



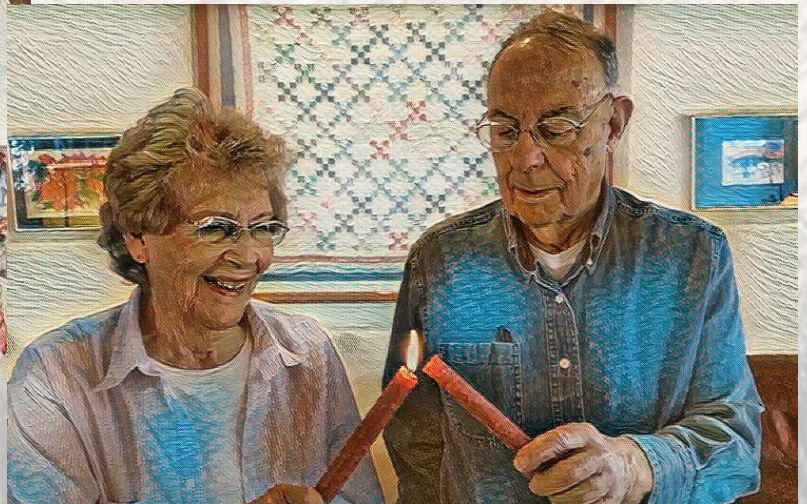
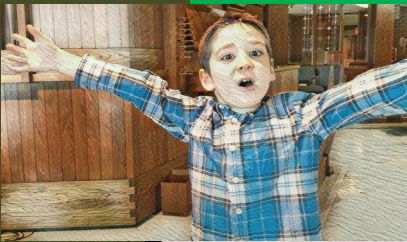
Yes, we can imagine.



## EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 2021

# Annual Program Report







# Table of Contents

## MESSAGES

KRISTIN STROBLE, PASTOR	4
NEIL MYER, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	5

<u>MINISTRY DURING COVID-19</u>	6
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<u>SOCIAL AND RACIAL JUSTICE</u>	10
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## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

WORSHIP & MUSIC	12
MISSION	18
BUILDING & GROUNDS	20
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	22
COMMUNITY LIFE	24
ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE	26
DEACONS	28
UKIRK	29

<u>NOMINATING COMMITTEE</u>	30
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## From your Pastor

### Reflection and Looking Ahead:

It has been 15 long months since we gathered in our sanctuary for Sunday worship or shared about our week over a cup of coffee in the Green Room. The sheer length of time that we have been virtual remains mind-boggling to me. This year has taught us a lot. We've learned that we can connect over Zoom and behind masks, that God's presence can be felt over a computer watching worship. As a church we are now looking towards a return to the building. We know more than ever, that the church is more than the building, but there is a connection to our sacred place and gathering in our building makes a difference in our lives and in our community. I am thrilled to announce that the Session has set the return to in-person worship in our sanctuary for August 8th. Worship will initially feel a little different, but it will be a gift to be together. Until then, we will continue gathering once a month for our outdoor services and have small groups meet again in the building. As we find our way back and revise a way forward, may we practice grace upon grace with ourselves and each other. May we trust that God is faithful and ever going before us. May we come with vulnerability and compassion, sharing this journey of faith and life with each other.



### What's Changed This Year?

As a church we have settled into a new routine. We know how to get on Zoom for meetings, Bible studies, and virtual coffee hours. We've adjusted (and perhaps even liked) worshipping on our couches with a cup of coffee. This year will be another year of change. As we return to the building we will be offering various options, so that people can come in person or join us online. We have the opportunity to name what ministries and missions are most important to us and let go of past practices that don't suit us anymore.

### What I've Done for Continuing Education

Since there was not an opportunity to attend conferences in person this year, I spent one week of my continuing education time in Savannah, Georgia in intentional study. I read a variety of books related to ministry and did some worship planning, while taking the time for rest and relaxation. I also attended this past year the virtual NEXT Gathering, which had the theme "Breaking, Blessing, Building: A Call for the Common Good"

### Some of my favorite books I've read this year:

[The Vanishing Half](#) by Brit Bennett

[Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents](#) by Isabel Wilkerson

[The Art of Gathering](#) by Priya Parker

[American Dirt](#) by Jeanine Cummins

[A Children's Bible: A Novel](#) by Lydia Millet



## From Your Director of Christian Education

We thought we were running a sprint. The start was fast paced, putting as much content out on the internet as possible. Five days a week of Spin and Sing, weekly editions of Story Time with Mrs. B, Facebook live check-ins, summer Zoom intergenerational gatherings and more. Turns out this pandemic was a marathon. We began to find an appropriate pace and lifelong Christian Education continued. From adult Bible study groups, to racial justice readings including from our Presbyterian Church (USA) Book of Confessions, to weekly sermon discussions and interviews with local mission partners that have been on the pandemic's frontlines in so many ways, those who engaged in the opportunities of faith formation grew, learned, and were challenged in faith to see just how deep and wide the love of Jesus Christ is and has always been.



In addition to being worship leaders and acolytes, Eastminster's children engaged in weekly Zoom gatherings prior to worship, in which they were encouraged to ask questions of the faith:

"How old is God?"  
"How does God know we are praying?"  
"How was the Bible made?"  
"Did Jesus ever get frustrated with his disciples?"  
"How can God handle so many people at once?"  
"How big is God's heart?"

The above were among my favorite questions asked. Our young friends are growing theologians and being formed in faith through worship, education, scripture, and song. As we eye a hopeful return to in person activities in the weeks ahead, let us ever be mindful of the promises we made in baptism to the children that are here and the children to come. These kids are not just the future of the church, they are a vital part of the church now. Let us strive to be a church that embodies the love of Jesus Christ, the one we claim to follow, in every way. Our kids know God's love, they continue to learn the stories of Jesus Christ. It is my prayer that these kids will continue to experience the radically inclusive love, welcome and witness of Jesus Christ in the ways we live out our baptismal vows to them, and share God's love with one another, our community and the world.

