



## Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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

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

March 18, 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:

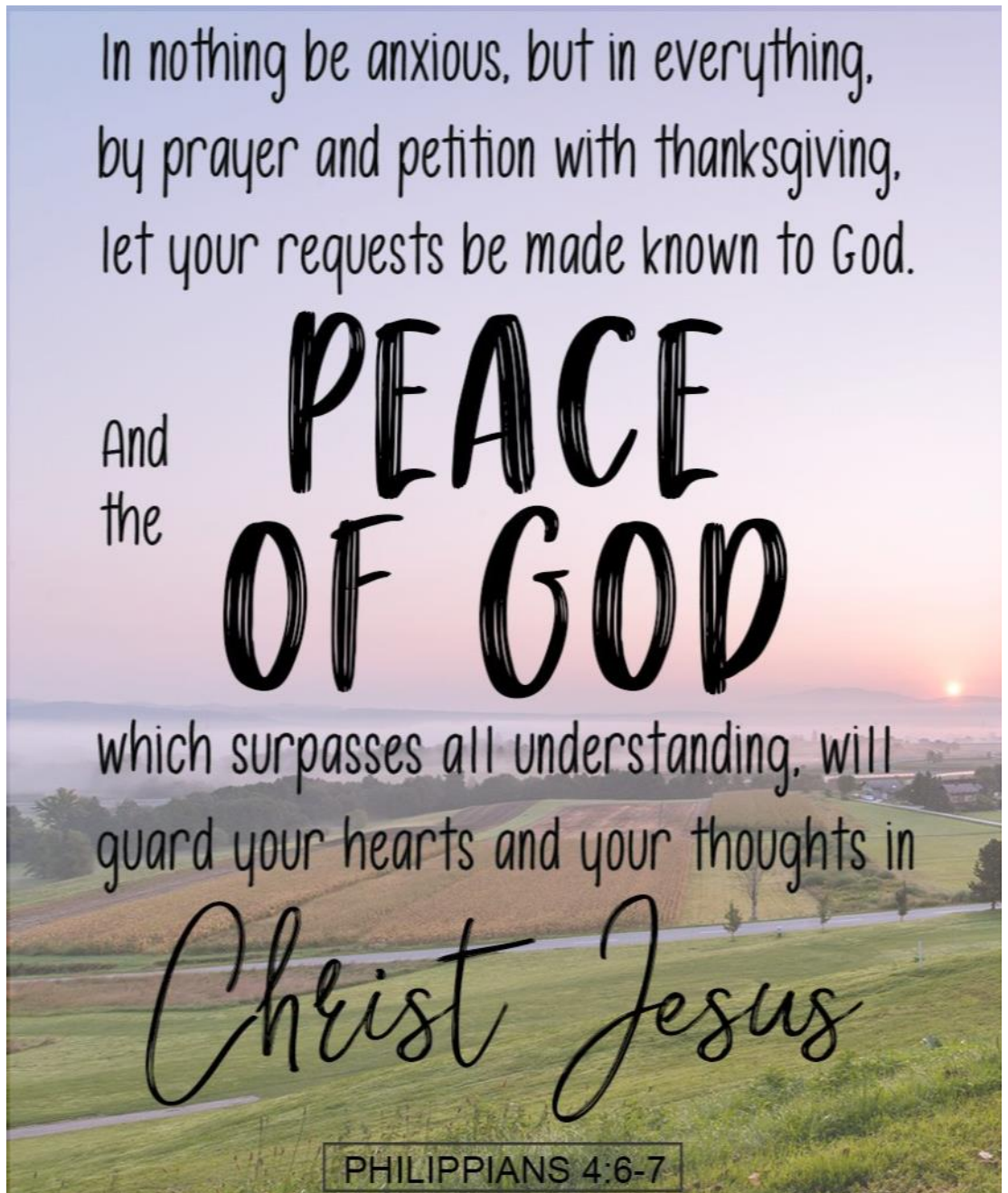
#### Sunday:

9:15 a.m. Bible Class  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
5:00 p.m. Worship

#### Wednesday:

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

**WELCOME!**



Budget: **\$11,500.00** / Giving, 3/14: **\$10,306.00**

## TO EASTERN MEADOWS:

Collectively, the Eastern Meadows congregation has always been faithful in its giving. We have had to adapt in the last year as it has been a challenge not only to give but to worship. We should be mindful of the importance of consistent financial contributions to the Lord's work. The work and obligations of the church continue even in the face of not being able to meet as we would like. We support many great works that are dependent on us to some degree. It is extremely difficult to meet our responsibilities without your faithful and consistent giving. If you are able to attend worship, we prefer and encourage you to make your contribution in person. For your convenience we also have on line giving at [www.easternmeadows.org/giving](http://www.easternmeadows.org/giving) or via text at 888-554-8664. And, you can always call/text me at 334-850-5675 and we will accommodate you.

