

Eastminster Eagle

Volume 42, Issue 11

November 2025

Dear Members and Friends,

Last month I began a newsletter series focusing on the various elements of our worship service. This month we move from the Call to Worship to Confession and Pardon. Once we have been called to worship our attention shifts from ourselves and the world to God.

When we focus on God we are reminded of his goodness and holiness. When we only focus on the world we see its depravity, but we do not see our own sinfulness. In fact, when our eyes are on the evil of the world, we see ourselves as righteous in comparison. But when we turn to God, we see what true righteousness, goodness, and holiness is. It leads us to worship and adore God, and it reminds us of how far we fall short in everyway compared to God. We look pretty doggone good next to the scum of the earth, but next to Jesus we look more like the scum than the Son.

Our liturgy then naturally leads to the solution from this sense of guilt and shame that we have when we encounter God: confession. As they say, "Confession is good for the soul." Indeed. Confession is like going to the doctor to get help with what is ailing us. When we confess our sins we expose them to the light and we can deal with things better. How can we get better if we don't know what's wrong with us?

Every week we have a written corporate confession. Corporate means we all say it together. Perhaps your particular sin of the week is not in the prayer but the prayer challenges us to examine ourselves. We confess for ourselves, but we are also confessing on behalf of the whole church and also of the whole world. We want to get better, we want the church to get better, and we want the world to get better. In the prayer we are reminded of the standard of righteousness we see in the Bible and particularly in the person of Jesus Christ.

Just like we are not left in our guilt and shame we are not left without the remedy: forgiveness. Every week we confess our sins and every week we proclaim and claim the forgiveness purchased for us by the death of Jesus Christ: "In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!" Forgiveness of sins is at the heart of the Gospel we hold dear. Without the confession of sins and declaration of pardon/forgiveness we remain stuck in our old ways.

I am reminded of a line from my favorite prayer of confession: "Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image..."

Confession and pardon open us up to the new life that God has given us through Jesus Christ.

In Jesus Christ you are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Pastor Paul



SPOTLIGHT DAVID ALDRICH

You have no doubt seen David Aldrich everywhere in the church since he became a member of Eastminster. He discovered our church through the Saturday morning Neighborhood Breakfast. He quickly became immersed in all worship and study opportunities, even adding his deep bass voice to the music of praise to God in the choir! If you ask him what he likes about Eastminster, he will tell you that he enjoys Saturday Neighborhood Breakfast, working in areas of outreach, singing in the choir, as well as enjoying the fellowship of our community of faith, and blessing of our wonderful pastor,

David was born in Tacoma, WA on September 9, 1959. He grew up as a “military brat” (his father being career Air Force), living with his family on bases in Michigan, New Jersey, Montana, and Oklahoma. He was baptized as a baby in the Lutheran Church, but his faith grew during college life, thanks to his association with the Navigators.

David is a graduate of Wayne State University, with a BA in Economics. He also received an MA in Religious Studies from Sioux Falls Seminary. After earning his degree, he began missionary work with Wycliffe Bible Translators, stationed in northern Quebec, translating the Bible into the native language of the Northern Coastal East Cree.

Previously married and having three adult children, David was recently widowed by his second wife. One daughter lives in upstate New York but is moving “closer” (to Chicago), one other lives in Grand Rapids, while David’s son lives in Dallas. Sadly, David lost his middle daughter recently.

Hobbies include restoring old furniture, cooking, studying the Old Testament (really?), and learning to crochet by YouTube! His favorite trip was a visit to Great Whale River, Quebec, on the east coast of Hudson Bay. On his bucket list is an Alaskan cruise. You will have to ask David about butchering a bear in Canada one spring. He says it tastes like beef. I am still trying to wrap my head around that!

Welcome, David!

LET'S KEEP OUR NEIGHBORS WARM

The Outreach Committee has a dual request for November. The first continues to be the collection of as many **blankets** as we can gather for our neighbors who live outdoors. There is a collection container in the narthex. If you choose to donate money instead, please be sure to indicate that it is meant for purchasing blankets.

The second request is coming a bit late as an October goal, since we are well into October, and that is to provide socks for the same neighbors.



This drive (and goal) is called ***SOCKTOBER***.

