

Eastminster Messenger

Heads, Hearts & Hands for Christ in Service & Celebration

Volume 36, Issue 21

October 5, 2021

Our Interim Pastor



As a pastor, I feel it is important to find times to be optimistic, hopeful, encouraging, and specifically attempt to build up rather than break down the congregation. However, there are times I have to call out concerns, issues, or problems that are evident.

I have been informed by the Mission/Outreach committee that the scheduled Halloween Carnival will be cancelled. The reason: lack of participation. There were some committee members and some others who offered to take part in putting the program together. However, there were not enough people willing to share enough of the work to make the event happen. The committee feels that it is better at this point to cancel than to put on a lackluster program for the children of the community.

I have to be honest, that if the problem were an animal, it would look more like an octopus having many appendages, than a snake. Here are some questions I invite you to consider as possible tentacles:

- How often must planned programs and activities be cancelled before more people in the congregation realize the need to 'step up'?
- When will we realize that if we hope "someone" will volunteer, that someone is ourself?
- Generally we use personal contact, the Messenger, oral announcements, the website, and facebook to communicate; if you didn't know your help was requested, how can people effectively reach you?
- While we are still struggling within a pandemic, what are other reasons you say "no" to your church when your church asks for your help?
- Do you really want the church to succeed? If so, what are you willing to do to help make that happen?
- Is there a silver lining? Are we learning from recent program cancellations? What can we do to improve going forward?

This last bullet point may be the most crucial. As a church we can die, we can survive, or we can even dare to thrive. But it will take finding something we can become passionate about and participate with. Of course that something is our faith in God, but how do we partner with what God is doing in our community? How do we effectively reach out and provide ministry that is needed? What is it that you could passionately say "yes" to?

Another pandemic that has been taking place for decades is the declining church. Traditional denominational churches are continuing to dwindle, and even close all over the world. What we have been doing in the past is no longer bringing people to our church family. Waiting for people to simply show up is not working. Do you want to treat yourselves for what ails you, or sign up for a church hospice program? The choice is truly yours.

God, please guide us and unite us in ministry. Amen.

JT



IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

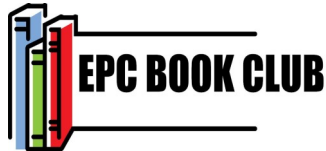
Please pray for the following: Rose Kuhn; Julie Summit; Tid Turner; Jane Williams; Gene Tyring; Mike Crecelius; Walt Lowe; Mae Chin; Sue Kuhs; Allen Sanderson;

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

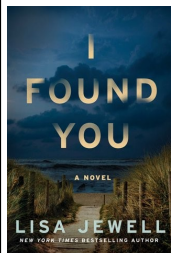
PNC "Brief"

As a follow up to the last announcement, the Committee on Ministry approved our updated Ministry Information Form (MIF), a "resume" of sorts. Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is now able to move to the next phase of our work—finding and interviewing potential candidates for our Pastor position. This phase can also be very time consuming. Please pray for each member's time and focus as we prepare to work through reading resumes and interviewing potential candidates.

Blessings,
Brenda Miller
PNC Member



The monthly Book Club will meet on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at Sports Den located at 701 North Weinbach. This month's book selection is I Found You By Lisa Jewell Anyone can join in. Please plan on attending this time of fun, fellowship and food.



Single mom Alice Lake finds a man on the beach outside her house. He has no name, no jacket, no idea what he is doing there. Against her better judgement she invites him in to her home.

Twenty-one-year-old Lily Monrose has only been married for three weeks. When her new husband fails to come home from work one night she is left stranded in a new country where she knows no one. Then the police tell her that her husband never existed.

Two women, twenty years of secrets and a man who can't remember lie at the heart of Lisa Jewell's brilliant new novel.

Ladies Night Out

Attention ladies!

Come join the fun at Ladies Night Out on Tuesday, October 12th at 6:15 PM. We will meet at China Bistro for a great time of food, fun and fellowship. All ladies are encouraged to attend. Please call the church office at 812-476-3355 to reserve your spot.



Dates to Remember

Assembly Night: Wednesday, October 13 at 6PM. Sign up sheet is located in the gallery. We do need reservations for the pizza!

Session: Wednesday, October 27, at 6 PM in room 101.



October Liturgists

October 10: Dick Yeager

October 17: Annie Fulkerson

October 24: Mark Miller

October 31: TBA



Our Money Story

Stewardship: It has been written that stewardship is everything we do after we make the statement: "I believe." True, it does have to do with money and what we do with it, but there is much more. What do we do with our time? What do we do with our talents? As a congregation, how do we use our building, grounds, and other possessions? These are all questions of stewardship.

This year, our Stewardship emphasis will begin on Sunday October 10. Worship services will focus on the theme through November 7, and on November 14 we will celebrate Commitment Sunday. The week before that, people can mail their pledges to the office, and those wishing to bring a pledge forward that day during worship will have an opportunity to do so.

The Stewardship series we are using is called "Our Money Story." As we begin this series on Sunday October 10, there will be devotional booklets available in the Gallery for you to use. The devotional book will accompany the themes used in worship. If you have been watching the worship video/livestream and want to have a devotional mailed to you, please email silencejagt@gmail.com or call the office to request a copy.

There is a lot of art work that we will use as part of the theme, and we will have a congregational art project again as we did during lent. Please prayerfully consider what you do for your congregation, and be open to what God may be telling you about your role in stewardship for your church family.



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Eastminster Staff

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Mary Fulkerson - Office Manager

Trey Fulkerson - Youth/Pastoral Assist.

Alanna Keenan - Director of Music

Anslee LaChance - Nursery Worker

Marian LaChance - Housekeeper

Ryan Luttrull - Organist

JT Silence - Pastor

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