

THE VOICE

May 2017



He himself
gives to all
mortals

life and breath
and all things.

Acts 17:25, NRSV

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



Pastor's Keynotes

I've been thinking lately of the difference between nouns and verbs, which probably suggests to you that I'm still stuck in fourth grade. Actually, I've been thinking about *faith* and how in English *faith* is a noun, but how in Greek it can be a verb.

A verb provides the quality of action to our nouns. Shouldn't, then, faith be a verb, because *faith* is not a thing, it's an action? I find I cannot talk about faith in any way but dynamically. Faith is a process that grows and contracts, ebbs and flows, flourishes and withers as life proceeds. Dean Inge called faith "a kind of climbing instinct which draws us upward and onward." That sounds more like a trip than an arrival to me, more a journey than a map. Likewise, Harry Emerson Fosdick observed that "...faith is not a fortress, but a camp on the march; a camp, too, not of armed (soldiers), but of explorers."

"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen," the New Testament's Letter to the Hebrews states. Assurance, conviction – these are words carrying heavy burdens of firmness and resoluteness and unshakability. Yet, look closely at this scriptural description of faith and the internal contradictions pop out starkly. Who needs to "hope" for things that are already assured? As for "conviction," that is something our minds generally consider positively proved. "The assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" is precisely the kind of tricky, elusive definition faith needs, for it is a surprising, slippery thing that cannot be contained in easy words.

Faith is an existential quality that is only possible to grasp by living it. No one knows what love is until one is loved and loves in return. No one knows pain until one suffers it. Faith is something no one thinks they have until they are forced to rely on it. Faith is a yet-to-be-built bridge over an abyss until the first step into the void is risked. And, to be clear, faith always shares space in our hearts with a sibling called "doubt." Assurances and convictions notwithstanding, Kahlil Gibran observed, "Doubt is a pain too lonely to know that faith is his twin brother."

How does faith arrive? "Faith is contagious," Ernest Gordon said. "It is passed on by men and women who have it burning in their hearts and shining in their minds." Faith is not mere well-wishing, or wishful thinking, nor some cheerful energy pumped up by the power of positive thinking. It is neither the product of brainpower nor the creation of imagination, but here is an imaginative way of picturing it from Gibran: "Faith is an oasis in the heart which will never be reached by the caravan of thinking."

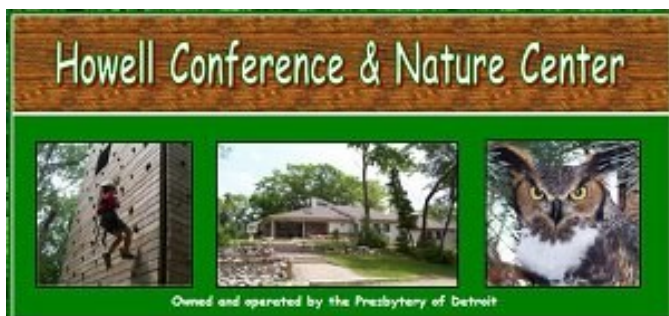
We like to think we are objective about reality. We believe every puzzle is ultimately understandable, every mystery dissolvable in the acid of thought. If it's real and if it's important, it can be dissected, described, reformulated, and commercialized. But that's not the way faith works. Faith is a mystery as to where it comes from, how it works in us, and how it grows or why it shrinks. Where does it reside? Erich Fromm suggested that, "Faith is a character trait pervading the whole personality rather than a specific belief." That is, it's not just an idea cozily snug in the head, but a field of energy in the muscles and glands and viscera.