In Christ's service,

Neil Myer  
Director of Christian Education

# Ministry during COVID-19

## Staying Connected

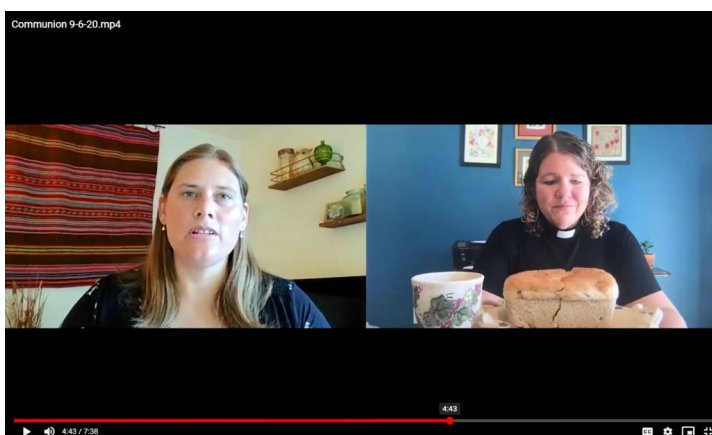
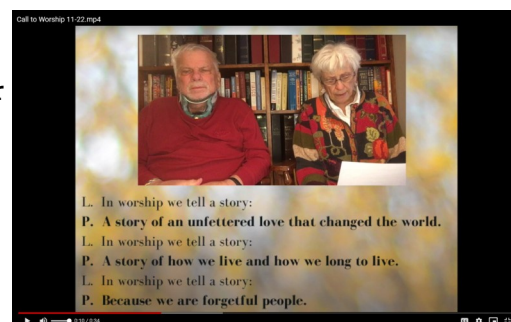
For the past 15 months we have been doing church virtually. Our services have been pre-recorded and thoughtfully put together, our meetings and Bible studies have continued on Zoom. While we give thanks for the gifts of technology, it has been difficult and we miss each other deeply.

In May we had our first outdoor worship service and our next one will be the day of this meeting. We will continue to have worship once a month outdoors. Our building is now open for small groups to meet. I am excited to announce that the Session, after careful consideration and discussion, has decided on the date for our return to in-person worship in the sanctuary. August 8th we will worship together in our sacred space. There will be changes, of course. Masks will be a requirement, until children are able to be vaccinated and singing will be limited. Also know that we will continue to livestream our services.

We move forward with faith and hope, while acknowledging that the same threshold values that were established to determine building opening will be used if we need to take a step back in the opening process. Thank you for your patience, flexibility and grace with us during this time.

I give thanks to God for the small things these past months - phone calls, Zoom meetings, outside gatherings, cards, and humor. I give thanks that the Holy Spirit has worked in and among us during this time. I look forward to our outdoor services and worshipping with you in the sanctuary on August 8th.

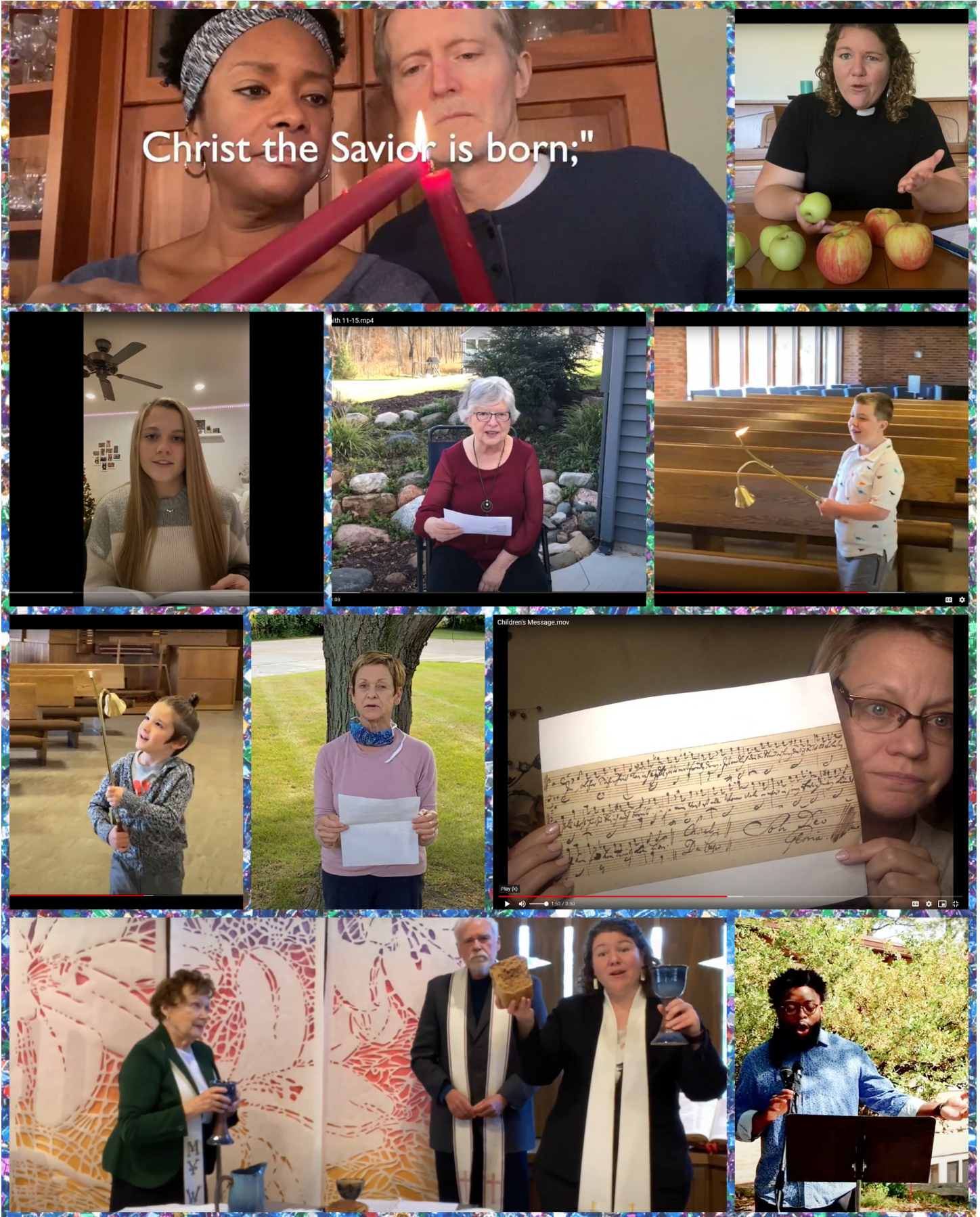
Grace and Peace,  
Kristin



## Ways to Worship:

- EPC YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/EastminsterPresbyterianChurchEastLansing.com>
- EPC Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/EastminsterPresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/EastminsterPresbyterian)





