



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

8464 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36117

Phone: 334-273-0001 / Fax: 334-273-0375

Email Office: office@easternmeadows.org

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

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

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

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

March 19, 2020

ELDERS:

Tim Bagents
Alan Kaye
Roy Mulkey
Mike Norman
Ted Norton

DEACONS:

Adam Bass
Billy Bush
Allen Clements
John Cole
Michael Crow
Lamon Dees
Ryan Gotkiewicz
Tim Gotkiewicz
Tim Hatch
Steve Housley
Marquez James
Joel Kelly
Andrew Long
Jimmy Mathews
Danny Moore
Lindsey Mulkey
Dean Norton
Randy Porterfield
Steve Sewell
Jeff Simpson

MINISTERS:

Tim Gotkiewicz, Youth
& College
David Hester, Educa-
tion & Involvement
Steve Housley, Pulpit

SCHEDULE:

Sunday:

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

Wednesday:

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

WELCOME!

Eastern Meadows Members,

Unfortunate circumstances are prohibiting the Eastern Meadows congregation of the Lord's church to meet and worship as we desire. We are canceling all services and meetings in our facilities until further notice. Every resource we have found says this needs to be done in order to stop the spread of this virus and to keep it from becoming more deadly than it appears it's going to be already. We encourage each of you to keep yourselves informed and safe during this unprecedented time.

Even though we will not be assembling for services, we will have live streaming from Facebook at the Eastern Meadows Members page. Bible class will be at 9 AM and worship will be at 10 AM. If you are in need of Lord Supper emblems, contact the office via email, office@easternmeadows.org.

The work of the church must continue as we support many good works that count on us. We also have a great program of work here locally that we must continue as well. All are dependent on our regular weekly giving. How can you give when we are not meeting together physically you might ask? Consider the following:

- *PayPal - office@easternmeadows.org*
- *Mail your check to - 8460 Vaughn Road, Montgomery AL 36117*
- *Contact us to come by and pick it up (Ted Norton - 850-5675) tnorton1946@gmail.com*
- *Bring it by the office after you check to make sure someone is there*

The Lord's work should continue as we have planned together.

Sincerely, Your elders

Budget: \$14,100.00 Contribution, 3/15: \$12,709.77 YTD: -\$2,511.75
3/15: Bible Class: 79 / AM Worship: 140 / PM Worship: 55 / EMBF: -\$2,511.75

FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Read your Bible. “With so many things closing, use this as an opportunity to open your Bible,” Bill Boyd.

Listen For Free! www.biblelectureship.com We are not spending as much time in Bible classes and worship. Why not do some study via lectureship lessons? At the recent Faulkner University lectureship it was announced that the FU lectures from several years can be listened to for free at www.biblelectureship.com When you go to the website you will see links for Faulkner Lectureships; OVU Lectureships (Ohio Valley University); Inman Preaching Seminars; and Kearley Conferences (conferences conducted by Faulkner University). You can then download lectures. By the way, you must download multiple lectures at a time. The 2020 lectures are not yet uploaded, but the FU 2013 – 2019 are already available. It is a great resource!

Pray for our Elders. Our elders are making decisions that they have never made before. No matter the decision they make, they are subject to someone thinking, they should have decided on a different path. It has not been easy for them. Let us support their difficult decisions.

I saw this on Facebook and it is worth reprinting here.

Your elders have never led a church through a pandemic before. When they open the church, some people are going to say that they should have closed. When they close it, some people are going to say they should have stayed opened. When they shake hands, some people are going to say they have faith and some people are going to say they are foolish. Your elders are going to make some difficult decisions to protect the flock. Considering everything from your spiritual growth to legal liabilities that you aren't even thinking about.

Remember this: No one wants things to go well at church as much as your elders. Your elders need your prayers and support right now. And although you can't touch them right now, give them an air hug!

-Author Unknown

The Importance of Worship and the Assembly and the Impossibility of Attending the Assembly

A significant element of Christianity is the assembly, public worship. This was a time of gathering on the Lord's Day, the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Revelation 1:10). Just read 1 Corinthians 12-14, and you will read of the importance of the assembly! The Hebrew writer even warned of neglecting the assembly (Hebrews 10:25). Christians assembled from the establishment of the church (Acts 2). In the first century and onward, difficult circumstances of slavery and persecution did not preclude the assembly. It is for this reason that it is a very difficult decision to completely cancel worship. However, it has always been the case that certain circumstances can prevent some from being present in the assembly, such as being sick or caring for someone who is sick, or safely traveling to the assembly in stormy weather, etc.

That said, all churches in the United States are faced with some unique circumstances now with the co-vic 19 virus. With the current crisis, it is prudent to alter some of the things we do. No we are not altering what the Bible teaches about worship. The leadership wants you to participate in worship; but it is unlikely that many will be able to attend the public assembly, due the current health crisis.

While there has been nothing like this in my lifetime, would country and the world was faced with a medical crisis that was likely worse than what we will experience from covid-19. The Spanish flu of

1918 infected 500 million people around the world, or about 27% of the world population of between 1.8 and 1.9 billion. The death toll is estimated to have been anywhere from 17 million to 50 million, and possibly as high as 100 million, making it one of the deadliest epidemics in human history. (*I am not suggesting the current crisis will be as devastating as 1918 Spanish Flu*). It was during this time that J. C. McQuiddy wrote the following article in the Gospel Advocate.

