

# Eastminster Eagle

Volume 33, Issue 4

April 2021

## *Welcome Home, Children of God!*

We didn't know a year ago that March 15 would mark the last time we'd gather in the Sanctuary for over a year. We've waited and prayed, cried and prayed, searched for solutions and prayed — for the day when we'd get back in.



That day is HERE. We'll be re-entering our Sanctuary for a Good Friday service on Friday, April 2. The service will begin at 6:30 p.m. Before that can happen safely, everyone needs to be familiar with the protocols set in place by the Re-entry Task Force.

Just as we remember the sacrifice our Lord made for us on Good Friday, we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday, April 4 at 11:00 a.m.

The Re-Entry Task Force has been working for over a year now to be sure that our return to worship is safe.

Feel free to reach out to any member of this Task Force should you have questions — Sherry, Denise, Kathy, Michele, or Vicki Lynn.

Here's what you can expect:

- Although you won't see some of the work that has been done over the last year, much was cleaned up and cleaned out. We have purchased professional products for sanitizing all our areas. You will see that pew cushions have been removed, as have hymnbooks. Also, air filters have been upgraded and recently installed.
- Both the main sanctuary double doors (Gallion Street side) and the Cloister entrance on the back side of the church nearest the sanctuary will be opened.
- You will be greeted warmly at each entrance where:



- ◊ your temperature will be taken (must register 100.4° or less)
- ◊ we will register your attendance
- ◊ provide a mask, if you need one
- ◊ remind you to socially distance
- Two ushers will be in the narthex at the sanctuary side aisle doors. The center aisle doors will be closed and not for entrance. The ushers will provide bulletins and show you to your seat.

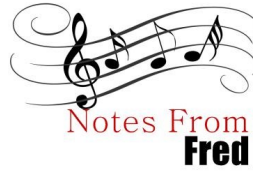
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- The sanctuary will be seated by ushers from front to back on entering and Sherry will direct from the chancel the exiting from back to front. Please remain seated until dismissed following the benediction.
- There will be boxes at the side doors as you exit to dispose of your bulletins.
- The only restroom that will be available at this time will be the one in the narthex.
- Hand sanitizers and masks will be available as well as individual packs of tissues.
- No areas other than the narthex, the sanctuary, the choir loft, the narthex restroom and the church office will be open at this time.

The Easter Season celebrates our Risen Lord, who overcame darkness and death so that we might live in His Light. What better time than now to return to that Light and the peace that His fellowship offers?

Welcome Home!



When we held our first service in the Sanctuary, we didn't have pews, and the choir loft wasn't finished yet, so we all sat in chairs on the Sanctuary floor. The Choir and Brass sat at the back. I had given a lot of thought to what the choir should sing for such an auspicious occasion and looked through several pieces. It was a joyful time as Calvary had been merged with Meneely for a few years and worshipping in what we now use as the fellowship hall. So worshipping in the new Sanctuary was a milestone in the life of this church. One of my favorite hymns is "I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath" and has been since most of my life has been spent in trying to do just that. The congregation had worked hard merging and getting to know each other, and we were becoming Eastminster instead of Calvary and Meneely. So I chose, or was led, to that hymn.

The arrangement for choir and brass was by Dr. Lloyd Pfausch, international composer and choral director. I had the privilege of getting to sing the arrangement with him before he had published it. It spoke to me and has ever since lifted my spirits when down and the combination of the choir, brass and organ are a powerful statement of faith based on Psalm 146. After that service we have used it when we have held significant Eastminster's Birthdays and the couple of times we've had choir reunions. We are going to use it on Easter Sunday to praise God for Jesus and his sacrifice and resurrection as well as thanking God for getting us through the pandemic and our return, though not total yet, to in person worship.

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“I’ll Praise My Maker While I’ve Breath” was written by Isaac Watts. It is found on page 806 in *Glory To God*.

Watts is considered the “Father of English Hymnody.” He wasn’t the first person to write hymns, but he was the first English-language poet to produce a significant number of hymns of high quality.

Prior to Watts, congregational singing/song was dominated by strict metrical versions of the Psalms.

Compare for example “All People That on Earth Do Dwell” GTG 385 which is William Kethe’s Psalm 100 metrical version to the translation found in the King James Version of the Bible. The language of both is similar. Kethe’s metric version is the oldest continuously sung congregational song in North America.

Watts wanted to break the stranglehold of metrical psalms on congregational singing. To do so, he composed psalm paraphrases that were freer in their relationship to the original psalm and, in addition, “hymns of human composure”—freely composed hymns such as “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.”

