

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: meets 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.”

Kingdom Kids and Club 345 meet tonight from 5 - 6:30 p.m.: Kingdom Kids drop off is in Thompson Hall (TH). Club 345 drop off in Room 256 of the Education Building. Contact Mrs. Stefanie to help and don’t forget to order a t-shirt- deadline to order is September 26th!

*Join us for WE@EPC Meals in Thompson Hall this Fall: Visit Upcoming Events to view the 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: on Wednesdays at 6 p.m., led by Dr. Douglass Key. We will discern what God wants for us, as well as what is required of us. Contact Janice Blair to pick up a copy (jblair@eastminsterpres.org).

*WE@EPC Adult Study, The Gift of Empathy, by Joel Bretscher and Kenneth Haugk: on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. with Rev. Emily Mooneyhan and EPC Stephen Ministers. We’ll share and learn through informal discussions. Books available at sign-up but not required.

*Healthy Cooking with Sandy Spann is on September 24th at the CLC: Dr. March Seabrook will also speak about the health benefits of plant-based cooking. 20 spots are available; cost is \$5.00.

*Youth Basketball Registration is open through October 7th for Second - Twelfth Graders. Scan the QR code on our flat screens around campus, or visit our website to register.

“Joyful Noise” gathers this Thursday, in the Adult Reception Hall at 5:45 p.m.: for anyone who loves to sing. Enjoy an informal hour of fellowship and singing. We’ll practice familiar hymns! All voices are welcome.

“Come Find Rest” Concert is this Saturday, September 26th, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary: We’ll welcome guests from the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) to our campus for a weekend centered on music connection and rest. Invite a friend, and join us for this collaborative hymn singing opportunity.

*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 October 25th, when those wishing to join our church family will do so at the 11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship Service. Questions? Contact Katie Barthel (kbarthel@eastminsterpres.org).

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 Socks in a Box bin in our reception areas.

*EPW’s Fall Gathering is Tuesday, September 29th, in Thompson Hall at 11:30 a.m.: All EPC ladies are invited to join us as we reconnect to hear plans for the program year over a delicious lunch. Our Keynote Speaker is author Cathy Rigg, also a PW! The meal is \$10.

*Return to Serve- Western 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.

Flowers in the sanctuary are given in celebration of the baptism of William Edward Ford by his family.

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

UNISON READING: Ezekiel 36:24-28 (The Message)

“ ‘For here’s what I’m going to do: I’m going to take you out of these countries, gather you from all over, and bring you back to your own land. I’ll pour pure water over you and scrub you clean. I’ll give you a new heart, put a new spirit in you. I’ll remove the stone heart from your body and replace it with a heart that’s God-willed, not self-willed. I’ll put my Spirit in you and make it possible for you to do what I tell you and live by my commands. You’ll once again live in the land I gave your ancestors. You’ll be my people! I’ll be your God!

SERMON NOTES

DEACONS: JONI RICHARDSON AND TAYLOR WRAY
HEAD USHERS: DON HELMS (9:00 AM) MIKE GORMAN (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



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 20, 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 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 Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Friends of God, believe this – God loved the world, God loves the world, we are the beloved!
People: **May the truth of this great love story, shine through our worship today, and renew our sense of calling.**
Leader: So come, with your weariness, your doubts, your fears, and your longings; come, to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God’s love and mercy.
People: **Let us sing praise to the One who loves us; let us listen for God’s Word to us, claim our identity and renew our calling to follow Jesus.**

†***HYMN OF ADORATION #611**
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee HYMN TO JOY

***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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM William Edward Ford *(9:00 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 Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key
Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart or our neighbors as ourselves. We humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways. Amen.
ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.
Congregation: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Thou, O Lord Lisa Ireland

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER Rev. Rob Schoonover
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
To You, O God, All Creatures Sing David Hendrix
To you, O God, all creatures sing, and all creation, everything sings your praises, alleluia! Your burning sun with golden beam, your silver moon with softer gleam sing your praises, alleluia! Your wind that blows the tempest by, your clouds that sail across the sky sing your praises, alleluia! Your morning rises with a song, and lights of evening sing alone, sing your praises, alleluia! Your flowing waters, crystal clear, make melodies for you to hear, sing your praises, alleluia! Your fire, bountiful and bright, remembering your warmth and light, sings your praises, alleluia! Now let all things their creator bless, and worship God in humbleness, O praise God, alleluia! Praise the Creator, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in one! O praise God, Alleluia

***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** Laura Twitty

SCRIPTURE LESSONS
Unison Reading: Ezekiel 36:24-28
Scripture Focus: John 3:17

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

SERMON Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith
“This Is My Story, this Is My Song”

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #80**
You Shall Go Out With Joy THE TREES OF THE FIELD

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION #80**
You Shall Go Out With Joy THE TREES OF THE FIELD
You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there’ll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands. And all the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands while you go out with joy.

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:
William Edward Ford, son of Francie and Brian Ford, will receive the sacrament of baptism at the 9:00 am service. Maternal grandmother Harriet Kneece will offer the baptismal prayer.

September 27, 2026
Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith