

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

A Baby Room (S-97) for crying or hungry babies is available in the sanctuary basement. The space has been set apart for parents who may need to change or feed their baby during worship. A changing table and rocking chairs are available; the worship service is online.

*Sundays@5 Adult Bible Study on the Gospel of John begins Tonight: 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.

September is “Socks in a Box Month”- ACCESS and MSB are teaming up again this Fall to collect new black or white socks (crew or footies) for men and women. Donations will go to Footcare Ministry, Oliver Gospel Mission, and Transitions. Find a bin in our reception areas.

*WE@EPC Meals in Thompson Hall begin this Wednesday: Visit Upcoming Events to view the Fall Menu and RSVP by noon on Wednesdays. Pay online or at the door (cash or check). Pricing: ages 0-8: \$4, ages 9 and older: \$8- There is no household cap.

*WE@EPC Church-wide Book Study-Jesus Changes Everything by Stanley Hauerwas: begins this Wednesday, September 16th (6 p.m.). Dr. Douglass Key will lead us as we discern what God wants for us, as well as what is required of us. Contact Janice Blair to reserve a copy (jblair@eastminsterpres.org).

*WE@EPC Adult Study, The Gift of Empathy, by Joel Bretscher and Kenneth Haugk begins this Wednesday (6 p.m. Parlor) with Rev. Emily Mooneyhan and EPC Stephen Ministers- Apply empathy in everyday life. Books available at sign-up but not required.

*EPW’s Fall Gathering is Tuesday, September 29th, in Thompson Hall at 11:30 a.m.: All EPC ladies are invited to reconnect and to hear plans for the program year over a delicious lunch (\$10). Our Keynote Speaker is author Cathy Rigg. Please RSVP by September 16th.

*“Brick Builders” PM Co-ed Lego Club has begun at the CLC: for kids ages eight through sixteen. We’ll meet Thursdays through Nov. 12 from 6-7:30 p.m. on the third floor. There will be snacks! Lego donations are appreciated, with collection bins in the lobby. Please register.

*Healthy Cooking with Sandy Spann is September 24th at the CLC: Dr. March Seabrook also will speak about the health benefits of plant-based cooking. Twenty spots are available; the cost is \$5.00.

“Joyful Noise” gathers on September 24th, in the Adult Reception Hall at 5:45 p.m.: Enjoy an hour of fellowship and singing. We’ll practice familiar hymns! All voices are welcome.

“Come Find Rest” Concert is Saturday, September 26th, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary: We’ll welcome guests from the Presbyterian Association of Musicians to our campus for a weekend centered on music connection and rest, and all are invited to the concert.

*The First Step Class begins September 27th. Looking for a church home? Join us in the Adult Reception Hall during the Sunday School hour (10 a.m.) to meet our pastoral staff and learn more about EPC ministries. First Step meets through Sunday, October 25th, when those wishing to join our church family will do so at the 11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship Service. Contact Katie Barthel (kbarthel@eastminsterpres.org) with questions.

*Return to Serve- W North Carolina Oct. 29-Nov. 1, and Bahamas Jan. 16-23 Adult Trips: repairing homes and buildings after Hurricane damage. Sign-Ups are live on the website. Come and serve with us!

Flowers in the sanctuary are given in celebration of the baptism of Baylor James Tourville, son of Julia and Travis Tourville and brother of Beckham.

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

UNISON READING: Isaiah 56:6-8 (NIV)

6 And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant— 7 these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” 8 The Sovereign Lord declares— he who gathers the exiles of Israel: “I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered.”

SERMON NOTES

DEACONS: JOSH LIVINGSTON AND PARKER SIZEMORE
HEAD USHERS: JEFF MUTHIG(9:00 AM) BILL COGGINS (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



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 13, 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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP
Rev. Emily Mooneyhan (9:00 am)
Rev. W. Croskeys Royall (11:15 am)

Leader: Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!
People: **We come to see Jesus, the One who meets us where we are.**
Leader: Come and see the One whom John proclaimed, the One who calls ordinary people to follow him.
People: **We come with our questions, our hopes, and our doubts.**
Leader: Come and see the One who knows us before we know him, and calls us by name.
People: **We are here to encounter Jesus.**
All: **Come, let us worship the Lamb of God!**

†***HYMN OF ADORATION #462**
I Love to Tell the Story HANKEY

***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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Baylor James Tourville (9 am)
Christopher Matthew Cooke III(11:15 am)

BAPTISMAL HYMN #188
Jesus Loves Me! JESUS LOVES ME

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Miss Mary Robinson
Merciful God, you have come among us in Jesus Christ, yet we do not always recognize you. We are quick to look for you in extraordinary places while overlooking your presence in the ordinary. We hesitate to follow when the way is uncertain. We allow our doubts to keep us from coming closer. We are sometimes more interested in being right than in truly seeing Jesus. Forgive us for the ways we have resisted your invitation to “come and see.” Open our eyes to recognize Christ in our midst. Give us courage to follow where he leads, curiosity to ask honest questions, and faith to trust the One who knows us and calls us by name. Lamb of God, have mercy on us and lead us more deeply into your life. Amen.

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER Rev. Dr. 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
Psalm 150 Peter Anglea
Praise ye the Lord in His sanctuary, praise ye the Lord in the firmament. Praise Him for His mighty acts, and praise Him for His excellent greatness. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet: praise Him with the psaltery and harp. Praise Him with timbrel and dance: praise Him with stringed instruments. Praise Him with organs. Praise Him with high sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

***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** Josh Livingston

SCRIPTURE LESSONS
Unison Reading: Isaiah 56:6-8 (NIV)
Scripture Focus: John 1:29-42 (NIV)
Pastor: The Word of the LORD!
Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON Rev. Rob Schoonover
Is that Call for Me?: “Free to Follow”

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #726**
Will You Come and Follow Me KELVINGROVE

***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.

DURING THIS MORNING’S WORSHIP:
Baylor James Tourville, son of Julia and Travis Tourville, will receive the sacrament of baptism at the 9:00 am service. Elizabeth Barber will offer the baptismal prayer.

Christopher Matthew Cooke III, son of Anna and Christopher Cooke, will receive the sacrament of baptism at the 11:15 am service. Maternal aunt Katie Evatt will offer the baptismal prayer.

September 20, 2026
Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith
John 3
“This Is My Story, this Is My Song”