

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5501 Washington Avenue
Evansville, IN 47715

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Eastminster Messenger

Heads, Hearts & Hands for Christ in Service & Celebration

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PASTOR

"Invisible Fences"

We've never had one, but I know many of you have. Invisible fences enable you to keep your dog in your yard without erecting a fence. From what I understand, once the dog has learned that it can't go beyond a certain point, it doesn't matter if the fence is operating or not. He's learned where the barriers are supposed to be and he won't venture any further.

In the book of Acts, there's a long and extremely important story that addresses the same idea but in a nearly opposite fashion. Peter had an encounter with someone named Cornelius – an encounter that forced Peter to take a long, hard look at the fences he had erected in his own life. These fences weren't used for the purpose of keeping someone *in*, but rather, out of a desire to keep someone *out*.

For Peter, that meant anyone who didn't fit his brand of faith. He wasn't alone, though. Virtually everyone else who had a similar background felt the exact same way. There were those you allowed inside and those who simply didn't belong. It was simply the way things were and no one ever really considered the possibility of being wrong about such exclusionary thinking.

But all of that changed for Peter when he experienced a vision that challenged him as he had never been challenged before. It's one of the most fascinating stories in the entire Bible and one that is vitally important to our faith. It's an experience that changes, not only Peter, but our entire Christian faith.

I suggest you read the whole thing – Acts 10:1-11:18 and this Sunday, we'll be centering on Acts 10:34-48 where we find Peter being forced to take a different look at his "Invisible Fences."

Blessings,
Dennis

YOUTH GROUP Talent Show Huge Success



Eastminster Youth Orchestra
being conducted by Rachel Luttrull

This past weekend Eastminster held its first ever talent show. The talent show was a success both in terms of great performances and in generating money for the youth attending the SYI Mission Trip. A big thank you goes out to everyone who came to watch, but an even bigger thanks goes to the 19 performers who made it all possible!

Office hours: Thursday, 4:30 - 7:00 P.M.

This week at Youth Group we will be taking a look at the complicated method of payment found in Mathew 17:27 as well as preparing for the Mothers Day service. I Hope to see you there at 6:00 P.M.

See you in The Place,
Trey



"Do you speak a different language?"

If so, the worship and music committee would love your help for a special reading during the worship service on Pentecost Sunday. Please see Shannon Irmischer, Dennis, or any of the members of the committee.



Communion Sunday, May 6, 2018

8:00 A.M. SERVICE

LITURGIST **USHER**
Donna Cooke Pam Stevens

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

LITURGIST **HEAD USHER** **ACOLYTE**
Donna Cooke Mel Ellsperman Garrett Ferguson

USHERS & GREETERS

TBA
Steve Fritz, Pat & Jayne Manis

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADER

Gorden Wiley

COMMUNION ELDERS

Pam Doerter
Gary Van Zandt
Corey Fritz
Marilyn Ellsperman
Dick Yeager
Ralph Frasier
Gary Pennington
Annie Engelbrecht

Eastminster Staff

Mike 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

First Quarter Budget Report

Although we received more income in January than spent, our income was down in February & March. Therefore, for the quarter we have spent \$22,000 more than we have taken in. If this trend continues we may have to make adjustments to our budget. We encourage everyone who is able to keep their pledge current.

DESCRIPTION	Year to Date Income	Year to Date Budget
INCOME	87,332.73	100,246.53
DESCRIPTION	Year to Date Expenses	Year to Date Budget
Administrative Expenses	23,881.73	12,789.51
Building & Maintenance	15,710.13	14,750.04
Christian Education	401.67	1,749.99
Small Groups	0.00	225.00
Worship & Music	1,465.00	1,500.03
Community & World Missions	8,693.98	8,613.48
Outreach	0.00	150.03
Youth	1,515.98	725.01
Personnel	58,285.77	59,743.50
Expenses	109,954.26	100,246.59
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	(\$22,621.53)	

EPW Rummage News

Sorting and pricing of rummage items take place in the church basement Thursday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 PM each week. Many hands make light work, so all volunteers are welcome. We are still accepting clean, gently used items, but no adult clothing, shoes, or electronics please. If you have large (furniture) items to be picked up, contact Marlene Huffaker for arrangements the week of June 11th.



The Seekers Bible Study is every Monday night at 6 p.m. being led by Barb Ferguson & Emma Sue Davenport. Newcomers are always welcome. Please join us! If you have questions, contact the church office.

Prayers & Concerns

Please pray for the following:
Austin Smith, Tracey Manis & Conor Chapman. If you have a prayer request, please contact Leslie Webb at epcprayers@gmail.com or contact the Church Office.



