

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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“Behold, I am doing a new thing...”



The above words are the words of the prophet Isaiah. They are words the great theologian, Paul Tillich (who is buried behind The Red Geranium in New Harmony) uses as the title of the closing sermon of a classic collection of his sermons entitled The Shaking of the Foundations. I have referred to that book many times in the past. He begins the sermon with a series of verses from the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, the books of Ecclesiastes, I Corinthians, Matthew and Revelation.

Over and over again, Tillich tells us of the countless ways that God is prepared to do a new thing in our midst and how exciting that new thing will be. Though I’ve often turned to that particular sermon in the past when something has reminded me of it, I don’t think I have ever thought of it with quite the level of excitement and understanding that I feel at the present moment as I ponder the future of this church family.

Last week, our session met and considered the “new thing” that God is doing in our midst in two different ways. First of all, we welcomed the Reverend Alan Finnan who serves as the chairperson of the Presbytery of Ohio Valley Committee on Ministry. Alan was here to help the session begin the process of searching for a Transitional Pastor (formerly known as Interim Pastor). As I mentioned Sunday, I think this congregation may have set a record for efficiency in electing a Transitional Pastor Nominating Committee within 10 days of learning of a future vacancy in pastoral leadership. The members of that committee (elected by the session as opposed to a Permanent Installed Pastor Nominating Committee that is elected by the congregation) are Barb Ferguson, Tim Fiedler, Patti Garcia, Karla Horrell, Shannon Irmscher, Melissa Mattingly and John Niehaus. The coming days, weeks and months will, indeed, be a very exciting time as you discover the “new thing” that God is doing in your midst! Keep your session and your Transitional Pastor Nominating Committee in your daily prayers.

Blessings,
Dennis

“Behold, I make all things new...”

Those words sound nearly the same as the ones from the prophet Isaiah in the previous column. You may recognize them, though, as words that are found in the book of Revelation – words that are included in that Paul Tillich sermon.

We, at Eastminster, are the “new” for Newburgh and just as importantly, they are the “new” for us! There are great plans being made for the two congregations to join together – not in an official merger – but in a manner that will enable both churches to move ahead in ministry together. The programs of both churches can continue with the Newburgh programs simply finding a new home and new participants at Eastminster.

We’ll be giving you regular updates in the weeks to come, but here are some important dates to put on your calendar:

This Sunday, December 16 – Caroling to Shut-ins. We will meet for our annual Caroling to Friends-at-Home at **4:30**. We will meet **at the Newburgh Presbyterian Church** and join with them to visit some of their shut-ins and some of ours as well. What a great first opportunity this will be to begin to become acquainted with new church friends.

Saturday, January 5 – Men’s Breakfast at Eastminster. For many years, the Newburgh men have met on the first Saturday of every month for breakfast, fellowship and video. The first one for 2019 will be held in the program’s new home – Eastminster’s Fellowship Hall. All Eastminster men are encouraged to join us!

Sunday, January 6 – Pulpit Exchange. This will be the final Sunday morning worship at the Newburgh Presbyterian Church and we will have a pulpit exchange, with the Reverend Jim “Gutty” Gutridge preaching here and me preaching at Newburgh. The Sunday School hour at Newburgh (10:00 AM) will be a time to share information and answer questions from the Newburgh members.

Sunday, January 13 - First Sunday with Newburgh members at Eastminster! We will have a welcome reception following the 10:30 service for all those from Newburgh who attend worship that day.

Closing Worship at Newburgh - 3:00 PM. The final service of the Newburgh Presbyterian Church will be held at 3:00 PM on January 13. All Eastminster members are strongly encouraged to attend!

Sunday, December 16, 2018

8:00 A.M. Service

Liturgist

Tim Fiedler

Usher

Allen Helmstetter

Advent Worship Readers
The Fiedler Family

10:30 A.M. Service

Liturgist

Tim Fielder

Advent Worship Readers
TBA

Head Usher

Mel Ellsperman

Ushers & Greeters

Pam Doerter & Team

Marilyn Ellsperman, Pat & Jayne Manis

Acolyte

Addison Fritz

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



OFFICE HOURS EVERY THURSDAY
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

This Sunday, December 16, we will meet for Youth Group where we will have a lesson and then a time of fellowship.

I hope to see you in The Place,
Trey



Secret Santa Gift Exchange

Gifts must be \$10 or less
Fun for all AGES!
Flyers due this Sunday,
December 16th
Check Facebook for more
details.

"Night of Wonder"

This Sunday, December 16th, get ready to meet a little camel named Habib who has a big holiday tale to tell! Habib is the subject of a new Christmas story based on a poem by Dana K. Akers and told by our own Miss Penelope.



Follow along as Habib travels in the caravan of the Three Wise Men on the journey to Bethlehem and gives the gift of his heart to the Baby Savior.

