

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For detailed information and to register for the below programs and events, visit our website: <https://eastminsterpres.org/>.

Sundays@5 Adult Evening Class, Led by Dr. Douglass Key, Begins Tonight: a church-wide Fall study on Rick Lawrence's book, *Editing Jesus: Confronting the Distorted Faith of the American Church*. Join us in the Adult Reception Hall (ARH). A repeat class will be on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in Room E-357 beginning September 10.

ECAMP (Eastminster Children's Afternoon Music Program) Starts Tonight: from 5 to 6:30 pm for children ages K4-fifth grade. Drop-off in the Sanctuary at 5 pm for Bible Study, songs, musical activities and dinner. Don't forget to register your singer(s) and volunteer to help out.

Servant Leadership Recognition Dinner is this Wednesday, September 11: at 5:15 pm in Thompson Hall. The Program begins at 6 pm. Join us as we honor and celebrate first responders in the Midlands. Bring your children. There will be opportunities for them to meet local heroes. RSVP by noon on Wednesday via Upcoming Events on our website.

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday is September 15: Know someone who is looking for a church home and would benefit from all that Eastminster has to offer? Invite them to worship on September 15.

Seniors' Tour of the Shepherd's Center is September 16 at 11:00 a.m.: Explore, learn and connect with others. Email Laura Long (llong@eastminsterpres.org) for info.

EPW's Fall Gathering is September 17: Join the Eastminster Presbyterian Women for their Fall Gathering on September 17, from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, in Thompson Hall. Please RSVP via our website's Upcoming Events.

Learning Differences Next Social is September 17: in the Christian Life Center (CLC), on the third floor, from 6 until 7:30 pm. Enjoy fellowship and conversations with parents and other volunteers.

Bible Doers will "Do" on Wednesday, September 18, at the Oliver's: 6 to 7 am, walk and fellowship; 7 to 8 am, prepare and pray over pasta salad for Transitions. Friendly faces and coffee will be waiting for you! Text Beth at 803-622-5384 with any questions.

WE@EPC Bible 101 Class, Led by Dr. Brad Smith and Dr. Ben Sloan, Begins September 18: at 6 pm in the Adult Reception Hall (ARH) for anyone who wants to learn the basics of scripture. We will be using *The Bible from Scratch* by Donald L. Griggs, and various Bible Project videos to survey and get an overview of the Old and New Testaments.

WE@EPC Parenting Class, Led by Dr. Douglass Key, Begins September 18: Practical Tools for Raising Faithful Kids is a six-week conversation for parents. Join us for dinner in Thompson Hall before class. We'll meet in Rooms 271-273 (CLC).

Serve at Transitions on Thursday, September 19: Drop off donations of bananas, pasta salad, and pound cakes to the Church Office (staff kitchen) by 3 pm or meet at Transitions at 3:45 pm to package food, or to serve the meal (5 pm). To help, contact Alison McGowan at alisonmcgowan11@gmail.com.

Seeking God First, Even When Planning: Estate Planning for Christian Families: takes place on Thursday, September 19. This free event, hosted by Eastminster's Endowment, offers strategies for couples and singles at all planning stages, who want to leave a legacy here at Eastminster. RSVP via the website.

First Step Class Kicks off on September 22: Interested in membership at Eastminster? Join us to hear from pastors and learn more about the ministries at EPC. Contact Lib Foster with any questions (lfoster@eastminsterpres.org).

Flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Elizabeth Lewis Helms by her family.

SERMON NOTES



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



WELCOME TAIWANESE PASTORS TO EASTMINSTER

Friend and Presbyterian missionary Rev. John McCall will be in the area in early September with 18 Presbyterian ministers who serve across Taiwan. They are in Columbia this weekend to experience a Christian church in an American setting, as part of an experience that also includes time in Montreat to reflect on their relationship with God, their families, and their ministries.

On Sunday, Sept. 8, our adult Sunday school classes will join together in the Adult Reception Hall (10-11 am), to hear about their lives and ministry in Taiwan.

