

December 2018

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Sunday, December 2 10:00 am 1st Sunday of Advent

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 9 10:00 am 2nd Sunday Worship

Lessons and Carols Worship

Sunday, December 16 10:00 am 3rd Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm The Longest Night Worship

A Service of Comfort and Hope

Sunday, December 23 10:00 am 4th Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Monday, December 24

Communion and Candlelight

Alternative Gift Fair

The Alternative Gift Fair will be held on Sunday, Children's Ministry December 2 and Sunday, December 9. It will be open before and after worship.



Do you have a picture, quote or word that represents joy, peace, love or hope? Please bring them and place in the bins in front of the bulletin. Be sure to put your name on the back if you would like it returned. If you would like to submit digitally, please email to admin@eastminster.com

Dear Eastminster Family and Friends,

As we enter into the season of Advent, we are surrounded by the commercial aspect of Christmas that has holiday decorations and Christmas music in stores the day after Halloween (and sometimes even earlier!) We are overrun with the feel good and fuzzy Christmas Hallmark movies. We hear the words of peace, hope, joy and love.

But what if this time is not joyful for you? What if you are in the midst of grieving the loss of a loved one? What if it hope is hard to see when your doctor has just given you a bad diagnosis? What if your family is spread out across the country or world an you are alone during Christmas?

The constant refrain we hear about getting together with family, reminds many people of what and who they have lost, or what they never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation - all these can make us feel very much alone in the midst of the festive season.

We need space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern.

We need to know that we are not alone.

We need to know God's presence during this season.

This year, we will have a Longest Night Worship service. This is a service of comfort and hope full of scripture, stories, special music, silent reflection and healing prayer It's a time to recognize that Christmas can be a bittersweet time of the year.

While traditionally held on the longest night of the year (Friday, December 21), we will hold ours on the Sunday before- December 21 at 4:00 pm.

I invite you to experience a meditative worship service that takes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Join with us to hear scripture, offer prayers for healing and wholeness, and to hear songs that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who grieve, for those who struggle. God's Word comes to shines light in our darkness.

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

Prayer Requests

Home-bound/Nursing Homes:

Sylvia Meyer, Emily Phillips

Eastminster Members:

Norton and Suzanne Cater, Ann Coleman, Tandy Gilliland, Marilyn James, Jonathan Kraemer, Stuart Lane, Audra Pierce, Betty Taylor; Maryanne Torris, Kippy Brides, Anita Harley, Louis and Claire Steed, Richard Owens, Brandenburgs, Gill Seal.

Eastminster Extended Family:

Allison Hnatsyhyn (Kim Gassner's sister),
Brooks James (Marilyn James' son), Robin and
Chris King (Linda Sucher's brother and Sisterin-Law), Selva Kumar (Anitha Samuels' uncle),
Katie Landry (Kim Gassner's mother), Juliana
Lind (cousin of the Gassners), Jess Mayes
(Cyndi Lichoulas' cousin's wife), Haven Moore
(Devon and Ellen Cortright's niece), Betty Jo
Steed (Mother of Louis Steed), Jitka Svatonova
(Lucie Svatonova-Hughes' mother), Jerry
Magyar (Barbara Kurta's brother), Ron Kainec
(Barbara and Ron Kurta's brother in law)

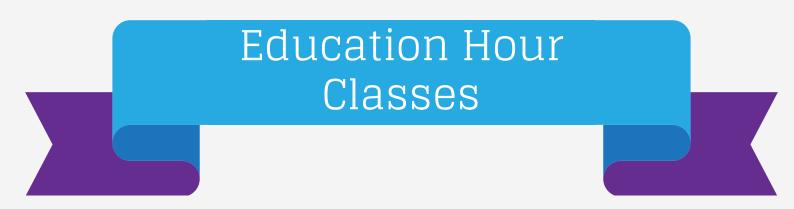
We would like the
Prayer Requests to be
as current as possible.
Please take a moment
to look at the list and
let us know if we need
to remove or add
anyone to the list Feel
free to email
admin@eastminster.com
with any changes.

