

# Eastminster Eagle

Volume 33, Issue 2

February 2021

## *Congregational Meeting Notice* *Sunday, January 31 at Noon, Via Zoom*



Dear Friends in Christ,

We have another wonderful opportunity to see one another face-to-face in the safe environment of a Zoom gathering. I pray you will join us for our Stated Congregational Meeting which, by vote of the session, has been changed to Sunday, January 31 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)

This change of date allows the time needed to email and mail via the post office the documents for your review. We need your help in making this process successful.

So, each of you is responsible for letting the office know whether you want to receive the reports via your email address OR wish to have the paper copies mailed to your home address. YOUR REQUEST IS NEEDED NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, JANUARY 26. Obviously, to save natural resources and the cost of mailing, we would prefer to use email, but will be happy to do as you request.

The Committee reports will not be read aloud, so it is important that you review them ahead of time. If you have any questions or comments, we can certainly address those. As we welcome and install our new trustees, we have both questions for them and for the congregation. I pray your presence as support and affirmation of the calls they answered to serve in this role.

You will find two important pieces of information below: the outline for the meeting and the Zoom invitation. For those who do not receive information via email, we will contact them about the meeting.

I look forward to seeing your faces! May the love of God enfold us, the peace of Christ surround us, and the presence and joy of the Spirit be in and among us!

Pastor Sherry

### **AGENDA FOR STATED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Quorum from Clerk of Session

Opening Prayer

Presentation of the 2020 Annual Reports

Report from the Treasurer

Receiving the Annual Report

*Continued on Page 2*

*Continued from Page 1*

## Recognition and Installation of New Trustees:

Christine Blair will fulfill a one-year unexpired term and Vicki Cook will serve a three-year term

QUESTIONS TO THE TRUSTEES

QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER

Other Business

Closing Prayer and Benediction

Sherry Holloman is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: 2021 Stated Congregational Meeting, January 31

Time: Jan 31, 2021 12:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82691668101?pwd=U3pTNGQyK3A0VjZlK3M2RGNRVDc2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 826 9166 8101

Passcode: 241946

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,82691668101#,,,,\*241946# US (Houston)

+16699006833,,82691668101#,,,,\*241946# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 826 9166 8101

Passcode: 241946

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82691668101?pwd=U3pTNGQyK3A0VjZlK3M2RGNRVDc2Zz09>



I have been writing this column for many years. I usually get my ideas from some of you, asking about a hymn or why we do such and such in the worship service, or an anthem the choir may have sung, or from something I have read or am currently reading, or a conference I attended. This one is full of just quotes and who quoted them about music, and about our worship of God. I found inspiration in them and I hope you will as well.

With three exceptions, we have not had much opportunity to worship together. One of the things that always inspires me is when I hear you (the congregation and choir) singing hymns and anthems. It is my hope that soon we will be able to hear that in person. Our online worship consist of hymns, responses, anthems, and Melody and other instrumentalist. I know that many of you sing along with the hymns and some of the choir with the anthems. Many participate in the liturgy that Sherry prepares and Chandra sends to all. I also know from experience that it may not seem like the real thing so to speak, but it is. Worship comes from within you. No, we don't have someone next to us singing and reading the liturgy but it is still the "real thing".

I found inspiration in them and I hope you will as well.

"Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of

language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through music."—Martin Luther.

"Worship has been misunderstood as something that arises from a feeling which 'comes upon you,' but it is vital that we understand that it is rooted in a conscious act of the will, to serve and obey the Lord Jesus Christ."—Graham Kendrick (British religious song writer/musician).

God directs his people not simply to worship but to sing his praises 'before the nations.' We are called not simply to communicate the gospel to nonbelievers; we must also intentionally celebrate the gospel before them."—Timothy J. Keller (American pastor, theologian)

From your heroes you pick up mannerisms and phrases and tones of voice and facial expressions and habits and demeanors and convictions and beliefs. The more admirable the hero is and the more intense your admiration is, the more profound will be your transformation. In the case of Jesus, he is infinitely admirable, and our admiration rises to the most absolute worship. Therefore, when we behold him as we should, the change is profound."—John Piper (American theologian/Seminary President/Pastor)

“We should know and celebrate God with our whole person. While too many Christians neglect to serve God with the mind, others cultivate only their minds and neglect the emotional aspects of worship.”—Craig S. Keener (American Professor of New Testament)

