

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
5501 Washington Avenue  
Evansville, IN 47715

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# Eastminster Messenger

Heads, Hearts & Hands for Christ in Service & Celebration

Volume 34, Issue 26

July 3, 2018



From the Pulpit

## “Never Say Die”

The late poet Charles Bukowski once said "Optimism loses wars." Anyone familiar with Bukowski knows he was a man of great pain and cynicism. Much of this was brought on by his eclectic past of failures and mistakes that he almost had to go out of his way to make. This led him to view the world as a painting worthy of nothing more than burning.

It is far too often that we allow ourselves to view our past through a pair of negative lenses. This ultimately leads us to fall in love with our sorrow to the point that lugging around anxiety and frustration becomes the norm. This is what happened to Elijah.

The plan Elijah felt God had wasn't working the way he thought it was supposed to. The prophets were dead and he was being hunted. He gave up, praying to God for death. Eventually, God appeared through a performance of divine intelligence speaking to Elijah and never mentioning the past. Elijah had given up, but God had not.

Far too often we acknowledge the parts we messed up or how bad things are, but how often do we recognize the moments where God kept us from sinking? During your time of personal study this week I encourage you to read 1 Kings 19:1-18. Allow this story of Elijah to remind you that no matter how bad it gets, God didn't make you to be alone, and he will never leave you that way.

Blessings,  
Trey

## Prayers & Concerns

**Please pray for the following:** The Webb family, Max Foley, Hadrian & Robby, Jordan Whalen, Tid Turner, Michael, Kristen, Conner Chapman. If you have a prayer request, please contact Leslie Webb at [epcprayers@gmail.com](mailto:epcprayers@gmail.com) or contact the Church Office.



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR ALANNA KEENAN!

Last week, upon a recommendation from our Personnel Committee, acting upon a recommendation for our Music Director Search Committee, our session voted to hire Alanna Keenan as our new Music Director.

Alanna is a recently tenured faculty member in the University of Evansville Music Department. For the past five years, she has served as the soprano section leader in our Chancel Choir. Alanna has extensive knowledge of church/choir music literature from traditional to contemporary styles, and she is an experienced church choir director who has served as choir director for several Catholic and Protestant church choirs before coming to Evansville to teach at UE.

As the Music Director Search Committee met with Alanna and observed her as she directed the Eastminster choir at a special rehearsal arranged for that purpose, they were extremely impressed with the manner in which she effectively directed the choir in singing two contrasting hymns and a choir anthem.

The interview with Alanna following the rehearsal exceeded the committee's highest expectations in terms of Alanna's background, creative ideas and commitment to taking on the position.

Alanna will begin serving as Music Director in August after she returns from the new York State Summer School of the Arts where she teaches each year during July.

## Eastminster Staff

Mike Cantrell - Housekeeper  
Dennis R. Davenport - Pastor  
Mary Fulkerson - Office Manager  
Trey Fulkerson - Youth/Pastoral Assistant  
Alanna Keenan - Director of Music  
Marian LaChance - Housekeeper  
Rachel Luttrull - Organist  
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](http://eastminsterchurch.com)  
Email: [epc@epcevv.com](mailto:epc@epcevv.com)  
Sound Engineer: Ron Harper  
Social Media Administrator: Tony McClees  
Prayer Chain Captain: Leslie Webb

## Sunday, July 8, 2018

### 8:00 A.M. SERVICE

**LITURGIST**  
Tony McClees

**USHER**  
Matt Fiedler

### 10:30 A.M. SERVICE

**LITURGIST**  
Patti Garcia

**HEAD USHER**  
Mel Ellsperman

**USHERS & GREETERS**  
The Youth  
Steve Fritz, Pat & Jayne Manis

**ACOLYTE**  
Jacob Irmscher





## Office Hours Thursday from 4:30 - 7:00 PM

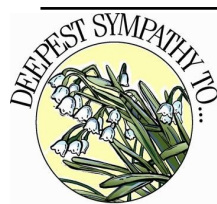
Youth group will be held this Sunday from 6:00 until 8:00 where we will be studying Luke 15:8-10 about the parable of the lost coin. This will be followed by a fun game and an opportunity for fellowship.

I hope to see you in the Place,



## JUST A REMINDER!

If you are having an upcoming surgery and will be hospitalized or if you are admitted to the hospital, please be sure the church office is contacted. It is also helpful to know when you are released.



Sympathy is extended to Madonna Smith in the death of her grandson, Austin Smith, who passed away on June 29, 2018.



