



**Easton Place United Methodist Church**

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**November 2020**

**Cephas's Corner**

**Sunday school**  
For all ages  
Gathers at  
9:00 am

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

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**Justice vs Mercy**

The gospel writer, Matthew began his writing by linking God's mercy (Jesus) to generations of unworthy and sinful people who indeed experienced the mercy of God. In Matthew's genealogy account he names Abraham, thus, if you don't know Abraham lied on his covenant journey saying Sarah was not his wife; Jacob who birthed Israel deceived his brother Esau; Ruth who was once a pagan worshipper; Rahab, a prostitute; and the greatest king of ancient Israel, David, a murderer and an adulterous. Church, I decided to name the worst of these Bible heroes and heroines to let you know that God's mercy is limitless and renewed every morning. As in the words of the weeping prophet, "the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning, great is [God's] faithfulness." (Lamentation 3:22-23 ESV)

Now, let us look at the two words in our topic: Justice and Mercy.

Justice: according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, it is the process or result of using laws to fairly judge and punish crimes and criminals. On the other hand, Cambridge English Dictionary notes justice as fairness in the way people are dealt with.

In the Bible, "the original terms most approximating Justice have been frequently translated in English as "righteous and judgement." Church, "Justice is found in the being of God, for whom it is a chief attribute." According to Jeremiah 9:23-24 and Psalms 10:17-18, God is the sure defender of the poor and oppressed. (Someone may ask, Pastor Cephas who are the oppressed. The oppressed are those who work 40 hours a week but cannot pay their living expenses and church folks call them lazy because they seek government assistance). Those who suffer systemic racism, those who cannot get out of poverty because of society or government passed laws that keep them in continued poverty. Yes, they are widows, the fatherless, the homeless, low income workers, those living beyond the poverty line and resident aliens. The undocumented and those with physical infirmities.

Church, one thing I want you to know God's Justice does not contradict God's Words or the Christian teaching as written in the Old and New Testaments. You must also know when God's Justice in properly carried out, "you become the agents of the divine will."

People of faith, justice is closely related to love and grace/mercy. Justice "is a deliverance rectifying the gross social inequalities of the disadvantaged". When God's justice prevails, "the oppressed are raised" and the "oppressors are judged." Will you join God the father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit in being the voice of justice?

Thus, Mercy: compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is with in one's power to punish or harm. A Bible dictionary notes mercy as an attribute of both God and the good human being. The Hebrew word for "mercy" is Hased, meaning loving-kindness, mercy, compassion, grace, loyalty, and faithfulness. Mercy is also "that compassion which causes one to help the weak, the sick, or the poor." Church, showing mercy is one of the cardinal virtues of a true Christian. Mercy is compassion and compassion is a "powerful force, a stamp of the divine nature within our spirit. It lies within us all, from the tender child to the hardest criminal waiting for the right trigger to set it off."

An overall lesson from a famous text in Matthew 18:15-22, is God requires us to be forgiving people, meaning mercy/forgiveness should be limitless and not 490 times. Church forgiveness, or mercy should come from the heart. Will you join God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit to live out mercy daily? Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.

Rev. J. Cephas Z. K. Davis. MDiv. MDR.  
Pastor

## 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

### **EASTON PLACE WOMEN UNITED**

<b>November 4</b>	<b>1 pm</b>	<b>EPWU General</b>
<b>November 11</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Deborah Circle</b>
<b>November 12</b>	<b>1 pm</b>	<b>Easton Service Group(?)</b>
<b>November 13</b>	<b>1 pm</b>	<b>Esther Circle</b>
<b>November 18</b>	<b>1 pm</b>	<b>Mary Circle</b>

### **UNITED METHODIST MEN**

**November 14**                      **8:00 am (?)**

### **Mission Report**

The Mission committee is ready to get back to work! We will be taking a few health and school kits to the Ingathering on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

On Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> we are having a Drive Thru Food Pantry 1:00-2:00 pm. If you want to donate nonperishable food items or money contact the missions committee.

We will also be purchasing Hy-Vee gift cards for the Thanksgiving Baskets. God has been so good through all of this. We have not been able to have the Free Meals, but He is opening other ways for us to help.