“The worship to which we are called in our renewed state is far too important to be left to personal preferences, to whims, or to marketing strategies. It is the pleasing of God that is at the heart of worship. Therefore, our worship must be informed at every point by the Word of God as we seek God’s own instructions for worship that is pleasing to Him.”—R.C. Sproul (American Theologian)

### **Worship springs from amazement**

“We are perishing for lack of wonder, not for lack of wonders.”—G.K. Chesterton (British writer)

“Many Spirit-filled authors have exhausted the thesaurus in order to describe God

with the glory He deserves. His perfect holiness, by definition, assures us that our words can’t contain Him. Isn’t it a comfort to worship a God we cannot exaggerate?” —Francis Chan (American religious writer)

“With my song I will praise God”  
Psalm 98:7

“Sing lustily and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep, but lift up your voice with strength.”  
— John Wesley

God loves us, God is with us in all our walks of life and deserves our grateful praise. FW

LENT

prayer • fasting • almsgiving



	Families	Adults	Seniors	Children	Persons	Pounds
Dec 1	188	432	62	424	918	14,288
Dec 8	208	450	74	489	1013	13,672
Dec 15	199	446	78	519	1043	15,520
Dec 22	246	511	94	553	1158	20,924
Totals	841	1839	308	1985	4132	64,405

*The power of love*

By comparing love to everything from oxygen and fire to wind and war, songs and poetry emphasize its immense power — for good or for ill.

Christian author Patrick Morley uses metaphors that focus on love’s practicality in everyday life: “Love is the glue that holds us together and the oil that keeps us from rubbing each other the wrong way.” He also calls love “the WD-40 of relationships”

because it “can seep into tight places where logic, threats and even promises just can’t seem to penetrate.”

St. Augustine, who predated WD-40 by centuries, knew that love not only eases friction in personal interactions but, with God’s help, can change hearts and lives. “Love all [people], even your enemies,” he advises. “Love them, not because they are your brothers, but that they may become your brothers. Thus you will ever burn with fraternal love, both for him who is already your brother and for your enemy, that he may by loving become your brother.”

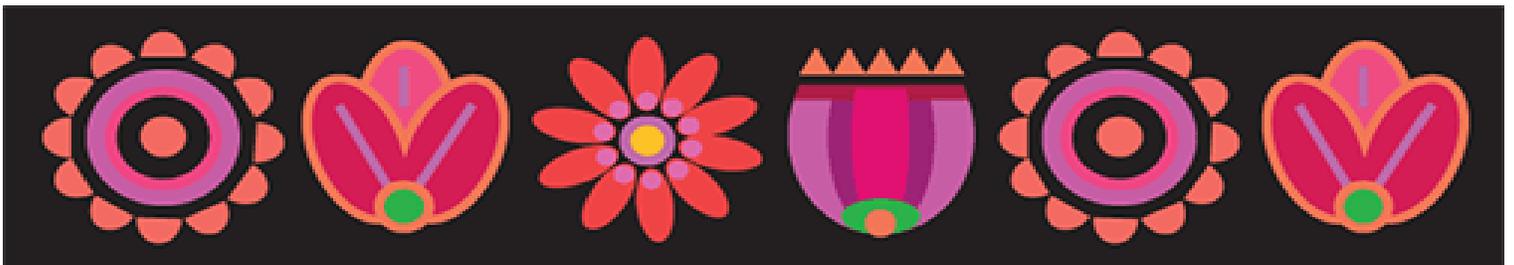


*Why we lament*

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic struck America during the middle of Lent, a season associated with deprivation. Some people made light of the shutdowns, joking, “I didn’t mean to give up this much for Lent!” Others asked why the suffering was occurring in the first place.

Professor N.T. Wright, in an essay for Time, explains that asking “why?” but receiving no answer is key to biblical lamenting. Adding to the mystery, he says, is that God also laments — grieving at the wickedness of humans, despairing over Israel’s unfaithfulness. Jesus cries at a friend’s tomb; the Holy Spirit groans in anguish.

“Part of the Christian vocation,” Wright concludes, is not being able to explain why but lamenting instead. “As the Spirit laments within us,” he says, “so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new possibilities ... new hope.”



Time for a word of thanks..... January, 21, 2021

Thank you for Alex and her FB page and her skill and love she puts into every word she writes.