# Together while apart

## Facebook and YouTube

The church is not a building. This is a statement that we feel keenly in these days when we cannot physically gather to worship in the same room. Yet, we are together still and our community is strong. God moves among us and blesses us no matter where we are. And we are blessed that we have the technology that allows us to continue to worship together every Sunday at 10 a.m. from our homes.

Live videos of the services are available each week on Facebook and YouTube. Accounts are not needed for either. Services premiere each

Sunday at 10 a.m. but they can be watched any-time. Bulletins with hymns for each service were posted on the website.

The church has made use of both platforms to stay in touch with members and friends and to offer content that allows us to connect. Videos included content for children such as the Spin and Sings and storytelling time. There was also content for adults—faith interviews, announcements, testimonies on why members give and fun videos that were part of a capital campaign in the spring of 2021.

## Hiring a Video Producer



**“Heather quickly pivoted to adopting new technology, her quick learning allowing**

**Eastminster’s services to benefit from her inventiveness and creativity.”**

**—Kristin Stroble**

The pandemic changed the way we do things. The staff had to quickly learn skills they didn’t have before to create an online service that allowed us to connect and worship together. Heather Myer became the video editor and producer, first instead of directing bells and as of January, 2021 in an official capacity.

Her work ranged from recording video to stitching together dozens of short clips each week so that the services flowed smoothly with contributions from multiple people each week. Following Kristin’s script each week, she would edit together music, congregation contributions, announcements and sermons.

Heather adapted to learn new programs and new equipment, consulting with Kristin and others on what sort of video equipment was needed to provide the best experience for Eastminster.



## Zooming Together

We all figured out how to use Zoom this year and often used it to get together, whether for meetings, after-worship discussions, MORE sessions, book club meetings and even film discussions.

Several members—Robin Bell, Mary Harvey, Norm Mackay, Sam O'Neill and Sara Weeden provided tips on our website about how to use Zoom.



Eastminster welcomes new members Judy Karandjeff and Mike

Weekly Bible studies also moved to Zoom this past year, whether it was the Wednesday morning Men's Breakfast, the Wednesday afternoon one or UKirk.

Kristin used Zoom as part of worship to involve more people in the liturgy. Zoom was used so that communion could be celebrated with multiple ministers. Zoom became the medium through which people connected to welcome new members into Eastminster membership. Clerk of Session Susan Smalley and Kristin delivered the liturgy over Zoom to formally welcome Rev. Becky Brown as a friend of the church and Mike Brown, Judy Karandjeff, and Debi Cox as members.



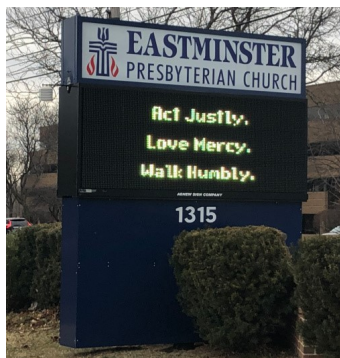
## Expanded Emails

Connection is crucial during times of isolation. At the beginning of the quarantine, we sent out daily emails Monday through Thursday, each with a different focus.

As of October, 2020, we sharpened our focus with three weekly emails:

- ♦ **Monday:** Weekly calendar, prayer requests and pastoral prayer
- ♦ **Wednesday:** Announcements, church news and birthdays/anniversaries
- ♦ **Saturday:** Additional announcements, links to Sunday worship and activities, list of music for worship

# Social and Racial Justice



## Called to Justice Commitment

“Even when we fall short, even when we get it wrong, we are claimed, called and loved by God and reconciled to one another through grace. We seek forgiveness from God and our siblings of color for the ways we have fallen short. While we have done occasional work on the long road toward anti-racism, we acknowledge that we need to do much more.”

On June 23, 2020, Eastminster’s Session released a Justice & Equity statement that can be read on the church’s website. It provides a statement of belief, a confession and a commitment.

## Justice & Equity Resources

The Christian Education team created and shared a list of resources that included:

- Readings
- Children and youth
- Podcasts, online and films
- Places to volunteer or financially support

- Minority owned restaurants and businesses in the Lansing region.

The CE team also pulled books from the children’s library and made them available for lending by arranging pick-up times at the church.

**“There are many resources that we can use in our journey to be actively anti-racist and travel the path toward racial justice.”**

## 21-Day Racial Justice Challenges



Over the course of the year, the CE team invited the congregation to participate in two different Racial Justice Challenges that provided a different daily activity that raised awareness about the perniciousness of racism and encourage action in response to that new awareness. In addition to the daily activities, there were weekly discussion meetings. The first was July 2020 and the second was October 2020.





## Faith & Film

Throughout the year, Eastminster members watched films about racial justice and then met either in person outside or over Zoom to discuss them.

The two movies studied this year were:

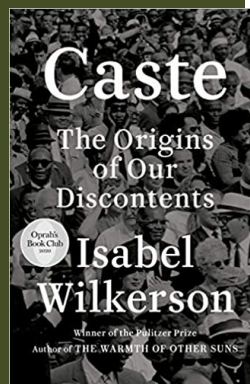
- “Just Mercy,” which highlights the early work of Bryan Stevenson and the Equal Justice Initiative. June 2020.
- “13th,” a 2016 documentary that explores ways in which race, justice, and mass incarceration intersect in the United States. The title refers to the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. October 2020.