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Pastor's Keynotes cont'd

We tend to speak of faith as some sort of pose of self-assurance that gets us over life's humps. In thinking this way, we make faith a quality of our will tackling rough terrain. But I have come to accept that faith is not of my creation, but a transcendent quality over which I have very little control, but with which my own strength can cooperate. Faith, I have discovered, is a kind of resident alien within, enabling me to discover meaning in the events of my life even when the events of my life have taken an apparently meaningless direction. I have discovered that faith is an energy not of my making that – despite unplanned twists and turns, egregious errors and accidental triumphs – enables me to cautiously peer around the next bend knowing that I am not in control of the trip. I have discovered that faith is less like what I would call confidence and more like what I have to term amazement, which is another way of saying that faith has more to do with accepting life as it goes than creating it according to our favorite blueprint.

Faith is not assent to doctrine. Faith is not a guarantee of bliss. Faith is not something that can be quantified anyway, and Jesus was pretty clear that a mustard seed-sized faith was plenty ample to do amazing feats. How much faith is necessary to be a follower of Jesus? Minuscule portions, it seems. In Jesus' understanding of faith, there is possibility even for us, the unqualified, the underfaithed, the doubting believers, the anxious hopers, those of the questioning countenance, to join with others in what is invitingly called The Way.



Family Camp
September 8-10 NEW DATE!
Howell Nature Center
Friday - Sunday
5 meals & lodging

Due to a miscommunication with the former camp site, we have had to change our date and venue. We will be at Howell Nature Center the weekend after Labor Day. We'll have time for spiritual reflection, Bible study, swimming, boating, hiking, scavenger hunt, games, and a cookout on Saturday night with s'mores. All meals are included. The accommodations are comfortable for folks of all ages and include private bathrooms. Check out the website www.howellnaturecenter.org; there is so much to do there, including the Wild Wonders Wildlife Park, Raptor Center, and Prayer Labyrinth. Our whole group will be staying in the Knoll Lodge which can accommodate up to 35 people.

If you are interested in attending or working on programming, please contact a member of the Discipleship Ministry: Beverly Bonning, Brian Heitman, Sam O'Neill, and Neil Myer (staff).

Children: to age 3	FREE
Children: ages 4-10	\$50.00
All others	\$85.00

The income interest from the **Endowment Fund** of Eastminster Presbyterian Church is subsidizing the cost to keep it affordable for families.



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!

May 7 David & Goliath

May 14 Solomon

May 21 Celebrate!



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.

May 7 The Beatitudes

May 14 Worship & Justice

May 21 Celebrate!

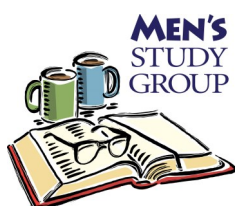


Ages 4—2nd Grade (during worship)

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."

May 14 David and Goliath

May 21 Ascension



Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Wednesdays @ 7:00 a.m.

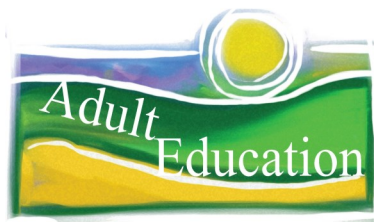
meets every Wednesday at 7:00 a.m. in the Green Room. Continental breakfast is always available. We'll be talking the summer off, so Wed., May 24 will be the last class of the program year.



Midweek Bible Study

Thursdays, 1:00 p.m.

We meet weekly on Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. in the Green Room. We will be taking the summer off, so Thurs., May 25 will be the last class for this program year.



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.

May 7 – “Next Door Neighbors” Our own **Heather Heitman**, a multi-site property manager for DTN Management Co., will join us for an overview of the residents of the surrounding apartment complexes, giving us a better understanding of who are right next door.

May 14 – “Time for Reflection” What have we learned? Where do we take it from here? What is Christ calling us to do among our neighbors. Join us as we come to the end of our series.

May 21 – CELEBRATE! It’s the end of the program year! Join us for some special snacks and fun to celebrate Adult & Children’s Christian Education year.



Presbyterian Women Bible Study

Tuesday, May 16
11:30 a.m.

The EPC PW will meet on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. in the Green Room for our annual Spring Business/Luncheon/Lesson Meeting.

