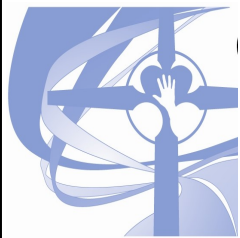


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# Eastminster Messenger

Heads, Hearts & Hands for Christ in Service & Celebration

Volume 35, Issue 5

February 11, 2020



From the Pastor  
“The Christian Garden”  
6th Sunday after Epiphany

OT: Deut. 30:15-20  
NT: I Cor. 3:1-12

February is the time to begin planning the garden. Seeds need to start germinating so they can be ready to plant in April or May. What to plant is as important as how to plant. I have been looking through the gardening catalogues and planning my new garden. Faith can be compared to a seed. It is planted in us by family members, friends, pastors and Sunday school teachers. It germinates and grows throughout our lives and produces fruit that enriches our experience. Our faith can then produce seeds of faith that can be planted in those around us. Of all the functions of the church this is the most important one. To plant and nurture the faith of others is our primary calling.

Blessings,  
Scott

## Because We Love You! Luncheon



The Board of Deacons invite you to attend a “Because We Love You!” Luncheon on Sunday, February 16, immediately after the Annual Congregational meeting. A spaghetti lunch will be served along with salad, bread sticks and dessert. Reservations are necessary so please RSVP by calling the church at 812/476-3355.

*There is no charge, but a  
freewill offering will be made available*



CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

Our Annual Congregational Meeting for the purpose of receiving staff, board and committee reports and reviewing our annual budget will be held following the 10:30 service on Sunday, February 16. Please review your Annual Report ahead of time and plan on attending the meeting.

We extend our sympathy to Max Foley and Family on the death of his wife, Virginia (Virgie), on Thursday, February 6.

The visitation and funeral will be held in Enfield, IL.



Sunday, February 16, 2020

### 8:00 A.M. SERVICE

#### LITURGIST

John Niehaus

#### USHER

Allen Helmstetter

### 10:30 A.M. SERVICE

#### HEAD USHER

Mel Ellsperman

#### LITURGIST

John Niehaus

#### GREETERS

Pat & Jayne Manis  
Corey Fritz

#### USHERS

Marilyn Ellsperman, Corey Fritz,  
Brenda Miller, & Jim McGillem

#### ACOLYTE

Evan Tipton

### Eastminster Staff

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

### 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

## PASTOR'S REPORT

In case you have been unable to pick up a copy of the Annual Report, here is Pastor Scott's portion of that.

This is my first report to the Eastminster Congregation. It has been a pleasure serving you for these last few months. I have spent my time getting to know you and assessing the needs that are here. The next phase is to work with the Mission Study Group to lead the congregation in examining who we are and what we need to be. At its January meeting the session appointed seven people to the Mission Study Group. These are: Allen Helmstetter, Stacie Schalasky, Mark Miller, Chris Kuhs, Dan Irmischer, Ian Garcia, and Corey Fritz. This committee is tasked with hearing from you, helping the congregation assess its mission, and get ready for new leadership. Be prepared for surveys, fellowship hall meetings, and personal contacts. You will see some things that we can put into practice now and others that can wait till new leadership. This is your ministry and the congregation Calls a minister not the Session. So please let this group hear from you.

I have been asked "how long will it take to Call a new minister?" My response to that is, "as long as it takes". We will try to keep the congregation informed on where we are in the process.

Here is an outline of the process as I know it:

1. Hiring an Interim Minister - Accomplished on September 1, 2019
2. Session appoints a mission study committee- Accomplished on January 22, 2020
3. Mission Study Committee surveys the congregation - In process
4. A Mission Study document is generated and submitted to session and the COM of presbytery for approval - Yet to be Achieved
5. The congregation elects a Pastor Nominating Committee - Yet to be achieved
6. The search begins - Yet to be achieved
7. A candidate is presented to the congregation for a vote - Yet to be achieved
8. The new pastor is installed - Yet to be achieved

Interim ministry is one of the only places where the object is to work yourself out of a job. I look forward to helping this congregation to determine its direction and find new pastoral leadership.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Dr. Scott V. Solether, DWS, Interim Pastor

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

I have taught 3rd through 5th grade Sunday School since my son, Keaton, was in 3rd grade, and he's now 25. This year all but one of my regularly attending kids was moving into middle school. But, at that time, we had no teacher for the middle school class. So after talking to Erin and the kids, we decided the kids going into middle school would just stay with me. However, I didn't think it was fair to our now 6th grade kids to not get to be promoted in some way. So we decided to move our class into the Middle School Classroom down the hall. Erin helped me find curriculum and the very first lesson was on Creation. So I decided we would do some of our own creating in our new room. First, we picked out a name for our new room. The kids came up with probably 20 options and then voted on what it would be called. Some Place Else was the winner. We also needed new artwork on the walls. We decided to do Faith, Hope and Love in crayon art. Karen and I brought in our hairdryers to melt the crayons, and the kids worked on the art over the course of two Sundays. We actually blew a fuse the first day, which the kids thought was hilarious. Fortunately, it was only our classroom. The kids seem to love their new room, especially the couches. We've moved through the Old Testament and now are studying the ministry of Jesus. It is such a joy and blessing to teach these kids and to watch their faith develop. We have wonderful discussions that sometimes get us way off track, but often-times they open my eyes to see something in a way I hadn't thought of before. If you're ever asked to help with Children's Worship or teach Sunday School, or help with the kids in any way, I encourage you to do so. I can promise you it's something you won't regret. -- Kim Weil

## Bible Memory Work

We believe it is never too early to begin to teach children about our God, our Savior and what it means to have the Holy Spirit dwell within us. We know that for many people the scripture they memorized as a child is the only scripture they have committed to memory.

**Our Bible Memory Contest begins on Sunday, March 1 and concludes on Palm Sunday, April 5th.**

The memory work builds from year to year. Each child must recite all of the work for his or her age group to win an award.

Parents, please remember one of the ways to help your child learn memory work is to make memory work fun. While our Sunday School teachers go over memory work in class, it is essential to have your co-operation also. Be positive and encouraging about memory work. Show your children where the verse or information is found in the Bible. Mark their Bible with a special color to help them recognize verses they have memorized. Teach them one phrase or word at a time. Recite the memory work several times a day in your children's presence so it becomes familiar to them.

**Memory books will be made available soon** for you to pick up. Being familiar with scripture is a valuable gift we can give our children and youth. Let's work together to help them build a firm foundation of faith for their lives!



The EPC Book Club will meet at noon on Tuesday, February 18, at the Western Ribeye on Boeke Road.

We will discuss The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes.

All are welcome!

## Prayer Concerns

***Please pray for the following:***

Beth Bailey; Tracey Manis; Scott & Tammy Solether; Barbara; Amelia; Barb Ferguson; Pam Attebury; Dave & Bobbie Moran; Christine & 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.

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



Middle School Artwork