



**Easton Place United Methodist Church**  
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**March 2019**

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

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

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## Cephas's Corner

**Lent and Forgiveness!!**

Learning from the Judeo-Christian perspective, forgiving is more than letting go, it is about removing those barriers that hold one peace, "wipe away" and be "gracious to" your offender, meaning you have power to make him or her suffer but chose to sure mercy because "God's mercy is shown in forgiveness of sins." Even though, a victim can chose not to forgive his or her offender but when the decision is made it becomes as act of mercy, "an attribute of both God and a good human being." In my own understanding from the Judeo-Christian perspective mercy is prompted by the victim when an offender expresses or come to repentance and forgiveness open the door to reconciliation which is encouraged from a religious viewpoint because seeking forgiveness from God or a higher power is to mend relationships once broken. As we reflect on the narrative of Jacob and Esau we will learn the process to true repentance/apology and reconciliation

### The Story of Esau and Jacob

The narrative of Esau and Jacob as noted through the texts of the Bible, Genesis 25:19-33:1-17 tells a family story of deceit, hatred, hurt, repentance, forgiveness and conciliation, It is a story that can help and teach both religious and non-religious folks the concept of forgiveness. This story also helps and teaches us to look or study the mind or thoughts of an offender seeking forgiveness from the victim. According to the narrative Esau and Jacob were twins born to Isaac and Rebekah as a result of divine intervention. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tent. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah. (Genesis 25:27-28)

Thus, parents' choice of love among their children usually brings about sibling rivalry as noted in the story of Esau and Jacob. In this biblical narrative Esau is the victim and Jacob alone with his mother is the offenders; even though much is not focus on their mother who put in motion the plan to hurt her elder son Esau. As their father got older and blind he asked his elder son to prepare him a food while his wife listens. Isaac to Esau prepare for me savory food, as such as I like, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die (Genesis 27:4). In verses 5 to 29 of Genesis 27 Rebekah, the mother of both Esau and Jacob put into motion her plan of betrayal toward her elder son and the younger son followed through with it and was given the blessings meant for Esau the elder son. The question of reflection is what is one reaction when a wrong has been done to you?

Especially, when it is caused by someone close to you, like your brother or sister as in the story of Esau and Jacob?

The scriptural text described Esau's reaction to the betrayal like this: Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, "the days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob." (Genesis 27:41) This can be a normal reaction when a wrong happened to you, especially by someone very close to you. Thus, it is good to be angry, frustrated, and want the offender to hurt just the way you do but then the question remains will revenge bring you happiness or remove the hurt you are experiencing? Since revenge can't bring the sense of peace the Judeo-Christian teaching encourages the victims to seek the offender express his or her hurt because at times offenders do not know at times they have caused a wrong (Matthew 18:15),

In the narrative, Jacob, the offended not just repented but put in place reparation for his brother because of the hurt caused. In Genesis 32:3-13 Jacob expresses his remorse through his mediator, his messenger whom he sent with reparation for his brother. At their meeting Esau seeing how his brother was remorseful bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother. But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kiss him and wept. (Genesis 33:3-4). Thus, Esau's decision to forgive his brother was caused by the trigger of mercy or passion that is within every living soul. In an article, Healing in forgiveness: A discussion with Amanda Lindhout and Katherine Porterfield, Amanda notes that in her abduction and being abused both mentally and sexually her sense to forgive was innate of compassion was triggered. In her own words: "When I realized that he was driven to create suffering for me because of his own state of suffering most unexpectedly, I felt compassion. The more I gravitated to compassion, the

stronger my conviction to forgive became a gift to my own self." Therefore the ability to forgive is inherent in every living soul but it takes some victim years.

Finally, in a little book title: I'M Sorry: The Art of Apology & The Gift of Forgiveness, forgiveness is defined as follows: "Forgiving does not necessarily mean forgetting. Instead, forgiving means we decide to deliberately let go of our negative feelings caused by the other person when they made a mistake. When we have been hurt, negative feelings like betrayal, anger, and resentment can come to the surface. Overtime, if these feelings are not addressed, they can overwhelm us on both an emotional and physical level. Granting forgiveness is truly a gift, not just to the person who has done wrong, but also to ourselves. Forgiveness allows us to let go of the past and move on." Lastly, remember the prayer Jesus taught us, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those you sin against us." Blessed Lent!!

Rev. Joseph Cephas Davis, Mdiv.

