

Eastminster Eagle

Volume 42, Issue 10

October 2025



Dear Members and Friends,

Our congregation's form of worship falls under the category of liturgical as opposed to contemporary. The term liturgy literally means "work of the people". Presbyterian worship is not simply the work of a pastor and musicians. It is the work of all the people present. Our order of worship is not random. Every part of worship from the Call to Worship to the Charge and Benediction has an essential function and flows in a very mindful order that dates back to the early centuries of Christian practice. The goal is to fully express and experience the Gospel and lead us into the worship of God. Over the next few months my newsletter article will focus on a different element of worship.

I will start with the "Call to Worship". In essence, the Call to Worship is an invitation to orient our minds and hearts toward the worship of God. Each worshipper comes from their busy and often challenging lives. We are naturally self-centered and most often thinking about ourselves and burdened by the troubles of the world. The Call to Worship directs our minds from our own lives and the troubles of the world to the God who holds our lives and the whole world in his hands.

In my recent travels to Europe, we had the daily experience of coming out of the frenetic pace of the cities we visited into the ancient cathedrals of the Old World. Most people entering were tourists like us. Who knows what their faith was? But without fail when people entered these sacred spaces there appeared to be a shift in attitude and tone. Any speaking was limited to whispers. A sense of awe and reverence overtook us all. You couldn't help but to sit and reflect upon the majesty of God and maybe even pray to him. That is what our Call to Worship is about. We leave the Old World and enter God's eternal realm of which he is the center of—not ourselves or our troubles.

Our Call to Worship is in the form of a responsive litany. The leader reads a line and then the worshippers read a line-- the work of the people! There's a rhythm to it that over time trains our minds and hearts to leave behind our troubles and enter God's eternal peace and joy. We enter God's space and time. We lose ourselves in wonder, love, and praise to be found once again in the embrace of our loving Lord.

Let us worship God!

Pastor Paul



GOSPEL MASS

If you want to feel your toes tapping and your body swaying to the rhythm of the music while engaging your mind in a new way to praise God, this Worship service is for you.

Gospel Mass, composed by Robert Ray, will be the main musical feature of our World Communion Service on October 5. Initially conceived as an experimental piece, Ray's Gospel Mass has evolved into a seminal work in African-American music, performed by choirs and churches worldwide. The Gospel Mass, written for a mixed choir and accompanied by piano, electric bass, and drums, draws inspiration from the gospel music that originated in America and has since spread globally.

The various movements of the Gospel Mass are structured around the communion service, which has been passed down to us over the centuries from the early churches through Roman Catholic and Anglican traditions.

Kyrie: "Lord Have Mercy, Christ Have Mercy" is akin to our Confession.

Gloria: "Glory to God in the Highest" aligns with our "Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me."

Credo: "I Believe in God" resembles our Affirmation of Faith.

Acclamation: "Hallelujah, Praise the Lord" relates to our prayers of Thanksgiving.

Sanctus: "Holy, Holy, Lord God..." parallels the "Holy, Holy" we sing during the Communion Service.

Agnus Dei: "Lamb of God" is similar to the Lamb of God we have sung during Communion in the past.

Melody Davis will be playing the piano, Sean Turner will perform some solos and play bass, while Katie Karlen and Michele Pappas will also sing solos, with Mark Roberts on drums.

The Worship Committee is continually seeking ways to enhance our worship experience, and the Choir is excited to lead the World Communion Celebration through the gospel music style embedded in the Gospel Mass.

Fred Watkins



Nathan Eaton, Sr.	10/3
Shirley Karlen	10/9
Karen Martin	10/11
Katie Karlen	10/15
Isabella Veregone—Joiner	10/20
Jacob Wood	10/21
Bruce Truner	10/22
Kathleen Seymour	10/29



**Eastminster
Session**

- Chandra Anderson
- Melody Davis
- Philis Knox
- Dick Knox
- Kathy Kregger
- Michele Pappas
- Bruce Turner
- Patience Uche
- Darlene West



Jacqueline and Talat Robert	10/10
Sue and Jim Bender	10/15
Chandra and Mark Anderson	10/19
Cheryl and Danny Wood	10/21





Pastor	Rev. Dr. Paul Burns
Director of Music	Fred P. Watkins
Organist	Melody S. Davis
Administrative Assistant	Cathy Schingle
Hostess/Housekeeper	Minerva Hernandez
Child Care Provider	Betty Crabtree
Audio/Visual Technician	Sean Turner

