



# The Shepherd's Star

*"We have seen (Christ's) star and have come to worship him." -Matt: 2:2b (NIV)*



**Easton Place United Methodist Church**  
 2412 Easton Boulevard  
 Des Moines, Iowa 50317

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**March 2018**

**Sunday School**  
 for all ages  
 gathers at  
 9:00 am

**Worship Service**  
 Every Sunday 10:30 am

## Reflections From Pastor Daniel

### Pastor's Notes

#### Easter

Is Easter just another holiday? For some people I think it is. For me it is the most important day of every year. It is the day that we celebrate the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead. No other faith group has a living savior. No other faith group has a God who loved them so much that he was willing to die for them. God and Jesus are one and when Jesus died it was God who gave up His life for us.

We were all hopelessly lost in our sin and bound for hell and damnation. But God loved us because we are His creation and He couldn't bear having us all be lost forever. He could not change the rules and just forgive us. The debt for sin had to be paid and the only way we could pay it would be eternally separated from God. So God decided to pay the debt for us. When Christ died on the cross He was separated from God. That is why He said "My God my God why have you forsaken me?" Jesus was sent to Hell in our place. However, since Jesus had no sin, hell could not hold Him. Since Jesus was the perfect sacrifice, He could be raised from the dead and brought back from hell.

Since you and I are not perfect, without Christ we will die and go to hell and there will be no way for God to bring us back. With Christ, we will not have to go to hell. If we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior and asked Him to forgive our sins, He will cover our sin and we will be forgiven. We will go straight to Heaven when we die. Absent from the body, present with God.

Easter is not just another holiday; it is the day we celebrate that we can live forever with God. Now that is a reason to celebrate.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Daniel

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## Finance Update

### February

2/04/2018-\$5,318.00  
2/11/2018-\$1,695.02  
2/18/2018-\$1,955.26  
2/25/2018-\$1,204.10

**Total for February \$10,172.38**

### January

1/07/2018-\$1,454.61  
1/14/2018-\$2,099.05  
1/21/2018-\$2,048.10  
1/28/2018-\$1,072.70

**Total for January \$6,674.46**

As 2018 starts, please continue to pray for Easton Place. Pray that we can grow as a congregation. Pray that we can continue to meet our financial obligations. Let us remember, that God only asks us to give what is already His!

In Christs Love

The Finance Committee

**Presence:**  
February 247

### Gifts -Tithes and Offerings Received

February \$10,172.38

## The Mission of Easton Place UMC

To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

Gather in a safe, nurturing Christ-centered way in worship, meetings, and small groups as we...

Grow in relationship with Christ; and

Go into the world, to share the love of Christ with others

**As members of the Easton Place UMC,  
we vow to faithfully participate  
in its ministries**

### Asking Jesus into your life:

O God, without you, I am lost - a sinner in a sinful world. Jesus I believe in you. I need you. Be my Lord and Savior? Receive me -- your child. I ask for forgiveness. I ask for guidance. I accept you as my God, my Guide, my Help, and my Hope from this day forward into the very light of eternity. I lift this prayer in the power of Jesus' mighty name. Amen. God's Promise of Forgiveness: 1 John 1:9  
God's Promise of Salvation: John 3:16 God's Promise to You: Romans 8:15b-17a All you need to do: Romans 10:9



**\*\*To start prayer chain:**

**Call Romona Moore at 515-262-9489\*\***

**Keep In Prayer For Healing:** (Remember to let the office or the Pastor know if you are in the hospital)

### PRAY FOR

**HOSPITAL:**

**RECOVERING AT HOME**

**NURSING HOME AND ASSISTED LIVING**

**RESIDENTS:** Gladys Hooten (Spurgeon Manor, Dallas Center, IA), and Mary Alice Winterbottom (Fleur Heights) Nadine Layton (Bridges, Ankeny)

**KEEP IN PRAYERS:** Deb Christian, Karen Baumgartner, Anna Mascaro, Kim Cox, Reba Larson, Helene Snyder, George Schultz, Jenny Schultz, Judy Burns, Keith Mascaro, Ron Smith, Phyllis Randall

**LOST A LOVED ONE:**

## Missions Report

2018 starts the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the Free Meal at Easton Place. Isn't God good!!

