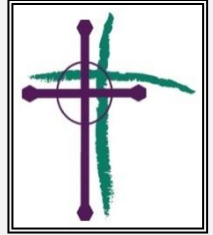


# Eastminster Edition



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

December 2015

## **Eastminster Staff**

### **Pastor**

*Pressley Cox*

[pressley@eastminster.com](mailto:pressley@eastminster.com)

### **Director of Children & Youth Ministry**

*Lynn Moorshead*

[lynn@eastminster.com](mailto:lynn@eastminster.com)

### **Administrative Assistant**

*Ellen Irick*

[admin@eastminster.com](mailto:admin@eastminster.com)

### **Music Director**

[leah@eastminster.com](mailto:leah@eastminster.com)

*Leah Wyman*

### **Accompanist**

*Brian Thomas*

[bthomas3@vt.edu](mailto:bthomas3@vt.edu)

### **Bookkeeper**

*Wanda Grant*

[pbs@carolina.rr.com](mailto:pbs@carolina.rr.com)

## **Church Information**

Eastminster Presbyterian

2240 Woodruff Road

Simpsonville, SC 29681

[www.eastminster.com](http://www.eastminster.com)

Phone: 864-284-0190

Fax: 864-284-9316



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

**Sunday  
December 13<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 a.m.**

## *Lessons &* **CAROLS**

children's  
program



**Sunday  
December 20<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 a.m.**



**Christmas Eve Service  
Thursday, December  
24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.**

## Pastor's Corner- A Note from Pressley

Dear EPC family and friends-

As we journey through the season of Advent, we will hear words from Ann Weems Kneeling in Bethlehem each week as we light the Advent wreath candles. Her words remind us that "each of us awaits expectantly the birth of Christ in this place, this time... For Christians the Advent is here and now." Ann Weems sees beyond the season's festivities to the day-to-day living and moves us to think about the season of Advent in creative and powerful ways. May the words from the following poem move in you during this time of preparation.

### **Advent-Filled Advent**

Wouldn't it be wonderful  
 if Advent came filled with angels and alleluias?  
 Wouldn't it be perfect  
 if we were greeted on these December mornings  
 with a hovering of heavenly hosts  
 tuning their harps and brushing up on their fa-la-las?  
 Wouldn't it be incredible  
 if their music filled our waking hours  
 with the promise of peace on earth  
 and if each Advent night we dreamed of nothing but goodwill?  
 Wouldn't we be ecstatic  
 if we could take those angels shopping,  
 or trim the tree or have them hold our hands  
 and dance through our houses decorating?  
 And, oh, how glorious it would be  
 to sit in church next to an angel  
 and sing our hark-the-heralds!  
 What an Advent that would be!  
 What Christmas spirit we could have!  
 An angel-filled Advent has so many possibilities!  
 But in lieu of that,  
 perhaps we can give thanks  
 for the good earthly joys we have been given  
 and for the earthly "angels" that we know  
 who do such a good job of filling  
 our Advent with alleluias!

Blessings to you all in this season of Advent reflection and preparation,

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

### **December Worship Schedule**

#### **December 6 Communion**

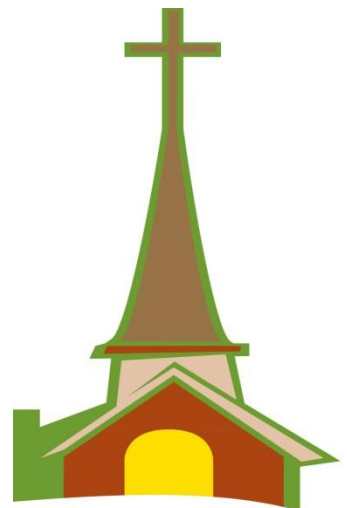
"Face of Peace"  
 Malachi 3:1-4  
 Philippians 1: 3-11

