

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Eastminster Messenger

Heads, Hearts & Hands for Christ in Service & Celebration

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December 18, 2017



Christmas Eve at Eastminster

This year we are presented with an unusual Christmas celebration. It's similar to last year and something we experience every seven years. Last year, with Christmas falling on Sunday, it was a different church experience for us and this year, with Christmas Eve being on Sunday, it will be different as well.

Our Sunday morning schedule on Christmas Eve will not be altered. We'll have our 8:00 worship, Sunday School at 9:00 and 10:30 service. That evening, we will have our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship at 7:00 PM.

Christmas Eve Morning "Nine Months in Nine Hours"

Our Christmas Eve lectionary gospel readings present us with a strange time configuration. There is a suggested reading for the morning and a suggested reading for the evening.

The morning reading is from the first chapter of Luke and it's really a prequel to the passage Trey used last Sunday. It's again a story about Mary, but prior to her visit to Elizabeth. It's the story of when it all began for this young woman (really a teen-age girl). What's fascinating is that it's the story of what we call The Annunciation – the "announcement" to Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God. Think about when that announcement would have taken place and then think about our worship on Sunday morning and then our worship that evening.

Read Luke 1:26-38 and think of the way in which we will, this Sunday, cover "Nine Months in Nine Hours."

Christmas Eve Candle Light Communion 7p.m. "The Guy on the Roof"

When our Worship Exploration Team was having conversation with the congregation regarding our feelings about worship, one of the questions that was asked at the small group gatherings was, "Tell about a particularly meaningful worship service at our church or another." The overwhelming majority of responses related to a Christmas Eve service either here or elsewhere.

We all look forward to Christmas Eve worship. There may be a variety of reasons for feeling as we do about being in church on Christmas Eve. For many, it's a time when out-of-town family members and friends gather together to worship. For others, it's a signal that all of the hustle-bustle of the season is nearing an end. Hopefully, for all of us, Christmas Eve represents the heart of our faith and everything that truly matters in life.

I sometimes wonder, though, if we live as if the event we celebrate on Christmas really does matter to us. Are we living as if God really has entered our world and is living in our midst?

Read Luke 2:1-20 as we ponder the meaning of the event we celebrate through the experience of "The Guy on the Roof."

Christmas Blessings,
Dennis



Sunday, December 31 Worship "New Year's Revolutions"

In the same way that Christmas Eve is different this year, so too, of course, is New Year's Eve. Since it's on Sunday, we'll all be in a "New Year's State of Mind." Read Revelation 21:1-6 where we find some good suggestions for "New Year's Revolutions."

New Year Blessings,
Dennis

Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24, 2017

8:00 A.M. SERVICE

LITURGIST **USHER**
Gary Van Zandt Tony McClees

ADVENT READERS
Kuhs Family

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

LITURGIST **HEAD USHER**
Gary Van Zandt Mel Ellsperman

USHERS & GREETERS
Pam Doerter & Team
Pat, Jayne & Tracey Manis

ACOLYTE
Tyler Kuhs

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADER
Annie Engelbrecht

ADVENT READERS
Hummel Family

FLOWER DEACONS
Deveta Miller & Anne Stallings

Eastminster Staff

Ashley Barnas - Nursery Worker
Anna Cantrell - Housekeeper
Dennis R. Davenport - Pastor
Mary Fulkerson - Office Manager
Trey Fulkerson - Youth/Pastoral Assistant
Marian LaChance - Housekeeper
Dennis Malfatti - Director of Music
Erin Tipton - Christian Ed Director

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
Sound Engineer: Ron Harper
Social Media Administrator: Tony McClees
Prayer Chain Captain: Leslie Webb



Youth office hours will be held on Thursday, December 21st from 4:30 until 7:00.

Youth group will be canceled
Christmas Eve, December 24th and January 31st

Don't forget...this Friday beginning at 5:00 p.m. we will be having the Jingle Bell Jam! All ages are welcome! There will be snacks, dancing, laser machines, and even a secret Santa gift exchange. This event will begin at 5:00pm and end at 8:00pm.

Youth Group Star Wars Party!

December 29th, time to be determined! We will meet at the church, enjoy some pizza, pretend to be Jedi Knights and then go to the movie theater to watch the new Star Wars film!



