

# Speak out!

There's  
**JOY**  
in the  
house  
of  
the Lord!

There is nothing quite like the joy of a sunset or holding a newborn baby in your arms, of savoring a good meal or laughing out loud at a hilarious situation or joke. To share that joy with others doubles the joy as we marvel at the wonder before us and reflect on that together. Sharing joy with others is powerful.



The Scripture speaks again and again of the gifts of joy, beauty, and pleasure that God gives us. The Psalms tell us, *"The heavens declare the glory of God"* (Psalm 19:1). In Ecclesiastes, the Teacher describes the joy of human effort as a gift from God to humanity: *"I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God"* (Ecclesiastes 3:12-13).

Central to our life as humans is the pursuit of joy. Unfortunately, many find joy more elusive than attainable. Yet for those who know God through Jesus Christ, joy is possible and accessible. This is so not because of something in us, but because of someone who opens joy to us. Jesus said He came *"that they may have life, and have it to the full"* (John 10:10). He is a joyful Savior who brings a joyful Kingdom. This is why the Apostle Paul writes: *"the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit"* (Romans 14:17).

In this latest issue of *Speak Out!* we explore what it means to live with joy together as God's people in God's house. I hope as you read this your heart overflows with joy and worship!

Matt Erickson  
Senior Pastor, Eastbrook Church

## Practice Celebration!

*Celebration: a life of "walking and leaping and praising God"*  
(Acts 3:8)

God loves to celebrate and loves even more when we, as His people, join Him in proclaiming all the wonderful things He has done for us.

Joy that is exhibited in celebration keeps everything else going, produces energy and makes us strong. This genuine and sustaining joy is achieved through obedience to God. Celebration manifests in endless ways: singing, dancing, laughing, as well as taking advantage of celebrating festivals, holidays, and the milestones of life.

How can you practice this joy? John Ortberg famously said that "celebration comes when the common ventures of life are redeemed." As you go through your own common ventures of life this summer, reflect on what God is showing you about choosing to hold onto the joy of the Lord at all times, even when circumstances are less than joyful.

Allow God to redeem the common ventures of your life!






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# STORY

## JUNE CARTER-McCLAIN

by Jess Eckert

Birds chirp in the crisp morning air. Sun streaks through the branches of the trees, beginning to bear fruit after their long winter's chill. June Carter-McClain hears the whispers of God welcoming her into a new day of His mercies and ushering her into life with Him.

These simple moments of remembrance — the glory of God on display in His creation, the gift of breath to breathe — over the course of her life thus far have built June's energetic faith.

Her attention to the Spirit is evident in the ways she bears witness to God's glory through her worship and admiration of creation. She does not take a day for granted. When asked how she defines joy, June says, "It's worshipping God in the ways you know how. It's more than a feeling. It's a safety and a peace from God that is totally different from anything this world can offer."

**"I see God all around me. He created everything and we don't have to be in a building to give Him glory and praise."**

Worshipping God in spirit and truth has been a thread woven through June's life from the very beginning. She remembers her mother humming "Amazing Grace" as she puttered about their house, and her childhood congregation actively worshipping God through movement and dance. There were always instruments and loud singing.

Psalm 150 has always been an inspiration: *"Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; ... Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!*

*Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!"*

These pieces shaped her ideas of worship. Worship comes in many forms, but for June specifically, she has found the tambourine a constant companion in her musical worship; you can often spot it with her on stage or in the congregation. It radiates the joy June has in the Lord.

**"It's a whole body experience," she describes. "I give glory to God. He gives me joy, and the circle goes on and on and on."**

This joy was hard fought. When June was eight years old, her mother went home to be with Jesus. It was at this moment that June encountered God in a real way. As a young child, June did not have a comprehensive understanding of heaven. However, while she sat with her six siblings at her mother's bedside, she had peace and assurance that she'd see her mother again. At the time, she could not explain it; it was a voice saying, "you'll see her again." Many of her family members were concerned for her resolve which allowed her to remain calm in the midst of this tragedy. Years later, she attributes it to the hand of God. Although growing up without her mother was not easy, God was faithful to June and she knew undoubtedly that God was with her wherever she went.

