

Eastminster Eagle

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Notes From **Fred**

Celebrating the Joy of Eastertide

By the time you are reading this article we will be halfway through Eastertide. Sometimes we don't realize what season is going on in the Christian calendar but hopefully this will explain to you why the Easter banners and lilies are still up, and our hymns, songs, and anthems refer to the resurrection and Jesus' appearances after the resurrection to his Ascension.

Easter is the most important Christian holiday, marking the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a time of joy, hope, and renewal. After the solemn period of Lent, Eastertide is a season of celebration and spiritual rejuvenation. It is an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of life, and how to live it to the fullest.

Eastertide is a period of fifty days that begins on Easter Sunday and ends on Pentecost Sunday. During this time, Christians around the world celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope that it brings for all of humanity. The word "tide" is an old English word that means a season or a period of time. So, Eastertide refers to the season of Easter, which is a time of renewal, rebirth, and new beginnings. It is a time to reflect on the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection and to renew our commitment to follow Him.

During Eastertide, we are reminded of Jesus' victory over sin and death and the new life that is available to all who believe in Him. It is a time to experience the joy and hope that come from knowing that our sins have been forgiven and that we have been reconciled to God through Christ. Throughout Eastertide, Christians participate in worship services, prayer, and other spiritual practices that help us reflect on the meaning of the season and deepen our relationship with God. It is a time to experience spiritual renewal and to grow in our faith as we look forward to the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday.

Eastertide is a time of spiritual renewal, and there are many ways to reflect on this season and deepen your connection to faith. Reflection and prayer are two powerful tools for spiritual renewal during Eastertide. Reflect on the resurrection by spending some time each day in quiet contemplation of the meaning and what it means for your own faith journey.

Another way to integrate the Easter message into your daily life is to focus on acts of kindness and compassion. Jesus taught us to love one another, and by focusing on acts

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of kindness and compassion, we can keep this message alive in our daily lives. Whether it's volunteering for the Saturday Morning Breakfast, the Pleasant Grove Food Pantry, at a local charity, helping a neighbor in need, or simply smiling at a stranger, small acts of kindness can help us to stay connected to the joy of Easter and to make a positive difference in the world around us.

Community plays an important role in spiritual renewal. It is a source of encouragement, support, and accountability. Attending worship is another way to deepen your understanding. Talking about your faith in Sunday Church Class or with fellow Christians is great way to challenge and deepen your faith.

As we journey through this season, may we be filled with joy and hope, and may we put out the effort to experience the fullness of life that comes from knowing and following Jesus Christ.



Mother's Day/ Father's Day Offering

The Stewardship Committee has designated the following two programs as recipients of our "extra-giving" on Mother's Day (May 14) and Father's Day (June 18). We will give half of the money collected to each of the following two local programs:

Meals on Wheels: This program is an essential part of the Visiting Nurse Association of Texas. The VNA Meals on Wheels program came together with the help of their donors and friends to continue serving their homebound seniors on a daily basis with meals and even holiday gifts. The caring volunteers continue keeping our vulnerable seniors fed and even comforting friendship during their meal deliveries. Meals on Wheels continues to add new clients from the waiting list to ensure more seniors are being helped daily.

Faith Presbyterian Hospice: This hospice care center is located in Dallas and its palliative care is Medicare certified. Services provided at Faith Presbyterian Hospice include home health aide, counseling, medical social services, medical supply services, nursing services, occupational therapy, physician services, physical therapy, short term inpatient care, and speech pathology services. Faith Presbyterian Hospice also provides special care for people who are terminally ill. This involves a team-oriented approach that addresses the medical, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of the patient. Hospice also provides support to the patient's family or caregiver.

We trust that you will prayerfully give consideration to donating to these programs in the coming weeks.

Stewardship Committee

HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY



WE WERE SURROUNDED

Music has the power to transport us to another world, to evoke emotions we didn't know we had, and to bring people together. This was certainly the case when the Eastfield Early Brass sound engulfed the sanctuary. A sound that surrounded us with live music. The ensemble, made up of talented professionals and amateurs, showcased their skills in a breathtaking performance that left the audience in awe. The spectacular music filled the room, creating an atmosphere of joy and togetherness that carried over into the reception. The Eastfield Early Brass is a group that has a passion for music and it shows in their performance.

This outstanding group of professionals and amateurs played a variety of styles that included sacred, pop, and patriotic. Philip Graham, the conductor, talked about each piece's background giving us an understanding of the history and reasons some were composed. For example, Mr Graham, retired trombonist with the Dallas Symphony, explained how the text for *America the Beautiful* was written. The

program also included the arranger of three of the pieces, Chuck Mandernach, who talked about the pieces he arranged. Chuck is an icon of the Dallas Music scene.