In 2011, a group of middle schoolers noticed that many of their homeless neighbors had no socks to keep their feet warm. Their mentor checked with a local shelter and was told that there was a pressing need for socks, the most requested and least donated items for men, women, and children. This became a call to action, the birth of ***SOCKTOBER!*** Schools, churches, and local businesses rallied, providing more socks than one car could carry to the shelter; delivering them was both humbling and inspiring. And this was only the beginning!

The next year, participation spread across the nation and eventually to other countries. Today, Socktober is a widespread annual tradition. It is about connection, linking shelters and communities, opening doors to other forms of support from hygiene products, blankets, and to volunteer hours being served. We will begin to share through our weekly Saturday Neighborhood Breakfast.

From now until the end of November, we will gather both blankets, socks, and/or monetary donations. There are boxes for each in the narthex. Please search your hearts and provide a few pairs of socks or a blanket or two. *Socks for men, women, or children. should be crew socks, in either white or grey color.*

Will you help, please?

NOTES FROM FRED



NOTES FROM FRED

Among the many hymns I sang and heard while growing up in my family's East Texas version of Southern Baptist worship, "Blest

Be the Tie That Binds," found in our Glory to God hymnal (#306), continues to resonate with me whenever we sing it. In my home church and both my grandparents church,, it was often sung at the end of communion services and at other times as the congregation transitioned back into the world after worship, as well as at some funerals.

John Fawcett (1739-1817) was a clergyman in the English dissenting Baptist movement. Shortly after his ordination, he was asked to establish a parish in Wainsgate, which hymnologist Albert Bailey described as "a straggling group of houses on the top of a barren hill." Wainsgate was likely typical of many rural parishes for pastors in the 18th century.

Fawcett was orphaned at the age of 12 and was "bound out" to a tailor in Bradford, where he worked long hours, as child labor laws were non-existent at that time. During this period, he learned to read and eventually mastered "Pilgrim's Progress," the devotional classic by John Bunyan. Fawcett attended a revival alongside 20,000 other people in an open field, drawn by the powerful preaching of the famous evangelist George Whitefield. After the service, Fawcett managed to speak with Whitefield and expressed his desire to preach. According to tradition, Whitefield gave him his blessing. Soon after completing his ordination, Fawcett was asked to go to Wainsgate.

Mr. Bailey describes the Wainsgate congregation this way: "The people were all farmers and shepherds, Poor as Job's turkey; an uncouth lot whose speech one could hardly understand, most were unable to read or write; many were non-believers, and the town was cursed with vice, ignorance, and wild tempers. The main stream churches had never ever tried to reach them; only the humble Baptists had sent an itinerant preacher there and he had made a good beginning." At first there was no salary for the pastor, but people brought donations of wool and potatoes to help. Fawcett went house to house engaging families and the congregation grew and the modest meeting House had to be expanded. His family also grew, and the congregation began to pay a modest

salary and continue supplementing with their donations from their livestock and farms.

A prestigious parish with more financial resources in London, Carter's Lane Baptist Church, extended a call to Rev Fawcett and here hymnologist Dr. Harold Hawn (SMU) says, "it is at this point it becomes difficult to separate fact from apocryphal imagination." As the family Fawcett made ready to leave, selling some larger pieces of furniture and older books. the parishioners came to say goodbye. They were despondent and in tears. Mary Fawcett in tears is quoted as saying, "I can't stand it John! I know not how to go." John responded, "Lord help me Mary, nor can I stand it! ' They decided to stay and did so for 54 years. "Blest be the tie that binds..." was not written for this occasion. It was the custom in those days for the Pastor to write hymns to be spoken as poetry or sung after their sermons. But Fawcett sometime later wrote it and probably had the leaving event in mind.

In my lifetime it was sung many tearful times. Today when we sing it, I am reminded of our church family, the Christian love, fellowship of kindred minds, and compassion that is so strong in this congregation and part of why the family Watkins have been here going on 45 years now.

"Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love; The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above."

Fred Watkins

CHRIST IN ASIA

A few months ago, our Wednesday morning Bible study group was blessed by a visit with a family from India, the Halder family. Brother Paresh Halder, his wife Arnika, and their two sons, Joshua, 15, and Joel, 12, related to us the story of his conversion to Christianity. Being fishers, in 1998, Paresh and his nephew were in his boat listening to a Christian radio station they had tuned into. Curiosity led Paresh to send off and receive his first Bible, where in his reading, he found that many disciples were fishers also.

Long story short, in 2005, he along with others launched a network called Transform East Alliance (TEA) based in Kolkata, Eastern India, in Bay of Bengal; their work focuses in Bengal, Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, and bordering countries of Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. TEA is a Disciple Making Movement, a networking journey for businesses, agriculture, fisheries, farming, etc. Because of the Hindu government, they have had to make disciples one at a time, planting small churches, a dangerous mission which remains in secret for Christians in threat of death.

And yet, their mission and Christianity have grown mightily through their TEA network! They now support over 5,000 children, providing food, education, and a path toward a better future, all while they continue to fight child labor and trafficking. TEA leaders believe that children, coming to know Christ, will transform families, communities, and nations.

That being said, Brother Paresh prays that we will help him spread the Good News, giving monetary support, especially for Bibles. In our country, a Bible can be very costly; there he purchases them for a mere \$5 each!

We have placed a “piggy bank” in the conference room (across from the choir room) for ongoing donations to Christ in Asia mission work. If you have loose change jingling in your pocket, consider feeding that piggy bank when you are at church (it takes paper money, too). If you wish to donate online, or in the Sunday church offering, please be sure to mark it for CHRIST IN ASIA fund.

We hope to send a generous donation by the end of December, as well as more in 2026!


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Bible Quiz

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Timothy was a young man who became a trusted companion and co-worker of the apostle Paul. Which of the following statements is *not* accurate?

- A. Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him the Scriptures.
- B. Paul considered Timothy his spiritual son.
- C. Timothy was born in Rome and raised as a Roman citizen.
- D. Paul wrote two New Testament letters addressed to Timothy.



Answer: C (See Acts 16:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:5; 1 Timothy 1:2)

KARAOKE NIGHT FOR THE ANNUAL GARLAND WOMEN'S RETREAT

Come and join First Presbyterian Garland Saturday, November 1, 2025 at 4:00pm. for a night of karaoke, food and fellowship. This event is a fundraiser for the annual Garland Women's Retreat to be held this year at Gilmont, February 20-22. You will have the opportunity to sign up to sing a song. You may purchase food; Meatball subs, chips and drink for \$10. You will have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets, which you could win a gift card in the amount of \$200. Pecans pieces (\$10.00) and pecan halves (\$12.00) will also be available for purchase. Monies raised will assist in giving scholarships for the retreat.

CHURCH WIDE GATHERING

Save the date, January 10, 2026. We will be holding a church wide gathering at Springhill Retreat Center from noon – 6:00 p.m. The purpose of this gathering is to unpack, discern and understand our church's Mission Statement. Embrace the Word, Celebrate the Word and Reflect the Word. You are invited to join us at Springhill Retreat Center at noon. We will have snacks for the afternoon and end with a meal of soups and salad. More information will be coming soon with additional information regarding the Mission Statement. We will spend the day in small groups looking at the Mission Statement and ensuring that what we are planning for the church is in alignment with the Mission Statement. Watch the bulletin and future newsletter articles with more information regarding our Mission Statement.

INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS

We will have an intergenerational Christmas Program, Sunday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m. You are invited to come for a potluck meal at 5:00 p.m. for this day. Watch the bulletin for sign up for the Potluck meal.

SCRIPTURES AND SERMON TITLES FOR NOVEMBER

November 2, 2025- All Saints Sunday

Isaiah 1:10-18, Luke 19:1-10

“Jesus Welcomes All the Wrong People”

November 9, 2025

Job 19:23-27a, Luke 20:27-38

“Children of the Resurrection”

November 16, 2025

Malachi 4:1-2a, Luke 21:5-19

“An Opportunity to Testify”

November 23, 2025- Christ the King Sunday

Psalms 46, Luke 23:33-43

“If Jesus Is the King, then...”

November 30, 2025- 1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 24:36-44

“Hope Is Coming”



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Christmas is Coming!

Christmas will be here before you know it, and the Outreach Committee has been busy planning a special project for the season.

This year we're going to focus on the women of Oxford House in Eastminster's immediate neighborhood. While the scope of this project may be small, we see the potential for a BIG impact.