As a professional, June entered a field she wouldn't have chosen for herself, but one in which she felt God giving her an opportunity and a purpose, so she stepped in obedience. She worked in an operating room assisting surgeons during medical procedures. Her attention to her patient's needs was clear. As

an anxious patient was awaiting anesthesia, June would pray with them and make sure to remain physically present until they were completely under anesthesia. She was a calming presence as they went into surgery and a comfort as they came out.

God used June in many ways throughout her career, but God also spoke to June through her patients. She remembers a specific patient who came in with kidney failure who was so thankful to be receiving one functioning kidney. She couldn't help but consider the privilege it was to have two working kidneys and praise God for this man and for her body's health.

June spends her years of retirement resting in the Lord and His grace. "I may not have a job in the traditional sense anymore, but God's work through me here on this earth is not done." She humbles herself daily and asks God, "What are we going to do today?" Whether it's picking up her grandson from school or participating in Women's Bible Study, she is mindful of ways He can use her in the lives of others. Her friendship with God gives her vitality and joy.

June was drawn to Eastbrook Church about sixteen years ago because of the Worship Choir. In part it reminded her of her mother and her Gospel Choir days, and she loves to live out Psalm 150 for God's glory. When she faces any sort of objection to her tambourine shaking, she simply defends her actions with Scripture. "I'm not here to please people, I'm here to serve God and honor His word."

Her freedom and joy in Christ is evident from across the room. It bears witness to the depth of her faith borne through many trials and blessings accompanied by God. ■





# There's joy in the house of the Lord!

by Megan "Mac" Littell

There is a beautiful community that sits together in the front row every Sunday. If you attend the 8 o'clock service at Eastbrook Church you may have delightedly witnessed their worship; they are fully engaged and joyful in their expression.

Henrietta, Louis, Regina, and Tony are four of the regulars who sit in the front row at first service. They all describe worshiping on Sunday mornings as an energy they can feel.

"I feel His connection; I feel connection and love," Regina says—and the rest of the group nod their heads in resounding, unifying agreement. The personal relationship each has with Jesus leads them to this response: worship.

"He is so good and so awesome. I feel joyful when I come to the house of the Lord and when I am around my fellowship family," Regina adds.

The overwhelming theme from even the briefest of conversations with these Eastbrookers is that gratitude leads to praise. Each of them had something to say on how they are thankful for where God has brought them, or how He has saved them. As we huddled in a cluster immediately following the service, one of them declared: "We dance for the Lord now!"

This evokes the passage from 2 Samuel 6 where King David dances as the Ark of the Covenant is brought triumphantly back to Israel. David is ridiculed for dancing and yet, his response is this: *"I was dancing before the LORD... Yes, and I am willing to look even more foolish than this"* (2 Samuel 6:14-16, 21-22). David knew what was important—worshiping God—and he knew what was unimportant: what people thought of him. There is a surrendering that happens when we worship. We lay down everything before God and offer Him the praise He is due.

How often do we lose focus of God during worship and make it about us? Maybe we worry about singing off-key, or feeling self-conscious to raise our arms, or maybe our thoughts wander to other things, like what we will eat





for lunch. Perhaps we treat worship as a performance or even as a drudging duty, instead of as a response of deep gratitude.

Gratitude naturally pours out into a life of worship. When we focus on who God is, His loving, merciful, compassionate nature, we praise Him. When we think of all He has done, giving His Son Jesus to die for our sins, this motivates us to worship. We can look at the specific things God has done in our own lives, too.

Tony, one of the men who sits in the front row during first service, displays such an emotional response when speaking about what God has done in his life, it is a powerful witness to his heart of gratitude and worship. Part of Tony's faith testimony is how long God waited for him and pursued him; he did not become a Christian until he was in his fifties. Tony holds so much gratitude for God because of how Jesus transformed his life.

"God's love is so compelling. It's so beautiful and thoughtful. It demands a response from us," Tony says. "God is such a wonderful God, you can't even praise him adequately because we don't have the words!"

Even with inadequate words and actions that will never give God all He deserves, our response is to continue to say "yes" to living a life of worship.