Ladies, join us for a night of fun and fellowship on Tuesday, May 8, at 6:15 p.m. at Outback Steakhouse. We hope to see you there!

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.

April 30-Psalm 117

May 1-Psalm 118

May 2-Psalm 119

May 3-Psalm 120

May 4-Psalm 121

May 5-Psalm 122

May 6-Psalm 123

Less than 30 days and 30 Psalms to GO!!!



Children's Worship Schedule

May 6—Gordon Wiley

May 13—Sabrina Holden

May 20—Beth Bailey

May 27—Erin Tipton

Upcoming Events

4/8/18-5/20/18 H2O Project

5/20/18 Harrison High School

Baccalaureate

6/3/18 Summer Sunday School

begins

6/17/18-6/21/18 Shipwrecked VBS

Story Time

Two weeks ago on Friday was a gorgeous day and I let our two chickens, Heihei and Hermione, out of their coop for the afternoon. They were making crazy clucking noises and I could tell they were saying, "Let us out to wander around on this beautiful day." And, now, you are thinking that I spend entirely too much time talking to and thinking about what chickens think. Oh, believe me, I know! Before I left to go pick up Owen from preschool, I tried to shake the bag of scratch grain and get them back in their coop. They were having none of it. NONE! They wouldn't come near me. I left to pick up Owen and prayed that no other animal would think they were a tasty treat.

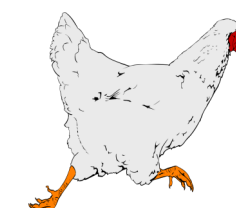
Not knowing what else to do, I prayed as I somewhat angrily tromped through the woods...God, I don't know if you are in the chicken business, but please, help us find these chickens that we love for some reason. And, if possible, maybe no ticks for me and Adam after our trek through the woods? After more searching through our neighbor's woods, we found our rogue chickens and shooed them back to our property. We got Hermione out of the woods and shook the bag of scratch grain and got her back safely in the coop. Then Heihei (whose name means disturbance or interruption from the norm) took off again. Insert an audible sigh and eye roll here. The disruption from the norm was really disconcerting to me. Adam went chasing after her again and I texted Dan to look for the chicken on his way down our road on his way home from work.

When I got home the chickens were still out wandering around in the woods near their coop. They were heading toward our neighbor's property, though, and I knew they needed to head back toward our house. Off I tromped through the woods to shepherd the chickens back toward our property. By the time the boys got off the bus, the chickens had wandered onto the neighbor's property. I enlisted Adam's help and knocked on our neighbor's door to let them know our chickens had wandered onto their property and we were trying to catch them. We chased those crazy chickens all over the place. Across the neighbor's porch, between their cars, through their flower beds. It was quite literally a high speed chase.

I thought to myself that my prayer was the silliest prayer I have ever prayed. It seemed rather self-serving and not the prayer that God would want to hear with all of the hurt in the world. But, for me, God uses nature and the natural world to get me to practice relying on Him. God even uses my chickens, my dog, butterflies, Eastern Bluebirds, wild turkeys, deer, my favorite Pileated Woodpecker, little lizards, and wildflowers, that remind me to be grateful for the beauty of Creation and all its creatures.

Long story short, we found the chicken. Dan got home and hadn't seen the chicken on his way home, but as he headed off to baseball with Evan he saw none-other than Heihei in a ditch at the side of the road just casually perusing the local insect and plant selections. He jumped out grabbed her, put her in the truck on Evan's lap and told him to hold on to her. He brought her home and I am happy to report that Heihei is home and won't be roaming anytime soon. Even in these small seemingly insignificant moments, our Creator is gently nudging me to remember He is in all things...even the chicken business.

On Tuesday as I was getting ready for work the Parable of the Lost Sheep popped into my mind. Do you remember that story from Luke 15? Jesus says imagine you have 100 sheep and you lose one. Don't you leave the 99 sheep to look for one? And my epiphany was that God is in the chicken business! Maybe not the physically in my lost chicken story, but the lost chicken or sheep or child in all of us that needs to



better rely on God's grace and goodness. If God is in the sheep business, certainly he is in the chicken business, too!



VBS REGISTRATION FORM

Child's Name: _____

Gender ___ Child's Age: ___ Date of Birth _____

Last School Grade Completed _____

Name of Parent(s) _____

Address: _____

Home Telephone: () _____

Cell Phone: () _____

Email Address: _____

Home Church: _____



(for church use only)

Crew number or name: _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to Child: _____