The project will involve setting up really whiz-bang gift baskets of personal items that will make the ladies feel cozy, pampered, and loved. These will be given at a special "High Tea" that we hope will provide an experience that is both out-of-the ordinary and meaningful for everyone involved.

The event is still in its planning stages, and more details will come as we get closer to Advent. Contact Judy Moreland or Charlotte Turner if you have questions (or cool ideas) for making this happen.



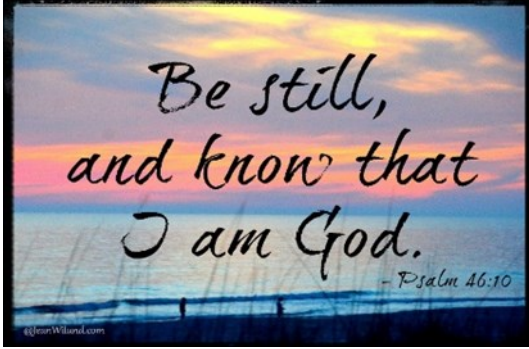
Pictured is the Munch Bunch in September at Salt Grass Steak House.

We have reservations for 1:30 p.m. at B.J.'s located at Town East Mall on **Sunday, November 9th**.

Please let Vicki Lynn know if you plan on attending.

Be still and know that I am God.

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." *Ps 46:10*



Stewardship is a way of living every single day. Part of being wise stewards is visioning, planning, preparing and giving attention to how we can offer our resources, in thanksgiving, for God's purpose and plan. Thus, we have a season, some dates, monetary pledges, gifts and skills commitment forms, and we call this a Stewardship Campaign. This year, we turn our hearts to Psalm 46:10 to remind us to be still and know that He is God, to trust and praise Him.

Whatever we give (money, time, care, mercy, energy, skills) we give out of gratitude, not compulsion or coercion. In these past few years, we have stepped out of our proverbial boats and taken a leap of faith, so this year we will be still and reflect on who He is. We trust that our Triune God will be further glorified through the limitless faith God has provided each of us and we will make commitments as our response to that gift of faith.

On November 2nd, we share time together at the Stewardship Luncheon for fellowship and celebration of Christ's ministries at Eastminster. We will present the 2026 budget, and give attention to the direction of the Spirit for Christ's future holy work of our congregation. At the Stewardship Luncheon we offer the gifts of our hearts, lives and resources as we dedicate them all to the glory of God by completing the Time & Talent form. Members who do not attend the luncheon can pick up their form at church the following Sundays. Time, Talent and Pledge sheets will also be emailed and can be filled out on the church website under Get Involved, Stewardship 2026, and you can submit it online. The 2026 Budget is online as well. God has blessed Eastminster financially in that the 2025 budget called for a \$31,000 shortfall, Praise God that instead, so far in 2025 the church does not have a shortfall but is in the black! Please prayerfully consider what God is calling you to pledge for 2026 in terms of finances, talent and service. May the Holy Spirit bring us the joy of giving, the gift of laughter and faithful hearts as we act in obedience to God's will for 2026.

PRAYER REQUEST

EASTMINSTER MEMBERS

Bettye Clark
Phyllis Knox
John Randall
Kathleen Seymour

EASTMINSTER HOMEBOUND

Nathan Easton, Sr.
Sylvia and Tom Falcon
Bonnie Lucas
Margaret Pearce

FAMILY & FRIENDS

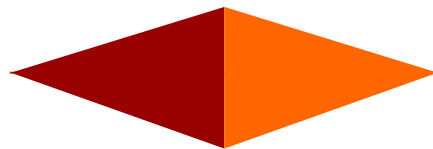
Brenda David
(friend of Vicki Cook)
Wilma Trotter
(Cindy Garrett's mother)



The Power of Thanksgiving

Commit 10-15 minutes each day to study each verse, meditate on it, and reflect on what it means to you.

