

COMING UP...

SEPTEMBER 14 - SEPTEMBER 21

Sunday, September 14

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship In-person & Online & Children's Church

UMM Meeting (following service)

Monday, September 15

No Monday Ministry Zumba

Resumes Monday 9/22/2025

Tuesday, September 16

6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 17

Noon Bible Study

7:00 p.m. EPEC Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, September 18

Noon Prayer Team

Saturday, September 20

8:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved

Sunday, September 21

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 Susan Davis by Donny Davis.*

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



"A Call and Response"

As we continue our journey through the Gospel of Luke, we encounter powerful teachings from Jesus that challenge our understanding of authority, manipulation, and our responses to divine calls. Our sermon Sunday was from Luke 13:31-35, and our Sermon Title, "A Call and Response." Our Key Points:

**Point 1: The Call Out - Facade of Advisorship (Luke 13:31-32):**

When the Pharisees approach Jesus with a warning about Herod's intentions to kill Him, their message carries layers of manipulation and hypocrisy. They present themselves as concerned advisors, yet this reflects their ongoing opposition to Jesus. Their attempt to exert control over Him through fear is a classic example of how authority can be misused in manipulation pursued.

- Understanding Manipulation: Just as the Pharisees came to Jesus under the guise of concern, we must be cautious of those who present themselves as advisors but have ulterior motives. Their influence is rooted in "FEAR"—presenting Herod as a "fierce enemy appearing real" to manipulate and control. We must navigate these influences carefully, staying the course in our faith as Jesus did.

- Recognizing Hypocrisy: Throughout His ministry, the Pharisees frequently challenged Jesus, revealing their pattern of opposition rather than genuine inquiry. They were closely tied to the governmental system, seeking status and power rather than the well-being of the people. Their concern was not for the truth but for maintaining their influence and authority. We also must check our lives and ask ourselves: Are we genuinely living a life that is holy and honoring to the Lord, or are we pretending? If our walk doesn't match the call of living a life that clings to the Lord, then we are just pretending. If we spend more time for people, selfish desires, and worldly ways than we have for worship and serving the Lord, we must repent and turn to God in spirit and in truth. (Matt. 7:21-23)

- Facing Opposition: Just as Jesus faced manipulation from those who should have been spiritual leaders, we too may encounter challenges from people around us. This demands courage and clarity in standing firm in our faith, especially when confronted with fear-based tactics. His Word gives us bold courage to stand on His business and ours He has for us.

**Point 2: The Response: Communication and the "Clapback" (Luke 13:33):**

Jesus stands firm on His determination to fulfill His purpose, stating that He will not be deterred by threats. He boldly asserts that no prophet can die outside Jerusalem, foreshadowing His own journey toward the cross. He declares His reinforcement and commitment to His mission, which is rooted in divine authority and purpose.

- Commitment to Purpose: Jesus' steadfast focus on His mission shows His clarity about His identity and calling. He communicates so that there's no misunderstanding—His "no" is no, with a period - not a comma or semi-colon — it's declared and definitive. He responds to the call to leave with His own call. By calling Herod a "fox," He points to him as a weak leader—cunning but ultimately lacking the grandiose power he desired, ruling only over two regions: Galilee and Perea. Jesus' clarity and determination serve as powerful reminders that we must keep our eyes on God's call for our lives, even in the face of opposition, intimidation, and rejection. His spiritual examination, discernment, and clear communication contribute to effective conflict resolution.

- Clarity in Mission: His mission was clear, not clouded by confusion or fear. We should take time to reflect, pray, and read the Word to gain spiritual insight and clarity about our purpose daily. Jesus decreed and declared that He was healing and casting out demons. Demons may come into our presence with false authority and purpose, trying to intimidate us or make us feel inferior within ourselves and our structures, including the church—those structures that operate under godly practices, whether in this world or beyond. We must protect ourselves, both individually and corporately against these evil forces. (Eph. 6:10-20)

- Moving in Faith: Just as Jesus pressed on in His mission, we must evaluate our dedication to following God's call. Are **we actively pursuing our** relationship with Him, or are we allowing distractions or fears to hinder our progress? It's important to move forward in faith, as Jesus did, rather than staying stuck in fear.