Lesson Nine of *Who Is Jesus?* is “Interpretations”. The lesson leader will be the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey O’Neill. Please pre-read Matthew 15:21-28 and Luke 10:38-42.

After a brief business meeting, we will share our joys and concerns during lunch which will begin at noon. Please bring a sandwich which has been cut into quarters to share. Other salads and desserts along with drinks will be available.

Our Lesson will begin at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. O’Neill.

The **2017 Birthday Offering** envelopes will be available at the May meeting—all donations are due by May 16, 2017. This offering funds mission projects that improve the lives of women and children around the world.



Church Women United
MAY FRIENDSHIP
DAY
Friday, May 5

Where: Eastminster Presbyterian
Theme: "Kindling New Fires of Love"

10:00 Board meeting

1:00 Celebration and Bible Study

Questions? Contact Maxine Cleary
351-2399



This and that...



Elaine and Allan Cable want to thank their church family for their support and prayers during this time of grief. **Mary Ann and Dave**

Merchant wish to thank everyone for their prayers and concern during Dave's recovery from a fall, and he is back in church with us on Sundays.



Received from Rev. Jenn Tafel, campus minister to Q-Cross at MSU, and her students: *Thank you so much for the warm welcome and opportunity for us to share our stories and faith with your Adult Education class. These conversations are so important!*



5/4 Barb Dalzell
5/5 Connie Cullum
5/7 Lou Mitchell
5/10 Brian Heitman
5/11 Jacob Giddings
5/13 Norm Altemeier
5/13 Mike Foster
5/17 Bob Cullum
5/18 Diane Sherman
5/19 Velma Austin
5/26 Mary Dean
5/27 Fletcher Wyble
5/28 Rick Johnston
5/30 Thomas Johnston



Program Reports from the four ministries and their teams are due by Sunday, June 4. Please submit an electronic copy to the church office for inclusion in the report. A copy of the previous year report will be in your mailboxes by May 4. Any questions, please contact Sam in the office. Thank you!



5/11 Bruce & Cynthia Taggart
5/26 Jason & Rachel Giddings



5/16 Rick & Shannon Johnston

David Brooks, author of *The Road to Character* (Random House), created a moral bucket list in an effort to develop “eulogy virtues” — the traits praised at people’s funerals. Qualities such as humility, dependence and energizing love offer more joy than any “résumé virtues” ever will, he writes:

“There’s joy in freely chosen obedience to organizations, ideas and people. There’s joy in mutual stumbling. There’s an aesthetic joy we feel when we see morally good action, when we run across someone who is quiet and humble and good, when we see that however old we are, there’s lots to do ahead.”

MARCH 2017 MONTHLY FINANCIALS



RECEIPTS	\$ 25,020.35	ANTICIPATED PLEDGED INCOME	\$ 23,666.67
EXPENSES	\$ 23,843.91	PLEDGED GIVING RECEIVED	\$ 24,167.00
		DIFFERENCE +/-	\$ 500.33
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 1,176.44	PLATE OFFERING	\$ 562.00

ELEVATOR LOAN BALANCE AS OF 04/27/2017 \$ 126,470.61

PER CAPITA IS \$26.75 - 2017 PER CAPITA RECEIVED AS OF 4/27/2017 **\$ 1,868.54**

GIFTS TO ELEVATOR LOAN FUND AS OF 4/27/2017 \$ 3,130.00

SESSION DIGEST — APRIL 2017

- Sunday Worship Services will move to 10 a.m. beginning May 28th.
- The Discipleship Team has planned for Family Camp experience at Howell Nature Center, September 8-10. To assist individual participants, Session approved a motion to fund up to \$1,000 from the Eastminster endowment fund income to defray total camp expenses.
- UKirk will add a “give now” button to their website so that financial contributions can be made on-line.
- A Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for June 25, 2017 for the election of officers and to receive program reports.



**PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

APRIL

17

JUNE

4

Give toward a more promising future

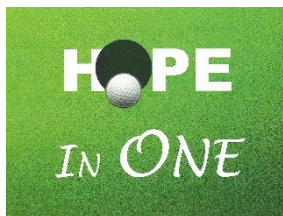
When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share their faith in Christ.

40% stays with your congregation » Develop and support programs for young people in your own church and community

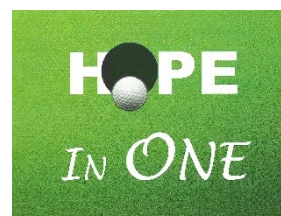
25% supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV) » Provide opportunities for young adults to serve in communities around the world and grow as leaders through transformative Christian service

25% goes to Ministries with Youth » Help guide our youth by uniting them in Christ and lifting them up as leaders and messengers of God's word

10% advocates for at-risk children » Support vital ministries



3rd Annual
Hope in One
Golf Outing

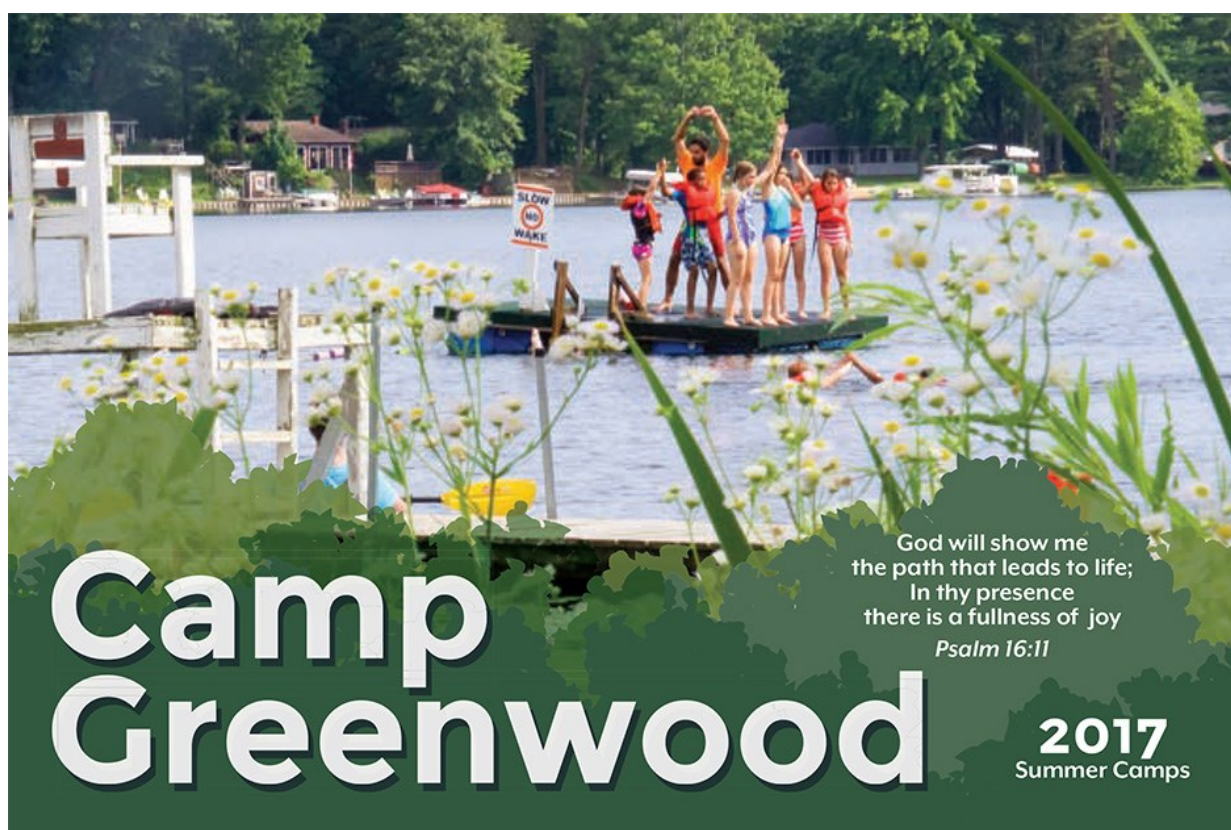


To benefit ongoing mission projects for Advent House Ministries and
North Westminster Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, August 2, 2017

Entry Deadline is July 24, 2017

See the bulletin board outside the pastor's study for details..



