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Eastminster Messenger

Heads, Hearts & Hands for Christ in Service & Celebration

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"The Big Picture"

"Life is difficult."

That's the opening line of a classic book written by M. Scott Peck. It's a line that is often included in lists of well-known opening lines of books. It's a simple line and one that isn't really terribly profound. We all know that to be true.

What makes the line memorable is simply the fact that it's the very first line of Peck's book *The Road Less Traveled*. Just two paragraphs later, he emphasizes his point by saying "Life is a series of problems." We all know that to be true as well. Some of us seemingly have more than others, but there's no denying the fact that life is a series of problems.

I think of all this as I read the story of Joseph in the Old Testament. If anyone had problems, it was Joseph! He had enough problems for nearly all of us! Somehow, though, things seemed to work out well for Joseph. He managed to get through his difficulties and emerge from them as a better person – perhaps even *because* of his difficulties.

Perhaps it's that last part that is most important. Without his difficulties and problems, things would have been quite different, not only for Joseph, but for his family and even the entire nation of Israel! It's that fact that makes our lectionary Old Testament lesson for this Sunday one of my two favorite passages in the entire Bible. For me, it's pretty much a toss-up between this passage and one that's found in the New Testament.

Read Genesis 50:15-21 and also read the corresponding Gospel lesson, Matthew 18:21-35 (not, by the way, my other favorite passage) as we seek to see "The Big Picture."

Blessings,
Dennis



Another Great Fall Kick-Off!

Our thanks to everyone who contributed to our Fall Kick-Off festivities last Sunday! We had a great turnout from those of every age group! Our thanks to all the adults who participated in our Worship Exploration Team's discussion groups. We had 9 groups with 6-7 in each one. The Team will be compiling the information as they continue their work. Please complete the questionnaire you received and return it to the church office.

Our thanks to Matt Fiedler who continues to serve as our Sunday School Superintendent. Matt diligently compiles all of our statistics each week.



Our ADULT CLASSES will begin this Sunday. Jim Van Cleave will again be leading the class that meets in Room 101, Dennis Davenport will be leading the class that meets in Room 203 and our "Young Adult" Class that has been faithfully led by Mike Lee will meet in Room 201. All three classes would love to welcome brand new members!



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

We will continue to receive donations to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program. In addition to aid being offered to victims of Hurricane Harvey, the program is now also making plans to be on the ground in Florida, offering assistance to those in need from the devastation of Hurricane Irma.



HABITAT INTERFAITH BUILD

There are still opportunities to work on the Habitat Interfaith Build. Siding dates are Saturday, September 16, Tuesday & Wednesday, September 19-20.

There is also a work day scheduled for Saturday, September 23. Call the church office or check Habitat's website (www.evansvillehabitat.org) to learn more about ways you can assist in building a house for first-time homeowners!

Sis. Joanna's Table



Thank you to everyone who showed up to work this past Saturday at Sis. Joanna's Table. A wonderful meatloaf meal was served to roughly 100 people. It's nice to see our church in action out in the community. If you would like to help with the next meal, see Chris Kuhs or call the office. The next meal will be served on Saturday, November 11 from 9-1:30.



Isaiah 58:10

Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from darkness, and the darkness around you will be bright as noon.



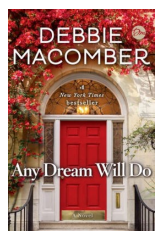
DON'T FORGET....We have gift cards!!! If you would like scrip cards and we don't have them on hand, please tell Donna what you want and she will put it on the list to be ordered.

Prayers & Concerns



Please pray for the following:

Sarah Yeager McKee, Barbara, Marilois Barker, Connie Nichols, Tracey Manis, the Stone Family, Elizabeth Keith Daughtery, Ken, Caitlynn Kelly, Mark, & Ginny Marvel.



The Parlor Book Club

On Wednesday, September 20, at Noon in the Church Parlor we will be hosting another book club. This month's selection is Any Dream Will Do by Debbie Macomber. Please feel free to bring a sack lunch with you if you like.



September's book selection is The Captain's Daughter by Meg Mitchell Moore. Everyone is welcome to join us at Western Ribeye on Tuesday, September 26th at noon for an hour of good food and great discussion!

