

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* For details and to register for EPC programs and events, visit Upcoming Events (www.eastminsterpres.org).

*The Bible Makes Sense Combined Adult Sunday School Class ends today. Adult Sunday School classes will resume in breakout classrooms next Sunday, August 30th, or as determined one-off by class leaders.

Today is Communion Sunday and Peanut Butter Sunday. Thank you to all who donate peanut butter each fourth Sunday to help fight food insecurity in The Midlands.

Join us for a Congregational Meal Today in the Gym after 11:15 a.m. worship: Catch up with friends after the Summer break: MENU: BBQ Pork, Brisket, Mac&Cheese, Fried Okra, Succotash, Hush Puppies, and Desserts.

*Kingdom Kids and Club 345 Kickoff is TONIGHT: from 5-6:30 p.m. See emails from Mrs. Stefanie for details and sign-up forms, or visit the Children’s Ministry page on our website.

*Cancer Care Support Meeting is this Wednesday, August 26th, at 6 p.m. (Room E-351) for those affected by cancer. If you are seeking a safe place to share with others who may be experiencing something similar, please join us! Cancer Care is led by Rev. Emily Mooneyhan. No need to sign up, just join us.

*This weekend, we’ll welcome Rev. Dr. John McCall and 18 Taiwanese Pastors: Saturday p.m. all are invited to fellowship and Potluck Dinner “Cultural Night.” RSVP via the link under Upcoming Events or in your ENews- and bring a side, or RSVP and join us anyway! Dr. McCall will preach on Sunday, August 30th on “The Uniqueness of Jesus.”

All Youth Parent and Youth Meeting is Next Sunday at 10 a.m. (CLC Third Floor): Join Pastor Rob and Emily Higgins to hear about Fall programming, upcoming trips, and faith formation.

September 6th we’ll have two Contemporary Services in the Sanctuary at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Join us for brunch at 10 a.m. in Thompson Hall. Out-of-town guests are welcome.

*Return to Serve- Upcoming Mission Trips: Western NC (Oct.29-Nov.1) and Adult Bahamas Trip (Jan.16-23). We’ll continue to repair hurricane damage for friends in both communities! Space is limited. Sign up now.

*Bradley Lunch Buddies Volunteers Needed: for two Tuesdays a month from 12:30-1:15 p.m. at Bradley Elementary School. We’ll pair you with a fourth grader for lunch, followed by around 30 minutes of reading with your buddy. Sign up by August 31st by contacting John McArthur (803) 629-8566. Our tentative kickoff is Tuesday, September 15th.

*Interested in joining a Small Group this September? Contact Caroline Bennett at cbennett@eastminsterpres.org or 803-256-1654, ext. 124, for details and options. The Small Group (SG) Facilitators’ Workshop and SG Kickoff Dinner are August 26th and September 9th, respectively. RSVP via eastminsterpres.org under Upcoming Events.

*Sundays@5 Adult Bible Study on the Gospel of John: starts on September 13th, in the Gray Music Room. Our study, led by Dr. Douglass Key, will cover the first eleven chapters of John, starting with an invitation to “Come and See.” You can now register.

*WE@EPC Church-wide Book Study-Jesus Changes Everything by Stanley Hauerwas begins September 16th (6 p.m.): in the Adult Reception Hall. Dr. Douglass Key will lead our study as we discern what God wants and hopes for us, as well as what is required of us on the journey.

*Our WE@EPC Adult Study, The Gift of Empathy, by Joel Bretscher and Kenneth Haugk begins on September 16th (6 p.m. parlor) with Rev. Emily Mooneyhan and EPC Stephen Ministers- Apply empathy in everyday life. We’ll share and learn through informal discussions. Books available at sign-up but not required.

Flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by an Eastminster family. Flowers in the Narthex are in celebration of the marriage of Lee McCutchen and Clarke Michael Haertel.

For detailed information and to register for the above programs and events, visit our website: https://eastminsterpres.org/, scroll to “Upcoming Events”

UNISON READING: Genesis 3:1-7
Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’”² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’”⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die,⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

SERMON NOTES

DEACONS: TAYLOR WRAY AND MARY FRANCES JOWERS	
HEAD USHERS: BILL COGGINS (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. Emily Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor
Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor	Rev. Robert Schoonover, Associate Pastor
Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry	Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate
Louis Shirer, Organist	Dr. Augie Gil, Director of Worship & Arts
Alisha Hudson, Ex. Dir. Finance and Admin	Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth
Blythe Lewis, Sr. 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



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 23, 2026
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
Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele, BWV 654 J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Emily Mooneyhan

CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP #701
Lord, Prepare Me SANCTUARY

†***HYMN OF ADORATION #175**
Seek Ye First LAFFERTY

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd
Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned against you and against one another in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by leaving undone the good things you asked of us. We have not loved you with our whole heart, nor our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, forgiving our faults. Cleanse our hearts through Christ, and feed us at your holy table, that we may live in the power of your Spirit...even as we confess our sins 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 #442
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.

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
Come and Taste Alice Parker
Come and taste along with me Consolation flowing free, From the Father’s wealthy throne, Sweeter than the honeycomb. I’ll praise God and you praise God, And we’ll all praise God together; We’ll praise the Lord for the work that He has done, And we’ll bless His Name forever. All that come with free good will Make the banquet sweeter still; Now I go to Mercy’s door, Asking for a little more. Goodness, running like a stream through the new Jerusalem, By a constant breaking forth Sweetens earth and heaven both. O, return, ye sons of grace, Turn and see God’s smiling face. Hark, He calls backsliders home, Then from Him no longer roam.
John Leland

***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** Harriet Kneece

SCRIPTURE LESSONS
Unison Reading: Genesis 3:1-7 Page 2
Scripture Focus: Matthew 3:13-4:11 Page 3

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

SERMON Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith
The Uniqueness of Jesus #3 of 5: “Would You Make that Trade?”

HYMN OF PREPARATION #500
Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread ST. FLAVIAN
1. Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart; Savior, abide with us, and spread your table in our heart.
2. Here share with us, in love divine, your body and your blood, that living bread, that heavenly wine be our immortal food.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
The Invitation to the Table of the Lord
The Sursum Corda
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up unto The Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to our Lord God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer
The Words of Institution
Communion of the People

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #724**
O Jesus, I Have Promised ANGEL’S STORY

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION #306**
Blest Be the Tie that Binds DENNIS
Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

POSTLUDE
Grand Choeur Dialogué Eugène Gigout

***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 30, 2026
Rev. Dr. John McCall
John 1:14
The Uniqueness of Jesus #4 of 5: “Come and See Christ in the Body of Christ, the Church”