

Eastminster Eagle

Volume 40, Issue 6

June 2023



May 28 is Pentecost Sunday, and we will celebrate the birth of the Christian Church and Eastminster's birthday!

Pentecost's liturgical color is red. Red symbolizes the tongues of flame in which the Holy Spirit seemed to appear to the disciples and the people they preached to in the streets that day. Over 3000 believed!

So wear red to church this Sunday, May 28. We have 3 birthdays to celebrate, the birth of the Christian Church, Eastminster's birthday, and the day you chose to be a Christian.

The other day I was asked why I was a Presbyterian since I was raised an East Texas Southern Baptist, and yes, in those days they were a little different and distinctive from other Southern Baptists. I have been a Presbyterian for over 53 years. I have also been a Methodist and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) member. I have sung for several Catholic and Episcopal Masses and Jewish services in Temples, Synagogues, and Congregations. I am a follower of Christ who died for us. I chose the Presbyterian Church because of how we govern ourselves. As with any system, it's not perfect but works well. Of the denominations where I have been a member, there are some theological differences between them, but they all have some things in common: belief in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. So, it is this day that all Christians have the same basic core beliefs: that Jesus taught us to love our families, our friends, our neighbors, and the world. Jesus taught us to help others. When he helped people Jesus didn't ask them about their color, gender, or ethnic background, he just helped them.

I have been reading some stories told by Fred Craddock, a famous Disciples of Christ Pastor, Preacher and seminary professor, The following says what I'm trying to say to myself and to you better than I can. Dr. Craddock tells this story:

"Rear Admiral Thornton Miller came into my life in my younger years. I was a freshman at Johnson Bible College, and Rear Admiral Miller came and spoke in chapel and then talked to some of us boys after chapel. He was the highest-ranking chaplain in the military at the time. He looked great in that uniform. He had been at Normandy on June 6, 1944, D-Day and the day of the slaughter, and he described it that evening in the dorm to some of us, how he was going from soldier to soldier, screaming, crying, dying, trying to say a few words of comfort, have prayer, words of comfort, have a prayer and repeating the same over and over.

Someone asked, "Up and down the beach, with the shells going everywhere? Why did you do that?"

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His answer: "I'm a minister."

And the person began again, "But didn't you ask if they were Catholic, Protestant, or Jew? Did you just...I mean, if you're a minister..."

Now, get this. Rear Admiral Miller said, "If you're a minister, the only question you ask is, 'Can I help you?'"

Jesus told us in John 14 our Gospel Lesson on May 14th, Mother's Day, "to love one another." 57 other times in John he says "love." At other times and ways, he tells us to help the poor, the children, and others.

Jesus didn't say "Only the ministers do this." He didn't ask about their color, ethnic background, gender, nationality, or belief. He just said "Help."

Lord, I pray you will keep us all aware of the opportunities to help someone with a deed, kind words, or a smile that we can be as the hymn says "...let others see Jesus in me."



IN THE

Pulpit

In the Pulpit for June:

June 4—Alice Hernandez, Senior Chaplin and Chaplin Trainer for Parkland Health Systems and for the U.S. Airforce

June 11—Vernon Wease, Former Methodist pastor, Director, and Chaplain for Salvation Army shelter and graduate of Perkins.

June 18—Dr. Paul Burns, former pastor at 1st Garland

June 25—Dr. Greg Smith, Director of the White Rock Center of Hope





2023 Women's Retreat: Grounded Experiencing God's Presence Here & Now

The five of us had a glorious weekend: Christine Blair, Chauffer; Kathy Kreger, Navigator, and the one who attempted to keep us in line; Philis Knox, OSHA monitor, back-seat driver, and historian; Judy Moreland and me, Chandra Anderson. Judy and I listened and followed Kathy's rules.

Jessie Light-Wells was our worship leader for the weekend and Miranda Dolive was our music leader. Jessie was wonderful, as always, and the music really spoke to me with such hymns as *Come thou Fount of Every Blessing*, *Morning has Broken*, *All in All*, *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, and many more.

We arrived on Friday and had a wonderful dinner and our first **Grounded** service using Luke 19:1-20.

Afterward, Philis taught us a game, which I proceeded to lose. But it was fun anyway.

