




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
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January 2019

Sunday School
 for all ages
 gathers at
 9:00 am

Worship Service
 Every Sunday 10:30 am

Cephas's Corner

Cephas's Corner
 Disciples of Jesus the Christ, I don't know about you, but I do believe we cross over to another year by the continue grace and mercy of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. As we embark through 2019 I want you to reflect on this written sermon, and ask yourself, what am I living for? For me I am living to be God's hands and God's feet.

Text: Ecclesiastes 12:1-8
 Theme: What are we living for?

- V.1 Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I have no pleasure in them".
- V. 2 Before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark, and the clouds return after the rain.
- V. 3 When the keepers of the house tremble and the strong men stoop, when the grinders cease because they are few, and those looking through the windows grow dim;
- V. 4 When the doors to the street are closed and the sound of grinding fades; when men rise up at the sound of birds, but all their songs grow faint;
- V. 5 When men are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets; when the almond tree blossoms and the grasshopper drag himself along and desire no longer is stirred. Then man goes to his eternal home and the mourners go about the streets;
- V. 6 Remember him before the silver cord is severed, or the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, or the wheel broken at the wall;
- V. 7 And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it;
- V. 8 Meaningless! Meaningless, "says the Teacher." "Everything is Meaningless!" (NIV)

Remembrance and service of God while one in an early age. (V 1a)A time is coming when we will be old and weary and can't serve the lord. (V 1b) Then the process of aging, trails and hardship will come. (V 2)A time in every man's life when one body starts to fail, hands and arms starts to tremble, legs weaken, teeth falling out and eyes become dim while seeing become difficult, all because of one aging. (V 3)When one is old, venturing the street is less important and sleepless night is usual. (V 4)As one grow older, the hair starts to gray and soon one start to have a walking stick to enable one gets around; as stated in verse 3 that one legs get weaker as one age. (V 5)When one body is weary and has fail, and one draws close to death and one heart can beat no more than the body returned when it came from(as in Genesis 2: 7a, God made man from the dust of the ground) and the spirit return to God(see Gen. 2:7 b) (v 6-7) One must give his or her time of service to God and remember him in one's early age; as all must know that this life is meaningless without God.

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(V 8) One must serve his creator starting at an early age because a time is coming in one's life when we will grow old regardless and our body will get weary and fails; we will either regret or look fondly on our regard for the Lord doing our life time.

This book was written by a wise king named Qohelet or Solomon, the son of David. His writing portrays the pain and emptiness of life when God is left out. He walked high path, drank deeply from cups of pure gold and wrote a label for each and got whatever he wanted, in wisdom, wealth, and pleasure. I believe this book is the tragic tale of a disappointed man, who now stood at the door of death and looked back, reviews his life and confesses he lived for the wrong reasons; he was a philosopher, a moralist, and a great poet, but he came to an unhappy conclusion. No one today had the wealth that Solomon had. In his search for happiness he turned to wine, drank the best of wine from cups of pure gold only to conclude it all by saying that wine produces not happiness but woes, sorrow, contention, wounds and redness of eyes; and in his frustration he finally turned to women for enjoyment, but his unholy desire drove him to despair. Back to my question, 'what are we living for?' When the Psalmist says we are like grass that bloom in the morning and lost in the evening. The things of this world are vanity-wisdom, wealth, education, wine/strong drink, women etc. This cannot provide the meaning and purpose for life (see Job's story). Life is sadness and death and misfortune and the love of friends and all that happens to us that we did not even choose. The Psalmist David says, "What I have in God is greater than what I don't have in life." Do you think you and I could learn to say the same? If you are reading this article, I want you think just one moment about the properties you have, the car(s) you own, the money you have saved, and the clothes you have purchased, envision all of your stuff, and let me remind you of two biblical truths, your stuffs, isn't yours, if you think I am lying, ask any embalmer and any funeral home director. No one takes anything

with him, one of wealthiest man in America died, John D. Rockefeller, and his account was asked for, how much did John D leave? The reply was all of it. Naked a man or woman comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand.

Members of Easton Place United Methodist Church, know this, apart from God the riddle of life will never be understood, and our deepest longings will never be satisfied. We do not need wealth, positions, power or pleasure to be happy, but we do need God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We must understand that no life is too empty to be filled with purpose and power through the living Christ. No life is too desperate and hopeless, bound and broken when we come to Christ confessing our sins and putting our trust in Him, we will experience a new life. Only in God is there real purpose of being, only in Christ as Savior is there forgiveness in its fullness and in the power of God's spirit is the enablement to live. We will find real purpose for living when we surrender our will to Jesus the Christ as Lord and yield our lives to his control

Finally, in the writing of the Methodist Preacher and Hymn writer, Rev. Dr. Charles A. Tindley: "When I'm growing old and feeble, Lord Stand by me. When my life becomes a burden, and I am nearing chilly Jordan, O tho Lilly of the Valley stand by me."

