

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.

October 4th is World Communion Sunday. Please join us as we celebrate Holy Communion with believers around the world, at all three worship services.

Today is Peanut Butter Sunday: Please bring a jar to church and drop it off in the Harvest Hope Bins around campus. Thank you for your donations to help fight hunger.

*First Step Class begins today: Looking for a church home? Join us in the Adult Reception Hall during the Sunday School hour (10 a.m.). 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).

*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.

*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.

Cancer Support Meeting is Wednesday, September 30 at 6 pm. in E-351. If you or a loved one is struggling with cancer, consider joining us. Pastor Brad will lead this month’s meeting.

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.

*Give the Gift of Life at Eastminster’s Blood Drive on Thursday, October 15, from 1-5 p.m. in the CLC parking lot. The Blood Connection Bloodmobile will be on site. To make an appointment, visit Upcoming Events or scan the QR code on the flat screens around campus. Sponsor Code: 13080.

*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.

Room in the Inn: Yes, there’s still room for you in the Assembly Inn in Montreat, home of our annual Advent Retreat, Dec 4-6! Fun, affordable, and deeply meaningful, the Advent Retreat offers the best way to kick off this special season. Registration closes November 1. To register, email cbennett@eastminsterpres.org.

Flowers in the sanctuary are given to the Glory of God by Austin and Leah Shumpert in celebration of the baptism of their daughter, Lennon.

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

UNISON READING: Luke 18:9-14

9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ 14 I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

SERMON NOTES

DEACONS: DARREN KNIGHT AND KRIS WHITESIDE
HEAD USHERS: BERRY MATTOX(9:00 am) WILSON McDONALD (11:15 am)

1 © PUBLIC DOMAIN CCLI LICENSE No. 1892950

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



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 27, 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

CALL TO WORSHIP
Zacchaeus Traditional

†***HYMN OF ADORATION #14**
For the Beauty of the Earth DIX

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key

***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 Lennon Leigh Shumpert *(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 Rev. Emily Mooneyhan
We confess, O Creator, that we are quick to see the sins of others clearly, even while being blind to our own. “Their” moral failings are massive, “ours” are minor missteps. “Their” laziness is practically larceny, “our” selfishness somehow a virtue. In the honesty that Your grace allows, help us confess our quickness to judge others and our oversight when it comes to insight on ourselves. Know even now the confessions of our hearts, O Master...

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
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
Great Is Thy Faithfulness Runyan/arr. Lloyd Larson
Memorial Handbells

***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** Susan Jones

SCRIPTURE LESSONS
Unison Reading: Luke 18:9-14 Page 76
Scripture Focus: Luke 19:1-20 Page 77

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

SERMON Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith
“More Than a Pair of Ducks”

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #729**
Lord, I Want to Be a Christian I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

***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; 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:
Lennon Leigh Shumpert, daughter of Austin and Leah Shumpert, will receive the sacrament of baptism at the 11:15 am service. Lib Foster will offer the baptismal prayer.

October 4, 2026
Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith