



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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

January 7, 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:

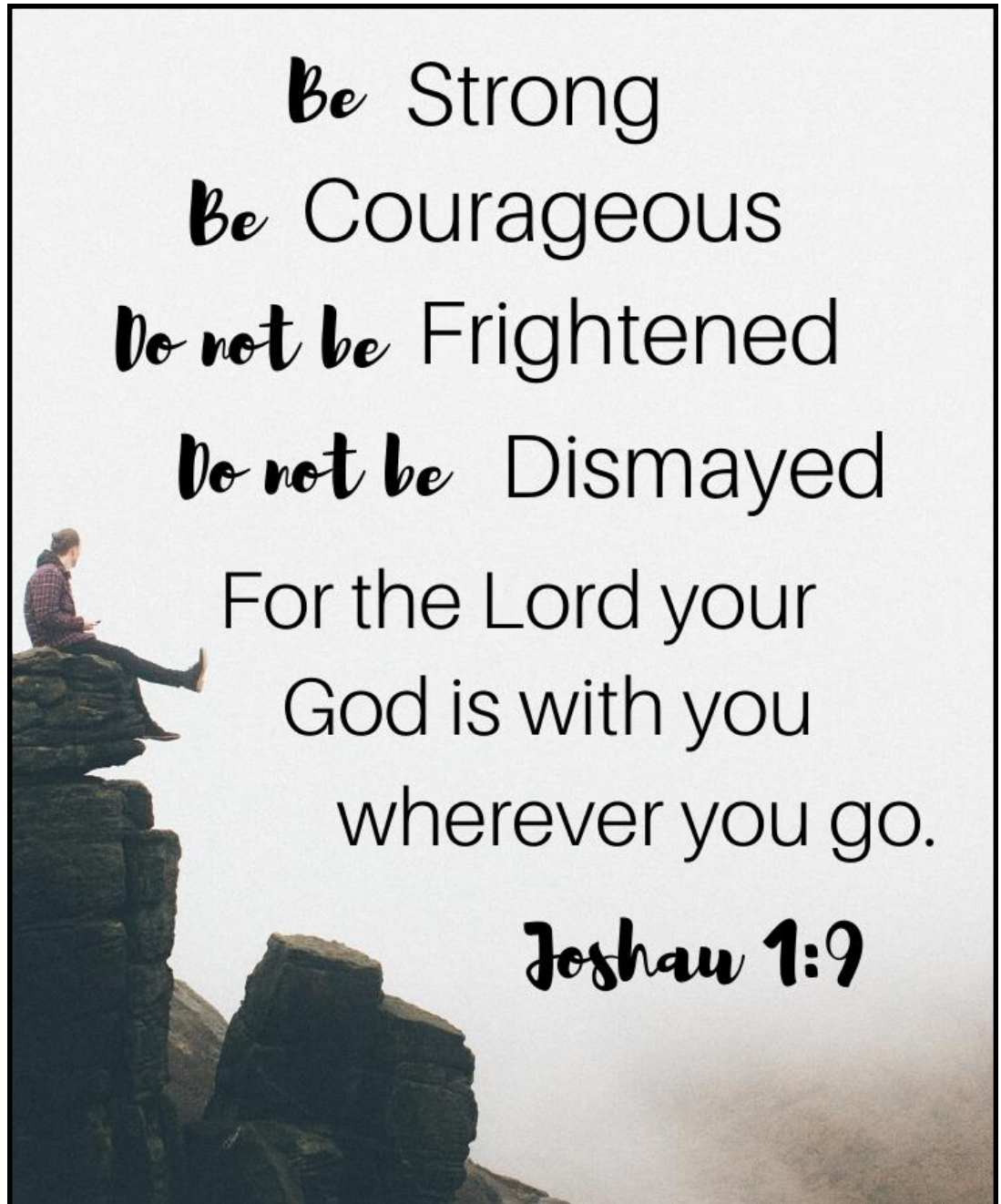
Sunday:

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

Wednesday:

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

WELCOME!



Budget: **\$12,000.00** Contribution, 12/27/20: **\$12,403.00**

Budget: **\$11,500.00** Contribution, 1/3/21: **\$9,965.07**

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:

Encouragement! We all need it. The best encouragement is spiritual reminders. And the best spiritual reminders come from scripture, a Bible verse, or a Bible passage. Additionally, encouragement comes from reminders for what we have to be thankful. During the month of January, plans have been made to encourage you via Eastern Meadows FB page. (If you are on FaceBook, “like” the Eastern Meadows FaceBook page, and you should get the notifications. <https://www.facebook.com/EasternMeadowsChurchofChrist>) Thanks to Ron Hoskinson for making this effort to encourage us! So, every day, be encouraged.

Congratulations on Retirement. Congratulations to FAYE ALLEN who has retired from the State of Alabama after 32 years employment. She worked all of her years in the Department of Public Health. Faye looks forward to spending more time with her husband, Jimmy, and her parents, Jesse and Patricia Russell. Congrats Faye!



