

COMING UP...

Sunday, February 18

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

Monday, February 19

11:30 a.m. Monday Ministry Zumba
(MMZ)

Wednesday, February 21

12:00 noon Bible Study

Thursday, February 22

12:00 noon Prayer Team

Friday, February 23

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Youth Game Night

Sunday, February 25

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

2024 FLOWER CALENDAR

Sign up to purchase flowers for a worship service in honor or memory of loved ones. For available dates, see the calendar on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center or call or email the church office (church@epworthumc.com). **Due to a price increase, arrangements are now \$85** and are tax deductible. Currently, March 3, 10, 17, & 31 are available.



The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in Honor of Reverend Earnie's birthday from her Epworth family.

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
Twitter - @EpworthColumbus

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:*

Administrative Assistant.....Joy Propst
Children's Ministry Director.....Damien Brown
Custodians.....Martha Conklin & Barbie Webb
Media TechTristan Campbell
Music Director.....Bob Lee
Nursery WorkerMartha Conklin
PastorRev. Earnestine Campbell
Praise & Worship DirectorMandi Battle

epworth
united methodist church

February 18, 2024

Let God Speak...Second Chances, Part II

In the third part of the Jonah series, "The Power of Second Chances," Jonah finally reaches dry land after being in the belly of a fish and a storm sent by God because of his disobedience. Jonah is now in Nineveh, enemy territory, to deliver a message of repentance. This opportunity for a fresh start is not only for the Assyrians of Nineveh but also for Jonah himself, who harbored resentment, and understandably so. However, our human frailties must not overthrow our obedience to God.

Jonah's arrival on dry land marks the beginning of his preaching the message of repentance to the people of Nineveh. The message expounded on the second chance for Jonah, who strayed away from God, and the Ninevites, who were never on God's path. However, Jonah struggles with letting go of the pain, trauma, and loss inflicted by the Assyrians. His reluctance to forgive leads him down a path of sin and spiritual sickness. We, too, must face our "enemy" internally and externally, however God leads us.

The story of Jonah leads us to reflect on our own acts of disobedience towards God and the unkindness and unfairness projected onto us by others and how we've projected it onto others. The powerful aspect of God's nature is that we are not condemned to live a life of ungodliness, stagnation, and defiance. We are given second chances to receive blessings, to get it right, to receive forgiveness, and to extend the same to others, even to our enemies. Jonah received a second chance, and he got it right.

During the sermon, I asked the question of whether we would want our enemies to be blessed. Some hands went up, while others did not. We kept it real, and it was powerful to witness the genuine responses of God's people, as we acknowledged our strengths and areas for growth (James 5:16). The church is a safe space for introspection, to confront our imperfections, and to strive for progress in overcoming our struggles. (Thessalonians 2:13) It was a profound moment and worship experience, with the Holy Spirit moving freely and prophetic words being spoken. I am still filled with a sense of spiritual elevation and inspiration, as we worshipped and gave thanksgivings to God for his love, grace and mercy extended to us. I pray you, too, may feel the same experience!

In Christ,

Earnestine



Epworth connects and equips all kinds of people

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 AM

The Nathan Patterson Class

Study: 2 Kings 7
Teacher: Mary Bass

The New Connections Class

Study: Into the Heart of God
Teacher: Glenn Griffin

The Seekers Class

Study: Wired Word
Teacher: Donny Davis

The Children’s Class at 9:30 a.m.

K-4 - 5th Grade
Teachers: Damien Brown & Margaret Gosden

THOSE WHO SERVE

February 18, 2024

Usher: David Hay
Financial Secretary: John Grandon
Acolytes: Children/Youth Ministry

OUR STEWARDSHIP

February 11, 2024

Tithes & Offerings:	\$4,400.50
Received To Date:	\$26,232.73
Needed To Date:	\$33,015.64

Attendance:	
Sunday School	16
In-person Sunday Worship	45
Online Viewers	22
Total	67

Financially Speaking - As holistic believers of Christ, let’s remember to give of our time, talents, and gifts—this includes our financial givings as we remember our pledges. Our church wants to make sure you have the opportunity to give: during Worship, by mail or drop off at the office, text “Give” to 706-655-6768 or log on to Epworth’s Website—select “More” then “Donate” “Give.”

STAY CONNECTED

In-Person & Livestreaming Worship - Join us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Options for worshipping by livestream are: epworthumc.freeonlinechurch.com/live, facebook.com/epworthcolumbus or youtube.com/channel/UCZJhDYHDeeE-dnv5a5nQKjA as close to 10:30 a.m. as possible.