On Friday night, the rains came. The lightening show was beautiful. I, being on "dog feeding" time, woke up at 6:30 a.m. and just listened to the birdsong and the wonderful morning sounds.

Since breakfast wasn't until 8, I ventured over to Chair Yoga with Pennie. I had to go by myself, as I couldn't get anyone else interested.

After breakfast, our Saturday Session was

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From our treasurer (aka, our financial guru and master negotiator)

The finances of Eastminster continue to be strong as we meet all of the needs of our committees, mission activities, and employees. Our reserves have recovered as the market enjoyed gains in the first quarter of 2023. We have negotiated a better insurance premium for our property without compromising coverage. Our members generously give to their beloved church for the Lord's work and to His glory. Thank you to all our members and friends who give of their precious financial resources and contribute so selflessly their time and efforts.

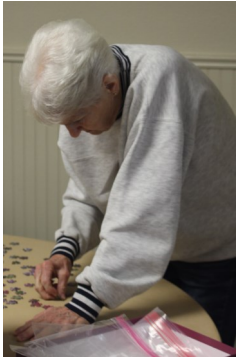
The first quarter giving statements have been emailed to those who have email addresses, and handed out or mailed to those without an email address, and anyone who would like a mailed copy can request one from the office. If anyone has questions about church finances, please reach out to me at treasurer@eastminsterdallas.org or by phone 214-402-3152.

God is always good,

Cindy

Grounded in the Here and Now—Mark 10. Another wonderful Session.

Then free time. And here is where things went a bit awry for me. They offered a guided hike. My mind says, “Of course you can do this—you used to do it all the time.” My body said, “Ha! Ha! You fool!” Yes, I took a bit of a tumble down a hill in the nice wet, red dirt. Okay, no more hiking for me. Shoulda stuck with chair yoga.



During the free time, Judy, Philis, and I did some “pour painting.” And I must say that ours were definitely the best. Christine chose working a puzzle.

The Prayer Stations offered different types of prayers and meditation from sand art to finger

Labyrinth to collage making.

There was also ax throwing—Dick and Tim, you better be nice to Philis and Kathy.



Saturday evening before dinner was the hymn sing—participants picked a hymn from the blue hymnal and we sang. We had another *Grounded* service, and we got so wrapped up in talking that we almost missed the S’mores.

Sunday worship was our last *Grounded* session, then lunch and home.

We laughed, talked, shared, and grew close. I cherish these women. This Women’s Retreat is something we all need to do. It was thoughtful, peaceful, grounding. Let’s all go next year!



Judy making art with paint pouring.