A big thank you goes out to Roland Small for sharing "Echoes" with us again this past Sunday.



## Who is invited to Loaves & Fishes?

Everyone is invited to Loaves & Fishes.

## What is Loaves & Fishes?

Loaves and Fishes is a dinner group with time for fellowship.

## When & Where is Loaves & Fishes?

Usually there are 8 individuals in a group, couples & singles will be joined to make 8 total in the group. Once groups have been formed, information will be provided to all group members such as names, phone numbers, & e-mails. The first "host(s)" will be asked to call or e-mail members in their group to set a date, time, & place that works for everyone for the first meal along with requests for allergies (food or pet). Some may have the group of 8 join together to put a meal together in their home, while others may choose to have the group meet for dinner at a restaurant, it's completely up to you.

At the first meal, someone will agree to be the second host and follow this same procedure throughout the four months. A different member will host the group each month during the next 4 months.

## Why Join Loaves & Fishes?

The purpose of Loaves & Fishes is to share a meal and spend an evening getting to better know others we worship with in our church. There is no agenda, just an evening of fellowship and food. Fun! Food! Fellowship!!!

## How do I Join Loaves & Fishes?

If you would like to be part of a group please contact Karla Horrell by July 29, 2018

by e-mail at [kczhorrell@aol.com](mailto:kczhorrell@aol.com)

or by phone at 812-476-5641.

Groups will be formed and notified by September 1, 2018.

# Christian Education

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

## July 8th Sunday school leaders...

**Preschool—Annie Engelbrecht**

**K-2nd—Gordon Wiley**

**3rd-5th—Beth and Brian Bailey**

**Middle/High School—Trey Fulkerson**

**Adults—open**

**Children's Worship—open**



## The Flag Ceremony

With the 4<sup>th</sup> of July upon us, and as Dan and I establish traditions for our family, I sometimes wonder if we will ever make a tradition as memorable as The Flag Ceremony. My grandfather, Pop Muckley, was a World War II veteran. He was in the Navy and was a Yeoman on an LST. He believed in commitment, service to others, and the value of teaching me and my cousins about honoring God and country.

A Flag Ceremony sounds very grand, doesn't it? It sounds well-planned and very formal, right? He was in the Navy after all. It would make sense that it was a crisp and clean ceremony full of pomp and circumstance. I would guess that in your mind you have pictured all the participants decked out in their best red, white and blue and waving their small American flags. I assure you, the flag ceremony was not that grand. But, I think that is what made it all the better. The attire for flag ceremonies varied, but included many sopping wet kids, teenagers and adults clothed in pool towels and bathing suits. And, now, you are wondering why it was called a ceremony, I'm sure.

The order of events for a Flag Ceremony were as follows...picture a bunch of kids swimming in the pool, splashing and just enjoying a carefree afternoon. My grandfather would come out of the house and yell that it was time for a flag ceremony. We would all groan when he said it. But, every one of us would get out of the pool (or our parents would drag us out). We would wrap up in towels and assume our place in line as my grandfather marched us around the yard to eventually form a circle around the flag pole in the front yard. A bunch of sopping wet kids and maybe adults, too, hoping that no one drove by to witness the ceremonious event. We recited the Pledge of Allegiance and then sang God Bless America, America the Beautiful or the Star Spangled Banner and then were dismissed to resume our splashing and fun in the pool.

I think back on these memories now and smile. I also chuckle and roll my eyes, as I am guessing my sisters and cousins do, too. How goofy we must have looked marching around the yard wet heads, goggles, towels, etc? So what was the lesson, I wonder?

I think my grandfather's goal was to instill respect and gratitude for God and country and the freedoms we enjoy. But, I also learned some other more subtle lessons, as well. I learned that ceremonies don't have to have fireworks or pomp and circumstance. Ceremonies can be small, informal, and impromptu. Ceremonies don't require a formal printed program or formal attire. They do, however, require hearts and minds willing and open to celebrating with joy and thanksgiving.

My grandfather, Glenn N. Muckley, lived 83 years. In those years, he taught by example from flag ceremonies to taking us as he delivered Christmas baskets and Thanksgiving meals. We also used to drive all over Southern Illinois collecting the change from the Lion's Club Mint boxes set up in fast food restaurants. He would explain as he drove that the money was used to help people afford their glasses they would otherwise not be able to pay for. He planted the seeds of service in all of the lives that he touched and I am so grateful to him for all of the lessons he taught. It is my hope that you celebrate this 4th of July with joy and thanksgiving and with remembrance of those who protect the freedom we enjoy today.

Erin