#### **December 13 Lessons and Carols**

#### **December 20 Two Cents a Meal Children's Program**

#### **December 24 Christmas Eve Service** Luke 2: 1-20

#### **December 27 Guest Preacher Charlie Pratt "Lost and Found" Luke 2: 41-52**



## Congregational Joys & Concerns

**EPC Members** Norton Cater, Jonathan Kraemer, Mike Randall, Winebarger Family.

**Homebound/Nursing Home** Sylvia Meyer, Emily Phillips

**EPC Extended Family**

- Paul and Susan Burks (*Cathy Parrish's sister and brother-in-law*)
- Eli Chavez (*Anita Harley's cousin's grandson*)
- The Clevenger Family (*Kimberly Lane's cousin's family*)
- Ray Curley (*Eileen Osteen's father*)
- Anne Furlong (*Stuart Lane's mother*)
- Susan Harrell (*Lindy Landers' sister*)
- Cindy Herbert (*Beverly George's sister*)
- Danny Kuzminski (*JoAnne Kuzminski's son*)
- Allen Latty (*son-in-law of Jim and Cathy Parrish*)
- Jean McAllister (*Sande Schweir's mother*)
- Ruth Parks (*Ben Cox's Aunt*)
- Sandy Stewart (*Jim Stewart's sister*)
- Mohini Talwar (*Sam Talwar's mother*)
- Joyce (*Bonnie McCourtie's aunt*)
- Michael (*Eileen Osteen's brother*)
- Jason (*Diane Hughes son's brother-in-law*)
- Jerry (*Barbara Kurta's brother*)

**EPC Friends...**

- Terry Tietrich  
*(Noel Watkins' & Riley Lichoulas' art teacher)*
- Charlotte Knowles  
*(friend of Sandy Watkins)*
- Mary Hoag  
*(friend of the Lane family)*
- Lindsey Motley  
*(friend of Kimberly Lane)*
- Francine Murphy  
*(friend of Eileen Osteen)*
- Maridel, Cooper and Tucker Shaw  
*(friends of Amy Campbell)*
- Charlie Pratt and Family
- Nancy Socha  
*(friend of Dan Harris & family)*
- Roxanne Waling  
*(Eileen Osteen's friend)*
- Calleigh  
*(friend of Dan Harris & family)*
- Mary Beth and Jim  
*(friends of Beverly George)*



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](mailto:network62@eastminster.com)  
 Eastminster's Administrative Assistant Ellen Irick at 284-0190 or email [admin@eastminster.com](mailto:admin@eastminster.com)



- |    |                 |    |                 |
|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|
| 1  | Terri Davidson  | 16 | Mike Moorshead  |
|    | Lynn Owens      |    | Alan Calloway   |
| 10 | Will Carson     | 17 | Trevor Bielek   |
| 11 | Lynn Ingram     | 23 | Katie Palmer    |
| 12 | Mark Osteen     |    | Adam Calloway   |
| 13 | Ward Carson     | 25 | Ethan Lane      |
|    | Emily Cox       | 27 | Lendy Rhodes    |
|    | Sara Cox        | 29 | Georgia Carson  |
| 14 | Alex Winebarger | 30 | Devon Cortright |





## Children's Ministry News

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE, "SING A SONG OF CHRISTMAS"

On Dec. 20th, the children in our church will be performing a wonderful program for our congregation. Before we start learning songs, though, we need to gather together and give out the reading parts.

Children can speak as much or as little as they feel they can handle; absolutely no pressure to perform!! We plan on rehearsals being no more than an hour each



Sunday after church (with snacks and juice) and the songs are all well-known Christmas carols. Please encourage your children to join us on the 15th to find out what it's all about! For more information please contact Music Director Leah Wyman at [leah@eastminster.com](mailto:leah@eastminster.com) or Director of Children and Youth Ministries Lynn Moorshead at [lynn@eastminster.com](mailto:lynn@eastminster.com)

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**NURSERY VOLUNTEER TEAM** Our nursery now has two wonderful paid ladies every Sunday to watch the babies and toddlers who attend our service. Most of the time, they are three or fewer children dropped off before service, which they are more than capable of handling. However, there are those Sundays when one of the ladies is out, or we have a few more children left in the nursery. On those Sundays, our nursery needs a volunteer to step in and help.

