

EASTMINSTER EDITION

April 2019

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April 14

9:30 am- Easter Egg Hunt
10:00 Palm Sunday Worship



Thursday, April 18

7:00 pm

We will be joining in worship at
Advent United Methodist Church
located at 2258 Woodruff Rd,
Simpsonville, SC 29681



Friday, April 19

7:00 pm

We will again join with Advent UMC
in Worship, this time at Eastminster.



Sunday, April 21

7:00 am Sunrise Service

Continental Breakfast to follow

10:00 am Worship

No Education Hour



EASTER SUNDAY



Dear Eastminster Friends and Family,

I've recently been reading "The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World" by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu. It's a wonderful book by two friends about finding joy and happiness in the face of suffering and grief. Throughout, they include stories, wisdom, and science. Finally, they share their daily Joy Practices that anchor their own emotional and spiritual lives.

One of my favorite quotes reads,

"The more we turn toward others, the more joy we experience, and the more joy we experience, the more we can bring joy to others. The goal is not just to create joy for ourselves but to be a reservoir of joy, an oasis of peace, a pool of serenity that can ripple out to all those around you. Joy is in fact quite contagious. As is love, compassion, and generosity."

I think this quote reflects who we are as a community of faith. The joy that one feels when they walk into Eastminster is contagious. It flows into a sense of welcome that cannot be taught, but is genuine, honest and real. Eastminster also models love, compassion, and generosity throughout every ministry and interaction. As we continue to celebrate 20 years of ministry, what are other ways we can engage in joy, love, compassion, and generosity? How can we support one another. How can we truly share in community? How might we be better stewards of all that we have?

The Eastminster Session has been engaging in topics such as these at every meeting. New teams have been developed (see page 4). There are ideas for new ministries, including beginning Stephen Ministry (see page 5). Your session is listening and wants to hear your ideas and dreams!

My hope is that the joy of the 20th Anniversary celebration will continue to flow and energize us as we move through the spring and are filled with the true joy of Easter morning!

May you be filled with joy for self and for other. May that joy overflow with love, compassion, and generosity!

Grace and peace- Pressley

On a side note: Thank you for the amazing response to the Giving Tree. Your generous gifts have funded new items for the nursery, office supplies, music materials, youth and adult education, and more!



"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

April and May 2019 Worship

The narrative lectionary respects the traditional Christian church year, with its principal seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. It also respects the rhythms of the school year. These same texts will be used in Children and Middle School Sunday School classes.

April 7

"When Did we See You?"

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus ends his final discourse to his disciples with the Judgement of the Sheep and the Goats. When the Son of Man returns, all believers will be separated like sheep from goats based upon their service to the king when the king was in need.

April 14

"Triumphal Entry"

Matthew 21:1-17

Jesus enters Jerusalem in a way that fulfills prophetic expectations of the coming Messiah, riding humbly on a donkey.

April 21

"The Empty Tomb"

Matthew 28:1-10

The women find Jesus' tomb empty after an angel rolls away the stone and sits on it. The angel tells them not to fear for Jesus is risen. As they run from the tomb they meet Jesus himself and worship him.

April 28

"The Great Commission"

Matthew 28:16-20

The resurrected Jesus appears to the remaining eleven disciples in Galilee. He commissions them to baptize and make disciples who will follow his teachings. The Gospel ends with Jesus' promise to be with the church until the end of time.

May 5

"Peter's Vision"

Acts 10:1-17, 34-48

Cornelius and Peter both experience visions that lead to their conversion. Both men gain a broader understanding of what God is up to in the world.

May 12

"Paul and Barnabas"

Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18

Paul and Barnabas take center stage in the narrative as they are sent by the Holy Spirit and the church to carry the gospel to Gentiles across the Roman world.

May 19

"Called to be Saints"

Romans 1:1-17

Paul greets the Roman congregation, and outlines the basic themes to follow, including the relationship between Gentile and Jewish Christians, the role of faith, grace, and obedience, and the righteousness of God.

May 26

"Peace and Hope"

Romans [3:28-30] 5:1-11

God's love for humanity has been shown in the death of Christ, who died for us even though we had done nothing to deserve it. This love that God has shown us gives us the courage and strength to face the sufferings of the world around us.

