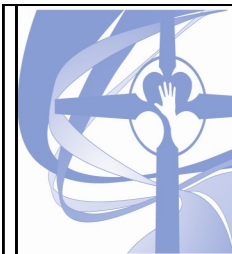


EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5501 Washington Avenue
Evansville, IN 47715



Eastminster Messenger

Heads, Hearts & Hands for Christ in Service & Celebration

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July 1, 2024

King George called the war for Independence the "Presbyterian rebellion." Horace Walpole, then Prime Minister of England, said before Parliament that "Cousin America has run off with a Presbyterian parson." One German mercenary soldier wrote home: "Call this war by whatever name you may... it is nothing more or less than a Scots-Irish Presbyterian rebellion." John Witherspoon, a Presbyterian, was the only active clergy person to sign the Declaration of Independence. British troops, knowing the role of the Presbyterians in the struggle for freedom and independence, turned Presbyterian church buildings into stables--or worse yet burned some of the church buildings to the ground. These are just a few anecdotes of an incredible history of Presbyterians serving in the struggle for freedom.

We give thanks for the best of their courage and vision, and for the costly grace God generously gives that all would be free. How good is it to share with a congregation with such wonderful history, which includes people from a variety of backgrounds, in an ecumenical spirit centered on Christ and grace all learning and growing from different viewpoints, and going forth as people sent by the Spirit into the world.

This Sunday, we explore Revelation 13:11-18; 14:1-3, 6-13, and I am excited for your thoughtful engagement of this passage and all its insightful symbolism, which all shared in the Spirit can enliven strength and inspiration that we might not have known was possible.

You might have noticed a slight change in the flow of worship the past few Sundays. The sharing of Christ's peace was moved to the end of the service just after the Closing Voluntary played beautifully by Ryan Luttrull. This Sunday, we hope you will join in hearing the blessing of the Closing Voluntary. Truly wonderful music that unfortunately many have missed out on through the years. I hope to be able to catch up with you after service or sometime sooner.

May you have a truly blessed Independence Day of joy, reflection and celebration of freedom. And may we through faith all be blessed to share in the building of our interdependence of friendship, community, neighborhood, nation, world, and the Body of Christ in the grace and peace of God.

Let us worship God!

Grace and courage, Ryan



Presbyterian Women 2024 Birthday Offering

For many years, we at Eastminster have been strong supporters of the Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women. This is an offering that, for nearly 90 years, has provided hope and security to vulnerable people around the world. Each year, grant requests are submitted and the recipients of those grants are doing tremendous things in the name of Christ all around the world. This year's recipients are:

Villa 5 Apartments and Recreation Area Marthasville, Missouri

Many adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) experience difficulties finding appropriate and affordable housing and often struggle to make friends and thrive in the wider community. Many are placed in nursing homes, boarding homes, with aging parents or in other environments that are expensive and isolating. Bethel Hills addresses the unique needs of individuals with I/DD by providing a safe and loving place that takes into consideration their physical, emotional and spiritual needs in an environment where they can flourish. By renovating a villa into four accessible apartments for eight individuals, this project will provide housing that takes into consideration specific needs unique to the residents. The new recreational area will offer space for art and music therapy and other leisure activities for people with and without intellectual/developmental disabilities. With the Birthday Offering grant, Bethel Hills will expand its mission to provide supportive, faith-based, inclusive community where all are accepted and valued.

Shawnee Presbyterian Church - Café Gingko Louisville, Kentucky

Shawnee Presbyterian Church serves as a welcoming beacon of light for their community in Louisville. Located in an economically disadvantaged area where single mothers and children face challenges of food insecurity, the church started addressing this need in August 2019. The small yet dedicated congregation began serving free dine-in meals at Café Gingko, named for a ginkgo tree located at the building's north entrance. With the Birthday Offering grant, Café Gingko will be able to reopen with a renovated kitchen and expanded capacity to provide meals. Improvements to the fellowship hall will allow the church to offer enriching activities: tutoring for elementary ages, Gingko Play Zone, financial literacy classes and Mama-to-Mama parenting workshops. The members of Shawnee Presbyterian Church will reach out and serve their beloved community with resilience and strength—just like the ginkgo tree outside their door.

This year the Birthday Offering will be received on Sunday, July 14th. Please give generously! Thank you!



The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, July 4th & 5th.



Eastminster Staff

Ryan Bradney - Pastor

Mike Cantrell - Sexton

Donna Cooke - Parish Nurse

Mary Fulkerson - Office Manager

Trey Fulkerson - Youth/Pastoral Assist.

Alanna Keenan - Director of Music

Addison Kuhs - Nursery Worker

Marian LaChance - Housekeeper

Ryan Luttrull - Organist

Church Communication Lines

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Sound Engineer: Ron Harper

Videographer: Jack Garcia

Social Media Admin: Tony McClees
 tmcclees@illinois.edu

Starfish School Supplies Needed to Complete Requests (enough for 35 students) 2024