Notes: NRSV Bible, United Methodist Hymns & readings of John M Drescher

Happy New Year!

Rev. J. Cephas Z. K. Davis

Facebook: Joseph Cephas Davis, Twitter:

Zebedee1977, Instagram: Kankoryahdavis

Finance Update

December

12/02/2018-\$3,212.70
12/09/2018-\$2,431.07
12/16/2018-\$2,041.00
12/23/2018-\$3,327.97
12/30/2018-\$1,858.27

Total for December \$12,871.01

November

11/04/2018-\$3,097.51
11/11/2018-\$1,517.13
11/18/2018-\$1,734.70
11/25/2018-\$1,051.96

Total for November \$7,401.30

God is Good, All the Time! We need \$10,000.00 every month. We have paid our bills this year, and put aside a small amount for apportionments. As we start 2019, let us Live and Love generously.. Remember, all God asks of us, is what is already his. In 2019 let us be a blessing to everyone we meet.

In Christ's Love
The Finance Committee

Presence:

December 484

Includes Blue Christmas, SS program and Christmas Eve services

Gifts -Tithes and Offerings Receive

December \$12,871.01

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

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) Nadine Layton (Bridges, Ankeny)

KEEP IN PRAYERS: Deb Christian, Karen Baumgartner, Anna Mascaro, Kim Cox, Judy Burns, Keith Mascaro, Ron Smith, Phyllis Randall, Virginia Kimberling, Darlene McFate, Denny Stuve

LOST A LOVED ONE:

Missions Report

God is so Good! The free meal is going great, every week we see someone new. It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of our 5th year, serving our neighbors.

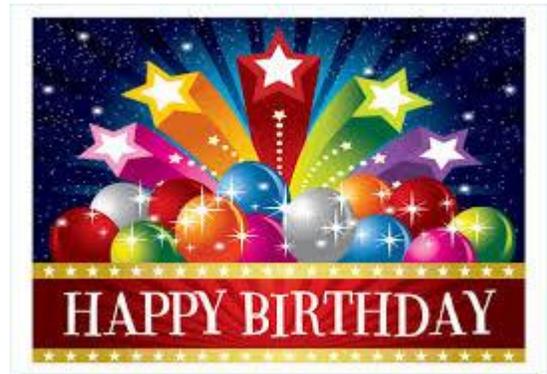
We welcome anyone who might like to come and help, or cook a meal. All are Welcome! WE are excited to start 2019, we just know that God has new and exciting things instore for us!

In His Service
The Mission Committee

EASTON PLACE WOMEN UNITED News and Calendar for December 2018

- Jan. 2** **7:00 pm Installation of Officers**
- Jan. 9** **6:30 pm Deborah Circle**
- Jan. 10** **1:00 pm Easton Service**
- Jan 11** **1:00 pm Esther Circle**
- Jan. 16** **7:00 pm Mary Circle**
- Jan. 27** **7:00 pm EPWU Board meeting**

UNITED METHODIST MEN **Jan. 12** **8 am in the fellowship hall**



January

Judy Burns	1-04
Rick Cook	1-04
Pastor Cephas	1-08
DJ Bishop	1-10
Jenny Staton	1-11
Crystal Staton	1-11
James Alton Sr.	1-12
Melissa Fedson	1-16
Rick Buettner	1-17
Sonny McFadden	1-24
Benedick Ogbonnah	1-24
Kaylee Parkins	1-27
Michelle Rus	1-31
Erica Tillotson	1-31

Worship Helpers for January 2019

January 6, 2019 Epiphany of the Lord

Worship Leader: Rick Buettner
Liturgist: Connie Bishop
Sound: Mike & Janice Hoffman
Acolyte: Jamisin Breeding
Ushers: Bob, Peggy, Kathy, Sub
Children Message: Jeannie Staton
Jr. Church: Jeannie Staton
Nursery: Diana Alton
Offering Counters: Mike Parsons
Janice Hoffman
Communion Stewards Bruce Tillotson
Midge Tillotson