There are many ways to praise God. Singing and listening to scripture on Sunday mornings is one facet of worship. Sometimes, we try to separate our physical bodies from the spiritual. As we know through scripture, our bodies are good and created by God. A physical response in musical worship, such as raising your hands, bowing your head, kneeling, dancing, or whatever you feel compelled to express physically, can signify to God our worship and gratitude.

Whether we are dancing like King David did, joyfully and with freedom, kneeling before the cross in the Worship Hall, or closing our eyes as we sing, a physical response during worship expresses our gratitude and

pleases our worthy-to-be-praised God. In Psalm 50:23 the Lord says, *"The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me."*

What happens when we aren't feeling grateful? There may be seasons in our life where worship and praise feels harder to do. Something the psalmists understood was that we can lament and cry out to God and still praise Him. In Psalm 13:2, David expressed his anguish (*"how long must I have sorrow in my heart all the day?"*) and then in verse 5, he offers praise to God (*"but I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation"*). Within the same prayer we can cry out to God about what is painful or broken in our lives and world and praise God for His gift of salvation, His nature and His character.

The psalms are filled with responses to God as the psalmists pour out their hearts in words and song. We can read both psalms of celebration and psalms of lament, psalms praising God and crying out to Him. The psalms can help us feel less alone, or give us words to express how we are feeling, and they can remind us that the Lord is great and deserving of our worship, always.

Psalm 95:1-3 says, *"Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God."*

These lyrics from Phil Wickham's song 'House of the Lord' exemplify the heart of the psalmists, knowing all the praise belongs to our God:

"There's joy in the house of the Lord today  
And we won't be quiet  
We shout out Your praise"

Worship is our response to who God is and what God has done, and He is always worthy to be praised. There are many ways we can grow in our worship of God. Perhaps we can take inspiration from a few of the folks in our church who worship with freedom. ■





## GET TO KNOW AN EASTBROOKER: Brian Mayer

Brian Mayer has been part of Eastbrook since 2010. You might recognize him as a frequent face from the stage: for much of his time in our community, he has served as a lead vocalist on a Worship team, one with a uniquely authentic, unfiltered style. Music has been part of Brian's life for about as long as he can remember, and he loves using it to help people see God, life, and faith in new ways. Let's help make our big church feel smaller as we get to know Brian.

### WHAT FIRST SPURRED YOU TO GET INVOLVED IN SERVING AT EASTBROOK?

I thought I had some experience to offer. I grew up in a K-12 church school very similar to Eastbrook in Michigan, where there was a huge focus on fine arts — very traditional, classical sacred music. Then I went to college at Maranatha Baptist University in Watertown, and got a really good musical foundation; I was a voice major, ironically, because in high school my focus had been instruments. After graduation, I taught music for a bit before taking a job as a worship pastor out in California. I did everything around arts for that church for about seven years.

We moved to Milwaukee in 2009. We went to a couple of other churches, looking for where our "place" was going to be. Some of our neighbors were Eastbrookers, and in August 2010, we landed

here too. There are so many things about the culture here that [my family] really appreciates. The type of diversity that we have here is something we love, and I love how that comes out in our music. We can do so many different musical styles — there are no limits! Anything from classical to gospel, or even jazz. It's not change for change's sake, it's consistent with who Eastbrook is.

### DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER FAVORITE STYLES TO PERFORM, OR SPECIFIC SONGS TO SING WITH THE WORSHIP TEAM?

I did love when we have performed jazz. Being creators is part of the image of God in us, and to me, the improvisation that's a part of jazz is creativity in its purest form. It fits. Some people have a hard time with the idea of jazz in church, and I get that — but if you think about it purely from a musical perspective, I think there's a lot there.

I love singing for any holiday, there is so much meaning for people on those days. Christmas Eve is a lot of fun, Easter too. I love doing worship on Good Friday — in a moment like that, you use music very differently than you would on Easter Sunday morning. Favorite songs? That's like picking a favorite kid! There are a lot!

### WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORSHIP?

Gratitude.

## WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT BEING INVOLVED WITH WORSHIP? WHY DO YOU DO IT?

Because in the times of my life that I haven't done it, I'm always reminded that I should be! I used to do it for a job, then I did it more sporadically, filling in at different churches. There was a period I needed that [break], but then I needed to get back into it. It's part of why I'm here — not just Eastbrook, but planet Earth. Sometimes it's hard — there's a lot of work behind the scenes, a lot of mental gymnastics, but ultimately, it's something God has given me to do.

