

Eastminster Eagle

Volume 40, Issue 4

April 2023



The Christian celebration of Holy Week is one of the most significant events in the religious calendar. The week this year begins with Palm/Passion Sunday on April 2, which celebrates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and then moves on to Maundy Thursday, April 6, which commemorates the Last Supper. April 7, Good Friday follows, which marks the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. But what about the day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday? Holy Saturday is often overlooked, but it represents an important moment in the Easter story. On this day, Jesus was in the tomb, and his followers were waiting in anticipation for what would come next. Holy Saturday is a joyful contradiction between the sorrowful events of Good Friday and the celebratory resurrection of Easter Sunday.

Most Protestants ignore Holy Saturday. It is the day we remember that Jesus Christ lay dead in the tomb and how his disciples were still mourning and grieving his loss. It is a day of darkness, of waiting, and of confusion, as the world struggles to come to terms with the death of Jesus. Yet, even in the midst of this darkness, there is a glimmer of hope. Holy Saturday is also a day of anticipation, as we await the miracle of Easter Sunday, when Christ rose from the dead and redeemed us all. It is a day of joyful contradiction, a time when we hold both grief and hope in our hearts. Holy Saturday is a time to reflect on the mystery of death and the unknown. It is a reminder that life is full of contradictions and that sometimes, we must endure the darkness to appreciate the light. It is a reminder to trust in God's plan, even when we don't understand it. It reminds us of the power of love, sacrifice, and redemption, and the promise of new beginnings. Holy Saturday also reminds us that sometimes we need to sit with our grief and reflect on our losses before we can experience true joy and celebration. It is a reminder that the journey of life is not always easy, but that there is hope and light at the end of the tunnel.

After Holy Saturday, Easter's Sunrise brings light and new life to us. Easter Sunday is the culmination of the Holy Week and the most important day in the Christian calendar. It is a day of joy and celebration, as it marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and the triumph of life over death. It is a day of new beginnings, of hope, and of promise. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the ultimate symbol of new life, and it reminds us that no matter what we have been through, there is always a chance for renewal and rebirth. As we celebrate Easter Sunday, we are reminded of the power of faith, hope, and love. It

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

is a day to be grateful for the blessings in our lives and Eastminster, and to look forward to the future with hope and optimism. It is a day to celebrate the gift of life, and to remember that each day is a precious gift to be cherished and appreciated.

For many people, Easter Sunday is a time of celebration, renewed faith, and a sense of purpose. It's a day to gather with family and friends, attend church, participate in Easter egg hunts, special family dinners, and other activities that bring joy and happiness. The joy of Easter Sunday is not just about the celebration of Christ's resurrection, but it's also a time to reflect on the past, let go of old hurts and resentments, and embrace the possibilities of the future. The season of Easter reminds us that we can always start again, no matter what mistakes we have made or what challenges we face.

Holy Saturday reminds us even in the midst of darkness, pain, and suffering, that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a beacon of hope and light. It reminds us that even in our darkest moments, we are never alone, and that God's love is always with us. So, let us celebrate the joy and hope of Easter Sunday singing the hymns and anthems accompanied by the organ, the brass quartet and the Sanctuary Choir. Let our celebration and our Easter Communion inspire us to live our lives with new and renewed purpose for each of us, our congregation's missions, current and future, and helping others to understand the meaning and love found in the resurrection of Jesus.

Join Us for an Unforgettable time of Brass Music: The Eastfield's Early Brass Ensemble will be playing at Eastminster on Sunday, April 23 at 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

There's something about the rich and powerful sound of brass music that speaks to the soul. It's a sound that can stir up



feelings of passion, joy, and even melancholy. If you're someone who appreciates the beauty of brass music, then you won't want to miss this

upcoming event. ***Eastfield Early Brass*** is set to perform a variety of musical styles at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Sunday, April 23 at 5 p.m. This talented group of professional and amateur musicians has been performing together for several years. Some of you may recognize Ray Akin and Al Shyne. They have been playing for our Easter Service and some other services for years.

