

COMING UP...

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 05

Sunday, September 28

65th Church Homecoming Celebration

9:00 a.m. Homecoming Breakfast

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

Homecoming Meal following Service

Monday, September 29

11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba

Wednesday, October 01

Noon Bible Study

7:00 p.m. EPEC Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, October 02

Noon Prayer Team

Sunday, October 05

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

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

Holy Communion



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

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

CustodiansMartha Conklin

Barbie Webb

Media Tech.....Tristan Campbell

Music DirectorBob Lee

Nursery WorkerMartha Conklin

PastorRev. Earnestine Campbell

Praise & Worship Director.....Mandi Battle

epworth

united methodist church

September 28, 2025



Epworth United Methodist Church

Columbus, GA

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF HISTORY

HOMEcoming POEM

Janis Day's Homecoming Poem from September 27,2009,
tells the story of Epworth

From 2010 - September 24, 2025 The Poem Narrative story
is written from the Pastoral/Historian Team
(below & in the insert)

This story begins in a land across the sea,
in Epworth of England in 1703
when a baby was born - a child for Susanna Wesley.
Now this boy named John, his faith weathered the storm.
In a sermon one day...that he didn't want to hear
what happened to him -- he felt very clear
in his life ... he had a major transformation ...
through prayer and faith came a new denomination.
That's why we're here -- from a heart strangely warmed
a congregation of believers - the Methodist were formed.

Now years in the future, our story goes on
when a church was needed --- so a survey had shown.
In the year 1960, the month it was five ...
a first sermon was preached --- close by ... Rosemont Drive.

This location was changed when a petition was raised but
these Methodist were tough -- hardly phased them at all
they met in a classroom in a church called St. Paul.
They continued to grow and moved quite a lot
before they would purchase a 3 acre plot.
The lot finally purchased - but construction was slow --
each Sunday they'd meet -- now to Sherwood they'd go.

The 25th of September, the year 1960 ... a day of elation
a new church was formed amid trials and tribulation.
We became a church in a Fellowship Hall.with the help of a
preacher -- his name Reverend Ball.

There was one final move for this church on the run . .
.finally in their building -- they could worship God's son. The
day it was Easter, the year '64 our faith had a building ... and
we opened up the door.

Our numbers would grow and our building would too . .
'cause we remained focused ... the Lord's work we must do.
But late in the '80's...things didn't seem right our focus had
shifted to -- ourself -- not on the Light.

Our church was in trouble. . .broken, needing a fix
of guidance, discernment...but -- just the right mix.
We needed direction, so on the Bishop we'd call ...
decisions, appointments, -- "Methodist stuff" - big
and small.

Because of this growth -- our church is too small
and that's why you're here for this...dinner call.
We need more space, more bricks and some mortar.
. . we'll get it, I'm sure ... we've got Ernie Porter.

The Vision ... we can build it ...
'cause God's back in our heart. . .
the way that it was -- way back at the start.
We must remain focused . . . after all
-- we are God's people . . .
Excited ... you Bet! ... we're gettin' a steeple.

With blueprints in hand, we thought we were ready
but things they would change -- our focus not
steady.

We've heard that all things are done in God's season
so why did it stop -- what was the reason?



Now answers not easy and solutions not fast
to understand the future...you must look to the past.

A sister church was formed in 1902,
listen as I tell you...some things they would do.
A tabernacle church -- house of worship #1
then in 1906 a wood church -- to worship God's son.
Then a brick building . . would next mark the spot --
the name now -- North Highland.

The year that this happened -- it was '25
and the people inside continued to thrive.
The Sanctuary first used in '26 the month #2
a significant change - listen - I'll give you a clue.

A new name of Hamp Stevens -- to honor a preacher,
who served them for years as Pastor and teacher.
Where would this lead them -- soon they would see
In Easter of '30 - a dedication - Debt Free.

In '77 a plan to restore the Fellowship Hall. . .
unsuitable for use...afraid it would fall.
The builder was hired...but we're soon in a jam...
his project - not bonded - a very costly scam.
The group left to pay...was relatively small. . .
but numbers don't matter - to answer God's call.
Ways to raise money - their wheels started turning
and ended in elation - with a mortgage note burning.

Many pastors have graced us...in this sacred halland
18 "home-grown" have answered God's call.Hamp Stevens
and Trinity...now a charge in '83 what did this mean - we
must wait and see...In '94 a merger...and Trinity -- to close...

This church has been blessed in so many ways
from teachers and preachers, groups...big and small
and volunteers there to help. . . answer God's call.

