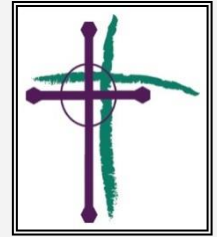


Eastminster Edition



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

December 2016/January 2017

Eastminster Staff

Pastor

Pressley Cox

pressley@eastminster.com

Administrative Assistant

Ellen Irick

admin@eastminster.com

Music Director

lucie@eastminster.com

Lucie Svatonova-Hughes

Accompanist

Carol Irick

carolirick@charter.net

Director of Bell Choir

Jim Parrish

Jim.parrishsc@gmail.com

Bookkeeper

Wanda Grant

pbs@carolina.rr.com

Church Information

Eastminster Presbyterian
2240 Woodruff Road
Simpsonville, SC 29681
www.eastminster.com
Phone: 864-284-0190
Fax: 864-284-9316



Eastminster Presbyterian Church is a church of the Presbyterian Church, USA



December 18th CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.



There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 8th immediately following worship to present the 2017 Budget and themes from the Long Range Planning Team (see details on page 12).

CHILI COOK-OFF & YOUTH BAKE SALE!!

This year's Chili Cook-Off/Youth Bake Sale will take place right after the service on Sunday, Jan. 29th at 11 AM. This is a "between football games" Sunday, so stay and fellowship with your church family and enjoy some delicious warm food! See the sign-up sheet in the Commons in January to enter your chili, donate a baked good for the youth sale, or just to attend and help judge!

CHILI:

It's \$5 (or \$20/family) for tasting cups and a bowl and \$1 for a hotdog and chips. Come help pick out the new best chili around! All proceeds will benefit our "Stop Hunger Now" food packing event on Feb. 11th.

New This Year: If you're entering your extra-special chili, please include a batch of corn bread to serve with it.

BAKE SALE:

We will also hold a bake sale to benefit the Youth Ministry here at EPC. If you'd like to donate a yummy dessert, please note that on our sign-up sheet.



Pastor's Corner- A Note from Pressley

Dear EPC friends and family-

Advent

... is a time for active waiting and preparing, a period for making our homes, our hearts, and our world ready for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

It is a time of *hope*...

Thinking about what kind of world we hope for, and how we help to bring it about.

It is a time to pray for *peace*...

Thinking about those places in our homes, neighborhoods, and world where we so desperately need the Prince of Peace.

It is a time of *love*...

Receiving expressions of love from others and demonstrating love ourselves.

It is a time of *joy*...

Being with family and friends, finding concrete ways to make our joy real through music, dance and creative activities.

I hope to see all of you this Advent as we prepare for the birth of Jesus!

Grace and peace- Pressley



"We are one family in Christ, living in community, celebrating our faith, called, comforted and challenged by the Word of God, reaching out to all persons."

Our Vision:

To grow in God, make Christ known and serve with love.

Our Mission

Worship GOD, GROW IN FAITH, GO AND SERVE



ADVENT WORSHIP

December 11 th	Lessons and Carols
December 18 th	Children's Christmas Traditions around the World
December 24 5:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
December 25 th	Christmas Day Worship
January 1	New Year's Day Worship



Epiphany Sermon Series: New Year, Same Problems

January 8- *Baptism of the Lord*

Psalm 29; Matthew 3:13-17

“God’s Promise of New Life”

January 15

Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

“God’s Promise of Faithfulness”

January 22

Psalm 27:1, 4-9; Matthew 4:12-23

“God’s Promise of Ministry”

January 29

Guest Preacher TBA

February 5

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8

“God’s Promise of Freedom”

Join us at 10:00 am on Sunday, December 25th for Christmas Day Worship. Come as you are (pajamas are welcome!). A light breakfast will be served by the Worship Committee.

~ Sunday Worship ~

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Education Hour

Prepare Your Spirit with the Advent Devotional Booklets- This year’s devotional is called “A Journey of Memories” by Sue Washburn. The devotional is full of sights, smells, tastes and sounds that point to the promises of God in Jesus Christ. Advent devotional booklets will be available on the commons table.

