



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

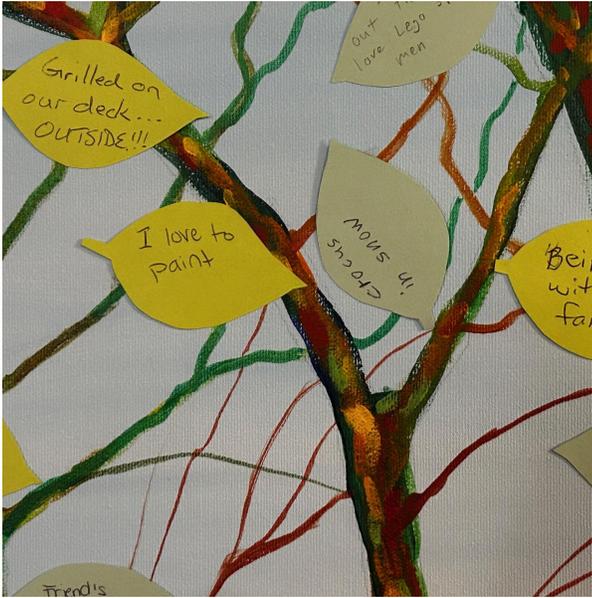
**Service for the Lord's Day
March 8, 2026**



WELCOME!

Whether you are a member or a visitor, worshiping with us in-person or online, you are welcome here.

Information about our church is found in the narthex or online: eastminsterchurch.org. At the welcome table or on our website, you can sign up for our weekly emails.



Children are always welcome in worship at Eastminster. Your child can sit with you in the pew or sit in the space created for children at the front of the sanctuary.

In the pew racks there are prayer cards. If you have a prayer request you can fill that out and put it in the plate during the offering. If you only want the pastor to see it, please mark it

confidential.

There is an offering time during the worship service. You can also give online on our website or by using the QR code at the end of the bulletin.

This is a livestream worship service, and the camera and microphones are on the whole time. While the camera is most often focused on the front of the sanctuary, there is a chance that you will be captured on camera.

** Congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit.
Bold text is read or sung by the congregation.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

March 8, 2026

10:00 p.m.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*Call to Worship

One: If you need good news,

ALL: *settle into this space.*

We have good news to share.

One: If you need a word of hope,

ALL: *then trust us when we say,*

there is hope enough to go around.

One: If you need a glimmer of joy,

ALL: *then you're in luck!*

We have resilient joy abounding.

One: If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,

ALL: *then know that this is God's house.*

One: This is the good news of the gospel.

ALL: *God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move.*

Let us worship our with-us God!

*Hymn Human Minds Just Can't Imagine



Hu - man minds just can't i - ma - gine all that God can bring
 God, ex - pand our dreams and vi - sion when we think our gifts
 Like the grains of wheat are ga - thered from the vast and roll -



to bear Through our small and sep - arate be - ings, e - ven
 too small Help us trust your great pro - vis - ion and to
 -ing fields Like the grapes from vi - ny bran - ches whose small



when we join to share Still we fol - low where Christ leads us,
 an - swer when you call You who gave us time and ta - lents
 fruit the wine will yield We re - mem - ber as one bo - dy,



ma - ny pie - ces of one whole That we might al - low
 will up - hold and see us through As we join to - geth -
 each of us a cru - cial part In the glo - bal church



our dream - ing to trans - form our bro - ken world
 -er in the work you've gi - ven us to do
 pro - fess - ing: we be - long to God's own heart

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God,

with you the impossible is possible.

5,000 can be fed.

The blind can see.

The hopeless can find hope.

With you the impossible is possible,

but we are quick to forget that.

We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done.

We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd.

We forget that you are always with us.

Forgive our small-minded ways.

Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come.

But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it.

With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

***Silent Confession**

***Words of Forgiveness**

***Sung Response #448 Peace of God Be With You**

Am G F Am G F C

Peace of God be with you. Peace of God be with you. Sa -
 As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. Sa -

Dm F Am G F Am

laam, sa - laam. Peace of God be with you.
 laam, sa - laam. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum.

