

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Eastminster Messenger

Heads, Hearts & Hands for Christ in Service & Celebration

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I am really looking forward to this Saturday's stewardship dinner. I look at it as Eastminster's Thanksgiving meal celebration and give thanks that we all have this opportunity to enjoy God, church-wide fellowship, and a lovingly prepared celebration, all in a spirit of thanks. Get ready! If you haven't signed up yet, I hope that you will do so. What a blessing that we are able to provide rides on the church bus for anyone unable to drive, and hope that all will join. There is so very much to give thanks for as God continues to strengthen us together for lives of whole-hearted worship, discipleship, and community in Christ.

This Sunday, Commitment Sunday, I am eager to explore Jesus' parable of the talents, one of his most challenging stories that surprises with truly good news for a frightened world. Journey on, by the grace and love of God. Let us worship God!

Joy and courage, Ryan

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR PLEDGE CARD THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH FOR COMMITMENT SUNDAY AS WE BEGIN PLANNING ON OUR 2024 PROGRAMS.



Thanksgiving's Path to Contentment

"Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content." –Hebrews 13:5

What would it take to make you happy? Really. In our culture, advertisements sell us on the idea that true happiness is always just one more purchase away. When we believe this, we put ourselves on the hamster wheel of want. No matter how hard we run, we will never get to happiness.

More often than happiness, the Bible speaks of contentment. The two concepts are often confused, but the distinction is important. Whereas happiness is a pleasurable sensation that rises and falls like the tide, contentment is a state of satisfaction that remains calm, like the surface of a pond.

God calls us to live contentedly, finding sufficiency in our lives, our relationships, and all we possess. We are enough. We have enough. When our essential needs are met, incessant wants do not infest our soul like itchy fleas.

How do we find contentment? Thankfulness provides a way. We give thanks for all we are and all we have, appreciating every blessing. Since this is the month of Thanksgiving, make a pledge to yourself this November to find contentment through giving thanks. Make a "Gratitude List" of everything for which you are thankful. Review it daily, praying over each blessing, "I thank God for" Add to it as you think of new things.

May you finish November as someone who is not only thankful, but also content with all you are and all you have.

--Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.



YOUTH GROUP

The youth have started a new curriculum series for both Sunday School and Youth Group. In Sunday School we have started From Outside In which is a 6-week study on the book of James. From Outside In focuses on one of the best purveyors of advice in the entire Bible, James and his thoughts about how we should be continuing God's story after the crucifixion.

Since the Bible contains a lot of good advice and it all can't be found in James we are going to attempt to glean the rest at youth group with a series called If the Pasta Wiggles, Don't Eat It. During this series, my intention is to share my personal favorite lessons from the Bible in both a whimsical and meaningful way.

Looking forward to some events coming up in the life of the youth group, on November 17th we are having a family movie night. All ages are welcome and encouraged to come, these movie nights serve as a great way for me as the youth director to build relationships with children too young for the program, but also serve as an opportunity for the congregation to network with the families that are attached to those children (some of whom need a church home!!!).

The youth group will also be hosting another **Youth for a Day** event where all ages are welcome to pay an entry fee in order to participate in some of the activities the youth engage in every week. This event brings with it all of the opportunities for fellowship that the movie night brings while also putting a little bit of pizza money in the youth groups pocket! More information will be coming soon!

Hope to see you in
The Place,
Trey



Children to fill Cornucopia This Sunday, Nov. 19



This Sunday during worship service, all children present will have the opportunity to help fill a cornucopia as we continue to count our blessings at Eastminster. The children will be offering up canned food and non-perishables as well.



Your help is greatly needed to help decorate the church for the Christmas Season. We will be decorating on Wednesday, November 29th. If you can't come at that time but can offer time later, please say you'll be there. Many hands make light the work!

Thank you!

Please join us on Saturday, December 3,
at 6 PM
for an Advent Celebration in Fellowship Hall.

Meat and drinks will be provided.

We ask that you bring a side dish or a dessert of cupcakes or cookies.

Please call the church office to make your Reservations or sign up on the sheet located in Narthex.



EPW will host a soup, sandwich and dessert luncheon on January 14 following worship service. Individual cost is \$10.00. This fundraiser supports EPW in their many ways of giving in mission support.

We hope to see you there!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN THANK OFFERING



The Thank Offering has long been a tradition of Presbyterian Women. It has provided and continues to provide much-needed financial assistance to numerous worthwhile programs not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support. Each year, domestic and international projects are carefully and prayerfully selected by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee to help meet a crucial need. Forty percent (40%) of this offering is used to support hospitals and community health programs that place priority in helping the most needy members of God's community. The remaining sixty percent (60%) is used for new creative ideas for mission, undesignated in advance. The generosity of Presbyterian women and their families and congregations as demonstrated through their Thank Offering gifts help chosen recipients find real solutions for projects related to health, education, economic development, and needs of women and children.

On Sunday, November 19th we will be receiving the Thank Offering. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated.



Liturgist Schedule



November 19 -- Brian Baily
November 26 -- Jason Webb



If you are interested in taking a CPR class, please see Donna Cooke or sign up on the sheet located in the Narthex. If we get enough response we will put together another class. Thank you!

Please pray for the following:

Jane Williams, Walt Lowe, Ann Meyers, Gary & I Peggy Pennington, Lydia, Bekah, Dave & Barbara Moran, Mike Naas, Betty Sue Foster, Tatum Turpin, Sandra Hess, Linda Coleman. Cheri Kieffner, and the people of Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine.



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.



Poinsettias

Poinsettia orders are now being taken. The cost is \$15 each. Please fill out the form below and place in the offering plate on Sunday or mail to the church. Make checks payable to Eastminster with poinsettia marked in the memo field. The deadline to order a poinsettia is Friday, December 8.

All poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 24 for the Christmas Eve Service. After the Christmas Eve service you may take your poinsettia with you.

Yes, I would like _____ poinsettia(s)

In memory/honor of: _____

I will pick up my poinsettia(s) ___yes ___no

Donor's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____