The combination of the beauty and outstanding acoustics of our sanctuary and the enthusiastic audience set the stage for a truly unforgettable performance. The Eastfield Early Brass played with skill and precision, filling the room with powerful, vibrant sounds that echoed through space. As the music swelled and the audience applauded, it was clear that this was a performance that would be remembered for a long time to come.

It was a reminder that music has the power to move us in ways that we cannot fully comprehend, and that even in the midst of all the noise and chaos of our lives, there is always room for reflection and contemplation.

Besides the fantastic sounds of the group the reception afterwards afforded an opportunity to talk with the players, the conductor and the arranger. It was a great

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time as the players we happy to talk to the members of the audience.

Big thanks to the Congregational Care Committee for such terrific table decorations and refreshments.. Thanks also to the Worship Committee and the Session for supporting this program.

Huge thanks to Blair Garrett, Jim Lee, Jacob Whitley, Bruce Turner, and Michele Pappas for helping prepare the Chancel and for restoring the chancel back to worship setting. Huge thanks to Sean Turner for capturing the audio and video.

The attendance in person was very good and included our members, friends and family of the Brass group, some others who came to hear the group and 18 views (as of this writing) who watched it live on YouTube.

Before the reception ended members of the audience and the brass group were talking with me about having the group

come again some time next Spring or maybe this fall.

I hope you enjoyed reading about the Eastfield Early Brass performance. The music was incredible, and the energy of the performers was unmatched. It was clear that the audience was captivated from start to finish.

If you missed the performance you can view it on You Tube at this link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmzL7pWp_3g&t=202s

This coming Sunday, April 30th we will host in our service an orchestral ensemble from Skyline High School. They will play the Voluntary and the Meditation. See you there as these young players bless us with their musical offering.

Fred



Resilience in the storms

"In this world you will have trouble," Jesus says in John 16:33 (NIV). Christians, in other words, should expect sufferings and setbacks that challenge their spiritual resilience. Tim Kight, in a blog post titled "The Resilient Christian," offers these reminders for times of adversity: Trust God. Pray fervently, deeply and boldly. Dig into God's Word. And praise God regardless of your circumstances. "When you are in the storm, trust God and don't flinch," Kight advises.

With that game plan and attitude, we can pray with the prophet Habakkuk: "Though the fig tree does not bud ... and the fields produce no food ... yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior" (3:17-18, NIV).

Honor your mother

Anna Jarvis, the woman who first suggested a national day to honor mothers, had an incredible mother to honor. Her mom, Ann Reeves Jarvis (1832-1905), was a Sunday school teacher and activist who helped lower infant-mortality rates in Appalachia and promoted friendship among families of Civil War soldiers.

At a memorial service for her mother, Anna Jarvis distributed carnations — her mom's favorite flower — to attendees. Her idea to set apart one day each year for moms gained traction, and in 1914, President Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May Mother's Day. It was customary by then to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living.

Of the white flowers, Jarvis said they "symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother

love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying."

Come as you are

As a young pastor, Stan Purdum de-husked black walnuts one Saturday, not realizing his hands would be badly stained. They looked filthy, he recalls, and the marks would not wash off; they'd have to wear off. Then Purdum realized he'd be serving Holy Communion the next day.

Before distributing the elements, the pastor apologized to congregants, explaining that his hands were washed but just stained. Years later, Purdum reflected: "Now that I have a fuller grasp of theology under my belt, I think a better thing for me to say would have been, 'Nobody comes to Communion with clean hands.'"

We're all unworthy to receive Jesus' body and blood, but that's exactly why he offers it. Thanks be to God for redeeming and forgiving us — wiping away the stain of our sins!

—adapted from *The Wired Word*



Neighborhood Breakfast Update

Date	Total	Served Guests	Servers
2/25/23	58	39	19
3/4/23	61	49	12
3/11/23	60	52	8
3/18/23	45	34	11

We've had another wonderful month of service. Our numbers continue to go up despite inclement weather. We're seeing families from the surrounding neighborhoods, homeless persons, as well as individuals on limited fixed incomes. In addition to hot breakfasts, we are also providing numerous 'to go' meals (I call them "clamshells").

The other two churches provide help two Saturdays a month and it has led to other collaborative efforts. We are talking to the people of the Ferguson Road Initiative to see how we can help them. We also helped Christian Stronghold with their Easter Egg Hunt.

The Saturday morning serving and comradery has become very meaningful to all of us who serve. One story and one picture sum it up.