You're Are Invited

A luncheon event benefiting
the children of PCHAS

Chapters of Change

**Presbyterian Children's
Homes and Services™**

Thursday
November 6th
- 12:00 pm -
DoubleTree Hotel
Campbell Centre
8250 North Central Expy
Dallas, TX 75206

RSVP

RSVP to your table host:

Vicki Lynn Cook
214.632.3244
vickilynncook1952@gmail.com

Scripture Readings for October

1 2 Kings 18:9–25	12 Jer. 36:1–10	23 Ezra 1:1–11
2 2 Kings 18:28–37	13 Jer. 36:11–26	24 Ezra 3:1–13
3 2 Kings 19:1–20	14 Jer. 36:27–37:2	25 Ezra 4:7, 11–24
4 2 Kings 19:21–36	15 Jer. 37:3–21	26 Hag. 1:1–2:9
5 2 Kings 20:1–21	16 Jer. 38:1–13	27 Zech. 1:7–17
6 2 Kings 21:1–18	17 Jer. 38:14–28	28 Ezra 5:1–17
7 2 Kings 22:1–13	18 Jer. 52:1–34	29 Ezra 6:1–22
8 2 Kings 22:14–23:3	19 Jer. 29:1–14	30 Neh. 1:1–11
9 2 Kings 23:4–25	20 Jer. 29:1, 4–14	31 Neh. 2:1–20
10 2 Kings 23:36–24:17	21 Lam. 1:1–12	
11 Jer. 35:1–19	22 Lam. 2:8–15	



Our Calling

We enjoyed a presentation from the non-profit, Our Calling on Sunday, September 21. Our Calling is opened from 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. daily. This organization is not a shelter, the services they provide: opportunities for doing laundry, showers, and clothing resources. Clients have the opportunity to two meals a day. Our Calling provides a place for people to get help, an opportunity to rest, refresh and help in getting housing. They are in the process of building a set of tiny homes for people who have a disability. The tiny homes will be a community in Ferris Texas that will have all of the resources located within the community. Resources will include medical, food, mental health and most importantly an opportunity for residents to feel safe.

Come and join us Sunday, October 26th at 5:15 p.m. for a potluck meal and then we will hear from the non-profit organization, The Birthday Party Project. This organization brings joy to children who are experiencing homelessness by giving them a birthday party. Every child deserves to feel seen, known and celebrated on their special day. The mission of this non-profit is to acknowledge the life, dreams, and birthday wishes of children who wouldn't otherwise be celebrated. With a little bit of magic, and a whole lot of sprinkles, we want all kids to know one thing: **THEY ARE WORTH CELEBRATING.**

We Need Blankets



Eventually the Texas heat that seems never-ending will give way to colder months. And Outreach is on a mission to collect as many blankets as we can to help our neighbors who spend time out in the weather and need warmth.

The project is simple. Purchase a new blanket (Amazon has some great deals – starting at \$10) and place it in the donation box you will find in the foyer beginning October 12 and continuing to November (date to be determined.) These will be distributed to people who need them – some through the Neighborhood Breakfast and some through direct contact with our neighbors outdoors.

Judy Moreland is spearheading this drive and can give you more information.

It's warm now, but the November chill is coming. Let's make it a little easier on those who have trouble staying warm.

NOTES FROM FRED

On Sunday, October 5, 2025, we will celebrate a special day alongside Protestants around the world. Most of the music for this occasion will be from the upbeat Gospel Mass by Robert Ray. Our talented soloists—Katie Karlen, Michele Pappas, and Sean Turner—will perform, with Sean also playing bass. We will have a guest drummer, and our own Melody Davis will be featured at the piano.

We have sung a few pieces from the Mass in the past, and the choir has been working diligently, as always, to prepare the music and lead the worship service. If this music doesn't inspire you to praise God and tap your toes, I honestly don't know what will! More information on the Gospel Mass can be found in this newsletter.

Occasionally, I have been asked questions about World-Wide Communion Sunday. Since it will be featured in this newsletter, I thought I would answer some of those questions in print.

Did you know World Communion was started by a Presbyterian Church?

World Communion Sunday began as World-Wide Communion Sunday at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1933. The Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr and his congregation sought to demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination. Rev. Kerr appropriately chose the sacrament of Communion to symbolize this unity.

What do we as Presbyterians USA believe about communion?