J. C. McQuiddy, "Closing Churches," Gospel Advocate (October 24, 1918), p. 1020-1, responding to the government order to cease public gatherings, including church services, during the 1918 influenza epidemic.

"But Christians have not felt that God required them to meet upon the first day of the week when any of their family or loved ones were seriously sick. Especially they have not felt called upon to leave them and meet with the disciples on the first day of the week if thereby they would jeopardize the lives of members of not only their families, but the families also of many other people. With this view of it, which is in harmony with the practice of Christians, I have suggested to the brethren who asked me about observing the command of the government that they should do so, suggesting, however, that they could meet in their homes or simply a few in some place and thereby obey the government, which we should always do, provided such obedience is not disobedience to God. . . For Christians to urge that we should now assemble in large crowds to break bread in the face of the proclamation of the government is not warranted by the Scriptures. . . It will not be questioned that the intent of the government is to protect and care for the lives of its subjects. As the observance of the command does not interfere with Christians' meeting a few together and observing the Lord's Supper, Christians should observe the command cheerfully, seeking to lead quiet, holy, and unblameable lives."

Eastern Meadows may not be meeting in our building. And brethren, this breaks my heart. However, I truly believe that the elders are leading us in the best course of action.

Until we can again meet ALL TOGETHER (how I long for that already), we will be conducting Bible classes and worship assemblies streamed to your computer or smart phone device. We will, as best we can, make it a worship experience, as it would have been if we were all together. Over the next week we will be trying to get communion into your hands so, when we partake communion, we all partake at the same time, even if not in the same place. When we give, you can give. You can use PayPal to give or mail a check to our building. We will be streaming a children's class. I'll be honest, I don't like writing any of these words. I want things to be normal. But as someone said, these times are "abnormal, but NOT the new normal." We will be back to operating as usual as soon as we can.

We need each other. Pray. Use your phone (not to pray to God) to call your Christian friends; your brothers and sisters. Look at your directory. See someone you would like to get to know better. Call them and just ask how they are doing. We need each other!

-Steve Housley

FROM THE YOUTH/COLLEGE MINISTER – TIM GOTKIEWICZ:

Upcoming Youth Group events: All events have been cancelled until further notice.

College Events: All events have been cancelled until further notice.

PLEASE READ: Even if you do not usually read the bulletin read it today. There is much to see about how we will function in the time we are unable to all meet for usual worship and work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS 3/19/20

SICK: BECKY NEUENSCHWANDER is scheduled for back surgery on Monday, Mar. 24, at Jackson Hospital. DUSTY POUNCEY continues to undergo tests and treatments with plans for a stem cell transplant Mar. 24. PHYLLIS ALLEN is scheduled for out-patient back surgery April 6. TENNISON NORTON continues to recover from elbow surgery. Sick at home Sunday: JIMMY ALLEN, ADDIE BASS, LUCY BENSON, DIXIE BRANNAN, MICHAEL CROW, JUDY CREEL, ANNEGENE DAVIS, VERA DEKLE, LANDON EVANS, LILLIE GALLOWAY, GENEVA JOHNSON, GWEN MANN, BRI NORTON, KITT NORTON, LAURIE NORTON, VEOTHA SMITH. Continue to remember our members listed on our Sunday-Evening-Evangelism Prayer List. Shut-ins: LANETTE TAYLOR, OPAL SULLIVAN, MARIAN SIKES, MARGARET DAVIS, and MARGARET GRAVES. Battling Cancer: MIKE NORMAN, HOLLY THOMASSON, CHARLES HENDERSON, JAY ROBERTS, ALICE HANDLANG, SARAH HOUSLEY, DUSTY POUNCEY.

PRAYER REQUEST LIST: (Various Issues): CARSON DAVIS, DEXTER HART III (TRIPP), WAYNE JOHNSTON, ERIN FOLDS, MIKE TIMBES, MAE JONES, JUDY CURTAIN, KENNY DOBBS. (Battling Cancer): CAROL ANN WOODALL, CHANDRA JOHNSON, JESSE BARRY, KATY PENICK, DEREK MAY, WILL HICKS, LANISE KIRK, WENDY GRANT, DARNELL STROTHER, NINA JOSEPH, LISA DOBBS, BJ BUCHMANN. (Other) The SPIRITUALLY ILL—weak and wayward members.

LADIES' DAY: The Ladies' Day at Walnut Church of Christ that was scheduled for this Saturday, Mar. 21, has been cancelled due to the coronavirus concerns.

LADIES' DAY: The Ladies' Day at Redland Road Church of Christ that was scheduled for Mar. 28 has been postponed to Aug. 22, due to the coronavirus concerns.

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS: 10:30 AM CANCELLED until further notice

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.

