



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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December 30, 2020

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!

HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2021

H HOLD FAST TO YOUR CONFESSION, JESUS OUR HOPE (Heb. 4:14; 10:23)
A SSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD (John 4:23, 24; Heb. 10:24, 25)
P PRAY OFTEN (I Thes. 5:17; Eph. 6:18)
P PREPARE, PROMISED, AND PURPOSED GIFT (II Cor. 9:5-7)
Y YIELD NOT TO TEMPTATION (Mat. 6:13)
N NEGLECT NOT YOUR TALENTS (Mat. 25:14-30; I Tim. 4:15; James 4:17)
E EVERYONE DESERVES TO HEAR OF CHRIST (Mark 16:15; I Tim. 3:14, 15)
W WORKMANSHIP OF GOD (Eph. 2:10; Titus 3:1)
Y YIELD YOURSELVES AS SERVANTS OF CHRIST (Rom. 6:16-17)
E EXHORT ONE ANOTHER (Heb. 3:12, 13)
A ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE (Eph. 2:5, 8)
R READ THE BIBLE DAILY (II Tim. 2:15; I Tim. 4:13)

—Raymond Elliott



LadyBUGS Sign-Up

It is time for the ladies to sign up for the 2021 LadyBUGS' Committees. An online sign-up has been sent out by email. If you would rather sign up by paper, sign up sheets are in the main foyer. Please make your choice(s) and give it to Shirley Kaye as soon as possible. Contact Shirley for questions or information.

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 MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

A Facebook Meme. “I’m going to stay up on New Year’s Eve this year. Not to see the New Year in, but to make sure the old one leaves.” I probably will not personally stay up till midnight, but I can certainly understand the sentiment of that FB meme. 2020 has been a year like none other in my lifetime. Recently, Tish was in line at Wal-Mart and a gentleman was grouching about various events of this year. Tish politely reminded him that God still blesses. His reply was that God hasn’t done anything in 2000 years. This man forgot about the air he breathes, the food he eats, the fact that he had money for his purchases at Wal-Mart. Okay, it has been a troubled year, but God has still blessed us! Don’t forget it. “In everything give thanks,” even in 2020. But I do welcome 2021.

Happy 2021. You are a blessing to me. As strange as this time is, Covid-19 and Social Distancing, I am very thankful to you, Eastern Meadows church of Christ, each and every one of you. I do look forward to the time when everyone will be back in worship and there will be no fear of any virus. I look forward to the time when we visit with no mask. I look forward to the traditional fellowships that we enjoyed/took for granted all these years. I miss you. But I care for you. I love you. And I look forward to better times. May 2021 be better for each and every one of you.

A New Grandbaby and A Reflection. My new grandbaby has just been born! So special! I’m just going to call her #2. Just kidding. Her Dad and Mom did give her a name, Anna Hanley. She is 6 lbs 14 oz, 20.5 inches long and both Mom and Anna Hanley are doing well and I will be praying it stays that way! You know the feeling when your heart is so full. However, I pray my heart will be full again one day at her New Birth, the day she decides to put on the Lord in baptism. And, if I live long enough, my heart will be full to see her living a faithful Christian life, with Jesus first in all things she does.



ANNA HANLEY BASS

FROM THE INVOLVEMENT MINISTER – BRANDON BAGGETT:

2020 Is Hindsight

As the old saying goes, “Hindsight is 20/20!” In other words, things are a lot clearer after the dust has settled. It’s a whole lot easier to come to a more objective realization about something after it is finished than it is to see what should have been obvious in the heat of the moment. Consequently, looking back on something can often help us to learn from our mistakes, discern where we went astray, and discover how we can do better. Interestingly, the year 2020 will soon be hindsight. This year hasn’t been what anybody wanted, but it is what we all received. Now, in just a matter of hours, the year 2020 will soon be just another completed chapter in the story of our lives. Will we learn from this year? Has this dismal year helped to make us a little wiser? Will our faith be stronger

or weaker as New Year's Day comes ringing in? I've got a few things on my heart as the year 2020 begins to fade into my rearview mirror.

The year 2020 has taught me that I am not in control! I am a planner, a hardcore melancholy personality, and marginally OCD. I thrive in a world of order, routine, and organization. I like Post-it notes, alliterated lists, goal setting, and making a plan. 2020, though, has turned all of that upside down! In so doing, this year has helped me to understand that I am not in control and I am ultimately powerless to determine the outcome of many situations. Maybe, though, this is what I needed! I need to learn to slow down, loosen my grip on the reins, and trust God all the way through the journey. "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10) has been the message of the year.

The year 2020 has reminded me that my spiritual health is more important than my physical health! Physical health is important, but spiritual health is invaluable. My biggest need this year hasn't been a mask swinging from my rearview mirror, a shelf of vitamins in my pantry, or a doctor's number on speed dial. Rather, it has been a healthy relationship with God. This year has helped me to remember that sickness and death are inevitable. My body will get sick, I will eventually die, but my soul will live on forever. Whether we like it or not, "our outer self is wasting away" (2 Corinthians 4:16), but there is hope if "our inner self is being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16). 2020 has helped me to see that the greatest tragedy is not to get sick and die—it's to die lost! For the Christian, "to die is gain" and "far better" (Philippians 1:21, 23).

