

THE VOICE

March 2017

WGLCP

“THIS IS INDEED



THE SAVIOR
— OF THE —
WORLD.”

JOHN 4:42, ESV

*Eastminster Presbyterian Church
1315 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 337-0893
www.eastminsterchurch.org*



Pastor's Keynotes

A special meeting of the congregation is called for Sunday, March 12, immediately following worship, for the purpose of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Session is recommending that the PNC comprise seven members and will present a slate of nominees representing (as much as is possible) the diversity of the congregation.

In one sense, the search for a new pastor begins with the election of the PNC. In a fuller sense, the search process began shortly after Margie Osborn's retirement. Your Session has been working diligently toward laying a proper foundation for the PNC's work. Hours of study and discussion have been devoted to identifying Eastminster's core values and character, reflecting on its traditions and history, and discovering the calling into future ministry God is extending to the congregation. The fruits of this work will be provided to the PNC upon its election so that it's process can effectively secure pastoral leadership fit for Eastminster's future.

The congregation has been involved in this process, as well, participating as it has in two Congregation Conversation events focused on Eastminster's core values and calling. While the Session has been active in preparation for this next phase of the search process, it is now the congregation which takes on the primary responsibility in discovering a new pastor. The PNC is elected by the congregation and is finally responsible solely to the congregation (with the advice and partnership of the presbytery). That is to say, the PNC comprises members of the congregation who are elected by the congregation and, when the times comes, will ultimately present their candidate to the congregation for approval.

While the PNC is working, considerable patience is required, both on the part of the congregation and the Committee. Presbyterians are noted for doing things "decently and in order." Sometimes this phrase strikes us as just another way of saying "slowly." Lightning may strike, and the PNC may relatively quickly discover exactly the right candidate. It's possible; it's not likely. PNC's are not professional search organizations; they are not efficient machines stamping out pastors. Both the PNC and pastor candidates are on a mutual quest of discovery. It is a process; it is a process that does, and should, take time.

Again, the key word is *patience*. Pray for the PNC. Encourage them with your confidence in their competency and integrity. Appreciate the incredible number of hours they will be devoting to this task. Listen to their progress reports, and don't press them for more detail than they can in conscience provide, for the search process requires confidentiality. Express gratitude for their work.

Clearly, serving on the PNC is a profound responsibility. Pastoral leadership is key to the future well-being of the congregation. Even more critical to the future of the congregation, however, are the qualities of leadership, vision, faithfulness, and creativity present within the membership. Remember, the PNC is seeking to provide Eastminster with a leadership partner in ministry, not a surrogate in ministry.

It will be my great pleasure, when the PNC's work concludes, to share with the pastoral candidate my appreciation of Eastminster's many strengths, its deep structures of faith and commitment, and its hopeful and positive spirit. It is a blessing when a congregation and a pastor can look upon each other and perceive a mutual giftedness. Such is the blessing I pray for you all.



MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Session has called a meeting of the congregation for the purpose of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) on March 12, immediately following worship.

The Session will present two motions at that meeting:

The size of the Pastor Nominating Committee shall be seven persons.

The nominees to serve as the Pastor Nominating Committee: Sulin Campbell, Mary Lou Clifton, Rick Johnston, Estelle McGroarty, Heather Myer, Irv Nichols, and Emmanuel Yewah.

Other motions directly pertinent to these matters may also be offered.

The Session created this list of nominees after long consideration of many factors: strength of faith and commitment to Christ and his church, depth of experience at Eastminster, the capacity for deep discernment, the ability to work well in a group, gender and age distribution of the congregation, the respect of fellow members, etc. Additional nominations may be made from the floor, but in that case voting will be done by ballot.

We want to express our great appreciation to these nominees for their accepting this call to special service in and for the church. The work of the PNC is a joyous work, but it is also labor-and-time intensive. Long hours will be spent reading, discussing, planning, interviewing, and praying. It is a heavy (though, we hope, a short-term) commitment.

