

## COMING UP...

### AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 07

**Sunday, August 31**  
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person & Online & Children's Church

**Monday, September 01**  
Office Closed in Observance of the Labor Day Holiday

**Tuesday, September 02**  
1:00 p.m. Lay Leadership Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, September 03**  
11:00 a.m. Worship Committee Meeting  
Noon Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. EPEC Zoom Bible Study

**Thursday, September 04**  
Noon Prayer Team

**Sunday, September 07**  
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person & Online & Children's Church  
Holy Communion

**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://facebook.com/epworthcolumbus) or [youtube.com/channel/UCZJhDYHDeeE-dnv5a5nQKjA](https://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.

*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](http://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 Assistant .....	Whitney Mennifee
Custodians.....	Martha Conklin
	Barbie Webb
Media Tech .....	Tristan Campbell
Music Director.....	Bob Lee
Nursery Worker .....	Martha Conklin
Pastor .....	Rev. Earnestine Campbell
Praise & Worship Director .....	Mandi Battle



## August 31, 2025

### "Why Be Healed with 'Them'?"

Sunday's message was from Luke 13:10-17, Sermon Title, "Why Be Healed with 'Them'?" This story unfolds in a synagogue, where Jesus, a visiting preacher, steps into a tense atmosphere filled with expectation and hypocrisy. He confronts the rigid mindset of the religious leader who prioritizes rules over compassion. In the midst of this, a woman who has been bent over for eighteen long years boldly steps forward, refusing to let fear hold her back. She doesn't allow fear—the "false evidence appearing real"—to stop her from moving in faith. Instead, in faith, she moves forward, assured, inspired, transformed, and healed.

So, why heal in front of them? Jesus demonstrates that healing isn't just a personal journey; it's a public affirmation of God's power and grace. Psalm 23:5, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows." This powerful act of saving grace serves as a reminder that God's blessings are abundant, even in the face of opposition.

In this scene, the synagogue leader is furious, and apparently some others—as Jesus calls them "hypocrites"—are upset by Jesus' boldness in healing her on the Sabbath, misusing the true purpose of the Sabbath. Jesus calls out their hypocrisy, letting them know how they've missed the heart of love and healing by clinging to the misinterpretation of the text and how all need healthcare (Ex. 20:8-9; Mk. 2:27).

Imagine the woman sitting in the back, her body bent over, only able to see her shoes, unable to see the faces of those around her. For eighteen years, she has lived in pain, with her spine fused and her life severely limited. Picture her struggles: countless doctor visits, the financial burden of treatments, and the longing for simple joys like walking in the park or actively meeting with friends. Eighteen years of missed opportunities and isolation—this isn't just a physical condition; it's a deep emotional wound.

As preachers, we are called to speak boldly, ensuring the message reaches even those in the "back and the balconies." And as believers, we are called to connect with our community, lifting each other up and sharing the hope of healing. Jesus exemplified this when He called the woman forward with authority and compassion. He didn't whisper; He proclaimed her healing loud and unashamedly. "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity!" (Lk. 13:12) He declared, drawing the attention of everyone present. In that moment, He wasn't just addressing her physical state but calling out the pain that many of us know all too well—our own "eighteen years" of hurt, loss, health issues, financial struggles, and broken relationships.

We can relate to her story in our everyday lives. Maybe you've dealt with trauma that feels like it's holding you back from your true potential. Perhaps you've faced overwhelming financial struggles or health concerns that keep you from fully engaging with life. Just like the woman, we often find ourselves bent over by the burdens of our past and present, unable to look up and see the better days ahead.

But here's the good news: Jesus sees us and calls us forward, not in shame but in love, inviting us into a healing that is communal and transformative. Just as He healed the woman in front of the congregation, we're reminded that our healing journeys are interconnected. As we come together in faith, we can support one another, lifting each other up and embracing the healing power of community.

Let's not forget that Jesus had His roots in Nazareth, a place often questioned with the disdainful phrase, opposing Jesus, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46). Yet, it was from that very place that He brought forth His Nazareth "hood hand," showing strength and authority in confronting the synagogue leader and others for the hypocrisy they represented. That same "holy hand" reached out to the woman, bringing her healing and freedom. We can incorporate both strengths as long as they are in the Holy Spirit.