— Ted Norton, for the elders

### FROM THE PULPIT & EDUCATION MINISTER — STEVE HOUSLEY:

**Jesus is Coming!** No, I don't know when, but not knowing when does not hinder my faith one bit. I know sometimes we might think or we might hear someone say, "With the way the world is now, I don't think he will wait much longer." But, we don't know! What we can know is what the Bible says. Anything else is speculation.

**Second Coming or Pleasing God.** Jesus is coming again and many have become more fascinated with this subject than how they might please God. That makes no sense to me. The Lord is coming and the how and when he is coming will happen, *even if no one knows all the details pertaining to the second coming!* Neither can I personally "do" anything to change or alter the second coming. On the other hand, whether or not I am pleasing God in my daily living is absolutely something that I can determine. Seems to me that the priority ought to be having myself ready for his return! Seems to me that the priority should be that I am sure I am pleasing God.

**Speculation versus Bible Teaching.** Premillennialism; dispensationalism, rapture, tribulation, etc. are words many think of when they think of the second coming of Jesus. These are systems of beliefs or tenants within these systems. However, twisting scripture, taking scripture out of context, reading into scripture what is not there (by the way, doing that is called eisegesis) is what now premillennialism or dispensationalism came to be. Watch out for speculation.

### FROM THE INVOLVEMENT MINISTER — BRANDON BAGGETT:

## Don't Be A Pharisee

Pharisees—have you ever heard of them? Have you ever met one? Do you know any? The Pharisees were a prominent sect of the Jewish nation that was formed during the intertestamental period between the Old and New Testaments. We don't read about any Pharisees in the Old Testament, but they are mentioned nearly a hundred times throughout the pages of the New Testament. During New Testament times, the Pharisees had great influence among the people, and they were largely in control of the powerful Jewish Sanhedrin. Later, during the days of the infant church, the Pharisees had much influence through staunch and radical Jewish converts to Christianity who are commonly known as "the Judaizing teachers." However, the Pharisees are probably most notoriously known for being the bitter opponents of Jesus who were chiefly responsible for His violent crucifixion.

Even though they appeared to be the cream of the Jewish crop, the Pharisees were actually “full of hypocrisy and lawlessness” (Matthew 23:28 ESV). They knew the Scriptures, kept all the right rules in religion, and were quick to point out the faults of others, but they woefully failed to display true righteousness from the heart. Consequently, Jesus warned His followers by saying, “unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:20). Don’t be like the Pharisees! However, if we are honest, it is very easy to become pharisaical in our dealings with others and in our relationship with God.

We might be a Pharisee if look right past the good in people and only look for guilt in those around us (John 5:10-12). We are like the Pharisees if we can easily find faults in others while refusing to admit our own sins and shortcomings (Matthew 15:1-6). We are pharisaical if we are unwilling to acknowledge that our interpretations of the Scriptures are wrong (Luke 14:4). We might be a Pharisee if we automatically condemn what we don’t understand (Matthew 12:23-24). We are like the Pharisees if we measure our righteousness by our religious practices instead of by God’s mercy and grace (Luke 18:9-14). We have become like the Pharisees if we believe the law of God is the ultimate end while completely leaving out the God who gave it (John 5:39). We are pharisaical if we treat religion as a tool of oppression instead of the means of transformation and freedom (Mark 2:24-28). We might be a Pharisee if we burden our brethren by placing unscriptural restrictions on them and guilt them into keeping them (Matthew 23:4). We have become like Pharisees if we use fear and exclusion in the church as a means to enforce conformity to man-made rules (John 12:42). We are like the Pharisees if we major in the minors and minor in the majors (Matthew 23:23). Yes, we have become modern day Pharisees if we openly claim to be God’s child while having no personal and private relationship with Him (Matthew 6:1-4). Don’t be a Pharisee!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS 3/18/21

<b>March 21, 2021 / Leading the congregation in:</b>			
<b>Scripture Reading:</b>	<b>Main Prayer:</b>	<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	<b>Singing:</b>
<b>A.M.: John Cole</b>	<b>A.M.: Mark Evans</b>	<b>A.M.: Jimmy Mathews</b>	<b>A.M.: William Dill</b>
<b>Security (During Services): Daniel Bragg / Security (Building Lock-up After Services): John Cole</b>			

**SICK:** SHIRLEY KAYE is scheduled for surgery Mar. 23. GENEVA JOHNSON is home after being in the hospital. STEVEN HULETT continues to recover from surgery. Sick at home Sunday: PHYLLIS ALLEN, NATHAN FUTRAL FAMILY. 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. (Battling Cancer): LANISE KIRK, DARNELL STROTHER, NINA JOSEPH, LISA DOBBS, BJ BUCHMANN, SANDRA MISSILDINE, CHRIS HETHCOX, SUSAN JOHNSON, DAWN DEAN. (Other) The SPIRITUALLY ILL—weak and wayward members.

**NEW PRAYER REQUEST:** Prayers have been requested for MARK BOWERS, Naomi Bowers’ son, who has health issues and undergoing medical tests and procedures.

