interested in my ability? Doesn't he crave instead my availability? Can my prayer be listening more than talking?

We spend a lot of time in our lives trying to do more, be more, and achieve more, but it just may be that we need to be clearing out some things instead. In our ongoing efforts to focus on discipleship, we are learning that in order to be all God is calling us to be, some things will have to go.

Howell goes on:

Is there room in our hearts, in our lives, for Jesus to come? If we have no joy, is it because we have no room for joy? God has built a room inside each one of us, a little chapel, an inn designed for Jesus to come and reside within us. But hasn't it become overgrown with weeds, cluttered with rubbish? The room in me seems too shabby for the splendid Lord to enter.

But no room is too shabby. Jesus was born in a frigid stall where the cattle were housed. You have the room. Take a long look at the pile of baubles and busyness and decide this is the year to “let every heart prepare him room.”

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony'.



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

*The Advent wreath is given to the glory of God and
in memory of Bruce Zimmerman by Carole Zimmerman.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

The Children's Class

Kindergarten - 5th Grade: Margaret Gosden,
Terresa Salter

The Friendship Class

Study: Love and Devotion
Teacher: Class

The Genesis Class

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

The Joy Class

Study: Class Discussion
Teacher: Class

The Nathan Patterson/Wesley Class

Study: Genesis 48
Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class

Study: Christmas/Advent
Teacher: Doug Franks

The Questors Class

Study: Love and Devotion
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

December 2, 2018

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Becky Britton, Janie Nellums
Usher: Diane Morris
Acolyte: Usher
Children's Church: Janie Nellums

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Susan Davis, Chuck Salter
Ushers: Donny Davis, Doug Revell
Acolyte: Eva Cheraisi, Jake DiSimone
Children's Church: Debra Johnson
Nursery Volunteer: Allison Jandreau
Financial Secretary: Steve Sawyer
Turn Key: Rev. Tony Crosby

OUR STEWARDSHIP

November 25, 2018

Tithes & Offerings:	\$2,978.00
Received To Date:	\$259,872.00
Needed To Date:	\$304,602.24
Building Fund:	\$0.00

ATTENDANCE:

Sunday School	64
Worship: 9 a.m.	37
Worship: 11 a.m.	<u>50</u>
	87

YOUTH & CHILDREN

Advent Workshop - A children's program 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 off children and use the time to go Christmas shopping.

Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal - Saturday, December 15, at noon, at church.

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!

Wacky Wednesday - Children's program at 6:30 p.m., which includes lessons, crafts, and songs.

Youth & Children Sunday School Classes - For a great lesson and wonderful fellowship in a Safe Sanctuaries approved environment, classes are by age/grade beginning at 10 a.m.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Fellowship Hall Reserved - Saturday, December 1 and Friday, December 7.

Holiday Hope - The Pastoral Institute is hosting an event called "Holiday Hope" today at 6 p.m. for those who are facing the holidays after losing a loved one. The event is in the Community Room at the Pastoral Institute at 1515 20th Avenue. Visit www.pastoralinstitute.org for more information.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting - Monday, December 3, at 10 a.m., in the fellowship hall.

Election Site - fellowship hall reserved Tuesday, December 4, as a community voting site.

Wednesday Night Supper & Program - on December 5, at 6 p.m. Make reservations by signing up on the information board or email or call the church office. Menu: chicken tetrazzini, roasted vegetables, rolls, salad and dessert. At 6:30 p.m., we will welcome Dr. Earl Nichols from the Pastoral Institute to bring a program on handling grief and loss during the holidays. Even if you are not grieving a loss personally this holiday season, you know people who are and this will help you understand what they are going through. Make reservations for supper and invite anyone you know who might find this helpful. Wacky Wednesday, led by Whitney, begins at 6:30 p.m., for the children.

Church Office Hours - Susan Snider, our church administrator, will be on vacation from December 6-14. The office hours will be from 9 a.m. - noon during the week days. If you need assistance after noon, contact Tony.

New Life UMW Christmas Dinner - Monday, December 10, at 6 p.m., at the home of Michele Thurman. Bring a covered dish to share.

UMM Meeting - Monday, December 10, at 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall.

HIS UMW Meeting - *Change-of-date* - Tuesday, December 11, at 10:30 a.m., in the fellowship hall.

Vintage Group Christmas Meeting - Thursday, December 13, at noon, in the fellowship hall. Sign up on the information board as to what covered dish you will bring to share. Remember to bring three \$1 bills to play "Left, Center, Right" and two more \$1 bills for an optional donation.