Eastminster Friends: Miranda Allen (friend of Anitha Samuel), Poynter Family (friends of Kim Gassner), Vijay Williamra (friend of Sudhir Samuel), Andy (friend of Joan Jones)

Military: Kasey Cornwell (Devon and Ellen Cortright's nephew), Kenneth Endicott (Harry and Beverly George's godson), Phillip Goeckel (nephew of Sandy Watkins), Ryan McGuckian (son of Kimberly Lane's friends), Jared Warren Pierce (son of Audra Pierce and Syble Drake), Matt and Sean Renbarger (Roger and Jane Couch's nephews), F. Tyler Rymer (Devon and Ellen Cortright's nephew), Matthew Sinda (Devon and Ellen Cortright's son-in-law)

Logo Contest update:

Thank you for the many submissions to the 20th anniversary logo contest! The session will hear from the Anniversary Committee on Dec 9 and then the winning logo will be shared with all!



Children's Sunday School

All children preK-5th have Sunday School upstairs. During December, the children will continue to explore the scriptures of the Narrative Lectionary. They will also prepare for Christmas by learning about the season of Advent. All PreK-5th grade children will be walked to the steps of the Sanctuary following the education hour and can be picked up there by a parent/grandparent.

Youth Sunday School

Both the <u>6th-7th Grade Class</u> and the <u>8th-12th Grade Class</u>- will engage in a discussion based upon the four Sundays of Advent- Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Join us upstairs for fantastic discussions!

Adult Sunday School

The Fireside Class- We are a group of mixed ages, both single and married, with and without children. Teaching responsibilities are shared between our two leaders, and occasionally class members, and a mix of lecture and discussion. We meet on Sunday mornings in Clarke's Kitchen beside the fireplace. Contact Scott Carlson or Robb Ellis for more information.

GIFT- Growing in Faith Together- We don't have all the answers but are wrestling and growing together as we work to raise our children according to biblical principles in a fast-paced and challenging world. This class will seek to support our young parents as they begin to worship together as a family and begin sharing the stories of faith with their children. We meet on Sunday mornings in the church office conference room. Contact Joan Jones for more information. You can reach Joan at 205-222-3732 or joan@eastminster.com

Disciple Class- Join us as we discuss the hope, joy, peace, and love of the Advent season. All ages are welcome. We meet in the classroom at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Contact Elaine Campbell, Diane Hughs or Lynn Ingram for more information.



announcements



Angel Tree Gifts



Angel Tree gift reminder: The Angel Tree gifts are due on Sunday, December 16. Please have all gifts wrapped and placed in a trash/garbage bag with the yellow Angel attached. The social worker at REC can see who the gifts belong to and the parents can put the appropriate tags on them.

Thank you so much for helping these children from Robert E. Cashion Elementary School have a Merry Christmas.

Outreach Team

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2019Contribution envelopes are ready for you to pick up in the foyer of the sanctuary. They will be out each Sunday during December.

THIS ENVELOPE # IS YOUR ACCOUNT #.

Please do not begin to use these envelopes until the first Sunday in January 2019. It is very important that you use the envelopes assigned to you. This will help the finance office to ensure the accuracy of the source. Also, please note that the per capita of \$11.40 is each adult member and confirmed youth in your family. If you do not find a box of envelopes and would like to have one, please sign the tablet on the table.

December Birthdays

12/1	Terri Davidson	12/15	Karen Reese
	Lynn Owens	12/16	Alan Calloway
12/10	Will Carson		Mike Moorshead
12/11	Lynn Ingram	12/23	Adam Calloway
12/12	Mark Osteen	12/25	Ethan Lane
12/13	Ward Carson	12/29	Georgia Carson
	Emily Cox		Karen Foote
	Sara Cox	12/30	Devon Cortright
12/14	Alex Winebarger		Robert Wylie





announcements



staff love offering

We are so grateful for our staff at Eastminster! Again this year we would like to take up a love offering for our staff over the holiday weeks. The offering will be divided between our staff members by the session. Please place your donation in the offering plates and make note that it is for the "Love Offering".