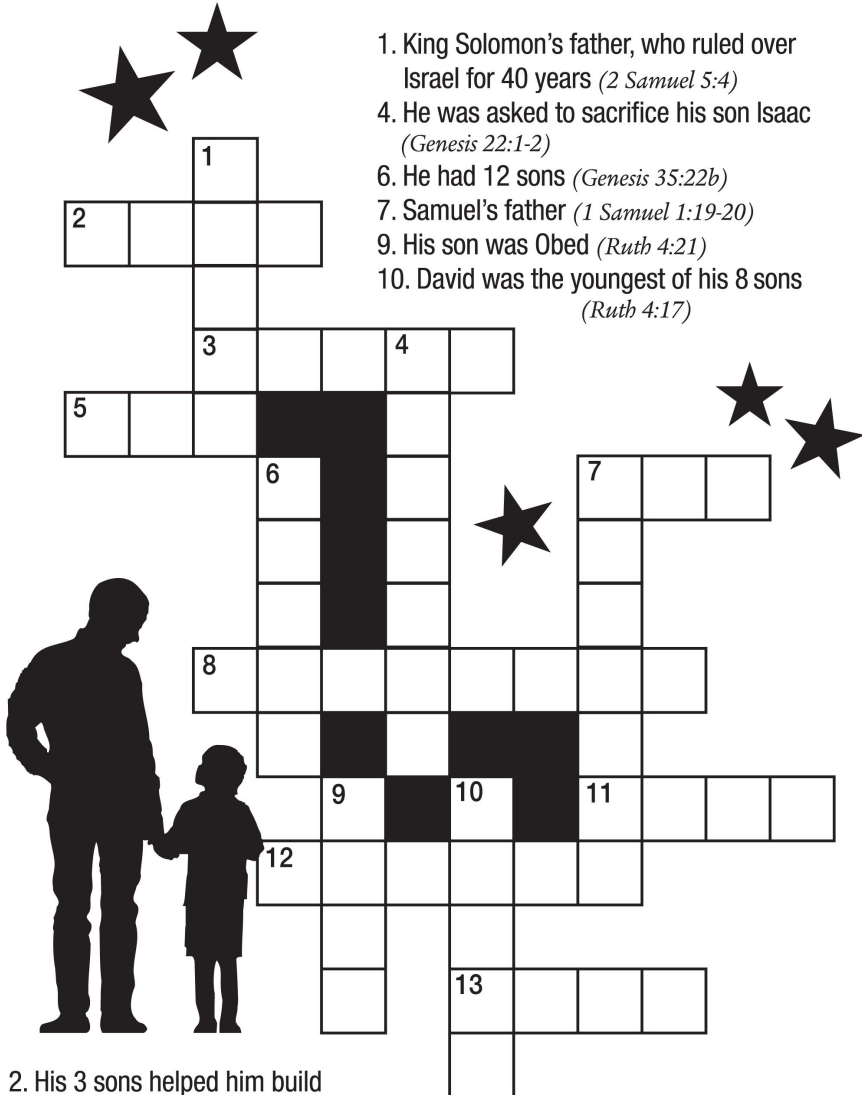


Kathy and Philis showing their expertise at Ax Throwing



Puzzle!

Complete this crossword with names of biblical fathers.
Use the references for help, if needed.



- 1. King Solomon's father, who ruled over Israel for 40 years (2 Samuel 5:4)
- 4. He was asked to sacrifice his son Isaac (Genesis 22:1-2)
- 6. He had 12 sons (Genesis 35:22b)
- 7. Samuel's father (1 Samuel 1:19-20)
- 9. His son was Obed (Ruth 4:21)
- 10. David was the youngest of his 8 sons (Ruth 4:17)

- 2. His 3 sons helped him build an ark (Genesis 6:10)
- 3. His youngest son, Jacob, tricked him into giving away a birthright (Genesis 27:30)
- 5. The Father of our Lord (Ephesians 1:3)
- 7. His sons were not like Samuel; they were wicked (1 Samuel 2:12)
- 8. David's best friend and the father of Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:6)
- 11. Father of Cain, Abel and Seth (Genesis 4:25)
- 12. He was married to Mary, mother of Jesus (Matthew 1:20-21)
- 13. Father of Jonathan; Israel chose him as their first king (2 Samuel 9:6)

Answer: DOWN 1. David, 4. Abraham, 6. Jacob, 7. Elkanah, 8. Jonathan, 11. Adam, 12. Joseph, 13. Saul, 9. Boaz, 10. Jesse; ACROSS 2. Noah, 3. Isaac, 5. God, 7. Eli,

“Rest is not idle, is not wasteful. Sometimes rest is the most productive thing you can do for body and soul.”

—Erica Layne

“The beginning of love is the will to let those we love be perfectly themselves, the resolution not to twist them to fit our own image.”

—Thomas Merton

“Earn your success based on service to others, not at the expense of others.”

—H. Jackson Brown Jr.

“The [person] who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones.”

—Confucius

The engine of marriage

Being in love is a good thing, but it is not the best thing. Love is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by the grace which both partners ask and receive from God. On this love the engine of marriage is run; being in love was the explosion that started it. —C.S. Lewis

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COMMISSIONED PASTORS AND FRED

As most of you know, I have preached in our worship services from time to time over the years.

You also know that since my first Director of Music position in 1957, I have been preaching through the anthems, hymns, and songs that are used in the Worship service. I have, off and on since '57, preached. For two summers while in college I worked for the Texas Baptist Student Department leading in Youth-led Revivals. Over the years, I have served as full and part-time Director of Music and Arts, Director of Education, Youth Director, and Associate Minister in some very large and medium Methodist, Presbyterian, and Disciples of Christ churches. I was a licensed Minister in the Disciples of Christ church. God has opened many doors for me over the years teaching in High School, Middle School, and at UNT.

All those years since I was in high school, I have, off and on, heard this little voice that said you should do more. At first, I interpreted it to mean ministering through music and education and that is what I did but still, that voice sometimes was heard again. Last year it became louder.