We are always looking for people to help - cook a meal, help with clean up and set up. We always appreciate donations of money or food. Prayers are always welcome. Please pray that we continue to touch the lives of our neighborhood in 2018.

In Christ's Love  
The Missions committee

### ***EPUMC Congregation:***

I would like to invite you to come to the Ad Council meetings. This is a new year with a new ad council. We will be receiving a new Pastor in July. If you have questions about your church or suggestions you would like to be heard or would just like to sit in to absorb information I would love to have you come. The meetings for the Ad Council are every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 6:45 pm.

God Bless  
Mick McFadden



## March

Larry Bellis	3-05
Danelle Williams	3-07
Richard Moore	3-09
Jody Faux	3-13
Terry Tillotson	3-14
Dirk McConnell	3-15
Spenser Abbas	3-18
Emma De Young	3-18
Debra Christian	3-19
Cash Hoffman	3-19
Bruce Tillotson	3-19
Mary Christie Rus	3-21
Christopher Bogle	3-26
Delanee Stuve	3-30

## **Worship Helpers for March**

### **March 4, Third Sunday in Lent**

**Worship Leader:** Cathy Parsons  
**Liturgist:** Connie Bishop  
**Sound:** Mike Parsons  
**Acolyte:** Jamisin Breeding  
**Ushers:** Sandy, Mike, Amanda, Kay  
**Children Message:** Jeannie Staton  
**Jr. Church:** Jeannie Staton  
**Nursery:** Diana Alton  
**Offering Counters:** Mike Parsons  
Janice Hoffman  
**Communion Stewards:** Susee Jenks  
Bruce Tillotson

### **March 11, Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Worship Leader:** Cathy Parsons  
**Liturgist:** Connie Bishop  
**Sound:** Mike Parsons  
**Acolyte:** Jamisin Breeding  
**Ushers:** Sandy, Mike, Amanda, Kay  
**Children Message:** Susee Jenks  
**Jr. Church:** None  
**Nursery:** Diana Alton  
**Offering Counters:** Mike Parsons  
Jeannie Staton

### **March 18, Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**Worship Leader:** Romona Moore  
**Liturgist:** Susee Jenks  
**Sound:** Mike & Janice Hoffman  
**Acolyte:** Josalyn Adams  
**Ushers:** Wimpy, Caleb, Mary Jo, Ray  
**Children Message:** Cathy Parsons  
**Jr. Church:** Diana Alton  
**Nursery:** Kayli Brealing  
**Offering Counters:** Mike Parsons

### **March 25, Passion/Palm Sunday**

**Worship Leader:** Romona Moore  
**Liturgist:** Susee Jenks  
**Sound:** Mike & Janice Hoffman  
**Acolyte:** Josalyn Adams  
**Ushers:** Wimpy, Caleb, Mary Jo, Ray  
**Children Message:** Jeannie Staton  
**Jr. Church:** Jeannie Staton  
**Nursery:** Diana Alton  
**Offering Counters:** Mike Parsons  
Kathy Fedson

## **Lectionary Scriptures for November for Personal Devotions and Study**

### **March 4**

#### **Third Sunday in Lent**

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

### **March 11**

#### **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

### **March 18**

#### **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

### **March 25**

#### **Passion/Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50:4-9

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1-15:47 or

Mark 15:1-39

## **Circle Reports**

### **EPWU General**

EPWU General met on February 7, 2018. Julie Marker opened the meeting at 7:00 pm sharp! 14 ladies were present. Jeannie Staton read her devotion from the Upper Room: Go into the World and spread the gospel to everyone. We prayed for all those ill, hurting and for praises. Midge Tillotson read the treasurer's report. The Crockpot Soup Supper of 12 pots served 45 people and brought in \$221.00. It was agreed to pray as we prepare for the new pastor. Women will have two tables at the Vendor Sale sponsored by the Finance Committee. Preparations are under way for the Meal in the Upper Room March 7<sup>th</sup>. Our Pizza party will be in April after worship. Missions sent 280.00 to Hope Ministries. The Standing Rules committee will meet soon. Meeting was adjourned and handed over to our hosts: Mary Circle.