The month it was 6, the year '04 -
now a charge with Sherwood...
another path of travel...but would it be good.
With this change -- our schedules...re-arranged...
the hour of worship...the time -- it would change.

We've reached out to many -- over so many years
but a people -- with no growth...a church always fears
On a Monday, in October 2005,
we realized in growth -- we just didn't strive.

In 2006, the month it was 2,
God's guidance we'd seek -- "His" plan to pursue.
The decision was reached -- a Charge Conference to call.

April 23, 2006 a Resolution to Close...
but together they's go. . .in faith "one for all"
The resolution for closing...the outcome..."it passed".
A Declaration of Deconsecration was held. . .
June 11, 2006...a Sunday...Its last.

These worshipers of God -- now...
out on their own with God in their heart --
they were never alone. . .
these people of God - not long on the roam

they found a new place...to now call their home.
Worshippers of God -- strangers ... at the start

but strangers no more...they entered our heart. Two
churches with histories...have now become one all
with one purpose...to worship God's son.
In order to grow...there must be some give and ...
some take...If we are not willing -- our spirit will
break.

To move toward the future -- we must learn from the
past
with "God-focused" vision our Journey will last.
Where this pathway will take us...only God knows
It will only by good...if our Christianity shows.
With renewed dedication...let us move...toward
the Son for that's the true way....

God's battles are won.
So...check back in the future...to see where we'll be
the cost of this journey, commitment...
from you and from me.

The Epworth Journey Continues to Strive...
(2010-2024)

In a decade of tales, where faith swings wide, At Epworth
we've traveled, with two pastors as guides. From 2010 to
2020, their visions took flight, With the past by our side,
we embraced God's bright light.

The Woods room was born, a haven for youth, While
the Fellowship Hall was remodeled—oh, what a truth!
Technology thrived, weaving stories anew, With
Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, our voices rang true.

Young families arrived, with softball in tow, Building
bonds through the game, letting friendships grow. A logo
emerged, with a mission so clear, "Welcome, all serve!"
echoed far and near.

In 2020, came the Covid-19 pandemic a storm
unforeseen, Yet Epworth emerged, resilient and
keen.

Change echoed loud and clear,
As preaching and music were virtual, drawing us all
near.

The church embraced new technology of
livestreaming worship so true, Zoom meetings and
Bible Study a bridge to the new. With lenses anew,
perspectives expanded. A rich, vibrant gathering, our
spirits commanded.

Media ministry soared on wings of embracing
technology.From audio whispers to video's clarity.
Streaming our services on Facebook, YouTube,
Free Online and Vimeo making sacred spaces.
Connecting with hearts, no matter how far they go.

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!

CHILDREN & YOUTH GAME NIGHT AND UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Attention all Epworth members, 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),
please see sign-up sheet located on the window of
the church office. Deadline October 5th.

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

Saturday, October 25, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tuesday, November 04, from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday, November 08, from 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Tuesday, November 18, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

QUARTERLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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.

GRIEF/CAREGIVER SUPPORT MEETING

Grief / Caregiver Support Meeting - Our next
Support Meeting is Tuesday, October 14, 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.

PASTORAL COUNSELING

Our church partners with The Pastoral Institute to
offer counseling for individuals and families at deep
discounts. Call the church for more information or
call the Pastoral Institute at 706-649-6500 to schedule
an appointment.



SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 AM

The Nathan Patterson Class
Study: No Class due to Homecoming
Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class
Study: No Class due to Homecoming
Teacher: Glenn Griffin

The Seekers Class
Study: No Class due to Homecoming
Teacher: Donny Davis

THOSE WHO SERVE

September 28, 2025

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

OUR STEWARDSHIP

September 21, 2025

Tithes & Offerings: \$8,749.00
Received To Date: \$139,376.63
Needed To Date: \$183,372.00

Attendance:
Sunday School 15
In-person Sunday Worship 55
Online Viewers 77
Total 132

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 first: facebook.com/epworthcolumbus or youtube.com/channel/UCZJhDYHDdeE-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!

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.

MANY THANKS

Thank you to all the ladies of Epworth's United Women in Faith! All of you did a super job setting up the Fellowship Hall, contributing to the meal, and cleaning up after the meal! I have had a text from Lynn Harper, President of the North Central District and Tara Jones, the Conference President of UWF, and they were very complimentary! Thanks to all of you for a job well done! And also a huge THANK YOU to Rev. Earnie for the great job she did on Saturday! We are blessed to have her as our pastor!!!

Becky

Our first Cross-Racial/Cultural Pastor received. With our new pastor appointed, We and our Worship became further a symphony of diverse voices, traditional and contemporary jointed.