Members of the congregation can expect regular updates from the PNC, but should not expect detailed ones. Their work is confidential, both for the integrity of their own work, and for the sake of any candidates they consider. The best expressions of interest in their work from congregational members are prayer, encouragement, confidence, and patience.

For the Session,

Jeffrey S. O'Neill, Moderator

George Miller, Clerk

Sulin Campbell



Mary Lou Clifton



Rick Johnston



Estelle McGroarty



Heather Myer



Irv Nichols



Emmanuel Yewah





The 2017 Eastminster Lenten Devotional is available on the table in the Narthex. Many thanks to those who contributed their thoughts and prayers to this endeavor.



Ash Wednesday

March 1st

Worship Service @ 7:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary



Focus on Faith

6:00 p.m. – supper

6:45 p.m. – worship & program

March 8, 15, 22 & 29, April 5

On Five Wednesday evenings during Lent we will come together in the Green Room for a simple supper of soup, salad and bread, a brief time of worship, and a special series with congregation members sharing their faith. This will be an interview format (à la *The Actor's Studio's* James Lipton) and interviewees will be asked questions to help guide them through the discussion of how their faith informs their lives. Plan to join us and learn about your fellow congregation members and how their faith has shaped their lives. Participants will be:

March 8 - Irv Nichols

March 15 - Doug Hall

March 22 - Rick Johnston

March 29 - Robin Bell

April 5 - Jen Wyble

Sign up Sheets are in the Green Room for every Wednesday.



Sunday, March 12

A congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, March 12, immediately following worship, for the purpose of electing the Pastor Nominating Committee



Sunday School Sunday Mornings - 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Children and Youth—Lower Level

Ages 4-Grade 1



Holy Moly is designed to ignite a biblical imagination that lasts a lifetime for young children. Each week participants see a video and use their gifts of observation to become theologians in their own right. It is amazing to get their insight!

Mar 5 Joseph I

Mar 12 Joseph II

Mar 19 Joseph III

Mar 26 Naomi & Ruth

Grades 2-4



Whirl is a curriculum that follows the Revised Common Lectionary. Each week the lesson will be introduced with an animated video, kids will then dig into the scripture, and respond to God's word through creative activities.

Mar 5 Adam & Eve

Mar 12 Jesus & Nicodemus

Mar 19 Woman at the Well

Mar 26 Samuel Anoints David

Grades 5-7



With the *re:form* session videos, youth encounter a question from the historic Christian faith through creative, provocative humor, illustrations and animation. Each question is presented in simple terms to encourage exploration and discovery.

March

re:form empowers youth to explore their faith and ask the questions they actually wonder about the Bible, creed, disciples, Jesus, other beliefs, and hot topics.

Ages 4—2nd Grade (during worship)

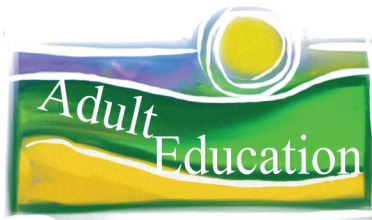


Children's Worship was created to make a special place where children can come to encounter God, to be still with God and to listen to God. It is a place where they come to nurture their spiritual life.”

Mar 12 – Jesus and the Children

Mar 19 – Jesus and Bartimaeus

Mar 26 – Jesus and Zacchaeus



ADULT EDUCATION

9:30 a.m. – Green Room

“Who Are Our Neighbors?” Join us Sunday mornings when we have a series of presentations which will help us discern who our neighbors are and educate us on understanding the issues that they face right in our own backyard.

March 5 – Tri-County Office on Aging We will welcome Tammy Lemmer, community relations and grants manager for the TCOA. From their website: “At TCOA, we are part of the community. We serve our neighbors, friends and family members every day. Our mission is to promote and preserve the independence and dignity of the aging population... We advocate for seniors and persons with disabilities to help assure they can live as independently as possible. We advocate for adequate resources and sound public policy.”

March 12 – Families Against Narcotics Phil Pavona, executive vice president of FAN Okemos/Ingham, will make a presentation on the “faces of addiction,” the growing opioid epidemic in Michigan and the country, and addressing the resources available to combat these issues.

