



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EasternMeadows>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EasternMeadows>

January 14, 2021

ELDERS:

Alan Kaye
Roy Mulkey
Mike Norman
Ted Norton

DEACONS:

Adam Bass
Allen Clements
John Cole
Michael Crow
Ryan Gotkiewicz
Tim Gotkiewicz
Tim Hatch
Steve Housley
Marquez James
Joel Kelly
Jimmy Mathews
Danny Moore
Lindsey Mulkey
Dean Norton
Randy Porterfield
Steve Sewell
Jeff Simpson

MINISTERS:

Brandon Baggett,
Involvement
Tim Gotkiewicz, Youth
& College
Steve Housley, Pulpit
& Education

SCHEDULE:

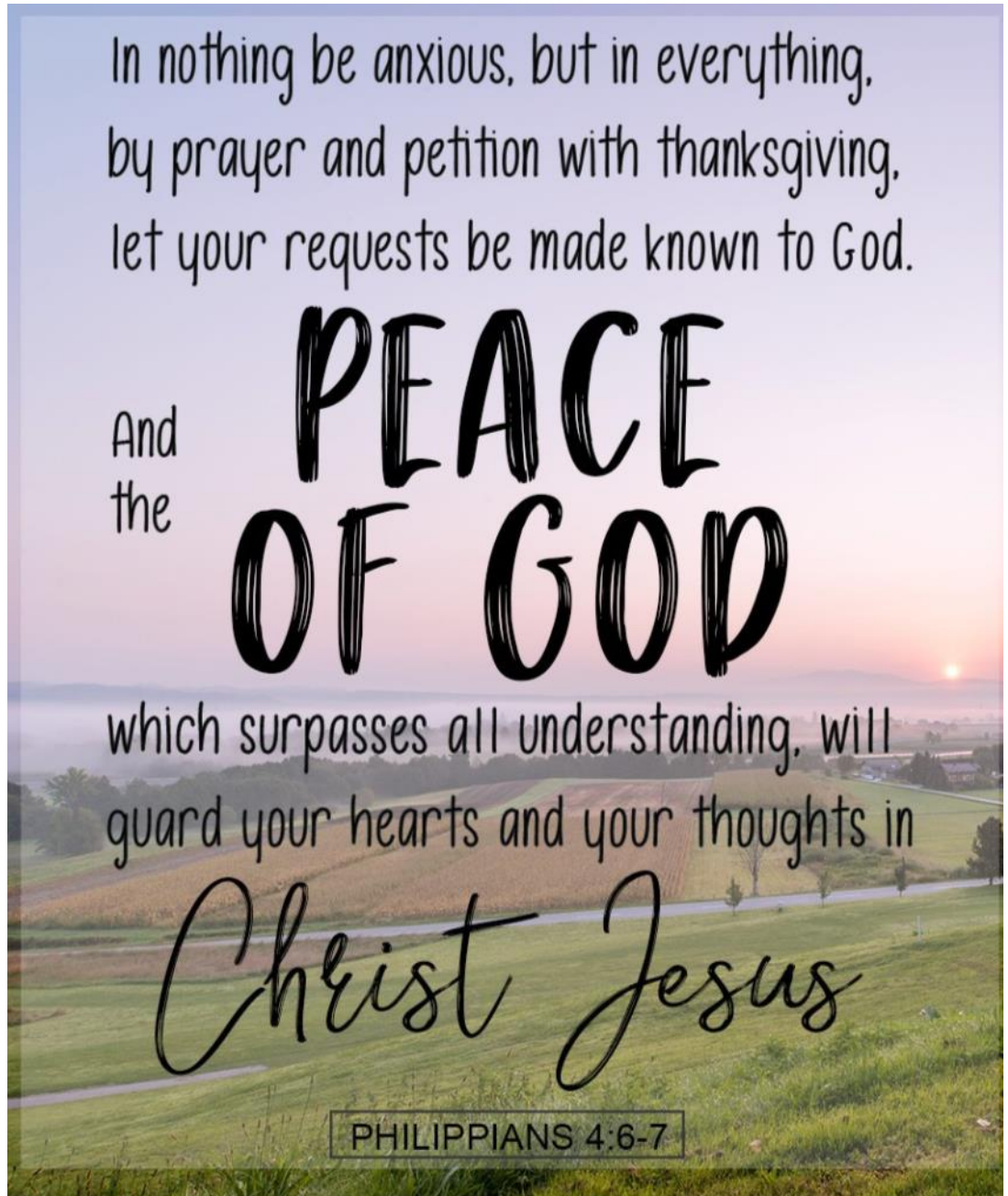
Sunday:

9:15 a.m. Bible Class
10:00 a.m. Worship

Wednesday:

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

WELCOME!