The year 2020 has helped me to see just how much I need God's family in my life! Mankind was not created for separation and seclusion. Those things are just not healthy. The first thing God ever labeled "not good" was that "man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18). There's a reason why solitary confinement is used as a means of punishment in our prison systems. There's a reason why people sink into worse depression when they feel alone. God created us to be social beings, and our Creator knows that being around others satisfies many of our intrinsic needs. This is especially true in God's divine community, the church! We need one another, and this year has placed the spotlight on just how much we need to be together as God's people for worship, fellowship, accountability, growth, mentoring, and strength. Our first century brethren "were together and had all things in common" (Acts 2:44), and they were admonished to not neglect "to meet together" (Hebrews 10:25) when their circumstances got really tough. The twenty-first century church needs to hear these words too!

What has this year taught you? Will you apply what you have been taught? What will be some of your key takeaways as you file this year away in the archives of your mind? How will you choose to enter the year 2021? Let's resolve to learn from the events of this year and make a commitment to give God a new person in this upcoming new year!

1. If anyone would like to be added to the email list to receive my weekly application handout for 1 John, they can send their name and email address to wbb.preacher@gmail.com. This is a weekly application handout called "Making it Stick" to help us further study and apply what we are learning in 1 John.



- I have started blogging again and have been putting out fresh articles each Wednesday. If anyone would like to subscribe to receive an instant email notification when new content is added, they can visit yourministryonpurpose.com and add their name and email in the "Subscribe" section on the main page.

ANNOUNCEMENTS 12/30/20

January 3, 2021 / Leading the congregation in:			
Scripture Reading:	Main Prayer:	Closing Prayer:	Singing:
A.M.:	A.M.:	A.M.:	A.M.:
Security (During Services): MarquezJames / Security (Building Lock-up After Services):			

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

SICK: GLADYS CLEMENTS is recovering from surgery. CASS CHANDLER, Russ Chandler's brother, is recovering open-heart surgery. The MULKEY FAMILIES have been dealing with COVID and Roy has been hospitalized. GWEN MANN is now COVID-19 negative, but remains fatigued from the illness. Gwen Mann's parents are still sick with the virus. 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.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT: ANNA HANLEY BASS was born Tuesday, Dec. 29 to ADAM & BETH BASS. See Steve's write-up on page 2. ADDIE is the proud big sister and STEVE & TISH HOUSLEY are the proud grandparents. Congratulations to all!

PRAYER REQUEST: Prayers have been requested for JAY CONNELL, a friend of Tim and Kristy Hatch, who is dealing with some medical issues at this time and needs prayers for recovery and healing.

LADYBUGS SIGN-UP: It is time for the ladies to sign up for the 2021 LadyBUGS' Committees. An online sign-up has been sent out by email. If you would rather sign up by paper, sign-up sheets are in the main foyer. Please make your choice(s) and give it to Shirley Kaye as soon as possible. Contact Shirley for questions or information.

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.

10 Faith Strategies For Every Situation

The world encourages us to develop coping skills. God wants us to do more than cope. He offers us strategies to express our faith, strengthen our joy, and promote righteousness in the world. For every situation, we have the Way. How can Christians deal with difficulties?

- Trust the word of God in every way.** Satan wants us to feel that Scripture has nothing for us, but everything we need for our walk, worship, and work is in the Bible. "I trust in your word" Psalm 119:42. No situation calls for laying aside the word of God. It has both answers and power for the difficult moment we're living.
- Own up to your feelings.** Denial intensifies them. Cain failed to deal with his anger and killed his brother, Genesis 4. Express your emotions in prayer, admitting them to God. He can handle them. Write it down, if necessary. Use many of the Psalms as models or their words to express your thoughts. Recognize, too, that emotions do not represent reality, but only our inner state based on our momentary, limited evaluation. "How do I feel?" is a great question, but ultimately

we must move on to ask, "What must I do?" In the garden, Jesus admitted that he felt anguish: "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death" Matthew 26:38. Then he went willingly to die on the cross.