Eastminster Session

The Session of Eastminster recently restructured session ministry teams to reflect our Five Core Values of Compassionate Hospitality, Christ-Centered Worship, Nurturing Faith, Caring Outreach, and Generous Community. We feel that this structure reflects who we are and how we function as Eastminster.

Please consider joining one of the teams!

Compassionate Hospitality

- a) Fellowship- Sharon Daugherty
- b) Communications and Evangelism- Maureen Cobb
- c) Congregational Care- Audra Pierce

Christ-Centered Worship- Bruce Nolan

Nurturing Faith- Roshni Samuel, Cynthia Sims

Caring Outreach- Mike Moorshead

Generous Community

- a) Finance and Administration Team- Mark Sucher
- b) Stewardship Team- Mark Osteen
- c) Personnel Committee- Stephanie Brandenburg
- d) Property and Grounds Team- Rick Owens and Barry Campbell

Clerk of Session- Sandy Watkins

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit.. There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do. The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others." -1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (CEB)

During the February session meeting, elders reviewed a proposal from our Congregational Care team to begin a Stephen Ministry team. The session was in agreement that Eastminster would benefit from this ministry, but it is a huge financial commitment. There is a one-time fee per church, through the life of the church, that includes the training of those present, books and resources, and Eastminster Presbyterian Church being registered as part of the Stephen Ministry program. Other fees include training for 2-4 "Stephen Leaders", training materials for "Stephen Ministers", and ongoing expenses. Projected costs would be \$6000 to begin this ministry. If you would like to contribute to this ministry, please contact Audra Pierce or Mark Sucher. To learn more, visit www.stephenministries.org

What is Stephen Ministry?

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ"
(Galatians 6:2, NRSV).

Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations that use the Stephen Series system. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. The best way to understand how Stephen Ministry works is to learn about three groups of people involved in this ministry: Stephen Leaders, Stephen Ministers, and care receivers.

Stephen Leaders—Direct the overall ministry in the congregation. Stephen Leaders establish and direct Stephen Ministry in a congregation. They—
build awareness of Stephen Ministry within the congregation and community
recruit and train Stephen Ministers
meet with potential care receivers to assess their needs
match care receivers with Stephen Ministers
provide Stephen Ministers with ongoing supervision and continuing education

Stephen Ministers—Lay caregivers trained in the congregation by Stephen Leaders. Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times.

Care Receivers—People going through tough times who are being cared for by Stephen Ministers. They are—congregation members and others in the community—who receive care from a Stephen Minister. These are people struggling through a difficult time in life—experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or some other life crisis. The relationship between a care receiver and a Stephen Minister is confidential. When a care receiver's needs exceed what a Stephen Minister can provide, the Stephen Ministry team makes a referral to an appropriate mental health professional or other community resource.

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

All adults are invited to join us for a special Lenten study on April 7. The study will be lead by Dr. David Rutledge, retired Furman professor.

On April 14, Diane Hughs will lead us into Holy Week with a special emphasis on prayer.

After a break for Easter Sunday, the adult classes will resume on Sunday, April 28. More information will be available.

CROSS Mission Trip

April 5-7, our mission team will be in Charlotte NC serving in mission in the heart of the city. Please be in prayer as we travel together and serve our neighbors in need. We give thanks for this opportunity to share the love of Christ and look forward to sharing with you all once we return home.

Children's Ministry



Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 14



All children, toddlers-4th graders, are invited to join us for our Easter Egg hunt. Bring your Easter Basket and come gather on the front steps of the Sanctuary at 9:30. We will share a story and then head outside to hunt for eggs.

*** Donations needed- please bring bags of individually wrapped candy (no nuts) as well as small treats such as stickers, erasers, bouncy balls, etc that can be placed in eggs for our hunt. There is a basket in the commons area for your donations.

*** All youth in grades 5th-12th should arrive by 8:00 for donuts and to get ready for the egg hunt!



Worship bags for Children in Worship

Each Sunday morning, worship bags are available for our children. The bags contain an activity sheet to help them follow along in the service and write or draw about their favorite parts of the service. There are also coloring sheets and puzzles or word searches that are based on the daily scripture readings as well as crayons and pencils for them to use! We hope these will help our children participate in worship and allow them to worship with their EPC family. We love having them with us!



