

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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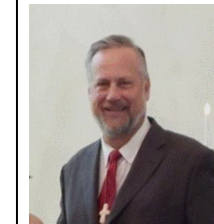


Eastminster Messenger

Heads, Hearts & Hands for Christ in Service & Celebration

Volume 35, Issue 43

December 3, 2019



From the Pastor

"A Character for Christ"

John the Baptist was one of those memorable characters in the Bible. His eccentricities drew people out to hear his message, but he took seriously his role as the preparer of the way for the Messiah. We may not dress in camel's hair or eat locusts and honey, but it falls to us to prepare the world for the coming of Christ now.

The church is the vanguard of the Kingdom of God. Our task is to demonstrate that kingdom to all people and invite them to join us in the service of God. The church is not perfect. We often fall short of what we should be. But God works through us to bring about His plan even though we are flawed.

OT: Isa. 11:1-10
NT: Matt. 3:1-12

Blessings,
Scott

Hey Church Family,

If you have something that you want to appear in the newsletter here are a few things that you need to know.

All information needs to be submitted no later than 9:00 a.m. on Monday in order to be included in that week's newsletter.

If possible, please submit via email to **BOTH** [Mary Fulkerson](mailto:Mary.Fulkerson@epcevv.com) and [Tony McClees](mailto:Tony.McClees@illinois.edu) as they each work on the newsletters at various times.

Mary's email is epc@epcevv.com

Tony's email is tmcclees@illinois.edu

If you do not have email, you may provide the info by leaving a note in the red file folder labeled "Newsletter" located on the receptionist's desk in the church office.

A few things to remember about your article:

Be sure to include the "who, what, where, and when" info.

Be sure to include any deadlines and/or costs pertaining to your event.

Mary and Tony try to proofread everything, but are sometimes overloaded with other duties and deadlines and can miss errors. Please do your best to proof your articles before submitting them.

Succinct articles are usually easier to read and understand.

If you need help with an article please ask. Mary, especially, has a wealth of knowledge about all things Eastminster and can offer suggestions based on past events, articles, etc.

Thanks for helping us get your information in the newsletter.



Sunday, December 8, 2019

8:00 A.M. Service

Liturgist

Gary Van Zandt

Usher

Rebecca Conen

10:30 A.M. Service

Liturgist

Gary Van Zandt

Head Usher

Corey Fritz

Greeters

Jayne & Pat Manis

Ushers

Pam Doerter & Team

Acolyte

Evan Tipton

Eastminster Staff

Mike Cantrell - Handyman
Mary Fulkerson - Office Manager
Trey Fulkerson - Youth/Pastoral Assist.
Alanna Keenan - Director of Music
Ansee LaChance - Nursery Worker
Marian LaChance - Housekeeper
Rachel Luttrull - Organist
Scott Solether - Pastor
Erin Tipton - Christian Ed Director

Church Office Hours

M - F: 8:30 - 4:00 P.M.

Church Communication Lines

Phone#: 476-3355/Fax: 476-8755
Web: eastminsterchurch.com
Email: epc@epcevv.com
Sound Engineer: Ron Harper
Social Media Admin: Tony McClees
tmcclees@illinois.edu
Prayer Chain Captains: Leslie Webb & Dave Matzen
epcprayers@gmail.com

Prayer Concerns

Please pray for the following:

Melba Hutchinson; Dave & Bobbi Moran; Fay Kishline; Chris & John Matzen; Mary Lou Matzen; Dave Moran's brother-in-law, Gary; Jenny Murphy's father - Jerry Nagle; Pattii Rusche; Virginia Rahn; Lillian Tierney; Jenny Murphy's brother - John; Barb Ferguson; Barbara; Julie Summit; Amelia Webb; Pam Attebury; Ron Harper; Katy Ellis; Ira Mowrey; Virgie Foley; Nick Prout; Linda; Tracy, Margaret Martin; Scott & Tammy Solether; Jack Bethel; Beth Bailey; Sherry Kearschner; Doris Ann Tucker; Tracey Manis; Linda C.

If you have a prayer request or wish to be removed from the list, please contact Leslie Webb at epcprayers@gmail.com or Dave Matzen at davidallyn39@gmail.com or call the church office.

Christian Education

New Church Officers

During our Congregational Meeting on November 17 we elected the following people .
Let's congratulate and thank them for their service.