March 19 – Human Trafficking Jane White, executive director of the Michigan Task Force on Human Trafficking, will be with us to present on this serious human rights abuse that goes on in our state. Human trafficking isn’t just “out there,” it’s right here.

March 26 – Advent House Executive Director Susan Cancro will be with us to present on the important work of Advent House, the people it serves, and the cooperative nature of the ministry with North Westminster Presbyterian Church.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING is the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s Lenten season annual offering which supports projects addressing basic human needs in the US and over 100 other countries. Your contributions support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), and Self-Development of People (SDOP).

When natural disasters strike, it is PDA participating ecumenically with other church and non-governmental agencies to bring relief to affected populations. Addressing the systemic causes of hunger across the world is the main mission of PHP, and investing in communities combating poverty, injustice, and racism is the focus of SDOP. These programs express our core values as Presbyterians who have heard the call of Christ to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and lead the oppressed to freedom from want and tyranny.

Offering envelopes are in the sanctuary pews. We encourage you to give generously and give often. Make it a Lenten discipline, so each of the forty days of Lent is another opportunity to prayerfully support these effective programs of healing and hope in the name of Christ.



SAVE THE DATE! Family Camp August 18-20

Eastminster will be heading to Skyline Camp & Retreat Center for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and worship in August. We’ll have time for spiritual reflection, swimming (pool), boating (pond), hiking, games, and a cookout on Saturday night. Dining hall meals are included. The accommodations are comfortable for folks of all ages. Check out the website www.campskyline.org; our whole group will be

staying in the Focus building. More details to come in future newsletters. If you are already interested in attending or working on programming, please contact a member of the Discipleship Ministry: Beverly Bonning, Brian Heitman, Sam O’Neill, and Neal Myer (staff)

This and that...

Souper Bowl of Caring



The February 5th Souper Bowl of Caring raised **\$431.75 for the Michigan State Student Food Bank**. Many thanks to all who gave so generously.



The family of **Don Hadden** wishes to express heartfelt gratitude to the Eastminster family for the love and support upon the passing of their father and Thelma's husband.



Presbyterian Women Bible Study

Tuesday, March 21 @ 1:15 p.m.

The EPC PW will meet on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 1:15 p.m. in the Green Room. Our lesson leader will be Suzi Moss and light refreshments will be available. We will study Lesson 7 of *Who is Jesus?*. Please pre-read the lesson and the following Bible Scriptures: Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2.

NOTE: If the East Lansing School District is closed due to inclement weather, **we will not meet!**



MARCH 12
Daylight Savings Time Begins!
Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night before you go to bed.



Many thanks to...

...the following people who gave so generously of their time and effort on behalf of Eastminster for the monthly meal at Advent House on February 11 .

Cooks:

Charlotte Altemeier
Sulin Campbell
Elizabeth Evangelista
Ruth Foster
Mary Harvey
Sue Kalvonjian
Estelle McGroarty
Susan Smalley
Barb Stowitts
Trena & John Thornburg

Servers:

Phillips & Johnson Families

Coordinator of the Day: Terry Graham



3/2 Virginia Allen
3/2 Judy Dunn
3/5 Wells Foster
3/7 Adeline Erzen
3/10 James Erzen
3/11 Melanie Hausinger
3/11 Stephanie Rustem
3/11 Sue Rosser
3/12 Lois Lett
3/21 Jean Grimm
3/22 Andrew Batten
3/22 Sherrie Blanchard
3/22 Molly Bloxom
3/22 Cynthia Taggart
3/22 Lehman Temples
3/26 Charlotte Altemeier
3/26 Jan Hazlett
3/26 Maggie Lapinski
3/26 Sue Miller
3/27 Jen Wyble
3/30 Barbara Stamm

JANUARY 2017 MONTHLY FINANCIALS



RECEIPTS	\$ 35,495.01	ANTICIPATED PLEDGED INCOME	\$ 23,666.67
EXPENSES	\$ 22,636.97	PLEDGED GIVING RECEIVED	\$ 33,272.45
		DIFFERENCE +/-	\$ 9605.78
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 12,858.04	PLATE OFFERING	\$ 540.00