Young adults and youth leading worship together through YAM's embrace, Reviving intergenerational bonds with softball, in a joyful space and

Christmas pageants, Easter plays, and VBS in sight, and the Men of all ages tending, building places bright.

As in all churches and in life, change is our fate. We've witnessed the cycles of growth and of weight. From decline and the pandemic to resurgence, our worship space thrives. Evolving together, where the heartbeat of faith of diverse people drives.

Through the corridors of faith, From echoes of the past to futures rearranged. In the rhythm of life, we've witnessed

many persons joined and baptized, The church has evolved, its spirit divine.

In small groups of Sunday School, Bible Study grows, Flourishing hands reach out, as compassion flows. Through food, essential items, medical drives, our mission shows.

Christmas fundraisers bring joy and delight. Feeding our neighbors at Rosehill with love, In every act shared, we rise high above. With "Casseroles for a Cause," we provide meals with grace, through this vibrant place.

Reaching Forward with Faith: Improving all of our spaces for worhsip, children and youth, Reviving our background space, embodying truth. Outfitting the fellowship hall for media and overflow, Creating a welcome center where conversations can flow.

And though we celebrate 64 years of grace, The heart of Epworth beats strong in this place. You, the people, are the soul of our story, Together we shine, reflecting His glory.

So here's to the past and the paths yet to tread, To God be the glory for all that's been said. As we hold to the promise of Philippians 3:13-14 bright, We reach for the future, embracing Christ's light.

The Future Has Arrived: The Epworth Journey Continues in 2024-2025

The recounting of our journey begins in October, a time to ignite, Worship continues, blended and diverse, a beautiful sight. With all of God's children in harmony we sing, Embracing each other, the joy that we bring.

Seven new members have joined in our quest, With infants and children baptized, truly blessed. We honor the faithful who've transitioned this year, Remembering their lives, their love still so near.

The fall festival shines bright, with cars all aglow, Food and inflatables, an annual show. With the Sidney Mac Crew's Chili Cook-Off delight, We gather in joy, a true festive sight.

New ways to serve, our mission stays strong, With Mana (Mother Administered Nutritive Aid), helping where we belong. Providing nourishment and care, a lifeline so true, and serving The Chattahoochee Valley Imagination Library brings books to children, too. Together we lift up our community anew, Nurturing intergenerational minds, with stories to pursue.

The EPEC (Epworth with Pastor Earnie C.) Bible study has taken its place, it's a warm, welcoming space. From fields and from cars, to offices near, We gather in faith, our connections more dear.

Our pastor's two books, wisdom woven with care, "The Power of a Basket," a gift about biblical women that we share. "The Journey of Abraham and Sarah," we learn, In studies together, igniting our spirits to burn.

Our social media thrives, outreach in view, With the "Beyond the Walls" EPEC podcast, fresh stories accrue. Engaging in justice, in finance, and more, Building connections, our spirits to soar. So here's to the future, with hearts open wide,

Together we strive, and in love we unite. Reflecting His glory, sharing His light, Beginning anew, as Isaiah 43:19 states,

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

In this new beginning, our faith takes flight, Embracing His promise, we walk in His light.

Amen.

ORDER OF WORSHIP
September 28, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.
 Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost/65th Homecoming Celebration
 "Thiving with Transformation: Greater Things Are Waiting"
*The * Denotes to please stand if able.*

PRELUDE Bob Lee, Music Director

ENTER THE LIGHT OF CHRIST Children/Youth Ministry

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER Rev. Earnestine Campbell, Pastor

***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** "Standing on the Promises" UMH 374, vv. 1, 2, 3, 4
Susan Dunn, Song Leader

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF HISTORY DeKara Berry, Church Historian

*CONGREGATIONAL SONG "How Great Thou Art" CH 147
Susan Dunn, Song Leader

OFFERTORY APPEAL/PRAYER Pastor

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.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER Rev. Earnestine Campbell, Pastor

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER Rev. Earnestine Campbell, Pastor

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER Pastor & Congregation

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

***SCRIPTURE LESSON** Isaiah 43:16-21 Margaret Gosden

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

HOMECOMING THEME/SERMON	"Thriving with Transformation: Greater Things Are Waiting " Guest Preacher, Rev. Donald Mathis
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***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 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" UMH 140, vv. 1, 3
Susan Dunn, Song Leader

LIGHT OF CHRIST BROUGHT OUT INTO THE WORLD
Acolytes

***BENEDICTION/CLOSING REMARKS** 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.