Eastfield Early Brass is sure to delight your ears and lift your spirits. So join us for an evening of beautiful brass music that will leave you feeling inspired and uplifted. Free and open to everyone, so bring your family and friends.

A reception will follow in the fellowship hall.

If you would like to come but need transportation, call the office 214-381-4693 and we will get you a ride to and from the concert.



House & Property

Our **Workday** is scheduled for April 8th, 10am-1pm. We will:

- ◆ Clean out attic area above the kitchen
- ◆ Organize Maintenance closet
- ◆ Caulk and paint circular window above kitchen in the attic
- ◆ Finish staining Ark
- ◆ Finish touch-up painting of hallways, fellowship hall, fellowship restroom
- ◆ Adjust exit door to playground
- ◆ Replace Exit Sign lights
- ◆ Plant flowers in the courtyard and in front of the sanctuary

You can help! Pick up trash that you see in and around the building. Turn off lights if you know you are the last to leave a room. Let the House and Property Committee know if you see something that doesn't look right or is not working properly. Let's all share in the stewardship of God's house.

Blessings,

Blair Garrett, Chairman

H&P Committee: Bruce Turner
and Jo Byrd, Members

CHRISTIAN STRONGHOLD CHURCH
PRESENTS...

Easter Eggstravaganza

EGG HUNT EVENT

Month **04** Date **08** Year **23**

from **12pm** to **3PM**

6810 Samuell Blvd, Dallas, TX 75228

Fun Fun FUN! More than 10,000 eggs to find!

(214) 320-4800 | Front Office

Use the QR code to preregister

April 8, 2023—12 –3p.m.

Eastminster will be helping Christian Stronghold again this year with the Egg Hunt Event. Everyone that participated last year had a great time. So come join the fun!

Can you provide some cookies and/or cupcakes?
Who can help out with the Face Painting?



Not resuscitation — resurrection!

In the early years of the U.S. space program, a small but powerful rocket was supported by a metal framework. This “escape tower” was bolted to the capsule in which astronauts awaited takeoff. If disaster occurred, the escape tower was to carry the capsule up and away from the main rocket. A parachute would then float the astronauts safely to earth.

Jesus’ resurrection is more than a great escape. If he had merely eluded death, that would be akin to resuscitation. By God’s power, Jesus didn’t merely survive death but conquered it, once and for all. On Easter, Jesus returns to life not for his own sake but for the sake of all humanity. He reassures the disciples — and us — “Peace be with you.”

—adapted from Homiletics

How Jesus says your name

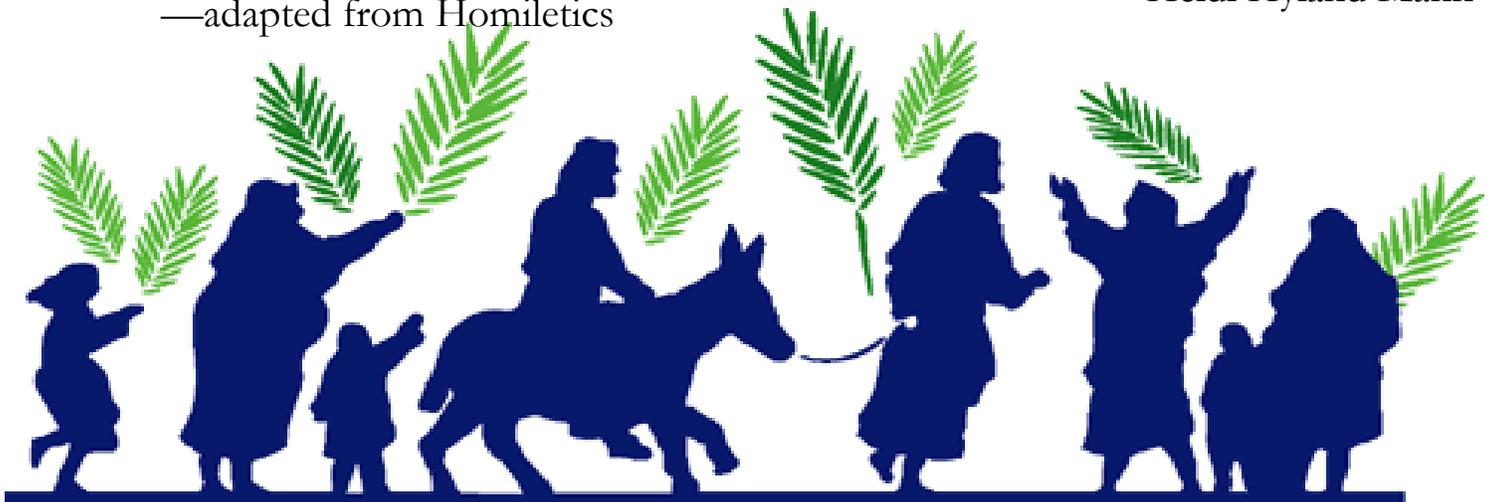
It’s been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is “safe” coming from their mouth.

Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus’ tomb, she wanted nothing less than for a concerned loved one to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: “Oh, Mary, there, there.” Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had cast out her demons. But then Mary saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her — not by name, just “Woman ...” — and then a gardener: “Woman ...”

Except then — “Mary” — this man knew her after all, speaking her name so knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him. “Mary.” Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn’t the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.

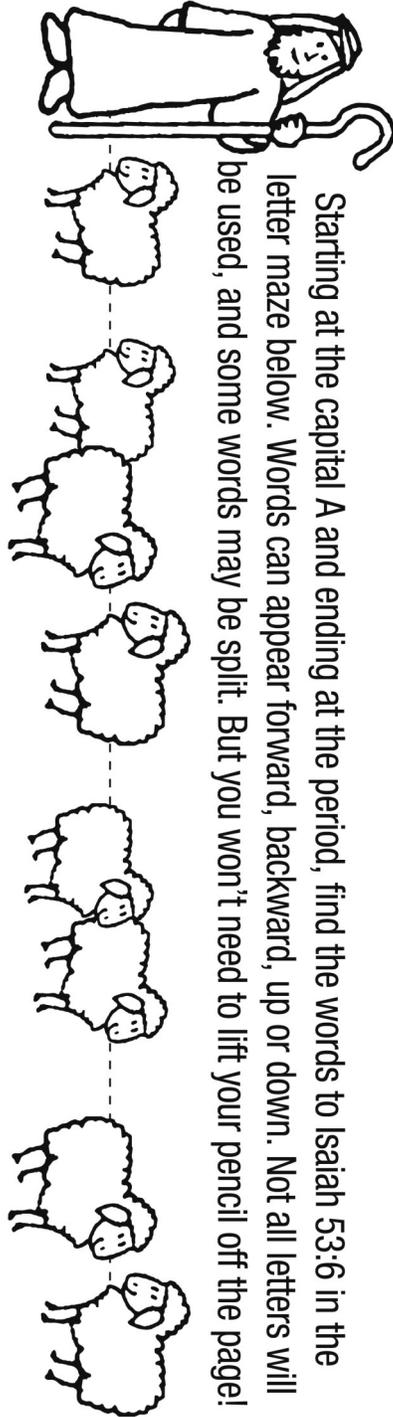
Friend, your name also is safe in Jesus’ mouth, your life safe in his care, for he loves you deeply.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Procession of the Palms

Puzzle!



Starting at the capital A and ending at the period, find the words to Isaiah 53:6 in the letter maze below. Words can appear forward, backward, up or down. Not all letters will be used, and some words may be split. But you won't need to lift your pencil off the page!

All we like sheep have gone astray, we have become as lost sheep. The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was silent before his oppressors, he did not open his mouth. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

Answer: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6, NRSV

“Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with our resurrection.”