ELEVATOR LOAN BALANCE AS OF 2/28/2017 \$ 128,052.34

PER CAPITA \$ 26.75 - 2017 PER CAPITA RECEIVED TO DATE: \$ 1,358.44

GIFTS TO ELEVATOR LOAN FUND FOR 2017: \$ 0.00

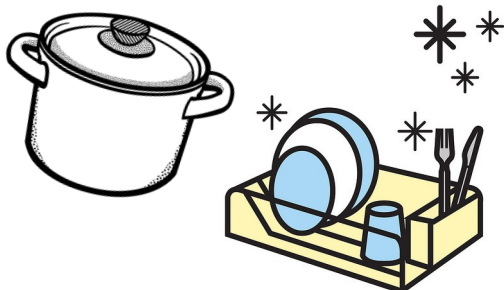
SESSION DIGEST — FEBRUARY 2017

- Session received a gift of approximately \$250,000.00 from the estate of Anita Dean.
- Approved communion for the first Sunday of every month and Maundy Thursday 2017.
- Discipleship Ministry Team reported that the Souper Bowl of Caring fund-raiser collected \$431.75 for the MSU Student Food Bank.
- Abigail Nixon was approved as a Sunday School teacher
- Approved a motion to create an online giving link on the church website.
- A congregational meeting is called for March 12, 2017 for the purpose of electing the Pastor Nominating Committee [PNC].



March Monthly Mission Small Household Items

LOCAL MISSIONS Watch the spring sales and spring cleaning for useful small household items to contribute to our monthly mission for April. New or gently used bed linens, bath linens and kitchen linens are all welcome as are dishes, cookware, silverware, small appliances, fans and the like. The items we collect will go to the Small Household Needs Bank at Mt. Hope United Methodist Church. Please focus on practical items that people need and use on a daily basis, not on knick-knacks or other decorative items.





Thelma Hadden and her family on the death of her husband, **Don Hadden**, who entered the Church Triumphant on January 29. A

memorial service was held at the church on February 11.

...**Dave & Mary Ann Merchant** on the death of Dave's brother in Massachusetts on February 15.

...**Betty & Doug Hall** on the death of Betty's sister, Marian Brown, on February 27 in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Eastminster

Page Turners



Book Club
Saturday, March 4
10:00 a.m.
Green Room

March - Green Room. It's a theological free-for-all! Book club members individually chose a spiritual or theology book to read on their own and then briefly share their impressions of the book with other book club members at this meeting.

Contact Mary Harvey if you have any questions or would like to join the book club.



Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Wednesdays @ 7:00 a.m.

meets every Wednesday at 7:00 a.m. in the Green Room.

Continental breakfast is always available.



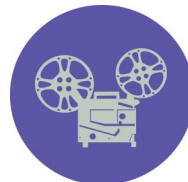
Midweek Bible Study
Thursdays, 1:00 p.m.

We meet weekly on Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. in the Green Room.



Supper Club
Friday, March 3
@ 6:00 p.m.

Join us on the **first Friday** of the month for a gathering of good food & fellowship. This month our host will be **Barb Stowitts**. Please bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Tea and coffee provided. Come enjoy a casual potluck meal in the Green Room. All are welcome.



Faith & Film
Monday, March 20
@ 6:00 p.m.

Join us on the **third Monday** of the month for a light meal, fellowship, and lively discussion on films. Please watch the film on your own, then join us and bring \$4 to pitch in for the meal.

Mar 20 - *Evan Almighty* (2007) Newly elected to Congress, former local television news reporter Evan Baxter (Steve Carell) leaves his hometown of Buffalo, New York and moves to the fictional town of Prestige Crest, Virginia, where his congressional campaign officially declares that he will change the world. Evan prays to God (Morgan Freeman) to give him this opportunity.



