



Eastminster Messenger

Heads, Hearts & Hands for Christ in Service & Celebration

Volume 39 Issue

March 21 2023

FROM THE PASTOR

Hey friends, how good it was to see that pancake lunch after worship service. That fun fundraiser brought so many folks together in support of the kids and youth upcoming faith-building experiences at beloved Camp Pyoca. Truly, great work by the youth and adult leaders!! Thank you all!

Service included an absolutely moving anthem with Alanna Keenan, Ryan Luttrull, and the choir. Soul-lifting in worship and praise of God!

I am looking forward to continuing in this season of Lent with you this week, and to the blessing of Trey Fulkerson bringing the message in worship this Sunday.

I give thanks to God for active heart and imagination you share in Christ, and for the growing life to be found as disciples following Jesus into the world.

May all things new, different, familiar in worship bless your soul and most of all, may all that we do be done to the glory of God.

Joy and courage, Ryan



Conversations on Faith & Church Membership

This Sunday, March 26 and Sunday, April 2nd at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall

Whether you're newly visiting Eastminster or interested in learning more about faith, and membership in the church, we're excited to share in two upcoming conversations in Fellowship Hall.

See Pastor Ryan Bradney for questions or more info.

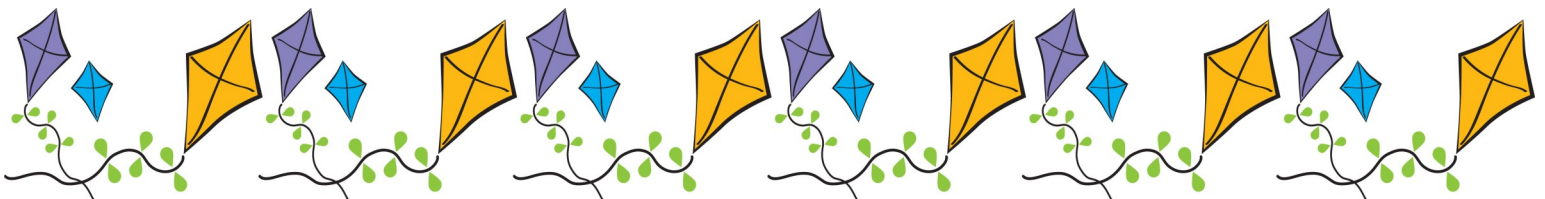


PRAYER CONCERNS

Please pray for the following:

Tid Turner, Jane Williams, Walt Lowe, Ann Meyers, David Holder, Shirley Vanlandingham, Ashly Steckel, Jesse Garcia, Lee & Karen Miller, Rilee Jane Colbert, Steve Aud, Sabrina Holden, Jerry, Dawn, Carolyn Stitt, Ginny Schroeder Peggy Pennington, and the people of Ukraine & Turkey

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.



INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Burnamwood Appalachian Ministries

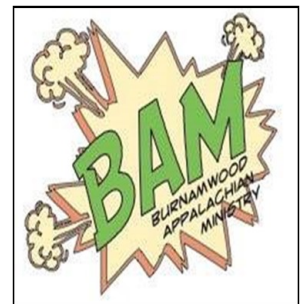
to be scheduled in April

If you are interested in going on the mission trip but have questions please plan on attending this brief meeting. Attending the meeting DOES NOT mean you are signing up for the trip, but you are merely wanting to know more information. The date will be announced very soon but the time and place of the meeting has already been determined. We will meet in the Sanctuary immediately after worship. Some general information is listed below.

TRIP DATE: July 9 - 14

COST: \$300.00 (this includes room & board as well as food!)

DEPOSIT: \$100.00 due by Sunday March 31st



If you are unable to pay for the deposit on that day or will have difficulty covering the trip, the Mission Committee is providing partial funding to reduce individual costs and may be able to offer scholarships as well. **NO ONE WILL BE TURNED AWAY!**

See Donna, Trey or Ryan for more information

The Great Egg Caper

Palm Sunday

After Worship Service

*Please donate unfilled plastic eggs
and/or candy to go into the eggs.*

Donation baskets will be in the narthex.



The first Annual Youth Pancake Breakfast was a huge success!!!!

Thank you to all who helped prepare and cook for this event. Thank you to the generous support of the congregation. Thanks to all of you we raised over \$800.



The Purple Seasons

When I was growing up, my favorite color was purple. So it didn't escape my attention that there were two times a year that my church decorated everything in purple. And this being the 1980s, my church was very, very purple. I soon noticed that when the church decorations turned purple, we were getting ready for something big – for my four year old soul, that meant visits from Santa or the Easter Bunny. I also noticed that the season of purple meant that my parents would be up in the choir loft rehearsing more than usual. They were getting ready too. Entering church on Sundays during these seasons of purple, I could feel the anticipation even if I didn't entirely know what we were getting ready for.

As an adult, the color purple still brings about these feelings of anticipation. As a music director, the anticipation is sometimes mixed with feelings of stress. There is something big at the end of these seasons of purple and it often involves music. In Advent, we have the anticipation of Christ coming down to the world. While we are expectant, there is much joy in our waiting. In Lent, we have the anticipation of Christ rising from the dead – but we have the added wrinkle of His suffering and death on the cross for the redemption of the world. We are excited for the Resurrection, but first we must grapple with the events that led to this.

This Sunday, you will notice that the choir selections reflect on this duality of emotion. We begin with one of Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Mystical Songs*. Within in the first stanza, we are anticipating Easter: "Come my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all strife; such a life as killeth death." However, this delightful anticipation is balanced with the anthem in which we examine our own complicity in the passion and death of Jesus: "For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation, thy mortal sorrow... thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion for my salvation."

There is still so much anticipation and purple left in this season of Lent, I hope you will find moments of reflection and peace in the musical selections in the weeks to come. — Alanna Keenan

Saying Goodbye to the Mission House.

One of my early memories of attendance at Eastminster is the congregational meeting one Sunday in November 2006, called to vote on the question of whether to buy the Mission House. Of course, it wasn't called the Mission House then, it was just the house on the adjoining property that possibly could be leveled to provide additional parking space if for no other use, to meet our future needs. I was so impressed with the way the meeting was conducted and with the respectful way members presented their arguments (and I will always remember one gentleman in particular who spoke against the move due to the cost) that I felt good about becoming a part of this congregation and this new venture. (continued)

(Mission House continued)

It was not long after the purchase that a vision for the house came into focus. Reverend Davenport was at that time a member of the board of Habitat for Humanity and brought to our attention the need for housing for families approved for a Habitat house but in need of housing until theirs was completed. The Missions Committee took leadership of the effort and the Building and Maintenance committee was immediately recruited to assess the repairs/improvements needed. Volunteers pitched in and professionals did their jobs, and the "Mission House" became a reality. Rent was set at a reasonable amount for the time; utilities in the church's name were also paid by the tenant, all into a Mission House account from which repairs and upkeep were drawn.

For years the house served its purpose but fewer "Habitat" families were able to take advantage of it for various reasons. Often, they were already living in a home, although substandard, or were in a lease agreement, perhaps. Rather than the house sitting empty, it was offered to families/individuals in other crisis situations and this continued to be the practice.

The Mission House essentially paid for itself once the original cost was satisfied and over the years there were volunteer opportunities with painting, yard work, and general upkeep between tenants. And one Summer the house helped one of our young men earn his Eagle Scout Award as he laid out, landscaped, and furnished a small patio in the back yard.

But it had become clear that the "Mission" was not being fulfilled. The house was no longer serving the original purpose. Tenants often had little if any interaction with the congregation, who therefore saw little of the benefit, and this was especially true for the Missions Committee. The house is aging, and certainly the church has no current need for additional parking!

The last tenant has gone. The structure overall is in good condition. Building and Maintenance Committee members have assessed the need for repairs and are doing what can be done by volunteer hands. There are some more costly repairs needed and the Committee is seeking advice as to whether we will be best served by making those repairs or offering the house as is. Then the "For Sale" sign will go up,

Owning the house was a worthwhile experience: It was always beneficial for those who needed the service it provided. Have we as a congregation learned something from this? Clearly, we are people who want to reach out and offer our hands where needed and our Missions Committee and Community Outreach Group very much want to hear from you what you want that to look like as we move on.



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Eastminster Staff

Ryan Bradney - Pastor

Mike Cantrell - Handyman

Mary Fulkerson - Office Manager

Trey Fulkerson - Youth/Pastoral Assist.

Alanna Keenan - Director of Music

Anslee LaChance - Nursery Worker

Marian LaChance - Housekeeper

Ryan Luttrull - Organist

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