EPC Nursery and Childcare Help Needed

Did you know that our youngest children are not only being loved and cared for by the most amazing staff but are also learning a bible story each Sunday morning? We are so thankful to Dawn, Elizabeth, Riley and our amazing volunteers for loving and caring for our children! When volunteering in the nursery, please arrive by 9:45. Check in with our nursery staff and they will let you know how you can assist. The nursery is available during worship as well as during the education hour. We couldn't do all we do without our amazing volunteers! Thank you for helping. You can sign up to help by emailing Joan at joan@eastminster.com or by calling her cell phone at 205-222-3732.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR EVERY
SUNDAY IN APRIL AND MAY!**

Women's Groups

Women's Circle

Please join us as we seek to nurture our faith through worship, study, friendship, and outreach.

Evening Circle will meet on Sunday April 7 at 5:30 at EPC. The Evening Circle will be studying Lesson Seven. For more information contact pressley@eastminster.com.

Morning Circle will meet Thursday April 11 at 10:00 at the home of Beverly George. We will discuss Lesson Eight in our Horizon's Bible Study, God's Promise: I Am With You. In this month's lesson, we look at the promise of God's presence through the Holy Spirit. Please remember to bring canned pasta for United Ministries Food Bank and/or toiletries for Place of Hope. For more information contact carolirick@charter.net.



Tuesday Connect Group

Join us for a new women's study group!
We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at noon
in the church conference room. For spring,
we will be reading and studying Rob Bell's book
"What is the Bible?"

This is a book about a library of books dealing
with loss and anger and transcendence and
worry and empire and money and fear and
stress and joy and doubt and grace and
healing, and who doesn't want to talk that?

Apr 9- Chapters 25-28

Apr 23- Chapters 29-34

May 14- Chapters 35-39

May 28- Chapters 40-43

What Is the Bible?

How an Ancient Library
of Poems, Letters, and
Stories Can Transform
the Way You Think and
Feel About Everything

Written and Read by

Rob Bell
New York Times Bestselling Author



The Art of Fellowship

Join us on Thursday, April 4th at 7 pm for an evening of Christian fellowship and creative expression at the home art studio of Jaime Winton at 23 Chestnut Springs Court, Greer. All women are invited to work on an art project provided by our hostess and get to know our church family better. Zero artistic skill is required, and child care is available upon request! All supplies provided. Please email jaimewinton@gmail.com with any questions.

Announcements

Café Justo is a collective of families that grow their coffee and sell it directly to the consumer. Café Justo coffee is Fair Trade and organic; in addition Café Justo keeps the farmers involved in the entire process of making coffee, particularly the roasting of the beans, where the majority of the profit is. Café Justo provides sustainable wages to the coffee growers and therefore prevents those families from poverty and migration from Mexico to the United States.

Café Justo coffee will be available to purchase on the third Sunday of the month. .



Fifty and Up Network

Let's go support Gregg Campbell, Jim Foote, and Ed Uprichard in the Upstate Men's Choir in concert April 27 at 5:00 pm at Memorial United Methodist in Greer. After the concert, we can all go to dinner at Mutt's BBQ. It is on highway 14 not far from the church. Contact Jane Couch (randjcouch@gmail.com) to sign up or if you need more information.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Eastminster will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering during Easter worship on Sunday, April 21. This year marks the 70th anniversary of this special offering. Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through the One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Your gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, food for the hungry, and community development that helps people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Find an interactive world map with One Great Hour of Sharing recipients here.



Announcements

Interfaith Hospitality Network April 28-May 5

Beginning April 28, we have the opportunity to help families through Interfaith Hospitality Network (known to us as GAIHN). There will be a sign up chart in the back of the sanctuary. Volunteers are needed to host families overnight, prepare dinner, wash laundry, help setup on Sunday, April 28 and breakdown on Sunday, May 5. Scott Carlson will be the volunteer coordinator.



April Birthdays

4/5 Rick Owens
4/15 Will Wylie
4/16 Kelly Carson
4/18 Nicholas Cuppett
4/19 Anne Vickers
4/20 Stella Winton
4/22 Kim Gassner
Marilyn James
4/23 Katie Owens
4/27 Pressley Cox
Craig Winebarger
4/30 Audra Pierce

Upcoming Dates

Sunday, April 14
Thursday, April 11
Friday, April 12
Sunday, April 21
April 28-May 4
Saturday, May 4
Sunday, June 9

Palm Sunday
Maundy Thursday (Advent UMC)
Good Friday worship
Easter Sunday
GAIHN
Hands on Greenville
Pentecost