### **Easton Service Group**

Easton Service Group met Thursday February 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. in the fellowship hall. After our business meeting led by Romona, Diana led the program. Our program ended up being a continuation of what Mary Circle did for February General. We each shared things from our lives that no one else knew. After that Ardyce and Diana had great Valentine treats for us. Feel free to join us in March for another great meeting! We had eight in attendance this month, we would love to have more next month!

### **Esther Circle**

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 1:00 pm in the afternoon in the fellowship hall Esther Circle had their meeting with six in attendance. Virginia led our business meeting and Romona did our program and Julie spoiled us with treats and goodies. If you saw a lot of heart necklaces around the church, that's where we got them, Esther Circle. Feel free to come join us anytime!

### **Deborah Circle**

Deborah Circle met on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. We had a delicious meal of pizza, salad with Mr .Loren's dressing and deliciously rich caramel brownies made by Midge. We had guest since we invited significant others to join us. Julie gave a brief lesson on preparing for Easter and the Lenten season. Business meeting was held. Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm to attend Ash Wednesday service.

### **Mary Circle**

Mary Circle met with five members present. Diana opened with a reading "Give It Away". The minutes were read and approved. Diana said the Crockpot Supper made about \$221.00 and she thanked everyone who had helped with the meal. The Meal in the Upper Room is March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, and a Vendor Sale will be March 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The women will have a bake sale table along with crafts if anyone wants to participate. We chose our secret pals for 2018. With no further business, our meeting was turned over to our hostess, Arlene. She had prepared a pretty Valentine table with nutcups, and served a delicious (Love) dessert. She read us the beginning of Valentine's Day which lead to a discussion about "what God does for us, we all need to thank Him every day, and we should always put God in our lives first."

God Bless,  
Sandra Fleck

## EASTER SERVICES

March 29: 7:00 pm Maundy  
Thursday Service

March 30: Good Friday

April 1: Easter

7:00 am Cantata

8:00 am Easter Breakfast

9:00 am General Assembly in  
Sanctuary

9:30 am Sunday School in  
Classrooms

10:30 am Worship

*CANTATA PRACTICE  
EVERY THURSDAY  
7:00 PM*

## **SPRING BASEMENT SALE**

Set up starts April 21st

### **SALE STARTS**

April 27th 9 am to 4 pm

April 28th 9 am to 11 am

*April 28th Sack sale 11 am - Noon*

## **VENDOR SALE**

**March 10, 2018**

**9:00 am - 1:00 pm**

## MARCH CALANDER 2018

1. 7:00 pm Cantata Practice
- 2.
3. 3:00 – 5:00 pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship hall
- 4.
- 5.
6. 6:00 am – 9:00 pm *Elections* in the fellowship hall  
6:00 pm Education meets  
7:00 pm Worship meets
7. 7:00 pm *Meal in the Upper Room* in the fellowship hall
8. 1:00 pm EPWU Service Group meets  
7:00 pm Cantata Practice
9. 1:00 pm Esther Circle meets  
4:00 pm – 8:00 pm Vendor Sale set up in fellowship hall
10. 8:00 am UMM meet  
9:00 am -1:00 pm *Vendor Sale* Fellowship hall
11. Rolls & Coffee after Worship (Mission Fund Raiser)  
*Daylight Savings time begins*
- 12.
13. 6:00 pm Trustees
14. 6:30 pm Deborah Circle
15. 4:30 pm Missions meets  
7:00 pm Cantata Practice
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
19. 11:30 am CWU Board meets
20. *NO SPRC meeting*
21. 7:00 pm Mary Circle meets
22. 7:00 pm Cantata Practice
- 23.
24. 3:00 – 5:00 pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship hall
25. *Palm Sunday*
26. Star Articles Due  
Committee reports for Ad Council Due
27. 6:00 pm Finance meets  
*6:45 pm* Ad Council meets
28. 7:00 pm EPWU Board meets
29. *7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service*
30. *Good Friday*
31. 8:45 am Set up for Easter Breakfast  
10:00 am Cantata practice