Session – Class of 2022

Mark Miller
Dan Engelbrecht
Patti Garcia
Shannon Irmscher
Chris Kuhs
Dorothy Mans

Deacons – Class of 2022

Ralph Frasier
Karen Blume
Kim Weil
Suzette Fritz
Carolyn Tying

Trustees - Class of 2022

Ben Bendetti
Steve Fritz

Youth Elders – (one-year term)

Alex Kuhs
Maddie Holden

Nominating Committee (At-Large)

Donna Cooke
Mike Dahl
Ron Sproatt
Dick Yeager
Pam Stevens

Personnel Committee (At-large)

Melissa Mattingly (3-year term)



Secret Gift Santa Exchange

See Facebook for more details or pick up a form in church this Sunday!



Adopt an Angel

We still have six angels that need to be adopted as part of our Deacons' Christmas Basket Project.



Check out the Angel display in Fellowship Hall, choose an Angel, follow the sign-up directions, then shop for your Angel(s). Remember, the items on their wish lists are just suggestions. You aren't required to purchase everything on the list.

Your unwrapped gifts are due back at the church by December 12. The Deacons will wrap them and deliver with the food baskets.

Deacons' Basket Deadline

All items for the Deacons' Christmas Baskets (including Angel Tree Gifts) must be at the church by December 12 to allow the Deacons time to wrap, organize and deliver.

This does not include the baskets that individual Sunday school classes, groups, or families are providing.

Items Still Needed

Pasta sauce, pasta, jelly, canned fruit, ketchup, mustard, sugar, flour, cereal, paper towels, trash bags, cake mix, frosting, shampoo & conditioner, cookies, candy, snacks.



Christmas Caroling
Sunday, December 15th
The time and more info to follow!



Thanks to all of you who have signed up to bring a crockpot of soup! It is not too late! Just let the office know that you will be bringing some. We have seven delicious soups so far! Can't wait to see you all next Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. worship service for a time of fellowship, food and fun. We promise to get you out in time for all of your seasonal afternoon activities!

Our first Christmas Pageant practice was this past Sunday with Alanna Keenan and it was fantastic! If you couldn't make it, please don't worry. We have more practices to come and many parts to fill. The children remembered many songs and are anxious to play their particular parts to tell you about the birth of Jesus in their own special way.



Yesterday as the children and I were reading Mary's story from the Bible in Sunday school, I was struck by her words. In Luke 1:38 she says, "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. She just got news that could ruin her reputation and she basically says ok. No questions, no "but wait a minute Gabriel when will this all take place and let me mark out time on my calendar for it." She just accepts it. How many times do we like to try to tweak opportunities that God presents in a way that works best for us? I know I do. I am not saying that we say "YES" to every opportunity presented to us because that is not reality. Although, Shonda Rhimes, creator of Grey's Anatomy and Scandal, wrote a book about her year of saying YES to things that she would usually have said no to and how it enriched her life. Instead, I rather like to think of it as when we feel the urging of the Spirit to go forward in faith that we let that urging sit with us awhile as Mary did and maybe we say ok. Maybe we accept all that God offers as a gift to enhance our reliance on our Creator? This is something I know needs work in my own life and maybe yours, too? My hashtag for social media would be #advent goals!
Advent Blessings—Erin

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ADVENT

12-8-19 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal during Sunday School @ 9 a.m.



Annual Advent Luncheon Soups, Sandwiches after the 10:30 am worship service



12-14-19 Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant—10am.—with lunch provided following rehearsal

12-15-19 Children and Youth Christmas Pageant at the 10:30



Advent Materials

The Christian Education Committee purchased several different options for Advent Devotionals for you and your families. We hope these will support you on journey throughout the Advent Season. These resources will be available in the Narthex for you to peruse and choose what fits you best.

Children's Worship Leader Schedule

Here is the new Children's Worship leader schedule for the rest of 2019. Thanks!

12/8/19—Erin Tipton
12/15/19—Maddie Holden & Alex Kuhs & adult
12/22/19—Annie Engelbrecht
12/29/19—Annie Engelbrecht

Children's Worship Leader Schedule 2020

1/5/20	2/23/20	4/12/20-full	5/31/20
1/12/20-full	3/1/20	4/19/20	
1/19/20	3/8/20-full	4/26/20	
1/26/20	3/15/20	5/3/20	
2/2/20	3/22/20	5/10/20-full	
2/9/20-full	3/29/20	5/17/20	
2/16/20	4/5/20	5/24/20	

We need volunteers to teach Children's Worship for children ages 4 years-2nd grade for 2020! Please consider signing up to spend about 20 minutes with some wonderful children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday mornings. The children leave after the Children's Sermon and meet in room 103 for their own time of fellowship and worship. If interested or you need more information, talk to Erin Tipton or any member of Christian Education. Thanks so much!
CE Committee