

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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Evansville, IN 47715

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# Eastminster Messenger

Heads, Hearts & Hands for Christ in Service & Celebration

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FROM THE



PASTOR

Secular Christmas Songs, Books & Movies That Speak to the Soul

## “Someday at Christmas”

We (read “I”) have had so much fun over the past two summers looking at secular songs, books and movies that speak to the soul, that I thought it might be equally fun to do so at Christmas. We’ll try it this year, but obviously the series won’t be as long. In fact, rather than 4 of each, we’ll use just one.

Admittedly, this will be a bit more challenging because of the confinements of the theme and the necessity of finding something that will fit properly with the scripture passages we’d like to use during the Advent season.

On December 2, 9 and 23, we’ll look at a song, a book and a movie that has a connection to Christmas but isn’t necessarily completely religious in its origin. It would be easy to come up with some good candidates for such a series if we wanted to take the easy way out and use the obvious choices.

For example, when it comes to songs, we’ve got nearly 20 favorite Christmas hymns in our hymnal. With movies, there would be the obvious choice with “It’s a Wonderful Life.” Dickens’ A Christmas Carol would be the choice when it comes to books.

Let’s not take the easy way out, though. Let’s look at a song, a book (or story) and a movie that may not immediately come to mind when thinking of a theme such as this.

This Sunday, as we consider a Secular Christmas Song That Speaks to the Soul, it was an easy choice for me – a song that has been my favorite Christmas song since it was first recorded in 1966.\* Read an Old Testament lectionary reading for the first Sunday of Advent – Isaiah 2:1-5 – as we consider our hopes for “Someday at Christmas.”

Advent Blessings,  
Dennis

\*Actually, it now stands at #2 with Will Mattingly’s “It’s Christmas” being my favorite.

*The following is information that was shared at the conclusion of the 10:30 worship service this past Sunday. As we look ahead, I promise we will keep you well-informed of where we stand in terms of all the exciting changes you will be experiencing in the months ahead.*

### “THE END OF THE BEGINNING - STARTS NOW!”

I had nearly completed this morning’s sermon before I recognized its appropriateness to an exciting announcement I have the privilege of sharing with you this morning.

We have come to “the end of the beginning” in the life of this congregation. This morning, I shared with our session something that I had shared earlier this week with only a limited number of people – all of them by virtue of their role -our staff, our clerk of session & the executive presbyter & moderator of our presbytery.

As I share this news, I do hope you will be excited about it – but only appropriately so. For those who may be so inclined, I urge you to resist loud “amens,” fist bumps & high five’s with those who share a pew with you this morning.

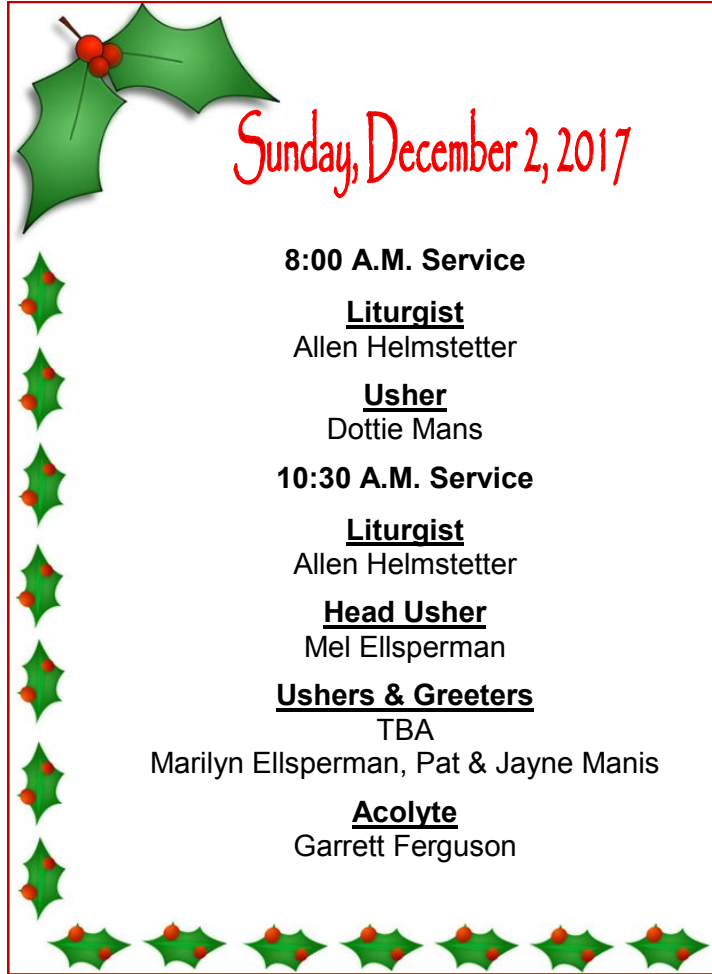
It is time for a new beginning here at Eastminster in terms of pastoral leadership. It is time for me to retire – and, again, for those inclined – no “amens,” fist bumps or high five’s because it will not be as immediate as you may wish it to be. I will be with you until the beginning of March with my final Sunday as your pastor being February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Enough about the end – now, for the beginning. A representative of the presbytery committee on ministry will be meeting with the session in early December & you will quickly begin looking at the next steps that stand before you. In January, you will hopefully be moving the process along as quickly as possible.

