

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

65th 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



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

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:*

Administrator Assistant.....Danielle Lamb
Children's Ministry DirectorJas'min Vontoure
Children's Ministry Assistant.....Whitney Mennifee
Custodians.....Martha Conklin
Barbie Webb
Media TechTristan Campbell
Music Director.....Bob Lee
Nursery Worker.....Martha Conklin
Pastor.....Rev. Earnestine Campbell
Praise & Worship DirectorMandi Battle

epworth
united methodist church

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*



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	

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 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 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 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

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 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.