

COMING UP THIS WEEK...

Monday, September 3

Office Closed

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, September 4

10:30 a.m. HIS Group UMW Meeting

6:30 p.m. AA Support Group Meeting

6:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting

Wednesday, September 5

6:00 p.m. Supper

6:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Wacky Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 6

12 noon Prayer Team Meeting

Sunday, September 9

Promotion Sunday

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Monday, September 10

6:30 p.m. New Life UMW Meeting

6:30 p.m. United Methodist Men Meeting

Thursday, September 13

12 noon Vintage Group Meeting

POSITION AVAILABLE AT OPEN DOOR

Open Door Community House is seeking a mature adult for a part-time position to coordinate the “Golden Agers” program, a ministry for senior adults. If interested, please call Marlon Sharpe, Director of Community Ministries, at Open Door Community House, 706-323-5518. The church office is unaware if the position is still available or not.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Epworth's members are our ministers.

The professional staff who assist us are:

Children's Ministry DirectorLindsey Fossa

Choir Director.....Lyn Pharris

Church Administrator Susan Snider

Contemporary Music DirectorKayla Moss

CustodiansMartha Conklin & Barbie Webb

Interim Youth Minister.....Kristii Daniel

Media & CommunicationsDawn Wilson

Music DirectorBob Lee

Nursery Worker..... Martha Conklin

Pastor.....Tony G. Crosby

CONTACT US

2400 Devonshire Drive

Columbus, GA 31904

Pastor's Cell (706) 329-2484

Church Office (706) 322-6973

www.epworthumc.com

staff's first name@epworthumc.com

(example: tony@epworthumc.com)

Facebook - EpworthUMC.com

Instagram - EpworthUMC.com

Twitter - @EpworthColumbus

CONTACTING YOU

Most of the church's communication now is through e-mail. We send two e-mails each week—a newsletter on Monday and a sermon preview on Friday. We also use e-mail to send important meeting reminders and other information. Help us contact you by making sure we have your current e-mail address.

*The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Doug & Suzy Revell's
45th Wedding Anniversary by Chris & Sally Revell and Carson & Mandy Revell.*

 **epworth**
united methodist church

September 2, 2018

Religion

*Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this:
to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.*

James 1:27 (NRSV)

“Religion” has to be one of the most loaded words in existence right now. It is easy to think that this is new, but apparently by the words of James, it may not be that way at all. The idea of religion is often associated with hypocrisy. And hypocrisy is DEFINITELY not anything new.

Jesus had less patience with the hypocrisy of religious elites than he did almost anything else. Very little drove him to such anger as the pompous and pious Pharisees and scribes who kept the “letter of the law” down to the smallest detail, but had little regard for people and real needs. A typical example was their expressions of disapproval of Jesus for healing on the Sabbath. It seemed they were more interested in protecting their power and routines than doing anything to truly minister to people.

It would be wonderful if I could say that I am so glad the church today isn't like that anymore. Unfortunately, we are often our own worst enemy. Sometimes, we become more concerned with preserving the institutions of the faith rather than risking it all to spread the good news of Jesus and to meet people in their needs. As a pastor, Jesus's attacks on the religious elite of his day strike me in the heart. I don't ever want to be one who sees institutions over individuals.

Religion, however, doesn't have to be a bad word. In verse 26, James speaks of “worthless religion”. But in verse 27, he demonstrates for us what practicing our religious faith should look like. Pure and undefiled religion is a faith in action. It is a faith that cares for the orphans and the widows. It is a compassionate faith that sees the least and the lost and the neglected of society. Pure and undefiled religion is the maintenance of Christian discipline by following Jesus and not the ways of the world. True religion is holiness of heart and life.

So, I refuse to denounce being called “religious.” Some prefer other words, but I will not fear this word or any other as long as my faith is one of integrity and purity before the Lord. That religion is the way of life of a disciple of Jesus Christ. If that is religion, then count me in.