Congregational Joys & Concerns

EPC Members Norton and Suzanne Cater, Tandy Gilliland, Marilyn James, Sally and Gil Seal, Anne Stockman

Homebound/Nursing Home Sylvia Meyer, Emily Phillips

EPC Extended Family

John Borth (*Maureen Cobb's Uncle*)
Paul and Susan Burks (*Cathy Parrish's sister and brother-in-law*)
Richard Calloway (*Jerry Calloway's brother*)
Jim and Sandy Eastman (*Sharon Daugherty's sister and brother-in-law*)
Betty Erdhaus (*Ann Coleman's Aunt*)
Susan Harrell (*Lindy Landers' sister*)
Cindy Herbert (*Beverly George's sister*)
Woody, Jennifer, Patrick, Claire, Rebecca and Maggie Houlihan (*Ben Cox's sister, brother-in-law and family*)
Scott Larsen (*Kimberly Lane's brother*)
Andrew and Jean McCallister (*parents of Sande Schweir*)
Barbara McCoy (*John Taylor's sister*)
Marianne Moorshead (*Mike Moorshead's mother*)
Sandy Stewart (*Jim Stewart's sister*)
Jitka Svatonova (*Lucie Svatonova-Hughes' mother*)
Joyce (*Bonnie McCourtie's aunt*)
Gladys (*Bonnie McCourtie's aunt*)
Jerry (*Barbara Kurta's brother*)
Michael (*Eileen Osteen's brother*)

EPC Friends...

Judith Cartisano
(*friend of Mike Randall*)
Johnny Davis
(*friend of Ben Cox*)
Charlotte Knowles
(*friend of Sandy Watkins*)
Danny and Sheila Scruggs
(*friends of Ben Cox*)
Pam
(*friend of Winnie Brinck*)

We always thank
GOD for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.

I Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

For additions or corrections to the prayer list, please contact
Network 6:2 Coordinator Syble Drake at 350-7637 or email network62@eastminster.com
Eastminster's Administrative Assistant Ellen Irick at 284-0190 or email admin@eastminster.com

December / January Birthdays!	12/1 - Terri Davidson Lynn Owens	12/29 - Karen Foote Georgia Carson
	12/10 - Will Carson	12/30 - Devon Cortright
	12/11 - Lynn Ingram	1/4 - Carolyn Uprichard Sudhir Samuel
	12/12 - Mark Osteen	1/5 - Anne Stockman
	12/13 - Ward Carson Emily Cox Sara Cox	1/7 - Annamarie Porco
	12/14 - Alex Winebarger	1/8 - Heath Cobb
	12/15 - Karen Reese	1/9 - June Granger
	12/16 - Mike Moorshead Alan Calloway	1/19 - Tom Harley Stephanie Brandenburg
	12/17 - Trevor Bielek	1/23 - Gregg Campbell
	12/23 - Katie Palmer Adam Calloway	1/24 - Chuck Landers
	12/25 - Ethan Lane	1/26 - Amy Campbell
		1/27 - Jackson Lane Olivia Lane
		1/31 - Bud Granger



News from Session

- ❖ Session approved the 2017 Stated Supply Pastor contract for Pressley Cox. This will be Pressley's 4th year as our Pastor.
- ❖ Session approved sponsoring 10 children from the Center for Community Services. This year they are requesting gift cards of \$25 from Target or Walmart.
- ❖ Session approved the 2017 recommended budget from the Finance and Stewardship Team. The budget will be presented at the congregational meeting on Sunday, January 8.
- ❖ The Adult Faith Formation team presented Adam Hamilton's Final Words as the curriculum for Lent 2017. The session approved.
- ❖ New Elder training dates: Nov 20, Nov 27, Dec 4 and Dec 11.

