

COMING UP...
JULY 27 - AUGUST 03

Sunday, July 27
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person &
Online & Children's Church
T-Shirt Sunday
Children's Ministry Meeting

Monday, July 28
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry
Zumba (MMZ)

Tuesday, July 29
3:00 p.m. Rose Hill

Thursday, July 31
Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, August 03
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person &
Online & Children's Church
Holy Communion



*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

staff's first name@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.....Danielle Lamb
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

**epworth**
united methodist church

July 27, 2025

"STOP, DROP and ROLL"

This past Sunday, we examined the text from Luke 10:25-37 and the Sermon Title, "Stop, Drop, and Roll" from the Parable of the Good Samaritan through the lens of a dialogue between Jesus and a lawyer—a pivotal exchange that reveals the heart of the law and the essence of love. The lawyer, standing to test Jesus, posed the question: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus turned the test into spiritual revelation:

Point 1: From Criticism to Critical Examination: This question sets the stage for an exploration of love—both for God and for our neighbors. We reflected on the essence of eternal life as rooted in our relationship with God and those around us. In this moment, we witness the dynamics of a Jewish debate, where the lawyer sought to assert his authority yet found himself skillfully drawn into a deeper understanding by the Master Teacher, Jesus. He responded not with a direct answer but with a question, inviting the lawyer to reflect on the law (Deuteronomy and Leviticus), engaging him to move from criticism to a critical examination of his heart and the relational call to love his neighbor.

Point 2: Looking Casually: In the parable, we meet three people: a priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan. Each represents different responses to the wounded man attacked by robbers on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Our first point focuses on the priest, who watched the wounded man from a distance, much like how we often observe Jesus from afar without truly engaging. The priest's decision to stay back illustrates how religious traditions and being a spectator in faith may have caused him not to help. We can often witness the brokenness in society—such as injustices, inequality, biases, and neglect—and not step forward to make a difference. This distance—whether from discomfort, fear, or indifference—can leave us feeling powerless in moments that call for action. Just as the priest missed the opportunity for deliverance and healing, we too can miss our chance to jump into the calling God has placed on our hearts, whether it's starting a new ministry, business, going to school, pursuing other ventures, or supporting others in their journeys.

Point 3: Looking Closer: Next, we examined the Levite, who drew closer to the scene yet ultimately hesitated to act. He stopped and looked at the wounded man from a closer proximity but didn't drop what he was doing. Did his biases, fear, and past experiences possibly immobilize him? This moment speaks to the struggles we face in confronting our life's difficulties and the burdens of others. Often, our past can weigh us down, keeping us from stepping into the fullness of what God has for us. The Levite's pause serves as a reminder that even when we approach the pain of others, we may find ourselves paralyzed by the weight of our own histories. Yet, this moment of hesitation is not the end; it is an opportunity for us to reflect on how our experiences can influence our responses to those in need, including the care for ourselves.

Point 4: The Look of Compassionate Care: The Samaritan, in contrast, exemplifies the transformative power of compassionate care. He did not just observe from a distance; he actively engaged with the wounded man, reflecting the very heart of Jesus. By choosing to stop, drop his own plans, and roll into action, the Samaritan demonstrated that true compassion requires us to get involved—both with others and within ourselves. His actions point to the message of loving thy neighbor, transcending societal barriers and biases. Through his compassionate care, we learn that when we draw closer to Jesus, we are empowered to extend that same love to those around us.

Engagement: As we reflected on these characters, we recognized how watching from the sidelines can prevent us from fully experiencing the love and grace Jesus offers. The priest and Levite represent our tendency to remain distant, while the Samaritan shows the fullness of what it means to engage actively with our faith. When we approach Jesus with open hearts, we gain the clarity and perspective needed to understand His teachings and the call to love our neighbors as ourselves, regardless of societal barriers and circumstances. These are fires ignited in our lives and society, draining the spiritual oxygen required to activate the Holy Spirit within us. To extinguish these fires, using this technique of "stop, drop, and roll" in this context is about showing love to our neighbors and God. This shift from being a passive observer to an active participant enables us to engage in care, ministry, visioning, and living our lives with His intent. Living purposefully opens doors to healing and fulfillment, creating a better world in the face of injustice and division, often so devoid of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,
Earnestine



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: Nehemiah 9
Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class
Study: Lessons From Luke
Teacher: Glenn Griffin

The Seekers Class
Study: Wired Word
Teacher: Donny Davis

THOSE WHO SERVE

July 27, 2025

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

OUR STEWARDSHIP

July 20, 2025

Tithes & Offerings:	\$1,679.00
Received To Date:	\$109,034.38
Needed To Date:	\$143,724.00

Attendance:	
Sunday School	18
In-person Sunday Worship	47
Online Viewers	113
Total	160

2025 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.

CHILDREN & YOUTH GAME NIGHT AND UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Children & Youth Game Night - Our August Game Night information to be announced.