—Watchman Nee

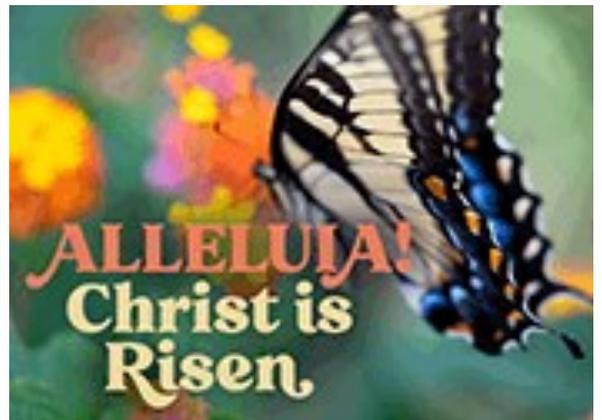
“For most of us, the prayer in Gethsemane is the only model. Removing mountains can wait.”

—C.S. Lewis

Vibrant belief

The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid.

—Madeleine L’Engle, *The Rock That Is Higher*





Finally! Alex Pappas was ordained here at Eastminster in 2020, but because of Covid, we were not able to celebrate! We were able to welcome her home to Eastminster on March 5 to hear her preach, and to finally celebrate her accomplishment with a reception. We miss you Alex, but we are proud of you!

provides special care for people who are terminally ill. This involves a team-oriented approach that addresses the medical, physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of the patient. Hospice also provides support to the patient's family or caregiver.

We trust that you will prayerfully give consideration to donating to these programs in the coming weeks.

Stewardship Committee

Mother's Day/ Father's Day Offering

The Stewardship Committee has designated the following two programs as recipients of our "extra-giving" on Mother's Day (May 14) and Father's Day (June 18). We will give half of the money collected to each of the following two local programs:

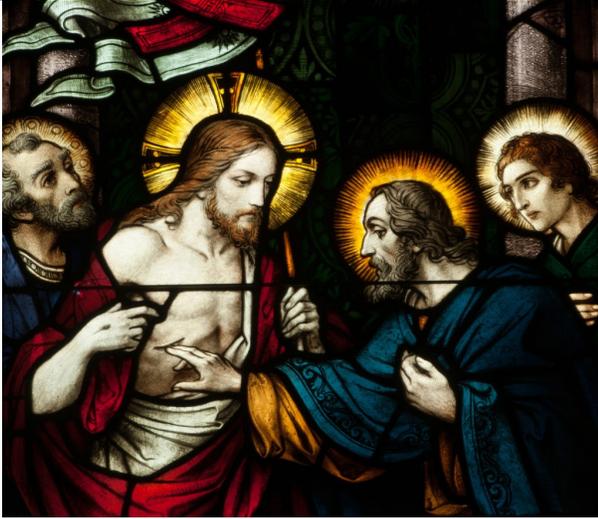
Meals on Wheels: This program is an essential part of the Visiting Nurse Association of Texas. The VNA Meals on Wheels program came together with the help of their donors and friends to continue serving their homebound seniors on a daily basis with meals and even holiday gifts. The caring volunteers continue keeping our vulnerable seniors fed and even deliver comforting friendship during their meal deliveries. Meals on Wheels continues to add new clients from the waiting list to ensure more seniors are being helped daily.

Faith Presbyterian Hospice: This hospice care center is located in Dallas and its palliative care is Medicare certified. Services provided at Faith Presbyterian Hospice includes home health aide, counseling, medical social services, medical supply services, nursing services, occupational therapy, physician services, physical therapy, short term inpatient care and speech pathology services. Faith Presbyterian Hospice also

Care of Our Members

Church Family, there has been concern over the procedure for caring for our ill and homebound members. Since we do not currently have a pastor in residence, the care of our members falls upon the elders. If you know of someone in need of prayer, reassurance, or visitation, please contact the Congregational Care Committee (Jim Lee, chair - jl21@msn.com - 214-738-0822), or the office and let us know if that person wishes to be added to the prayer concerns and what their needs are. Let's love each other as Christ loved us!





