

Eastminster Eagle

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LIVING IN THE PRESENT AND IN THE LORD'S PRESENCE

In Matthew 6: 25-34 Jesus says, "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore, do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed, your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."

If you are like me, this passage has welled up in my memory and heart more than a few times a day. I am not worried for myself; I know in whom I believe and trust. I am, however, more aware now than at anytime in my life the world is full of people who don't know about the love of God in Jesus; aware that many who do know are questioning faith right now; aware that securing food and drink, clothing and shelter, and yes, medical assistance is a real-time reason for anxiousness.

For me, life was a whirlwind, more so than usual, leading up to and during Holy Week and Easter. I fear I missed out on some of God's "new things" because I was not living in the moment; I was living to get to the next moment. Everything we pastors say to "not" do; I was doing. But it is true, most pastors will push through their own needs in hopes that everyone else has less worry. And, in that sense, I have been living "worry" this past month plus. To be a witness to the calming presence and peace of Jesus, I must embrace that God's new thing for me is enjoying the present, knowing that the ultimate future ahead of me...is hope! God's hope in Jesus that goodness and abundant life will prevail over all worldly things.

It is my prayer that you also embrace this promise we have been gifted. In our time, people around us—people who do not know the love of God in Jesus; people who do know that love' but are having doubts; people who are wondering when the next meal or roof or vaccine is coming—from those of us who believe, they need the calming, peaceful reassuring presence of the Lord in each and every present moment. You and

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I are living witnesses to the peace of Christ. May the Holy Spirit work in and through us to be that peace of Jesus to all we meet.

I close with these words from Wendy Wright: *The path of love that we walk is neither predetermined nor clear cut. It is forged in the process of walking day by day, listening deeply to the silence brooding beneath the noisy instructions issuing from without and within our own hearts. God's will is not a puzzle to be solved, but a mystery to be lived into. It is a mystery whose contours emerge as we journey on.*

The Lord IS with us!
Pastor Sherry

From the Treasurer

Hopefully, by the time you read this we will be worshiping together again. I pray this will be the case. If not, I look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

You may be wondering how the church is doing financially during the Covid-19 pandemic. God is good! And we are right on budget. Our faithful members have not wavered in their commitment to support our ministry. Your pledged contributions have been arriving via mail and electronically through our online giving portal. Also, as part of the federal relief program, the Cares Act was enacted to help keep the American economy afloat. As part of the Cares Act the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was made available to businesses and non-profits (this includes churches) with less than 500 employees. We were able to take advantage of the program which pays for 8 weeks of our payroll and utilities. So, we can keep all employees paid and the lights turned on! Seriously, because of your steady benevolence these funds allow us to continue with the plans we were

implementing before the virus invasion, and so far, without any alterations.

As a reminder, the church financial reports for each quarter are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to Fellowship Hall. Also, they can be found online in our church management website called Realm. They are in the files for the group "Eastminster Presbyterian Church." Don't have access to Realm? Send an email request to Chandra at officeadmin@eastminsterdallas.org. She will send you back an email "invite" to establish your account.

I'd like to thank the Session for their support and you, our wonderful members, for your ongoing faith and devotion to Christ's work at Eastminster.

Blessings,
Tony Bennett

What's new with the Security Task Force?

The Security Task Force met on March 4th to update and plan for the church's safety and security needs. The task force has been at it for more than a year and has gotten quite a bit done. Obviously, there's a lot more to do but here's what went on during the meeting:

Fred Watkins presented a PowerPoint presentation created using information and data from a recent seminar he attended at the invitation of the Dallas Police Department. The seminar was designed to educate and assist houses of worship in Dallas and was attended by approximately 50 church representatives. The information presented centered around the preparation by congregations and their respective "security teams" in the event of an active shooter. The planning that was recommended was not only for the active shooter scenario, but was also for natural disasters, health emergencies, and accidental injuries as well. The presentation was comprehensive and informative. Fred passed out copies of the slideshow to all present.

The task force members voted to recommend to the Session that a task force sub-committee be created to produce an emergency action plan, and create a "Response Team" that would include members from the several standing committees. Fred agreed to chair the sub-committee and the task force members agreed that he would be well suited to do so. The task force thanked Fred for the

presentation and his willingness to serve as the chair of the sub-committee. The task force has also accepted Fred's agreement to serve on the Security Task Force as an additional member, representing the sub-committee.