Enter our Nursery Volunteer Team!! On those Sundays, one of the Nursery Volunteer Team members would be asked to help out, either in advance if we know of an absence, or as the service begins.

We want to honor our volunteers' time but still have our children properly cared for. We would sincerely appreciate your willingness to help out in this small way. It is an easy thing to do, but still very important! If you are willing to be on "the list," please let Lynn know: [lynn@eastminster.com](mailto:lynn@eastminster.com)



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### **ITS TIME TO SIGN UP FOR SPRING SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSISTANTS!!**

Thank you to all the wonderful people who volunteered this fall with our children's Sunday School classes. It's time to sign up for our Spring semester. Please follow this link

to Volunteer Spot to sign up:

<http://vols.pt/2Y5wLJ> or contact Lynn at: [lynn@eastminster.com](mailto:lynn@eastminster.com) and she will add you to the calendar on the Volunteer Spot website. Thank you for supporting our children's Christian education!

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**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL IS IN SESSION!** Once again, children K-4 through 5th grade will go upstairs for Sunday school class at 10:30 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.



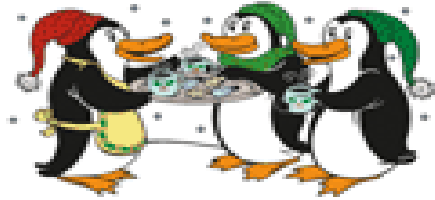
## Youth Ministry News



### CHRISTMAS PARTY

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY** On Dec. 13th, all youth are invited to our annual Youth Christmas Party. This year will be a little different than years past because this year we will have a joint party with Fountain Inn Pres. and Grace Covenant Pres.! We will meet at our church at 3:15 PM and caravan over to GCPC on Main St. in Mauldin. From there, we will join carloads of youth from the other two churches as we drive down Main St, headed for Fountain Inn, on a scavenger hunt. Once at FIP, we will play some games, eat some great food, and enjoy each other's company. All youth are asked to bring a \$5 White Elephant gift (dollar stores are great for this) and be ready to make some new friends and party!!

**PLEASE RSVP TO LYNN  
BY DEC. 9TH:  
lynn@eastminster.com**



### YOUTH SUNDAY CLASS

Youth SS continues the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, immediately following worship, using Faith Lens discussion curriculum.



On December 6<sup>th</sup> we'll have a Christmas trivia theme and meet again on the 20<sup>th</sup> for a look at who Jesus is. Please bring a bag lunch on both Sundays.

## News and Notes



The church office will be closed on December 24<sup>th</sup>, as well as the week of December 28<sup>th</sup>. The office will reopen Monday January 4<sup>th</sup>. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT SUNDAY** was Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. We would like to thank you all for stepping forward so we are able to fund new initiatives, build partnerships, maintain our property and grounds, and support our growing ministries to children, youth, and adults.

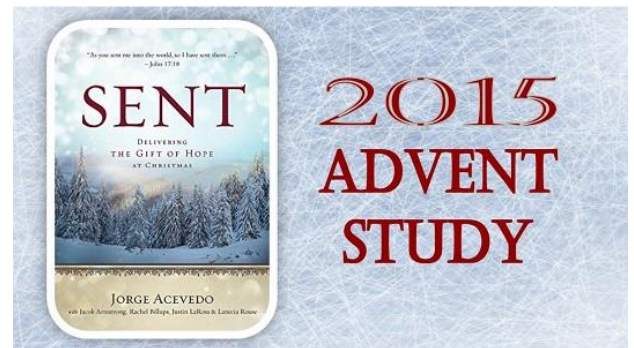


**ANGEL TREE** Once again the Christmas Angel Tree is now in the commons area. This is an annual ministry to bring the love of Christ to the less fortunate in our community. On each Angel are the Christmas wishes of a child in need. A suggested age appropriate gift item is listed for a girl or a boy. Please stop by to look through the Angels and adopt an Angel or two. Instructions come with it. Thank you to those who participated last year, and thank you in advance to those who will join us this year in this meaningful ministry!