**YOUNG MEN’S SINGING TIME:** A Young Men’s Singing Time will begin this Sunday, Mar. 21. Any young man who would like to lead a verse of a song should 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 & NORMAN TEAMS:** The Baggett and Norman Teams will meet this Sunday, Mar. 21, 4 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Team members are encouraged to participate.

**LADIES' MONDAY-NIGHT-MOTIVATION / A TIME TO PRAY:** The Ladies' M-N-M will be Monday, Mar. 22, 6:30 PM. A Time To Pray will be at 7:15 PM. Study will be Lesson 10 of "The Domino Effect." 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 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 March is **TED NORTON**. Contact information for Ted: (334) 850-5675; tnorton1946@gmail.com.

## JESUS IS COMING TO CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY!

After church services Wednesday evening the congregation was abuzz over the announcement that was made: Jesus was coming to church next Sunday. He was not coming to preach; He was coming to observe the church at worship. Jesus would be given a special seat of honor with a view of all the members.

This was certainly hard to believe, but coming he was, and you could rest assured that things would not be like usual.

hands) had made for them at Calvary. Because Jesus was going to be there, everyone was determined that this worship service would be the most joyous, the most uplifting, and the most moving event that they had ever experienced.

It's too bad that they didn't expect Jesus to come every worship service.

As we consider the implications of this article, do we realize that Jesus is in our midst each Sunday, sitting by us, listening to us sing and praise him? Do we realize that our minds must be on the cross when we partake of the Lord's Supper? Would the realization that he was there affect the way we pray? Give? Engage in Bible study? If we firmly believed that Jesus was coming to attend our worship, would we invite our friends and loved ones? Would the fellowship that we have with one another and with God be more "real?"



Would our preparation for Bible study be more intense?

Would the preacher's sermon be better?

Would we listen more intently to what was being said?

Would we, under Jesus' knowing eyes, not consider how it applies to "Bertha" but how it applies to me and what I need to do?

Jesus is with us all of the time (Galatians 2:20). How does that affect my decisions, my speech, my actions?

**Brothers and sisters, Jesus will be here this Sunday!**

— John Hendrix

## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE POT PLANTS?

“The story is true – only the names and places have been withheld to protect the guilty!”

A congregation moved into a new building with gleeful delight and some degree of pride over the elegant material surroundings in which they would worship. Someone supplied two beautiful five-foot plants to adorn the front of the new auditorium.



Some months following the opening service in the new building, to the dismay of the elders and building committee, the plants disappeared. Said elders and said committee sounded the alarm! The congregation was bombarded with announcements. Men were deputized to seek the whereabouts of that which was lost.



Apologies were made to the donors of the decorative plants. For two months, the missing pot plants became the conversation piece of the church at worship and at home. The search was intensified, and the announcements and pleadings were unending.

The quest ended quite abruptly when the local preacher dared to solve the problem. It took nerve to do it! Since the pot plants had not been found and obviously were not going to be, he arose following a long announcement about the lost decorations and said, “We have heard a great deal about the missing plants that were lost. For two months at every service announcements have been made and people have earnestly looked for that which is lost. For years, we have known that sheep have strayed from the flock. Prodigal sons and daughters are away from the worship and the Bible declares that they are lost. Each soul missing here today is more valuable than the whole world – and yet we have not heard one announcement, nor have we seen anxious concern about Mary Smith, John Brown or Sam Jones, whose eternal welfare may hang on our concern. If we had put forward one tenth the energy in locating lost souls of this flock as we have the lost plants, surely angels in heaven would rejoice!” Suffice it to say, no other announcements were made about the plants.

Is this not true in so many areas? With 7,874,965,825 (as of Wednesday TCT) people in the world, with 70 million born each year than die, how can we be so concerned over minute details such as the color of carpet, types of pews or stained-glass windows?

In Dallas, Texas, several years ago, before the Sunday morning services began in a large church, the preacher and some members came to the front steps of the commodious building just in time to see a man fall prostrate with his hands stretched out toward the pulpit. They stood there and watched him die. Suppose this man, seeking for something which the world did not give him, had heard only an intense and frenzied plea for lost pot plants! THINK IT OVER.

– O. J. Russell (Gospel Advocate, March 5 1981, p 148)



# EASTER EGG HUNT

**Saturday, April 3, 2021**

**3pm - 5pm**

## **Eastern Meadows Church of Christ**

Activities will be behind the Fellowship building.

Please park in front or side parking lots

### **Age Groups**

Babies & Toddlers

4 - 5 years old Grades 1- 5

Grades 6 & above / Hide eggs



Bring your lawn chair and a dozen eggs per child (plastic or boiled) to be hidden. Plan to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship. Goodie bags of pre-wrapped snacks, and drinks, provided. Sign-up sheet at Front Desk & Ladybug's Room

Any questions, see Caitlin Baggett, Sara Clements, or Barbara Norman