As we reflect on this message, let us not block our blessings with life's burdens but instead believe in the miracle of healing in Christ. He is with you and will stand in front of the burdens that hold you back. Let's be the kind of church that hears the cries of the hurting, reaching out with compassion and love. Together, we can experience the freedom that comes from being healed with "them," breaking the chains of our past and stepping into a future filled with hope and joy of the congregation of those who cheered!(Lk. 13:17)

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: Esther 3  
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 31, 2025

Usher: United Women of Faith  
Financial Secretary: Donny Davis  
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

OUR STEWARDSHIP

August 24, 2025

Tithes & Offerings: \$600.00  
Received To Date: \$119,276.38  
Needed To Date: \$168,504.00

Attendance:  
Sunday School 16  
In-person Sunday Worship 43  
Online Viewers 127  
Total 170

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Jane Grandon (John), who transitioned on Monday, August 25, 2025. The memorial service will be held Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. at McMullen Funeral Home. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. See obituary [here](#) for additional information. Please continue to be in prayer for John and the family. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING

Your thoughtfulness was appreciated more than you know during the passing of Bobby White (Epworth worshipper and servant in the Rose Hill Ministry). Thank you so much for the kind thoughts and continued prayers.

STAY CONNECTED

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS\*

- 1 Breandon Kane
- 8 Evans Cheraisi
- Billy Stubbs
- 9 Belinda Lias
- 11 Earlene Gresham
- Tristan Campbell
- 13 Joe Macon
- 15 Janice Tomlin
- 16 Jackie Weese
- 18 Glenn Griffin
- 19 Jason Conklin
- Linda Smith
- Jerry Williams
- 20 Natalie Morris
- 22 Michele Lancaster
- Steve Whittington
- 23 Kelly Conkle
- 25 Sandra Burns
- Gracie Conkle
- 27 Jeanne Guilbeault
- Matthew Ralls
- 28 Stacey Pruett
- 29 Audrey Kernodle

A Birthday Prayer

May God bless you today and each day that follows, May you hear His voice and follow His footsteps, Be comforted by His care and live in His Grace now and forever, Amen.

\*Please fill out your connection card so we don't miss your special day!

IN MEMORIAM

A gift to the General Fund is given in memory of F. Paul Karastury by Lee Rogers.

A gift to the Rose Hill Ministry is given in memory of Bobby White by the Sarah Johnson, Karen Howard and Family.

A gift to the General Fund is given in memory of Bobby White by the volunteers of "Feeding Our Neighbors in the Rose Hill Community".

-To God be the Glory!

MISSIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER MISSION

September Mission Opportunity - Our September Mission opportunity is "Casseroles for a Cause". Our casseroles are used primarily in our Rose Hill Ministry, but can be used for other purposes.

We need:  
Cream of Chicken soup  
Ritz type Crackers

Monetary donations are also appreciated. Mark your pew envelopes "Casseroles".

Thank you for your support of this worthy cause!

LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, September 2, at 1:00 p.m. All nomination committee members please plan to attend, as we have important nominations to discuss in preparation for the Church Council Meeting.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 3, at 11:00 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 Nights will be held on Friday's, September 12 and 26, from 6:30p.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.  
Tuesday, November 18, from 10 a.m. - 1 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. Guest preacher, Rev. Donald Mathis, Vashti Ministies, chaplain. 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	Linda Lee	Lloyd Britton	Susan Dunn
Bob Lee	Marjean Waters	Deborah Cooper	Buddy Dunn
Ann Smith	Natalie Kernodle	Chester Jakes	

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!



ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 31, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost  
The \* Denotes to please stand if able.

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

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](http://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 Pastor

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

\*SCRIPTURE LESSON LUKE 13:18-30 Margaret Gosden

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.  
People: Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG "O How He Loves You and Me" CH 349 vv. 1, 2  
Susan Dunn, Song Leader

SERMON SERIES "When the Dust Settles" Pastor

SERMON "A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words or Is It?" 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 " Just as I Am" CH 488. vv. 1.2.4  
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.