Jesus answers our uncertainties

Thomas didn't believe the other disciples when they said Jesus had risen. The two travelers to Emmaus despaired over Jesus' death, uncertain what might come next.

During our life of faith, we all face questions, doubts and despair. In *Fearless*, Max Lucado says Jesus' responses to us echo his responses to the disciples. His answer to our doubt is the same as with Thomas: "Touch my body" — which we do every time we connect with the church (the body of Christ), wounds and all. As with the Emmaus disciples, Jesus urges us to ponder his story found in Scripture — which we do through Bible reading and study. Today, just as long ago, Jesus meets his followers — in his body, in his Word — and strengthens our faith.

Sharing the load

In 1969 the Hollies released "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother." Do you know the story behind that song title?

Fifty years earlier in Omaha, Nebraska, a boy with polio was abandoned at Father Flanagan's Home for Boys, predecessor to the Boys Town organization. Soon several older residents started carrying young Howard — with his heavy leg braces — especially up

stairs. Father Flanagan once saw an older boy, Reuben, doing this and asked if it was hard work. Reuben replied, "He ain't heavy, Father. He's my brother." Years later, these words and the image of one person carrying another became the Boys Town brand.

All of us have been "carried" at some point, and we've likely "carried" someone else. The Hollies' song declares: "His welfare is my concern." Jesus said it this way: "Love your neighbor as yourself." The load isn't too heavy to bear because Jesus himself is always carrying us.

Complete trust, even amid suffering

In a Good Friday column written during the pandemic, Michael Gerson said anguish is warranted in the face of death. As Jesus suffers on the cross, he asks why his Father has forsaken him. To Gerson, this proves that "anguish and questioning are not sins or weaknesses. They are the proper responses to the horrors of death. In the ninth hour, God gave permission for confusion. He dignified doubt."

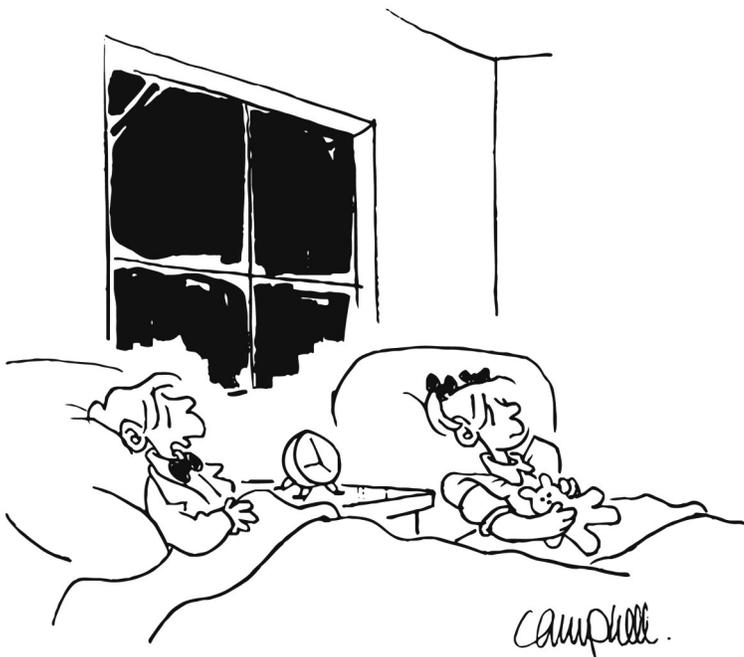
But Christ's final words — committing himself into his Father's hands — "ring a different note," adds Gerson. "This was more than resignation; it was trust. In the end, [Jesus] found, not an answer, but a person — someone capable of reversing the verdict of Good Friday. That is all we are promised, and it is more than enough."