In Christ's Love,

The Mission Committee

**DRIVE-THRU  
FOOD PANTRY**

**SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**1:00-2:00 PM**

*\*\*Or until we run out of food\*\**



**PRAY FOR**

**LOST A LOVED ONE:**

**Thomasson family**

**(Virginia Kimberling's grandson)**

**Taylor Webb  
719 46<sup>th</sup> St  
West Des Moines, IA 50265**

**HOSPITAL:**

**RECOVERING AT HOME:**

**NURSING HOME AND ASSISTED LIVING**

**RESIDENTS:** Nadine Layton (Brio, Johnston), Anna Mascaro (Mill Pond, Ankeny), George & Jenny Schultz (Afton IA, assisted living), Keith Mascaro (assisted living, group home in DSM)

**KEEP IN PRAYERS:** Ray Olson, Kim Cox, Dennis Bishop

**Keep in Prayer for Healing:**

(Remember to let the office or the Pastor know if you are in the hospital)

**To start prayer chain:**

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

**Trustee Notes**

The Trustee's Committee is looking for someone to plow the church parking lot this winter.

If anyone knows of someone who does this, please contact  
Mike Hoffman (515-979-2911)

**Worship Committee Report**

October 6, 2020

Present were Mike, Bruce, Pastor Cephas and Romona

Romona opened with prayer.

There will be a Blue Christmas service on December 18 at 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve service will be 7:00 pm. Romona will sing a special song for the Christmas Eve service.

Sunday School Christmas program will be decided by the Educational Committee.

There will be no potluck in October or November.

There will be no cantata in December.

Advent begins November 29. There will be no Hanging of the Greens service, but we will put up the crimson tree and the nativity scent.

We will have Advent signs that you can buy and take home to place in your yard. We talked about a webcam for the worship service and buying a digital song set to be used in the worship service.

We chose the songs for November worship services.

Next meeting will be decided later.

Romona ended the meeting with prayer.

Bruce T.

**Finance Report**

9/6/20 - \$1,908.69  
9/13/20-\$1,423.00  
9/20/20-\$2,116.00  
9/27/20-\$1,073.00  
Total \$6,520.69

10/4/20 - \$2,032.97  
10/11/20-\$1,785.00  
10/18/20-\$1,364.01  
10/25/20-\$1,677.00  
Total \$6,858.98

God is Good! What a time this has been the last few months, we know we are all wondering, when will it be "normal" again? The people of Easton Place have been very faithful through all of this, and we are so very thankful for this. As we move forward with the rest of the year, lets continue to be faithful.

We will have Stewardship cards out in November, they will be by the Offering container, or you can drop by the church and get one. Please prayerfully consider your tithes and offerings for next year.

In Christ's Love  
The Finance Committee

**Gifts -Tithes and Offerings Received**

**October \$6,858.98**

**Presence:**  
**October 121**



**November**

Connie Bishop	11/4
Cameron McFadden	11/4
Sage McConnell	11/5
Mary Jo Cook	11/11
Nadine Layton	11/11
Linda Robinson	11/15
Rafe McConnell	11/17
David Staton	11/20
Cathy Parsons	11/25
Jakob Campbell	11/25

## Thanksgiving Baskets

*Thanksgiving baskets will be different this year, as are most things these days.*

*We will be giving a turkey and small gift card, you will also **NEED** to pick them up at the church on Monday, November 23 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm.*

*We will be taking **12 names**, with a deadline of November 19<sup>th</sup>. Please call Merry in the office (266-8582). We will need your name and a telephone number for a confirmation call OR text message.*

*“Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*2 Thessalonians 1:2*

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

## Lectionary Scriptures for November Personal Devotions and Study

### November 1 Communion- 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 3:7-17  
Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12

### November 8 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Psalms 78:1-7  
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

### November 15 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7  
Psalms 123 or Psalms 76  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 22:15-22

### November 22 Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalms 100  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46

### November 29 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

## Worship Helpers for November 2020

### November 1, 2020

**Worship Leader:** Romona Moore  
**Liturgist:** Bruce Tillotson or Jeannie Staton  
**Sound:** Mike Hoffman/Dennis Bishop  
**Ushers:** Amanda Faux and Aaron Brinda  
**Offering Counters:** Mike Parsons  
Kay Dilks  
**Communion Stewards:** Mike Parsons

### November 8, 2020

**Worship Leader:** Romona Moore  
**Liturgist:** Bruce Tillotson or Jeannie Staton  
**Sound:** Mike Hoffman/Dennis Bishop  
**Ushers:** Amanda Faux and Aaron Brinda  
**Offering Counters:** Mike Parsons  
Jeannie Staton

### November 15, 2020

**Worship Leader:** Romona Moore  
**Liturgist:** Bruce Tillotson or Jeannie Staton  
**Sound:** Mike Hoffman/Dennis Bishop  
**Ushers:** Mary Jo Cook and Kathy Fedson  
**Offering Counters:** Mike Parsons  
Ellen McFadden