Session

Class of 2016

Eileen Osteen
Sara Randall
Jim Stewart
John Taylor

Class of 2017

Heath Cobb
Beverly George
Ed Irick
Kimberly Lane

Class of 2018

Jerry Calloway
Elaine Campbell
Gil Kraemer
Cyndi Lichoulas

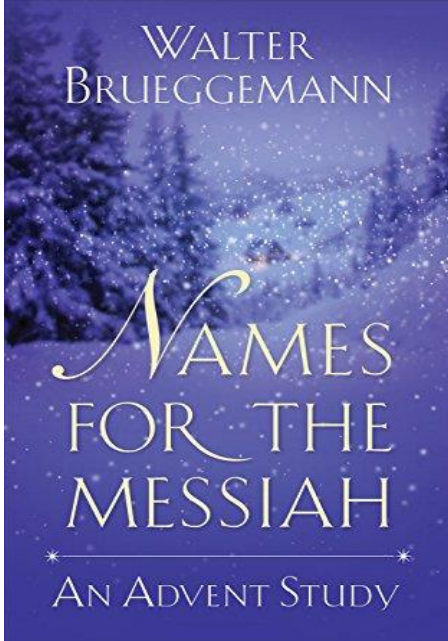
From the Music Director

The beginning of a new church year clearly lends itself to reflection on the year that has past as well as anticipation of the year to come. I have to say, my first year at Eastminster has been more than exciting and I feel very proud of what our choirs have accomplished. Both the Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir have worked very hard this year and have shown a great deal of improvement. We can't wait to present our Lessons and Carols program for the Christmas season on December 11th.

Working with the children at Eastminster has been a great source of joy for me; the Chimes Choir has taken off wonderfully – we are training some fine musicians here! The kids will present their Christmas program on December 18; it is called Christmas Around the World and will explore the multi-generational heritage of our children's families. We would like to thank our congregation, pastor Pressley and our parents for all the help and support they have provided. We couldn't do it without you! We look forward to another exciting year of making music together. Happy Holidays and a Peaceful New Year!

~ Lucie

Adult Education Hour 11:00 am on Sunday mornings



All adults are invited to join the Advent study meeting in the Presbytery Resource Center. "Names for the Messiah" explores those names in Isaiah often ascribed to Jesus: "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." What did these names mean when Isaiah wrote them? Did Jesus fulfill them? What do they mean for our lives today? The Parenting group will continue to meet in the room at the back of the sanctuary.

On **January 8** a new session begins with three groups meeting. Contemporary Issues meet in the Presbytery Resource Center. Continuing the Conversation meets in the conference room in the office corridor. Parenting meets in the room at the rear of the sanctuary.

There will be no Adult Sunday School on
December 25th and January 1st

Parenting Program: Sticky Faith
*Continues meeting through
December 18th in the room at the
rear of the sanctuary.*

Have you seen how your children mirror your life and actions?
What influences do your kids face in the world and how are they shaping their lives?
What made you who you are?
What do you want to pass along and what do you want to change and avoid?



We all have success with our children as well as struggles. Life demands a lot from us each day and it is tough at times to provide the environment they need to thrive. This group will help provide support, discussion and stories to share and learn from using Family Resources from Sticky Faith.

Small Group Ministry Opportunities



EPC Women's Circles will meet in December to discuss Lesson Three in our 2017-2018 Horizon Bible Study entitled *Who Is Jesus?* In Lesson Three we will see how Luke presents Jesus to us as the prophet of God, a prophet who perseveres in His ministry in the face of rejection.

January's discussion will center around Lesson Four and the Gospel of John which takes us into a deeper understanding of who Jesus is.

Women of all ages are invited to join us as we seek to nurture our faith through worship, study, friendship, and outreach.

Morning Circle will meet **Thursday December 8** at 10:00 at the home of Ann Coleman and **Thursday January 12** at 10:00 at the home of Sally Seal. Ladies are reminded to bring toiletries for Place of Hope and canned corn for the Food Bank at United Ministries. For more information, contact carolirick@charter.net.

Evening Circle will meet on Monday December 12 and January 9 at 7 p.m. in the church conference room. For more information, contact pressley@eastminster.com.

Ladies Out to Lunch (L.O.L) There will be no Ladies Out to Lunch in December. We will resume on Thursday, January 19th at Stella's Bistro. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. Call or text by Tuesday, January 17 to reserve your spot - 864-517-9781.