GAIHN

Beginning January 13th, we have the opportunity to help families start out the new year through GAIHN. Many of us hope 2019 will be a great year, maybe even thinking it has got to better than 2018. I am sure many of our guest families will feel the same way. Recently at a coordinators' meeting, Chuck, Mike and I got to share some issues we were having with some of our families, such as not showing up for dinner, etc. We came away thinking that perhaps these can be eliminated, or at least it not occurring as frequently. Please look at your calendar and plan on helping our guests the week of Jan 13-20..

Women's Circle

EPC Women's Circles will meet in December to discuss Lesson Four in our Horizon's Bible Study God's Promise: I Am With You. You are invited to join us as we seek to nurture our faith through worship, study, friendship, and outreach.

Evening Circle will meet on Sunday December 16 at 5:30 at EPC. For more information contact pressley@eastminster.com.

Morning Circle will meet at the home of Carolyn Uprichard on Thursday December 13 at 10:00. We will be collecting socks for Place of Hope, as well as, canned corn and toiletries. For more information contact carolirick@charter.net.





Preparing for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas can be a stressful time in the life of the church, but your staff knows how to have fun in the midst of the all the chaos! Thanks to Jaime Winton for spending the Monday before Thanksgiving teaching the crazy bunch how to paint with watercolors and make Christmas ornaments. This is one talented group of women!

children's news



Childcare News

We are excited to welcome Elizabeth Owens to our nursery staff at EPC! We are blessed with four amazing nursery staff members. Please stop by and tell Dawn, Riley, Sandra and Elizabeth how much we love them!



Our Christmas Eve worship service will be at at 4:00 on December 24. This service is such a beautiful service of worship, music and candlelight. All children are invited to be in worship with their families as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Nursery Volunteers

We are so incredibly thankful for the many volunteers who step in and help us in our nurseries on Sunday mornings! We couldn't do it without you. We still have a few openings in December and January. If you can assist on Dec 9, Dec 16, Dec 23, Dec 30, Jan 6, Jan 13, Jan 20 or Jan 27, please let Joan know! You will be blessed to spend time with our little ones!

Infant/Toddler 12/2 Ed Irick 12/9 Anne Vickers PreK/K 12/2 Kenny Hughes

youth news



All middle and high school youth are invited to join us for an afternoon and evening of fun and fellowship on Sunday, December 9. We will meet at EPC at 2:30. Please bring \$10 and we will go shopping for our angel. Following shopping, we will travel to our first stop on our Progressive dinner schedule for appetizers. Then it's off for the Main course and then off for dessert. Each youth should bring a pair of "crazy socks" wrapped for our gift exchange! Keep your socks a "secret" and wrap some of your favorite candy inside one of the socks. As we play our game, the person who opens your gift will have to try and guess who brought those socks based on the candy!

We may need a couple of extra drivers. If you are willing to help, if needed, please let Joan know. You can email Joan at joan@eastminster.com or call her at 205-222-3732.



Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of our youth for an incredible day of baking and to all of you for purchasing delicious pumpkin pies and pumpkin bread!

We hope you enjoyed them!

Mark your calendar!

Sunday, January 13 all middle and high school youth will meet at 5:30 for dinner, games and a night of mission as we make blankets for the animal shelter. Come and join us and bring a friend. All are welcome.

mark your calendar

DEC 2 10:00 am Worship-

Hanging of the Greens

11:00 am Education Hour

3:00 pm FUN Christmas Party

DEC 5 6:45 am Men's Breakfast

6:00 pm Handbells

7:00 pm Choir

DEC 9 10:00 am Worship-

DEC 24 Lessons and Carols

11:00 am Education Hour

12:00 pm Session

2:30 pm Youth Progressive Dinner

6:45 am Men's Breakfast **DEC 12**

6:00 pm Handbells

7:00 pm Choir

DEC 13 10:00 am Morning Circle

DEC 16 10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Education Hour

4:00 pm Longest Night Service

5:30 pm Evening Circle

DEC 19 6:45 am Men's Breakfast

6:00 pm Handbells

7:00 pm Choir

DEC 30

DEC 23 10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Education Hour

JAN 6

11:00 am Education Hour

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service



Office Closed Dec 25, 26, 27



10:00 am Worship

10:00 am Worship

Office Closed Dec 31, Jan 1