In Christ,



Epworth connects and equips all kinds of people
to SEEK, SERVE, and SHARE Christ.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

The Children's Class

Kindergarten - 5th Grade: Margaret Gosden
6th - 12th Grade: Kristii Daniel

The Friendship Class

Study: The Peaceful Kingdom
Teacher: Class

The Genesis Class

Study: Have You Ever Seen a Hearse...
Teacher: Leslie Morris

The Joy Class

Study: O Say Can You See?
Teacher: Class

The Nathan Patterson/Wesley Class

Study: Genesis 35 & 36
Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class

Study: 40 Days of Community
Teacher: Doug Franks

The Questors Class

Study: Class Discussion
Teacher: Glenn Griffin

The Seekers Class

Study: Wired Word
Teacher: Lillian Wooldridge

UMW NEWS

The Northwest District Annual Meeting for United Methodist Women will be held on Saturday, September 22, at Pierce Chapel UMC (5122 Pierce Chapel Road, Midland, GA). Registration at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Following the meeting, lunch will be served. The key note speaker is Allison Lindsey from Connectional Ministries of the United Methodist Church. There is no cost for this event, but there will be an offering to Mission Giving. If you are interested, please contact Becky Britton or Lillian Wooldridge, for seating and lunch count.

THOSE WHO SERVE SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Janie Nellums
Usher: Diane Morris
Acolyte: Usher
Children's Church: Janie Nellums

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Susan Davis
Ushers: Donny Davis, Doug Revell
Acolyte: Eva Cheraisi
Children's Church: Lindsey Fossa
Nursery Volunteer: Lisa Crosby
Financial Secretary: Steve Sawyer
Turn Key: Rev. Tony Crosby

OUR STEWARDSHIP

August 26, 2018

Tithes & Offerings:	\$3,031.00
Received To Date:	\$179,358.23
Needed To Date:	\$222,105.80
Building Fund:	\$0.00

ATTENDANCE:

Sunday School	91
Worship: 9 a.m.	56
Worship: 11 a.m.	<u>69</u>
	125

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Youth Group Meeting - Tuesday, September 4, at 6:30 p.m., in the youth room.

Volunteers Needed in the Children's Ministry

Children's Church 9 a.m. - 2nd and 4th Sundays
Children's Church 11 a.m. - 4th Sundays
Nursery 11 a.m. - 2nd and 4th Sundays
Contact Lindsey Fossa if interested.

Year-Round Wacky Wednesday to Begin in

September 5 - New children's program on Wednesday night, at 6:30 p.m., will include lessons, crafts, and songs. Come and invite your friends. For children pre-K to 5th grade.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Upper Room Devotionals - September/October issue is available in the welcome center. Price as noted.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting - Monday, September 3, 10:00 a.m., in the fellowship hall. If you are interested in joining, please see Jeanne Guilbeault or Becky Britton.

Office Closed - Monday, September 3, for Labor Day.

AA Support Group Meeting - every Tuesday, at 6:30 p.m., in the Questors classroom

HIS Group Meeting - Tuesday, September 4, at 10:30 a.m., in the fellowship hall. Our hostesses will be Dot Merritt, Carolyn Gambill and Helen Howard. Dot Merritt will present our Program. Please remember your items for our Rose Hill mission. As you are able, please bring the dish for which you signed up.

Wednesday Night Supper & Study - September 5, at 6 p.m. Make reservations by signing up on the information board, emailing or calling the church office. Menu: baked chicken, steamed vegetables, mashed potatoes, rolls, salad and dessert. Our study, *The Gathering*, begins at 6:30 p.m. Join us!

Women's Thursday Bible Study - begins with an informational meeting on Thursday, September 6, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., in the Questors classroom. Anyone interested in participating is invited!

Prayer Team Meeting - Thursdays at noon, at Margaret Gosden's home.

Promotion Sunday - September 9, at the 11 a.m. service. Children entering the 3rd grade, will be presented to the church.

Youth Parent Meeting - Sunday, September 9, at 12:15 p.m., in the fellowship hall. There are some important changes coming to our youth group. Please notify Kristii Daniel if you are able to attend or not.

New Life UMW Meeting - Monday, September 10, at 6:30 p.m., at the church. Hosted by Debra Johnson and Chris Cartagena.

United Methodist Men's Meeting - Monday, September 10, at 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall. All men are invited to attend.

Vintage Group Meeting - Thursday, September 13, at noon, in the fellowship hall. Sign up to bring your covered dish on the sheet on the information board.

Homecoming Honoring Hamp Stevens UMC Sunday, September 16, at both services. The Rev. Mark Sasser will be the guest preacher. Make your plans to attend now! If you would like us to invite family or friends, please provide an address to the church office. Please bring a covered dish to share. We will share a meal at noon.