Budget: **\$11,500.00** Contribution, 1/10/21: **\$12,718.00**

The guidelines for keeping safe are still in effect. Please come Sunday for 9:15 Bible Class and 10 a.m. worship. Remember it will be a sanitized, masked face, social distanced class and worship assembly. I look forward to seeing you then! -Steve

FROM THE PULPIT & EDUCATION MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Great Lesson Sunday! This past Sunday was a “vacation” Sunday for me. We stayed in town, doing some much needed work. And I am glad to have heard the lesson by Brandon Baggett. Thanks Brandon. If you did not hear the lesson Sunday go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4nLj4k3aQY>

Stimulus Check. Did you get it? I did. I thought about not keeping it. I thought I might contact the Federal Government and try to make a deal. They keep my stimulus check and I keep my taxes. JUST KIDDING. I can tell you two ways I will be spending *part* of my check (I better say part, lest anyone think me to be Ananias). I will be buying some Alabama National Championship t-shirts. And I will be giving from the stimulus check. After all, I prospered. Back when the first stimulus check came, a preacher friend mentioned on FaceBook to give more, having received the stimulus check. He was virtually attacked by several folks. Faithful Christians don't resent God's teaching on giving. I appreciate every Eastern Meadows member giving faithfully!

FROM THE INVOLVEMENT MINISTER – BRANDON BAGGETT:

Experience God's Peace in 2021

-Maintain A Cheerful Heart-

“Stay positive!” “Just look on the bright side!” “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!” “Attitude is everything!” We've all heard these age-old phrases before, but we might be tempted to write off such advice as nonsense. However, there is more truth than we might realize behind these clever sayings. As wise Solomon once observed, “all the days of the afflicted are evil, but the cheerful of heart has a continual feast” (Proverbs 15:15 ESV). In other words, those who are downcast and anxious will always be troubled by something, but those who seek to maintain a merry attitude will enjoy a life that is a continual banquet, regardless of their external circumstances. Truly, life is often what we make it and how we choose to take it. Happiness isn't so much about living a life that is free from troubles or difficulties, but it is about how we decide to respond to what life throws our way. Being aware of our attitude can often be the decisive difference between a good day and one that is lousy. In a great way, choosing to keep a positive outlook is the key to unlock a happier and more peaceful life.



The apostle Paul certainly understood the value of keeping a cheerful heart! As he was closing his prison letter to the church at Philippi, he said, “rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). Paul used repetition, a noticeable literary feature, to stress the importance

of maintaining a positive outlook. He didn't just say it once; he emphasized it by saying it twice in the same sentence! As Paul noted, the Christian shouldn't just rejoice when things are going well, but they should choose to rejoice always and at all times! You may not have the job you always dream about, the perfect body you wish to see in the mirror, the amount of money in the bank account you think you deserve, or a house like you see on television. Still, you can be happy – you can be joyful! This is true because our happiness isn't connected to an outward circumstance. No, our reason to rejoice is connected to Christ! The Christian can navigate life with the internal satisfaction of knowing they are right with God. Everything else may fall apart, but the Lord and His promises stay the same. All other sources of fulfillment may dry out, but there will never come a moment when the Christian will be unable to find joy in the oasis of God's love and approval. The joy about which Paul writes isn't merely sunny optimism; it's a cheerful attitude that is the natural byproduct of being right with God!

When the old devil tempts you to feel down, dwell on all the negatives, and become troubled by your outward circumstances – rejoice! You are a Christian! You are loved and accepted by God! God has placed His seal of approval on you! Regardless of what may be happening around you, choose to maintain a cheerful attitude and rejoice in the Lord. Working hard to keep a cheerful attitude will not only be healthy for you, but it will also be contagious as it spreads to those around you. So, keep your head up, smile, look on the bright side, and experience “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7) in 2021!

ANNOUNCEMENTS 1/14/21

January 17, 2021 / Leading the congregation in:			
Scripture Reading:	Main Prayer:	Closing Prayer:	Singing:
A.M.: Norton Sewell	A.M.: Jeff Simpson	A.M.: Steve Sewell	A.M.: Allen Clements
Security (During Services): Brad Jackson / Security (Building Lock-up After Services): Tim Gotkiewicz			

With the restrictions caused by COVID-19, it is difficult to have an accurate report of our members who are ill.

