



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>

June 25, 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:

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!

As We Begin to Assemble Again...

This Sunday, June 28, Eastern Meadows will once again assemble in her building at 8464 Vaughn Road! We can all be excited to assemble again! Worship will be in spirit and in truth, but some things will be different.

Important - Do not come if you are sick (not even a cold), especially if you have fever!

Assemblies: The only assembly will be the 10 a.m. worship. There will be no Bible classes and no Sunday evening worship at the Eastern Meadows building. Sunday class will be streamed online Sunday at 5 p.m. The Wednesday class will continue to be online on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Sunday morning worship will continue to be streamed. All current children and teen classes will continue on video only. There will be no attended nursery at the building.

Doors to Enter - The only doors to enter from the front are the east

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To The Eastern Meadows Members:

Even though we will be assembling at the building for Sunday morning worship, we will continue to have live streaming from the Eastern Meadows church of Christ Facebook page and website and on YouTube. Worship will be at 10 AM. Sunday Bible class will be streamed at 5 PM. If you are in need of Lord Supper emblems, contact the office Monday – Thursday.

To give, 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**

west auditorium doors and, from the back parking lot, the back door of the midway foyer. There will be someone with a mask on to open the door for you (we are doing this to minimize touching). When you exit, the doors will again be held open for you. Please do not use any of the Fellowship Hall doors.

Masks - Due to the executive order effective June 19th for the city of Montgomery that requires the wearing of masks in public places, we will provide masks for those who need one. The masks we can provide are 100% cotton and can be washed up to 15 times. Masks will be worn at all times except when necessary to remove it such as during the Lord's Supper. (If you figure out a way to take the Lord's Supper while wearing a mask let us all know!)

Respect People's Space - You are kindly asked not to shake hands or hug. Also please keep a distance between you and others.

When You Enter - You should pick up a communion pack from the foyer and take your own communion to your seat. There will be no passing of trays for the Lord's Supper or Giving. The communion emblems will be in a plastic "baggie" and when you finish communion just put the trash in the baggie and seal. You can drop it in the trash when you leave.

Contribution - There will be contribution receptacles near the entrances that you can drop your contribution in.

Hand Sanitizer - Hand sanitizer is available. "No-touch" thermometers are available *if you wish to have your temperature taken.*

Seating - It is to be "socially distanced." Family groups who do not socially distance at home may sit together. Otherwise you need to sit in one of the designated pews.

Length of Service - The service will be designed to be 45 minutes, at the most 50 minutes. This does not "cut things short." We "save" a good bit of time in not passing any trays. (This could also cut down on "bathroom visits" - although you may go if you need to - which also cuts down on touching surfaces.)

Dismissal - The dismissal will be by rows/sections so that we do not have too many in the foyer at one time. You are requested to exit the building. If you want to visit with someone, please do it outside, keeping distance.

After Worship - A crew from our men will wipe down surfaces in the Auditorium to get ready for next week. So how long will we do all this? At least through the month of July. Things will then be re-evaluated. It could continue longer. This arrangement will be different, but all these differences are meant to keep you safe. Our first priority is to worship in spirit and truth. Our second priority is to keep you safe.

FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

This Sunday is Special. This will be the first Sunday we have assembled in the auditorium in months. I would have never thought we would have suspended assembling and not so many years ago I could not have foreseen the ability of churches to stream worship and Bible Classes, and especially so cheaply. The virus is not gone; but, we are learning to live with it, and learning how we can do things to keep ourselves safe. I do believe that the assembly Sunday will be safe. There will be no 9 a.m. Bible Class. Bible Class will be streamed at 5 p.m. David will continue to teach from the book of Numbers. In worship at 10 a.m. we will be studying "Unity." It will be a lesson that has been on my mind for months. I believe we need to think on, study on, and work for unity in the Lord's church and here at Eastern Meadows more now than at almost any time in the past. Please read "As We Begin to Assemble Again..." that precedes this paragraph. It will explain how things Sunday worship will be conducted to keep everyone safe.