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** Join the Adult SS class at 9:15 am every Sunday as we journey through Advent with the *Sent* study.

*"As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them . . ."*  
—John 17:18

God sent Christ into the world as our Savior. That's what Christmas is all about. In turn, Christ sends us into the world. But do we really understand how, where, and why we are sent? This five-week, Advent study challenges us through story, art, and Bible study to discover what it means to be Christ's hands, feet, head, and heart.



**GOD'S PANTRY** Eastminster has been asked to stock the shelves of this local food bank with **tomato products**. So the next time you are at the store, pick up an extra can of pasta sauce, bottle of ketchup, (plastic or cans - no glass please!), diced tomatoes, tomato puree, tomato soup, etc. to help fill our bin in the commons area!



## Small Group Ministry Opportunities

**F.U.N. GROUP** Attention all those who would like to join the Fifty and Up Network for fellowship on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. at Firehouse Subs on Woodruff Road. Please make reservations by emailing Jane at randjcouch@gmail.com



**Ladies' Morning Circle** will meet Thursday December 10 at 10:00 at the home of Beverly George. Carolyn Uprichard will be co-hosting with Beverly as we discuss Lesson Three in our Horizon's Bible Study, *Come to the Waters*. Ladies are reminded to bring toiletry items and/or hats and gloves for Place of Hope and canned corn for United Ministries Food Bank. For more information, contact carolirick@charter.net or 962-2492.

**Ladies Evening Circle** will meet the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting is December 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss the fourth lesson in the 2015-2016 Presbyterian Women *Horizons Bible Study, Come to the Water*.

### Young Families Discussion Group

Parents join together for fellowship and discussion at the church on

**Friday, Nov 13.**

Bring a dessert to share.

Children are welcome! For more information contact Susan Carlson (susantcarlson@gmail.com or 292-8863) or Robb Ellis (robb@ellisdigital.com or 293-6727)

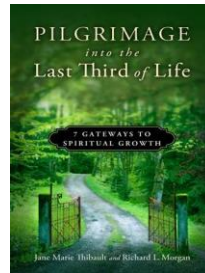


**EPC Book Club** Everyone is welcome to check out the following schedule and join in the book club! Meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. at EPC. Please contact Shirley Nease if you have any questions at Shirleynease@yahoo.com.

**January 25<sup>th</sup>** – Circling the Sun by Paula McLaine

**March 28<sup>th</sup>** – Rosemary the Hidden Kennedy  
by Kate Larson

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Leaving Time by Jodie Picoult



**Pilgrimage into the Last Third Of Life**  
Do you dread growing old? The last third of life, from age 60 up, doesn't have to be feared or dreaded. When viewed from a Christian perspective, this season of life can be meaningful and joyful. Thibault and Morgan suggest approaching the Last Third as a pilgrimage, a journey full of purpose, ripe with opportunities for spiritual growth.

The authors are aging bookends. Jane, age 65, represents the growing aging of boomers, while Richard, age 83, writes from the perspective of the older old person. The authors dig deeply into the realities of their lives and give you 7 ways to open yourself to God and the abundant life God wants for you. *Facing Aging and Dying, Living with Loss and Limitations, Doing Inner Work, Living In and Out of Community, Praying and Contemplation, Redeeming Suffering and Leaving a Legacy.*

This collection of scripture-based meditations will inspire you or someone you love to move fearlessly into the Last Third, looking forward to the opportunities these bonus years can bring. This study will be led by Diane Hughs, for more information you can contact dhopkinshughs@icloud.com.

**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



**Ladies Out to Lunch (LOL)** All ladies are invited to join Pressley and Lynn for lunch once a month. We will meet on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at Stella's Southern Bistro (684 Fairview Rd, Simpsonville, SC 29680). Please call/text 864-517-9781 or email pressley@eastminster.com to reserve your seat for lunch!