Annual Fall Festival

Kick off the Fall Season with Loads of Fall Fun! Our Annual Fall Festival will be on Saturday, October 25, from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. We'll have fun, food, and Trunk or Treating! Volunteers are needed. Inflatables, games, face painting, popcorn/cotton candy and more!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MEETING

All those who are part of the Children's Ministry, including volunteers for special events and those who served in VBS, please plan to attend this important meeting today, Sunday, July 27th directly following service. We will cover VBS debriefing and update planning for the Fall Festival. Your attendance is greatly appreciated!

MISSIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY MISSION

July Mission Opportunity - Our July Mission is non-profit, Chattahoochee Valley Imagination Library.

Over 4,500 children aged birth to 5 years old in Muscogee and Chattahoochee County in Georgia and Russell County, Alabama are already enrolled, receiving a new age-appropriate book each month. Epworth's goal is to provide a year's worth of books for 25 children. Please consider making your donation to the "Imagination Library." Please mark your pew envelopes "Imagination." Thank you for your support of this worthy cause!

T-SHIRT SUNDAYS

Every fourth Sunday, you are invited to wear a spiritual T-shirt, your favorite team's T-shirt, etc. - a T-shirt that brings you joy in the Lord! Our next T-shirt Sunday is August 24.

GRIEF/CAREGIVER MEETING

Grief / Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next Support Meeting is Tuesday, August 12, at 1:00 p.m. All Epworth members are invited and encouraged to invite friends to come out for support and encouragement. For more information, contact Martha Conklin at 706-329-0629.

USHERS NEEDED

Interested in Serving with our Ushers? The Usher Committee needs volunteers to provide ushering services during worship on the second and fifth Sunday's of each month. If you are interested in volunteering for either week, please contact David Hay.

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

Tuesday, August 19, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday, September 20, from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tuesday, November 4, from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Tuesday, November 18, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

& OPPORTUNITIES

QUARTERLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Trustees Meeting, Chair, Glenn Griffin - Tuesday, August 5 at 6:00 p.m.
- SPRC Meeting, Chair, Michele Lancaster - Tuesday, September 9 at 6:00 p.m.
- Finance Meeting, Chair, John Grandon - Tuesday, September 9 at 6:45 p.m.
- Church Council Meeting, Chair, Donna Faircloth - Tuesday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m.

*Note: If you are a committee member and you are not able to attend, please notify your committee chair.
*Note: For committee chairs whose committees are not listed above, please schedule your committee meeting for planning and submit your meeting reports prior to the September 12 reporting deadline in preparation for the Church Council meeting. These meetings can occur in person, via the church's Zoom or other ways. We want to make it convenient for all to attend and participate in the great ministry that God is doing through Epworth.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Charge Conference-Monday, October 27, at 5:30p.m. Presiding, Reverend Jeff Cook, Northwest District Superintendent.

65TH CHURCH HOMECOMING

Epworth's 65th Church Homecoming is on Sunday, September 28, 2025! Join us for a joyful celebration during the worship service at 10:30 a.m. Delicious meal immediately following the service. Instructions are forthcoming for you to bring a dish, etc. Children's church is always available, with fun and games. Come and be a part of this special occasion and invite others! Please RSVP at church@epworthumc.com or (706) 322-6973.

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

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

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

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	Ralph & Sandy McGough
Diane Wiggins	Cristina Mattocks	David Garner	Kathy McClintock
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	
Roger Buterbaugh	Diane Propst	Amanda Kinsman Vines	
George Bowen	Martha Bone	Danny Snider & Family	Davis/Osborne Family

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!

<div>ORDER OF WORSHIP</div> <div>July 27, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.</div> <div>Seventh Sunday After Pentecost</div> <div><i>The * Denotes to please stand if able.</i></div>		
PRELUDE		Bob Lee, Music Director
ENTER THE LIGHT OF CHRIST		Children/Youth Ministry
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	"Spirit Song"	UMH 347 vv. 1, 2 Susan Dunn, Song Leader
CHILDREN’S SERMON		Quenton Brantley and Children
CONGREGATIONAL SONG	"O How I Love Jesus"	UMH 170 vv. 1, 2 Song Leader
OFFERTORY APPEAL/PRAYER		Worship Leader
<i>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.</i>		

*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		Pastor
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.		
*SCRIPTURE LESSON	LUKE 11:1-13	Margaret Gosden
Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God. People: Thanks be to God.		
SPECIAL MUSIC	"Honest Offering"	Mandi Battle Praise & Worship Director CCLI # 2967303, Song #7212328
SERMON SERIES	"When the Dust Settles"	Pastor
SERMON	"An Appointment You Can’t Afford to Miss!"	Pastor
*INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP		Pastor
<i>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.</i>		
*CLOSING SONG	"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"	UMH 402 vv. 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.