Thank you for Daniel for his visit yesterday and his willingness to sit down with me and work on our finances.

Thank you for Lilly for caring for me. For coming home to be with me the first week and for going back to school to see to her needs and still checking on me.

Thank you for all the doctors and nurses for caring for my husband. He is not an easy patient and they are doing their best. Thank you to them for knowing how hard this is for his family to just sit and wait.

Thank you for Sherry and Denise for giving me all the attention and love I need right now. They nourish me through prayer and food providers.

Thank you for Mordi for taking the time to go to the Western Wall and pray for us.

Thank you for my sister, Mary Beth, for listening to me every night before I go to bed. She listens with an open heart and lets me say and feel whatever is there.

Thank you for ALL the prayers, thoughts and well wishes that are coming our way. I felt them 15 years ago and even more now. God is working through them. He is working through the doctors and nurses and most of all he is working through Tom and I. For that I am truly grateful.

Amen.

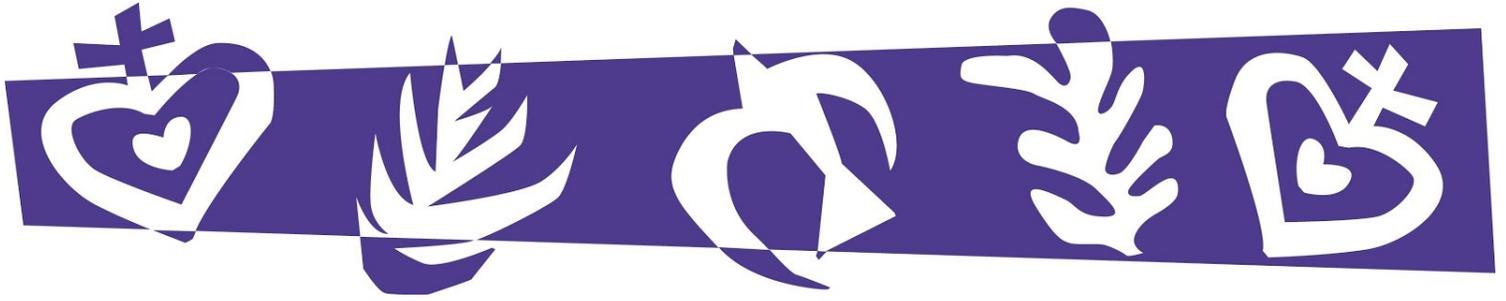
Michele

## *Celebrating love*

For 80 years, a couple in Ecuador was an exceptional example of marital love. Julio Cesar Mora Tapia, 110, and Waldramina Maclovía Quinteros Reyes, 104, were wed on February 7, 1941. Until Julio's death last October, they were reportedly the world's oldest married couple. Their large family includes nine great-great-grandchildren!

Good News Network recounts: "Julio Cesar fell in love with Waldramina's beauty, her conversation, and her big heart." Meanwhile, she found in him "a poet with a young spirit." The couple says the formula for a lasting marriage is "love + maturity + mutual respect," as well as patience, compassion and hard work.

That calls to mind Paul's words, often read at weddings: "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:4-6, ESV).



### *Fasting from criticalness*

Most fasting involves temporarily giving up something you enjoy. When you long for a cookie or a favorite show, you instead turn your attention to God, reorienting yourself to his best.

Catherine Marshall, in *A Closer Walk*, presents a different approach she calls fasting from “criticalness.” God dealt with her judgmental spirit by prompting her to spend 24 hours without criticizing “anyone about anything.” At first, Marshall felt rather empty when she didn’t engage in a heated political debate. But friends and family didn’t seem to miss her comments. Plus, God replaced the energy she’d spent attempting to correct others with energy and creativity to positively influence them.

A critical spirit can make us lose perspective, joy and even relationships. It also can prevent the good work God wants to achieve through us. Consider what could happen as a result of your own “criticalness fast.” Pray for God to do the correcting while you focus on building up others.  
—Janna Firestone

### *The soul of Christianity*

A Christ-centered life does not mean a life in which one sings hymns, reads Scripture and edifies his neighbors by hanging texts on the walls. One does not become a Christian by doing a good deed a day, nor by go-getting for religion, nor by engaging in economic and political reform movements, even though these things are done from the noblest of human motives. A Christian is one who, believing that Christ is the Son of God, has that Christ-life in his soul.  
—Fulton Sheen



What was the name of Moses' wife?