## ~ News from the Session ~

- ❖ Session approved the designation of Elaine Campbell as representative for our Child Protection Team, representing the Personnel committee. Susan Carlson will represent Faith Formation.
- ❖ Anita Harley, Ann Coleman and Heath Cobb volunteered to help Pressley Cox finalize the revised EPC Ministry Handbook, looking at the possibility of streamlining and consolidating committees.
- ❖ Pressley Cox lead a discussion on the possibilities for Camp Buc, which is undergoing serious financial hardships.
- ❖ A table for Camp Buc donations will be set up during the Alternative Gift Fair during three Sundays.
- ❖ Ann Coleman gave a report on the recent Presbytery Stated Meeting, where meetings were set up for ongoing dialogue for better understanding. It was announced that Camp Buc will need 1.3 million dollars for on-going needs to be sustainable for the future.
- ❖ EPC is scheduled to host GAIHN families during the weeks of January 3rd and May 1st. Ed Irick announced that EPC must look at the sustainability of EPC's hosting, given the small numbers of volunteers from the congregation. Discussion ensued about ways to encourage more volunteer participation.
- ❖ Session approved the amended recommendation from Outreach to allocate \$1700 to Camp Buc. If the camp does not meet its goal and therefore may be closed, the money will be returned to EPC.
- ❖ Session approved the recommendation from Personnel to approve the 2016 contract for Stated Supply Pastor, Pressley Cox, with the same contractual wording as for 2015.
- ❖ The next stated Session meeting will be December 13th, which will include a luncheon and new elders will be reviewed for the incoming class.
- ❖

### Session

#### Class of 2015

Barry Campbell  
Ann Coleman  
Anita Harley  
Dan Harris  
Cathy Parrish

#### Class of 2016

Eileen Osteen  
Sara Randall  
Jim Stewart  
John Taylor

#### Class of 2017

Heath Cobb  
Beverly George  
Ed Irick  
Kimberly Lane

### **EPC Finances *(You need to read this!!)***

The finance committee has analyzed the budget for 2015. It is probable that Eastminster will have a significant budget deficit for the year. Some pledges that were made are not being fulfilled.

As the year end approaches, please remember that Eastminster depends on pledges for the operating budget. It is important to honor pledges made.

For those blessed with the financial resources to do so, prayerfully consider giving more. For those unable to fulfill pledges made, please contact Wanda Grant at pbs@carolina.rr.com so that plans can be made to allocate available funds.





*Like  
Bacon,  
only  
Better.*


*Join the Choir*

Singing builds confidence, reduces stress and anxiety, and raises endorphins. Plus it's low in saturated fat! So come out and see what a great time we have!

**Chancel Choir Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 7 pm**




Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Journey to the Manger** 


**2015**

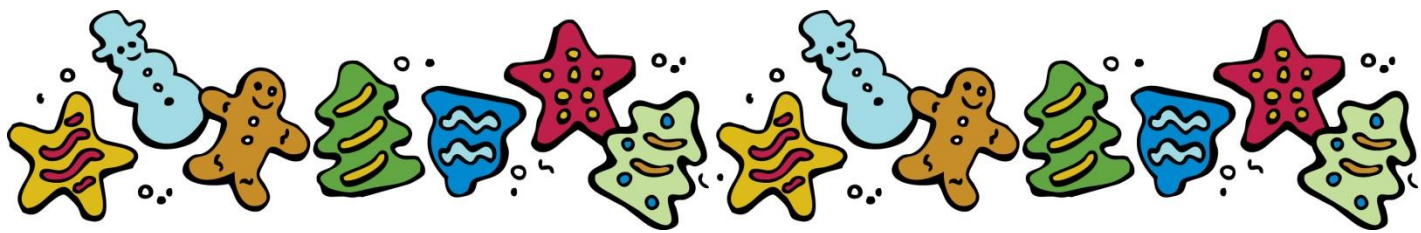
Dec. 11 6:30-9:30pm  
 Dec. 12 5:30-8:30pm (Merry)  
 Dec. 13 5:30-8:30pm