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## Finance Update

### February

2/03/2019-\$3,244.88

2/10/201-\$1,339.42

2/17/2019-\$935.00

2/24/2019-\$1,982.94

**Total for February \$7,502.24**

### January

1/06/2019-\$2,010.41

1/13/201-\$1,472.93

1/20/2019-\$1,684.69

1/27/2019-\$2,087.16

**Total for January \$7,255.19**

God is Good! All the Time! Each month, we need about \$10,000.00 to pay all bills, salaries, have money for different programs in the church, and put money in the Apportionment savings.

As we can all see, we are not making our goal. Prayerfully consider your giving each month to Easton Place. We want to be able to offer things to our community, to get them in the door, and

see what we are all about. Right now, we are just keeping the doors open. We want to be a instrument for God to use, think about it.

In Christ's Love  
The Finance Committee

### Presence:

February 134

**Gifts -Tithes and Offerings Receive**

February \$7,502.24

## 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 March 2019

- Mar. 6**      **7:00 EPWU General**  
**Deborah Circle Hosts**
- Mar. 8**      **1:00 pm Esther Circle**
- Mar. 13**     **6:30 pm Deborah Circle**  
Mission: #1 Disposable  
Diapers, Personal Hygiene products  
Mission: #2 Baby books, baby  
clothes, regular size blankets
- Mar. 14**     **1:00 pm Easton Service**  
**Group**
- Mar. 20**     **7:00 pm Mary Circle**
- Mar. 27**     **7:00 pm EPWU Board**

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

- Mar. 9**      **8 am in the fellowship hall**



## 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
Spencer 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 2019

## March 3, 2019

**Worship Leader:** Romona Moore  
**Liturgist:** Jim Alton  
**Sound:** Mick McFadden  
**Acolyte:** Jamisin Breeding  
**Ushers:** Bob, Peggy, Kathy, Sub  
**Children Message:** Jeannie Staton  
**Jr. Church:** Jeannie Staton  
**Nursery:** Diana Alton  
**Offering Counters:** Ellen McFadden  
Janice Hoffman  
**Communion Stewards** Sandy Mathews  
Janice Hoffman

## March 10, 2019

**Worship Leader:** Romona Moore  
**Liturgist:** Jim Alton  
**Sound:** Mick McFadden  
**Acolyte:** Jamisin Breeding  
**Ushers:** Bob, Peggy, Kathy, Sub  
**Children Message:** Jeannie Staton  
**Jr. Church:** None  
**Nursery:** Diana Alton  
**Offering Counters:** Bryan Dilks  
Jeannie Staton

## March 17, 2019

**Worship Leader:** Rick Buettner  
**Liturgist:** Courtney Heer  
**Sound:** Mike & Janice Hoffman  
**Acolyte:** Delanee Stuve  
**Ushers:** Sandy, Mike, Kay, Bryan  
**Children Message:** Jeannie Staton  
**Jr. Church:** Diana Alton  
**Nursery:** Kayli Breeling  
**Offering Counters:** Janice Hoffman  
Sandy Mathews

## March 24, 2019

**Worship Leader:** Rick Buettner  
**Liturgist:** Courtney Heer  
**Sound:** Mike & Janice Hoffman  
**Acolyte:** Delanee Stuve  
**Ushers:** Sandy, Mike, Kay, Bryan  
**Children Message:** Jeannie Staton  
**Jr. Church:** Jeannie Staton  
**Nursery:** Diana Alton  
**Offering Counters:** Jeannie Staton  
Bryan Dilks

## March 31, 2019

**Worship Leader:** Mike Hoffman  
**Liturgist:** Judy Burns  
**Sound:** Mick McFadden  
**Acolyte:** Jamisin Breeding  
**Ushers:** Mary Jo, Caleb, Wimpy, Ray  
**Children Message:** Diana Alton  
**Jr. Church:** Jeannie Staton  
**Nursery:** Diana Alton  
**Offering Counters:** Ellen McFadden  
Sandy Mathews

**Lectionary Scriptures for March  
for Personal Devotions and Study**

**March 3**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

Exodus 3:19-35  
Psalm 99  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
Luke 9:28-36

**March 10 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8-13  
Luke 4:1-13

**March 17 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Psalm 27  
Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Luke 13:31-35

**March 24 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Isaiah 55:1-9  
Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9

**March 31 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Joshua 5:9-12  
Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

## **Circle Reports February**

### **EPWU General**

EPWU was cancelled due to the weather.