SICK: JOY DAVIS is scheduled for surgery Jan. 20 on her right leg. ROY MULKEY is home from the hospital, but remains weak. GLADYS CLEMENTS is recovering from surgery. CASS CHANDLER, Russ Chandler's brother, is recovering open-heart surgery. Continue to remember our members listed on our Sunday-Evening-Evangelism Prayer List. Shut-ins: LANETTE TAYLOR, OPAL SULLIVAN, MARIAN SIKES, MARGARET GRAVES, LEON & CHARLOTTE JACKSON. Battling Cancer: MIKE NORMAN, CHARLES HENDERSON, JAY ROBERTS, DUSTY POUNCEY.

PRAYER REQUEST LIST: (Various Issues): CARSON DAVIS, DON SIMMONS, LINDA DOBYNS, JUDY MILLER, MYRA HUGHES, BECKY TUCKER, MARY SEARIGHT, JAY CONNELL, THOMAS GIPSON, ANNIE GIPSON, SONYA GIPSON. (Battling Cancer): LANISE KIRK, DARNELL STROTHER, NINA JOSEPH, LISA DOBBS, BJ BUCHMANN, PAT NORMAN, SANDRA MISSILDINE, ANDY MULLINS, DANNY MOORE (*This is the Sutton's nephew, Not EM's Danny Moore*), CHRIS HETHCOX, JUDY CURTIN, LEIGH BROWN. (Other) The SPIRITUALLY ILL—weak and wayward members.

SYMPATHY: Our condolences to Veotha Smith in the passing of her sister, Ruby, who lived in San Antonio, TX.

SYMPATHY: Our condolences to Marian Sikes in the passing of her husband, LOWELL SIKES. The funeral was Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021, for family only.

SYMPATHY: Our condolences to Geneva Johnson in the passing of her brother who lived in Pennsylvania.

BIBLE CLASSES: SUNDAYS @ 9:15 AM & WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30 PM

SUNDAY-EVENING-EVANGELISM: Packets containing SEE Prayer List and cards are posted at the front and midway foyers. Be sure to pick up a packet and send cards to the ones you choose.

ELDER OF THE MONTH / ON CALL: The Elder of the Month for January is ALAN KAYE. Contact information for Alan: (334) 322-7117; nantahalan@gmail.com.



THE SECOND GREATEST COMMANDMENT GIVEN BY THE LORD

A scribe asked the Lord, "Which is the first commandment of all?" "Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one, "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. "And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:28-31 NKJV).

The "first", foremost, chief and greatest commandment is for a person to love God with all of one's being. This is the vertical relationship that mankind can have with Almighty God. This is the most important commitment that a person can ever make. The second commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself", is horizontal, it is our relationship with our neighbor. The fulfillment of the second command is predicated upon one being in submission to the first commandment. The apostle John wrote, "And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also" (John 4:21). John also wrote; "If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen" (1 John 4:20)? As you can plainly see, these commandments are closely bound together.

Now if this is true regarding our brother and sister in Jesus Christ, would not the same principle be applicable concerning our relationship with our neighbor who is made in the image of God?. A certain lawyer asked the Lord, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus told the story of a man who had been stripped of all his clothing and severely beaten and left for dead. Two of the leaders among the Jews saw him and kept walking; however, a Samaritan stopped and gave aid to him as well as additional future help (Luke 10:25-37). An important lesson in this story is that whoever is in trouble or is in need is our neighbor and not just the ones who live near us.

This love (Greek, Agape), is defined as being, "affection, good-will, love, benevolence;_Of the love of men to men; especially that love of Christians toward Christians" (Thayer Greek English Lexicon). This love cannot be legislated by the government or by any human organization. This love has to come from a heart that possesses the love for God. The apostle Paul wrote "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the Law." Paul mentions various commandments that one should keep and then he wrote, "And if there is any other commandments, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"

He also wrote, "Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law" (Romans 13:8-10). This statement is so profound! This love is greatly needed in our world today and in our own nation. There is so much hatred in the hearts of many people. There is "harm" being manifested by evil deeds done by individuals and groups. In contrast, people who have the love of God in their hearts will only do good to their neighbors. This love is one of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22). Love is "a more excellent way" and its characteristics are found in 1 Corinthians 12:31;13:4-7. One characteristic of love is being kind to one another which is greatly lacking in our society today! In closing, remember, "And now abides faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13).

--Raymond Elliott

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31).