DEACONS: MIRIAM COVAR AND KAREN HUDGENS
HEAD USHER: JEFF MUTHIG (9:00 AM) AND MIKE GORMAN (11:15 AM)

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MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan, Parish Associate
Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry
Louis Shirer, Organist
Anna Mills Cox, Sr. Communications Officer
Blythe Lewis, Director of Communications
Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center
James Cassidy, A/V Director

Rev. Emily M. Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor
Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate
Alisha Hudson, Ex. Dir. Finance and Admin.
Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth
Katie Herndon, Day School Director
Christy Rippy, Treasurer
Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

9:00 AND 11:15 AM

3200 TRENHOLM ROAD
COLUMBIA, SC 29204

803-256-1654

www.eastminsterpres.org

Welcome to Eastminster Presbyterian Church!

In Christ's name, we welcome you to Eastminster. We hope that you will feel the love and peace of Christ as you worship with us. Please take this time to silence the world and focus your heart and mind on worshipping our living God.

“So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you, for God's glory.” Romans 15:7

PRELUDE

Aria

Paul Manz

INTROIT

For All Who Craft Their Words with Skill

Karen Marroli

For all who craft their words with skill to make our story heard, For those who study, write, and preach: we thank you, Christ our Word. And we rejoice in those whose speech extends the Spirit's breath to build a shelter for the lost and summon life from death. For all who host the holy meals to keep the faithful fed, For those who bless and break and share: we thank you, Christ our Bread. And we rejoice in those whose feasts defy each fence and wall, where hunger is the only fee and room is made for all. For all who lead your hymns of praise to make weak voices strong, For those who practice, tune, and sing: we thank you, Christ our Song. And we rejoice in those whose ears are trained by love and care to help all find their note of hope in seasons of despair. For all who live the words they preach, and practice what they sing. For all whose lives are raised to you, a living offering. For all who hear your holy call and will not be deterred, We thank you Christ, the source of life: our Song, our Bread, Our Word.

David Bjorlin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader:: Let us give thanks to the Lord with our whole heart;

People: We will tell of all your wonderful deeds, O God.

Leader: We will be glad and exult in you;

People: We will sing praise to your name, O Most High!

All: Let us worship God together.

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #822

When We Are Living

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan

*THE APOSTLES' CREED *(Unison)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our LORD; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**GLORIA PATRI *(Please send the children forward.)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key *(9:00 am)*

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith *(11:15 am)*

The 3K—5K children come to the front and bring their offering.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Emily Mooneyhan *(9:00 am)*

Dr. Sloan *(11:15 am)*

O Lord, our Rock, you give strength to the feeble, hope to the discouraged, and perspective to the wayward. We praise your holy name in worship, yet we build walls that separate us from you, from one another, from the world, and even from ourselves. Forgive us, O Redeemer, our insensitivity to your will and our reluctance to follow you. Accept our confessions in this time of silence, and help us turn afresh to you....

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

Congregation: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON #437

You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy

WAYFARING STRANGER

You are the Lord, giver of mercy! You are the Christ, giver of mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Smith

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SIGNING OF FRIENDSHIP REGISTER AND OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

If you or someone you know is in need of special prayer today or if you would like to speak personally with a pastor about making a first-time commitment to Christ or growing in the Christian faith and discipleship, a pastor is on hand to speak with you following the worship service today by the pulpit in the front of the Sanctuary.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Taiwanese Pastors

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*OFFICER'S PRAYER

Eleanor Boyd

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Focus Text: Matthew 14:13-21

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Pastor: The Word of the LORD!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

*THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND. **CHILDREN MAY BRING THEIR OFFERING AT THIS TIME.

†THOSE WAITING IN THE NARTHEX MAY NOW BE SEATED.

FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY IS PROHIBITED IN ALL WORSHIP SERVICES
AT EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John McCall

"Counting to Eight"

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #700

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'M GONNA LIVE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION

May the Road Rise to Meet You

Lee Turner

May the road rise to meet you; may the wind be at your back; may the sun shine warmly on your face; may the rain fall softly on your field and until we meet again, until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of His hand. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in G Major

George F. Handel

*A TIME FOR GREETING AND FELLOWSHIP



WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER

We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate this Lord's Day with us, and we hope that in a real and meaningful way you will sense God's presence, power, and purpose among us. If you would like for us to connect with you, please leave your contact information in the Friendship Pad when it is passed.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

Contact the church office at 803-256-1654 to learn more and find out about our next First Step class, a class designed to help you learn about Eastminster and our ongoing ministries. Our next class will begin September 22, 2024 in the Adult Reception Hall.

September 15, 2024

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith