

EASTMINSTER EDITION

January 2019

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IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Corner

Page 2

Worship

Page 3

Sunday School

Page 4

Announcements

Page 5

Jan-May 2019 Highlights

Sunday, January 6

Sunday, January 13

January 13-20

Sunday, February 10

Wednesday, March 6

Sunday, March 10

Saturday, March 16

Saturday, March 30

(GOAL: 20,000 meals in honor of the EPC 20th anniversary)

Sunday, April 14

Sunday, April 21

April 28-May 4

Saturday, May 4

Sunday, June 9

Epiphany worship

Baptism of the Lord worship

Congregational meeting

GAIHN (see bulletin board to sign up)

10th Annual Bistro!!!

Ash Wednesday

20th Anniversary Worship

Installation/Ordination of Elders

Trees for Greenville

Rise Against Hunger packing session

Palm Sunday

Easter Sunday

GAIHN

Hands on Greenville

Pentecost

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 13 following worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to receive the 2019 budget and to approve the new class of elders. The names and bios of the elders will be available after the first of the year.

Dear Eastminster Friends and Family,

Although we have begun a new year, I am still lingering on the words I shared as the Christmas blessing on Christmas eve. The blessing was adapted from a poem by Howard Thurman (1899-1981), an African-American preacher, a poet, a civil rights leader, and more.

And my hope is that the blessing of these Christmas candles will carry us through this year and linger in our hearts, shaping our lives:

I will light candles this Christmas,
candles of joy to be a light in your sadness...
candles of hope in the midst of our shadows...
candles of courage as you face your fears...
candles of peace as terror looms over us...
candles of grace to ease heavy burdens...
candles of love to inspire our living...
candles that will burn all year long.



Yes, we may be beyond Christmas and into 2019, but our lives intend to bear witness to God's light, to see Christ not just in the manger but in the strangers we meet each week, to follow the star not just through a season but in daily life as God's people. Our lives are about loving and serving in joy and gratitude. And we keep seeking to light candles that serve God's grand purposes. This is our calling as God's people.

Grace and peace-
Pressley



Star words will be given out during worship on Sunday, January 6. Use your star word to guide your prayer life and listen a little bit closer to what God has in store for you in 2019.



“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

January and February 2019 Worship

The narrative lectionary respects the traditional Christian church year, with its principal seasons -- Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. It also respects the rhythms of the school year.

We will spend January-April immersed in the gospel of Matthew. These same texts will be used in Preschool, Elementary, and Middle School Sunday School classes.

January 6

"Home Another Way"

Matthew 2:1-23

King Herod creates a plot to find the infant Jesus. The wise men follow a star to Jesus and greet Jesus with joy and gifts, but are warned to not return to Herod. Mary and Joseph take the infant Jesus to Egypt to escape as Herod works to prevent the rise of a new king that would threaten his power.

January 13

"Jesus and John the Baptist"

Matthew 3:1-17

John the Baptist preaches a message of repentance as people come to be baptized by him. Soon after, Jesus asks to be baptized. As Jesus emerges from the water, a voice from heaven states, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

January 20

"Temptation in the Wilderness"

Matthew 4:1-17

After being baptized by John, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness for forty days, where he is tempted by the devil. After returning from the wilderness, Jesus begins his ministry.

January 27

"Sermon on the Mount"

Matthew 5:1-20

Jesus delivers the first section of a long discourse known as the Sermon on the Mount. In it, he offers his first instruction to the young church on how to live in expectation of God's reign.

February 3

"The Lord's Prayer"

Matthew 6:7-21 [25-34]

Jesus continues the Sermon on the Mount by encouraging prayer that puts us in relationship with God, and offers a form that can be used as a starting place for such prayer.

February 10

"Built on the Rock"

Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29

The conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount offers further insights on the life of discipleship, and the promise that this life will offer us the firm foundation we need to live in the kingdom of God.

February 17

"Like a Mustard Seed"

Matthew 13:24-43

Jesus tells a series of parables that surprise and challenge our concept of God's kingdom.

February 24

"Feeding of the 5000"

Matthew 14:13-33

By feeding a multitude and walking across a stormy sea, Jesus demonstrates that God is at work taking care of God's people.

March 3

"The Transfiguration"

Matthew 16:24-17:8

Jesus is transfigured before his key disciples. His identity and mission are reaffirmed by the voice of God from above.



Education Hour Classes

Children's Sunday School

All children preK-4th have Sunday School upstairs. The children will continue to explore the scriptures of the Narrative Lectionary. All PreK-4th 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

Beginning in January, our 5th graders will join the Middle School Class to become the **5th-7th Grade Class**. This class will follow the narrative lectionary and explore scripture after they have heard it during the summer. The **8th-12th Grade Class**- will engage in participant led questions and conversations. 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.

Disciple Class- We grow spiritually through group discussion and lively teaching which is shared among a team of teachers. Our studies range from topical to Bible studies to seasonal faith discussions. 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

staff love offering

THANK YOU! The Staff of EPC would like to thank all of you who contributed to the kind and generous love offering! It is a joy to be in ministry with all of Eastminster!

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 be 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 January to discuss Lesson Five in our Horizon's Bible Study God's Promise: I Am With You.

In this month's lesson, we will read the story of Jehoshaphat and discuss those times when we worry and feel powerless and how, even then, God promises to be with us. You are invited to join us as we seek to nurture our faith through worship, study, friendship, and outreach.

Morning Circle will meet at church on Thursday January 10 at 10:00. Our meeting will be hosted by Jane Couch, and you are reminded to bring canned pasta for United Ministries Food Bank and/o toiletries for Place of Hope. For more information contact carolirick@charter.net.

Evening Circle will meet at church on Sunday January 6 at 5:30 at EPC. For more information contact pressley@eastminster.com.



Upstate Men's Choir

If you enjoy singing, you are invited to attend our first rehearsal in 2019
Tuesday Morning, January 8th 9:30-11:00

First Presbyterian Greer Choir Room
100 School St., Greer, SC 29651
Please use "Entrance D" off School Street

For more information contact
Loren Pinkerman at 864-509-6067 or email lpinkerman@gmail.com

