



Eastminster Messenger

Heads, Hearts & Hands for Christ in Service & Celebration

Volume 42 Issue 27

July 20, 2026

IN WORSHIP

**Sunday, July 26,
Reverend Jeffrey Howard
preaching**

**Sunday, August 2,
Reverend Dennis Davenport
preaching**

Let us worship God!

Ann Meyers, Dave Moran and family, Randy Mattingly, Kim Hale, Shannon Kuhs, Peggy Pennington, Linda Coleman, Maria Keller, Kim Hale, James Foster, Betty Sue and Pamela Jean, Michael Pegues, Johnnie Pegues, the Doerter family, Ruth Ann Nelson and family, Tammy Wallace, Billy Barnes, Lisa Russell, Tosha Perdue, Eli Spencer, Jack Turpin, Lizzie Brandon and children, Jenny Kuhs & family, the Howland family, Patsy Sproatt and family, the family of Jane Williams, the Lane family, Ruth Lankford, Ruth and Mickey, John David Shofstall, the family of Joan Post, Emily McLean and family, Sharon and Steve, Marian LaChance, and Sam and Sophie Schulz.



To add or remove names from the prayer list, please call the church office at 812-476-3355.

Just a reminder:

If you are in the church after hours, please make sure that the doors are **securely closed and locked and not propped open** when you leave.

Thank you!

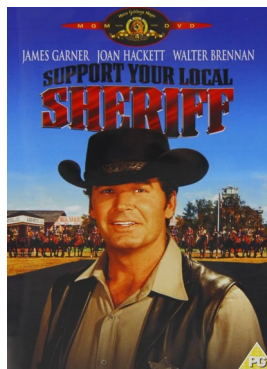
LET'S TALK!

*It's time for some
FELLOWSHIP*

and getting to know each other more.

**JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND BAKED
GOODS IN THE GALLERY BETWEEN
10-10:30AM AND FOLLOWING
WORSHIP**

Hope to see you there!

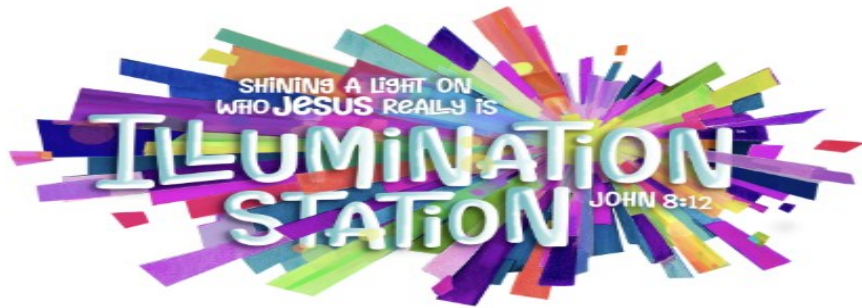


**MOVIE NIGHT
FRIDAY, JULY 31,
6 PM
Second Floor Lounge**

SNACKS!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 13 - 17, 2026





Singing one of their songs during worship this past Sunday, July 19.

"I am about to do a new thing, now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?" - Isaiah 43:19

BRIDGE PASTOR SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

A **Bridge Pastor Search Team** (selected by the Session) has been formed and is actively engaged in the process of preparing to identify candidates for Bridge Pastor to present to the Session. Our team includes for session members, plus our liaison: Don Smith, Lindsey Miller, Patsy Sproatt, Mark Nicholson, and Rev. MB McCandless. The team met June 10 and July 15. Rev. McCandless is scheduled to update Eastminster's session on July 22, and the team will meet again July 29 to finalize materials to submit for the Bridge Pastor Search.

WHY WE'RE OPTIMISTIC:

Our timeline is expected to be shorter than our previous search because:

- Our miss study with demographics is relatively current (with only minimal updates needed.)
- Our presbytery and liaison are strong advocates for our congregation.
- Potential Bridge Pastor candidates are already being identified (and may be available as early as early fall).
- *We are not facing pandemic-related delays!*

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND:

The **Bridge Pastor** is selected by the session in cooperation with the presbytery. It is a temporary, contracted position. The future INSTALLED PASTOR is selected by the **Pastor Nominating Committee** (PNC) in cooperation with the presbytery. The congregation elects the PNC and the congregation elects the future installed pastor.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR:

On May 18, 2026, Eastminster's session met with our Presbytery Support Team to begin the process of calling our next pastor. We are grateful for the guidance of these presbytery leaders :

- Rev. Susan McGhee, *Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Ohio Valley*
- Rev. MaryBeth McCandless *Eastminster's COM Liaison*
- Rev. Sammie Smith *Eastminster's Session Moderator* until a pastor is in place.

As a vital, stable congregation, we have been encouraged to search for a **Bridge Pastor*** who may help guide us toward the election of a **Pastor Nominating Committee**** and will provide stability through the transition to our next installed pastor.

**a Bridge Pastor is a temporary pastoral position that functions as a bridge between our past and our future. This role gives us time and creates space for us as a congregation to adjust to the shift from what we had anticipated and dreamed, to an openness to a new, installed pastor. A Bridge Pastor provide consistency in preaching, leadership, and pastoral care during the transition.*

***The Pastor Nominating Committee (also known as the PNC) is a committee of the congregation, selected by the congregation. The congregation must have the approval of the presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) to elect a PNC. The Bridge Pastor may help with that initial preparation.*

➔ It is **important to note** that some elements of this process and timeline are fixed and some are flexible. This is not a contract or guarantee of a precise process or time line. The presbytery is working with Eastminster to make this process *make sense for Eastminster* and to move forward as quickly and effectively as is possible and prudent.

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

Late Summer

- With the session, the Search Team finalizes compensation and Bridge Pastor/Temporary Pastor Agreement and submits information for approval by the Committee on Ministry (COM).
- With the COM, the Search Team finalizes search materials for a Bridge Pastor and submits to appropriate entities for the search.
- With the COM, Eastminster's Search Team identifies and discerns the best fit of potential candidates for the Bridge Pastor.
- With the assistance of the session, the Search Team interviews potential candidates for Bridge Pastor, and with the approval of the Committee On Ministry, the session may enter into the Bridge Pastor/Temporary Pastor Agreement with the best suited candidate.

Early fall to early winter

- With the Bridge Pastor (or possibly concurrent with the process to engage a Bridge pastor) the congregation elects a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).
- The Pastor Nominating Committee completes and submits the Ministry Discernment Profile (which will be approved by the Session and Committee on Ministry) to the *Church Leadership Connection* (PCUSA) and the *Midwest Call Finder* (Synod of Lincoln Trails).

IN THE MEANTIME

The Music and Worship Committee will continue to support meaningful Sunday worship with supply pastors each week.

As we move forward, we trust that God is already at work, preparing the next chapter of our church.

We encourage you to keep this process in your prayers and we invite you to reach out to the Bridge Pastor Search Team or our liaison with questions.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

- Philippians 4: 6-7

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Eastminster Staff

Mike Cantrell - Sexton
Donna Cooke - Parish Nurse
Trey Fulkerson - Youth/Pastoral Assist.
Alanna Keenan - Director of Music
Marian LaChance - Housekeeper
Ryan Luttrull - Organist
Laurie Spencer - Office Manager

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