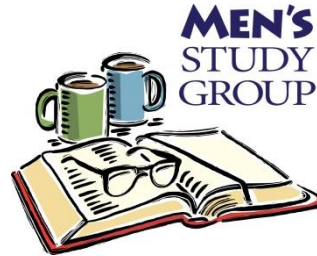
EPC Book Club Everyone is welcome to check out the following schedule and join in the book club! Meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. at EPC.

Please contact Shirley Nease if you have any questions at

Shirleynease@yahoo.com.

January 23rd – Tribe by Sebastian Junger

March 27th – Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates



**MEN'S
STUDY
GROUP**

Men's Small Group. Are you interested in growing deeper in faith and exploring Scripture? Consider adding this valuable time of study, prayer and fellowship to your week. This group

meets on **Tuesday mornings at 7:00 AM** and they are currently studying 1 Peter. Contact Ed Irick or Jerry Calloway if you would like more information at edirick@charter.net or jerry@ceconstructionllc.com

F3 (Faith, Food and Fellowship) will take a break during November, December, and January. Instead of meeting in late afternoon, F3 will be held during the education hour on the 4th Sundays in February, March and April. Mark your calendar for these great intergenerational events.

NEW Mom's Small Group will meet on the first Sunday at noon in the youth Sunday School room. Our study journeys through First Corinthians: Living Love when We Disagree. With more and more ways to communicate in a culture that encourages sharing the details of our lives, there exists greater and greater opportunity for disagreement. Our differences seem more pronounced. Our words sound more divisive. Even as Christians, we struggle to get along. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians living in Corinth about this very thing, encouraging them to not ridicule one another but to work together to show the love of Christ. If you'd like to join us, bring \$11 for a book, a lunch and meet after the Education Hour in the Youth Sunday School room on Sunday, December 4 and Sunday, January 8.



Children's Ministry

Children's Chime Choir

During the 11:00 am Education Hour, children K5-5th grade will meet with our music director Lucie Svatonova-Hughes to engage in music in various ways. It will be great for those children who are a little shy to sing but want to be involved in music. Children will have the opportunity to learn handchimes, sing in worship and learn how to use other musical instruments. Even children who don't like to sing will be able to participate through rhythm, drama and speaking parts. All children are welcome!



Handchimes



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL IS IN SESSION!

Once again, children K5 through 5th grade will go upstairs for Sunday school class at 10:00 and return to the service during the singing of the second hymn, which is right after the sermon.

We are using the Whirl Lectionary curriculum again this year, with the children reading and discussing the same Scripture as their parents will hear in church. Each child will be given their own bulletin to take home with discussion starters on the back to share with their parents. We hope that families use these questions to further faith conversations at home.

*Children's Sunday School will be on a break beginning
December 11th and will resume January 8th*



Children's Christmas Traditions around the World

Children k5-5th grade are invited to participate in the Chimes and Choir class on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Currently, this class is preparing to lead Worship on Sunday, December 18th. They are learning about different cultures and Christmas traditions as part of the preparation for the Christmas service.

Youth Ministry

Youth Christmas Party

When: Sunday, December 18th, 5:30-7:00 pm

Where: The Moorshead's
118 Kingswood Circle
Simpsonville, SC 29681

Please Bring:
\$10 or less White Elephant gift
Heavy appetizer and dessert to share

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

DECEMBER 4TH – YOUTH AT GCPC
5:30-7:00 PM

DECEMBER 18TH- CHRISTMAS PARTY
5:30-7:00 PM

DUE TO SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, YOUTH WILL NOT MEET DURING JANUARY. MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 5TH-BISTRO TRAINING, SOUPER BOWL OFFERING, SUPER BOWL PARTY

FEBRUARY 12TH- BISTRO!

Sign up for communications and reminders!

text the message
@8h2be to the number 81010

Or visit
www.remind.com/join/8h2be

We will be combining with youth from Grace Covenant for our 1st and 3rd Sunday meetings as well as other events like Lock-ins, retreats, mission and more. On the Sundays that we host, we will need parents to volunteer to assist in leading or prepare a meal.