Listening. Over the past several years I have sought out discussion on race. Every year Polishing the Pulpit had, usually, more than one session dealing with some aspect of Race Relations and the church and the Bible. Sometimes it was one man presenting a lesson; sometimes it was a panel. Sometimes it was a younger man, Melvin Otey, or an older man, James DeBerry. One time there was a panel discussing interracial marriage. All of this has been helpful. More lately, our brethren have had several discussions streamed online and many have preached sermons (I have not dealt with this subject this year, as only about two years ago I preached

on this subject). On one occasion I listened for nearly two hours and was very disappointed in the discussion I heard (this is not one of the discussions recommended below). However, I have heard some good discussions and good sermons. If you want to listen to some good material on race in our country and race and the church and what the Bible says, I encourage you to listen to:

- Sermon by Melvin Otey, *Dealing With Racial Troubles In The Church*, at Dalraida church. <https://www.dalraida.org/sermons/racial-troubles-in-the-church/>. Lesson begins at 21:20.
- Sermon, *Heaven's Solution*, by Glen Colley of West Huntsville church. <https://westhuntsville.org/sermons/heavens-solution/>
- Discussion of six points over three sessions between Jonathan Jenkins, Eric Owen, Wayne Jones, and Melvin Otey. (three long sessions, but worthwhile -- I listen while I work...)
 - ◇ Session One: <https://www.facebook.com/digitalbiblestudy1/videos/182363296436389/>
 - ◇ Session Two: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=2724514577767903&ref=watch_permalink
 - ◇ Session Three: <https://www.facebook.com/digitalbiblestudy1/videos/2676204756039055/>

Share. Please continue to share the live-stream Bible classes and worship. *This is a very easy way to be evangelistic!*

When We Come Back: Commitment

As congregations begin to gather again or make plans to do so in the near future, we're hoping Christians will make a concerted effort to not just fall back into the same routines as before. We believe there are areas in which we can learn from our time apart and come back even stronger. Last week's article discussed the importance of hospitality. This week we want to emphasize the importance of a renewed commitment as we begin to reconnect with our church family.

As church life ramps up once again, it's a good time to make the commitment to grow in our dedication to Christ, His people, and His mission. This unique situation has given us the ability to really look at our relationship with God and see how much we truly depended on Him, and how much we truly put into serving Him.

For those who were inconsistent in commitment before, I hope this COVID-19 experience has helped you realize what really matters. If your Christian life before was flagging, resolve to rededicate yourself. To be frank, if you struggled to make time for the Sunday "assembly" when it involved nothing more than turning on a screen from the comfort of your living room, when almost all of the usual distractions (sports, recreation, etc.) were shut down or forbidden, does your Christianity matter to you whatsoever? If you couldn't consistently "attend" in those circumstances (obvious exceptions excluded), how will you ever be engaged enough to be a fruit-bearing member of the body of Christ? Ask yourself - do I really consider my God and my church family to be priorities in my life?

Now that church gatherings are returning, distractions won't be far behind. Youth sports will start asking for your Sundays again. The lake will be calling. Your hobbies will fill up your calendar once more. The appeal to sleep in on Sundays will grow stronger for those who have to return to the office on Mondays. Now is your chance to make the commitment, before the temptation ever starts, to worship God and be with His people every Sunday. Attendance is not the fulfillment of our Christian duty - it's just the tip of the iceberg - but if we can't even commit to giving God our Sundays, how will we give Him anything else?

No, God does not expect perfection. But as we saw multiple times in Jesus' ministry, He really isn't interested in part-time followers. Life-altering commitment is a part of the deal. This is a unique opportunity to take stock of what your Christianity means to you. Will you use this chance to rededicate yourself to gathering with the saints, to learning and growing with them, to praying together, and to bearing fruit? Or will you continue to have a lukewarm relationship with Christ and His church?

Lest the more committed stumble into Pharisaism - "Unlike those inconsistent members, I watched every week during the lockdown, I'll continue to attend regularly, and I'm an involved member" - may we remember that with Jesus as our example, there is always room for every one of us to grow. As the doors open and we get to assemble once again, what ways might you be able to grow in your commitment? Maybe

it's hospitality, opening up your home to your church family and the lost in order to build relationships in the love of Christ. Maybe it's taking a younger disciple under your wing to teach them to pray, to study, and to serve others. Maybe it's committing to start connecting with your neighbors more, praying for open doors to reach them with the Gospel. If you're one who has stayed financially stable through this, maybe it means committing to sharing with those who have been rendered jobless by the lockdown. Whatever it may be for each of us, I hope this interruption to our routine has helped us realize the precious value of the days we've been given, and has renewed our urgency to do the Lord's work while we're here.