Be sure to be in worship to get your copy this Sunday. If you will not be in worship, call the church office to make arrangements to get your copy.

Christmas Wishes & Blessings,
Roland Small, Jr., Coloring Bookmaster
Children's Ministry

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

At our Congregational Meeting this Sunday, the Nominating Committee will present the following slate of candidates.

SESSION (3-year term)

Barb Ferguson
Karla Horrell
John Niehaus
Stacie Schalasky
Sue Shelton
Patsy Sproatt

YOUTH ELDER (1-year term)

Meredith Garcia

DEACON (3-year term)

Brian Bailey
Jo Chaddock
Sabrina Holden
Jayne Manis
Debbie Van Zandt

TRUSTEES (1-year term)

Pete Mogavero

TRUSTEES (3-year term)

Mark Nicholson
Susan Parsons

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (1-year term)

Suzette Fritz
Marlene Huffaker
Mike Dahl
Carol Woodward
Pam Stevens

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (at large)

Harold Post

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting this Sunday, December 16th, immediately after the 10:30 service for the purpose of electing new officers. Please plan on attending.



Sympathy is extended to Karen Rhoads Schaefer and family in the death of Ray Schaefer, who passed away on Sunday, December 9, 2018.

Sympathy is extended to Jim VanCleave and family in the death of Jim's mother, Esther VanCleave.

Prayers & Concerns

Please pray for the following: Jane Williams, Angela Bethel, Melba Hutchinson, & Charles M. If you have a prayer request, please contact Leslie Webb at epcprayers@gmail.com or contact the Church Office.

Christian Education



UPCOMING DATES

12/12/18

CE Committee meeting @ 6:30p.m.

12/15/18

Christmas Pageant Practice—time TBA

12/16/18

Children and Youth Christmas
Pageant-10:30 a.m. worship service



Children's Worship Leader Schedule

**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 Sched-
ule on the Welcome Center in the Nar-
thex. Prayerfully consider volunteering a
morning or two with our children.**

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.



"Wait for It"

Have you seen the musical Hamilton yet? I saw it last December in Chicago. I was wedding dress shopping with my younger sister, who got married this past April. We had shopped Michigan Avenue all day and went back to the hotel to put our feet up for a minute. We talked about how amazing it would be to see Hamilton. Juli, my sister, got on Ticketmaster's website about four hours before the show on Saturday night to see if they happened to have any tickets left. We figured even if we could grab four single tickets at the last minute it would be worth it. Amazingly, she found four tickets together! 4 hours before the show! Little did we know that we had snagged some of the allotted casts' seats used for family and friends of cast members that weren't being used that night. We were just a few rows back from the stage on the main floor. It was incredible! Things like this don't happen to me often.

Because I have been deep in the throes of mom life for the last several years, I didn't really know much about the musical except that everyone was talking about it. You won't find any spoiler alerts here, but after seeing it I am pretty convinced that Lin-Manuel Miranda is an absolute genius and that the cast of the show is the most talented group of people I have ever seen. They can rap, sing ballads, and many cast members play multiple characters effortlessly. I am in awe of Miranda's ability to write truly eloquent lyrics. Seriously genius!

One of the songs sung by the actor who plays Aaron Burr is called "Wait for It". I later learned that Miranda wrote this song on the train to a friend's birthday party. He arrived at the party, told his friend happy birthday, turned around and walked out the door because he was in the middle of the composition process. He rode the train back home and finished the song. I am not kidding when I say you can hear the clickety-clack of the train in the song. In the lyrics Aaron Burr says, "I am inimitable. I am an original." These are my favorite lyrics in the whole song. We were all created to be inimitable and original. I want to believe that about myself and everyone I meet. A big goal, I know. Can you imagine walking around believing that everyone is so amazingly beautiful and uniquely created to serve God's purpose? What a perspective change?! I am not trying to be Pollyanna, but I suppose I am being a bit that way. I don't want to overlook the fact that there is real suffering in the world. The suffering is very real, very raw. But, there are people who are so gifted and stand with people in the suffering, serving their God-given purpose.

I think as we become the truest most authentic version of ourselves that our Creator imagined us to be that we get a glimpse at the genius of God, too. Lin-Manuel Miranda can write and compose. Genius. Maya Angelou created beauty with her words. Genius. Yo Yo Ma can make a cello sing melodiously. Genius. Van Gogh's paintings make you want to jump into them and just wrap yourself in the colors. Genius. You and I were created for our own genius, as well. It doesn't need to be big. We just have to "Wait for It". And, what better time to consider this than as we wait for our Savior's birth? Let us think about the best and most wonderful ways we can serve and share our God-given gifts with all while bringing peace, hope, joy and love to others, our church, the world! In Christ's Service - Erin

