

COMING UP...
AUGUST 24 - AUGUST 31

Sunday, August 24

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

Monday, August 25

11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Tuesday, August 26

1:00 p.m. Grief/Care Giver Ministry
3:30 p.m. Rose Hill

Wednesday, August 27

11:00 a.m. Worship Committee Meeting
Noonday Bible Study
7:00 p.m. EPEC Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, August 28

Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, August 31

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

WEDNESDAY ADULT BIBLE
STUDY GROUPS RESUME

Bible Studies (Noon and EPEC - Epworth with Pastor Earnie C.) are returning from their Summer Sabbatical. Both classes will resume on Wednesday, August 27 and study books are to be announced. We pray you return renewed, refreshed, and revived! Amen.

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of
Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

CONTACT US

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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 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



August 24, 2025

"Why a Disclosure Notice?"

Our message on Sunday was from Luke 12:1-12, with the Sermon title, "Why a Disclosure Notice?" We explored the themes of authenticity and transparency in our faith. I began the sermon with a visual of a mask featuring angel wings. We can often have impure hearts and actions disguised as angelic, making it seem like we have it all put together in front of the world, wearing our angelic smiles. But inside, things might be a totally different story. It's so easy to hide behind a mask, disconnecting us from being our true selves and vessels of God. Luke invites us into the passage during a tense time, with Jesus at the center of the religious leaders' opposition to His ministry, exposing their masked and false religious ideologies.

Luke 12:1-3 - The Warning Against Hypocrisy: As crowds of thousands gathered, Jesus warned His disciples about the "yeast of the Pharisees," which represents hypocrisy. Sound familiar? We often wear masks in our everyday lives, just like they did. The importance of disclosure notices, "Why a Disclosure Notice," is all about being real and honest. Just like those disclosure notices you see in contracts—things that lay out the truth—Jesus is giving us the real deal, the warning (positive or negative) in His teachings. You don't have to read the jargon of hundreds of pages or the fine print. I also used the image of a magnifying glass with light shining, because sometimes we can't read and understand what Jesus is teaching about living in truth. We, therefore, need His aid—through studying the Word, prayer, discernment, spiritual accountability partners, etc. Just like the magnifying glass helps us see clearly, engaging with Scripture helps us get past the masks—ours and others—and embrace our authentic selves.

Warning Against Hypocrisy: Jesus warns His disciples about the "yeast of the Pharisees," hypocrisy—telling them to keep it real. We often find ourselves trying to be like someone else instead of embracing who we are or being influenced negatively by others or earthly aspirations. We can get caught up in comparing ourselves to others, forgetting that we're made in the image of God or falling for tainted perspectives or interpretations of God's word. In our world today, it's easy to let social media and others dictate our worth. The likes, reviews, and shares we receive can all contribute to how we view ourselves and what we accept as validation. It's okay to be different! When we let these external factors guide us, we risk losing our authenticity. The key to staying true to ourselves is aligning with the Word of God. When we let God's truth shape our lives, we can drop the masks and reflect our unique identity. Jesus wasn't focused on the numbers in the crowd; He didn't let a big audience inflate His ego or change His message. He was dedicated to sharing the truth. That's a lesson for us, too. We can't let numbers, people, or our pride make us feel important or inflate our egos—whether it's being invited to the "right" party or gathering, being in the "right" political party, or even being in religious circles. When we chase after the applause of people or live a life in opposition to God's Word, our lives become contaminated.

Luke 12:4-7 - Fear of God Over Man: Jesus reminds us to fear God, who holds all the power. He reassures us of our worth—like sparrows—showing us that our relationship with God is first instead of worrying about what people think. We don't have to fear what's around us because we serve a mighty God. Throughout His ministry, Jesus faced the religious elite and governmental powers that opposed Him, yet He stayed true to the Word of God. He then tells us to be careful about what we say behind closed doors and how we speak about others. God is our ultimate judge, and we don't want to block our blessings. Our "words form worlds," so we should speak into existence the world that Jesus forms, not Satan's. We also need to speak truth to those who need it and who require spiritual direction and correction, but without judgment. We all have skeletons in our closets; we've all fallen short of the glory of God, and if we say differently, we're calling God a liar (Romans 3:23). Furthermore, Jesus warns us to beware of the Pharisees who impose rigid rules that stifle the movement of the Holy Spirit and us as believers. We must be careful not to get caught up in our own hype or let people silence our voices when we speak truth and justice. As Christians, we're called to advocate for what's right, even if it means we won't be invited to the "right party," gathering, political group, or even religious circles. And let me just say this: Jesus wasn't focused on the numbers in the crowd, even with thousands gathered around Him. Regardless of the crowd or titles, He was dedicated to sharing the truth. That's a lesson for us, too. We can't let numbers dictate our importance or inflate our egos. When we chase after the applause of people, our lives can get contaminated. True affirmation comes from God and God alone. Jesus is teaching us to find our worth in Him, not in the world's approval.