Isabella and Michael were planning their wedding and asked me if I would marry them. My minister license would have allowed me to do so, however, I felt it was not valid since I was no longer in that denomination. Then Harry Meissner and I were talking, and he mentioned the Commissioned Pastor ("CP") program that the Presbyterian church started a few years back to help small churches to have a Pastor that couldn't afford a full-time minister. Then I represented our church at a Presbytery meeting and talked with Deirdre Maples who is a CP and serves a Church. She introduced me to another lady who was also one. Talked again with Harry about it and then with Sherry. All this time asking God if I was interpreting correctly. Shirlene, Harry, and Sherry suggested I proceed so the first step was to get the Session's approval which was given last October. Then I had to fill out a very long application form that required some deep thinking and self-examination. I finished it over a couple of weeks of work and prayer. Prevailed on Harry to look it over and

mailed it to the Presbytery the first part of December and waited and waited.

In the first part of April, I finally had the chair of the Subcommittee on CP's contact me and I interviewed with that committee. They were very positive. Usually, CP's must take 7-8 courses from Austin Seminary, but because of my work experience and Bible and other classes I had taken, they were going to recommend that I be exempt from that requirement. I then had to meet with the larger committee. After questioning, they welcomed me to the program and told me who my supervisor would be. I have attended the Lectionary discussion group twice monthly which includes CPs and some Ordained Ministers. I have a few more hoops to jump through and thus far things are going well.

What does all this mean? At this time, I have not been led to retire as Director of Music at Eastminster. It does mean that I can preach, of course, any Elder can do that if they wish, but this is more official. One is not a fully Commissioned Pastor until they receive a call from a Congregation. Then the Presbytery, as it does with Ministers, authorizes one to serve communion, baptize, marry, and bury members for that specific congregation.

I hope you will remember me in your prayers that God will continue to guide this calling.

Fred Watkins



All God's Children

On the basis of the eternal will of God, we have to think of every human being,

even the oddest, most villainous or miserable, as one to whom Jesus Christ is Brother and God is Father; and we have to deal with him on this assumption. If the other person knows that already, then we have to strengthen him in the knowledge. If he does not know it yet or no longer knows it, our business is to transmit this knowledge to him.

On the basis of the knowledge of the humanity of God, no other attitude to any kind of fellow man is possible. It is identical with the practical acknowledgment of his human rights and his human dignity. To deny it to him would be for us to renounce having Jesus Christ as Brother and God as Father.

—Karl Barth, *The Humanity of God*

Come glorify God together

Don't use summer as an excuse to skip church! By gathering in corporate worship, we obey God's command, become equipped for Christian living, and minister to our fellow pilgrims. Consider these tips for engaging in corporate worship.

First, show up — in person if you can. Examine your heart and your motivation for attending church. Lift up your eyes from earthly matters to focus on God.

Come prepared. Do you need to confess anything or remove any hindrance? As you worship, consider how each part of the service displays the gospel: greeting, singing, confessing, reading

Scripture, hearing Bible-based teaching, praying, giving and communing.

Be careful not to compartmentalize corporate worship as separate from the rest of life. Instead, consider how you'll carry the experience into the coming week. Come ready to receive; then let that overflow fuel you for the days ahead. Come prepared to participate, knowing that worshiping together is a rehearsal for heaven. But most importantly? Just come.

—Monica L. Wilkinson

Just like Dad

At the beginning of his ministry



career, Jerry Steen supplemented his income by mixing animal feed. When his two young boys greeted him at home, they laughed at his dusty appearance before he headed to the shower.

"I didn't think too much of this until I was washing my car and saw my older son doing something very strange," Steen recalls. "He was picking up the gravel and stones in our drive and rubbing them into his pants." Curious, the father asked what the boy was doing. "I want to be dusty like you, Dad!" his son replied.