## All-Church Read in June

Eastminster hosted a book discussion centered on social justice in June, 2021. At noon on Mondays, members and friends met outdoors (indoors when it rained) to explore the book “***Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent***” by Isabel Wilkerson, who also wrote “The Warmth of Other Suns.

“Caste” is a nonfiction book that was published in August 2020 describing racism as an aspect of a caste system, a society-wide system of social stratification.



**“Most people see America as racist, and Wilkerson agrees that it is indeed racist. She points out that we tend to refer to slavery as a “sad, dark chapter” in America when in fact it lasted for hundreds of years.”**

**—Chris Schluep, Amazon reviewer**

# WORSHIP



## 2020-2021 WORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

178

Average #  
of views  
for Sunday  
worship



52

Average  
devices  
when  
service  
premieres

42% average  
of mailing list  
in May 2021  
who are  
reading  
weekly emails



3

outdoor  
worship  
services

48

virtual worship  
services since  
July of 2020



Over  
120  
People  
leading  
worship  
in videos

## Life in the Church



1

Baptism



3

New  
Members



2

Funerals/  
Interments



## Worship Team Report and Highlights



Committee Members: Robin Bell (elder), Sam O'Neill (elder), Rev Kristin Stroble (ex-officio), Linda Hardenburgh (chancel coordinator) and Brenda Ramsby

This year began with the church fully immersed in online worship as we were six months into a global pandemic. The committee worked with church staff to continue to provide a robust worship experience, despite our inability to be able to meet together in person to worship at our church building. Communion dates were

set for the year and church members participated in this sacrament both online during pre-recorded worship services and at times online during live Zoom meetings.

As our wonderful church staff worked each week to compile effective, pre-recorded worship services, the committee assisted by providing video content, decorating the sanctuary for photo/video opportunities used to enhance video worship services, and recruiting church members for virtual worship services based on Pastor Kristin's sermon series. These included: "Why Worship?" – personal testimonials; and "Our Money Story" – stewardship season, personal testimonials on why we give; and recruited families for Advent Candle lighting.

## Special Worship Events

- Bill Cleary Memorial Service
- All-Saints Day
- Christmas Eve Outdoors
- Christmas Eve
- Ash Wednesday
- Maundy Thursday
- Sunrise Easter Service
- Easter
- Pentecost Outdoor Service



# WORSHIP



## Worship Team Report (cont.)

When it was determined that it would be safe for church members to meet on a limited basis in an outdoor setting, the worship team worked on the set-up/take down for a number of in-person services. These services included the Christmas Eve service, the Easter sunrise service, and monthly outdoor services conducted in summer of 2021. The worship team put together Lent bags which included personal ashes to-go to use in our Ash Wednesday Zoom services. Additionally, we helped with a Maundy Thursday drive-through service which included communion. We also assisted with the virtual palm “parade.”



Worship team members created visual aids that were integral to worship services and associated member activities. For the sermon series “Again & Again,” Jeff O’Neill constructed the framing for the communal project for the series. Church members were asked to write prayers and weave them into the “&.” We helped create the communion table for the services. Members of the team also created triptych banners of Easter lilies that were hung in the chancel for recording services during the Easter season.

Finally, the worship team recommended to the Session of the church that virtual services be provided for church members online, even after the congregation is able to meet together in-person in the building. Upon receiving authorization from Session, the worship team worked together to acquire equipment to facilitate virtual services. This will allow us to offer livestreamed church services to church members both during the current pandemic conditions as they begin to wind down, as well as to church members in the future who elect to either participate in services online through personal preference or because of being at home for other reasons.

Robin Bell, Chair and Sam O’Neill, Co-Chair





## Sermon Series: July 2020 to August 2021



**Unraveled: Seeking  
God When Our Plans  
Fall Apart**  
June 7-Aug. 30  
2020



**Half-Truths**  
Jan. 10-Feb. 14  
2021



**Why Worship?**  
Sept. 6-Oct. 25  
2020



**Again & Again: A  
Lenten Refrain**  
Feb. 20-April 11  
2021



**Our Money Story**  
Nov. 1-Nov. 22  
2020



**After: Living in  
a Transformed  
World**  
April 18-May 23  
2021



**I Believe Even  
When ...**  
Nov. 29, 2020-  
Jan. 3, 2021



**Road Trip Stories**  
May 30-August  
2021



# MUSIC

## Making Music During a Pandemic

Always an essential part of worship, music became more challenging this program year. Listed as one of the more dangerous activities when it came to spreading COVID-19, we had to turn to creative ways to make a joyful noise.

Often, we turned to instruments—whether piano, organ, bells or even a recorder. Instrumental music was a part of every worship service.

Choir director Jadrian Tarver had a busy year despite not having an in-person choir to direct. For both Christmas and Easter he arranged a virtual choir performance over Zoom. He also recorded large chunks of the hymnal to be used in recorded worship services.



Tamar Mikeladze started the pandemic recording hymns, preludes and postludes at home on her personal piano and then began coming to the church once a week to record on the organ. As we began to have outdoor services, she found and purchased a keyboard that could be used for services. Heather Myer arranged and performed several bell pieces sometimes as a soloist, sometimes as a duet and sometimes even live ensembles performing masked.

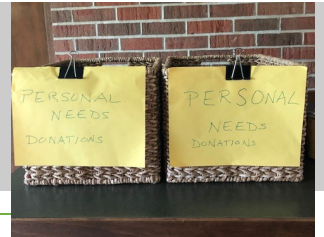
Guest soloists also continued to perform virtually at Eastminster for special services such as holidays or UKirk Sunday.







