



# Eastminster Messenger

Volume 36, Issue 16

May 11, 2021

## Our Interim Pastor



What is the true meaning of joy? I must admit I don't use the word much at all when I speak, or even write. I tend to speak more of happiness, which I don't believe carries the full force of "joy." I also will say that I "enjoy" certain foods, books, musical pieces, etc. but that still is not as powerful as simple joy. I certainly know I have felt joy, and look forward to experiencing it again.

The word has popped up more in recent Bible readings of mine, particularly in worship preparation. It was mentioned this past Sunday, that if we follow Christ's command to love one another, our joy will be made complete. I also read a bit from Psalm 98 on Sunday, which urges people (and even all the earth) to sing for joy of the Lord. In fact, it is this Psalm that inspired Isaac Watts to write the hymn "Joy to the World!" I wonder what sort of reaction would have happened, had this hymn been used during worship in May?

A soldier, son of one of my good friends, was called to patrol outside a facility that houses about 1000 migrant children. On patrol, he came across a soccer ball, and tossed it back over the perimeter fence. Later, another ball came flying across the fence. The soldier was told not to worry about it, someone would retrieve all the lost balls later. He decided to toss the second ball over anyway. He spent the better part of Mother's Day afternoon in the 90+ degree desert heat, tossing lost balls to kids he couldn't even see. So, those children would know that someone....unseen....on the other side, cared. On social media his mother shared this story and asked: "What did you do to bring Joy to someone's life today? (FYI....this boy's mother....couldn't have gotten any better Mother's Day gift better than hearing this story of her son's kind heart)"

I wish you all joy, and hope you find ways to share joy with others. -- JT

### Please pray for the following:

Rose Kuhn; Julie Summit; Jen Lanham; Mike Barnett; Pat Manis; Tid Turner; Jane Williams; Gene Tying; Mike Crecelius; Eli Had-dix; Walt Lowe; Tracey Wingerter.

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 call the church office.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who have filled out the Newsletter News sheet to let us know the best way for you to receive your newsletter. Although we have had some response we still need to hear from many of you. If you have not sent your form in, called the office, or replied by email, please do so.

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\_\_\_\_\_ Please send my newsletter via U.S. mail

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(name)

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send my newsletter only by email

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(name)

\_\_\_\_\_ Please add my name to the email list

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(name)

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(Email address)

## BOOK CLUB



The EPC Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at noon and will be reviewing Wish You Well by David Baldacci.

A place to meet is being reviewed at this time and will be announced as soon as it has been decided.

## ATTENTION ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

The Outreach Committee will be contacting all classes to canvas for Outreach possibilities and suggestions for the coming year. If you have any other Outreach questions or suggestions, please contact Diane VanCleave by leaving those concerns in her mailbox near the church office.

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