“We trust in God the Holy Spirit who feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation . . .” These words from “A Brief Statement of Faith” reiterate the importance of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper for Presbyterians. They affirm that the initial action of this divine meal begins with God. God in Jesus Christ offers the bread and the cup and bids us come. It is the Lord's feast, hosted by the One who promises an ultimate continuous feast in the Kingdom of God. Under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit the divine host is made present so that a bond of unity can exist among those present and those unseen. The host welcomes all who accept the invitation to the Table. We who come need not be concerned about our personal appearance or aptitude. What matters is that the love, the grace and the hospitality of the host create unanimity among us. This meal is provided, not because we have earned the right to eat and drink with Jesus, but simply as an act of divine love.

When did World-wide Communion move into to other denominations and churches?

In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, an ecumenical association of Christian denominations in the United States. .

It represented the Anglican, Baptist (not Southern Baptists), Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Methodist, Moravian, Oriental Orthodox, Polish National Catholic, Presbyterian, and Reformed traditions of Christianity. It merged with other ecumenical bodies in 1950 to form the present day National Council of Churches. The observance slowly moved across the world due in part to the Second World War happening as World-Wide Communion was starting here and in Europe.

Do Catholics observe World Communion?

No, they do not, but all Christians (and others) can learn valuable lessons from the life and legacy of Oscar Romero, the Salvadoran Catholic Archbishop. He was assassinated while serving the Eucharist in 1980. A book titled "The Call to Peace and Justice," published in 2007, includes the "Romero Lectures," which were presented in Camden, New Jersey, from 2001 to 2007 and written by John P. Hogan.

What is your favorite communion anthem?

I have several communion hymns, and we have sung most of them on various Communion Sundays. My favorite for World-Wide Communion is "One Bread, One Body," arranged by Mark Hayes. We will be singing this modern communion anthem on

October 2nd, and I believe it beautifully captures the intention and meaning of World-Wide Communion.

What is your favorite communion hymn?

It's difficult to choose just one favorite, but I would say "For the Bread, Which You Have Broken" stands out to me. The text was written by Louis F. Benson in 1924, and the music was composed by V. Earle Copes in 1959. Mr. Copes was a well-known Methodist musician and served as an editor for various music publications for many years.

I had the privilege of being the Director of Christian Education at Epworth Methodist Church in Norfolk, Virginia, from 1963 to 1965 while also working with the Old Dominion Opera Company. Epworth was Mr. Copes' home church, and I had the opportunity to meet with him several times during my time there.

What is your favorite Communion Hymn?

I would like to know so please email me fred.eastminster@yahoo.com, or hand me a note at church, and I will try to use yours during a communion service.

OUTREACH COMMITMENT: CHECK THE BOX

This may be the October newsletter, but November -- and Stewardship Season -- will be here before you know it. And that means commitment sheets will be in your hands soon.

You probably do a lot of praying and thinking about your financial pledge. But do you put in the same thought/prayer about checking those "Time and Talent" boxes? It's easy to fall into the comfort of the familiar and check the same boxes every year. "Outreach" is part of the Great Commission; it's work all of us.

Outreach hopes that EVERY MEMBER WILL CHECK AT LEAST ONE BOX.

Here's what you'll see on your Time and Talent sheets for the Outreach Committee and what's involved with each one.

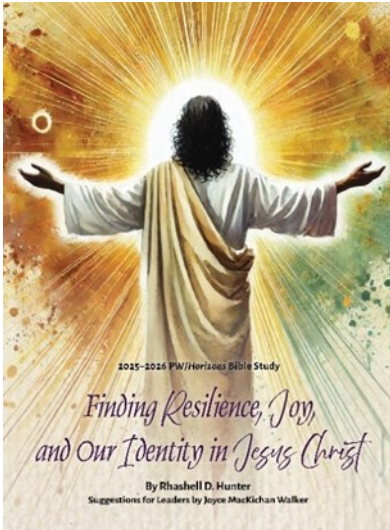
SERVE ON THE "WELCOME HOME" TEAM. This is brand new, and we're excited about it. What you'd do would be to greet new folks as they enter and provide them with one of our spiffy new gift bags. (*They're full of better stuff than a McDonalds Happy Meal box.*) Judy Moreland is your contact for more information about this.

SERVE WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD BREAKFAST. This outreach program is a cornerstone for Eastminster. **Serving is EASY, FREE, and incredibly REWARDING.** All that's involved is showing up on a Saturday morning around 7:15 and be part of the magic. The steering crew will give you easy-to-follow instructions and you're off. Maybe mobility is hard for you.

Then come at 8:00, park yourself at a table, enjoy Reggie's scrambled eggs and Christine's pancakes, **and just talk to our guests.** You will find out some awesome things about the people in our neighborhood and the welcome you give them is priceless. Blair Garrett and Jim Lee can tell you more.