If any member of the congregation has questions or concerns, we would invite and encourage anyone to speak with a member of the task force. Feel free to contact Jim Lee, Paul McLin, Bruce Turner and now Fred Watkins. We would be happy to share any and all information.

Adopted by God

Anecdotes abound of couples who become pregnant soon after finalizing a long-awaited adoption. A Reader's Digest contributor recounts how one such mother later handled well-meaning inquiries about which child was "hers" (biologically). She replied: "I've forgotten."

That mindset, perhaps, is why John Piper calls adoption "a picture of the Gospel." God, through his Son Jesus, makes us his very own eternally beloved children.

Max Lucado writes: "If anybody understands God's ardor for his children, it's someone who has rescued an orphan from despair, for that is what God has done for us. God has adopted you. God sought you, found you, signed the papers and took you home."



We've been through the middle of Lent though Holy Week, Easter and now still in Eastertide. I'm

writing this on April 20th, and it is still unknown when we will be able to approach even limited opportunity to meet, etc. We are in a sense, unlike Jesus, still in some form of a tomb. Lost wages and jobs, illnesses, relationship problems, the pandemic, diseases, loneliness, and all the many other situations we as humans experience. We wonder if we will ever be out of the tombs in which we find ourselves.

We know that Jesus experienced ups and downs of being human and his faith in God, and God's love for all humankind, led to his death and burial in a tomb. The Gospels give several different episodes in Jesus' life where he was concerned about his mother and others, where he was angry, where he was compassionate, where he experienced sadness at the death of a friend, where he felt loneliness, betrayed by friends, falsely accused, and ultimately executed.

We have just recently, albeit though video, celebrated Jesus' resurrection from that tomb and death. We sang *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* and many other hymns and anthems with the same thoughts. There is a "gospel song" written by Robert Lowery in 1874 that is not in our hymnal, *Up from the Grave He Arose*. It can give us some clues for our hope in this time. The first verse "Low in the grave, he lay, Jesus my Savior, waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!" Aren't we right now waiting to

be free from the pandemic and whatever personal tombs in which we find ourselves trapped? The third verse "Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior, he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!" That verse gives us the hope that through God we too will be able to move the stone and like Jesus and the refrain of this hymn says: "Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; he arose A victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever, with his saints to reign, He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!" We, through Jesus' example and God's love for us, can be resurrected from the various dark domains of our inner and outer selves. How do we know this is true?

In our service on April 19th, we sang a hymn that is not in our hymnal that says it all. "He Lives!" another "gospel song" that expresses our belief that God raised Jesus from death and the tomb. As life's tombs seem to be closing the stone on us, remember this, the final line of the refrain sums up our faith and how God can raise us from our living deaths and tombs:

"you ask me how I know He lives; He
lives within my heart!"

Trust the Artist

We must offer ourselves to God like a clean, smooth canvas and not worry ourselves about what God may choose to paint on it, but at each moment, feel only the stroke of his brush. ... It is the same with a piece of stone. Each blow from the sculptor's chisel makes it feel ... as if it were being destroyed. ... All I know is that I must stay immobile in the hands of the sculptor. ... I have no idea what he is doing ... but I know his work is the best possible.

—Jean Pierre de Caussade

*A prayer for Memorial Day*

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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



“God is not a workaholic”

In *Sabbath as Resistance*, Walter Brueggemann likens our consumerism-driven society to ancient Egypt. Hebrew slaves made bricks for storehouses for the wealth of the upper class, at the top of which sat Pharaoh. Now, as then, the push is always to do more, earn more, make more; we worry there's not enough time or money. “In this system there can be no Sabbath rest,” says the author.

Yet, at the culmination of creation, “God rested on the seventh day. God did not show up to do more. ... God did not come and check on creation in anxiety to be sure it was all working.” And “because the creator is anxiety-free,” we can be too. “God is not a workaholic,” writes Brueggemann. “God does not keep jacking up production schedules. To the contrary, God rests, confident, serene, at peace.” God's rest, in turn, gives us — who are created in his image — a “restfulness that contradicts the ‘drivenness’” of Pharaoh's Egypt and modern society.



We wanted to share a picture of Alex and her new husband Ellis. They were married on Friday, March 13th. We want to thank our church family for always being there when our family needed you. This wedding was a joyous occasion and whether you attended or not, all of you have made a difference in Alex's life. We hope to see you soon.

Tom and Michele

COLORING PAGE

Print this 8.5" x 11" image to color.