“I’ll Praise My Maker” is Watts’ paraphrase of Psalm 146. It was originally entitled “Praise to God for his Goodness and Truth” and published in his famous *Psalms of David, Imitated in the*

*Language of the New Testament* (1719). Watts isn’t confined to the psalm but poetically expands it.

John Wesley played a prominent role in preserving this hymn as we know it today, slightly adapting four of the six original stanzas. Wesley strengthened Watts’ first line of the hymn which originally read, “I’ll praise my Maker with my breath.”

Wesley included it in the first hymnal published in America, the *Charlestown Collection of Psalms and Hymns* (1737). Its appearance in every Methodist hymnbook since 1737 attests to its popularity. J.R. Watson noted: “In its shortened and less threatening form, this hymn was greatly loved by John Wesley, who died singing it.”

As we praise God for all the blessings bestowed upon us, and especially for guiding us through these times,

I hope this anthem and hymn will inspire you in your thanksgiving. Of course, with mask on, you are welcome to sing along with the choir on Easter.

My favorite verse is the fourth one and I believe it states our praise and thanksgiving, can and will continue, through this life into the next.

*I’ll praise my Maker while I’ve breath;  
And when my voice is lost in death,  
Praise shall employ my nobler powers.  
My days of praise shall ne’er be past,  
While life, and thought, and being last,  
Or immortality endures.*



## *Remembrance of Your Baptism* *Isaiah 12:2-6*

Alex Pappas

The first time I went to a Catholic mass, I have a distinct memory of losing my mom for a moment as we entered the sanctuary. One minute I was beside her, the next I was three steps ahead, confused about where she'd gone.

I lost mom because at the entrance of the sanctuary was a basin of water. As I charged ahead, eager to find a seat, she stopped, dipped her fingers in the water, and crossed herself. Much to my confusion, as I looked over my shoulder searching for her, I saw that almost everyone was doing this. *Pause, dip, cross.*

We never did that at my church. I wasn't raised Catholic. I was born and baptized and am now ordained in the Presbyterian Church. But my mom grew up Catholic, and those rituals are deep in her bones, even after moving membership to our protestant church. Even though her actions were unfamiliar, I sensed in that moment something holy in the ritual. The people weren't flicking water at one another or quickly wiping their hand off on their clothing. Instead, it was a simple and profound *pause, dip, cross.*

It took many years before I could understand the implications of that act. That moment in time at the beginning of worship when each person remembers the waters of their baptism and is reminded, by touching the font, that baptism isn't singular and separate from the rest of our lives.

When we come together to worship, when we confess our sins and receive our pardon, when we hear the good news read and proclaimed, when we share in Communion, even when we leave at the end, we are remembering Christ's gift of grace through the waters of baptism. The gift of God's grace is not limited to a single act or moment or service. God's grace is the foundation of who we are and all that we do. Baptism, the healing waters of grace, is the foundation of our whole lives.

It may be that sitting in your sanctuary or chapel is a basin of water, a baptismal font. The next time you pass it, I invite you to take a moment. Look at the waters, touch it if you want. Remember that God's grace covers and surrounds, cleanses and heals, and is always with us.

*Reprint from Austin Theological Seminary, Lenten publication.*





	Families	Adults	Seniors	Children	Persons	Pounds
Feb. 2	211	452	69	515	1,036	20,086
Feb. 9	196	423	68	527	1,018	10,110
Feb. 23	231	521	78	572	1,171	14,904
Totals	638	1,396	215	1,614	3,225	45,100
Feb 16— closed due to the winter storm						

### *Anticipating life's waves*

Joni Eareckson Tada, who was paralyzed after a diving accident, described swimming in the ocean as a child. Because the waves looked so high, her first inclination was to swim away from them. That, however, just left her tossed about and sometimes held underwater. “The best thing,” she discovered, “was to swim fast toward [the waves] and dive under them before they had a chance to break on top of you.”

That’s true with life’s “waves of crisis or difficulty” too, says Tada. “The best way to beat those waves of trials and tough challenges is to face them. Head-on. Almost anticipating them. Sometimes I find myself literally diving into the middle of a problem before it has a chance to crash on top of me.” When problems are about to break on top of you, what helps you face them and stand your ground?

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

### **General Announcements**

#### *Worship Service*

If you have not been receiving the emailed link with the Sunday Service, Sermon and Liturgy attached, please contact the office:  
officeadmin@eastminsterdallas.org, or  
Jim Lee: JL21@msn.com

#### *One Great Hour of Sharing*

The final day for donations for One Great Hour of Sharing is Easter Sunday April 4.