See you in The Place,
Trey



Christmas Joy Offering

The Joy Offering is designated to help those within the ministry who encounter unexpected needs or offer assistance for theological students to continue their education. This offering will be received this Sunday, December 24th. Please give generously so that our gifts may increase the joy for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Prayers & Concerns

Please pray for the following: Marian Bruggenschmidt, Marilois Barker, Austin Smith, Connie Nichols, Tracey Manis. If you have a prayer request, please contact Leslie Webb at epcprayers@gmail.com or contact the Church

Children's Christmas Pageant



Our deep appreciation is extended to Chris & Jenny Kuhs, Daniel Holden, Annie Engelbrecht, Cheryl Ison and everyone else who worked for several months to present the Best Christmas Pageant Ever!






December 24

8:00 AM:
Kuhs Family

10:30 AM:
Hummel Family

7:00 PM:
Irmischer Family



*The entire Eastminster staff
would like to extend
Happy Holiday wishes to
you and your family
as we celebrate
the birth of the Christ Child.*

*Dennis, Mary, Trey, Erin,
Marian, Anna
Dennis M, & Ashley*

The office will be closed next week. The next issue of the Messenger will be on January 3, 2018.

Christian Education

"Heads, Hearts and Hands For Christ in Service and Celebration"



A few illness reminders...

For the health and safety of the children and teachers in our Sunday School and Children's Worship programs, please make sure you follow a few simple rules. Please make sure kiddos are fever free for 24 hours before returning to church activities. Remember with tummy bugs that children need to be symptom free when attending activities (no diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours). It is the time of year for runny noses. We know that sometimes they can be caused by allergies, but children with a persistent runny nose accompanied by other symptoms such as a sore throat, cough, fever, watery eyes, etc. need to stay home and rest and return when they are feeling better. Thank you so much for your help and cooperation with this.



Summer Sunday School

I know what you are thinking. Why on earth is there a sunshine on the CE page and why are we talking Summer Sunday school already? Stay with me. I promise I have a point.

In a few short months it will be time to think warm, sunny thoughts and then it will be time for our combined adult Summer Sunday school classes. This year's theme is going to be *Summer In Psalms*. And, again, I know you are thinking why am I telling you now in December when we have plenty of time to talk about this later? Well, there happen to be 150 Psalms in the Book of Psalms. If you were to read one Psalm a day starting **January 4, 2018** until **June 3, 2018** (the starting date for Summer Sunday school), you would finish the book of Psalms!! 150 days. 150 Psalms. It could be part of your New Year's Resolutions or just a personal goal if you don't like making resolutions.

I encourage you to delve into these 150 Psalms and see if we, as a congregation, can keep this going until June. My youth pastor from high school told me once that I should think of my Bible like a textbook. I could underline things, make notes in the margins, and he was the first person I remember who gave me permission to WRITE in my Bible. I really didn't know that was okay until he said so. So, go ahead, write in your Bible. Buy a Bible if you don't have one or read the ones available for free from the convenience of your cell phone. Find your favorite Psalm. Underline favorite verses. Think about what makes it your favorite or least favorite? What confuses you? What challenges you? Research where the word Psalm comes from. Make notes in the margins. Figure out what the writer of the Psalm is saying in your own words. And remember to question, wonder why, and think about what the impact of the Psalm is in your season of life. Choose one or two and consider if you could give your thoughts on it for 15 minutes during summer Sunday school. Together, let's see where this leads. What do you say?



Memory Contest begins
mid-February!

*On behalf of the Christian Education Committee,
we wish you a Merry Christmas! We hope your
holidays are filled with hope, peace, joy and love as
we await the celebration of our Savior's birth.*

FREE Online Materials

The Presbyterian Church USA just made an e-book available for FREE that goes along with their Growing in Grace and Gratitude children's curriculum. It is geared toward children 5th grade and below for use at home. It has short passages that you and your children can listen to or read, short activities to do as a family and a prayer. You can find it at www.pcusa.org. Click on the News and Announcements and follow the links in the article entitled "A Gift to the Church: Growing in Grace and Gratitude Resources." Or try this direct link—<http://www.growinggracegratitude.org/for-the-home.html> and if you use it, please let me know what you think!!