Fellowship Hall Reserved - Friday, September 7, from 9 a.m. - noon and Friday - Saturday, September 28 & 29, all day.

Growing Christian UMW Meeting - Tuesday, September 18, 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall.

Reachers UMW Meeting - Tuesday, September 18, in the fellowship hall.

Wireless internet - Log on to the server Epworthchurch; Password - jesusyall.

"Like" Our Church on Facebook - Use your social network to share events at our church with family and friends.

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

Fred & Emilie Carswell	Blount King	Gladys Plant	Trudy Harris
Vanessa Desoto	Ron & Betty Sawyer	Thrower Family	Kitty Crockett
Sibyl Wells	Keri McElvey	Jackie Chambers	Kernodle Family
Judy Scanling	Barbara Watson	Joe Flynn	Lillian Wooldridge
Elsie & Jim Spanogians	Andrea Carbaugh	Glenn Griffin	Daniel Family
Anne Wilson	Jimmy Bridges	Rabon Family	Annette Taff

Extended Church Family

Steve & Carol Guilbeault	Michael Taff	David Olson	Doyle Adams
Dotty Baker	Ricky Clark	Robbins Family	Andrew Wade
Laurie Osteen	Preston Silvernail	Dora Spires	Willie Ryles
Judy Patterson	Cassie Prochaska	Billy Hill	Kim Jordan
Kristy Stier	Dorothy Ogg	Bruce Chapman	Amanda Hay
Marilyn Buck	Danny Chidester	Beth Goodwin	Luby Family
Henry Dunn	Adams Family	Ellen Pilgreen	Jessica Kelley
Ralph & Sandy McGough	Diane Wiggins	Stephanie Bryan	Robin Grantham
McDaniel Family	Hattie Campbell	Mark Oliver	Charles Holmes
Dana Thurston	Stan Hames	Garnett Shackelford	

Assisted Living/Nursing Homes/Homebound

Covenant Woods - Linda Coleman	River Place - Betty Cummings, Elizabeth Harbert, Jane Sanders
Magnolia Manor - Doris Halouska, Cammie Van Over	River Towne Center - Jerry Williams
Phenix City Health Care - Anne Whitehurst	The Lodge - Lorene Carlisle
	Wesley Glen (Byron, GA) - Nancy Hiller

(Please continue to pray for our homebound people. They would love a visit!)

If the prayer list needs to be updated, please call, email the church office or leave a note with updates. Help us minister effectively by calling the church office about yourself or a family member. Thank you for your help.

MISSIONS

August Mission Focus - Thank you Epworth! We collected 488 needed items for Wynnton Neighborhood Network surpassing our goal of 300.

September Mission Focus - Out of the Darkness Walk - The walk is Saturday, September 29, at Lakebottom Park, Columbus. To make donations or join the Epworth team, sign up online at <https://afsp.donordrive.com/Epworth> or on the information board. If giving through the church, mark your offering envelope, "Walk". If you would like to get involved, see Suzy Revell or Donna Faircloth.

Methodist Children's Home - needs the following items: body wash, bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs/brushes and socks. We will collect items through Sunday, September 2. Place items in the blue bin beside the mission cart. Thank you!

Charity Reimagined - You are invited to lunch and conversation with Robert Lupton, author of *Toxic Charity* and *Charity Detox*, on Thursday, September 6, from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Columbus Convention & Trade Center. Lunch \$10 per person. Purchase tickets at www.mercymedcolumbus.com.

The Methodist Home's Work Day Offering - September 9, at both services. This offering is a major funding source for the ministry.

Feeding Our Neighbors at Rose Hill UMC - on Tuesday, September 25. Preparations will begin at 5:00 p.m.; serving at 5:45 p.m. If you want more information about serving or helping to prepare the meal, contact Debra Johnson or Becky Britton.

Can Recycling - Leave aluminum cans outside the back kitchen door.

Vintage Group Fundraiser - We are taking orders for T-shirts (short- and long-sleeve) and sweatshirts. See the leader of your UMW, UMM group, Sunday school class or the display in the Whitehurst Welcome Center to place your order. For questions, contact Marjean Waters or Janie Nellums. Place your order by Sunday, September 30.

Medical Equipment Needed - We collect medical equipment for Epworth folks who may need such items. If you have any equipment, please consider donating. If you need to borrow any items, don't hesitate to give us a call. Our biggest need is shower chairs.