- A. Miriam
- B. Jochebed
- C. Zipporah
- D. Leah

Answer: C (See Exodus 2:21.)

Dear God,  
I do not think anybody could be a better GOD.  
Well, I just wanted you to know, but I am not  
just saying that because You are GOD already.  
Charles

Dear God,  
We read Thomas Edison made light. But in  
Sunday school they said you did it. So I bet he  
stole your idea.  
Sincerely, Donna

Dear God,  
In School they told us what you do. Who does  
it when you are on vacation?  
Jane



## Scripture Readings for February

1 - Mark 7:24-37  
2 - Mark 8:1-10  
3 - Mark 8:11-26  
4 - Mark 8:27-9:1  
5 - Mark 9:2-13  
6 - Mark 9:14-29  
7 - John 7:37-46  
8 - Mark 9:30-41  
9 - Mark 9:42-50  
10 - Mark 10:1-16

11 - Mark 10:17-31  
12 - Mark 10:32-45  
13 - Mark 10:46-52  
14 - John 12:27-36a  
15 - John 1:1-18  
16 - John 1:19-28  
17 - Luke 18:9-14  
18 - John 1:29-34  
19 - John 1:35-42  
20 - John 1:43-51

21 - Mark 2:18-22  
22 - John 2:1-12  
23 - John 2:13-22  
24 - John 2:23-3:15  
25 - John 3:16-21  
26 - John 3:22-36  
27 - John 4:1-26  
28 - Mark 3:31-4:9

# Puzzle!

Discover the identity of a biblical person. First, assign a number value to each letter, starting with M=1, N=2, O=3, ... A=15, etc. Then use the code to complete the clues.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
15										1	2	3													

**FIRST CLUE:** 15 7 15 13 3 9 2 21 1 15 2

\_\_\_\_\_

22 19 25 23 26 26 19 18 7 3 1 19 3 2 19.

\_\_\_\_\_

**SECOND CLUE:** 22 19 11 15 7 8 19 2 18 23 2 21

\_\_\_\_\_

7 22 19 19 4 23 2 8 22 19 18 19 7 19 6 8

\_\_\_\_\_

11 22 19 2 21 3 18 17 15 26 26 19 18 22 23 1.

\_\_\_\_\_

**THIRD CLUE:** 15 7 15 16 15 16 13 22 19 11 15 7

\_\_\_\_\_

20 3 9 2 18 20 26 3 15 8 23 2 21 23 2 15

\_\_\_\_\_

16 15 7 25 19 8 23 2 8 22 19 2 23 26 19 6 23 10 19 6.

\_\_\_\_\_

Who is this person? \_\_\_\_\_

“Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone; we find it with another.”

—Thomas Merton

“I would permit no man, no matter what his color might be, to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him.”

—Booker T. Washington

“Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?”

—Corrie ten Boom

“Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.”

—Dale Carnegie



### *An interlocking community*

Christ distributes courage through community; he dissipates doubts through fellowship. He never deposits all knowledge in one person but distributes pieces of the jigsaw puzzle to many. When you interlock your understanding with mine, and we share our discoveries, when we mix, mingle, confess and pray, Christ speaks.

—Max Lucado, Fearless

Answer: Moses

### *The gift of desperation*

In a 2012 interview with NPR, author Anne Lamott shared: “I’ve heard people say that God is the gift of desperation, and there’s a lot to be said for having really reached a bottom where you’ve run out of anymore good ideas, or plans for everybody else’s behavior; or how to save and fix and rescue; or just get out of a huge mess, possibly of your own creation. And when you’re done, you may take a long, quavering breath and say, ‘Help.’”

Amid the pandemic and life’s other, more typical trials of life, have you found a silver lining — a gift that has arisen out of your desperation? Sometimes we’re more open to God during times of struggle than when all flows smoothly. As long as we think our ideas and plans for ourselves and our loved ones are pretty good, we don’t feel we need a Savior. But when life is so challenging that we call to God for help, “the gift of [that] desperation” is finding that God’s loving arms have embraced and strengthened us all along.

### *Always choose love*

God wants us to choose to love him freely, even when that choice involves pain, because we are committed to him, not to our own good feelings and rewards. He wants us to cleave to him, as Job did, even when we have every reason to deny him hotly. That, I believe, is the central message of Job.