The story: About a month ago, I was speaking with one of our regulars who took a phone call. I asked what that was about. He said he was trying to get his daughter and two young grandchildren to come in from the parking lot to get some breakfast. She said she didn't want to because she didn't want to have to

listen to all that religion. He explained it wasn't like that. Ultimately, she and the kids came in and got breakfast. They had a great time and have been coming back semi regularly.

The picture: On March 11, the mother was at breakfast with the two kids, ages 2 and 4. While I was talking to the mother and her father, I looked over at the book rack. Darlene was sitting in a chair by the book rack with the two kids in her lap. She was reading a children's book to them. They were enthralled and Darlene had a huge smile of pure joy.

Other mornings, you should see Blair or Jim pushing the toy plastic car around the Fellowship Hall with one, two, or even three or four little occupants. All, young and old, are laughing and making automobile noises. I think I can speak for all of us and say that we receive way more spiritually and emotionally than we give. We are so blessed and our Church is so blessed. Please come visit and see what is happening.

Tom

Update on Lenten Service Project

On March 12, a group of us met after church. We had a nice lunch, courtesy of Jason's Deli. Then we began filling food bags with non-perishables so that people who come to the church on Saturday or other days that don't have access to regular meals won't go away hungry or have to worry where at least one more meal will come from. We put together 100 bags.

Additionally, we put together some toy bags for the little ones that come to church on Sunday or to Saturday morning breakfast. The idea was all Kenison's. A special shout out to Chandra who went shopping just so that we would have toys and stuffed animals for all the children's bags.

It says something about our community of faith that we can make a difference, large and small, for those who come through our doors.

Tom



Breath of the Spirit

The breathing I did yesterday will not keep me alive today. I must continue to breathe afresh every moment, or my life will cease. In like manner, yesterday's grace and spiritual strength must be renewed, and the Holy Spirit must continue to breathe on my soul from moment to moment in order that I may continue to enjoy him and to work the works he has assigned me.

—Augustus Toplady

Our proper role

“We’re called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.” This quip may bring a chuckle, but it’s also a good reminder as we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord (May 18 this year). Jesus directed his disciples to spread the good news he had taught them: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses ...” (Acts 1:8, NRSV).

While professional lawyers and judges certainly have their place in society and can serve God by working for genuine justice for all, we are not called in daily life to judge others’ morality or relationship with God. “Do not judge,” Jesus says, “and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven” (Luke 6:37, NIV). And what is one of the most powerful forms of witness to Christ? Forgiveness.



According to Peter, at what time of day did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples on Pentecost?

- A. 9 a.m.
- B. Noon
- C. 3:30 p.m.
- D. 9 p.m.

Answer: A (See Acts 2:15.)



**"Next year let's buy two carnations
for the oldest mother."**

Why is a computer so smart?
It listens to its motherboard.

Why did you chop the joke book in half?
Mom said to cut the comedy.

Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days?
Because their kids have to play inside!

What did the mother rope say to her child?
“Don’t be knotty.”

Scripture Readings for May

1 Pss. 97; 145	12 Pss. 96; 148	23 Pss. 98; 146
2 Pss. 98; 146	13 Pss. 92; 149	24 Pss. 99; 147:1–11
3 Pss. 99; 147:1–11	14 Pss. 93; 150	25 Pss. 47; 147:12–20
4 Pss. 47; 147:12–20	15 Pss. 97; 145	26 Pss. 96; 148
5 Pss. 96; 148	16 Pss. 98; 146	27 Pss. 92; 149
6 Pss. 92; 149	17 Pss. 99; 147:1–11	28 Pss. 104; 150
7 Pss. 93; 150	18 Pss. 47; 147:12–20	29 Pss. 135; 145
8 Pss. 97; 145	19 Pss. 96; 148	30 Pss. 123; 146
9 Pss. 98; 146	20 Pss. 92; 149	31 Pss. 15; 147:1–11
10 Pss. 99; 147:1–11	21 Pss. 93; 150	
11 Pss. 47; 147:12–20	22 Pss. 97; 145	



Prepare to be empowered

Contrary to common perception, Jesus' disciples weren't frightened and hiding during the 10 days

between Ascension and Pentecost. Instead, they were actively preparing for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. They "all joined together constantly in prayer" (Acts 1:14, NIV) and took steps to replace Judas.

After that inward focus, the disciples were ready to boldly burst forth on Pentecost, empowered and "enabled" (Acts 2:4) by the Spirit. They proclaimed Christ's death and resurrection, leading 3,000 people to faith that day, now known as the church's birthday.