While 70 Israelite men were commissioned as prophets at the tent of meeting, two others, Eldad and Medad, were reported to have prophesied in the camp – not following “proper” protocols. Who defended them?



A. Moses
C. Jethro

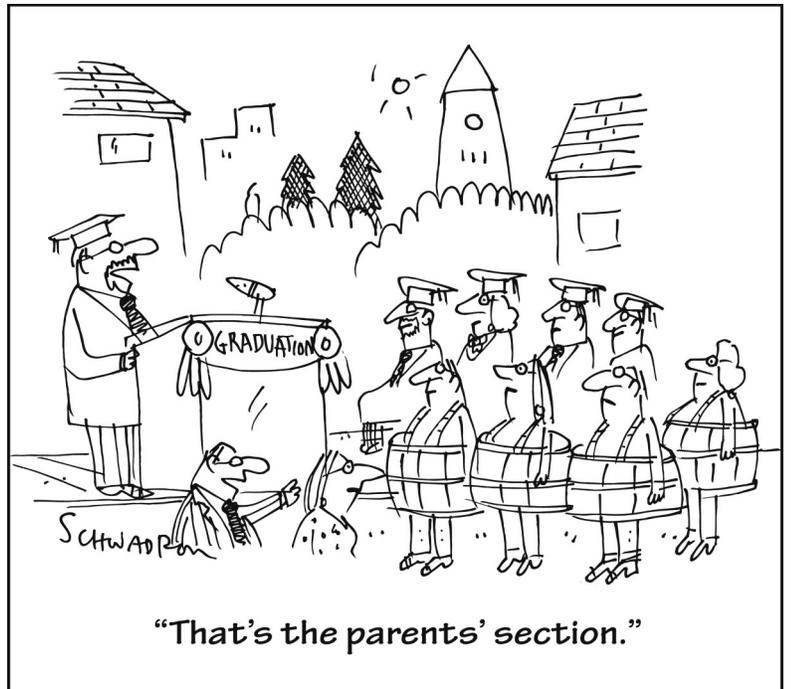
B. Joshua
D. The Lord

Answer: A (See Numbers 11:24-29.)

“Where flowers bloom, so does hope.”
—Lady Bird Johnson

“The mere whisper of the Holy Spirit can drown out the thundering noise of an entire world.”
—David Jeremiah

“In life, there are many promotions in spiritual growth, but there is no graduation.”
—T.J. Bach



Scripture Readings for May

1 Col. 2:8–23	12 Thess. 5:1–11	23 Eph. 2:11–22
2 Col. 3:1–17	13 Thess. 5:12–28	24 Heb. 12:18–29
3 John 2:18–29	14 Thess. 1:1–12	25 Eph. 3:1–13
4 Col. 3:18–4:6 (7–18)	15 Thess. 2:1–17	26 Eph. 3:14–21
5 Thess. 1:1–10	16 Thess. 3:1–18	27 Eph. 4:1–16
6 Thess. 2:1–12	17 Luke 12:13–21	28 Eph. 4:17–32
7 Thess. 2:13–20	18 Lev. 25:35–55	29 Eph. 5:1–32
8 Thess. 3:1–13	19 Tim. 2:1–6	30 Eph. 6:1–24
9 Thess. 4:1–12	20 Eph. 1:1–10	31 Acts 4:18–21, 23–33
10 Heb. 12:1–14	21 Heb. 2:5–18	
11 Thess. 4:13–18	22 Eph. 2:1–10	

News from the Nursery!

Sometimes procrastination pays off! About a year ago, a task force was created to address the updating of the church nursery. It has been many years since any updating was done to the nursery so this has been way overdue for some time. The members of the task force are: Betty Crabtree, Brittney Bennett, Katie Karlen, Sean Turner and Bruce Turner with Pastor Sherry as a special advisor.

So, back to the procrastination part. The session approved up to \$3,000 to use for the remodel with the expectation that donations would be solicited from the congregation. Some work on the nursery got started last year such, as the installation of new LED ceiling light fixtures and new ceiling panels. Two inch blinds have been purchased and are ready for installation. Then the work stalled. Fast forward to the end of March of this year when it was time to collect time sheets for the church payroll.

Betty Crabtree fills out her timesheet and leaves it in the nursery where it is collected and then processed. That's when a leak in the tank of the teeny, tiny toilet in the nursery was discovered. The entire floor of the nursery was soaked from what was probably days of leaking. As there was no one in the church due to the Coronavirus shut down it wasn't until it was time to collect the timesheets that the leak was discovered. The insurance company was immediately contacted along with a water extraction service and the ball was rolling. Had the work to remodel the nursery started sooner, we would be dealing with redoing

the remodel. So, sometimes procrastination pays off!