## WHAT ARE SOME CHALLENGES OF SERVING AS A WORSHIP LEADER?

It's this really strange place to be, because worship is something we're all doing for an audience of one. We're not onstage performing for the people in the seats; we're leading the people in the seats to perform for God. One of the things that's easy to slip into on a Sunday morning is karaoke: it's just music and we're just singing along, not paying attention to the words, just going through the motions. It's easy as a congregation just to slip into that mode. I feel like it's part of my job to break that.

## YOU HAVE A VERY JOYFUL PRESENCE ONSTAGE. WHERE DOES THAT COME FROM?

There are lots of things I could do to become a musician, but honestly the best training for being a worship leader is life experience. One of the things that I have to lean into is pain, because that's where the joy comes from. Those things are inextricably linked. When you go through things in life, you gain new perspectives, and it makes the words mean something.

If we're talking about true joy, it transcends circumstance. But it also doesn't just happen, you don't just conjure it up. To be honest,

it's a lot of those tough circumstances that teach it to you over time. After I left the church in California, it was a rough time for me in my faith. One of the reasons that I left was it was really hard for me to have my job and providing for my family kind of tied to my faith. I decided, I'm still going to do this, but it's not going to be my job anymore. But in that intervening time, it was really tough. In those times, the depth of certain words tends to mean more, in something that somebody says or sings. A song like "Do It Again" — that song gets me almost every time! It just so resonated with what my life felt like back then. And I know for a fact that there are people in a crowd that big in front of me, who are there, in that moment where I was. It's that pain from where I was that gives me the perspective to be able to communicate in a way that says, there can be joy coming out of this. There is hope.

## WHEN YOU'RE NOT FEELING JOYFUL, HOW DO YOU STILL SHOW UP THAT WAY ON A SUNDAY MORNING?

Prayer. That sounds trite, but it is what it is. It's taking that break between rehearsal in the morning and first service (the worship team arrives at church around 6:30 am on a Sunday morning, to prepare for services). I sit by myself, close my eyes, spend some time talking to God, reminding me why I'm here, why I'm doing this. The story of Gideon comes to mind often; Gideon succeeded not because of his own strength, but because of God's heart.

The music and the lyrics go together; one without the other is great, but it's the power of the two together that can touch something below the surface, and that's really what I want people to experience. They might have sung a song a dozen times, but they never thought about it like that before. If it's nuance in the way I say a word or something like that, that can help someone, that's why I do it. ■



## Get Involved!

Would you like to participate in musical worship at Eastbrook? We have several performance groups and opportunities available, based on your age and experience level:

- **KIDS' CHOIRS:** K4-Grade 2 (Praise & Worship Choir) and Grades 3-6 (Credo Choir)
- **ADONAI SINGERS:** Grades 7-12
- **WORSHIP CHOIR:** Adults, ages 18+
- **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC:** Mixed age groups
- **WORSHIP TEAMS:** Vocalists and Instrumentalists, by audition
- **DANCE ETERNAL:** Adults and teens, Grades 5 and up

Find rehearsal schedules and contact information for group leaders at [eastbrook.org/worship](http://eastbrook.org/worship).