January 13, 2019

Worship Leader: Rick Buettner
Liturgist: Jim Alton
Sound: Mike & Janice Hoffman
Acolyte: Jamisin Breeding
Ushers: Bob, Peggy, Kathy, Sub
Children Message: Jeannie Staton
Jr. Church: None
Nursery: Diana Alton
Offering Counters: Mike Parsons
Jeannie Staton

January 20, 2019

Worship Leader: Cathy Parsons
Liturgist: Courtney Heer
Sound: Mike Parsons
Acolyte: Delanee Stuve
Ushers: Sandy, Mike, Kay, Bryan
Children Message: Cathy Parsons
Jr. Church: Diana Alton
Nursery: Kayli Brealing
Offering Counters: Mike Parsons
Ellen McFadden

January 27, 2019

Worship Leader: Cathy Parsons
Liturgist: Courtney Heer
Sound: Mike Parsons
Acolyte: Delanee Stuve
Ushers: Sandy, Mike, Kay, Bryan
Children Message: Cathy Parsons
Jr. Church: Jeannie Staton
Nursery: Diana Alton
Offering Counters: Mike Parsons
Bryan Dilks

Lectionary Scriptures for October for Personal Devotions and Study

January 6 Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 13
Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20
Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

January 27
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31
Luke 4:14-21

Circle Reports December

EPWU General

Julie opened our meeting on December 5, 2018 with 12 members and 1 visitor present. Romona opened with devotions: 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22, followed by prayer. OLD BUSINESS: Jan Dyer gave up the historian position after this year. We are going to meet a half hour before the board meetings to get the historian info in to the binders and after that if someone is interested in proceeding with this position we will hand it over to her. If not, we will continue as a group effort. The budget was voted on and passed at the meeting. Janice Hoffman was added to the nominations committee for 2021. The meeting was than adjourned and turned over to our hosts: Esther Circle. Virginia proceeded with a program from the song book "The Promise is Fulfilled". The read various passages from the Bible and sang correlating songs. We shared refreshments of punch, chocolate covered pretzels and pumpkin cookies. The meeting ended at 1:45.

a record cupboard made from orange crates to the beauty of snowflakes each winter that God provides.
Happy 2019 & God Bless.

Deborah Circle

We met on December 12th for our annual Christmas Potluck. There were 24 members present. Jeannie read from the Upper Room which was followed by prayer for those who asked for them. We proceeded with our night. Eating too much, and grab bags. Then we revealed of our Secret Santa (Sister). It was a fun night with so much food leftover. We keep telling ourselves to make only half of what we bring but none of us ever do. We pray that all of you had a Merry Christmas.

Easton Service Group

Esther Circle

Mary Circle

Mary Circle met on 12-19-2018 with 8 members present. The meeting was opened with devotions by Diana from "Mornings with Jesus". The minutes were read and approved as was the treasurer report. We had a pizza party and our tables were decorated so pretty. We each shared a Christmas Memory, a pair of "Bear Slippers" to an ugly pig, our napkin rings that had been made by Leona, Santa in Hawaii wearing shorts, to favorite poem and special family photos, and

Mark your Calendar January 2019

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 1. | Office Closed/Holiday | 20. |
| 2. | 7:00 pm -EPWU Installation of Officers | 21. |
| 3. | | 22. |
| | | 6:00 pm Finance meets
6:45 pm Ad Council meets |
| 4. | | 23. |
| | | 7:00 pm EPWU Board meets |
| 5. | 1:00-3:00 pm Girl Scouts FH | 24. |
| 6. | | 25. |
| 7. | Noon - 4:00 pm CWU Installation of Officers-Sanctuary/FH | 26. |
| | | 1:00-3:00 pm Girl Scouts FH |
| 8. | 6:00 pm Trustees meet | 27. |
| | | Potluck after Worship |
| 9. | 6:30 pm Deborah Circle | 28. |
| | | 29. |
| 10. | 1:00 pm Easton Service Group | 30. |
| 11. | 1:00 pm Esther Circle | 31. |
| 12. | 8:00 am UMM meet | |
| 13. | Rolls & Coffee after Worship | |
| 14. | 11:30 CWU Board meets | |
| 15. | 6:00 pm SPRC meets | |
| 16. | 7:00 pm Mary Circle | |
| 17. | 4:30 pm Missions meet | |
| 18. | | |
| 19. | FH reserved, Cub Scout Lock In
6:00 pm - 6:00 am | |



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in the planning and execution of my birthday celebration here at our church. Thank you to everyone who came to honor and celebrate with me. It was a fabulous party and a wonderful day. In honor of my birthday I have decided to use my birthday money and some of my own to dedicate new offering plates for the church.

***God bless all of you,
Virginia Kimberling***