Faye & Jimmy Allen



Robert & Caroline King

Welcome to ROBERT and CAROLINE KING.

What a joy for a new family to be at Eastern Meadows. Robert and Caroline have attended Eastern Meadows during their Faulkner careers and we are glad they are making Eastern Meadows home! But now they are a family, having been married over the Christmas holidays. Robert grew up in Montgomery, attending BTW High School and University church. Caroline grew up in the Oakman, Parrish, and Jasper area. Robert will graduate with a Music major in May from FU (the French Horn was his primary instrument). Caroline graduated from FU with an English major and is currently the Head Resident of Davis Dorm. Robert enjoys all things music and game nights with friends. Caroline enjoys reading, writing, and art work. We welcome

Robert and Caroline to Eastern Meadows!

Covid-19 and the Christian

Covid-19 has affected us all, even if we ourselves have not had the disease. Covid-19 has changed the way we do anything in the public for the past year and foreseeable future. It has affected the way we do many things as a church. It has curtailed many of assemblies and fellowships. Covid-19 has limited what many large families might have done at Thanksgiving and Christmas. . . . and this is for those who have not been infected. By the way, I don't want to be infected with Covid-19. And I absolutely do not want to be the cause of others being infected with Covid-19.

Note some observations about Covid-19 and the Christian.

Covid-19 is “evangelistic.” Covid-19, though, without a mind, seems to “want” to spread. What started as one infection (there had to be a first one) has spread to become a pandemic, across the entire globe. But what it needs is to be in close proximity to another person. It spreads, but not magically. Would that Christians with the gospel of Christ be so evangelistic! What a revival the world would have seen if the Gospel had entered the hearts of man as easily as Covid-19 spreads from one human to another! Let us be more intentionally evangelistic with the Gospel (not Covid-19)!

Covid-19 loves your family members. Typically, if I hear of a person who has become “Covid-19 positive” I will hear that other members of that person’s household are also positive. More than my anecdotal observations, the CDC acknowledges this. A Fox News headline was “Coronavirus transmission at home ‘common,’ over 50% household contacts infected, CDC finds.” What the article is discussing is the transmission rate/frequency of the virus among family members. Just one member of the family gets it “out,” maybe at a store, or school, or work. But then the person with the virus, unknowingly, brings it home and he spreads it to many in the household. I have no doubt that many, many infections have occurred this way, so many, in fact that the home is potentially the most dangerous place for some folks.

Now consider the Christian and his household. It *should* be that the people you influence the most to become a Christian and live a Christian life are those of your own household, *because they know you best*. I do hope that the faith you have is “infectious” to the others of your household. However, sometimes, too many times, the opposite is true. The very place many in a household learn to love the world, instead of God, is from one of their family members. The place they learn to curse and swear, and drink alcohol is from another family member. It really is one way or the other. Either you “infect” family members with godliness or ungodliness. But, this you determine.

Covid-19 has even changed our speech. We have some new words. Ever heard “Covid-19” before this disease? Ever heard of “Covid lung?” Used to be we said “bye” or “have a good day” or something of that nature. Now I have often heard, “stay safe,” meaning don’t get too close to the virus and get sick. Christian, your speech ought to be different because of your relationship to Christ. You ought never need to say “pardon my French.”

Covid-19 is not the worst thing that can happen. The scary thing about Covid-19 is that you don’t know what will happen. Most people do well. They get over it, probably most less than a week, and many have only a “flu-like” experience or less. But others... Yes, some stay sick a long time. Some need hospitalization and yes, some even die from it. Locally, the minister at Coosada church of Christ and his wife died of Covid-19. But we realize there are things worse than death. There are some things more important than staying safe from Covid-19 (and we should do that). Staying safe spiritually is more important. In short, are you ready, should your life end today? “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matthew 10:28 ESV).

I sincerely hope that each of you use good judgment and do “stay safe” from Covid-19. Inevitably, some of us will be getting sick and many already have. But let us learn too. Let us grow spiritually, in the midst of a pandemic.

-Steve Housley

FROM THE INVOLVEMENT MINISTER – BRANDON BAGGETT:

Experience God’s Peace in 2021

-Resolve Conflict-

It’s been a tough year! The events of 2020 have been hard on everyone. We’ve experienced a global pandemic, navigated an exhausting and unnerving election, and witnessed the painful upheaval of everything normal we have cherished in our lives. Most are stressed out by our present circumstance, and many are worried about what unknowns may be lurking ahead. While it is only normal to be concerned about such things, the Christian should not live a life of anxiety and fear. Despite the challenges and the uncertainties before us, God’s people can enter this new year and experience God’s peace in the year 2021.