CHILDREN'S CLASS: A Children's Class will be uploaded to YouTube. When that class is uploaded, you will get a notification in the Eastern Meadows' Members' Facebook Page as well as the Eastern Meadows' Children's Classes Facebook page. It will be not be live, but will allow you to choose the time that is convenient for you to use for your children. The Youtube will also allow other-than-Eastern-Meadows members to see and use the children's class. If you know of families that will be interested, let them know.

WORSHIPPING WITHOUT INTERNET AND THE ABILITY TO SEE EASTERN MEADOWS ON THE EASTERN MEADOWS' MEMBERS' FACEBOOK PAGE. There are several television programs produced by churches of Christ that are available on Sunday:

- WAKA TV 8, 7:30 AM—*In Search of the Lord's Way* with Phil Sanders
- Gospel Broadcasting Network—*Getting To Know Your Bible* with Billy Lambert



"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2).

TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

Last question: After King Saul died, who ruled over Israel for two years (excluding Judah)? Answer: Ishbosheth 2 (Samuel 2:10)

This week's question: Who was David's firstborn? A) Absalom; B) Adonijah; C) Amnon



SUNDAY WORSHIP, MARCH 22

No one is to be present at the building, except for those assigned to help conduct the Sunday worship. Everyone should be worshipping at home! It is still the Lord's Day.

Sunday Bible Class (9 a.m.) and Worship (10 a.m.) will be live-streamed on Facebook Eastern Meadows Members Page. At present, this is how we must do this. In the near future we are hoping to have another online venue to stream that is available to those of you who do not have Facebook (I would encourage you to become a FB member if for no other reason than to participate on the Eastern Meadows Members page. This is a source of announcements and prayer requests and the occasional word of encouragement. If you need help with this call Steve Housely and he will get someone to help you set it up).

Lord's Supper: Hopefully on Saturday morning we will have a CallingPost about the Communion Packs for you to use in communion, if you need them.

Giving: As stated on the front page you can give by PayPal or by mailing a check to the building (Eastern Meadows church of Christ; 8460 Vaughn Road; Montgomery, AL 36117 or by calling Ted Norton for pick-up. Your contribution will be included in the Sunday offering).

Songs: These are the song lyrics for you to use to join in singing Sunday.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Verse 1: When I survey the wondrous cross; On which the Prince of glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.

Verse 3: See from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Verse 5: Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Low in the Grave He Lay

Verse 1: Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior, waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Verse 2: Vainly they watch His bed — Jesus my Savior! Vaily they seal the dead — Jesus my Lord.

Verse 3: Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior; he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!

Chorus: Up from the grave he arose; with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; he arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever, with his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Because He Lives

Verse 1. God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus; He came to love, heal and forgive; He lived and died to buy my pardon, An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

Chorus: Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, Because He lives, all fear is gone, Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living, Just because He lives!

Verse 2. How sweet to hold a newborn baby, And feel the pride and joy he brings; But greater still the calm assurance: This child can face uncertain days because He Lives!

Verse 3. And then one day, I'll cross the river, I'll fight life's final war with pain; And then, as death gives way to victory, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives!

Blest Be the Tie

Verse 1: Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love; The fellowship our spirit finds Is like to that above.

Verse 2: Before our Father's throne, We pour our ardent prayers; Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one-- Our comforts and our cares.

Verse 3: We share our mutual woes; Our mutual burdens bear; And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear.

Verse 4: When we asunder part, It gives us inward pain; But we shall still be joined in heart, And hope to meet again.

Sunday, March 22 AM Worship

Welcome: David Hester

Song Leader: Allen Clements

Lord's Supper Song: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Lord's Supper: Presiding, Billy Bush

Main Prayer: Karl Strother

Song: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Song: *Up From the Grave He Arose*

Song: *Because He Lives*

Scripture Reading, Stanford Jones, John 14:1-3

Sermon, Steve Housley, *Because He Lives*

Closing Song: *Blest Be the Tie*

Closing Prayer: Dean Norton

BECAUSE HE LIVES

- I. GOD SENT HIS _____! JOHN 3:16.
 - A. They call him _____. (Matthew 1:21).
 - B. He came to love, _____, and forgive. (Luke 4:18).
 - C. He lived and died . . .
 1. The _____ was excruciating. (1 Peter 3:18).
 2. The death was for _____. (1 Peter 2:24).
- II. HOW SWEET TO HOLD A NEWBORN BABY.
 - A. This child can face _____ days. (Job 14:1; James 4:14).
 - B. This child can face uncertain days because _____ lives.
 - The child needs to be taught, so he can believe and _____.
- III. THEN ONE DAY I'LL CROSS THE RIVER.
 - A. And then one day I'll cross the river; I'll fight life's _____ war with pain. (Hebrews 9:27).
 - B. Then as death gives way to _____ (1 Corinthians 15:55-57).
 - C. I'll see the lights of _____ . . . (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16).
 - D. And I'll know he _____.
 - I already _____ he lives (Acts 2:32-33, 36).
- IV. BECAUSE HE LIVES....
 - A. I can face _____ (James 4:14).
 - B. All _____ is gone. (Hebrews 13:5-6).
 - C. I know who holds the _____. (Proverbs 23:18; Jeremiah 29:11).
 - D. My life is worth the _____ just because he lives!