

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Today is Peanut Butter Sunday: Thank you for your faithful peanut butter donations on fourth Sundays to help fight food insecurity in our community. Find a Harvest Hope bin around campus and “drop it in.”

2025 Year-End Giving: Year-end contributions can be made via the offering plate by December 28th or postmarked by December 31st. You may also drop off at the Church Office, “Attn Treasurer,” by 5 p.m. Consult your financial advisor to give a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA. To donate stock, contact Christy Rippy, Treasurer, via email at crippy@eastminsterpres.org for instructions.

Next Sunday, January 4th, is Cradle Roll Sunday (9 a.m.) in the Sanctuary: Parents with babies born in 2025 are invited to bring their newest additions to worship and participate in the processional. For details, see emails from Pastor Croskeys.

Sundays@5 Adult Classes and Programming begin on January 4th: Pastoral Epistles (I & II Timothy, Titus, and Philemon) “Correspondence with Servants of God’s Sovereign Word” with Dr. Douglass Key is a seven-week study in the [Gray Music Room](#) through Feb 15. Purchase study guides via Upcoming Events.

Sunday Night High School Gathering: on January 4 (5-6:30 p.m.) in the CLC. Be on the lookout for details and texts from Pastor Rob!

WE@EPC Meals and Classes begin on Wednesday, January 7th: Join Dr. Douglass Key for “Christian Prayer for Today’s Christian” at 6 p.m. in the Adult Reception Hall after dinner. We’ll focus on topics such as how to pray with our “whole selves” and who we are when we pray. Visit Upcoming Events to learn more. Register for class and purchase your book via Upcoming Events. Our WE@EPC Menu will be available soon.

“Winter Wellness: Connecting with God” also begins on January 7th: Join Rev. Emily Mooneyhan and Dr. Carol Byrd as we explore how spiritual practices help us to draw near to God. Explore topics like setting Godly intentions for the new year, walking meditation, and how being grateful is a gift in itself. Join us in Thompson Hall after dinner. Special guests with expertise in wellness will help lead some of our sessions. Visit Upcoming Events to see our topics through February 11th.

Officer Installations for the Class of 2028 is on Sunday, January 11th: during 11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship. Thank you to the Class of 2025, who have completed their three-year terms.

Join us for a “Blessing of Prayer Shawls” Peace Service on January 11th, at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary: Prayer Shawl Ministry “knitters” serve on first, third, and fifth Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in CLC Rm 265. Beginners are welcome! Our next meeting is on December 31st.

Kingdom Kids (4K - 2nd graders) and Club 345 (3rd-5th graders) Kick-off is Sunday, January 11th: at 5 p.m. Spring Registration form coming soon! See emails from Pastor Croskeys and Mrs. Stefanie for specifics. We’ll meet on Sunday nights until 6:30 p.m. We need and appreciate parent volunteers!

Registration is Open for EAA (Eastminster Arts Academy) Spring Classes: Join us in January. A variety of lessons, from voice and piano to guitar and strings (violin, viola, cello, and bass), will be offered from January 20 - April 20, 2026. Visit the EAA homepage on our website to register.

Attention EDS Covenant Families: A change in the EDS Covenant Family procedures now asks that families submit a signed agreement annually. Current and Prospective Covenant Families can find the agreement online at <https://eastminsterpres.org/ministries/day-school>. Please submit signed agreements by Monday, January 5, to be included in the 2026 Covenant Family review. Contact Katie Herndon, EDS Director, with questions (kherndon@eastminsterpres.org).

Unison Reading: Ephesians 2:14-16

¹⁴ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, ¹⁵ abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

SERMON NOTES

Pledge Status Report as of December 22, 2025
Thank you to those who have pledged. If you have not yet done so, please give us an estimate of your giving to support Christ’s work through Eastminster in 2026.

244	Pledges Increased
98	Pledges With No Change
27	Pledges Decreased
45	New Pledges

For a total of 414 pledges totaling \$4,444,613
80 pledges were made for 2025, but not yet for 2026

DEACONS: CHAD ABRAMSON AND SIMMONS PURDY
HEAD USHER: BERRY MATTOX (9:00 AM) WILSON McDONALD (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. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor
Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry
Louis Shirer, Organist
Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth
Katie Herndon, Day School Director
Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center
James Cassidy, A/V Director

Rev. Emily M. Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor
Rev. Rob Schoonover, Associate Pastor
Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate
Alisha Hudson, Ex. Dir. Finance and Admin.
Dr. Augie Gil, Director of Worship and Arts
Blythe Lewis, Senior Communications Officer
Christy Rippy, Treasurer
Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian
Alex Rogers, Plant Operations Director



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 28, 2025
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
Joy arr. Gina Sprunger

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: Christ is our peace.
People: In Christ, we are no longer strangers and enemies.
Leader: Christ has broken down the walls that divide us.
People: In Christ, we are one household, one body.
Leader: Come, let us worship the God who makes peace among us.
All: Let us worship God, who makes all things new.

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #127
Hark, the Herald Angels Sing (Walk in the Light) WE’LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** Rev. Rob Schoonover

***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. Bradley D. Smith
Eternal God, our judge and redeemer,
we confess that we have tried to hide from you,
for we have done wrong
We have lived for ourselves,
and apart from you
We have turned from our neighbors,
and refused to bear the burdens of others
We have ignored the pain of the world,
and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed
In your great mercy forgive our sins
and free us from selfishness,
that we may choose your will
and obey your commandments;
through Jesus Christ our Savior

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
Light of the World Bergthold/Cash
Light of the World, Treasure of Heaven brilliant like the stars in the wintry sky; joy of the Father reach through the darkness, shine across the earth send the shadows to flight. Refrain: Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah for the things He has done! Come and adore Him, bow down before Him! Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World!

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER Rev. Douglass D. Key
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
Where Shepherds Lately Knelt Craig Courtney
Where shepherds lately knelt, and kept the angel’s word, I come in half belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred; but there is room and welcome there for me. In that unlikely place I find Him as they said: sweet new-born Babe, how frail! And in a manger bed: a still small Voice to cry one day for me. How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare: A child, a Son, the Prince of Peace - for me. Can I, will I, forget, how Love was born and burned its way into my heart un-asked, un-forced, un-earned, to die, to live, and not alone for me, for me?

*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

***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** Nancy Scott

SCRIPTURE LESSONS
Unison Reading: Ephesians 2:14-16 Page 181
Scripture Focus: Isaiah 65: 17-25 Page 654

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

SERMON Mr. James Blackwelder

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #136**
Go, Tell It on the Mountain GO TELL IT

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION #136**
Go, Tell it on the Mountain THE FIRST NOWELL
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

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 class which begins February 22, 2026, a class designed to help you learn about Eastminster and our ongoing ministries.

January 4, 2026
Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key
1 Timothy 1:12-17
"What Just Happened?"