### **Deborah Circle**

Deborah Circle met on February 13, 2019 with 16 members present. Jeannie opened with devotion and prayer. We had a delicious salad bar for our meal hosted by Cathy, Janice and Julie. Jeannie then read the lesson from the Upper Room, "Jesus paid it all". We then prayed for those mentioned and those who couldn't be here tonight. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and our offering was taken. We read the prayer of the least coin and took up our least coin offering. Old Business: The soup supper was a success. New Business: Next meeting is March 13. Sue Bellis, Midge and Darlene will be our hostesses. March 6 will be the EPWU General meeting with Deborah Circle hosting. That is on Ash Wednesday so the group voted to serve pie after church. Sue B, Ellen, Bev, Sue T and Jeannie volunteered to bake pies. White tablecloths with praying hands will be adorning the tables. March 17<sup>th</sup> will be the pizza party. No desserts unless there is a pizza dessert will be served. If you need your pizza baked, leave instructions with it. The Meal in the Upper Room will be planned at the next General meeting. Missions: House of Mercy and Broadlawns. A motion to adjourn was made by Sue T and seconded by Darlene. Motion carried. Julie's lesson was from "Three minute devotions for women". Sometimes things don't happen in our time. We must wait patiently. Respectfully submitted, Cathy Parsons

### **Easton Service Group**

On Valentine's Day, Thursday, February 14, 2019 Easton Service Group had a wonderful meeting. Thanks to Janet and Cathy all eight of us in attendance received beautiful Valentine's. Plus Cathy led both our business meeting and also our program. Of course our program was on "Real Love" as told about in 1 Corinthians Chapter 13. We ended by sending Cathy and Mike off on their trip to Arizona. It was a good time for all of us and we would love to have you join us next month. Diana Alton

### **Esther Circle**

Esther Circle had a good meeting on Friday, February 8, 2019 at 1:00 pm. Virginia led us in the business meeting, Diana did the program on taking "Delight in God's Word", and Janice treated us to delicious goodies, and Julie gave us each a Valentine's Day pin. It was a warm way to spend a cold day. Diana Alton

### **Mary Circle**

Mary Circle met on February 20<sup>th</sup> with seven members present at Midge Tillotson's new home. After a tour, Diana presented each of us a "Bath Bomb". The minutes were read and approved. Jan gave the Treasurer's report which was also approved. Diana reported the Crock Pot Soup Supper made \$160.00. On March 17, after worship there is a pizza party in the fellowship hall. A motion by Sandy to give \$25 for Moulton School Birthday party in April and \$25 for candy for the CWU May baskets, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jan passed. Diana turned the meeting over to hostess Midge who had taken us on tour of her home, (has a great laundry room). She did a reading "Healthy Friendships", which discussed investing time in making friends and how strong friendships can pay off in better health and a brighter outlook for years to come. Midge served a delicious "twinkie" dessert with coffee and juice. A fun evening was had by everyone and "Thanks" to Midge for inviting us to her new home. Sandy Fleck

## Mark your Calendar March 2019

- 1.
2. 11:00 am Memorial service for Julie Drew
- 3.
- 4.
5. No meetings  
Elections in FH all day
6. 6:30 pm EPWU General meeting  
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday service
7. 7:00 pm Cantata practice
8. 1:00 pm Esther Circle
9. 8:00 am UMM meet  
10:00 am-4:00 pm Cub Scout  
Pine Wood Derby/ FH
10. Spring Forward, Daylight Savings  
time begins today  
Coffee and Rolls after Worship
- 11.
12. 6:00 pm Trustees meeting
13. 6:30 pm Deborah Circle meets
14. 1:00 pm Easton Place Service  
Group meets  
7:00 pm Cantata practice
- 15.
- 16.
17. EPWU fundraiser Pizza party after  
Worship
18. 11:30 am CWU meets
19. 6:00 pm SPRC meets
20. 7:00 pm Mary Circle meets
21. 4:30 pm Missions meeting  
7:00 pm Cantata practice
22. 5:00-8:00 pm Fellowship Hall  
reserved/Bruce
23. 10:00-2:00 pm Girl Scouts in  
Fellowship Hall
24. Potluck after Worship
- 25.
26. 6:00 pm Finance meets  
6:45 pm Ad Council meets
27. 7:00 pm EPWU Board meets
28. 7:00 Cantata Practice
- 29.
30. 8:00 am - 3:00 pm Vendor Sale FH
31. Walking tacos after worship to  
raise funds for Christie Rus's  
mission trip  
*2:00 pm Acolyte Class*

**Ash Wednesday Service  
March 6, 2019  
at 7:00 pm**



**Walking Tacos fundraiser to  
support *Christie Rus* in her  
upcoming mission trip  
March 31 after Worship**

**Cantata practice every  
Thursday at 7:00 pm**

**Pizza Party after Worship  
March 17, 2019  
Free Will Offering**



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**Vendor Sale  
March 30, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**Daylight savings time begins on  
March 10. Spring forward!!**