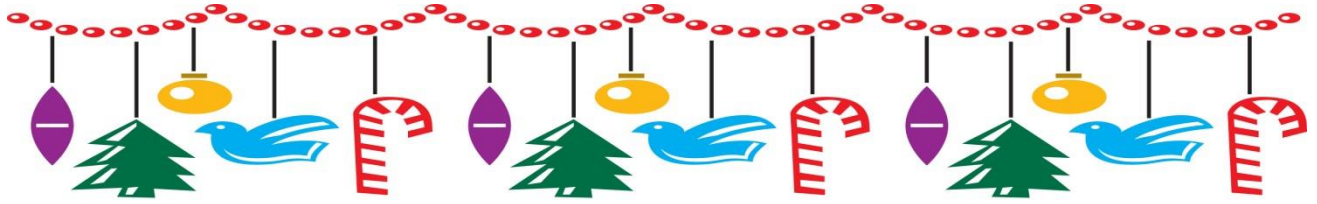
*A Drive-Thru Reenactment of Biblical Bethlehem*  
 "Our Gift to the Community"  
 (at no cost to you)



285 S.E. Main  
 Simpsonville, SC  
[www.simpsonvilleumc.org](http://www.simpsonvilleumc.org)

Presented by Simpsonville United Methodist Church 





## Christmas Coffee and Dessert

December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Fountain Inn Presbyterian Church

2:00 p.m.

Includes a holiday performance by the 25 person singing  
and

Ukelele playing group:

### The Yesterukes\*

\*\*\* Please let us know your attendance number by Dec 1st by  
contacting FIDC church office at (864) 862-3341 or  
[fountaininnpres@gmail.com](mailto:fountaininnpres@gmail.com)



### GIVE MEANING

*November 23–December 6*

10% of Ten Thousand Villages sales will be donated to a gift fund for the Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (GAIHN) so that local GAIHN guests can purchase gifts for their families this holiday season.

**To participate, mention GAIHN at checkout.**

207 N Main St, Downtown Greenville  
Mon–Thu 11–6, Fri–Sat 11–7, Sun 1–6



TEN THOUSAND  
VILLAGES™

## Read through the Bible in 2015

Join us in our 2015 EPC Bible reading plan. We will be posting readings in the monthly newsletter. If you follow the suggested daily reading, you will have read the WHOLE Bible by the end of 2015!

We recommend getting a journal or writing down observations from your reading. Consider using the **SOAP** method and finding a reading partner to keep you accountable.

### SOAP method

**Scripture** – Read the passages of Scripture.

**Observation** – Write down what stands out to you.

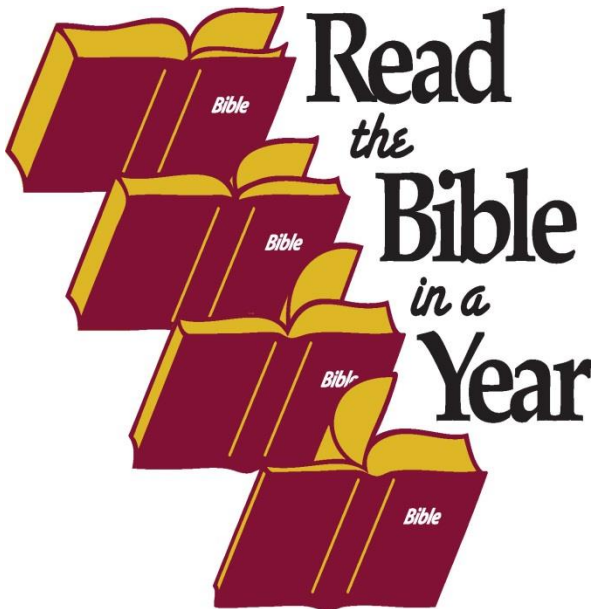
**Application** – How does this apply to your life? What is God saying to you through this passage?

