

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Eastminster Messenger

Heads, Hearts & Hands for Christ in Service & Celebration

Volume 34, Issue 06

February 13, 2018



First Sunday in Lent “Beasts & Angels”

This Sunday is the first Sunday of the season we call Lent. It finds its name from a word that means “lengthening of days” or, spring.

Lent is the period of time between Ash Wednesday (February 14 this year) and Easter (April 1 this year). It lasts 40 days, not counting Sundays.

40 is a significant number in the Bible. Think of its importance in the Old Testament. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights during the Flood. Moses spent 40 days on Mt. Sinai. The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years.

In the New Testament, Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days during the period of temptation after his baptism. This is the 40 that is most significant as we consider the 40 days of Lent. We commemorate that time in the wilderness when Jesus was tempted and challenged. That’s why Lent is considered a time of introspection, a period of 6 weeks when we’re called to reflect upon our own lives and the way in which we find ourselves challenged and tempted. We’re called to reflect on the way in which Jesus made it through that difficult time and emerged better prepared to carry out his divine mission.

The season of Lent always begins with a look at this story – the temptation of Jesus. Interestingly, when we look at it in Mark’s gospel, it’s significantly different from what we find in Matthew and Luke. With the time we’re spending in Mark, we’re becoming accustomed to his quick-paced approach to everything and this story is no different. To read Mark’s account, you might conclude that the time Jesus spent in the wilderness lasted about 40 minutes instead of 40 days!

Read Mark 1:5-9 where Mark tells us that, in the wilderness with Jesus, there were both “Beasts & Angels.”

Lenten Blessings,
Dennis

Assembly Night



Due to Valentine’s Day, Assembly Night has been moved to Wednesday, February 21st. Please be sure to reserve your spot on the reservation form located in the Narthex if you plan on attending and eating at 6 p.m.. Thank you!



CHURCH DIRECTORIES

2018 directories will be available this Sunday, February 18th. Be sure to see Mark Nicholson or Mel Ellsperman that day to get your copy.



EPC T-SHIRTS FOR SALE!

What a great way to support your church...wear one of these great t’s! If you would like a t-shirt the cost is \$15 each. T’s are located in the Narthex. See Donna or Trey to get yours. All proceeds benefit the Community & World Missions Committee.

Thank you for your support!



Prayers & Concerns

Please pray for the following: Roland Small & family, Janet, Bob Gudgel, Austin Smith, Marian Bruggenschmidt, Tracey Manis, Connie Nichols, Pam, Marilois Barker, Donna Davis, Chris Hoefling’s friends & family, Carol Palmer & Marilyn Ellsperman. If you have a prayer request, please contact Leslie Webb at epcprayers@gmail.com or contact the Church Office.



Eastminster Staff

Anna Cantrell - Housekeeper
Dennis R. Davenport - Pastor
Mary Fulkerson - Office Manager
Trey Fulkerson - Youth/Pastoral Assistant
Marian LaChance - Housekeeper
Rachel Luttrull - Organist
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

Sunday, February 18, 2018

8:00 A.M. SERVICE

LITURGIST **USHER**
Gary Van Zandt Tony McClees

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

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

USHERS & GREETERS
TBA

Pat, Jayne & Tracey Manis

ACOLYTE
Addison Fritz

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP LEADER
Annie Engelbrecht



Office hours will be held on Thursday from 4:30 until 7:00 p.m. Just a reminder to any youth attending, snacks and drinks will be available for purchase and all proceeds will go toward funding for the mission trip this July!



This Sunday at Youth Group we will be discussing prayer. In particular, the effect prayer has on our life. Does God hear some prayers and not others? Or, does God hear them all and sometimes say "no"? We are going to learn about how there is more to prayer than just listening and answering. This will be followed by fun and fellowship.

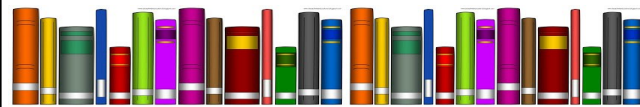
See you in The Place,
Trey



Gemini Camp will be June 10 - 15 this year. It is open to kids entering 4th grade thru 12th grade. Camp packets should go out this month. If you are interested in attending or volunteering, please see Sabrina Holden for info. Thank you!



Sympathy is extended to Jenny Kuhs and family in the death of Jenny's father, Steven Hess, who passed away on February 7, 2018.



The Parlor Book Club

Join the Parlor Book Club on Wednesday, February 21, at noon to discuss The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows.

Everyone is invited!

The Tuesday Book Club

Join the Tuesday Book Club at Western Ribeye on Tuesday, February 27, where we will discuss The Woman in the Window by A.J. Finn. Everyone is invited!



EPW NOTES



Are you reorganizing and de-cluttering in 2018? Remember our EPW rummage welcomes your clean, gently used items. Bring items to the church basement for sorting and pricing; we'll make arrangements for large item pick-up or delivery the week prior to the sale. Watch the *Messenger* for dates when we'll be sorting and pricing and your chance to help, or contact Marlene Huffaker with questions. Your donations support our mission projects. Reminder: no adult clothing, t.v.'s, or electronics of any kind will be accepted.



Christian Education

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

Summer in Psalms Reading Schedule

Psalm 1:2 Instead, his delight is in the LORD's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.

February 12-Psalm 40

February 13-Psalm 41

February 14-Psalm 42

February 15-Psalm 43

February 16-Psalm 44

February 17-Psalm 45

February 18-Psalm 46

No pressure! Just catch up as you are able to. Keep on keeping on!



Memory Contest to begin FEBRUARY 18, 2018

Please let us know if you need a book for the memory contest. We know many people save them from year to year, but we are happy to give you a new book if you need one. Patti Garcia, Gordon Wiley, Suzette Fritz and Cheryl Ison are our dedicated listeners this year! When you are ready to recite, just let them know! Let's make it a great year.



I tried to write a sappy Valentine message, but this is what came out of me. Maybe you will forgive me?

I have spent the past week begging my boys to tell me what kind of valentines they wanted to pass out at school. Neither Evan nor Adam would commit to anything. At 10 years old, Adam is apparently too old for character valentines and Evan doesn't know to care just yet. Owen got Valentines in his McDonald's Happy Meal last week and he is perfectly happy using those for his preschool valentines. Or maybe I am perfectly happy using those!!

It is funny how things change over time. Adam and I used to make handmade Valentines every year. We even did it when he first went to elementary school. I enjoyed it so much, but I think I cared more about it than he did. In some ways, as terrible as this sounds and I don't even want to write it, I liked to be the mom who sent in handmade valentines. Like somehow that earned me a gold 'mom' star. But, now I am older and wiser (maybe). And, as an older and somewhat wiser mom, I went to a lovely store that sells all sorts of perfectly lovely valentines in lovely boxed sets. I bought candy valentines for Adam and Ninja Turtle valentines for Evan and I was done. No cutting. No gluing. Nothing. Are they good enough? Sure they are. Am I? Now that is the question that begins the internal debate.

I am hard on myself. I always have been. I expect perfect out of myself, but even God knows that my expectations are unrealistic. 2 Corinthians 12: 9 says "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." If I allow myself to be vulnerable and tell you that the handmade valentines were more about me, than about my kids showing love to their friends, does that make me a bad mom? A bad person? No. Certainly not. It makes me human. Sin is a weakness for all of us, but God grants us grace and thank goodness for that because we all need God's grace. And just as God is gracious with us, we must be compassionate to ourselves and others because we are all imperfect.

My hope for you and me and everyone this Valentine's Day is that we are able to show the love of God to all, even ourselves. And, if you are like me, and a little bit hard on yourself, I hope you rest in the knowledge that God can work with weaknesses and even make something lovely come from them.