# Mission



Organizations	Gifts
Christmas Joy	\$ 1,875.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 4,402.78
Peace & Global Witness	\$ 1,087.30
Pentecost	\$ 1,149.10
Advent House	\$ 7,645.01
Saint Vincent Catholic Charities Refugee Services	\$ 1,000.00
Alma Chapel Renovations	\$ 1,000.00
Refugee Development Center	\$ 2,000.00
Christian Services	\$ 1,000.00
State Bar Access to Justice Fund	\$ 600.00
Love Clothing Center	\$ 200.00
Food Banks	\$ 2,277.36
Haven House	\$ 1,000.00
PCUSA Shared Mission	\$ 11,550.00
UKirk	\$ 10,000.00
Mission Workers in Costa Rica	\$ 1,000.00
Medical Benevolence Society	\$ 1,200.00
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$ 1,750.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$50,736.55</b>

## 2020-2021 MISSION BY THE NUMBERS



## Mission Report/Highlights

Committee Members: Jan Coye, Mary Harvey (Elder & Chair), Estelle McGroarty (Elder), and Kristin Stroble (Pastor)



The Mission Committee of Eastminster Presbyterian Church (EPC) supported these organizational projects with either monetary donations or goods; and, in some cases, both:

- ♦ Advent House Ministries
- ♦ All-Faith Alliance for Refugees (AFAR)
- ♦ Christian Services Thanksgiving Baskets
- ♦ Christian Services Household Needs
- ♦ First Presbyterian of Lansing Food Bank
- ♦ Greater Lansing Food Bank
- ♦ Haven House
- ♦ Judson Memorial
- ♦ Michigan State Univ. Food Bank
- ♦ Mission workers in Costa Rica
- ♦ Refugee Development Center (RDC)
- ♦ UKirk at Michigan State University

## THANKSGIVING BASKETS

This was our first year organizing and delivering Thanksgiving baskets for families through Christian Services. We provided meals for **10 families**.

## FOOD BANKS

Funds from Souper Bowl of Caring, Centasability and Peace & Global Witness were donated to the Greater Lansing Food Bank, MSU Food Bank and the First Presbyterian of Lansing Food Bank.

## REFUGEE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

We hope to resume English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) in September. Keep looking for more information. We need volunteers.

## HAVEN HOUSE

We adopted two families from Haven House and provided them with Christmas gifts.

## MISSION WORKERS

We continue to support Mark Hare and Jenny Bent and their work in Costa Rica. Learn more about them at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/mark-hare-and-jenny-bent/>



# Building and Grounds



## Buildings & Grounds Report

Building & Grounds Team Members: Gary Blanchard, Jeff Lapinski, Mike Jones

Our Church is not only a place of sanctuary, worship and fellowship, but also in its own right a gift to us from God. Because so many of us enjoy and need God's gift in our lives, we need to ensure that it remains in good condition. In addition to the usual maintenance items, including light and battery replacement, furniture movement, maintenance and repairs, the Building team spearheads several efforts each year that make Eastminster Church a place that is more usable and inviting to all.

Since March, 2020, the Church has not been occupied due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result the building has been operated in a maintenance mode (all services maintained) and inspected regularly.



There are several issues relating to the grounds of Eastminster that have been addressed during the course of the year in addition to the capital improvements shown on the next page.

- ♦ The Cross was moved to a new pedestal location following replacement of the sign at the front of the property. Final work on electrifying the Cross was completed and it is now operating as it should.
- ♦ There are several landscaping issues that are in process of being addressed.

These accomplishments and works in progress are done to serve God and God's faithful servants. I owe Jeff Lapinski and Mike Jones many thanks for their hard work and helpful insights.

Sincerely,  
Gary Blanchard





## 2020-2021 BUILDING & GROUNDS BY THE NUMBERS

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LOAN

Presbyterian  
Investment  
and Loan  
Program

**\$100,000**



Interest  
rate: **2.837%**

New roof,  
gutter,  
downspouts

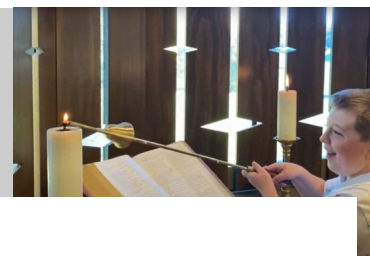


Resurface  
and seal  
parking lot



Two new  
sanctuary air  
conditioners





# Christian Education

## 2020 - 2021 Activities

### After-Worship Discussions >



"Unraveled: Seeking God When Our Plans Fall Apart" (6/14/2020-8/30/2020)  
"Half Truths" (1/10/21-2/14/21)  
"Again & Again" (2/21/21-4/11/21)

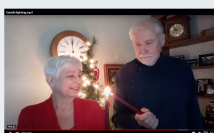
### Children's Activities >



Sunday morning kids' education at 9:30 a.m. starting 6/28/20  
Four Spirit-in-Motion- outdoor sessions on Wednesday afternoons in September 2020

Children's library: Compiled list and brief description of 28 newish books, shared list with congregation and offered convenient ways for families to borrow books in January 2020.

### Advent >



Partnered with Community Life for Sunday Zoom sessions on Advent wreath making, Christmas foods, nativity scenes, Christmas music and giving/gifts  
Provided Advent devotionals  
Held Advent family film nights on Wednesdays during Advent.

### Lent >



Provided Lent devotionals  
Provided Lent daily devotional cards  
Provided Lent bags for children

### Additional >



Partnered with Mission Team to present mission interviews on Sunday morning Zoom sessions with representatives from Refugee Development Center, St. Vincent Catholic Charities Refugee Assistance Program, UKirk at MSU, Women's Center of Greater Lansing and MSU Counseling and Psychiatric Services (4/11/2021 to 5/16/2021)

Wednesday Bible Studies held morning and afternoon weekly sessions.  
Page Turners Book Club met monthly