**Prayer** – Pray about what stood out to you from the Scripture and conclude your time by praying through the Lord's Prayer.

### Reading Partner

Find a reading partner or group to read with that meets on a regular basis (weekly or bi-weekly) to share what you are learning. We find that those who have a partner are more likely to follow through.

Blessings on your year of reading!



Day	Scripture Reading
1	Hosea 3-6/Revelation 1
2	Hosea 7,8/Psalms 137, 138
3	Hosea 9, 10/Revelation 2
4	Hosea 11, 12/Revelation 3
5	Hosea 13, 14/Revelation 4
6	Joel 3/Revelation 5
8	Amos 1, 2/Revelation 6
9	Amos 3, 4/Psalms 140, 141
10	Amos 5, 6/Revelation 7
11	Amos 7,8/Revelation 8
12	Amos 9/Revelation 9
13	Obadiah 1/Psalms 142, 143
14	Jonah 1, 2/Revelation 10
15	Jonah 3, 4/Revelation 11
16	Micah 1-3/Psalm 144
17	Micah 4, 5/Revelation 12
18	Micah 6, 7/Revelation 13
19	Nahum 1-3/Revelation 14
20	Habakkuk 1-3/Psalm 145
21	Zephaniah 1-3/Revelation 15
22	Haggai 1,2/Revelation 16
23	Zechariah 1, 2/Psalms 146, 147
24	Zechariah 3, 4/Revelation 17
25	Zechariah 5, 6/Revelation 18
26	Zechariah 7, 8/Revelation 19
27	Zechariah 9, 10/Psalm 148
28	Zechariah 11, 12/Revelation 20
29	Zechariah 13, 14/Revelation 21
30	Malachi 1, 2/Psalms 149, 150
31	Malachi 3,4/Revelation 22

## F<sup>3</sup>- Feast, Faith, and Fellowship



***No Meeting in December -  
F3 Will Return in January!***

Join us for a new way of growing in faith together on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month.

After sharing a meal, we will have a lesson, perhaps involving a skit, a song or a short video.

Always, we — families, singles, couples, and friends — will learn together.



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### **F.U.N. Group Christmas Open House**

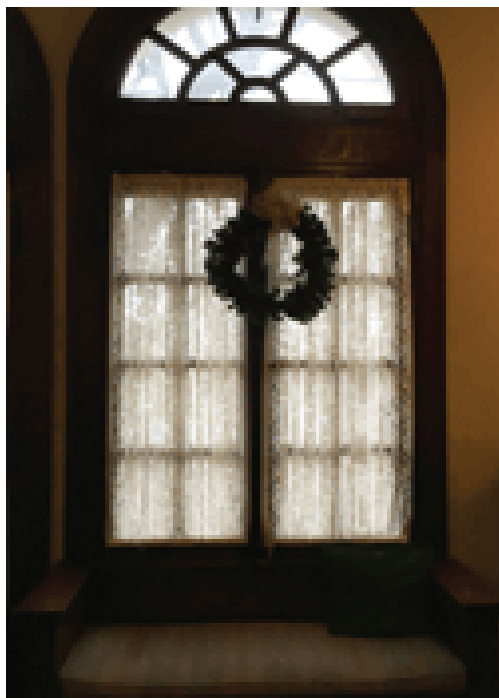
Date: December 6th

Time: 3:00 to 6:00

Place: Ed and Carol Irick's  
Address: 518 Lancelot Drive

Please bring appetizer or dessert

RSVP by December 2 to:  
[randjcouch@gmail.com](mailto:randjcouch@gmail.com)