Follow Eastminster on **Facebook**. We are under Eastminster Presbyterian Church East Lansing. Updates, reminders, and other information is posted regularly. Stay informed! Please "like", comment or share our posts to ensure they show up regularly in your timeline. When you share our post, it is also a great way to reach out to your family and friends who may be looking for a church home. If the church is closed due to weather, it will be listed on our Facebook page and website.



MARCH 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Hope Closet 7:00 p.m. Worship Service 7:30 p.m. UKirk@MSU	2 9:00 a.m. Cultured Purls Knitting 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	3 6:00 p.m. Supper Club	4
5 Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time	6	7 7:00 p.m. Bells	8 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper 6:45 p.m. Worship & Program 7:30 p.m. UKirk@MSU	9 9:00 a.m. Cultured Purls Knitting 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	10	11 9:45 a.m. Advent House 
12  9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Cents-ability Offering Children's Worship 11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:45 a.m. Deacons	13 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting	14 7:00 p.m. Bells	15 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Movie & Lunch 6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper 6:45 p.m. Worship & Program 7:30 p.m. Session 7:30 p.m. UKirk@MSU	16 9:00 a.m. Cultured Purls Knitting 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	17 	18
19 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Children's Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time	20 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Faith & Film	21 1:15 p.m. Presbyterian Women 7:00 p.m. Bells	22 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper 6:45 p.m. Worship & Program 7:30 p.m. UKirk@MSU	23 9:00 a.m. Cultured Purls Knitting 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	24	25
26 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Children's Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time	27 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting	28 7:00 p.m. Bells	1 April 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper 6:45 p.m. Worship & Program 7:30 p.m. UKirk@MSU	2 9:00 a.m. Cultured Purls Knitting 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	3 6:00 p.m. Supper Club	

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823
Phone: (517) 337-0893

Church Office Hours
Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed Friday

Interim Pastor.....	Rev. Dr. Jeffrey S. O’Neill	revoneill@eastminsterchurch.org
Director of Discipleship.....	Neil Myer	neil@eastminsterchurch.org
Office Administrator.....	Sam O’Neill	office@eastminsterchurch.org
Adult Choir Director.....	Chelsea Berner	berner.chelseann@gmail.com
Organist.....	Tamar Mikeladze	mikeladz@msu.edu
Bell Choir Director.....	Heather Myer	heather.c.myer@gmail.com
Parish Advisor.....	Dr. Fred Graham	
Parish Advisor.....	Rev. Shirley Paxton	
Nursery Attendant.....	Susel Sabon-Smith	
Nursery Assistant.....	Carli Jonckheere	

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS			Class	DEACONS		Class
<u>Communication Ministry</u>				<u>Moderator</u>		
Jim Robertson	Mercy, Peace & Justice	333-0113	2017	Cindy Nixon	669-9253	2017
Ann Bloxom	Hospitality & Involvement	204-6329	2017	<u>Vice Moderator</u>		
Ruth Foster	Promotion	881-9713	2018	Heather Myer	897-1594	2019
<u>Discipleship Ministry</u>				<u>Secretary</u>		
Bev Bonning	Children & Youth	333-3432	2017	Sulin Campbell	349-5384	2017
Sam O’Neill	Adult & Family	243-2669	2018			
Brian Heitman	College & Young Adult	897-0490	2019	Sherri Blanchard	349-6860	2019
<u>Stewardship Ministry</u>				Roz Boyne	333-0510	2018
Norm Mackay	Building Team	604-6003	2019	Jan Coye	574-5806	2017
Susan Smalley	Property Team	721-1782	2018	Barbara Dalzell	332-0407	2017
Barb Stowitts	Finance Team	256-3316	2019	Judy Dunn	351-1928	2018
<u>Worship Ministry</u>				Sue Kalvonjian	351-4096	2019
Brenda Ramsby	Creative Team	243-2669	2019	Sue Miller	332-5683	2018
Linda Hardenbergh	Personnel Team	420-0433	2017	Tom Moss	488-2526	2018
Terry Graham	Sunday Team	332-3418	2018	John Temples	770-359-9947	2019



EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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