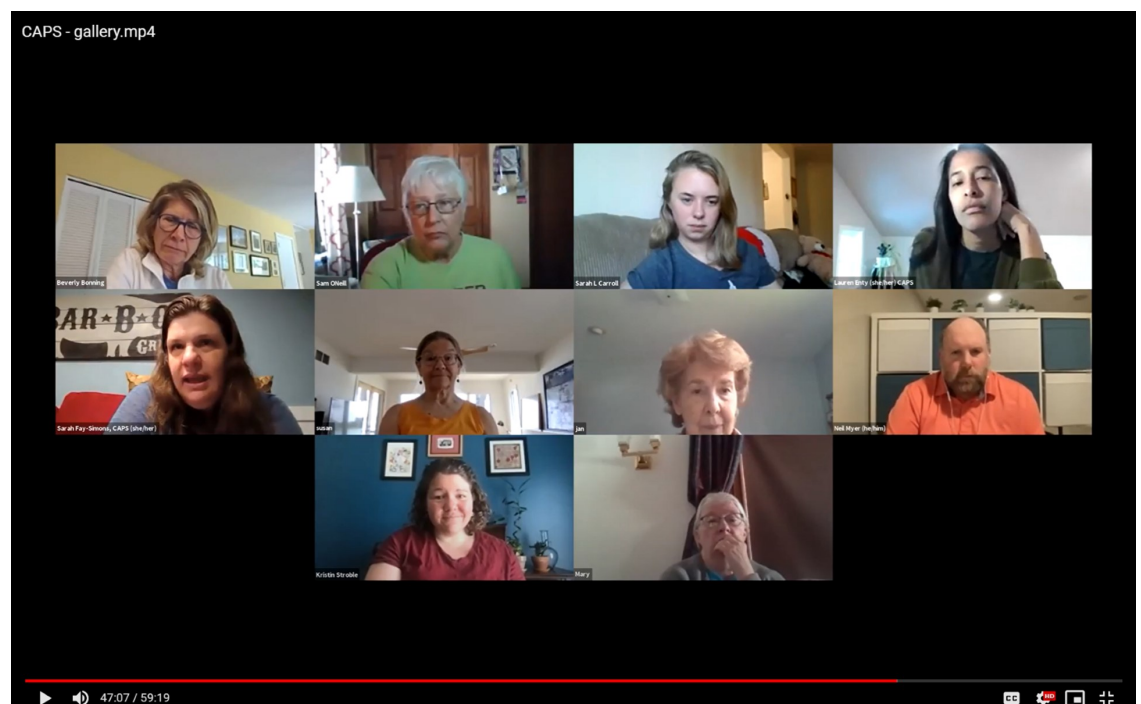
## Christian Education Report & Highlights

As in past years, intergenerational activities proved to be especially well-received – even though they were conducted virtually, rather than in person.

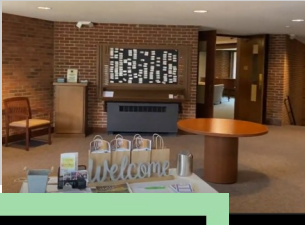
Going forward, we hope to:

- ♦ Emphasize and build upon intergenerational activities;
- ♦ Develop a hybrid model or models for some Christian education offerings;
- ♦ Better understand why people do and do not participate in various Christian education offerings;
- ♦ Coordinate our work more and better with Eastminster's other committees; and
- ♦ Expand the committee to more completely represent Eastminster's diversity.

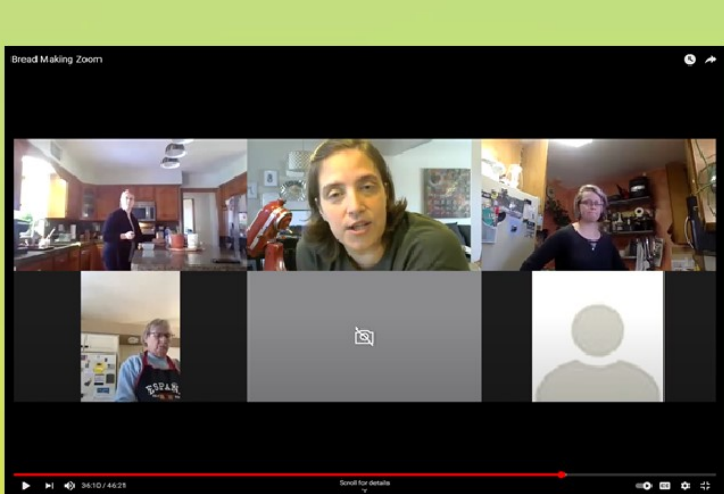
“Official” members of Christian Education Committee: Beverly Bonning, Neil Myer, Kristin Stroble, Susan Smalley. Many, many thanks to others who made this work possible including Jan Coye, Mary Harvey, Norm & Cindy Mackay, Estelle McGroarty, Rev. Dr. Jeff & Sam O'Neill.



# Community Life



## 2020-2021 COMMUNITY LIFE





## Community Life Report

The 2020-2021 year of "transition" didn't quite happen the way we thought it might. So this past year for the Community Life team has been about flexibility, doing what we can, how we can and in what set of safe boundaries we can. That's a lot of "we can" in there, and we did.

The Community Life team started out re-introducing the church picnic concept in the midst of the pandemic. Gathering together, at the church, with food (as Presbyterians like to do!), just in a new way: distanced, masked and DIY brown bag lunches.

Fall and winter led us to more indoor activities. There was a Communion bread making Zoom, (wouldn't that smell-o-vision be awesome!), and at-home Advent wreath kits with a more formal Zoom meeting after church the week before Advent began where we discussed the meanings behind the advent wreaths. Sam O'Neill led us in weekly discussions during Advent through popular Christmas movies.

The Lenten season brought about Lenten soups to go. Thanks to the congregation members who made delicious soup!

And now with the return of Spring/Summer we will continue our new tradition of church picnics on the lawn—DIY style. We can enjoy the beautiful grounds, and each other's company. Keep an eye on the e-newsletter emails for dates and times.