Satan had taunted God with the accusation that humans are not truly free. Was Job being faithful simply because God had allowed him a prosperous life? Job’s fiery trials proved the answer beyond doubt. Job clung to God’s justice when he was the best example in history of God’s apparent injustice. He did not seek the Giver because of his gifts; when all gifts were removed, he still sought the Giver.

--Philip Yancey, *Where Is God When It Hurts?*

### *The parable of the lost ring*

Only three years after Paula and Joe Walter married, her wedding ring was lost as she played catch with their son. Naturally, she was heartbroken. Over the years, whenever family and friends gathered in the back yard, she urged everyone to look for the ring — but to no avail. Because the yard borders on woods, Paula feared the ring had flown into the trees, never to be seen again.

But just before the couple’s 40th anniversary, landscapers hired to do work in the yard brought her a surprise: They’d found the ring — right where Paula had been playing with her child so long ago! Like the woman in Jesus’ parable who finally found her lost coin (Luke 15:8-10), Paula rejoiced. God too searches until every person who has strayed or been flung away from the faith is found.

Sometimes the place we rediscover faith is right where we’ve looked before. What makes the difference? A different person helping us search? Light shining in a different way? We may never know. We simply rejoice — and so does God. —Heidi Mann

# FEBRUARY



Jennifer Gailey	2/1
Jacob Whitley	2/1
Betty Crabtree	2/3
Rhonda Kraft	2/4
Harry Uche	2/5
Jerry Jones	2/7
Matthew Bennett	2/7
Ronnie Moore	2/9
Taylor Kraft	2/9
Michael Veloz	2/13
Ryan Blair	2/13
Oscar Veloz	2/14
Dylan Gailey	2/17
Susie Fielding	2/23
Tony Bennett	2/24
Kellie Karlen	2/25
Javed Almas	2/25
Wayne Maples	2/27
John Sill	2/27



## Eastminster Session

- Denise Bennett
- Betty Crabtree
- Kayla Dixon
- Ronnie Dixon
- Blair Garrett
- Kathy Kreger
- Jim Lee
- Michele Pappas
- Helen Randolph
- Vicki Thiebaud
- Charlotte Turner



Pastor	Sherry Holloman
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

January 17, 2021

- ◆ The officer appointments were affirmed: Treasurer: Cindy Garrett; Assistant Treasurer: Bruce Turner; Financial Secretary: Chandra Anderson (Bylaws to be set aside); Assistant Financial Secretary: Tony Bennett
- ◆ Motion made, seconded and approved that the Nominating Committee for the Class of 2024 is: Denise Bennett (2021), Vicki Thiebaud (2022), Charlotte Turner (2023) , with Charlotte serving as the Chair.
- ◆ Motion made, seconded, and approved to accept the 2021 calendar (with the knowledge that it is a work in progress). Motion made, seconded and approved to permit Communion (with the proper discretion as to time and place) to be served outside of the recorded dates in the 2021 Calendar..
- ◆ Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the 2020 Eastminster Statistical Report.
- ◆ Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the resignation of Paul McLin as a ruling elder with one dissenting vote. Motion made, seconded and approved with 2 dissenting votes, to remove him from membership per his request
- ◆ Motion made, seconded and approved to hold the January Congregational Meeting via Zoom Teleconference.
- ◆ ELDER CONSTITUTENCY OF COMMITTEES
  - ◆ Congregational Care: Helen Randolph and Betty Crabtree
  - ◆ Christian Education: Charlotte Turner and Vicki Thiebaud
  - ◆ House & Property: Blair Garrett
  - ◆ Outreach: Denise Bennett and Kathy Kreger
  - ◆ Stewardship: Jim Lee and Ronnie Dixon
  - ◆ Worship: Michele Pappas and Kayla Dixon
- ◆ COMPOSITION OF THE 2021 ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
  - ◆ Congregational Care: Helen Randolph
  - ◆ Christian Education: Charlotte Turner
  - ◆ House & Property: Blair Garrett
  - ◆ Outreach: Denise Bennett
  - ◆ Stewardship: Jim Lee
  - ◆ Worship: Michele Pappas

## Special dates



- ◆ African-American History Month
- ◆ Transfiguration Sunday, February 14, 2021
- ◆ Valentine's Day, February 14, 2021
- ◆ Presidents Day, February 15, 2021
- ◆ Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021