

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
For detailed information and to register for the below programs and events,
visit our website: <https://eastminsterpres.org/>.

Announcement regarding Rev. Dr. Ben Sloan: Pending the approval of Trinity Presbytery's Commission on Ministry, Dr. Ben Sloan will be leaving Eastminster at the end of September to become the Transitional (Interim) Pastor at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church. This is sad news for us, but we trust good news for God's broader work in the world. We are grateful for Ben's faithful service to Christ through his work as Parish Associate Pastor these past three years, and will recognize Kay and him at the end of September.

Bradley Lunch Buddies Needed...Mentor a Student this Fall: Additional volunteers are needed to help students two Tuesdays a month from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at Bradley. Contact Stan Holland (sholland@eastminsterpres.org) or John McArthur (jbmstr360@gmail.com) to sign up for this mutually rewarding service opportunity by August 31st.

Support Bradley Students with Weekend Food: Contact Julia White (jgwhite4@gmail.com) for more information about our partnership with Bradley Elementary to send nutritious food home with students on weekends.

Early Bird Discount for Advent Retreat ends September 2: Visit our website's Upcoming Events and register by Tuesday. Pastor John McCall is our guest speaker, and the dates are December 5th-7th.

New Fall Small Groups: Tuesdays: 10 am Women's (50s/60s); Wednesdays: 12 pm Co-ed (all ages); 6 pm Young Adults (20s/30s); Thursdays 4:15 pm Pickleball/Prayer Co-ed (all ages). Contact Caroline Bennett at cbennett@eastminsterpres.org to inquire.

Small Groups Kick-off Dinner is this Thursday, September 4th: from 5:15-7 pm (TH). Rev. Dr. Jeff Smith will teach us what "Surrendering to Our Sovereign God" looks like through Small Groups, and how trust in God is key. Reservations are required via Upcoming Events on our website.

Eastminster Arts Academy (EAA) Six-week Group World Drumming Class: Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 pm, beginning September 4 (ages 14 through adults). Visit our EAA homepage to learn more and register. Contact Dr. Augie Gil with any questions (agil@eastminsterpres.org).

Western NC Mission Trip dates are now September 5th -10th: Sign up under Upcoming Events for either a shorter or a longer stay. We continue to repair mobile homes damaged by Hurricane Helene.

September 7th is "Invite a Friend to Church Sunday": Bring a guest and stay for lunch in the gym, following 11:15 am worship. Guests should stop by our Welcome Centers to learn more about the ministries at Eastminster.

Cookies for First Responders Outreach is September 7th: You may drop off cookies in the parlor, Sunshine Room or CLC lobby. If you are delivering cookies, pick up in the CLC lobby. Sign up to help under Upcoming Events.

Jeremiah- Sundays@5 12-week Study led by Dr. Douglass Key Starts Sept. 7th (Gray Music Room, Sanctuary basement): Walk through a biblical case study for surrendering to God's sovereignty. We will immerse ourselves in God's word that weighed heavily upon Jeremiah that he was to proclaim to the people of Jerusalem in the final days before the Babylonian exile. [Note the change in location.](#)

Church-wide Fire Drill is on September 14 during the Sunday School Hour: See flat screens for info.

WE@EPC Meals and Classes Kick off on September 17: Join us in Thompson Hall for dinner at 5:15 pm before class. Please RSVP each Wednesday by noon. Visit Upcoming Events on our website to make meal reservations and learn more/register for classes: New Testament Class with Dr. Ben Sloan and Marriage Enrichment for all ages with Dr. Douglass Key.

Flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by an Eastminster family.

Unison Reading: Jeremiah 3:11-14
¹¹ **The Lord said to me, "Faithless Israel is more righteous than unfaithful Judah. ¹² Go, proclaim this message toward the north:**

**" "Return, faithless Israel,' declares the Lord,
 'I will frown on you no longer,
for I am faithful,' declares the Lord,
 'I will not be angry forever.
¹³ Only acknowledge your guilt—
 you have rebelled against the Lord your God,
you have scattered your favors to foreign gods
 under every spreading tree,
 and have not obeyed me,' "**
declares the Lord.

