# **COMING UP...**

### **SEPTEMBER 21 - SEPTEMBER 28**

Sunday, September 21 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship In-person & Online & Children's Church T-Shirt Sunday

Monday, September 22 11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba 2:00 p.m. Casserole Party

**Tuesday, September 23**1:00 p.m. Grief/Caregiver Meeting
3:00 p.m. Rose Hill

Wednesday, September 24 Noon Bible Study 7:00 p.m. EPEC Zoom Bible Study

**Thursday, September 25** Noon Prayer Team

**Friday, September 26**6:30 p.m. Children & Youth Game Night

Sunday, September 28
65<sup>th</sup> Church Homecoming Celebration
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person &
Online & Children's Church
Homecoming Meal following Service



# **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:

1 1 2	
Administrator Assistant	Danielle Lamb
Children's Ministry Directo	orJas'min Vontoure
Children's Ministry Assista	ntWhitney Mennifee
Custodians	Martha Conklin
	Barbie Webb
Media Tech	Tristan Campbell
Music Director	Bob Lee
Nursery Worker	Martha Conklin
Pastorl	Rev. Earnestine Campbell
Praise & Worship Director	Mandi Battle

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



**September 21, 2025** 

# "LIVING IN LAST PLACE?"

Our Sunday's Sermon was from Luke 14:1, 7-14, with our Sermon Title, "Living in Last Place?" The text starts with Jesus being invited to dine at the home of a prominent Pharisee on the Sabbath. This moment serves as a backdrop for His teachings on humility and confidence, challenging our understanding of significance. The invitation serves as a test to see whether Jesus will prioritize human care over the rigid, man-made rules regarding healing on the Sabbath. Throughout this passage, Jesus uses this opportunity to address deeper truths about the Kingdom of God, ultimately guiding us toward understanding our place in His plan and our purpose and how we are to witness as humble servants in His Kingdom.

**Luke 14:1—The Boldness of Jesus:** As Jesus dines with the Pharisees, He faces the complexities of social status and religious expectations. The Pharisees, ever vigilant, were watching Him closely, eager to find fault. Jesus uses this gathering to teach valuable lessons, reminding us that our worth is not defined by the accolades we receive nor the positions society places us in but by our willingness to serve God and others. His very presence in this setting highlights His commitment to engage with those who are often at odds with Him, demonstrating holding fast to His convictions according to love and care.

In Luke 14:7-11—Humility and Confidence: An Oxymoron? Jesus observes the guests clamoring for the best seats at the table and warns them against overestimating their importance. He tells a parable: "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, Give this person your seat. Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place." This teaching raises the question: can humility and confidence coexist? At first glance, they may seem like opposing concepts. However, true humility does not stem from insecurity; it is an acknowledgment of our place in God's grand design. Humility is defined as a modest view of one's importance, recognizing our limitations while valuing others. It is about understanding our true worth in God's eyes, not about feeling inferior or projecting a false sense of self.

When we trust in the Lord, our confidence is built and strengthened. It doesn't matter where you pedigree, where you matriculated, your ZIP code, or your access to certain contacts. Your background does not determine your future. This is a reminder that we can overcome feelings of insignificance and break free from our past. In the story told during the sermon "God loves to use those that the world deems too small, too weak, or too insignificant to make a difference" by Francis Schaeffer—using the metaphor of a wooden tree, often dismissed as unremarkable, that can be transformed into something magnificent through God's touch—so too can we be reshaped when we align ourselves with His purpose.

The Power of Transformation is recognizing our humility connects us to the source of our strength. God does not define us by our past or our perceived weaknesses. Instead, He enables us to rise, like the wooden tree that becomes a sturdy vessel filled with purpose. We are empowered to inspire and transform others by living a life rooted in humility and confidence. Let us not put ourselves in positions where we risk embarrassment or feel the need to put on airs, pretending to be someone we are not. Instead, we should "let go and let God," trusting in His plan for our lives. When we stop overestimating our power and potential, we can fully receive the gifts He has given us, realizing that true greatness comes from serving God and others rather than seeking to be served or elevated.