Luke 12:8-12 - Divine Guidance in Trials: Jesus tells us that when we face tough times, the Holy Spirit is guiding, covering, and comforting us. He has our backs. We're set free from any kind of bondage, empowered to lead and advocate for what's right, for ourselves and others. We can't let the world's pressures or negativity hold us down. God's angels surround us, making a way for us, protecting us, and helping us to live in joy.

In conclusion, Jesus gives us a powerful "disclosure notice" about the dangers of hypocrisy and the importance of being real in our faith. Through that mask with angel wings, we're reminded that God sees beyond the surface. As we engage with Scripture, let's allow the light of God's Word to magnify and reveal the truth inside us, pushing us to live openly and faithfully in witnessing in truth no matter what company were in. Let's take off those masks and embrace the genuine love and the truth of Jesus. *In Christ, Pastor Earnie*

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 AM

The Nathan Patterson Class
Study: Esther 2
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

August 24, 2025

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

OUR STEWARDSHIP

August 17, 2025

Tithes & Offerings:	\$1,826.00
Received To Date:	\$118,676.38
Needed To Date:	\$163,548.00

Attendance:	
Sunday School	12
In-person Sunday Worship	53
Online Viewers	167
Total	220

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 or youtube.com/channel/UCZJhDYHDeeE-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.

STAY CONNECTED

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Welcome Epworth's newest member, J. Troyer, who joined the church by profession of faith (membership) on Sunday, August 17, 2025. Please welcome him into the body of Christ at Epworth. Praise God!

WHAT'S NEW AT EPWORTH

We are excited to announce that Pastor Earnie has authored two inspiring books, birthed from a deep spiritual journey and guided by the Word of God.

A Bible Study on Abraham and Sarah's Journey of Faith, Failure, and Fulfillment: This book emerged from our Noon Day Bible Study and EPEC Zoom sessions, reflecting our collective exploration of the divine calling of Abraham and Sarah. The study examines the Scriptures, their lives, focusing on their faith, struggles, and God's faithfulness.

In celebration of our 65th Homecoming on September 28, we invite everyone to purchase a book as a way to grow in your faith and be inspired in your journey. This initiative also serves as a fundraiser for the church.

Note: Available on Amazon the week of August 31.

The Power In Her Basket: Women of Faith, Strength, and Purpose": Inspired by the 2025 Women's Conference, where Pastor Earnie served as the guest preacher, this book empowers, inspires, and transforms women by highlighting strength, dignity, and leadership through the journeys of Naomi, Ruth, and Deborah. It emphasizes their purpose and their inspiring calls by God.

"The Power In Her Basket" combines devotional reflections and prompts that encourage women to embrace their unique gifts and recognize their worth. Available on Amazon in both ebook and paperback formats.

A special thanks to the anointed and diligent proofreaders of these books: Geanine Drakeford, Sandi Hortman, Belinda Lias, Janie Nellums.

PODCAST - COMING SOON!

We are excited to introduce the Epworth Podcast, a platform designed to not only evangelize but also to engage in meaningful dialogue around holistic well-being, spirituality, societal issues, justice causes, and ministry and mission work. The podcast will feature relevant subject matter experts and special guests—creating space for individuals to inform and share. If you're interested in helping create the podcast room or know someone who would like to intern for the podcast, setup, etc., please contact the pastor at earnestine@epworthhumc.com.

MISSIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST MISSION

August Mission Opportunity - Our August Mission opportunity is Wynnton Neighborhood Network (WNN).

Now in its 41st year, WNN offers food, utility assistance, diapers and pet food to families in need. A list of items needed is available in the Whitehurst Welcome Center. Our goal is 300 total items. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Mark your pew envelopes "Wynnton Neighborhood Network." Thank you for your support of this worthy cause!

GRIEF/CAREGIVER MEETING

Grief / Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next Support Meeting is Tuesday, August 26, at 1:00 p.m. All Epworth members are encouraged to invite friends to come out for support. For more info, contact Martha Conklin at 706-329-0629.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, August 27, at 11 a.m. All worship committee members, please plan to attend, as we have important worship and preparation for Homecoming details (September 28) to be discussed.

CHILDREN & YOUTH GAME NIGHT AND UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Children & Youth Game Night - Our September Game Night schedule will be Friday, September 5, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Future scheduling 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!

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

Saturday, September 13, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Saturday, September 20, from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tuesday, November 4, from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

QUARTERLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

-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. Rev. Donald Mathis, guest preacher, Vashti Children's Home. 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
Tammy White	Sam Wilson		

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!

<u>ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>		
August 24, 2025 • 10:30 a.m. Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost <i>The * Denotes to please stand if able.</i>		
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	"Great Things He Has Done for Me"	CH 54-56, Medley Susan Dunn, 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 13:10-17	
Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.		
People: Thanks be to God.		
CONGREGATIONAL SONG	"Surely the Presence of the Lord"	CH 219 Susan Dunn, Song Leader
SERMON SERIES	"When the Dust Settles"	Pastor
SERMON	"Why Be Healed with 'Them'?"	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	"Soon and Very Soon"	CH 757. vv. 1,2,3 Susan Dunn, Song Leader
*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.