**“That’s a lot of “we can” in there, and we did.”**



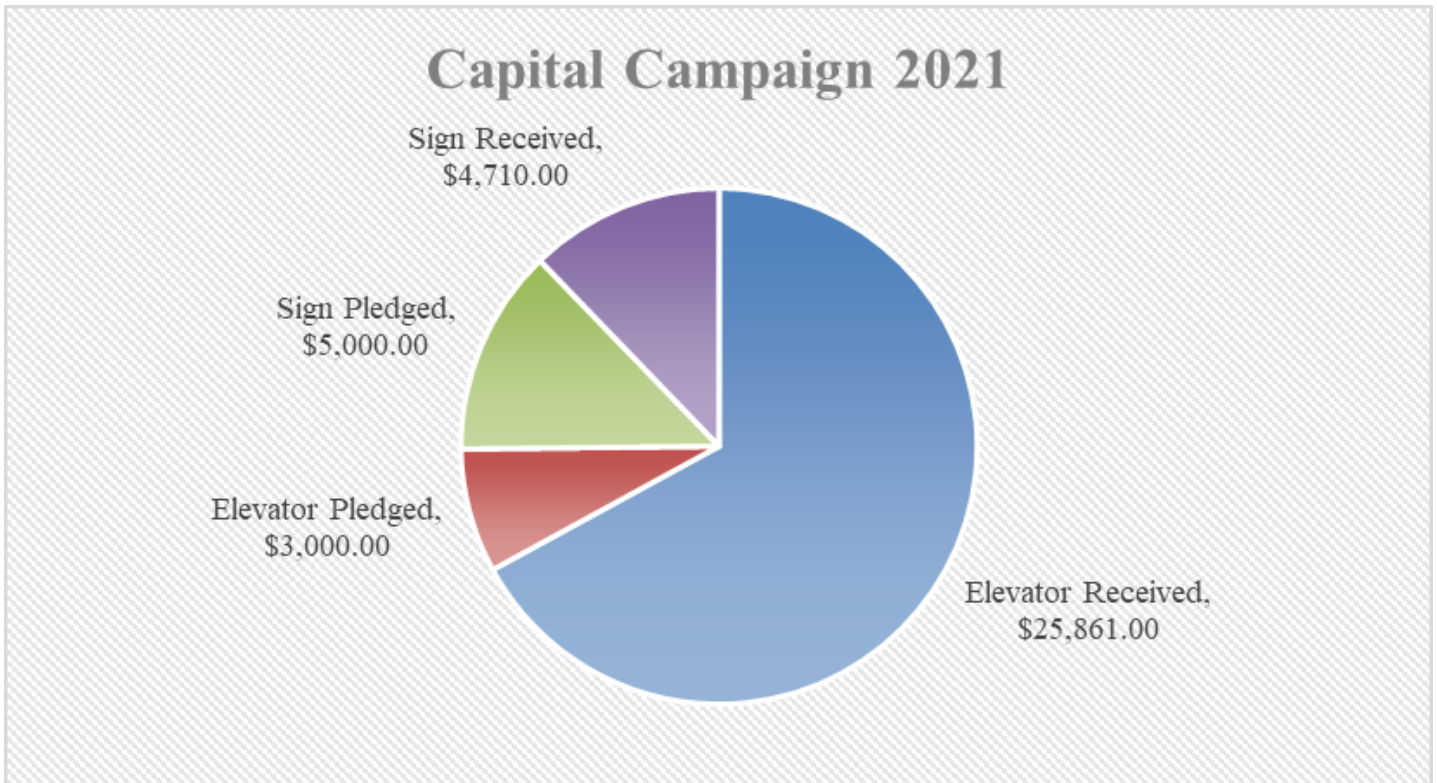
The Community Life team is looking forward to what the new program year will bring.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Myer  
Team Chair

# Admin & Finance



## 2020-2021 ADMIN & FINANCE BY THE NUMBERS



Elevator	Sign
Goal	Goal
\$ 30,300.00	\$ 18,300.00
Total	Total
\$ 28,861.00	\$ 9,710.00
Received	Received
\$ 25,861.00	\$ 4,710.00
Pledged	Pledged
\$ 3,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Progress	Progress
95%	53%



# Administration & Finance Report

It has been a busy year for the Administration & Finance team as they have worked to keep the church in good financial health and manage the staff as we go through these very non-traditional times. The PPP loan we applied for at the beginning of the pandemic was forgiven, helping us to break even at the end of the year.

## Changes in Staff

At the beginning of 2021, we officially hired Heather Myer for the job she'd been doing since the beginning of the pandemic: Video Producer. It is a role that will continue even after we are back in-person as we will continue to livestream services for those who cannot make it to the church. Heather puts in anywhere from four to six hours a week editing and producing Eastminster's services.

Jadrian Tarver achieved his doctorate in music this year and completed his term as choir director with us. We said a fond goodbye to him on Pentecost Sunday when we met outdoors and he sang for us. The decision was made to not search for an immediate replacement as we are uncertain what the choir will look like going forward and when it will be safe to sing together in groups.

## Technology Purchases

While we were able to save money in many areas by not meeting in person and making use of the building, there were other expenses necessary to provide high-quality worship and other experiences to the church body. Throughout 2020-2021 we made several technology purchases including cameras, recording devices, tripods and new laptops for Heather and Neil Myer to accommodate their increased computer work. We also purchased a keyboard for outdoor services.

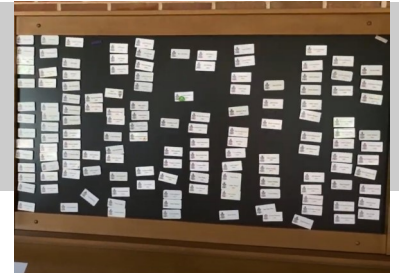


## Capital Campaign

As the team worked to keep a healthy cash flow and a budget that relied less on reserves, Session came up with the idea of a Capital Campaign that would run from April to May. In the interest of making it fun, two teams were created: Team Elevator and Team Sign. Both had goals of paying off either the balance on the loan in the case of the elevator or the amount already paid but not covered through donations for the sign. The goals were \$30,300 for the elevator and \$18,300 for the sign. Team Elevator was led by Mary Lou Clifton and Sam O'Neill while Norm Mackay led the charge for the sign. Heather Myer worked with both teams to create weekly videos. Bridgette tracked the income and created graphics for weekly reports. As of June 10, Team Elevator has made 95% of its goal with \$28,861 received or pledged and Team Sign has made 53% of its goal with \$9,710 received or pledged. Session approved paying off the remainder of the elevator loan as of the end of June.

**Admin & Finance Team:** Dave Duryea, Mary Lou Clifton, Linda Hardenbergh, Robert Kleine, Rev. Kristin Stroble, Bridgette Redman

# Deacons



## Deacons 2020-2021 Report

As I reported last year at this time, with the pandemic and the closing of in-person services, the role of the Deacons changed. We hoped that we would be back to in-person by late fall, then maybe Christmas, or surely by Easter. As you know, none of that happened. So, the Deacons continued their contact with the congregation by making calls (over 50 per month), mailing cards (Birthdays, Anniversaries, Get Well, Thinking of You), emailing and holding monthly Zoom meetings (second Sunday of the month).

The May outdoor service had a limited coffee hour which was well received. We plan to expand on this with the June and August outdoor services.

As the state and the country continues to be vaccinated and things return to more or less "normal", the role of the Deacons will once again change to serve the needs of the congregation. These past 14+ months has been a challenge and I am sure the Board of Deacons will be up to whatever comes next.

This is my last year as a Deacon. It has been a privilege to serve you, and I appreciate how well the Deacons have done in their changing roles.

THESE PAST 14+ MONTHS HAVE  
BEEN A CHALLENGE AND I AM  
SURE THE BOARD OF DEACONS  
WILL BE UP TO WHATEVER

### Outreach



Cards sent out:  
275

Phone Calls per Month:  
50-75



New Members: 3

Linda Hardenbergh, Moderator

Deacons:

Sheryl Blanchard  
Bev Bonning  
Sulin Campbell  
Barb Dalzell  
Judy Dickinson  
Suzanne Hunt  
Sue Kalvonjian

Staying in touch during the pandemic

2020-2021 DEACONS BY THE NUMBERS



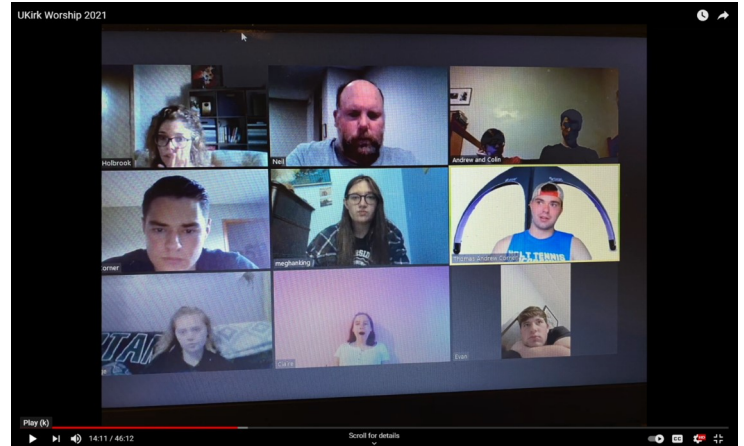


# UKirk



## UKirk 2020-2021 Report

It was a year unlike any other for UKirk at Michigan State, but our ministry continued to grow. Having made the move to virtual meetings in mid-March of 2020 (and continuously through summer, fall, winter and spring through May 2021), our ministry continued to grow. We had remarkable engagement from students, despite only having one UKirker physically living on campus at any point during this past academic year. Zoom kept us connected from Mackinac Island to California, and Ireland to the suburbs of Chicago and lots of different points throughout the state of Michigan both over last summer and during the school year.



We continued to gather weekly for times of worship, prayer, discussion and fellowship. Our weekly offerings expanded during the year with the addition of liberation Bible study. We looked at scripture through the lens of peoples often on the margins of society both in biblical times and today, and Jesus' radically inclusive love. We welcomed some new students to our ministry, including one that has yet to physically set foot on campus as a student due to classes being online for the year. We put together a worship service that Eastminster used on May 16, based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. If you haven't had a chance to see that yet, you can do so at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYSVxu8XkiE&t=152s>

We established the UKirk Book Project, an ongoing effort that will raise awareness of book deserts in Ingham County and beyond. UKirk students built a book deposit box that sits next to the bike rack on the edge of Eastminster's parking lot. The project is seeking to collect new and gently used children's books for any age child through 5th grade, paying special attention to books and authors that represent the full diversity of the image of God in all of God's children. It is vital that children have access to books in their home libraries and that all children have an opportunity to see themselves represented in those books. We are looking forward to a different year in 2021-22, one in which we hope we can return to in-person opportunities and offering the hospitality and welcome that UKirk—with Eastminster's ongoing support—has become known for among students. Thank you to Eastminster's mission team, staff, Session and individuals for your ongoing support of UKirk at Michigan State.



# Nominating Committee

Elders	
Need to fill	Recruited
One 1-year term (class of 2022)	Bob Walter, 1-year term (class of 2022)
One 2-year term (class of 2023)	NEEDED
Four 3-year terms (class of 2024)	Mike Brown, 3-year term (class of 2024)
	Ron Davis, 3-year term (class of 2024)
	NEEDED
	NEEDED
Deacons	
Need to fill	Recruited
Two 2-year terms	Barb Stowitts, 2-year term (class of 2023)
	Brenda Ramsby, 2-year term (class of 2023)
Three 3-year terms	Cindy Nixon, 3-year term (class of 2024)
	Suzanne Hunt, 3-year term (class of 2024)
	NEEDED



**PURPOSE:** To nominate persons to serve the church as ordained elders on the Session, ordained deacons on the Board of Deacons, and to serve as congregational representatives on the Nominating Committee.

**MEMBERS:** The Nominating Committee will be composed of two Elders designated by the Session and one Deacon as designated by the Board of Deacons and four active members of the congregation as elected by the congregation. The pastor shall serve as an ex-officio member of the committee. All members of the Committee will be elected annually for a one year term, and may serve up to three consecutive terms. The Chair of this committee will be an Elder serving currently on the Session of the church.

### **Members of the Nominating Committee**

Estelle McGroarty Elder (Chairperson)

Robin Bell, Elder

Beverly Bonning, Deacon

Charlotte Smith, at-large, year 3

Judy Dunn, at-large, year 3

Mike Foster, at-large, year 1

Heather Heitman, at-large, year 1

Rev. Kristin Stroble, pastor (ex-officio)





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