Check Out What We Have in Store this Summer!

After much careful crafting our summer brochure is ready! Copies are going out in the mail hot off the presses but you can download the brochure at www.campgreenwood.org

Be sure to check out Gator Camp! This week is a great introduction to camping at Greenwood; enjoy the forest and the lake, Bible studies and making new friends!

At camp and on the road, we're looking forward to another great summer!

Eastminster

Page Turners



Book Club

Saturday, May 6

10:00 a.m.

Green Room

EPC's Page Turners are always looking for new members! Please join us whenever a book selection sounds intriguing to you! Simply read the book on your own ahead of time and then attend the book club meeting on the first Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. in the Green Room.

May 6, 2017 - *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande

Future book reads are:

June 3, 2017 - *Threading the Needle* by Marie Bostwick. A fictional novel of two childhood friends who return to their hometown for different reasons after a 20-year absence and mend their brokenness while attending a quilting class. The story is about the power of sisterhood, forgiveness and starting over.

July - NO BOOK CLUB - SUMMER BREAK

August 5, 2017 - *The Year of Living Biblically* by AJ Jacobs. This insightful, humorous and thought-provoking book chronicles the author's attempt to obey the Bible as literally as possible for one year. The author also embeds himself in a cross-section of communities that take the Bible literally. His efforts result in "unexpected epiphanies and challenges" as well as humorous and awkward situations.

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



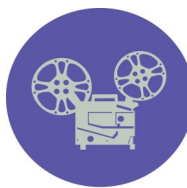
Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

**Memorial Day
Weekend**

thru

**Labor Day
Weekend.**



FAITH &
FILM

Faith & Film

Monday, May 15

@ 6:00 p.m.

Join us this month on the **3rd 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.

May 15: *The Hundred-Foot Journey* (2014), starring Helen Mirren, "based on the international best-selling book by Richard C. Morais, tells the story of an Indian boy living in France who becomes the culinary apprentice to his father's rival (filmjabber.com).



Movie and Lunch

Our dinner and a movie has changed to movie and lunch on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. **All persons** are invited. The movie is picked the weekend before and by what is playing the afternoon of that day. An email list has been formed to notify persons who are interested. Let Barb Stowitts (barbstow@yahoo.com) know if you would like to be included on the movie email list. Lunch is decided by the people attending.



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.

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MAY 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2 6:45 p.m. Bells	3 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Hope Closet	4 9:00 a.m. Cultured Purls Knitting 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	5	6
7 Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time	8 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting	9 6:45 p.m. Bells	10 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Session	11 9:00 a.m. Cultured Purls Knitting 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	12	13 9:45 a.m. Advent House
14 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Cents-ability Offering Children's Worship 11:30 a.m. Deacons 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time	15 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Faith & Film	16 11:30 p.m. Presbyterian Women 6:45 p.m. Bells	17 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Movie & Lunch	18 9:00 a.m. Cultured Purls Knitting 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	19	20
21 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Children's Worship 11:30 a.m. Prospective Member Class 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time	22 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting	23	24 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (last one for summer)	25 9:00 a.m. Cultured Purls Knitting 1:00 p.m. Bible Study (last one for summer)	26	27
28 <i>Summer</i>  WORSHIP BEGINS 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship	29  Office Closed	30	31	1	2	3

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	402-1057	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	281-2718	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	258-2446		2019



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