



Eastminster Messenger

Heads, Hearts & Hands for Christ in Service & Celebration

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December 6, 2022



Hey friends, it was a full room... friends, stories, carols, and food; it's a church gathering after all! Great thanks to CE's leadership and to all who joined in. The Advent luncheon was... well - a joy.

And it's "joy" that will be our focus this next week. I'm giving thanks to God for the many blessings of worshipping God together in the Advent season with the candle lighting, singing, music, prayer, and blessing. I look forward to sharing in a message this Sunday on "Unearthing Joy in an Upside Down World".

There are so many good things to share in worshipping God and following Jesus together into the world. Thanks be to God for the joy He gives, a joy that is true in part because it is intimately aware of life's blues. May this season of Advent, where we are especially reminded of waiting, be graced with added hope, peace, joy, and love for you. I'm looking forward to continuing on in this Advent journey with you!

Joy and courage, Ryan



CHRISTMAS PARTY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 at 6:30

Chips, salsa, good friends, and
a very Merry Christmas!

You're invited to join Community Group for a fun Christmas party at Hacienda (990 S. Green River Rd).

Rsvp appreciated by Sunday December 11 by signing up on the sheet located in the Gallery. Everyone is welcome. Let's celebrate!

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING,

Immediately after service,

SUNDAY, DECEMBER, 18th

We hope all active members will join this very brief meeting with a wonderful purpose, as we are blessed to share the nominees for ordained and installed service. Thank you for the prayers for all those answering the call.


Thanks be to God for the ministry we all share through Christ!

2022 Advent Luncheon



Thank you to everyone who planned the 2022 Advent Luncheon, and a big thank you to everyone who was in attendance this past Sunday.

A fun time was had by all with great food and a Christmas reading by our own Mark Miller.



EPW will meet at Oak Meadow Country Club and have a Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, December 14, at Noon.

All attending are asked to either bake a dozen cookies or bring a dozen store bought to be given to our Friends At home

As the saying goes—"Better Late Than Never."

Due to changing pastoral staff and then the covid lock down, we have not kept you up-to-date on our new members! Over the last 3 years we have been fortunate to accept the following persons into our congregation:

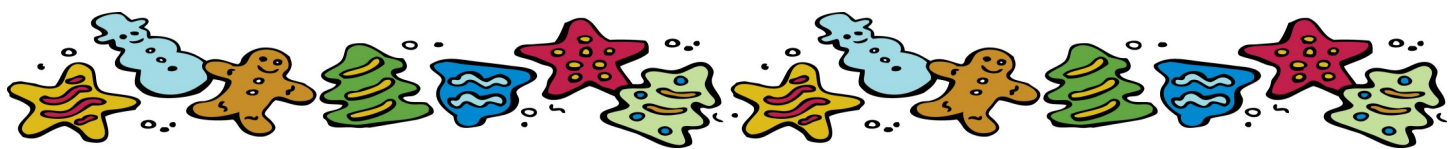
Martha Murphy	Norman & Margaret Fischer
Bonnie Noe	Marian LaChance
Jim & Jane Gulick	

Christmas Decorators



Thank you to the decorating volunteers that decorated the entire church for the Christmas Season!

- Mel & Marilyn Ellsperman
- Donna Cooke
- Beth Bailey
- Bob & Mical Michel
- Ron & Karla Harper
- Marcia Nauert
- Janet Zeiher
- Pam Stevens
- Sue Shelton
- Bonnie Noe
- Marian LaChance (not pictured)
- Carrie Mogavero (not pictured)





Exploring Eastminster

This Advent season is a perfect time to visit, or revisit, Nativity Hall. This is the area of the back hallway from the entry, past the offices, where a series of large oil paintings depict many of the events leading up to the birth of Christ.

They are:

“The Annunciation”: An angel appearing to Mary as we read in the book of Luke 1: 26-31;

“The Dream of Joseph”: An angel appearing to Joseph as we read in Matthew 1:18-25;

“Mary and Elizabeth”: Mary arriving at the home of Elizabeth who, at her advanced age, is soon to give birth herself, to a son who will become John the Baptist as we read in Luke 1:39-66;

“The Census at Bethlehem”: a very different depiction of Bethlehem than normally comes to mind, from the reading of Luke 2:1-5; and,

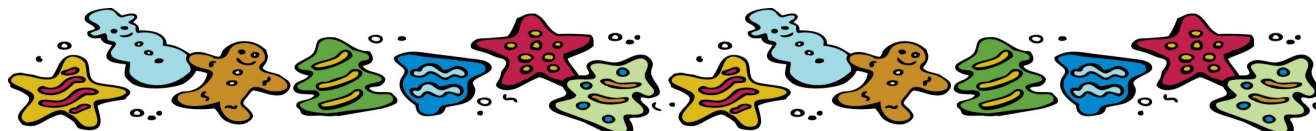
“The Adoration of the Shepherds”, from Luke 2:8-16.

A brochure is provided which gives background on each of the paintings, the date, and the artist, with the exception of “Mary and Elizabeth”, which is a new addition given by our member Melba Hutchinson in memory of her daughter Julie. The remaining two paintings, “Christ of St. John of the Cross” by Dali, and “Young Jew as Christ” by Rembrandt, challenge the viewer to look differently at an image of Jesus himself and also at the Crucifixion.

In addition to the paintings, a side table displays a beautiful nativity scene which is there year-round for us to enjoy, and comfortable arm chairs allow the viewer to sit and contemplate. All the art and furnishings in the Hall are the vision and gift of an anonymous donor, wishing to recognize and celebrate the strong connections that have always existed between the Christian faith and various expressions of the Arts.

But wait! Does this mean EPC now owns actual works by Salvador Dali and Rembrandt? Alas, no. They are copies, beautifully executed and very close to the original works. Historically, artists have perfected their skills by copying the works of old masters and this is true today. Copying of pre-existing works for sale is legal, so long as the original work is in the public domain, meaning that the copyright (the life of the artist plus 70 years after the artist’s death) has expired. And while the concept of “copyright” may not have existed at the time these works were painted, it does apply to them. We are thankful to the modern artist who recreated these for us to enjoy.

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Trey Fulkerson - Youth/Pastoral Assist.

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