

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5501 Washington Avenue
Evansville, IN 47715

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

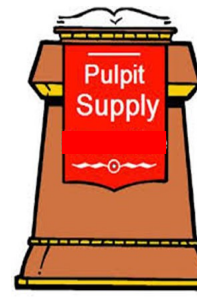
NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2682
Evansville, IN 47708



Eastminster Messenger

Volume 35, Issue 30

September 1, 2020



On Sunday, September 8th, we will hear from Chaplain Gale “Gabe” Cotton. *Chaplain Gale “Gabe” Cotton and his wife, Ana, have five children. He graduated from Valley Forge Christian College in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science in Intercultural Ministries. He received the Master of Divinity Degree from Erskine Theological Seminary in 1995. He is an ordained Cumberland Presbyterian Minister and a Board Certified Chaplain.*

Chaplain Cotton served at Army posts in Missouri, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Texas, South Korea and Afghanistan. His last unit was Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii where he was Chaplain to the Surgical Department, Inpatient Psychiatry and the Medical Augmentation Response Team for Worldwide deployments. Chaplain Cotton retired from the military and currently serves as the Chaplain for the Evansville VA.

Decision Defines Destiny

OLD TESTAMENT READING:

“When Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah. Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.”

Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud 10 and said to her, “We will go back with you to your people.” But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband.

Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons—would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord’s hand has turned against me!”. At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. “Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.” But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.” - Ruth 1:6-18

Summary: The people of God were looking for hope after a time of violence and destruction. God chose the most unlikely candidate to be an agent of change. Her tenacity not only lifted her out of poverty and established a future for her own lineage, she brought hope and reconciliation to all of humanity.

Blessings,
Rev. Gabe Cotton



Eastminster Staff

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

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



Caring for God's House

Opening the Doors to Our Future



Update:

Opening The Door To Our Future Capital Campaign Pledges

Many thanks to those of you have been continuing to make regular payments toward your three-year Capital Campaign Pledge during these trying times.

There was not a requirement that you pay in even amounts over three years (or 1/3 of your pledge each year). **Your payment schedule is up to each individual.** Some members have already paid their three-year pledge in full; some have been making regular monthly or annual payments, while others may be waiting to pay their full pledge in the third year (2021). No matter how you choose to fulfill your pledge, it's interesting to look at the total pledge payments to date:

39 giving units (individual or family) generously pledged a total over three years of \$152,060.00.

During 2019, the first year of the campaign, total pledge payments were \$44,858.00.

So far in 2020, total pledge payments are \$19,633.00. In addition, there was an anonymous contribution of \$20,000.00 received in March designated to capital improvements.

2021 is the final year of the campaign.

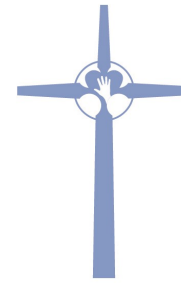
Your most recent contribution statement dated **June 30, 2020** included a line for the total amount paid to date in the **Pledge Summary**. If you have any questions about your **Opening the Doors to Our Future Pledge Summary**, please call the church office. If at any point, you wish to change your original pledge amount please don't hesitate to let Mary know. The next giving statements for the third quarter ending September 30, 2020 will be mailed in early October.

Please keep your pledge payments coming, as you are able.

THANK YOU!



August 27, 2020



Dear Eastminster Family,

This past week your session took action to approve several recommendations from the Re-opening Task Force. Current re-opening protocols run through the end of August. After receiving feedback from Session committees, the task force met on August 16, 2020, to formulate recommendations on re-opening beginning September 2020 and ending November 2020. Session approved the following:

1. If a congregant who has recently attended services tests positive for COVID or if a staff member tests positive for COVID, the church should follow CDC and local health department protocols.
2. Regarding worship services, the current safety protocols will remain in place and the following changes will be made to the service. There will be a solo hymn after the Invocation to add more music and to help with the liturgical flow. We will also add congregational singing of the Gloria Patri in order to enhance participation. In addition, some members of session will serve as worship leader to assist Trey when needed and to ensure a second person is behind the pulpit for a more cohesive service.
3. Adult Sunday school classes and youth Sunday school classes/fellowship may meet in person *if they so choose*, provided they follow safety protocols including social distancing and wearing masks. They are also asked to disinfect the surfaces in the room when they are finished. Any classes currently meeting virtually of course may continue to do so.
4. Movie nights scheduled by the Children's Fellowship Committee are typically held outside. Session granted this group permission to move inside the church in case of rain. They may also serve bottled water and pre-packaged snacks.
5. A church member has suggested that time be set aside each week for congregants to come to the sanctuary to pray. Session approved this with the following guidelines: participants must schedule an appointment before they come in, use a designated portion of the sanctuary, refrain from entering any other parts of the building, and wear a mask and practice social distancing.
6. Any church committee may meet in the church, provided they notify the church office of when they are coming and where they will be meeting. They should also wear masks, practice social distancing, and clean up after themselves. Each committee's decision to meet in person should be unanimous so that no member feels excluded.
7. Session granted the Bible Study Fellowship group continued use of our facility. They provided us with detailed guidelines they will follow including cleaning the church thoroughly after their meetings. This will begin the week of October 20th and is subject to change.
8. For all other events, coordinators should ask Session for approval.

If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Irmscher, clerk of session. (sirmscher105@gmail.com; 812-483-0002)

In Christ,

Session of Eastminster Presbyterian Church