

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Eastminster Messenger

Heads, Hearts & Hands for Christ in Service & Celebration

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“The Hard of the Gospel”



It’s a commonly-held understanding that the greatest sermon ever preached is what we know as “The Sermon on the Mount” – the sermon preached by Jesus that is found in the fifth through seventh chapters of Matthew’s gospel. When we think of that sermon, we think of it being challenging, uplifting, insightful and comforting – which it is.

It can also be classified, though, in many other ways. It is at times confusing, discouraging, harsh and seemingly downright impossible! There are some teachings that just don’t seem to make any sense and others that leave us feeling hopeless and depressed.

The message of Jesus clearly wasn’t an easy message to hear or understand. If it was, we’d all be his faithful followers. That obviously wasn’t true during his lifetime and it’s obviously not true today.

Within that sermon, Jesus suggests actions and attitudes that defy understanding. Some of the most baffling deal with our relationships with one another – friend and foe alike.

Read Matthew 5:38-48 where we find “The Hard of the Gospel.”

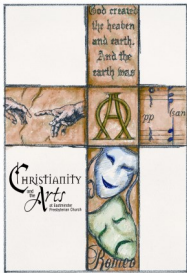
Blessings,
Dennis

Prayers & Concerns



Please pray for the following individuals:

Greg Ashby, Austin Smith, Steve Robinson, Jergen Hans, Barbara, Jane Williams, Susan Riley & Jill (Doerter) Brunton.



Christianity & the Arts Luther Lewis POSTPONED

Unfortunately, we’ve had a scheduling conflict with our Luther Lewis event and it will not be held as planned. We do hope to arrange a future date with Luther.

Our next event, however, is scheduled for Sunday, March 19 and it promises to be a unique and unforgettable experience with a “visit” from one of the most influential Christian writers and thinkers of the 20th century. Stay tuned for more information!

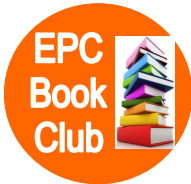
The Presbytery of Ohio Valley invites you to attend the installation of



Installation

The Reverend Tamara Recob
as Pastor of

Hemenway Memorial Presbyterian Church
124 E Sycamore Street, **Boonville**, Indiana,
on **Sunday, February 19th at 3:00 p.m.**



Please join us on Tuesday, February 28th at Noon at Western Ribeye for Book Club. We will be discussing Stephanie Dray’s book America’s First Daughter.

THIS SUNDAY IS
BRING A FRIEND TO
CHURCH AND STAY
FOR LUNCH SUN-
DAY! WE HOPE TO
SEE YOU ALL THERE!



Eastminster Staff

Anna Cantrell - Housekeeper
Kayla Cantrell - Nursery Worker
Dennis R. Davenport - Pastor
Emma Sue Davenport - Dir. of Christian Education
Mary Fulkerson - Office Manager
Trey Fulkerson - Youth Director
Marian LaChance - Housekeeper
Dennis Malfatti - Director of Music
Helen Skuggedal Reed - Organist

Church Office Hours

M - Th: 8:30 - 4:00 P.M.
Friday: 8:30 - Noon

Church Communication Lines

Phone#: 476-3355/Fax: 476-8755
Web: eastminsterchurch.com
Email: epc@epcevv.com
Webmaster: Nance Fiester
Sound Engineer: Ron Harper
Facebook Page Administrator: Tony McClees

Sunday, February 19, 2017

8:00 A.M. SERVICE

LITURGIST
Steve Fritz

USHER
Max Foley

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

LITURGIST
Steve Fritz

HEAD USHER
Mel Ellsperman

USHERS & GREETERS

Mel & Marilyn Ellsperman
Jo Chaddock & Sue Shelton
Pat, Jayne & Tracey Manis

ACOLYTE
Jacob Irmscher

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP LEADER
Annie Engelbrecht

2017 BUDGET UPDATE

Last week, our session met in a special meeting to approve our 2017 budget. As was indicated in information that was sent along with year-end giving statements, it was necessary to make reductions in all budget requests for the year.

Even with reductions in our personnel budget as a result of staff changes, we find ourselves short by \$20,000 of operating with a balanced budget. The session was reluctant to cut salaries or reduce our mission giving and we have approved a budget which represents that \$20,000 shortfall. We will operate on faith for the first several months of the year and then reassess our situation to determine what, if any, reductions are necessary.

Let us reiterate what was stated in our previous letter – *“Obviously we have many members who consider their financial commitment to the church a high priority – the ‘first fruits’ of all they receive. It is that level of commitment that has enabled us to become and remain such a vital force for good in our community.*

We are at a time, however, when we need EVERY member of our church family to be filled with that same level of commitment. We can no longer rely on only a few to carry others. We’re all in this together and only as we unite together in our financial support of the church will be able to continue to be as strong and vibrant as we’ve always been.”

As a result of that letter, we have had an encouraging response from several members and even a very generous contribution from former members. We have also received contributions to our per capita expense – the \$30 per member amount that we are required to contribute to our denomination. Please give prayerful consideration to making that extra contribution to your regular giving and also consider adjusting your commitment for 2017 to help alleviate our shortfall to prevent salary or mission reductions.

Call the church office if you’d like to make an addition to your 2017 commitment or if you’d like to simply offer a one-time additional contribution to support our operating budget. For your Per Capita contribution, simply designate it as such in the check memo line.



2016 Annual Reports will be available this Sunday, February 19, for your review. Please see Mel Ellsperman to get your copy.

Many dates are still available for Chancel Flowers. Please sign up for your special date(s). The calendar is located just outside the sanctuary door (piano side). Thank you!



Cupcakes and Ice Cream are needed at Vision 1505! Please see Jarid Shofstall to sign up or to get more information. Thank you!

EPW Kitchen/Rummage/Mission News

EPW has scheduled a “kitchen work day” for Monday, February 27, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Our church kitchen has multiple users and now and then, needs a bit of spiffing up and sorting out, so all willing hands are welcome that day. Many hands make the work light! Bring a brown bag lunch if you can stay all day, or come for any period of time your schedule allows. We’ll have fun and fellowship while we work together.



EPW is planning an early summer rummage this year and will begin accepting clean, lovingly used donations in the basement storage area. We appreciate all the support of the Eastminster family in the past and look forward to your support in carrying out this year’s sale. Watch this newsletter and weekly bulletins for details, updates and for opportunities to help prepare throughout the spring.



Don’t forget, we are still accepting donations for the women and children at House of Bread and Peace through Sunday, February 19th. Consumable toiletries, personal items and household goods may be placed in the baskets in the narthex. Let’s shower them with our love! Thank you for sharing Christ with our neighbors in need!



Christian Education

Eastminster Cherubs!

What great fun we have had for the past two Sundays as we tried to determine which member of our church family was portrayed in each of the 43 baby pictures on display!



There was a great deal of fun, laughter and fellowship as church members tried to determine the names of each baby.

How do you think you did? You can find out this Sunday before and following worship. The baby pictures will be on display for one more Sunday with nametags revealing which church family member they portray next to them.

Our thanks to Vickie Rauch for setting up the beautiful display and conducting our Eastminster Cherubs in such a fun manner. Don’t forget to take your picture home with you this Sunday following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.



Who is Eastminster’s Cutest Cherub ?
Sarah Karges!

Although every baby had more than one vote, and the voting was competitive, Sarah Karges clearly emerged as Eastminster’s Cutest Cherub! Sarah will be presented a Bible this Sunday during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

New Window Treatments To Brighten Our Classrooms!

Several of our Sunday School classrooms will be receiving new window treatments to update and brighten them. The changes will be happening gradually over the next several weeks. Our thanks to Cheryl Ison for being in charge of this project.



The Great Egg Caper is Coming Soon!

It is hard to believe but the Great Egg Caper isn’t that far away. Keep watching your newsletter for more details.

*How did YOU
help make
this boy smile?*



How did you give the gift of a smile to this young boy? By contributing your gift that was combined with others from our church family to provide a well. That means he and other children like him didn’t have to spend all day walking and carrying heavy water jugs to provide water for their families. Instead they could walk to the nearby village well and easily access all the clean, safe water the family would need for an entire day!

Eastminster has helped to build ten wells over the past nine years to bring safe drinking water to parts of the world where clean water was not previously accessible. Are we willing to build an eleventh one this year?



Our eleventh annual H2O project will kick off on Sunday, March 5 and will conclude Sunday, March 19. This is the first two weeks of Lent. We suggest you give up drinking any beverage but water during these first two weeks of Lent and offer the money you usually spend on drinks to help build a well that will help to put a smile on faces just like the one above.

It’s hard to have a bad day when you know you are helping transform the future economy, education, and health of an entire community just by making a small sacrifice that will help them get the safe water they need. Putting a smile on the face of someone in need of water will more than like put a smile on your face every time you think about it.

Our Memory Contest Begins Sunday, March 5!

Our Bible memory contest for children and youth begins Sunday March 5 and will conclude Sunday, April 9. Memory work will be heard in the children’s hallways following Sunday School



Memory books will be available this week for those needing them from your child’s Sunday School teacher or from Emma Sue Davenport.