



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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Website: <https://www.easternmeadows.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EasternMeadowsChurchofChrist/>

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

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

January 28, 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
5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

WELCOME!

ONLINE GIVING CHANGE

Giving Tools is now Live and ready for you to use for your online giving convenience. Simply go to the Eastern Meadows website www.easternmeadows.org and click on 'Giving' at the top of the home page. Or, you may go directly to the site by putting <https://easternmeadows.gvtls.com> in your browser. You will be directed to the 'Giving Tools' site and you will have 2 options, Contribution or Benevolence Fund, then enter your information. Your information will be saved for future giving. You will see several options so just choose what is best for you. You may make a one-time contribution or set up recurring contributions. This literally takes seconds to do. To 'Text to Give' text 'easternmeadows' to 1-888-554-8664. We will be discontinuing our PayPal link immediately.



BENEVOLENCE SUNDAY – JANUARY 31

Fifth Sunday's have been designated "Benevolence Sunday". On Benevolence Sundays a special contribution will be taken for the EASTERN MEADOWS BENEVOLENCE FUND. This is to be separate from the regular contribution. Checks for this effort should be made out to: Eastern Meadows Benevolence Fund. All contributions made to this fund are tax deductible as are regular contributions.

—Roy Mulkey, for the Elders

Budget: \$11,500.00 Contribution, 1/24: \$9,805.00

Sunday Night Praise!

Sunday Night Worship is Back, Beginning February 14!

Sunday Night, February 14, Brandon will present his
third lesson on Marriage for the day!

FROM THE PULPIT & EDUCATION MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Requesting Prayer. On January 13th, Hannah Adams requested prayer. Continue to pray for Hannah.

Requesting Prayer. Aaron Ferrell requested prayer Sunday. He wrote a note that said, “Dear church family, I have been struggling with loneliness. . . . Please pray for me.” We prayed Sunday. Continue to pray for Aaron.

Sunday Nights. I have not been to a worship assembly on Sunday Nights since last March. Odd, because my habit since birth was to be in a Sunday evening worship assembly! BEGINNING FEBRUARY 14 EASTERN MEADOWS WILL AGAIN HAVE SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP. We have a large building. We have PLENTY of room. Everyone wears masks during worship. We believe we can be safe. Like Sunday morning, Sunday evening will be a shortened worship assembly (45 minutes). Please be making your plans. Sunday nights will be streamed as are Bible classes and Sunday morning worship.

Marriage Sunday Looking Forward Update. February 14, will be Marriage Sunday at Eastern Meadows. Brandon Baggett will be speaking on Marriage at 9:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. There will be no fellowship meal and no afternoon service. We will then return for a 5 p.m. worship assembly with Brandon again speaking on Marriage. We will have three lessons, albeit, each lesson will not be as long as some in the past. We all need to be reminded about the special nature of our marriage and be encouraged to be the husband and wife we ought to be. So be making your plans for February 14!

Spiritual Growing or Weakening. This is a serious concern I have had over the past many months. We went for nearly three months without meeting AT ALL. Then we were only meeting in a shorter-than-usual Sunday morning assembly. Then we began classes on Sunday and classes on Wednesday. But all of these classes and assemblies are shorter. There have been no eating fellowships since March 2020. There has been very little to no fellowship. Even the “right hand of fellowship” has been suspended. Very little person-to-person visiting can take place. All of this is to be sure that you can be safe. I UNDERSTAND THIS! But what are the results? *It should not mean that we are weakening spiritually!* But I am fearful that very few are stronger and many are weaker. What about you? I beg of you, take part in worship – if you are not present, take part using the streaming worship. Be in Bible class and if you are not present, “stream” the class. But more than even this, take *personal time* for Bible reading and prayer. What has happened over the past 10 months can weaken the Christian, but we can prevent it from weakening us! Let us be diligent to grow closer to God!

FROM THE INVOLVEMENT MINISTER – BRANDON BAGGETT:

Experience God's Peace in 2021 -Cultivate Your Prayer Life-

There's a popular inspirational meme that's been floating around on social media that says, "Worry is a conversation you have with yourself about things you cannot change, but prayer is a conversation you have with God about things He can change." This message is a great reminder, especially for those of us who are prone to anxiety. We all internally know that worrying about it never changes anything, but that doesn't mean we don't do it. No, we fret over situations, circumstances, people, and decisions. In so doing, we make mountains out of the proverbial molehills. We stress ourselves out, lose sleep, and strain our mind and body when we choose to worry. There's probably a least one thing in everyone's life that triggers some anxiety. Worry and anxiety, though, are some of Satan's biggest tools to steal away the joy we have in Jesus Christ. There is an answer for anxiety, however, and that is found in a healthy prayer life.

As Paul was concluding his prison letter to the church at Philippi, he wrote, "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7 ESV). Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything – these are the words of Paul! Christians don't have to stress themselves out by worrying over situations they cannot control. Instead, they can pray to their Father in Heaven who is always willing to hear and help! The answer to chronic worry is a consistent prayer life that is overflowing with prayers, supplications, thanksgiving, and requests. Prayer is the thought of the heart being expressed to God. Supplication is a need, want, or desire that is voiced to God. Thanksgiving is a prayer of praise and gratitude to God. Requests are other needs conveyed to God through prayer. When our days are littered with a combination of these prayers, God's peace will build a fortress around our heart that anxiety cannot penetrate! Don't forfeit the peace that God can give you by worrying; choose to pray instead!