***Passing of the Peace**

(Share the peace of Christ with the people around you.)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children’s Message

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Ephesians 3:20-21 New Testament, p. 182

Scripture Reading Mark 6:32-44 New Testament, p. 39

Sermon The good news is...together, the impossible is possible

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

***Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

*It sounds like welcome
 and feels like home.*

*It sounds like laughter
 and feels like mercy.*

*It sounds like love
 and feels like a seat at the table,*

*so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
I have seen it alive in the world.
And even when my heart aches,
even when wars rage,
even when mercy feels out of reach,
I remember the one who
welcomed the children
and led with nonviolence.
I remember the one who
cared for the vulnerable
and inspired those around him.
I remember that the good news really is good news,
for I have seen it alive in the world.
Thanks be to God! Amen.*

Offering of Resources and Prayer

Financial offerings support the ministry and mission of Eastminster Presbyterian. You can also place prayer requests (cards are in the pew pads) in the offering plate.

***Doxology #606**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People & 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.

***Hymn #761** Called as Partners in Christ's Service

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Lacy Myer

Children's Message: Beverly Bonning

Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze, DMA

Worship Credits: The liturgy is by A Sanctified Art; Hymns are printed and streamed with permission from One License #A-725831.

Usher

Head Usher: Jason Giddings

Greeter

Linda Hardenbergh

Video Producer

Mike Brown

Fellowship

Sulin Campbell

Flowers

Flowers today are given to the glory of God.

Church Leadership and Staff

Rev. Kristin Stroble

Pastor

Rev. Shirley Paxton

Parish Advisor

Neil Myer

Director of Christian Education

Bridgette Redman

Office Administrator

Tamar Mikeladze, DMA

Pianist

This Week at Eastminster: *March 8-March 15*

SUNDAY, 3/8 Centsability

Worship

10:00 a.m.

Fellowship

11:00 a.m.

Deacons	11:30 a.m.
Brass Quintet Rehearsal	2:00 p.m.
LMM Concert	3:00 p.m.
Community Bell Ringers Rehearsal	3:30 p.m.
MONDAY, 3/9	
Girl Scout Troop Meeting	4:30 p.m.
CCR Rehearsal	6:00 p.m.
Trivia at Royal Scot	7:00 p.m.
Queer Heart Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
TUESDAY, 3/10	
Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
LMM Chorale Ensemble	11:00 a.m.
Session	7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, 3/11	
Men's Bible Study	8:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	10:30 a.m.
UKirk Gathering	6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, 3/12	
Middle Ground Gathering	7:00 p.m.
SATURDAY, 3/14	
Advent House	8:30 a.m.
Presbytery Meeting/Dimondale	9:30 a.m.
SUNDAY, 3/15 Centsability	
Worship	10:00 a.m.
Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Children and Adult Education	11:15 a.m.
Brass Quintet Rehearsal	2:00 p.m.
Community Bell Ringers Rehearsal	3:30 p.m.

Centsability

Cents-Ability is a small first step in the battle against hunger and poverty. Congregations invite every member — of all ages — to contribute their change. These small acts of faithfulness can add up. The Community Connections committee periodically sends our accumulated centsability offering to local organizations that feed the hungry.

Advent House

Our next Advent House meal service is March 14. If you can bring a meal, please sign up in the Narthex and pick up a pan with the recipe.



Advocacy Day: March 18, 2026 at Central United Methodist, Lansing

United Methodists and friends from across Michigan will spend the day meeting with lawmakers and encouraging policy action. The focus for this day of advocacy will be on hunger and the need for food security.

This is an opportunity to deepen one's advocacy skills, to meet your legislators, and to join with the ecumenical community in prayer and action. Pastor Kristin will be attending and can help you navigate this event. To learn more and register go here:

<https://miumc.swoogo.com/advocacyday/10295035>

Palm Sunday Path: March 29th from 3-5pm

The Palm Sunday Path is a movement of Christians anchored in Matthew 25 values, organizing in contrast to White Christian Nationalism. On Palm Sunday, March 29th at 3pm there will be a procession in Lansing from Pilgrim Church (125 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing) to the Capitol. Presbyterians are invited to park at First Presbyterian, Lansing (510 W Ottawa St, Lansing) and we will shuttle you to the start of the procession. For more information, reach out to Pastor Kristin.

These times bring us
to a new outlook on
the Palm Sunday Path
Nationally and in Michigan





One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees — serves individuals and communities in need. Received during Lent (Feb. 18–April 5), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need.

You can give to this offering using the envelopes in the pew racks or online at Eastminster’s giving page.

Memorial Service for Rev. Dr. Jeffrey O’Neill

We will give thanks for Jeff’s life and celebrate the promise of resurrection on Saturday, May 2nd at Eastminster. Visitation with the family will begin at 10am, the Memorial Service at 11am, and a lunch will follow.

UKirk receives Partner in Health and Wellbeing Award

UKirk at Michigan State was recognized by Michigan State University at the Spartan Wellbeing Summit at Kellogg Center last Thursday.



The presenter praised UKirk, saying, "UKirk's ... many efforts coordinating volunteers, food drives, student engagement and financial support have helped MSU meet the needs of students facing food insecurity in ways that are reliable, compassionate and grounded in dignity. What sets UKirk apart is how they serve--which is deeply relational,

responsive and rooted in care. Participating students engaging in meaningful service and collaborations that respond to a variety of emerging needs and the personal touches they add to their work help to extend a sense of belonging, express compassion and strengthen connections with their recipients."

Eastminster is proud to to be a partner in ministry and mission with UKirk at Michigan State. We know that campus ministries are rarely acknowledged in this way and this speaks to the deep and long-term impact UKirk continues to make living out Christ's commands to love God and love neighbor.

Daily Devotionals: The Good News is Together the Impossible is Possible

Good news mantra: Together we can make a difference.

Sunday, March 8: What change feels impossible to bring about? Name what feels impossible and offer it all to God.

Prayer: Creating God, can I help change the climate crisis? Can I prevent my body from failing me? Can I do something for the people of Gaza and Sudan? Can I forgive the one who hurt me? Can I do the impossible? Sit with me in the weight of these challenges. Show me how to dream new dreams. With hope I pray, amen.

Monday, March 9: Jesus charged the disciples to feed the crowds. What is Jesus charging you to do in this season of life?

Prayer: Jesus of Nazareth, you could have fed the crowds that day, but instead you had your disciples break bread and pass baskets. You had the disciples feed the crowds before you. In this season of life, what are you charging me to do? In this season of life, how would you like me to grow, to serve, to connect, to partner with others? Amen.

Tuesday, March 10: What is a dream you have for yourself, your church, or the world?

Prayer: Out-of-the-box God, I dream of a vibrant church full of intergenerational joy. I dream of a country without hunger and a world without war. I dream of a neighborhood where we know each other's names, and a city where we eradicate poverty. I have dreams stacked upon dreams and can't help but wonder—what if they aren't impossible? Show me the work that is mine to do. Amen.

Wednesday, March 11: Who in your life helps you believe that you can make a difference?

Prayer: Calling God, you have placed people in my life who inspire me to be a better Christian, a better neighbor, a better version of myself. Those people are like beacons of light in the night, calling me forward and calling me home. Show me how to adopt the courage, the conviction, and the compassion that these saints model for me. And if possible, show me how to be a light for someone else. Amen.

Thursday, March 12: The gospel is full of stories of surprising good. What does this teach us about God?

Prayer: Jesus of Nazareth, time and time again you did the unexpected. You ate with outcasts. You healed on the Sabbath. You flipped tables in the Temple. You welcomed the children. Time and time again, you reinterpreted the law and bent the rules, all in the name of love. What surprising good are you up to today? I don't want to miss it! Amen.



Friday, March 13: Where do you see signs, even small ones, that the impossible might already be shifting? How is God at work around you in ways that give you hope?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, open my eyes to the quiet ways your kin-dom is already breaking in. So often I look for big signs when the truth is that you move through small mercies, everyday kindness, and ordinary acts of courage. Help me notice the places where healing is budding and justice is taking root. Let these glimpses of your movement steady my hope and soften my heart. And as I see the work you are already doing, draw me into it with humility and trust. Amen.

Saturday, March 14: What strength, gift, or resource can you contribute to the work God is already doing—and how might it join with the strengths of others?

Prayer: Collaborating Christ, you never meant for us to do this work alone. From the very beginning, you gathered people and showed us that transformation is born in community. So today I offer what I have: my gifts and my questions, my courage and my care. Take these small pieces and weave them into the good you are already doing in the world. Remind me that my offering matters and that its impact grows when joined with the offerings of others. Amen.

Good news mantra: Like Jesus, I will choose love.

Sunday, March 15: When in your life have you felt cared for? How did that care impact you?

Prayer: Nurturing God, the world may be a harsh place, but I have known love. I have been on the receiving end of a prayer, a casserole, or a “thinking of you” text. I have been given a hand to hold, an encouraging word, an “I see you” head nod. The world may be a harsh place, but I have known love and care. So on long, hard days, help me be sustained by these acts of loving care. On long, hard days, may this love be a balm to my spirit. Amen.



Scan the QR code with your phone to donate online to Eastminster Presbyterian Church and its ongoing ministries.

You can also give via Venmo @EastminsterEL-Church

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www.eastminsterchurch.org

www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing