



# EASTMINSTER EDITION

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2240 Woodruff Road, Simpsonville, SC 29681

864-284-0190

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

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## *May Worship*

May 5

"Peter's Vision"

Acts 10:1-17, 34-48

Cornelius and Peter experience visions that lead to their conversion. Both men gain a broader understanding of what God is doing 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 across the 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.



Dear Eastminster Friends and Family,

I spent the week of April 22 at as a Thompson Scholar at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. The Thompson scholar program brings together pastors and other church leaders every year to focus on an area of evangelism. This year's topic was "Tell Me Your Story And I'll Know Why I Should Come To Your Church". The seminar focused on the power of telling the story of your congregation through video, still images, and social media.

I came away with many thoughts and ideas about how to enhancing Eastminster's presence on the internet from live streaming worship to capturing all that we do through pictures and video. As part of the ministry of Compassionate Hospitality, we have developed a session team, Communications and Evangelism, that will focus on these areas to help Eastminster share its story so people know who we are and why it's exciting to be a part of the ministry here. (Be sure to look on the giving tree for new envelopes for technology items that will help us tell our story!)

While I think this is important for us to share the story of Eastminster, I also think that we need to take the time to learn the stories of the people whom we sit next to every Sunday. I don't know what this will look like or how to begin the process of telling our stories, but I am open to ideas and suggestions. The youth will be working throughout this summer to learn the stories of our charter members and will share them on Sunday, September 8 when we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Eastminster Charter.

Grace and peace- Pressley

On a side note:

Thank you for the amazing response to the Giving Tree. While it looks like the tree is still full, most of the envelopes are new items! Your generous gifts have funded new items for the nursery, office supplies, music ma



# Share Your Stories



"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**

## 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 considered 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 to be registered as part of the Stephen Ministry and to have access to training, books, and resources. Other fees include training for 3-4 "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](http://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.

## Women's Groups

### Women's Circle

This month we will meet as we come to the end of our Horizon's Bible Study *God's Promise: I Am With You*. Please join us as we seek to nurture our faith through worship, study, friendship, and outreach. The Morning Circle will meet Thursday May 9 at 10:00 at the home of Carol Irick. We will discuss Lesson Nine and have our annual luncheon. Please remember to bring canned pasta for United Ministries and /or toiletries for Place of Hope. For more information contact [carolirick@charter.net](mailto:carolirick@charter.net).

Evening Circle will meet on Sunday May 5 (lesson 8) and Sunday, June 2 (lesson 9 at 5:30 at EPC. For more information contact [pressley@eastminster.com](mailto:pressley@eastminster.com).



### 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?

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, May 2nd 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](mailto:jaimewinton@gmail.com) with any questions.

(Mark June 6 and July 3 for the next meetings.)

## 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.



**UNITED WAY HANDS ON GREENVILLE DAY** - Come and join your Eastminster family in the largest day of service in the Upstate, United Way's Hands on Greenville Day, Saturday, May 4 beginning at 8 AM. For the 4th consecutive year, EPC will field a team of volunteers to serve our neighbors and this year we will return to the Center for Community Services to assist with their landscaping needs. Please bring rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, leaf blowers, gloves and a willingness to work as we spread mulch and clean up the property. Eastminster is a long-time supporter of CCS and we look forward to strengthening that bond again this year. The event is open to all members and guests ages 10 to 100. If you have children who will attend, please be sure to complete the UW waiver form.

## Trees Upstate Outreach

Trees Upstate is an organization devoted to the planting, promoting and protection of trees in the Upstate. They plant at schools, parks, neighborhoods, churches and other areas where trees have the potential to thrive. On March 16th EPC had about 20 people who participated in the ReLeaf planting day where 250 trees were planted at 6 different sites. Our church helped plant about 40 trees at Carlyle Subdivision in Greer with 60 other volunteers. Thank you for everyone's help making this project a success and helping to celebrate our 20th Anniversary with the Upstate community.





## Announcements

Youth Fellowship  
 Sunday, May 5  
 5:30-7:00 pm

Join us for an evening of Fiesta Fun! All youth are invited! Please visit the signup genius to mark what items you will bring. If you don't see something on the menu that you want, please bring it on May 5. At 7:00 pm, we will have a brief meeting for all middle school and high school youth that will be attending the summer Montreat trips. We need at least one adult per family to attend the meeting at 7:00 pm. We will be completing paperwork and talking details of the trips!

### May Birthdays

5/2 Jim Foote  
 Sandy Watkins  
 5/3 Eileen Osteen  
 5/8 Trey Israel  
 5/16 Kathryn Carlson  
 5/23 Linda Sucher  
 5/24 Caleb Hughes  
 5/27 Chuck Mitcham  
 5/28 Zoe Winton  
 5/31 Sarah Moorshead  
 Claire Randall

### Upcoming Dates

Saturday, May 4  
 Friday, May 31  
 June 8-June 15  
 Sunday, June 9  
 July 17-July 21

Hands on Greenville  
 Youth Lock-In  
 Senior High Montreat  
 Pentecost  
 Middle School Montreat