Paul certainly knew the peace of God! In fact, Paul wrote the book of Philippians to illuminate the joy

and peace found in Jesus. One of Paul’s several purposes for penning this letter was to give the Philippi-an congregation greater peace of mind. The church at Philippi was one of Paul’s most beloved and faith-ful supporters (1:3-10; 4:14-20). Having learned that Paul was incarcerated in Rome, the church was natu-rally concerned about their much-loved brother. Paul, therefore, wrote them this prison letter to ease their troubled minds and help them to be at peace. Towards the end of the letter, Paul explained “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:6) found in knowing “the God of Peace” (Philippians 4:8). When we look closer at the context of these declarations, we see Paul closing his letter by highlighting some essentials to experience God’s peace. These imperatives will help us this year too!

In writing to the Philippians, one of Paul’s closing objectives was to address some unresolved conflict between two sisters in the church. The apostle wrote, “I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord” (Philippians 4:1). For some un-specified reason, a dispute arose between these two Chris-tians, their unity in the Lord was threatened, and Paul was disappointed. He tenderly appealed for res-olution! The apostle even called upon his “true com-panion” (likely an elder, preacher, or prominent member at Philippi) to step in, serve as a mediator, and “help these women” (Philippians 4:2 ESV). Paul reminded all parties that they are on the same team since their names are all “in the book of life” (Philippians 4:3). This comforting truth should

have been more than enough motivation for them to work together to work things out. Conflict is a co-losal barrier that would have kept these brethren from truly experiencing the peace of God. Resolving this conflict was absolutely essential for Philippi to enjoy God’s peace.

Friend, is there unresolved conflict in your life? Is there an undercurrent of tension between you and some brother or sister in the congregation? Is there hurt and hostility growing in your heart? You can’t be right with the Lord and be at odds with your brethren! You can’t fully enjoy the peace of God if there is anger eating away at your mind each day! Don’t let pride keep you from making things right with that someone in your life. Remember, Jesus died for them too, and their name is written in the book of life alongside yours. You are both living for the same Lord and striving for the same goal! Seeking peace might not be easy, but you’ll be glad you did. You will probably sleep much better afterwards! Challenge yourself to take that first step towards resolution today, and experience the peace of God in 2021.



ANNOUNCEMENTS 1/7/21

January 10, 2021 / Leading the congregation in:			
Scripture Reading:	Main Prayer:	Closing Prayer:	Singing:
A.M.: Carter Benson	A.M.: Marquez James	A.M.: Randy Johnston	A.M.: Dean Norton
Security (During Services): Danny Moore / Security (Building Lock-up After Services): Allen Clements			

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

SICK: ROY MULKEY is home from the hospital, but remains weak. BRAD JACKSON is sick at home with COVID. WILMA BERRY is sick at home. 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.

NEW PRAYER REQUEST: Prayers have been requested for THOMAS & ANNIE GIPSON and SONYA GIPSON, parents and sister of Shirley Jones, who tested positive for COVID and are under treatment.

THANK YOU: Dear Sunshine Committee, Thanks for the snacks and goodies you fixed and delivered to me. I am enjoying everything. It meant so much to me to be remembered so kindly. Love, Betty Davidson

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 mid-way 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.

Who's to Say What's Right?

We live in a land of freedom. We have the freedom of religion, the right of free speech and the right to bear arms. We have the right to a speedy trial and protection against cruel and unusual punishment. These, among other things, are specified in our nation's Bill of Rights. We are an independent people. We have the right, within reason and law, to do whatever we want whenever we want to do it. As Americans, we can believe what we choose, vote the way we choose, and live the way we choose.

Unfortunately, many have allowed these freedoms to permeate the way they view God and the Bible. Many have put themselves in the place of God to determine what is right and what is not. The freedom to choose how we live as citizens of the United States has, for many, become the same standard used in deciding how we are to live as citizens of God's kingdom.

For example, let's consider sexual morality. In America, anything is OK as long as it is right for you and doesn't harm kids or pets. If teenagers want to have sex, who's to say that it's wrong for them to do so? If people want to live together outside of marriage, who has the right to say that they shouldn't? If people want to marry others of their own gender, who has the right to oppose it? If people want to get a divorce because they don't like their spouse any more, who's to say that's wrong? In fact, those decisions may actually be very good ones, they may be the best choice under the circumstances – at least from a human perspective.

But, is what we think is good and right necessarily what God thinks is good and right? Many have become so accustomed to making their own choices that they have come to believe that whatever they think must also be what God thinks. They have, in effect, imposed their views upon God. They have decided that if they think something is good (i.e. sex outside of marriage) then God must also think that it is good. How can God condemn something that is good?

Cunningly, Satan has persuaded us to become our own god. We have begun to judge God by our own goodness rather than judging ourselves by God's standard – His Son Jesus and the words of Jesus, the Bible. God is our standard. His word is our only way of determining right and wrong (John 12.48). Let's not get sucked in to the way of thinking of those around us. Let's not judge God by ourselves, but ourselves by God. Let's take on the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5).



--Joe Chesser, *Bulletin Gold*