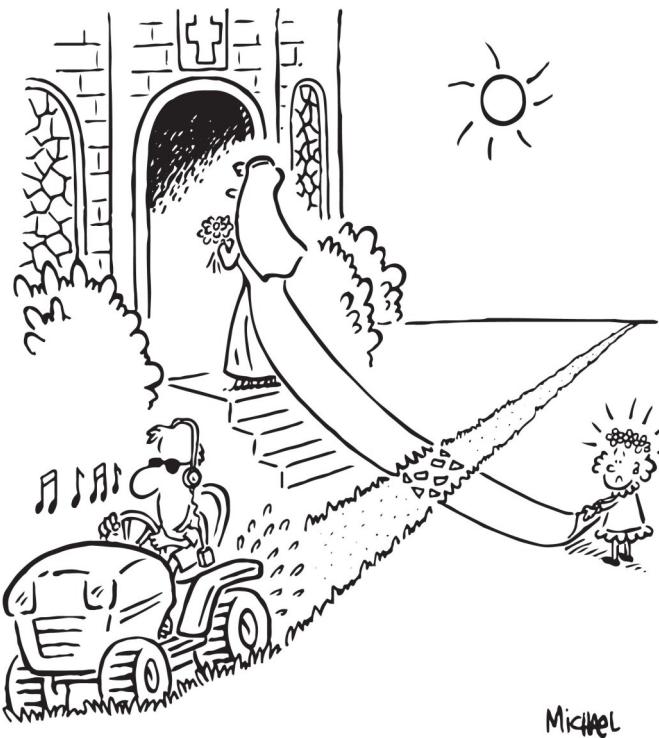
For Steen, that was an eye-opener. "I realized that if a child would look up to his father for being dusty and want to copy his father," he says, "a child could look up to his father and follow him for anything." What traits and qualities are you modeling and passing on — to your own kids and to anyone else who looks up to you?

What does God compare to rain “watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater”?

- A. The justice of the nations
- B. The work of God’s people
- C. The message of Isaiah the prophet
- D. God’s word



(ANSWER: D (See Isaiah 55:10-11, NIV.))



The wedding was so beautiful, even the cake was in tiers.

Did you hear about the two spiders who got engaged? They met on the web.

I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger and bigger. Then it hit me.

What did the baseball glove say to the ball? “Catch ya later!”

Why are frogs good baseball players? Because they’re good at catching flies.

Why did Cinderella get kicked off the baseball team? She ran away from the ball.

We’re renovating the house. The first floor is going great, but the second floor is another story.

Scripture Readings for June

1 Pss. 36; 147:12–20	11 Pss. 108; 150	21 Pss. 89:1–18; 147:1–11
2 Pss. 130; 148	12 Pss. 62; 145	22 Pss. 97; 147:12–20
3 Pss. 56; 149	13 Pss. 12; 146	23 Pss. 51; 148
4 Pss. 103; 150	14 Pss. 96; 147:1–11	24 Pss. 104; 149
5 Pss. 57; 145	15 Pss. 116; 147:12–20	25 Pss. 19; 150
6 Pss. 54; 146	16 Pss. 84; 148	26 Pss. 135; 145
7 Pss. 65; 147:1–11	17 Pss. 63; 149	27 Pss. 123; 146
8 Pss. 143; 147:12–20	18 Pss. 103; 150	28 Pss. 15; 147:1–11
9 Pss. 88; 148	19 Pss. 5; 145	29 Pss. 36; 147:12–20
10 Pss. 122; 149	20 Pss. 42; 146	30 Pss. 130; 148

Finding freedom

Juneteenth, America's newest federal holiday, marks the official end of slavery in the nation. President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Applying only to the states in the Confederacy, it declared "that all persons held as slaves are, and henceforward shall be free." But news of freedom didn't reach Galveston, Texas, until June 19, 1865, when 2,000 Union troops arrived to enforce the decree. The U.S. Constitution's 13th Amendment, which bans slavery, was ratified a few months later.

Just as freedom and justice came in fits and starts to the Israelites, so it comes to our own country and around the world, where the pursuit for justice continues. —adapted from *The Wired Word*

Being good sports

When gestures of sportsmanship go viral, they often feature young athletes. In 2022, a Little League baseball player who took a pitch to the head later hugged the distraught opposing pitcher. Evangelist Ken Weliever says pro athletes, politicians, media personalities and everyday Americans should follow that example rather than focusing on revenge.

"Sadder still is when entire churches are disrupted by petty squabbles, partisan politics and overzealous opinions," he writes. "Relationships have been ruptured, marriages dissolved and families torn apart due to a harsh response to hurts instead of a spirit of forgiveness and an attitude of reconciliation."