Christian Education

May we introduce ...

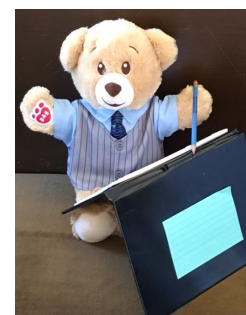
Presley the Presbyterian!

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to Presley the Presbyterian. He is the newest member of our Children's Worship program.



Presley is brand new to Christianity. He did not have the privilege of growing in the faith in a church family. Now he wants to know it all. Luckily he has the children in our Children's Worship program to help him grow in his faith.

Each week Presley will go home with a different child in our Children's Worship program where Presley will see first hand how to live a Christian lifestyle. Then the child will help Presley record in Presley's faith journal what he has learned for that week. During Children's Worship they will share with the other children the faith lesson that Presley learned during the week and if it was a successful week of Christian living.



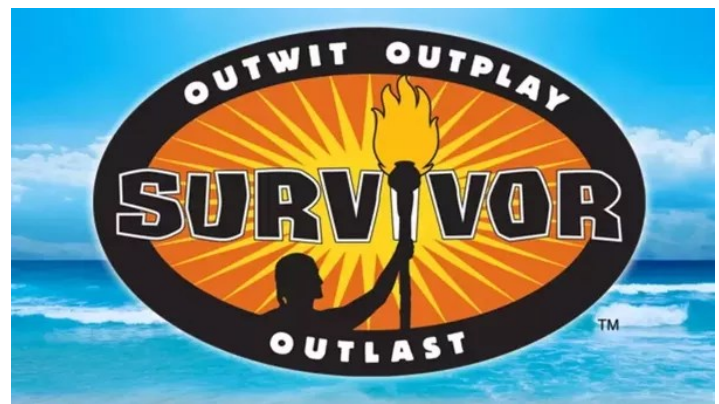
Don't be surprised to see Presley with a different child in worship each week. Our church children will be introducing Presley to all aspects of church membership and faith. Don't be offended if he doesn't get everything exactly right. Remember this is a training course in discipleship for our church children and Presley the Presbyterian. We are teaching our children how to be both welcoming and aware of what it takes to make someone feel comfortable in a family of faith.

Parents, when it is your child's turn to mentor Presley, please help your child think of ways to explain their faith to Presley and ways to help Presley grow in his faith. If you need ideas, see Annie Engelbrecht, a Sunday School teacher or member of the Christian Education Committee.

Church members, don't be surprised if Presley wants to meet you and shake your hand on Sunday morning. Better yet, you can take the initiative to meet Presley. Be welcoming as you would be to any new member. Our children will be depending on you to help make Presley feel welcome at Eastminster Presbyterian Church.



Presley is going to be a wonderful addition to our church family and help all of us focus on what it takes to help a new member feel welcome in our church family!



3rd—5th Grades to Learn Survivor Skills this year in Sunday School!

Our Third through Fifth grade Sunday School classes are going to get the unique opportunity to learn survival skills this year while they study men and women in the Bible who were Survivors in Faith.

Through a variation of the Survivor show our Third through Fifth grade class will be playing an ongoing game that will teach them the survivor skills that their assigned hero of the faith had to develop to successfully meet their particular challenges of life and to complete their walk of faith as a winner.

This is a complex series of lessons that will help our church children to really get to know their assigned hero of faith and will be a fantastic community building opportunity for the children at the same time.

Feel free to ask a Third to Fifth grader about their team or tribe and what they are studying.

It is going to be a great year of learning in our third to fifth grades!

THANK YOU S.S. TEACHERS!

Fantastic ideas for meaningful classes don't just "accidently happen." It takes dedicated men and women who spend hours praying and searching for the lessons and presentations that will be most meaningful for their classroom students. Many times the curriculum is written by the teachers each week and for younger children a craft is designed to reinforce these lessons.

We are so blessed at Eastminster to have men and women who are dedicated to leading groups of their church family in meaningful Bible study.

To each and every one of them we say THANK YOU for the year of learning and growth you are again willing to provide for your church family.

