

COMING UP...

SEPTEMBER 07 - SEPTEMBER 14

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

Monday, September 08  
11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Tuesday, September 09  
1:00 p.m. Grief/Caregiver Meeting  
6:00 p.m. SPRC Meeting  
6:45 p.m. Finance Meeting

Wednesday, September 10  
Noon Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. EPEC Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, September 11  
Noon Prayer Team

Friday, September 12  
6:30 p.m. Children & Youth Game Night

Sunday, September 14  
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person & Online & Children's Church



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

CONTACT US

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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

epworth

united methodist church

September 07, 2025

"A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words, or Is It?"

On Sunday, our sermon came from Luke 13:18-30, where Jesus uses imagery to reveal the nature of the Kingdom of Heaven. The title of the sermon was "A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words, or Is It?" The phrase "a picture is worth a thousand words" suggests that images can convey complex emotions and narratives that words alone might struggle to express. However, in our digital age, we possess the ability to edit and manipulate these images, altering their meaning and context. This raises an important question: what does this statement truly convey about the "Or is it?" Are we capturing the essence of a moment, or are we presenting a curated and potentially misleading version of reality, ourselves, and our relationship with God? These snapshots metaphorically serve as reminders to examine whether our lives align with the biblical truths. Do these images we project in our lives convey the essence of God's Kingdom? We'll examine the small beginnings of faith and the church, growing into significance, the transformative power of God working within us, and how we can live authentically as reflections of Him and avoid corruption in the church in our lives, which the enemy seeks to destroy.

**I. Picture and Planted Parable (Luke 13:18-19):** Jesus said, "How can I picture God's kingdom for you?" He presents us with two powerful illustrations: the mustard seed and yeast. The mustard seed, though tiny, grows into a large tree, demonstrating how small beginnings can lead to significant outcomes. This invites us to examine our lives through a close-up lens, focusing on the small acts of faith that may seem insignificant but can become something magnificent with God through the lens of Christ. It shows that with God, we are significant, and we can grow into whatever He has willed for us—whether in our relationships, careers, or individual callings. As we serve Him, we can watch those small seeds of faith blossom into something beautiful. Our churches are growing and uniting spiritually; corruption and false identities will enter for destruction.

**II. The Transformative Power of Yeast (Luke 13:20-21):** Continuing with the picture parable of the God's kingdom, Jesus uses a picture of a small amount of yeast, illustrating how the small ingredient has a transformative effect on an entire batch of dough. It teaches us to watch for toxicity as it grows and to adopt a broader perspective, recognizing that God's influence permeates our lives and churches instead of the world. We should spread the image of God's kingdom instead of Satan's.

However, as we grow, become successful, and become exposed to other environments, Jesus is telling us not to be like the small mustard seed tree—which ended with large branches nesting with birds. Jesus uses birds in his parables as a toxic force. We must be cautious that we do not become contaminated. Jesus warns us that as we grow, we should not be infiltrated or contaminated by the toxic forces of the world, whichever way they come. If they are not of God, they are against God. We see so often people in the public eye—entertainment, governmental, and influential places—who, once they achieve success, can become contaminated or infiltrated, or they may bring the disease of toxicity with them. What picture will we reflect?

**III. Reflecting God's Image: The Narrow Door (Luke 13:22-27):** As we move deeper into the passage, Jesus emphasizes the urgency of entering through the narrow door. This is not merely about physical entrance; it's about authentic relationship. We can consider the eraser tool found in photo editing. Just as we can erase aspects of an image that don't fit our desired narrative, we might be tempted to erase Jesus from our lives and the church, allowing distractions and false doctrines to rule. The banquet table is set, and we are invited, but as life unfolds, challenges arise, and our desires can lead us astray. We must be cautious not to erase the presence of Jesus, which can lead to the closing of the door to His Kingdom. Are we projecting an accurate image of who we are in Christ, or are we allowing the noise of the world to dilute our faith?

**IV. The Consequences of Superficial Faith (Luke 13:25-28):** In this parable, Jesus warns that not everyone who claims to know Him will be welcomed. This is a sobering truth that challenges us to reflect on our own lives. While filters can smooth over imperfections in our photos, Jesus sees through these edits. He knows we fall short of the glory of God. The challenge lies not in hiding our imperfections but in acknowledging them and seeking His grace to make things right. Just as those who were once invited to the banquet can find themselves left outside, we must strive to ensure that our lives and our church reflect the image of Christ, allowing Him to transform us and guide us in embodying the values of His Kingdom.

**V. The Last Will Be First (Luke 13:30):** Finally, Jesus concludes with the profound truth that the last shall be first and the first last. This flips our understanding of status and success upside down. Our stories—filled with struggles, victories, and God's grace—are essential to the Kingdom narrative. Just as individual and family photos tell a story of love and connection, our testimonies reflect the transformative power of God at work in our lives. We must remember that we are not defined by our past mistakes and shortcomings but by the grace that redeems us. Let's reflect on the images we project in our lives and the church. Are we curating a façade, or are we nurturing genuine relationships with Jesus? Amen. *In Christ, Pastor Earnie*

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 AM

The Nathan Patterson Class  
Study: Esther 4, 5  
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

September 07, 2025

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

OUR STEWARDSHIP

August 31, 2025

Tithes & Offerings:	\$5,811.00
Received To Date:	\$125,087.38
Needed To Date:	\$173,460.00

Attendance:	
Sunday School	16
In-person Sunday Worship	54
Online Viewers	127
Total	181

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/UCZJhDYHDeeE-dnv5a5nQKjA](https://www.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.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Welcome Epworth's newest member, **Ronnie Weaver**, who joined the church by transfer on Sunday, August 31, 2025. Please welcome him into the body of Christ at Epworth. Praise God!

PODCAST: INTERNSHIP & SOCIAL MEDIA - 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](mailto:earnestine@epworthhumc.com).

IN MEMORIAM

A gift to the General Fund is given in memory of Jane Grandon by Mary Bass.

-To God be the Glory!

TREE OF LIFE MEMORIAL

A Tree of Life Memorial leaf donation is given in memory of Jane Grandon by Buddy & Susan Dunn.

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!

GRIEF/CAREGIVER MEETING

Grief / Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next Support Meeting is Tuesday, September 09, 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.

CHILDREN & YOUTH GAME NIGHT AND UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Children & Youth Game Night - Our September Game Nights will be held on Fridays, 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. 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](mailto: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

September 07, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.  
Thirteenth 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 Marguerite Hay, Worship Leader

\*CONFESSION & PARDON UMH No. 12  
People: Merciful God,  
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have failed to be an obedient church.  
We have not done your will,  
we have broken your law,  
we have rebelled against your love,  
we have not loved our neighbors,  
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.  
Leader: Forgive us, we pray.  
Free us for joyful obedience,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
Hear the good news:  
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God's love toward us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

\*PRAISE SONG "There is Power In the Blood" CH 329 vv. 1, 2, 4  
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.

FALL FESTIVAL APPEAL Jas'Min Vontoure

Children's Ministry Director  
\*SCRIPTURE LESSON LUKE 11:31-35 Patricia Bronson

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

SPECIAL MUSIC "Our God" Mandi Battle  
Praise & Worship Director  
CCLI # 2967303, Song #5677416

SERMON SERIES "When the Dust Settles" Pastor

SERMON "A Call and Response " 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.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION Pastor & Congregation (see screen)

Invitation  
The Great Thanksgiving UMH No. 15-16  
The Lord's Prayer  
The Giving of the Bread and Cup  
The Prayer After the Communion

\*CLOSING SONG "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power" CH 334 vv. 1, 2  
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.