### November 22, 2020

**Worship Leader:** Romona Moore  
**Liturgist:** Bruce Tillotson or Jeannie Staton  
**Sound:** Mike Hoffman/Dennis Bishop  
**Ushers:** Mary Jo Cook and Kathy Fedson  
**Offering Counters:** Mike Parsons  
Bryan Dilks

### November 29, 2020

**Worship Leader:** Romona Moore  
**Liturgist:** Bruce Tillotson or Jeannie Staton  
**Sound:** Mike Hoffman/Dennis Bishop  
**Ushers:** ???  
**Offering Counters:** Mike Parsons  
Sandy Mathews

## Circle Reports October

### EPWU General

Minutes not submitted

### Easton Service Group

Romona, Janet and I (Diana) went to lunch Thursday October 8, 2020 for Easton Service Groups meeting. When no one else showed up, except Merry who had to leave and go to her second job. We three decided to go out to lunch at Perkins to celebrate Janet's birthday. We had a delicious meal, good times, and Perkins even gave Janet a free piece of pie in honor of her birthday.  
Diana A.

### Esther Circle

Esther Circle had a great meeting in Diana's backyard on October 9, 2020. The Lord blessed us with a gorgeous autumn 80\* day. We had a short business meeting, then Romona read us the event of Daniel and the lions' den from the bible. We listened to Dr. Stanley's ideas on the happenings. Then we discussed our convictions and what it means to live by them. How we also must be aware of compromise. As always, we had a good discussion.

Then Sandy, our lovely hostess, treated us to Little Debbie's pumpkin ones, ice cream and bottles of water. Plus, she made sure the six of us were aware we are "busy bees." Just ask Sandy to show you the picture if you want to know what that means!

Thanks, Amanda, for being our photographer!  
Diana A.

### Mary Circle

Mary Circle met on Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup> at 1 pm at Jan G. new home. We had 8 members present and 1 guest, Mary Wilwering, who is Dwight Roe's mother-in-law.

Diana opened with prayer, then read a devotion from one that was given to her thru Virginia Kimberling, which put a smile on all our faces.

The minutes were read and approved. Jan G gave her treasurers report which was approved. A motion was made by Jan G to

purchase \$100 worth of non-budget items for Joshua Christian Academy. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda. All aye. Sandy F made a motion to purchase 2 dozen baby chicks along with 1 lamb from Samaritans Purse, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Midge, all aye. Diana announced that there will be Sunday School beginning the first weekend of November. Our meeting was closed and turned over to our hostess, Jan G. She read from "Nine Fruits of the Spirit," and she chose Peace, which was how many of us feel about the Treasures of God. She served a variety of breads, nuts, cute candy cups and tea. Needless to say, most of our meeting was blessed with the antics of "Oscar," along with the removal of a stump in Jan's front yard. Lots going on for Mary Circle in 1 day. Thanks, Jan, for having us in her home, and we all hope Mary W comes again to Mary Circle.  
God Bless  
Sandy Fleck

**Deborah Circle**

Minutes not submitted

## Mark your Calendar November 2020

1. **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS  
REMEMBER TO “FALL BACK”**
2. 6:30 pm Bible Study  
(Romona Moore’s home)
3. **General Election Day**  
9:30 am Women’s Bible Study  
(Romona Moore’s home)  
6:00 pm Education (?)  
7:00 pm Worship (?)
4. 1:00 pm EPWU-General
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
9. 6:30 pm Bible Study  
(Romona Moore’s home)
10. 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study  
(Romona Moore’s home)  
6:00 pm Trustee’s
11. 6:30 pm Deborah Circle
12. 1:00 pm Easton Service Group (?)
13. 1:00 pm Esther Circle
14. 8:00 am UMM (?)  
1:00 pm-2:00 pm Drive-thru Food Pantry
- 15.
16. 6:30 pm Bible Study  
(Romona Moore’s home)
17. 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study  
(Romona Moore’s home)  
6:00 pm SPRC
18. 1:00 pm Mary Circle  
7:00 pm EPWU Board (?)
19. 4:30 pm Missions (?)
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
23. 6:30 pm Bible Study  
(Romona Moore’s home)
24. 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study  
(Romona Moore’s home)  
6:00 pm Finance  
6:45 pm Ad Council
25. **Star Articles DUE!**
26. **HAPPY THANKSGIVING  
Office Closed**
- 27.
- 28.
29. **Advent Begins**
- 30.