On April 18th, the task force met in the nursery to make plans for moving forward. The insurance company settled with the church and has sent a check to cover all of the estimated expenses associated with the damages. The task force has pulled together a full plan for the remodel that should create a vibrant, soothing, useful space that should not need to be updated for the next 15 years or so. Some of the touches that were included in the remodel include fresh paint, engineered bamboo flooring, a camera monitor system, new furniture and storage pieces, a new bathroom vanity with granite countertop, ceramic flooring in the bath, board and batten wainscoting, new speakers and even new ceramic tile leading out to the playground. There may even be room in the budget for new replacement windows.

Ask one of the task force members for more information. They'd love to share. And thank God for his mighty acts. He has a plan and it's in His time. His time rather than procrastination? Maybe so!

*Please note that all events and dates are
subject to change*

May

- Neighborhood breakfast every Saturday (2, 9, 16, 23, 30)
Choir practice—Wednesdays (6, 13, 20, 27)
3 Communion—Intinction; Committee Meetings: CE,
CCC, Outreach & Stewardship 12:30 p.m.
5 EPW (7:00 p.m.)
10 Mother's Day Offering (Presbyterian Communities
& Services Foundation)
17 Stated Session Meeting
18 Newsletter Deadline
25 Office Closed (Memorial Day)
30 Stated Presbytery Meeting – St. Andrew, Denton
31 Pulpit Supply – Clay Brantly

June

- Neighborhood breakfast every Saturday (6, 13, 20, 27)
Choir Practice - Wednesdays (3, 10, 17, 24)
7 Communion Sunday; Committee Meetings: CCC,
CE, Outreach 12:30 p.m.
9 EPW (7:00 p.m.)
14 Committee Meetings: H&P 5 pm, Worship 8:30 am
21 Stated Session Meeting
22 Newsletter Deadline

July

- Neighborhood breakfast every Saturday (4, 11, 18, 25)
3 Office Closed
5 Communion – Intinction
13-18 SYNOD Youth Workshop (9-18 – Pastor Sherry at
SYNOD)
20 Newsletter Deadline

MAY Birthdays

Doris Parker	5/2
Jenelle Symns	5/2
Bill Davis	5/5
Bill Parker	5/6
Sean Turner	5/9
Becky Hensley	5/10
Willis Nixon	5/12
Michelle Robert Elahi	5/13
Julie Watkins	5/14
Cora Barraza	5/14
Kayla Kreger Dixon	5/15
Emily Wood Desmond	5/17
Julie Karlen	5/17
Melody Davis	5/21
Anna Blair	5/25
Alice Brooks	5/26
Coy Whitley	5/31

MAY Anniversaries

Willis & Gail Nixon	5/12/1996
Becky & Chad Hensley	5/15/2010
Elizabeth & Sean Kelleher	5/15/2003





The wine of the Spirit

“No one puts new wine into old wineskins,” said Jesus (Luke 5:37). Drawing on this statement, a preacher in sixth-century Africa proclaimed in a Pentecost homily:

“It was with good reason, then, that some people, when they heard the apostles speaking in every tongue, said, ‘They are filled with the new wine.’ For they had become fresh wineskins, they had been renewed by the grace of holiness, so that when they were filled with the new wine, that is, with the Holy Spirit, they spoke with fervor in every tongue. ...

"Celebrate, then, this day as members of the one body of Christ. Your celebration will not be in vain if you are what you celebrate, if you hold fast to the church which the Lord filled with his Holy Spirit.”

Fifteen centuries later, may that call still resonate with us. May we be so renewed by God’s grace as to be worthy vessels of the new wine of the Holy Spirit — and to share it with the world.

Those Who Will Serve in May



Eastminster Session

Janice Bell
Denise Bennett
Tony Bennett
Kayla Dixon
Ronnie Dixon
Kathy Kreger
Paul McLin
Janet Muller
Michele Pappas
Helen Randolph
Vicki Thiebaud
Bruce 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



Special dates

- National Day of Prayer, May 7, 2020
- Mother's Day, May 10, 2020
- Armed Forces Day, May 16, 2020
- Ascension Day, May 21, 2020
- Memorial Day, May 25, 2020
- Pentecost, May 31, 2020