



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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March 11, 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!



Daylight Saving Time begins this Sunday, March 14. Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour at bedtime Saturday night.

Budget: \$11,500.00 / Giving, 3/7: \$12,356.00

FROM THE PULPIT & EDUCATION MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

The Model Prayer. That was last Sunday night's sermon. You can probably find many outlines of this prayer, but keeping it simple, think 1) Adoration of God 1) Church/Kingdom/Brothers/Sisters 3) Petitions of various nature. That does sum it up easily and can help us in our prayers.

In the Light

John's words are clear. "This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:5-7 ESV).

In the light is where I want to be! In darkness there is no fellowship with God. In the light we not only have fellowship, but we have forgiveness! For me to be in the light is a choice I make about how I live. It is not just about what I believe. It is not how loud I can shout hallelujah. It has to do with how I live.

The darkness/light contrast is found in chapter two, but this time it speaks directly of keeping God's commandments instead of using metaphors "light" and "darkness". John writes, "Whoever says 'I know him' but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked." (1 John 2:4-6 ESV)

The darkness/light contrast is found in chapter three, but in chapter three it speaks of "keeps on sinning" and "practicing righteousness." John says, "Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous." (1 John 3:4-7 ESV).

After I become a Christian, God expects me to live like a Christian ought to live. It is described as "walking in the light," "keeps his word," and "practices righteousness." Living this way keeps me out of the path of darkness, keeps me from failing to keep God's commandments, and keeps me from a practice of sin. Walking in the light provides me with promise of forgiveness, and fellowship.

Are you walking in the light?

– Steve Housley

FROM THE INVOLVEMENT MINISTER – BRANDON BAGGETT:

Stop Playing The Comparison Game

Did you know that there's a dangerous game God's people play each day? This game is not played out on a court, in a ballfield field, or in a bright sports arena. No, this game is played in the mind. There are no captains or positions, this game requires no special uniform, and there are no opposing teams. This deadly game has no winners. In fact, all who dare to play this game are hopeless to lose every time. This is the dangerous, destructive, and deceptive game of comparing yourself to others.

For many people, this hurtful comparison game begins the very second they roll out of bed and pick up their phone. In our culture, social media fuels the fires of the comparison game by overwhelming us with stories, posts, and pictures of people who appear to have their lives completely put together. We see people who have beautiful homes, well-dressed children, and nice automobiles. We are inundated with images of our friends going on vacations, eating at nice restaurants, and enjoying a happy marriage. We read about people who seem to love their job, and their life seems to be "picture perfect" in every way possible. Meanwhile, we might feel like our life is falling apart, our children aren't nearly as neat, our house is outdated, our job is boring, and we haven't been on a nice vacation in years. How can their

life be so perfect and our life be such a mess? This, you see, is the deadly trap of the comparison game!

Ironically, we often remind our children to just be themselves and resist the urges of peer pressure to be like everyone else. However, if we are truthful, we would have to admit that we often neglect to take our own advice. We often discourage ourselves by measuring our worth by everyone else. Sadly, this phenomena is frequently seen in the church. If we are not careful, we can overlook our own value to the cause of Christ because we are comparing ourselves to our brothers or sisters. This certainly hindered the efforts of Corinth. In 1 Corinthians 12, there is the implication that some were guilty of weighing the impact of their spiritual gift based on the spiritual gift of another. Additionally, some local churches fall victim to the deadly trap of the comparison game by always looking at the congregation down the road and measuring themselves by their efforts and successes. God's people must learn to stop playing this game!

God, you see, has created each of us to be special and unique! We all have our own individual talents and abilities. God isn't asking us to be our neighbor, our friends and family members, or even our brothers and sisters in Christ. No, He is calling us to become more like Him as we are conformed "to the image of His son" (Romans 8:29). Studying God's Word will help us to embrace our own individuality, and it will challenge us to stop playing this negative game of comparing ourselves to others. So, if you struggle with this tendency, stay on the lookout for more articles on this subject. Over the next few weeks, we will be unpacking some passages from God's Word to highlight some reasons why we should all stop playing the comparison game. But until then, working on being you and try to be more like Him!



ANNOUNCEMENTS 3/11/21

March 14, 2021 / Leading the congregation in:			
Scripture Reading:	Main Prayer:	Closing Prayer:	Singing:
A.M.: Christian Williams	A.M.: Ted Norton	A.M.: John Cole	A.M.: Dean Norton
Security (During Services): Randy Porterfield /		Security (Building Lock-up After Services): John Cole	

SICK: GENEVA JOHNSON is home after being in the hospital. STEVEN HULETT continues to recover from surgery. Sick at home Sunday: PHYLLIS ALLEN, VERA DEKLE. 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, JUDY MILLER, MYRA HUGHES, JAY CONNELL, PAT NORMAN, RICHARD BURLISON, KELLY NORMAN. (Battling Cancer): LANISE KIRK, DARNELL STROTHER, NINA JOSEPH, LISA DOBBS, BJ BUCHMANN, SANDRA MISSILDINE, CHRIS HETHCOX, LEIGH BROWN, DAWN DEAN. (Other) The SPIRITUALLY ILL—weak and wayward members.

NEW PRAYER REQUEST: Prayers have been requested for DAWN DEAN, Dianne Hoskinson's cousin, who is in rehab after undergoing surgeries for pancreatic cancer. After rehab, she will have another surgery and chemotherapy.

LEADERSHIP MEETING: There will be a business meeting for all the Elders, Deacons, and Ministers this Sunday, Mar. 14, 8:30 AM.

SHEPHERDS TALK: The elders will give a brief update on EM business and activities this Sunday, Mar. 14, after the end of the AM worship service.

COME-AND-GO BRIDAL SHOWER: There will be a Come-and-Go Bridal Shower in honor of JINNY KHANTISOURIYA this Sunday, Mar. 14, 2021 from 1:00-2:30. See Cecilia Porterfield to contribute funds to pay for shower food items. Jinny (Ben Singleton) is registered is at Amazon and Target.

ICYC REGISTRATION: Registration forms for ICYC must be turned in by this Sunday, Mar. 14, to Tim Gotkiewicz.

YOUNG MEN'S SINGING TIME: A Young Men Singing Time will begin March 21. Any young man who would like to lead a verse of a song be on the front row at 4:50 PM and Jon Timbes will assist in announcing and leading the song of their choice.

YOU & ME + ONE BAGGETT TEAM: The Baggett Team will meet again on Sunday, Mar. 21, 4 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Team members are encouraged to participate.

LADIES' WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: The Ladies' Bible Class is underway on an 18-week study about "The Life of Abraham." ALL ladies are encouraged to be in class. Please see Emmy Kelly or Caitlin Baggett for more information or to sign-up to teach a class.

MONDAY-NIGHT-MOTIVATION / A TIME TO PRAY: M-N-M will be Monday, Mar. 29, 6:30 PM. A Time To Pray will be at 7:15 PM. Let Sally Gotkiewicz or Emmy Kelly know of your prayer requests.

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 March is **TED NORTON**. Contact information for Ted: (334) 850-5675; tnorton1946@gmail.com.