Please visit this site to sign up. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1z_hFZoONivEDI2QeLVIXLpjd-2oHMYQ6qTz71S0Fk5c/edit?usp=sharing



Youth Sunday School
Sunday 11:00 am Education Hour

ALL youth 6th-12th grade will meet together in the youth room upstairs.

News and Notes

THE OVEN IN CLARKE’S KITCHEN: On a few occasions the pilot lights on the gas oven range have blown out. With this in mind we have shut off the gas to the oven when not in use. If you know that you will need the oven in the future please contact Heath Cobb (803) 984-1181. We will do our best to have it re-lit and ready in advance.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Administrative Assistant Ellen Irick will be out of the office December 14th and 15th and would love to have some volunteers from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. those days to help in the office. Please call (284-0190) or email (admin@eastminster.com) if you are able to help. Thank you!



Thank You

Dear EPC Family,
There are no words to express adequately our thanks to all who reached out to us during the recent death of Beverly’s mother. The cards, calls, the prayer shawl, and those who took time to attend her service...there is just no way to tell you how much each gesture means to us.

In Christ’s Love,
Harry and Beverly



Eastminster Membership – If you are interested in joining Eastminster, we invite you to speak with the pastor or contact her at Pressley@eastminster.com or 864-517-9781. Members are received by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or by transfer of church letter.



Are you looking for a way to stay connected with Eastminster?

EPC has a new and revised Facebook page online that will help keep you connected. This page allows the church to interact and share information with you online at your convenience. How do you get connected to this new page? Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurch?ref=hl> click on the LIKE button so you will receive information and news feeds from us regularly.



**We are thankful for our wonderful staff!
They preach, educate, play music and sing,
love and watch over our youngest, visit our
homes and hospital rooms, pray, and keep us
informed and organized. We would like to recognize
their efforts this Christmas by collecting a love
offering. We will be collecting money from
20 Nov to 4 Dec. We will have envelopes
available in the narthex that you can put
cash or a check made to
EPC (please make sure to write
"Staff Christmas gifts" on
the memo line).
Thank you from
EPC session.**



The Membership Committee is looking for someone who enjoys decorating to take over the Visitor cart. Responsibilities would include: filling the visitor bags and changing the cart decorations with each season.

*Please contact Heather Taylor at
864-350-5373
if you are interested.*

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2017 Offering Envelopes are ready for pickup in the Commons Area.

Please do not begin to use these envelopes until the 1st Sunday in Jan 2017.

Using these envelopes is very important, as the envelope number is your account number and all posting is done by account number.

To insure accuracy please use only the envelopes that have been assigned to you and discard all prior year envelopes, as the numbers change each year.



Membership is also looking for someone who enjoys taking pictures to assist Carol Stewart with taking photos of our church members for our new directory.

Please contact Carol Stewart at
864- 915-6162.

Long Range Planning

Pressley Cox called me last Spring to ask me to consider chairing the Eastminster Long Range Planning team. I enthusiastically accepted. A Long Range Planning “Dream Team” came together. Our team included Stephanie Brandenburg, Amy Campbell, Pressley Cox, Robb Ellis, Mike Ferney, Diane Hughs, Chuck Landers and Bonnie McCourtie.



Time was necessary to put together a process and to have discussion and discernment within the Long Range Planning Team, Session and our eight Eastminster Ministry teams. Our eight Eastminster Ministry teams include Finance and Stewardship, Personnel, Children and Adult Faith Formation, Property and Grounds, Worship and Music, Outreach, Assimilation and Membership, and Congregational Life, which includes Congregational Care and Fellowship.

Why the need for a Long Range Plan? Pressley Cox is beginning her 4th year as our Pastor. She has a new vision for EPC and brings a renewed vibrancy in leadership to encourage our congregation to carry out God’s work. God reminds us to use our campus facilities and church ministry fully. It takes a well thought out Long Range Plan that can serve Eastminster as a “Road Map”, a pathway to the future.

Jeremiah 29, 11-12: “I know the plans I have for you, says the lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when

you call on me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. Amen.”