Day 1: Psalm 107:1	Day 16: Psalm 69:30
Day 2: Psalm 7:17	Day 17: Matthew 13:16
Day 3: 1 Thessalonians 5:18	Day 18: Psalm 92:1-5
Day 4: Philippians 4:6	Day 19: Psalm 89:1-2
Day 5: Colossians 3:15	Day 20: Psalm 1 Corinthians 1:4
Day 6: Colossians 4:2	Day 21: 2 Corinthians 9:11
Day 7: Psalm 28:7	Day 22: 1 Timothy 4:4-5
Day 8: Psalm 50:14-15	Day 23: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Day 9: Psalm 69:30	Day 24: Philippians 4:6-7
Day 10: Psalm 56:4	Day 25: Jonah 2:9
Day 11: Psalm 34:1-8	Day 26: Psalm 4:7
Day 12: Psalm 103:1-6	Day 27: Psalm 9:3
Day 13: Psalm 100:1-5	Day 28: 1 Chronicles 16:23-26
Day 14: Psalm 107: 15-22	Day 29: 1 Chronicles 29:13
Day 15: Psalm 116:12-19	Day 30: Hebrews 13:15



Special dates

- ◆ Nov 1 All Saints' Day
- ◆ Nov 2 Daylight saving time ends
- ◆ Nov 7 World Communion Day
- ◆ Nov 11 Veterans Day
- ◆ Nov 27 Thanksgiving Day
- ◆ Nov 30 First Sunday of Advent
- ◆ Nov 23 Christ the King Sunday

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 23rd

We have reached that day in the liturgical calendar when we turn from Ordinary Time to the cusp of the new year of Advent. We stand between Ordinary Time and Advent on Christ the King Sunday. The steady growth of that season of green paraments gets replaced for one week to white before we put the anticipatory royal purple on the lectern and communion tables. This Sunday is the day to remember in



all seasons: Jesus is Lord of all. The day centers on the crucified and risen Christ, whom God exalted to rule over the whole universe. The celebration of the lordship of Christ, established in 1925 by decree of Pope Pius XI, thus looks back to Ascension, Easter, and Transfiguration, and points ahead to the appearing in glory of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ reigns supreme. Christ's truth judges falsehood. As the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, Christ is the center of the universe, the ruler of all history, the judge of all people. In Christ all things began, and in Christ all things will be fulfilled. In the end, Christ will triumph over the forces of evil. St. Mark Presbyterian Church exists to know Jesus and to make Him known.





- 11/2 Jim Fielding
- 11/3 Vicki Cook
- 11/8 Miatta Wilson
- 11/10 Kevin Karlin
- 11/10 Patience Uche
- 11/11 Lorna Alamas
- 11/11 Cindy Garrett
- 11/13 Harry Karlin
- 11/15 Lilly Pappas
- 11/20 Charlotte Turner
- 11/20 Cheryl Wood
- 11/27 Jezzi Whitley
- 11/30 Kathy Kreger

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At the October 19 Stated Meeting, the Session;

- * Enjoyed a meal provided by Mark and Chandra Anderson.
- * Heard a report from the Treasurer noting that we are operating in the black and ahead of our expected shortfall.
- * Approved the 2026 Budget. The Congregation will receive the budge at the Congregational Meeting on November 2.
- * Heard a report from the Outreach Committee regarding website traffic and expenditures to raise the number of visitors to the site.
- * Approved a request from the Outreach Committee to solicit donations for the Christmas project, to benefit 8 women at Oxford House in our neighborhood.

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 _____ 2 _____ 6

its _____ 3 _____ ; _____ 4 _____

our God, _____ 1 _____ 5 _____

Psalm 67:6, NIV

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



SENIOR SAINTS' DAY

In early Christian tradition, saints' days began as a way to mark the anniversary of a martyr's death – his or her "birthday" as a saint. By the middle of the church's first millennium, there were so many martyrs that it was hard to give them all their due. All Saints' Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, known and unknown.

All Saints' Day has a rather different focus in the Reformed tradition. While we may give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, the emphasis is on the ongoing sanctification of the whole people of God. Rather than putting

saints on pedestals as holy people set apart in glory, we give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age. This is an appropriate time to give thanks to members of the community of faith who have died in the past year. We also pray that we may be counted among the company of the faithful in God's eternal realm.



Chandra Anderson

Melody Davis

Philis Knox

Dick Knox

Kathy Kreger

Michele Pappas

Bruce Turner

Patience Uche

Darlene West

Pastor

Director of Music

Organist

Administrative Assistant

Hostess/Housekeeper

Child Care Provider

Audio/Visual Technician

Rev. Dr. Paul Burns

Fred P. Watkins

Melody S. Davis

Cathy Schingle

Minerva Hernandez

Betty Crabtree

Sean Turner