Epworth To-Do List - For a list of church projects the Trustees have identified as needing attention, please see the information board. If you are interested or have the necessary skills, contact John Daniel.

Bench Project from Recycled Plastic - Collect clean and free-of-metal caps and lids to obtain a bench for the playground. We are now collecting to make a second park bench. Place the caps in the container on the Mission Cart.

Volunteers Needed for Magnolia Manor - Rev. Vickie Scott, the chaplain at Magnolia Manor campus in Columbus, is seeking to increase the presence of United Methodist churches in our senior adult ministries. Contact Theresa Mullican if you are interested.

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 on our website. The tree is displayed in the narthex or you may see a picture online.

Calendar of Events

September Birthdays

Say a prayer and write a note...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service	3 Labor Day Office Closed 10:00a-Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting	4 10:30a-HIS Group UMW Meeting 6:30p-Youth Bible Study 6:30p-AA Support Group Meeting	5 6:00p-Wednesday Night Supper 6:00p-Praise Team 6:30p-Study-The Gathering 6:30p-Wacky Wednesday 7:00p-Choir Practice	6 12:00p-Prayer Team	7 9:00a-Fellowship Hall Reserved	8
9 Social Second Sunday Promotion Sunday 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service	10 6:30p-UMM Meeting 6:30p-New Life UMW Meeting	11 6:30p-Youth Bible Study 6:30p-AA Support Group Meeting	12 6:00p-Wednesday Night Supper 6:00p-Praise Team 6:30p-Study-The Gathering 6:30p-Wacky Wednesday 7:00p-Choir Practice	13 12:00p-Prayer Team 12:00p-Vintage Meeting	14	15
16 Homecoming Sunday 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service	17	18 6:30p-Youth Bible Study 6:30p-Growing Christians UMW 6:30p-AA Support Group Meeting	19 6:00p-Wednesday Night Supper 6:00p-Praise Team 6:30p-Bible Study 6:30p-Wacky Wednesday 7:00p-Choir Practice	20 12:00p-Prayer Team	21	22
23 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service	24	25 5:00p-Feeding Our Neighbors @ Rose Hill 6:30p-Youth Bible Study 6:30p-AA Support Group Meeting 7:00p-Reachers UMW Meeting	26 6:00p-Wednesday Night Supper 6:00p-Praise Team 6:30p-Bible Study 6:30p-Wacky Wednesday 7:00p-Choir Practice	27 12:00p-Prayer Team	28 9:00a-Fellowship Hall Reserved	29 9:00a-Fellowship Hall Reserved
30 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service						

- 3 Millard Wilson
- 5 Louise Patten
- 6 Tim Francisco
Stevie Jackson
- 8 Evans Cheraisi
Billy Stubbs
- 9 Helen Batastini
- 11 Earlene Gresham
- 13 Joe Macon
- 15 Susan Davis
Janice Tomlin
- 16 Jackie Weese
- 18 Glenn Griffin
Steve Pharris
- 19 Jason Conklin
Lillie Pope
Linda Smith
Jerry Williams
- 20 Natalie Morris
- 22 Michele Thurman
Steve Whittington
- 23 Kelley Conkle
- 25 Sandra Burns
Gracie Conkle
- 27 Jeanne Guilbeault
- 28 Stacey Pruett
Hayden Wilson
- 29 Audrey Kernodle

A Birthday Prayer

May God bless you today and each day that follows,
May you hear His voice and follow His footsteps,
Be comforted by His care and live in His grace now and forever, Amen.

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



Helping Hands Ministry

Sponsored by Epworth UMW

Are you living alone? Do you need someone to help you with replacing light bulbs? AC filters? Batteries in a smoke detector? Have you given up driving? Do you need a ride to the doctor? Grocery store? The local drug store?

Helping Hands Ministry just may be for YOU! Epworth's UMW will connect you with volunteers at Epworth to help you with these tasks. If you have questions, feel free to ask Becky Britton or Barbara Stubbs more about this new ministry for those who live alone.

Complete one of the forms at the bottom of this sheet if you want to be part of this ministry. Put the form in the collection plate, give it to Becky Britton or Barbara Stubbs personally or to Susan Snider in the church office.

Those who need HELP:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Those who will VOLUNTEER to help:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____