Our Long Range Plan had to be congruent with our church in three areas: **Our Vision, Our Mission and Our Core Values.**

Our Long Range Plan focuses on three key areas: **Spiritual Growth of the Congregation, Ministry Alignment and**

Communication and Financial Health. Our plan also needed to be “Fluid” as the future will always bring change that Eastminster may need to consider.

Each Ministry has a plan that will outline the following: **What NEW has been done since March 2016?, What is currently being done or planned for 2017?, What are the plans for the Future beyond 2018?.**

The Eastminster Long Range Plan was approved by Session on 11/20/2016. The Long Range Plan will be put on the EPC Web Site. Copies of the plan will be available to the congregation. The Long Range Plan will be presented to the congregation at a called meeting on January 8, 2017.

Are you excited about Mission trips, staff needs for Children and Family, paying off our mortgage, addressing our 15 year old campus needs, expanding our music program, expanded outreach for homelessness and hunger, better coordination of church ministries, ability to volunteer for specific projects vs long term commitments – all are part of the Long Range Plan.

- Jim Stewart

December 2016



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Greenville In Harmony
4 10 a.m. Worship and Children's Sunday School 11 a.m. Education Hour 12 p.m. Mom's Small Group Alternative Gift Fair 4:30-5:30 p.m. Scouts 5:30-7:30 p.m. Youth at GCPC	5 6-9:30 p.m. Greenville In Harmony	6 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study	7 6 p.m. Handbells 7 p.m. Choir	8 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Pastor Cohort Mtg. 10 a.m. Women's Morning Circle	9	10 10 a.m. Lessons and Carols Rehearsal
11 10 a.m. Worship Lessons and Carols 11 a.m. Education Hour 2-5p.m. Kelly Herd Recital 4:15-6:00 p.m. Scouts	12 7 p.m. Women's Evening Circle	13 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study	14 6 p.m. Handbells 7 p.m. Choir	15	16	17 10 a.m. Children's Christmas Rehearsal
18 10 a.m. Worship – Christmas Joy Offering & Children's Christmas Program 11 a.m. Education Hour 12 p.m. Stated Session Mtg. 3-5 p.m. F.U.N. Group Open House 4:30-5:30 p.m. Scouts 5:30-7:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party	19	20 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study	21 6 p.m. Handbells 7 p.m. Choir	22	23	24 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
25 10 a.m. Christmas Worship NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR EDUCATION HOUR NO YOUTH	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	28 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	29 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	30	31



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10 a.m. Worship NO EDUCATION HOUR OR CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 4:30-5:30 p.m. Scouts	2 6:30-9:00 p.m. Greenville In Harmony	3	4 6 p.m. Handbells 7 p.m. Choir	5	6	7
8 10 a.m. Worship & Children's Sunday School 11 am. Education Hour 12 p.m. Finance Team Mtg. and Mom's Small Group 3-4 p.m. Scouts 4:14-6 p.m. Scouts	9 6:30-9:00 p.m. Greenville In Harmony 7 p.m. Women's Evening Circle	10 6-8 p.m. Scouts	11 6 p.m. Handbells 7 p.m. Choir	12 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Pastor Cohort 10 a.m. Women's Morning Circle	13	14
15 10 a.m. Worship & Children's Sunday School 11 a.m. Education Hour 4-6 p.m. Scouts 4:30-5:30 p.m. Scouts	16 6:30-9:00 p.m. Greenville In Harmony	17	18 6 p.m. Handbells 7 p.m. Choir	19 11 a.m. L.O.L.	20	21
22 10 a.m. Worship & Children's Sunday School 11 a.m. Education Hour 12 p.m. Stated Session Mtg. 3-4 p.m. Scouts 4:14-6 p.m. Scouts	23 6:30-9:00 p.m. Greenville In Harmony	24	25 6 p.m. Handbells 7 p.m. Choir	26	27	28
29 10 a.m. Worship and Children's Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Chili Cookoff GAIHN at EPC through February 5 th	30 6:30-9:00 p.m. Greenville In Harmony 7 p.m. EPC Book Club	31				

Newsletter Information

December 12th - Deadline for December mid-month newsletter

January 26th - Deadline for February newsletter

***Please send all mid-month and monthly newsletter articles to**

admin@eastminster.com