¹⁴ **"Return, faithless people," declares the Lord, "for I am your husband. I will choose you—one from a town and two from a clan—and bring you to Zion.**

SERMON NOTES

DEACONS: PARKS BUNCH AND AUSTIN RHODES
HEAD USHER: RUSS PURDY (9:00 AM)
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MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF
Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor
Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor
Dr. J. Ben Sloan, Parish Associate
Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry
Louis Shirer, Organist
Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth
Katie Herndon, Day School Director
Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center
James Cassidy, A/V Director

Rev. Emily M. Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor
Rev. Rob Schoonover, Associate Pastor
Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate
Alisha Hudson, Ex. Dir. Finance and Admin.
Dr. Augie Gil, Director of Worship and Arts
Blythe Lewis, Senior Communications Officer
Christy Rippy, Treasurer
Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian
Alex Rogers, Plant Operations Director



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 31, 2025
9:00 AM

3200 TRENHOLM ROAD
COLUMBIA, SC 29204

803-256-1654

www.eastminsterpres.org

Welcome to Eastminster Presbyterian Church!
In Christ’s name, we welcome you to Eastminster. We hope that you will feel the love and peace of Christ as you worship with us. Please take this time to silence the world and focus your heart and mind on worshiping our living God.
“So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you, for God’s glory.” Romans 15:7

PRELUDE
Prelude Louis Vierne

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Micah 6)
Leader: With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God?
People: He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
Leader: And what does the Lord require of you?
People: To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
All: Let us worship the Lord!

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #267
Come, Christians, Join to Sing MADRID

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key

***THE APOSTLES’ CREED** *(Unison)*
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our LORD; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

****GLORIA PATRI** *(Please send the children forward.)*
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

****TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**
The 3K—5K children may come to the front and bring their offering.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith
Gracious and loving God, we bow before you this day, grateful for your presence in our lives. You have loved us even before you formed us in our mother’s womb. You have blessed us more than we deserve. We are ashamed and sorrowful for the many ways we turn our face away from you, for the ways we hurt others and therefore hurt you. In this moment of prayer, we return to you and pray for the reconciliation that our soul craves. May you restore us and renew us and set us back on your path-way to life. Hear us, Lord, as we lift up our silent prayers...

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.
Congregation: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON #71
Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me LAND OF REST
Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and God will be my Savior.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER Rev. Robert Schoonover
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SIGNING OF FRIENDSHIP REGISTER AND OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS
If you or someone you know is in need of special prayer today or if you would like to speak personally with a pastor about making a first-time commitment to Christ or growing in the Christian faith and discipleship, a pastor is on hand to speak with you following the worship service today by the pulpit in the front of the Sanctuary.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM
Speak, O Lord Getty/arr. Ferguson

***DOXOLOGY**
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***OFFICER’S PRAYER** Parks Bunch

*THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND. **CHILDREN MAY BRING THEIR OFFERING AT THIS TIME.
†THOSE WAITING IN THE NARTHEX MAY NOW BE SEATED.
FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY IS PROHIBITED IN ALL WORSHIP SERVICES
AT EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SCRIPTURE LESSONS
Unison Reading: Jeremiah 3:11-14 (NIV) see back of bulletin
Scripture Focus: Jeremiah 3:15-18

Pastor: The Word of the LORD!
Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd
“Return to the Lord”

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #800**
Sometimes a Light Surprises SALLEY GARDENS

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION**
May the Road Rise to Meet You Lee Turner
May the road rise to meet you; may the wind be at your back; may the sun shine warmly on your face; may the rain fall softly on your face, and until we meet again, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. Amen.

POSTLUDE
Improvisation

***A TIME FOR GREETING AND FELLOWSHIP**



WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER
We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate this Lord’s Day with us, and we hope that in a real and meaningful way you will sense God’s presence, power, and purpose among us. If you would like for us to connect with you, please leave your contact information in the Friendship Pad when it is passed.

Interested in Membership at Eastminster? Join us for the First Step Class on September 21st. At First Step, you’ll find that there are many ways to use your spiritual gifts through the ministries at EPC. Questions? Contact Stefanie Hammond. (shammond@eastminsterpres.org).

September 7, 2025
Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith
Jeremiah 5:4-9