# Summer 2023

## Lakefront Baptism Service

Sunday, June 4 · 12:45 pm · Bradford Beach

## Griefshare Begins

Tuesday, June 6 · 6:30 pm · Holy Grounds

## Combined Choir Concert

Friday, June 9 · 7 pm · Worship Hall

## Senior Send-Off

Sunday, June 11 · In all Sunday Services

## 2nd Tuesday: Worship & Prayer

Tuesday, June 13 · 7 pm · WH/Online

## Hymn Sing in Holy Grounds

Saturday, June 17 · 5 pm · Holy Grounds

## Child Dedication

Sunday, June 18 · In all Sunday Services

## Asian Global Gateway

Sunday, June 25 · Lunch at 12:30 pm · FH

## Summer Camps for Kids

June 26-30, July 5-7, July 10-14, & July 17-21

## Family Worship Weekend

Sunday, July 2 · In all Sunday Services

## 20s & 30s Camping Trip

July 7- July 9 · Governor Dodge State Park

## Small Group Connect Picnic

Sunday, July 9 · 12:30 pm · Kletzsch Park

## Neighborhood Prayer Walks

Tuesdays, July 11 & August 8 · 7 pm

## Global Missions Summit

Saturday, July 15 · 8 am · FH

## Middle Eastern Global Gateway

Sunday, July 16 · Lunch at 12:30 pm · FH

## High School Backcountry Trip

July 20-30 · Wyoming

## Family Camp

July 21-23 · Green Lake Conference Center

## Middle School Camping Trip

July 26-30 · Kettle Moraine

## Leader Launch

Saturday, August 12 · 9 am · WH

## Eastbrook Outdoors (Worship & Picnic)

Sunday, August 13 · 11 am · Front Lawn

## ICC Open House

Saturday, August 26 · 10 am · ICC

Find up-to-date information and more calendar dates online at [eastbrook.org/calendar](http://eastbrook.org/calendar) or inside your Eastbrook App.

# Prayer Ministry

## Finding Purpose and Passion in Prayer

by Kathy Gaillard

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6, NIV)*

Worship and prayer are the language of the church. Through these ministries, we lift our voices to glorify the Triune God in our services, and we provide opportunities for people to engage with God, both together and individually.

The Bible defines prayer as a "solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God," or an earnest hope or wish. The Bible also commands us to pray, but for some, prayer can be intimidating. Wanting to 'get it right' we sometimes find ourselves uncomfortable, at a loss for words, or just unsure of what to say and how to say it.

Sometimes, a little guidance is all we need to get started.

On Sundays following each worship service, Eastbrook congregants are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary; prayer ministers are waiting to intercede on behalf of those who come forward. Some 30 individuals give of their gifts and time each week because they have a heart to pray for and with individuals.

Esther Hayman Welch (at right) coordinates Eastbrook's Prayer Ministry. Her relationship with God is not just predicated on attending church service on Sundays, but living a life of servanthood that displays her faith through her words, thoughts and deeds. She enjoys serving God daily, in the workplace and through interactions with others in her church community. This servant spirit began when, at age nine, she volunteered to assist an adult Sunday School teacher at her church in Delaware. Ever since, she has been a self-described "perpetual volunteer," from teaching Sunday School, to leading women's ministry, to writing a churchwide production about the life of the apostle Paul.

"I always look forward to growing spiritually and seek out opportunities to help others mature in God's word," she says. "When we are out there in the streets evangelizing for Christ, we must be willing and prepared to receive those that God

calls, just as they are. I have a strong desire to see no one left outside of Christ's loving arms."

Esther relocated from the east coast to Milwaukee in 1980 to pursue a job opportunity. She did not waste any time affiliating with a church in her newly adopted city, but it wasn't until 2009 that she officially moved her membership to Eastbrook, after learning about the church's mission-centered ministry. She quickly got involved by enrolling in Eastbrook courses, training for Stephen Ministry (now called One to One Care Ministry, a confidential program that pairs trained Care Givers with Care Recipients to provide long-term support), and soon after, serving as an intercessory prayer minister.

Esther and all the EBC prayer ministers will pray with you, for you, and take your prayer requests or petitions to God on your behalf. Volunteers serve as often as they want, ideally committing to stand up at service at least one Sunday each month. The ministry also seeks "prayer warriors," folks who are willing to volunteer their time to pray for others outside of Sunday services. New volunteers receive a 20- to 30-minute orientation at the outset of their service.

Prayers do not have to be formal or follow a certain formula, yet some people are uncomfortable praying—especially praying in public. While we can certainly pray on our own as regularly as our heart desires, sometimes our burdens, challenges or needs may be so overwhelming or consuming, that we need the prayers of other believers to give us the strength, assurance, peace and love that we need as we navigate our journey. That is where Eastbrook's Prayer Ministers come in — ready, willing and able to stand in the gap for us. ■



Are you interested in becoming a Prayer Minister? Contact Esther Welch ([esther53welch@gmail.com](mailto:esther53welch@gmail.com)) to schedule an orientation session, after which you will be placed on the Prayer Ministry schedule.