**Point 3: Lament and Consequences of Rejection (Luke 13:34-35):**

Jesus expresses His desire to gather the people of Jerusalem under His protective wings, illustrating His longing to nurture them as the compassionate Shepherd who invites us into a personal relationship.

- God's Desire for Relationship: Jesus seeks to build trust, love, and faith with us to heal our brokenness and transform our lives.

- Rejecting Fear: The Pharisees tried to instill fear regarding Herod, but knowing our identity in Christ protects us from such deceptive influences.

- Invitation to Repentance: Jesus calls us to return to Him. Are we responding to His longing or allowing pride, external influences, and demonic forces to keep us away?

He pronounces judgment on Jerusalem, declaring their house will be desolate due to their rejection of Him, yet promises that future acknowledgment of Him as the Messiah will lead to restoration.

- Rejection to Examination: Jerusalem's desolation reminds us of the serious implications of turning away from God. We must remain receptive to His voice, recognizing that true acknowledgment brings hope and renewal.

- Hope in Acknowledgment: The promise of recognizing Jesus as the Messiah encourages us to embrace His presence and salvation.

- Living in Hope: Are you participating in His mission and anticipating the fulfillment of His promises? Let's acknowledge Jesus in our lives and share His love as we await His return.

May we respond authentically to God's call, practice and develop spiritual discernment, strive for humility, and remain steadfast in our faith, honoring Jesus' mission and opening ourselves to His transformative power and purpose.

In Christ, *Pastor Earnie*

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 AM

The Nathan Patterson Class  
Study: Esther 6,7  
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 14, 2025

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

OUR STEWARDSHIP

September 07, 2025

Tithes & Offerings:	\$4,325.25
Received To Date:	\$129,412.63
Needed To Date:	\$178,416.00

Attendance:	
Sunday School	13
In-person Sunday Worship	56
Online Viewers	106
Total	162

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/epworthumc) first: [facebook.com/epworthumc](https://www.facebook.com/epworthumc) 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, **Quenton Brantley**, who joined the church by transfer on Sunday, September 07, 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., and digital marketing specialist 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 Lee Rogers.

-To God be the Glory!

TREE OF LIFE MEMORIAL

A Tree of Life Memorial leaf donation is given in memory of Jane Grandon by the Wednesday Noon-day Bible Study Group.

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!

CALLING ALL COOKS!

Ready to Party? Be here for the next "Casseroles for a Cause" party of 2025! We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, September 22nd at 2:00 p.m.

UMM GROUP MEETING

The United Methodist Men's (UMM) Group will now meet the second Sunday of each month, The next meeting is today, September 14th, immediately following the Worship Service. We will meet in the Nathan Patterson classroom. All men are invited!

CHILDREN & YOUTH GAME NIGHT AND UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Children & Youth Game Night - Our next Game Night will be held on Friday, September 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 20, from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Tuesday, November 04, from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Tuesday, November 18, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

& OPPORTUNITIES

QUARTERLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

-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. All church council members and leaders are asked to attend and any interested persons.

65TH CHURCH HOMECOMING

Epworth's 65th Church Homecoming is on Sunday, September 28, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. Our theme is "Thriving with Transformation"; Isaiah 43:19. Guest preacher, Rev. Donald Mathis, Vashti Ministries, Chaplain. Delicious meal immediately following the service. Come and be a part of this special occasion and invite others! Children's church and the Nursery are always available. The church will provide fried chicken, ham, and tea/water; please bring your favorite vegetable, salad, or dessert to share; and in order to keep things organized, use the sign-up sheet on the office window. There is a set up/clean up sheet as well. Please RSVP at [church@epworthumc.com](mailto:church@epworthumc.com) or (706) 322-6973 or for any questions. 65th Homecoming coordinator, 65th Homecoming committee.

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	Janna Family
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	

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!

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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 14, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.  
Fourteenth 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 " Love, Mercy and Grace" See Insert vv. 1, 2, 3  
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.

EPWORTH'S UWF QUIET DISCIPLE AWARD PRESENTATION Becky Britton  
UWF President

\*SCRIPTURE LESSON LUKE 14:1, 7-14 Becky Britton

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 "Living in the Last Place?" 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 "O How I Love Jesus" UMH 170. vv. 1.2  
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.