1	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	6:00p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Meeting
	7:00p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
2	6:00 p.m.	Handbells
	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
6	9:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship – Communion
	11:45 a.m.	Youth Sunday School
	12:00 p.m.	Finance Team Meeting
	3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
	3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	F.U.N. Grou[p Christmas Open House
	4:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	4:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts
8	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts
9	6:00 p.m.	Handbells
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
10	10:00 a.m.	Ladies' Morning Circle
	6:30 p.m.	Personnel Committee Meeting
12	3:00 p.m.7:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
13	9:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship – Lessons and Carols
	12:00 p.m.	Stated Session Meeting
	1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.	Piano Recital
	5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Youth Christmas Party at Lynn Moorshead's house
14	6:30 p.m.	Personnel Committee Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Ladies' Evening Circle
15	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
16	6:00 p.m.	Handbells
	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
17	11:30 a.m.	L.O.L. at Stella's
20	9:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship – Two Cents a Meal
		Children's Christmas Program
	11:45 a.m.	Youth Sunday School
	3:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
	4:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	4:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
21	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	6:00 p.m.	Handbells
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
24	5:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
27	9:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	5:30 p.m.	F3 on the 4 <sup>th</sup>
29	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study



**Regular office Hours are:  
Monday through Thursday  
8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**The office will be closed for  
the holidays from  
December 24<sup>th</sup>-January 4<sup>th</sup>.**



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COBB FAMILY - WINNERS OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF!



### **The winning recipe:**

#### **Taco Soup Chili**

- 1 pound bulk pork sausage**
- 1 pound ground beef**
- 1 envelope taco seasoning**
- 4 cups water**
- 2 cans (16 oz each) kidney beans, rinsed and drained**
- 2 cans (15 oz each) pinto beans, rinsed and drained**
- 2 cans (15 oz each) garbanzo beans, rinsed and drained**
- 2 cans (14 ½ oz each) stewed tomatoes**
- 2 cans (14 ½ oz each) Mexican diced tomatoes, undrained**
- 1 jar (16 oz) chunky salsa**

**Optional toppings: sour cream, shredded cheddar cheese, olives, cornbread**

In a large pot, cook sausage and beef over medium heat until no longer pink; drain. Add taco seasoning and mix well. Stir in the water, beans, tomatoes, and salsa. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 30 minutes or until heated through, stirring occasionally. Garnish with optional toppings. 12-14 servings.

We love it with cornbread crumbled on top!

Adjust water amount to your liking, as well as the spice (mild to hot)!



**PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering - Sunday, December 20, 2015****Keeping the promise of the Advent season**

During this Advent season, we reflect on the influence a promise can have on our lives. God promised each of us salvation, and kept that promise with the birth of Jesus. That promise sustains and uplifts us, during good times and challenging ones.

When we understand this deeper meaning of a promise, we also understand each of us has a special responsibility to make, and keep, faithful promises of our own. The Christmas Joy Offering is one way to do that. Each gift received equally supports two vital promises for our faith.

Through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, the Christmas Joy Offering assists church workers and their families during times of need, giving back to those who have spent their lives in the service of the church. The program provides grants for housing supplements, income assistance, and pastoral vocational leadership needs.

The Christmas Joy Offering also supports the education and development of our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. These schools are dedicated to nurturing opportunity and creating environments where diverse students can succeed from a foundation of Christian values. The Offering benefits Menaul School and Presbyterian Pan American School, two secondary schools that ready students for a path of higher learning, as well as Stillman College, where graduates are prepared for lives of leadership and service.

When you give to the Christmas Joy Offering, you help sustain these promises and uplift our brothers and sisters in Christ by reducing their burdens and opening new paths of opportunity.

**Eastminster will collect the Christmas Joy Offering on Sunday, Dec 20.**

Websites:

Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions

<http://www.pensions.org/PlansAndPrograms/AssistanceProgram/Pages/default.aspx>

Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/resc/>

Menaul School

[www.menaulschool.com](http://www.menaulschool.com)

Presbyterian Pan American School

[www.ppas.org](http://www.ppas.org)

Stillman College

[www.stillman.edu](http://www.stillman.edu)

**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.

**Newsletter Information**

***December 10th - Deadline for December mid-month newsletter***

***December 20<sup>th</sup> - Deadline for January newsletter***

***\*Please send all mid-month and monthly newsletter articles to [admin@eastminster.com](mailto:admin@eastminster.com)***