You may securely give from our website and via text message, you can even set up recurring donations. If you’d like to activate your account, please contact the church office by email at officeadmin@eastminsterdallas.org or by calling (214) 381-4693. We’ll then email you so you can get started today.



**GIVE ONLINE**  
*Fast. Easy. Convenient.*

## *THE GREAT FLOOD OF 2021*

It's amazing how water can be so beneficial in our lives. We can't live without it. Our body needs water to survive. So do the plants and animals that God has so graciously blessed us with. But on February 18th here at Eastminster, we suffered the effects what water can do to sheetrock, carpet, wood and even paint.

If you haven't heard by now, we had a water pipe break behind the wall of the resource room which is next to the parlor. The pipe suffered 4 leaks caused by frozen water that expanded and ruptured the copper pipe. The water sensors that we have in the nursery and the fellowship hall bathrooms did not alarm us of the water damage until 3 hours after I had arrived at the church.

The nursery did not have any standing water but the bathroom offsetting the fellowship hall did. A bad sensor or delayed notice, we just don't know at this time. The break occurred after 10 am on February 17th and several hours before I arrived at 12:30 pm on February 18th. Based on my calculations of an average flow rate from the leak at 480 gallons per hour and it was leaking for 18 hours the amount of water in the building was over 8,600 gallons. The water was standing from the lower step of the cloister to the entry way to the nursery back to the kitchen and then back to the exit door on the east side of the property. The deepest water was 2 inches just outside of the Searcher's Sunday School Class. I have included pictures so you can see the during the flood and after the remediation by Servpro.

Servpro began their remediation on the evening of February 20th and left the property on March 7th. The cabinets and

bookcases in the parlor, resource room, and one Sunday School room will have to be rebuilt as they were removed due to water damage at their bases. The wainscoting and wall trim in the parlor, nursery, chapel, and fellowship hall was all removed and will be replaced with new trim due to water damage at their base.

We are currently getting 3 bids for the repairs. I should receive two bids by March 10th and the 3rd bid by March 17th. I am hopeful that restoration can occur the week of March 22nd. My best guess is that it will take 6-8 weeks to complete. At this point I have no dollar figures to release.

Our deductible is \$2,500. Most of the carpet was saved and will be cleaned by Servpro after the remodeling work is done. The flooring in the nursery, resource room and the chapel will be replaced. Keep praying for complete insurance coverage for Eastminster as I have not heard from the insurance adjuster after I met with him on February 27th. We will send out further information as it becomes available.

Blessings,

Blair Garrett  
Chairperson  
House & Property Committee









We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Who was he?

- A. John
- B. Paul of Tarsus
- C. Joseph of Arimathea
- D. Cleopas

Answer: D (See Luke 24:18.)

Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket.

Knock knock. Who's there? Hatch. Hatch who? God bless you!

What should you do after eating so many Easter treats? Eggs-ercise!

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? It might crack up!

An irate subscriber called the newspaper, demanding to know where her Sunday edition was. "Ma'am," said the employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper isn't delivered until Sunday." After a brief pause, the caller spoke with a ray of recognition: "So that's why no one was in church today."



## Scripture Readings for April

1	1 Cor. 10:14-17; 11:27-32	11	1 Peter 2:2-10	22	1 John 5:13-20 (21)
2	1 Peter 1:10-20	12	1 John 1:1-10	23	2 John 1-13
3	Heb. 4:1-16	13	1 John 2:1-11	24	3 John 1-15
4	John 1:1-18 or Isa. 51:9-11	14	1 John 2:12-17	25	1 Peter 5:1-11
5	Acts 2:14, 22-32	15	1 John 2:18-29	26	Col. 1:1-14
6	Acts 2:36-41 (42-47)	16	1 John 3:1-10	27	Col. 1:15-23
7	Acts 3:1-10	17	1 John 3:11-18	28	Col. 1:24-2:7
8	Acts 3:11-26	18	1 Peter 4:7-11	29	Col. 2:8-23
9	Acts 4:1-12	19	1 John 3:19-4:6	30	Col. 3:1-11
10	Acts 4:13-21 (22-31)	20	1 John 4:7-21		
		21	1 John 5:1-12		



## Eastminster Family

We cannot express the gratitude for all the prayers and support given during Lewis' illness and passing. Eastminster meant so much to Lewis and he especially held the Neighborhood Breakfast Ministry close to his heart.

Lewis was a gentle and kind man, who was a wonderful witness for Jesus. Please know that we were all comforted knowing that our Eastminster Family's constant support and uplifting love kept us going.