MAINTAIN EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY. This involves keeping count of what's in our pantry, what's missing, maybe shopping for those items while you're already at the store, and putting together bags that Cathy can hand out quickly to people who need them. **It's little, but it's HUGE.** Chandra Anderson knows all about this and can give you more details.

ASSIST WITH SPECIAL MAILINGS and/or DISTRIBUTE FLYERS AND PUBLICITY FOR CHURCH EVENTS. Did you know that it takes **SEVEN SEPARATE CONTACTS** to get a response from people about what we're doing? **SEVEN.** And **our immediate neighborhood has 87 homes. 87 HOMES.** That's a lot of contact. If you can check this box, you could do something as simple as stuffing envelopes for mailing or as strenuous as delivering flyers to one or two blocks' worth of homes. (*Think of it as a God-focused way to get your 10,000 daily steps in.*) Bruce Turner can help you know more about how this works -- because he's personally delivered stuff to all 87 homes.



EPW will meet on the third Tuesday of each month. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. via zoom on the following dates: October 21st, November 18th, December 16th, January 20th, February 17th, March 17th, April 21st, and May 19th.

Our fall programming is called Road Trippin with Paul. Traci Truli will be leading this study for us on Sunday evenings. We will begin with a potluck themed meal each week with volunteers providing the food. The dates for the fall study:

October 5th, October 12, October 19th

October 26th will be a non-profit organization

November 2nd, November 9th and November 16th.

Sunday evening times will be 5:15 dinner, 6:00 p.m.

We will be having an intergenerational Christmas Program on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. We will begin with a potluck meal at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday Evening Menu

Oct 5 - Red Beans and rice, and corn bread

Oct. 12 - Pizza and salad

Oct. 19 - Bake potato with meat and salad

Oct.26 - Chicken and Beef Casseroles

Nov. 2 - Tacos from Taco Bell with Crackers and Cheese

Nov. 9 - Soup with Cornbread, and Crackers

Nov. 16 - Chicken Tenders with Mashed, Potatoes, Rolls, Green Beans, Macaroni and cheese

A Widow's Mite

A Precious Gift

While delivering meals on wheels this morning, I was sharing with one of my dear clients how badly my morning had begun this past Saturday as I was heading to church to help serve at Neighborhood Breakfast. I hit "something" in the road and blew out a tire. I called my insurance company, and they sent out a young man who got me back on my journey. Once breakfast was over, my guardian angels, Jim and Reggie, helped me back to a healthy tire situation.

My dear little Mary was so excited to hear about the Saturday Neighborhood Breakfast, that she wanted to contribute some funds to help the cost! She cannot get out and do for others, but she was so happy to be able to help this way. I left with a check for \$100.

The widow's mite is a beautiful story that keeps on giving and giving.....

Bible Trivia Questions and Answers

1. Which disciple was known as “the doubter”?
2. What was Paul’s name before he followed Jesus?
3. On what mountain did Elijah challenge the prophets of Baal?
4. What is the last book of the Bible?
5. Which Old Testament figure was known for his great strength and long hair?
6. What king was known for his wisdom and built the Temple in Jerusalem?
7. Who was the first king of Israel?
8. What did God use to guide the Israelites at night in the wilderness?
9. Who interpreted dreams for Pharaoh while in prison?
10. Which prophet confronted King Ahab and Queen Jezebel?

Answers: 1. Thomas 2. Saul 3. Mount Carmel 4. Revelation 5. Samson
6. Solomon 7. Saul 8. A pillar of fire 9. Joseph 10. Elijah

Answers:

HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING

September 21, 2025

- ◆ Enjoyed a meal provided by Bruce and Charlotte Turner.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Treasurer noting that we are in the black despite August's expenditures being greater than expected.
- ◆ Approved an offering for "Christ in Asia Ministries" to be organized by the Wednesday Bible Study.
- ◆ Approved a request to hold an intergenerational Christmas Program on December 14, 2025.
- ◆ Heard a report from the House and Property Committee regarding a substantial increase in the cost of the previously-approved electronic sign. The Session directed the Committee to seek other bids.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Nominating Committee regarding the election of Officers for the Class of 2028.



Special dates

- ◆ Pastor Appreciation Month
- ◆ World Communion Sunday, October 5
- ◆ Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Sunday, October 12
- ◆ Columbus Day, October 13
- ◆ Indigenous Peoples Day, October 13
- ◆ Canadian Thanksgiving, October 13
- ◆ Reformation Sunday, October 26
- ◆ Reformation Day, October 31



Puzzle!

