

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Adult VBS is tonight and tomorrow night with Keynote Speaker, Dr. Emily Theus: RSVP and join us for dinner in Thompson Hall at 5 pm both nights and get a greater understanding of God’s in-breaking power and presence in our world. For childcare (infants through rising 5 graders), please contact Pastor Croskeys ([croyall@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:croyall@eastminsterpres.org)).

Our next “Mindfulness Monday” is tomorrow at 9 am, in the parlor: Learn a variety of mindfulness techniques, co-led by pastors Emily Mooneyhan & Carol Byrd on the first and third Mondays (August 18th- 5 pm) of the month. No need to sign up- just join us in the parlor.

Next Sunday is Promotion Sunday: when we’ll return to our regular schedule for Sunday School and worship. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) will be at 9 am and again at 11:15 am, or try Jubilee Contemporary Worship at 11:15 am in Thompson Hall (TH). Sunday School Classes will meet at 10 am in breakout rooms. Adults, if you are looking for a Sunday School Class, meet us in the Adult Reception Hall at 10 am on August 10th, for our Adult Sunday School Open House.

Communion Sunday is August 17th: If you would like to have in-home communion, please contact the Church Office.

Blessing of the Backpacks Peace Service is on August 17th: at 4 pm (TH). School-aged children and their families are invited to join us for this unique worship experience where we will bless our backpacks, donate school supplies, and offer prayers for a successful, Christ-filled, and safe school year. All teachers, school-aged children, and their families are invited to stay for dinner and fellowship with their age group following the service! Our children’s choirs will join us for worship (don’t forget your backpacks), and then we’ll have pizza in the basement. Parents, please pick up your singers in the courtyard at 6:30 pm.

Join us for the CLC Fitness Open House on August 17th: from 5 to 6:30 p.m. This is a free event open to our community, where you will be able to sample fitness classes, speak with instructors, enjoy a healthy snack, and hear from our director. Stay after for Pickleball 101. Registration is open, so sign up!

Eastminster is hiring a Part-time Contemporary Worship Music Leader: We are seeking a passionate leader to provide musical and spiritual leadership for contemporary worship. Those interested can find the job description and apply via the Careers tab at the bottom of our website homepage.

Transitions Third Thursday is August 21st: Please visit our website’s Upcoming Events to sign up to serve either lunch or dinner. Donations are due to the Church Office Staff Kitchen by 3 pm. Thank you!

Will For Hope’s Evening with Jim Sonefeld is August 24th: at 5 pm. (TH) for dinner (please RSVP) followed by speaker, Jim Sonefeld, musician (Hootie and the Blowfish) and author, who will share his experiences with mental health solutions and addiction recovery. This is a free event for High School Youth and older. Spread the word and plan to join us.

Announcing “Club 345” and “Kingdom Kids”- New Sunday Evening Children’s Music Programs: which kick off on August 24, with a party on the field. “Club 345” is the new name for our 3rd, 4th & 5th grade singers, and “Kingdom Kids” is for K4-2nd graders. New activities will be led by Pastor Croskeys and Mrs. Stefanie. Parents, please look for more information and a schedule via email and check your ENews.

Fall Adult Evening Classes start September 7th and 17th: Sundays@5 classes begin on September 7. WE@EPC classes and meals begin on September 17. More information on class offerings and the WE@EPC menu will be available soon.

Eastminster Arts Academy (EAA) Fall Offerings: including weekly or bi-weekly Voice, Piano, Strings, and Guitar Lessons for all ages. Mid-Autumn workshops will include Group Drumming and Group Photography. Visit the EAA ministry page on our website to learn more and register.

Flowers in the sanctuary are given in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Sharon and Wes Shuler by Susi and Robert McWilliams. Flowers in the narthex are from the wedding of Rachel Claire Scott and Patrick Thomas Frentz, who were married last night in the sanctuary.

Unison Reading: Psalm 121

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?
- <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- <sup>4</sup> He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- <sup>5</sup> The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
- <sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day  
nor the moon by night.
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.
- <sup>8</sup> The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.

SERMON NOTES

DEACONS: SALLIE JAMESON AND JOSH LIVINGSTON  
HEAD USHER: BILL STALLINGS  
<sup>1</sup> © PUBLIC DOMAIN CCLI LICENSE NO. 1892950

MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor	Rev. Emily M. Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor
Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor	Rev. Rob Schoonover, Associate Pastor
Dr. J. Ben Sloan, Parish Associate	Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate
Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry	Alisha Hudson, Ex. Dir. Finance and Admin.
Louis Shirer, Organist	Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth
Blythe Lewis, Senior Communications Officer	Katie Herndon, Day School Director
Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center	Christy Rippy, Treasurer
James Cassidy, A/V Director	Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian
Alex Rogers, Plant Operations Director	



EASTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN



EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 3, 2025  
10:15 AM

3200 TRENHOLM ROAD  
COLUMBIA, SC 29204

803-256-1654

[www.eastminsterpres.org](http://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 worshiping our living God.  
*“So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you, for God’s glory.” Romans 15:7*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 103:1-2, 22)  
Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
**People: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.**  
Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
**People: and do not forget all his benefits.**  
Leader: Bless the Lord, all his works,  
**People: in all places of his dominion.**  
**All: Bless the Lord, O my soul.**

**†\*HYMN OF ADORATION #370**  
*This Is My Father’s World* TERRA BEATA

**\*PRAYER OF ADORATION** Rev. W. Croskeys Royall

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

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key  
Lord God, Creator of All, you uphold and direct all things, according to your will, through your wisdom, power, justice, goodness and mercy. By your hand, all creatures and actions are sustained by your sovereign word. All of this, you do for the goodness of that which you created, with kindness and righteousness. But we are so quick to forget your abiding presence and love. We are proud, claiming our own victories, when we should be praising you. Help us to lay down our self-centeredness. Forgive us when we think we know more than you. Your promises are true and trustworthy, may we be willing to let go of the weights of the world that we cling to, so that we may be open to receiving your holy mysteries.

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 #551**  
*Lord, Have Mercy* LAND OF REST  
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER** Rev. Dr. Bradley D. 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**  
*In the Beauty of Your Holiness* Cindy Berry  
Lord, You alone are holy, in rev’rence I bow to You. Lord, You alone are worthy of praise and honor true. I glory in your matchless name; I lift my voice in song. You are holy, worthy God, most worthy God. In the beauty of Your holiness, I come to You, Your name to bless. In the beauty of Your holiness I bow to worship You. Lord, You alone are mighty, maker of sky and sea. Lord, You alone are Savior, whose blood has set me free. Creator of the universe, Redeemer of my soul, You are Savior, mighty God. Some day soon I’ll see You in all Your glory! Ev’ry knee shall bow, ev’ry tongue confess, “You are Lord!” Amen.

**\*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** Connie Derrick

\*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

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**  
**Unison Reading: Psalm 121** Page 539  
Scripture Focus: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Page 153

Pastor: The Word of the LORD!  
**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON** Dr. Emily Theus  
“The Paradox of Providence”

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION #353**  
*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* SOLID ROCK

\*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 face, and until we meet again, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. Amen.

POSTLUDE

\*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 group, a class designed to help you learn about Eastminster and our ongoing ministries.

**August 10, 2025**  
Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith  
“Falling Forward From Summer Fun”  
Hebrews 10:19-25