NEEDED

- 20 Earbuds (no Bluetooth; compatible with Chromebooks)
- 10 Earphones (specific to school/Chromebook/use)
- 6 Graphing paper (package)
- 5 Water bottles
- 9 Binders (2 inch only)
- 480 Pencils #2 (prefer Ticonderoga; sharpened or unsharpened)
- 5 Pencil Boxes
- 25 Pencil Pouches (3-hole punch/zipper)
- 0 Crayons (none, we have all we need)
- 8 Colored Pencils (prefer Crayola) 12
- 24 Colored Pencils (prefer Crayola) 24
- 12 Washable markers (pack)
- 9 Highlighters
- 0 Blunt tipped scissors (none, we have all we need)
- 28 Regular scissors (sharp tipped, 7")
- 90 Glue Sticks
- 20 Erasers (have enough end caps for pencils/need the big pink erasers)
- 20 Rulers
- 0 Post-Its (none, we have all we need)
- 60 Index Cards (3x5, 100 pack)
- 10 Subject Dividers (at least 5 dividers in a set)
- 0 Folders (none, we have all we need)
- 75 Composition Note Books (most schools are asking for 4-5 colors)
- 38 Wide ruled notepaper (loose leaf pack, at least 100 sheets)
- 25 Spiral notebooks (wide rule; often asked for yellow, blue, green, red)
- 0 Calculator (as these are specialty requests; donations will cover)
- 30 Tissues (boxes, Kleenex preferred)
- 60 Disinfectant Canisters (Clorox most often requested)
- 25 Ziplock gallon plastic bag boxes

There are specialty items that are on some students' lists, however, those will be supplied via donation. Kindergarten through twelfth grade will be supplied. We will not supply backpacks or books or school clothing. When the registrations are received in the office, a volunteer will call on the number listed on the form to answer questions and explain the distribution process. Some EVSC schools have set up their own supply systems to cover student lists; some have not. Supply distribution day will be on Backpack Dedication Sunday (August 4). If there are any leftover supplies, they will be distributed to area school systems for students. If you have any questions, contact the church office at 812-476-3355. Please place your donations in one of the baskets located throughout the church. As always, Starfish thanks you for your support!

Please remember to keep our Mission Team in your prayers as they head off to Burnamwood on Sunday, July 14 - Thursday, July 18. Pray for safety, discernment, their work type and its load. The folks of Ervine Kentucky are still recovering from past major flooding and need a variety of gifts and talents to get back on their feet. What a blessing to be a blessing!

Ladies' Night Out will be at Longhorn on Tuesday, July 9, at 6:15 p.m. Please contact the office to make your reservations.

FIRST SUNDAY GIVING IMPACT

Each 1st Sunday of the month, we are thankful to lift up another impactful giving opportunity. This Sunday, all loose offering will go towards the Good Samaritan fund, a benevolence ministry of Eastminster overseen by the deacons that continues to be a wonderful support to people working through so many challenges. Support from the Good Samaritan fund has included rent and utility assistance, food and fuel, and related needs. Thank you for your incredible generosity of Spirit that you share as a way of life in Christ out in the world!



"Casablanca"

Friday, June 12, 6:00 pm

CASABLANCA is a 1942 movie that has been listed as one of the greatest films ever made. On first viewing, it is a love story of a doomed romance, with actors who outdid themselves in their roles. However, CASABLANCA achieved a significance in history that has only rarely been matched in its influence, its popularity, and its relevance to today also. It deals with duty, resistance, and self-sacrifice. "Who is my brother?"

The 1930s had produced a widespread longing for isolationism from a world that was changing for the worst. "Europe's problems aren't ours, why should we care", "we need to take care of our own", "stay out of it", and "they can work it out for themselves" were common sentiments in a depression ridden society.

Indeed, Nazi sympathies in the U.S. were not uncommon. Even one very celebrated hero had declared that Germany "needed" Hitler and his policies, and made several trips to Germany to meet with Nazi leaders, even receiving a medal. Discussions and arguments about individual rights vs. the collective good, and eugenics were common. The U.S. government had sent arms and money to Europe but had made no official participation. Even the attack on Pearl Harbor, debate continued as to whether we should respond (even after a declaration of war) or remove our presence from the Pacific.

Rick is an American in Morocco, a territory of France, running "Rick's Café Americaine". He is a neutral. Authorized travel documents for refugees to neutral countries are traded for various favors in the club. And much of France is under the Vichy government (French Nazi collaborators), which makes Morocco part of Vichy France. The presence of the German military is strong in Morocco, and even though not officially in control, all decisions in life are made with the approval of the German military that oversees the Vichy government police.

Rick's character seems to establish that it's not his concern. He is there to run his club for money. "I stick my neck out for no one," is what he tells his patrons. And then, SHE walks in. And the backstory unfolds. Now, it becomes personal. What do I owe to anyone else? Is this my responsibility? What am I willing to do for someone else?

The movie became one of the turning points of American thinking. Obviously, Pearl Harbor had much to do with it, shaking the mistaken idea that two oceans could keep the country uninvolved. The film is relevant to this day. What does our national conscience say about us? Do we have an obligation to others? The film addresses these questions in a compelling and moving story. Who IS my brother?

Volunteer Opportunities Available

The Christian Education Committee is needing volunteers for the following:

- Help with Children's Sunday School
- Help with Children's Worship
- Help with Children's Sermon

These are great ways to step out in faith and get to know our children. If you would be interested or have questions, please call the church office or see Lindsey Miller, Annie Fulkerson, Patti Garcia, or Janet Zeiher

We have several members and friends who would like to attend worship but no longer drive. If you would be willing to give a ride to one of our at-home folks, please contact the church office. The office will contact you with the person that best fits your driving path.

If you need a ride, please contact the office so we can put you on the list to be picked up.