The night before Jesus' crucifixion, he demonstrates humble service by washing his disciples' _____.

- A. hands
- B. feet
- C. hair
- D. supper dishes



Answer: B (See John 13:1-17)



"Mom's really worried about being late for Easter sunrise service, isn't she?"

During a prayer, one pastor said, "Jesus, we love you to death." Though it was fitting, the slip-up led to chuckles.

Shocked by the early rehearsal time, a guitarist asked, "Whose idea was it for Easter to be in the morning?"

Before leading a sunrise service, a pastor was informed of a member's death. So he was briefly "thrown ... when she walked up in the early morning shadows." Turns out there'd been a name mix-up. "I believe in resurrection power," says the pastor. "But I was more than a little surprised at what I was seeing!"

Scripture Readings for April

1 Pss. 43; 149	11 Pss. 98; 146	21 Pss. 96; 148
2 Pss. 84; 150	12 Pss. 99; 147:1-11	22 Pss. 92; 149
3 Pss. 119:73-80; 145	13 Pss. 47; 147:12-20	23 Pss. 93; 150
4 Pss. 34; 146	14 Pss. 96; 148	24 Pss. 97; 145
5 Pss. 5; 147:1-11	15 Pss. 92; 149	25 Pss. 98; 146
6 Pss. 27; 147:12-20	16 Pss. 93; 150	26 Pss. 99; 147:1-11
7 Pss. 22; 148	17 Pss. 97; 145	27 Pss. 47; 147:12-20
8 Pss. 43; 149	18 Pss. 98; 146	28 Pss. 96; 148
9 Pss. 93; 150	19 Pss. 99; 147:1-11	29 Pss. 92; 149
10 Pss. 97; 145	20 Pss. 47; 147:12-20	30 Pss. 93; 150

Death doesn't win

In the final hours of 2021, a wildfire near Boulder, Colorado, destroyed 1,000 homes, including one belonging to Pastor Bill Stephens. His family, out of town at the time, lost all their possessions. After months of feeling buried in debris, insurance paperwork and mourning, Stephens decided that Easter 2022 would mark a fresh start.

During worship that morning, the pastor shared a photo of vibrant daffodils emerging on his charred property. Burned remnants were visible in the background, just as Easter's backdrop includes the pain and death of Good Friday. But the empty tomb in Easter's foreground means death won't win, reminded Stephens. Even when earthly life "isn't all daffodils," we have hope and eternal life through Jesus.

Easter reveals that God will "give us the joy, and it's going to be in the heart of pain that we go through as well," added the pastor. "And that just makes me draw closer to God."

The God who hides

Isaiah declares, "Truly, you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior" (45:15, ESV). But why would God hide? Isn't our knowing God the point? Martin Luther explained that God hides in unexpected places so as not to be found where the world assumes a god would be — in power, status, fame, wealth — but to be found in weakness, humility and places of suffering.

"Those who have found God in the cross of Jesus Christ," said 20th-century theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "know how wonderfully God hides himself in this world and how he is closest precisely when we believe him to be most distant." So God assures us of his presence in the humble manger, among the poor and outcast during his

ministry, in the excruciating suffering of the cross, and with us in every struggle.

God hides not to avoid us but so we will discover him precisely where we need him most, and where others need us most.

Facts, not futility

"If the resurrection of Jesus Christ did not happen," writes Mary Fairchild, "then the apostles were all fakes and everyone throughout history who has ever testified of Christ's power is a liar. If the resurrection did not happen, then Jesus Christ has no dominion over life and death, and we remain lost in our sin, destined to die. Our faith is useless." Paul sounds a similar tone in 1 Corinthians 15:14-19, saying unless Christ was raised, any preaching about him is "in vain" and our faith is "futile" (ESV).

Praise God that he doesn't leave us in suspense. Unlike Thomas, we don't need to doubt Easter's good news. With utter certainty, Paul continues: "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (vs. 20, emphasis added). So let us rejoice with the apostle: "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (vs. 57)!