Use the words provided to complete the puzzle.
Then write the numbered words in the correct blanks
below to complete Psalm 67:6, NIV.

WORDS:

GOD, BLESSES, HARVEST,
YIELDS, US, LAND

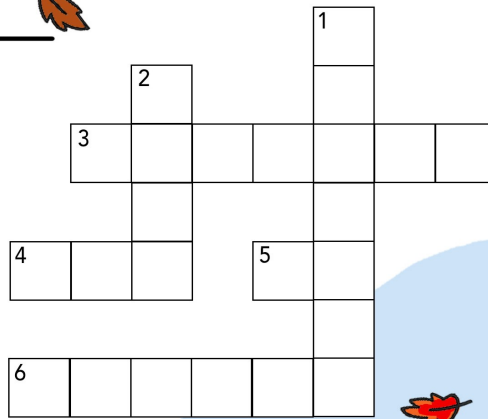


ACROSS

- 3. Rhymes with farthest.
- 4. Rhymes with nod.
- 5. Rhymes with thus.
- 6. Rhymes with fields.

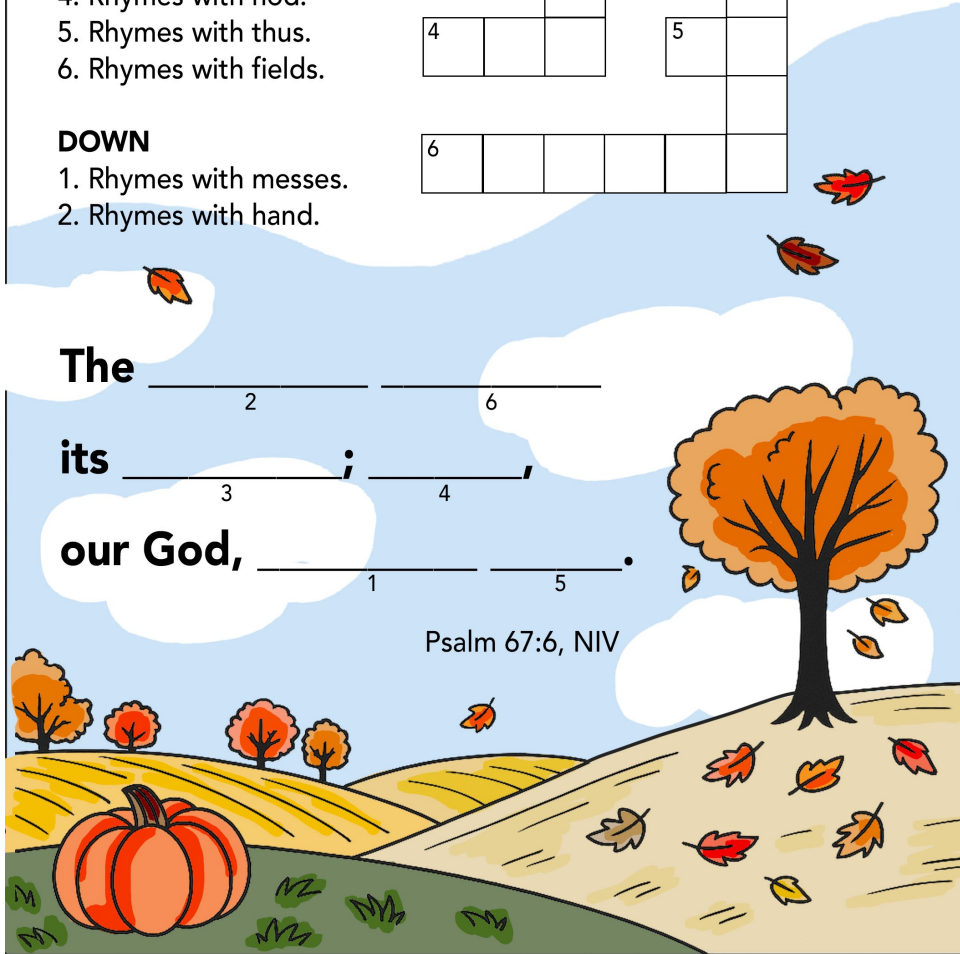
DOWN

- 1. Rhymes with messes.
- 2. Rhymes with hand.



The _____
 its _____ ; _____
 our God, _____

Psalm 67:6, NIV



Answer: The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. Psalm 67:6, NIV