It is our prayers that this pandemic will end and we will all be able to meet for fellowship in person when the doors of Eastminster reopens.

Stay safe and love to all,

Vicki Gayle, Caleb, Truleigh and AbbyGayle



Thanks to each one of you for the Advent package and the goodies. I remember all of the years with the Advent Candle at the altar. The battery lighted candle was helpful. You turn it on at the bottom. We used those for a long time. Maybe next year things will be back to "our" normal!

Another "thank you" to all of the people who took the time to help deliver them.

Thank you, again, for thinking of me.

Thanks to all,  
Bettye Clark

## Encourage Wonder

For a new perspective on Bible accounts you've heard over and over, play "I Wonder" with children and adults alike. Similar to "I Spy," it encourages a deeper dive into familiar passages. Simply explore ideas that aren't detailed in the Bible, starting with the phrase "I wonder." For example:

- ♦ I wonder if any Roman soldier was standing in the back not mocking Jesus (Matthew 27:27-31). If so, what was he thinking as others threw about insults?
- ♦ I wonder how long it took Joseph of Arimathea to cut his own tomb out of the rock (Matthew 27:57-60). What did he think about as he worked?
- ♦ The day after Jesus' ascension, I wonder which disciple spoke first at breakfast — and what he said.

Scholars may have chimed in on some of these ponderings, but there's likely no right answer. Playing "I Wonder" can help you slow down to really pay attention and experience more of a Bible passage — especially one you seem to know by rote.

Add meaning to this year's Easter celebration by letting your wonder wander during Holy Week. Then continue the practice whenever you're eager to gain new insights on the "old, old story ... of Jesus and his love."

—Janna Firestone

# Puzzle!

Use the code to uncover the angel's message in Matthew 28:7 (NIV).



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“The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies.”

—Kate McGahan

“Easter is very important to me. It’s a second chance.”

—Reba McEntire

“The earth laughs in flowers.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

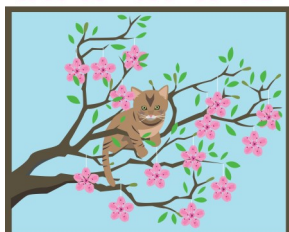
## *A fitting tribute*

When Christ entered into Jerusalem, the people spread garments in the way. When he enters into our hearts, we pull off our own righteousness, and not only lay it under Christ’s feet but even trample upon it ourselves.

—Augustus Toplady  
(1740–1778)

Answer: “He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.”

**APRIL** Kelsey Whitlow 1



**BIRTHDAYS** Frank Karlen, Sr. 4

Cary Blair 5

Craig Blair 5

Brittney Bennett 6

Deidre Maples 12

Charles Blair, Jr. 13

Garrett Gibbs 14

Danny Wood 15

Mason Gonzales 17

Talat Robert 18

Trey Karlen 23

**APRIL**



**ANNIVERSARIES**

Vicki & David Gibbs 4/29

Beverly & Roy Ridley 4/22



## 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

Director of Music

Organist

Administrative Assistant

Hostess/Housekeeper

Child Care Provider

Sherry Holloman

Fred P. Watkins

Melody S. Davis

Chandra Anderson

Minerva Hernandez

Betty Crabtree





## HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING

February 28, 2021

- ♦ Fire Extinguishers have been serviced by Lone Star Fire Extinguisher Company.
- ♦ Update from Blair on general status of the repairs of the facility. Motion made, seconded and approved to request and authorize that the trustees research preventative measures with EPC insurance.
- ♦ TREASURER'S REPORT:
  - ♦ YTD Total Revenues on January 31, 2021: \$15,010.00
  - ♦ YTD total expenses through January 31, 2021: \$26,728.83
  - ♦ YTD Total Current Assets on January 31, 2021: \$115,140.66
- ♦ Stewardship Action Items: Recommendation from the Committee approved.
  - ♦ One Great Hour of Sharing evenly split between the Denomination (supporting Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People) and the Pleasant Grove Food Pantry
  - ♦ Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day: Evenly split between Hospice and Meals on Wheels
  - ♦ Christmas Offering receipts: Evenly split between Denomination (supports Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color) and Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services.
- ♦ Task Force/Advisory Group Updates (Re-Entry, ADA, Nursery, Video) recommendation to re-enter on April 4, Easter Sunday fails. New motion to re-enter on April 2, Good Friday (which was the original recommendation from the reentry task force) carries.

### Special dates



- Maundy Thursday, April 1
- Good Friday, April 2
- Easter Sunday, April 4
- Administrative Professionals Day, April 21