Reviews Matter - Take 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. Use your social network to share events at our church with family and friends.

Text, App & Website Giving - Our church wants to make sure you have the opportunity to give. Text “Giving” to 706-655-6768, download Epworth’s App from the App Store for free or visit Epworth’s website to make a donation online. Thanks for your continued support to Epworth’s ministries.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is given to the family of Betty Sawyer, who passed away on Saturday, February 10, 2024. She was funeralized on Wednesday, February 14.

Please be in prayer and in contact with the Sawyer family. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

MEMORIAM

-Memoriam donation is given to the General Fund in memory of Sheila Dunn by Buddy & Susan Dunn.

-Memoriam donation is given to the General Fund in memory of Jerry Smith by Annette & Arlene Taff.

-Memoriam donation is given to the General Fund in memory of Jerry Smith by Buddy & Susan Dunn.

-Memoriam donation is given to the General Fund in memory of Jerry Smith by the Seekers class.

MISSIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

February Mission Opportunity- Items for our "Casseroles for a Cause" casseroles are our February mission. A collection box in the Whitehurst Welcome Center is available for our basic ingredients:

- Canned cream of chicken soup
- Ritz-style crackers
- 1 lb. bag of white rice

Donations to pay for the other ingredients are always appreciated. Thanks!

Did You Miss the Community Sale? - The Grandons are doing it again - and this time at their house at 2221 Lancelot Place, Columbus, GA 31904. They have lots of goodies to offer, and they'll be selling all week - February 16 through next weekend, February 24 (excluding Sundays). Please contact Jane Grandon with any questions at nane743@outlook.com or 706-565-8125.

Children & Youth Game Night - Children & Youth Game Night is held every second and fourth Friday from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. All Epworth children/ youth are encouraged to invite friends to come out for snacks, fun, and fellowship! Our next Game Night is this Friday, February 23.

Encouraging Small Group Gatherings - Contact the church office for available times and spaces to plan your group meeting.

Feeding Our Neighbors at Rose Hill Needs Volunteers - Epworth provides a meal on the fourth Tuesday of January - October and provides turkeys the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Contact Debra Johnson at dbjohnson1269@gmail.com to volunteer.

Medical Equipment Ministry - We have various medical equipment items to lend to our congregation in need. Give the church office a call to see if we have what you need. If you have any equipment, please consider donating.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

UWF Book Study: "So You Want to Talk About Race" - Excitement is building for this new venture, an online book group! We will be meeting on Sunday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. on February 25, March 24, April 28, and May 19. Take part in honest conversations about race and racism with Christian sisters. Earnestine Campbell will facilitate this virtual book study of "So You Want to Talk About Race", a New York Times bestseller by Ijeoma Oluwa. Open to all women, this event is free; a link to access the gathering will be sent to those who register. Please contact Becky Britton for more details and to purchase the book (\$8.50).

The Pastoral Institute - 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. PI is located at 2022 15th Ave., Columbus, GA.

Ways To Serve - Serve God in worship and ministry, aluminum can collecting, purchase of Epworth cookbooks, volunteer with Feeding Our Neighbors at Rose Hill group, participate in the monthly Mission Focus (a different organization each month), donate to the Showering Program for Open Door Community House, join the Prayer Shawl Ministry making shawls, reach out to our homebound and nursing home folks, usher, just to name a few. Direct questions to Bobby Smith or the church office. Let us help you connect!

A Taste of Epworth Cookbooks - Need a gift to give? Purchase a copy from the Welcome Center for \$5. Proceeds support missions.

Tree of Life Memorial - Memorials can be made for members of the Epworth UM or Hamp Stevens UM Churches. The minimum donation for an engraved leaf is \$50. Forms are in the information rack in the foyer or in this week's online bulletin. The tree is displayed in the narthex. Money received helps supplement the budget.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 18, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE Bob Lee, Music Director

ENTER THE LIGHT OF CHRIST Children/Youth Ministry

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER Damien Brown, 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 "Freely, Freely" vv. 1 & 2 Led by Susan Dunn
Celebration Hymnal No. 436

CHILDREN’S SERMON Damien Brown & Children

SPECIAL SELECTION "Be Still and Know" Baron Conklin
CCLI License # 2967303 Song #6252809

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 Worshipers, 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.

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 Jonah 4:1-11 Becky Britton

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

SPECIAL MUSIC "You Are God Alone" Led by Mandi Battle
CCLI License # 2967303 Song #4243463

SERMON “Let God Speak...But God Isn't Speaking Right?” 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 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" vv. 1, 2 & 3 Led by Mandi Battle
Celebration Hymnal No. 139

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.