This is a good time for exciting news such as this – the end of one church year & the beginning of another. We stand today at “the end of the beginning.”

Now, for those of you who have - over the years -indicated that you wanted me to preside at your Service of Witness to the Resurrection – I’ve given you 3 months warning so you’d better get on with it – or, I assume, re-adjust your wishes!

Blessings,  
Dennis



*Sunday, December 2, 2017*

### **8:00 A.M. Service**

#### Liturgist

Allen Helmstetter

#### Usher

Dottie Mans

### **10:30 A.M. Service**

#### Liturgist

Allen Helmstetter

#### Head Usher

Mel Ellsperman

#### Ushers & Greeters

TBA

Marilyn Ellsperman, Pat & Jayne Manis

#### Acolyte

Garrett Ferguson

### 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  
Email: epc@epcevv.com  
Sound Engineer: Ron Harper  
Social Media Administrator: Tony McClees  
Prayer Chain Captain: Leslie Webb



## Eastminster Gathering Wednesday, December 5, at Noon



Please join in the EPW December Gathering! Our gathering will include games, snacks and entertainment by Donna Cooke, harpist. We will be having a cookie/candy exchange. Please bring 1-2 dozen cookies or candy to share with all. All women are cordially invited! Please invite a friend to bring along for this gathering. If you plan to attend, please contact the church office at 812/476-3355 by Monday, December 3rd.

## Poinsettias

Poinsettia orders are now being taken. The cost is \$12 each. Payment must accompany your order!

Yes, I would like \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s)

In memory/honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up my poinsettia(s) \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Deacons are greatly in need of donations of food and supplies for their Christmas baskets and there are only two more weeks left to contribute!!!

The greatest need: paper products -- Toilet tissue, paper towels and napkins. Did you forget to take an Angel from the Angel Tree? You can still make a donation for that purpose in order for the Deacon's funds to stretch further.

### Manger Scene Extravaganza -Small Groups

Join us on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, with the church bus leaving the Eastminster parking lot at 7:30 a.m. We will be going to Trinity Lutheran Church in Darmstadt. They are having an all you can eat pancake breakfast including pancakes, sausage & fruit for a freewill offering. Trinity's Men's & Women's choir and instruments will be playing and singing sacred & secular music beginning at 8:00 a.m., and nativity scenes to be viewed from 7a.m. to 5p.m. Call the church office to sign up for this outing.



just a  
..... note .....

His phone rang in church by accident. The Pastor scolded him. The Worshippers admonished him after prayers for interrupting the silence. His wife kept on lecturing him on his carelessness all the way home. You could see the shame, embarrassment and humiliation on his face. He never stepped foot in the church again. That evening, he went to a bar. He was still nervous and trembling. He spilled his drink on the table by accident. The waiter apologized and gave him a napkin to clean himself. The janitor mopped the floor. The female manager offered him a complimentary drink. She also gave him a huge hug and a kiss while saying, "Don't worry man. Who doesn't make mistakes?" He has never stopped going to the bar since then.

Lesson: Sometimes our attitude as believers drives souls away from Church. Our attitude breaks our relationships, destroys our families.

You can make a difference by how you treat other people, especially when they make mistakes. Stay blessed family and friends.



## This Sunday December 2nd

8:00 AM:  
Suzanne Lokzy &  
Tony McClers

10:30 AM:  
TBA

# Christian Education

## Children's Worship Leader Schedule

12/2/18—Advent Lunch/Christmas  
Pageant Practice

12/9/18—Christmas Pageant Practice

12/16/18—Christmas Pageant—No  
Children's Worship—Nursery  
Care still available

12/23/18—Sabrina Holden

12/30/18—Annie Engelbrecht

Please find a new sign up sheet for the 2019 Children's Worship Leader Schedule on the Welcome Center in the Narthex. Prayerfully consider volunteering a morning or two with our children.

## Advent Lunch



We still need another couple of crockpots of soup. Any kind will do! The Christian Education committee would be so grateful! Please let Erin Tipton or the church office know if you can contribute a crockpot of soup. Thanks so very much!! Looking forward to seeing you there for this wonderful church family tradition.

## DESSERTS!

We almost forgot to mention that we need a few desserts for our Advent Luncheon. So sorry for the short notice, but, if you would like to, please bring a dessert to share. Thank you!!  
CE Committee



*You are cordially invited to attend our annual*

*Advent Luncheon*

*December 2, 2018*

*Immediately following the 10:30 worship service*

*In Eastminster's Fellowship Hall*

*Delicious soups and Subway sandwiches provided*

*Excellent entertainment and carol singing*

*A make-and-take craft for all ages and abilities*

*We hope to see you there!*



### A Quick Thought...

When the natural world loses its lush summer beauty and begins to settle in for winter's work, I go a little crazy trying to plant as much as I can and prepare for the beauty to return. I planted pots of tulip bulbs and I wait and hope they survive the winter to burst open in spring. I planted succulents, and I wait to see if they will put forth new growth. I planted amaryllis bulbs and I wait for them to bloom. I planted some perennials and I wait for spring to bring them new life. My mom bought me a Christmas cactus and I wait for the blooms to open and beauty to return. I wait, just as Christians, we wait to celebrate the birth of our Savior like children waiting for Christmas morning. In this season of waiting, we get the gift of time. Time to reflect on all God's blessings, time to renew and recharge and time to refocus and decide how we will begin again when spring draws near.  
Advent blessings—Erin