Christians may sometimes feel tempted to seek payback, but Jesus calls us to live differently. "We need to be reminded that we are to be a transformed people, not conformed to the attitudes and actions of this world (Romans

12:1-2)," says Weliever. "To be light in a world of darkness. And to be the pure, preserving salt in a society that's become corrupted and impure (Matthew 5:13-16)."



Summer solace

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. As long as this exists, and it certainly always will, I know that then there will always be comfort for every sorrow, whatever the circumstances may be. And I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles.

—Anne Frank,
Diary of a Young Girl



Divine dance

Using the fancy word perichoresis (from Greek for “around” and “contain”) may win you admiring — or strange! — looks. But since the 7th century, people have used it as a beautiful image of the Persons of the Holy Trinity containing and permeating one another. A more familiar word, choreography, has led to recent understandings of perichoresis as the divine and eternal dance of love.

Picture three dancers’ synchronized yet independent movements. Weaving gracefully in and out, each seems to know what the others will do next. They may touch lightly but don’t constrain or impede one another. Though distinct individuals, they move so fluidly together that they are, in a sense, one entity.

Even more profound: Jesus invites us into the dance! “If you love me,” he says, “you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth. ... I will come to you. ... I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you” (John 14:15-20, ESV). As the actions of Jesus, the Father and the Spirit interweave in Scripture and in the world, may our lives too be drawn into the loving dance.



God remembers

It is not difficult for me to remember that the little ones need breakfast in the morning, dinner at midday and something before they go to bed at night. Indeed I could not forget it. And I find it impossible to suppose that our heavenly Father is less tender or mindful than I. ... I do not believe that our heavenly Father will ever forget his children. I am a very poor father, but it is not my habit to forget my children. God is a very, very good Father. It is not his habit to forget his children.
 —J. Hudson Taylor

Pleasant Grove Food Pantry for month of April 2023



<i>Date</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Seniors</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
4-3	134	277	76	195	548	10,110
4-4	292	576	152	455	1183	21,700
4-10	166	287	120	212	619	12,146
4-11	173	364	94	260	718	13,365
4-17	197	348	123	265	736	14,570
4-18	238	472	134	344	950	17,538
4/24	150	292	84	198	574	11,200
4/25	276	538	138	438	1114	20,792
TOTAL	1626	3154	921	2367	6442	121,521



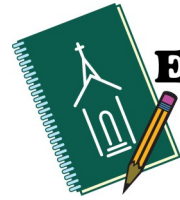
JUNE BIRTHDAYS

John Randall	6/6
Chandra Karlen	6/8
Kenneth Kraft	6/9
Daniel Pappas	6/11
Drew Turner	6/14
Heather Crabtree	6/19
Abbygayle Flores	6/25
Alicia Almanza	6/28
Nina Uche	6/30
Denise Veloz	6/30



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Philis & Dick Knox	6/7/1969
Shirlene and Fred Watkins	6/13/1964
Gary and Sherry Holloman	6/18/1999
Charlotte and Bruce Turner	6/26/1982



**Eastminster
Session**

- 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

May 21, 2023

At the May 21 Stated Meeting, the Session:

- ◆ Enjoyed a meal provided by Blair and Cindy Garrett.
- ◆ Welcomed Guest Moderator, Rev. Mary Stewart Hall.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Treasurer that Eastminster's financial position for April is good.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Treasurer that our One Great Hour of Sharing offering raised \$600, to be split between the Presbytery and Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services.
- ◆ Approved two motions from the House and Property Committee for room rentals.
- ◆ Approved the removal of Stella Post from the rolls, with thanksgiving for her life.
- ◆ Approved the removal of Doyle Oliver from the rolls, with thanksgiving for his life.
- ◆ Heard and discussed a report from the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee regarding progress in securing an Interim Pastor.
- ◆ Tabled discussion on the idea of partnering with First Presbyterian Church Garland concerning the possibility of shared ministry.



Special dates

- ◆ Trinity Sunday, June 4, 2023
- ◆ Flag Day, June 14, 2023
- ◆ Father's Day, June 18, 2023
- ◆ Juneteenth, June 19, 2023
- ◆ First day of summer, June 21, 2023