Worry can defeat us and discourage us, but prayer can empower and encourage us! The English word "worry" actually comes from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "to strangle." When the Christian's mind is filled with worry, Satan can strangle all the spiritual oxygen out of us. Prayer, however, give us the strength and momentum to tackle life's most difficult moments, knowing that God is on our side. Inner calmness and tranquility await the believer who has a prayerful disposition that is coupled with unwavering confidence that God is able and willing to do what is best for His children. If you want to experience "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7) in 2021, then don't forget to pray! Work on cultivating your prayer life and your relationship with God. Cast "all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7 ESV).



Think Before You Post: The Four-Way Test

Rotary International is one of several service clubs that people can join to give back to their community and the world at large, similar to Kiwanis or the Lion's Club. There are some very specific and closely held (secular) principles on which it operates. It's not a church or even a religious organization. In Rotary you can pull together with people from a variety of faith backgrounds across your community to work on service projects beneficial to others. It's an interesting mix, held together by respect for one another and those common tenets.

One of the guiding principles that comes to the surface quite often is called the Four-Way Test. It was developed in 1932 by Herbert Taylor, a Rotarian in Chicago, when faced with some hard business decisions. The four parts are as follows: Of the things we think, say, or do... Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build good will and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? Within each of those four questions are some minor points to think about, but the strength of the four main points is immediately apparent.

Sometimes when Rotarians are working together, the Four-Way Test becomes a bit of a flash point, revisited as a reminder or a wake-up call when someone is drifting outside the expected tone of what Rotary stands for. Today, in the divided culture of our nation, I wish we could all make it our first priority to pull up our Christian principles as quickly and easily as Rotarians do with the Four-Way Test. If they can do it, we can most certainly do it, for the Lord's sake, and for His cause.

Following Christ is a higher calling than anything else on earth, whether careers, political affiliations, community service clubs, hobbies, or any other pursuits of this life. The Bible is replete with guidance directly from God that can be of immediate, practical use to the Christian in daily activities, whether easy or hard, important or minor, peaceful or stressful. A simple yet very powerful one would be, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy," (Matt 5:7).

In our social media activities, it wouldn't hurt a thing for us to think for a minute about Rotary's Four-Way Test, how it might have been put together by people with a measure of faith and wisdom, and how it stands as a secular challenge to the Christian to at least meet those criteria and many more as they grow spiritually in their walk with the Lord. Then we can explore the many Biblical principals that would enhance our communication even more. Let's be at least that watchful about what we're doing online.

--Alan Kaye

I may not know you . . .

"I may not know you . . ." is the title of a tract written to be used in personal evangelism. In the present day with masks and social distancing, we are stymied or at least hindered in our attempts to share the gospel.



Obviously it would be far better if we could sit down face to face with another and teach the way of salvation. But that is not possible with but few exceptions (e.g. close family members, etc.).

One possible way to get the truth in the hands of others is to send a copy of "I may not know you . . ." to their address. Here is an idea that most all of us can employ.

Get some copies of the tract from the church office, some #10 enve-

lopes, and stamps. Pick a street in your neighborhood and go up and down the street and write down all the addresses. Set a goal to mail a certain number of tracts this year (e.g. 100). Simply put the church address (8464 Vaughn Rd., Montgomery, AL 36117) on the top left (return address) of the envelope. Address the envelope to: Neighbor, street address, city, state, and zip code. Write your name in the "Presented by" blank. You may enclose a brief personal note if you wish. Enclose the tract, seal the envelope, stamp and mail. When you finish your street simply pick another street and continue. It would be wise to check off each address when you send a tract.

If you have questions, see Paul Clements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS 1/28/21

January 31, 2021 / Leading the congregation in:			
Scripture Reading:	Main Prayer:	Closing Prayer:	Singing:
A.M.: Aiden Futral	A.M.: Karl Strother	A.M.: Brad Jackson	A.M.: Ted Norton
Security (During Services): Randy Porterfield /		Security (Building Lock-up After Services): Michael Crow	

SICK: MARIAN SIKES is in Baptist South. BECKY NEUENSCHWANDER is recovering from surgery. JOY DAVIS and STEVEN HULETT continue to recover from surgery. Sick at home Sunday: TISH HOUSLEY, JOHN & SHIRLEY MIXON, SARA BLACK NORTON, SARAH NORTON, STEVE SEWELL. 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, JAY CONNELL, THOMAS GIPSON, ANNIE GIPSON, SONYA GIPSON, RICHARD BURLISON. (Battling Cancer): LANISE KIRK, DARNELL STROTHER, NINA JOSEPH, LISA DOBBS, BJ BUCHMANN, PAT NORMAN, SANDRA MISSILDINE, CHRIS HETHCOX, LEIGH BROWN. (Other) The SPIRITUALLY ILL—weak and wayward members.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: The Ladies Wednesday Night Class has been postponed. An update will be posted soon.

BABY SHOWER: There will be a Baby Shower in honor of LYDIA EGUEBE Sunday, Feb. 7, 1:00-2:30 PM, in the midway foyer. Lydia is expecting a boy and is registered at Amazon and Target. This will be a come and go shower with masks and social distancing guidelines observed. A sign-up list will be posted in the front foyer. All ladies are invited to attend.



MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING: There will be a Business Meeting for ALL the Men of the Congregation on Sunday, Feb. 14, 8:30 AM.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT SUNDAY: Sunday, Feb. 14, will be Marriage Enrichment Sunday. BRANDON BAGGETT will be speaking. Be inviting others!

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 Elder of the Month for February is ROY MULKEY. Contact information for Roy: (334) 531-5253; roymulkey43@yahoo.com.

Marriage Enrichment

Sunday, February 14th

Brandon Baggett Speaking

*“A new commandment I give unto you,
That ye love one another; as I have loved
you, that ye also love one another. By this
shall all men know that ye are my disci-
ples, if ye have love one to another.”*

(John 13:34-35)