Our brothers and sisters in Christ and partners in ministry from Christian Stronghold Church presented Eastminster with a \$1,000.00 check to help with the Eastminster Neighborhood Breakfast.

Pleasant Grove Food Pantry for month of February



<i>Date</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Seniors</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
6	133	264	78	167	509	10,313
7	224	449	130	351	930	16,711
13	165	319	96	228	643	12,253
14	218	464	111	359	934	16,374
20	113	202	68	136	406	8,274
21	236	499	120	377	996	17,464
27	155	278	97	206	581	11,543
28	228	485	116	376	977	17,078
Total	1,472	2,960	816	2,200	5,976	110,010

APRIL



BIRTHDAYS

Frank Karlen, Sr. 4-4
 Cary Blair 4-5
 Craig Blair 4-5
 Brittney Bennett 4-6

Deidre Maples 4-12

Charles Blair, Jr. 4-13

Danny Wood 4-15

Talat Robert 4-18

APRIL



ANNIVERSARIES

Beverly and Roy Ridley
 4/22

Schedule for Holy Week—April 2—9

Sunday, April 2—Palm Sunday, 10:55 a.m. worship

Thursday, April 6—Maundy Thursday, 6:30 p.m. worship

Friday, April 7—Good Friday, 6:30 p.m. worship

Sunday, April 9—Easter, 10:55 a.m. Worship

YouTube link for all services:
[youtube.com/channel/UCSpXDNDmtxcuPFPf400Qrw/live](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSpXDNDmtxcuPFPf400Qrw/live)

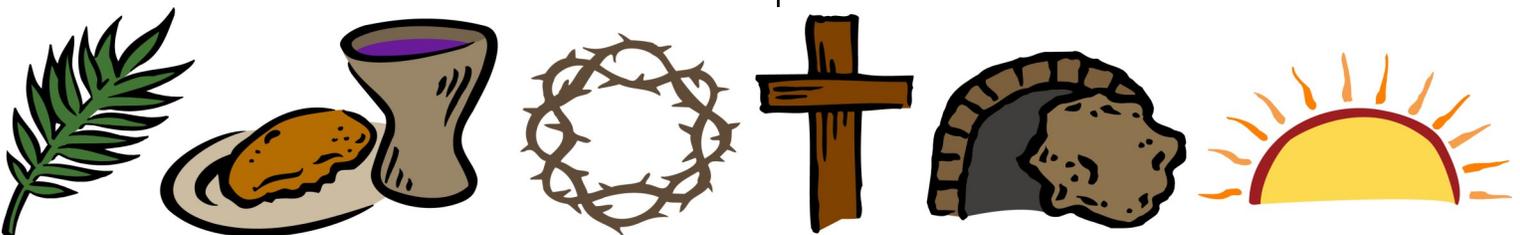


**Eastminster
 Session**

- Chandra Anderson
- Betty Crabtree
- Blair Garrett
- Philis Knox
- Dick Knox
- Jim Lee
- Tom Pappas
- Charlotte Turner
- Sean Turner
- Fred Watkins



- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 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

March 19, 2023

- ◆ Enjoyed a meal provided by Bruce, Charlotte, and Sean Turner.
- ◆ Welcomed Guest Moderator, the Rev. Harry Meissner.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Treasurer that Eastminster's financial position for February is good.
- ◆ Heard a report from the delegate to the Stated Presbytery meeting
- ◆ Heard a report on the progress of the Interim Pastor Search Committee, noting that the requisite paperwork has been filed with the Presbytery.
- ◆ Approved a reception for the Eastfield Early Brass group to follow their performance at Eastminster on 23 April 2023.
- ◆ Heard a report on the meeting with First Presbyterian Church Garland concerning the possibility of shared ministry.



Special dates

- ◆ Holy Week, April 2-9, 2023
- ◆ Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2, 2023
- ◆ Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023
- ◆ Good Friday, April 7, 2023
- ◆ Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023