

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
For detailed information and to register for the above programs and events,
visit our website: <https://eastminsterpres.org/>, scroll to “Upcoming Events.”

Please be aware that no EPC Pastors or Staff will ever request money, gift cards, or urgent financial help by email or text. If you receive such a message, do not respond to the sender, but please let us know via email (communications@eastminsterpres.org).

The Session has called a Congregational meeting for August 9, immediately following the 9 am service, for the purpose of filling a vacancy on the Session. The Officer Nominating Committee recommends elder Kevin O’Connell, who recently rotated off Session, fill the vacancy through this calendar year, with elder George Kennedy extending his current term until the end of 2027.

*Adult VBS with Dr. Martha Moore-Keish tonight and Monday night: Today’s guest preacher, Dr. Moore-Keish, J. B. Green Professor of Theology at Columbia Theological Seminary, is also leading Adult VBS. We’ll learn about “Confessing Christian Faith in Our Present Moment.” Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. in Thompson Hall before the program each night from 6-7 p.m. Adult VBS is funded by the Dr. Joe Donaho Teaching Church Endowment Fund. Please join us.

EPC’s Fall Worship Schedule Begins next Sunday, August 9th: when we’ll return to three worship services. Traditional Worship returns to 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. start times in the sanctuary, with Jubilee Contemporary Worship also beginning at 11:15 a.m. in Thompson Hall. Sunday School for children and youth is at 10 a.m. in breakout classrooms.

*The Bible Makes Sense Combined Adult Sunday School Continues August 16th & 23rd: Dr. Douglass Key’s three-week study, “The Bible Makes Sense: Strategies for Interpreting the Bible,” is for all adults at 10 a.m. in Thompson Hall. This study will prepare us for Fall faith formation related to our new theme for the year.

*Blessing of the Backpacks Peace Service is August 16th, at 4 p.m. (Thompson Hall): EPC Students and families are invited for a short celebratory worship service with special blessings for the 2026-2027 school year. No additional fellowship opportunities for youth or adults will be offered alongside this service. A special offering of school supplies will be collected. Don’t forget to bring your backpacks!

The EAA (Eastminster Arts Academy) Fall Lessons begin August 17th: Visit the EAA page on our website to see offerings, sign-up and make payments. We are excited to begin our second year of arts excellence.

Minivan Needed for the Sadats, a Refugee Family supported by EPC: The Sadats have eight children and are in need of a minivan that seats seven to eight people. If you have a vehicle that you would like to sell or donate, please contact John McArthur (803) 629-8566.

*Eastminster Missions Night is Wednesday, August 19th: “Come and See: The Mission Table.” Hear from Eastminster’s Missions leaders/volunteers and MSB’s community partners. Learn what’s new at EPC Missions, and more about the many opportunities for you to serve all year. Save the date and plan to join us in Thompson Hall for this free dinner (5:30 - 6:45 p.m.). Childcare is available (Nursery-3rd grade) at the CLC.

*Transitions Third Thursday is August 20th at Transitions: There are two opportunities to serve a meal (AM&PM). Donations of pasta salad, pound cakes, bananas, and water are appreciated and due to EPC’s Staff Kitchen by 3 p.m. on August 20th.

*Healthy Cooking with Sandy Spann on August 20th at 11 a.m. (CLC Rm# 269): Learn how to prepare delicious sea bass and a Mediterranean-inspired side while you learn tips for healthy, flavorful cooking. This demonstration is free, but space is limited (20 participants).

Kingdom Kids and Club 345 Kickoff August 23rd: from 5-6:30 p.m. See emails from Mrs. Stefanie for details and sign-up forms.

Save the dates for Adult Fall Classes and WE@EPC Meals Kickoffs: Sundays@5 Adult PM class will begin on Sunday, September 13th. WE@EPC meals and classes will begin on Wednesday, September 16th. More information about Fall offerings will be available via Upcoming Events and *Eastminster Today*.

Flowers in the sanctuary are given to the Glory of God by an Eastminster family.

UNISON READING: Proverbs 25:6-7
Do not put yourself forward in the king’s presence
or stand in the place of the great,
7 for it is better to be told, “Come up here,”
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

SERMON NOTES

DEACONS: CLAY SHARPE AND STACY STRONG
HEAD USHER: BILL COGGINS

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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
Alisha Hudson, Ex. Dir. Finance and Admin.
Blythe Lewis, Sr. Communications Officer
Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center
James Cassidy, A/V Director

Rev. Emily M. Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor
Rev. Robert Schoonover, Associate Pastor
Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate
Dr. Augie Gil, Director of Worship & Arts
Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth
Katie Herndon, Day School Director
Christy Rippy, Treasurer
Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian



TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 2, 2026
10:15 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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd
Leader: Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
People: We will praise the LORD as long as we live;
We will sing praises to our God all our life long.
Leader: Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.
People: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,
Leader: who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
People: who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
Leader: The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
People: The LORD watches over the strangers;
God upholds the orphan and the widow,
Leader: The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O people, for all generations.
All: Praise the LORD!

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #620
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven LAUDA ANIMA

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key
Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us
a consuming fire of judgment.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace
to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.
Hear us now as we offer you our own confessions in silence...

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 #4442
Just As I Am WOODWORTH
Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come; I come.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER Rev. Emily Mooneyhan
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
Make Our Church One Joyful Choir Paul Laubengayer
Make our church one joyful choir on this glad and festive day and by song invoke the fire that invites our hearts to pray: Shape us Christ, to live and claim all it means to bear your name. Bend us low by song and prayer, low enough to lift the cross and to take the weight and bear love’s uncounted final cost. Shape us Christ, to live and claim all it means to bear your name. Lift us up by song and prayer till the way we deal with loss and our acts and words of care trace the pattern of your cross: Shape us Christ, to live and claim all it means to bear your name. Bend us, lift us, make us strong, send us out with wind and fire, so the world may hear the song that we offer as your choir: Shape us Christ, to live and claim all it means to bear your name.

*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** George McCutchen

SCRIPTURE LESSONS
Unison Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7 Page 573
Scripture Focus: Luke 14:1, 7-14 Page 72

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

SERMON Rev. Dr. Martha Moore-Keish
“Who Should Be Served First?”

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #770**
I’m Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table WELCOME TABLE

*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

*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 Katie Barthel at kbarthel@eastminsterpres.org or 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 9, 2026
Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith
John 1:1-18
“The Ultimate Adoption Agent”