"A great wave of faith and love swept through this newborn community," writes Suzanne de Dietrich in *Free Men*. "These Christians could not keep silent. Their joyful liberty had broken down all the walls behind which people would like to keep them; no prison could silence them."



The power of (God's) light

Do most people truly feel happier in spring? Is the light brighter, the sky bluer? Meteorologists say yes. The shorter, blue wavelengths of sunlight scatter more efficiently than long, red ones; as the sun rises higher in spring, the light passes through less atmosphere, making the sky appear bluer. Outdoor levels of light have proven as effective as Prozac to combat depression — and May is the sunniest month!

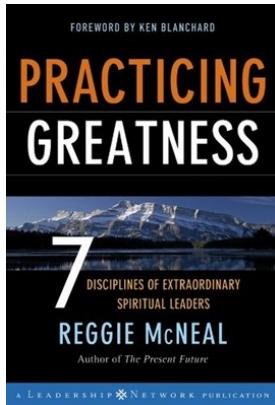
The Bible frequently uses light as a metaphor for God: "The Lord is my light and my salvation" (Psalm 27:1); "Let us walk in the light of the Lord" (Isaiah 2:5); "The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world" (John 1:9). Darkness isn't bad; seeds sprout in dark soil, life begins in the dark womb, and darkness protected the Hebrews fleeing Pharaoh and the holy family fleeing Herod.

But light is one apt image for God because most of us know the joy, health and energy light brings. Both in spring and through faith in the God who enlightens all, may we "live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8).

—Heidi Hyland Mann



“God has not called you to your life mission in spite of who you are; he has called you precisely because of who you are.” —Reggie McNeal, *Practicing Greatness*



“You shouldn’t go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back.”

—Maya Angelou

“Happiness is like jam. You can’t spread even a little without getting some on yourself.” —Unknown

A 96-year-old lady was a faithful attendant at my women’s Bible studies.



She came with her lessons prepared and knew all the answers. One day a tactless member asked her, “Why do you work so hard on these lessons when you’re

so old and it doesn’t matter?” Little Bess Elkins looked up and said confidently, “I’m cramming for my finals.”

—Florence Littauer,
Women’s Devotional Bible

Life immortal

At the end of May, Americans honor those who’ve died for our country — and remember all deceased loved ones. These times of reflection, often in cemeteries, can make us ponder our own mortality. Even some Christians may fear the unknown of death.

Yet because of our faith, followers of Jesus can aim to make productive use of whatever earthly time we have left. We know the grave isn’t the end. Consider this poetic description of life everlasting from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: “Dust thou art, to dust returnest / was not spoken of the soul.”

To our death-defying, death-defeating God we pray: Eternal God, empower us to take hold of the eternal life to which Christ calls us, and to boldly testify of it to anyone who asks the reason for our hope. To the immortal King of the ages, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to him be honor, glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.





MAY BIRTHDAYS

Doris Parker	5/2
Bill Davis	5/5
Sean Turner	5/9
Julie Watkins	5/14
Kayla Kreger	5/15
Emily Wood	5/17
Melody Davis	5/21



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Elizabeth & Sean Kelleher	5/15
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Chandra Anderson

Betty Crabtree

Blair Garrett

Philis Knox

Dick Knox

Jim Lee

Tom Pappas

Charlotte Turner

Sean Turner

Fred Watkins



Director of Music

Fred P. Watkins

Organist

Melody S. Davis

Administrative Assistant

Chandra Anderson

Hostess/Housekeeper

Minerva Hernandez

Child Care Provider

Betty Crabtree



HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING

April 16, 2023

At the April 16 Stated Meeting, the Session

- ◆ Enjoyed a meal provided by Bruce and Charlotte Turner.
- ◆ Welcomed Guest Moderator, Rev. Mary Stewart Hall.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Treasurer that Eastminster's financial position for March is good.
- ◆ Approved Pulpit Supply arranged by the Worship Committee.
- ◆ Approved a request to use the Fellowship Hall for a baby shower for Alex Pappas.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Congregational Care Chair regarding visitation with shut-in members.
- ◆ Continued discussion on the idea of partnering with First Presbyterian Church Garland concerning the possibility of shared ministry.



Special dates

- ◆ National Day of Prayer, May 4, 2023
- ◆ Mother's Day, May 14, 2023
- ◆ Ascension Day, May 18, 2023
- ◆ Armed Forces Day, May 20, 2023
- ◆ Victoria Day (Canada), May 22, 2023
- ◆ Pentecost, May 28, 2023
- ◆ Memorial Day, May 29, 2023