Growing Christians UMW Meeting - Tuesday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall.

Blue Christmas for Advent - Devotional book of light in a season of darkness. Available in the Whitehurst Welcome Center for \$10 each.

Epworth Text Messaging Service - Epworth has a free text messaging solution hosted by Remind. Sign up now by texting '@epworth1' to 81010. After that, enter your name and disregard other questions about parent/teacher/student/etc. If you have any questions, contact Tony.

Poinsettias for Christmas - To purchase a red poinsettia for \$15 each in memory or honor of a loved one, see the sign-up sheet in the church office window. The plants will be placed in the sanctuary through Christmas Eve. You are encouraged to pick up your poinsettias after one of the services. Deadline to order is Wednesday, December 5.

Christmas Eve Services - Monday, December 24, we will have candlelight services at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

One Worship Service - on Sunday, December 30, at 11 a.m.

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

Fred & Emilie Carswell	Blount King	Gladys Plant	Trudy Harris
Vanessa Desoto	Ron & Betty Sawyer	Thrower Family	Kittye 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, Carol Osteen	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.

MISSIONS

December Mission Focus - Helping Our Neighbors at Christmas Offering - Our Missions Committee has set goals to support Open Door (\$1,000), Rose Hill UMC (\$1,000) and Brown Bag of Columbus (\$1,000). The total received will be shared among them. If you feel led to give beyond your regular contribution to Epworth, consider supporting this opportunity. Donations can be made in honor or memory of loved ones or you can receive a certificate through the church office to give as a gift now until December 31.

Epworth to Receive Donations from AmazonSmile - This Christmas, we know you are doing some shopping online and we know Amazon is one of your favorites. You can donate a portion of your purchases by going to smile.amazon.com to make your purchases and by choosing "Epworth United Methodist Church of Columbus, GA" 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!

Vintage Shirt Sale - Some shirts are still available and sweatshirts can be ordered individually. See the sign-up sheet on the information board.

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. Ushers, greeters and turn keys are always needed. Direct questions to Becky Britton, Barbara Stubbs or the church office.

HIS Group Sock/Glove/Hat Drive - We are collecting men's, women's and children's socks, mittens/gloves and hats/toboggans for Open Door and Damascus Way for distribution to the needy. Place your items on the "sock tree" in the fellowship hall. Please donate by Sunday, December 16.

A Taste of Epworth Cookbooks - Purchase your copy(s) from the welcome center for \$5 each. Proceeds support missions. Cookbooks make great Christmas gifts!

Volunteers Needed for Magnolia Manor - Rev. Vickie Scott, the chaplain at Magnolia Manor campus in Columbus, is seeking to increase the presence of United Methodist churches in our senior adult ministries. Contact Theresa Mullican if you are interested.

Gift Cards for Our House - If you would like to donate gift cards to the children of Carpenter's Way and Arabella Home, bring any denomination of \$25 or under and place them in the designated box on the mission cart by December 19. Suggested cards: Walmart, Amazon, Bath & Body Works, any fast food restaurants.

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.

Can Recycling - Leave aluminum cans outside the back kitchen door. They will be picked up and recycled by the HIS UMW Group. Money collected will go toward various missions.

Calendar of Events

December Birthdays

Say a prayer and write a note...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00a-NW District Pastor's Christmas Party
2 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service 4:00p-Children's Advent Workshop	3 10:00a-Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting	4 7:00a-Election Site 6:30p-AA Support Group Meeting	5 6:00p-Wednesday Night Supper 6:00p-Praise Team 6:30p-Study 6:30p-Wacky Wednesday 7:00p-Choir Practice	6 9:30a-Adult Bible Study 12:00p-Prayer Team	7 3:00p-Fellowship Hall Reserved	8
9 Social Second Sunday 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service	10 6:30p-New Life UMW Meeting 6:30p-UMM Meeting	11 10:30a-HIS UMW Meeting 6:30p-AA Support Group Meeting	12 6:00p-Wednesday Night Supper 6:00p-Praise Team 6:30p-Study 6:30p-Wacky Wednesday 7:00p-Choir Practice	13 12:00p-Prayer Team 12:00p-Vintage Meeting	14	15
16 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service	17	18 6:30p-Growing Christians UMW Meeting 6:30p-AA Support Group Meeting	19 6:00p-Praise Team 7:00p-Choir Practice	20 12:00p-Prayer Team	21	22
23 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service	24 Office Closed 4:00p-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00p-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day Office Closed 6:30p-AA Support Group Meeting	26	27 12:00p-Prayer Team	28	29
30 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service	31					

- 1 Natalie Crosby
- Carole Zimmerman
- 4 Kate Knotts
- 5 Samuel Cheraisi
- 7 Joshua Weyeneth
- 8 Emilie Carswell
- Carolyn Knox
- 9 Joann Henry
- Lee Rogers
- Fred Scanling
- 12 James Waters
- 13 Carma Chase
- 14 John Aspinwall
- Jaina Powell
- Barbara Watson
- 16 Donna Faircloth
- 18 Dot Merritt
- 21 Barbara Stubbs
- 22 Keri McElvey
- 23 John Daniel
- Richmond Whittington
- 28 Jerry Chase
- 31 Leighton Russell

A Birthday Prayer

It's God who knows our every need and hears each prayer we say.

It's He who grants us heart's content and guides us through each day.

So may it be His gracious will to always give you His understanding, His love and all His blessings, too. Happy Birthday!

Love Lights for Loved Ones

In Memory Of:

Judy Scanling
Joel Spencer
Hugh & Hazel Breland
Virginia Faircloth
Ben Burns
Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Hardegree
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Burns
Charles Smith
Mae Caraway
Rose Stolpa
Ben Burns
J. Paul McMahan, Jr.
Brady Pope
Mr. & Mrs. V. C. Waters
Jean Morris
Jean Morris
Henry & Laura Ledbetter
Trish Clark
Sarah Combs
Curtis Combs
Kathy Combs
Mary Thrower
Knox & Margaret Beatty
Roy & Carol Revell
Kenneth Beatty
Becky Revell
Lucille Willis
James & Estelle Davis
Doris Davis Francis
Hank Guilbeault
Joan & Denman Smith
Ernestine & Henry Guilbeault
Matilda Milner Smith
Robert C. Smith & Dorothy K. Smith
Col. Dewitt Clinton Smith & Leila McKibben Smith
Thomas Pierce Knight & Carrie Hollomon Knight

Given By:

The Scanling Family
James & Donna Faircloth
James & Donna Faircloth
James & Donna Faircloth
Sandra Burns
Sandra Burns
Sandra Burns
Ann Smith
Ann Smith
Jeff & Cyndi Stolpa
Jeff & Cyndi Stolpa
Jeff & Cyndi Stolpa
James & Marjean Waters
James & Marjean Waters
Harold Morris
Gary, Debra, Matthew & Elizabeth Ledbetter
Gary, Debra, Matthew & Elizabeth Ledbetter
Debra Ledbetter
Lee Rogers
Lee Rogers
Lee Rogers
Lee Rogers
Doug & Suzy Revell
Doug & Suzy Revell
Doug & Suzy Revell
Doug & Suzy Revell
Robert & Maxine Willis
Robert & Maxine Willis
Robert & Maxine Willis
Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault
Jeanne Guilbeault
Robert C. Smith, Jr.
Robert C. Smith, Jr.
Robert C. Smith, Jr.
Robert C. Smith, Jr.

In Memory Of:

Linda Phillips
Bill Pharris
Chester & Cathryn Salter
Russell & Sally Reidlinger
Ryan & Beau Rabon
Alvin & Lois Stanson
Linda Phillips
Jean Morris
Cara Vola & Edd Paulk
Thomas Lamar Rodgers
Hugh & Mary Nell Oliver
Annelle Oliver Hay
Mary Hood
Tommy Britton
Lloyd & Irene Britton
D. C. & Roxie Humphries
L. C. & Lida Britton

In Honor Of:

My sons
Chris, Sally, Sara Kate & Jackson Revell
Carson, Mandy, Crosby & Hollis Revell
Jeff Stolpa
My daughters
Our children & grandchildren
Helen Pharris
Bill & Janet Rocker
Rigby & Jack Duncan
Office Volunteers

Given By:

Jack Phillips
Steve & Lyn Pharris
Chuck & Teresa Salter
Chuck & Teresa Salter
Linda Smith
Linda Smith
Earl & Melonie Phillips
Earl & Melonie Phillips
Rev. & Mrs. Tim Paulk
Rev. & Mrs. Tim Paulk
Marguerite Hay
Marguerite Hay
Susan Snider
Becky Britton
Becky Britton
Becky Britton
Becky Britton

Given By:

Jeanne Guilbeault
Doug & Suzy Revell
Doug & Suzy Revell
Cyndi Stolpa
Sandra Burns
James & Donna Faircloth
Steve & Lyn Pharris
Steve & Lyn Pharris
Steve & Lyn Pharris
Susan Snider