In Luke 14:12-14—The Call to Serve the Marginalized: Jesus turns to His host and instructs him to invite the marginalized—those who cannot repay him. This call to action resonates with biblical figures like David, Esther, and Deborah, who emerged from humble beginnings yet played pivotal roles in God's story. David, a shepherd boy, was chosen to be king despite his lowly status, illustrating that God sees the heart, not the outward appearance. Esther, a young Jewish woman, became queen in a time when her identity could have been a liability, showing us God's ability to elevate the overlooked. Deborah, a leader of Israel, a judge, and a prophetess, led her people in a time when women were often marginalized, proving that God can use anyone willing to step up and show up, regardless of societal norms. Sometimes, God removes things and people out of our lives in order for us to come up to where He wants us to go. Your knockout, your being knocked down, is simply a setup for your comeback. You may have been overlooked for a promotion or faced setbacks in relationships, financially, etc.—but know that these challenges can lead you to greater things.

**Finally, in Revelation 1, we see Jesus returning in glory**, described in majestic terms, contrasting sharply with His humble life on earth. He comes as the King of Kings, radiant and powerful, reminding us that while He walked among us in humility, His true identity is one of glory and authority. This powerful return emphasizes that with God, we can rise above the perceptions of the world, knowing that with Him, we are always significant. Amen.

In Christ, Pastor Earnie

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 AM**

### The Nathan Patterson Class

Study: Esther 8

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 21, 2025

Usher: Becky Britton & Diona Bronson Financial Secretary: Patricia Bronson Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry/Ushers

# **OUR STEWARDSHIP**

September 14, 2025

Tithes & Offerings:	\$1,215.00
Received To Date:	\$130,627.63
Needed To Date:	\$178,416.00

#### **Attendance:**

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Sunday School	13
In-person Sunday Worship	55
Online Viewers	98
Total	153

# 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 worshiping 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.

# PODCAST: INTERNSHIP & SOCIAL MEDIA - COMING SOON!

7.00 We are excited to introduce the Epworth Podcast, a platform designed to not only evangelize but also to engage in meaningful dialogue around holistic well13 being, spirituality, societal issues, justice causes, and ministry and mission work. The podcast will feature relevant subject matter experts and special guests—
153 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.

# **CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY**

Christian Sympathy is extended to Barbie Webb and family on the passing of her father, Paul S. Jimmerson, on Thursday, May 18, 2023. Please be in contact and prayer for Barbie and her family.

# TREE OF LIFE MEMORIAL

-Tree of Life Memorial leaf donation is given in memory of Jane Grandon by Jeanne Guilbeault.

-Tree of Life Memorial leaf donation is given in memory of Jane Grandon by New Life.

# 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.

# 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. There will not be a game night in October due to the Fall Festival. Game nights will resume in November with 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! Candy donations and volunteers are needed for this event, please see sign-up sheets located on the window of the church office. Inflatables, games, face painting, popcorn/cotton candy and more! Fall Festival t-shirts are available to order (\$25). Deadline October 5th.

# FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

Tuesday, November 04, from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. Tuesday, November 18, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

# <u>UPCOMING EVENTS</u> <u>& OPPORTUNITIES</u> <u>QUARTERLY COMMITTEE</u> <u>MEETINGS</u>

# **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 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 Vin	es
George Bowen	Martha Bone	Danny Snider & Family	Davis/Osborne Family
Tammy White	Sam Wilson		

# **Independent/Assisted Living/Nursing Home**

Oaks @ Maple Ridge - Helen Pharris

Kings Bridge (Atlanta, GA) - Blount King
River Place - Anne Wilson
Oaks @ Grove Park - Ron Sawyer

The Lodge (Bessemer, AL) - Lorene Carlisle
Wesley Glen (Byron, GA) - Nancy Hiller

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 Villiamson	
Jim & Jean Williamson	
& Family	

# **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

September 21, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.

Fifteenth 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

"Blessed Assurance"

UMH 369. vv. 1, 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 <u>epworthumc.com</u> 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 14:25-33 Dekara Berry

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 "The Battle of the Basics" Pastor

### \*INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Pastor

Acolytes

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 "He Lives" UMH 310. vv. 1, 3

Susan Dunn, Song Leader

\*LIGHT OF CHRIST BROUGHT OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*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.