3. **Realize you're only a part of the situation.** Sure, if we have wronged someone, we should go to them, ask forgiveness, and correct what can be amended. But in the end, it's not about you. Many dynamics are involved. The world doesn't revolve around any single person, nor does any given crisis involve only one person. What is most at stake is not your interests but the glory of God and the kingdom of Christ. Find out what will promote them, and pursue what will "lead ... to God's glory" John 11:4.
4. **Deal with what is, not the past nor the future.** We do have histories, and we ought to be concerned with consequences, but trying to solve it all at once probably won't happen. There are times to let go of the past. As well, don't borrow tomorrow's troubles, Matthew 6:33-34.
5. **Recognize that such things in life happen on a regular basis.** Good and bad changes are a part of our earthly existence. What we first tag as negative, may turn out to be a positive. Look for the good, instead of anticipating or prophesying evil. Deal with life as it is, not life as you want it to be. Living in a fantasy world only brings grief, because the real world will frequently break in to spoil our fiction.
6. **Avoid the blame game.** When we are wrong, we should repent. We should be willing to forgive others when they commit wrongs. But dwelling on who did what doesn't tend toward solutions and resolution of situations. There are people and places we may need to avoid, but we can't control others' behavior or decisions, nor should we. If we can't fix a situation, we need not attempt to extract ourselves by blaming others for their part. God will judge.
7. **Face the situation.** Don't pretend it didn't happen or hide in a hole hoping it will go away. The quicker, usually, you assess and address the situation, the less damage will be done. Nehemiah cried when he heard about the ruins of Jerusalem, but through prayer and the permission of the king, he went there, took stock of the situation, pulled the city's inhabitants together, and went to work to build the walls in record time. Inaction perpetuates a crisis, action often mitigates it.
8. **Look, and leave room, for God to work his will.** God works for the good of those who love him, Romans 8:28. Relax! God is in control of the world, of the church, of our workplace and homes. We ought to cooperate with him, submit to him, deliver all of our lives to him. Fifty years from now, this situation will look far different than it does now. We may not even remember it!
9. **Find motive to give thanks.** God can and will bring good out of any situation, regardless of how hopeless we consider it. Every situation can serve as a learning experience. God disciplines us in suffering, and his desires for our growth and maturation are wonderful reasons for gratitude, Hebrews 12:7-13.
10. **Get support from other Christians.** This is a time to seek them out, not to avoid them. To the garden of anguish Jesus took three friends, "Stay awake with me" Matthew 26:38. Keep up your spiritual commitments with the church. We follow the Lord Jesus Christ in good times and bad. Our faithfulness in crisis may well be the example that keeps someone else strong in the Lord. The love one-another commandment means that we allow others to show their love to us. This list is not exhaustive, but seeks to point us in the right direction when difficulties appear. At the center of each point is the God who loves us all and works for the eternal salvation of all mankind. Let's put this God in the center of our lives as well.

--Randal Matheny, via forthright.net

AS LONG AS THERE IS AIR IN YOUR LUNGS

Just a few days ago, the stuff of science fiction actually happened right here in America. In Detroit, paramedics came to the aid of a 20-year-old woman who was unresponsive at her home. They performed life-saving techniques for about half an hour, but there was no response. After their efforts, the woman was pronounced dead, the family was informed, and a funeral home came to get her body to prepare for a service.

Only, when morticians got ready to start their work, they realized the woman was breathing. She was still alive!

As you can imagine, they were surprised, but they also did what you would expect: they immediately called a local hospital and had an ambulance come to care for the woman.

It's almost unimaginable that could happen, especially with how advanced our knowledge of the human body is. But here is what struck me: the workers cared for this woman, even when there was barely any breath in her lungs.

Why? Because even that tiny sign of life is a sign of hope.

When I found that story and let it roll around in my mind for a few minutes (and after I got over how weird it must have been), it just made me think about hope. In a lot of ways, hope is the breath in our lungs. What I mean is that, there are seasons in our life where hope is

what gets us through and causes us to be able to put one foot in front of the other.

But I also want to think about this from another angle. Spiritually speaking, so long as there is breath in our lungs, we are not hopeless. I just wonder how many people are walking around our towns and neighborhoods who think they have done too much bad stuff or been away from God for

so long that they are a hopeless case. I just wonder how many people honestly believe they are too far removed from the Lord to find forgiveness. I imagine the answer to that is a higher number than any of us can really consider.

But the beauty of the Gospel is that, so long as we have breath in our lungs, we are not a hopeless case. So long as we are here in this life, there is the hope of seeking and receiving God's forgiveness. So long as we are breathing, there is the chance to return to Him. Until our actual final breath is taken, God will forgive.

— Adam Faughn, *Faughnfamily.com*

Daily Bible Reading

January, 2021

- 1 Genesis 1-3
- 2 Genesis 4-7
- 3 Genesis 8-11
- 4 Genesis 12-15
- 5 Genesis 16-18
- 6 Genesis 19, 20
- 7 Genesis 21-23
- 8 Genesis 24, 25
- 9 Genesis 26-28
- 10 Genesis 29, 30
- 11 Genesis 31, 32
- 12 Genesis 33-35
- 13 Genesis 36-38
- 14 Genesis 39-41
- 15 Genesis 42-44
- 16 Genesis 45-47
- 17 Genesis 48-50
- 18 Exodus 1-3
- 19 Exodus 4-6
- 20 Exodus 7-9
- 21 Exodus 10-12
- 22 Exodus 13-15
- 23 Exodus 16-18
- 24 Exodus 19-21
- 25 Exodus 22-24
- 26 Exodus 25-27
- 27 Exodus 28-29
- 28 Exodus 30-32
- 29 Exodus 33-35
- 30 Exodus 36-38
- 31 Exodus 39-40