As we come back, make that extra commitment. You won't regret it. With the faith that God always rewards those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6), place your priorities where they truly matter most.

—Jack Wilkie, *Focus Press*

Budget: \$14,100.00 Contribution, 6/21: \$9,002.00 YTD: -\$25,272.86

ANNOUNCEMENTS 6/25/20

SICK: WILMA MILLICAN is in Baptist South Hospital. MARSHA SUTTON, STANFORD JONES, JEROME THOMPSON, and WILMA BERRY continue to recover from surgery. PHYLLIS ALLEN is scheduled for back surgery today, June 25. 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: JAMES HILYER, MIKE NORMAN, HOLLY THOMAS-SON, CHARLES HENDERSON, JAY ROBERTS, ALICE HANDLANG, SARAH HOUSLEY, DUSTY POUNCEY.

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended to Shirley Mixon and family in the passing of her mother, VERTIE POWELL. The funeral will be this Saturday at Phillips-Riley Funeral Home.

PRAYER REQUEST LIST: (Various Issues): CARSON DAVIS, WAYNE JOHNSTON, ERIN FOLDS, MIKE TIMBES, MAE JONES, JUDY CURTAIN, KENNY DOBBS, JOHNNY CLARK, KENT OLESON, ANDY MULLINS, BERNADETTE SCOTT. (Battling Cancer): CAROL ANN WOODALL, CHANDRA JOHNSON, KATY PENICK, DEREK MAY, WILL HICKS, LANISE KIRK, WENDY GRANT, DARNELL STROTHER, NINA JOSEPH, LISA DOBBS, BJ BUCHMANN, SAMEER HOQUE, PAT NORMAN, SANDRA MISSILDINE. (Other) The SPIRITUALLY ILL—weak and wayward members.

RECOGNIZING OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE: We will be recognizing our High School Graduate, JACQUE HAGAN, but will do so a little differently than we have in the past due to the Covid-19 safety guidelines. Please drop off any cards or gifts at the office—just make sure someone is there first—or leave in front foyer by Sunday, July 5.

GOSPEL MEETING: There will be a Gospel Meeting at Redland Road Church of Christ June 28—July 1 with Neal Pollard speaking. Sunday schedule—9 AM Bible class; 10 AM & 5 PM Worship. Monday—Wednesday, 7 PM.

AREA WIDE SINGINGS: All future Area Wide Singings have been suspended until further notice.

"CHOOSING THAT GOOD PART" LADIES RETREAT: Due to the unknowns connected with Covid-19, the annual "Choosing That Good Part" Ladies Retreat has been cancelled for this year.

NACCH HOUSE PARENTS NEEDED: North Alabama Christian Children's Home is in need of House Parents for the boys at the Coker House on campus. Contact NACCH if you are interested.

WORSHIPPING WITHOUT INTERNET AND THE ABILITY TO SEE EASTERN MEADOWS ON THE EASTERN MEADOWS' FACEBOOK PAGE. There is a television program produced by churches of Christ that is available on Sunday: WAKA TV 8, 7:30 AM—In *Search of the Lord's Way* with Phil Sanders

ELDER OF THE MONTH / ON CALL: The Elder of the Month for June is **ROY MULKEY**. Contact information for Roy: (334) 531-5253; roymulkey43@yahoo.com.



"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).

SUNDAY WORSHIP, June 28

We invite you to be at the 10 a.m. assembly at the Eastern Meadows building. If you are unable to be

here you can worship with us as worship will be streamed.

Worship at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Bible Class (there is no 9 a.m. Bible Class) will be live-streamed in three places: <https://www.facebook.com/EasternMeadowsChurchofChrist>
<https://easternmeadows.org/streaming/>
<http://www.youtube.com/EasternMeadows>

You may need to copy the links and paste the link to your browser.

Participate: Please participate in worship and don't just "view." Just as if you were in the auditorium, when the congregation sings, you sing; when the congregation prays, you pray; when the congregation partakes of the Lord's Supper, you partake; when the congregation gives you give; when the congregation studies God's word, you study.

Lord's Supper: If you need communion supplies contact the office Monday-Thursday.

Giving: You can give by PayPal, https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=RYZVJ7TDTTT9Y&source=url 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.

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Verse 1: What a fellowship, what a joy divine, Leaning on the everlasting arms; What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Chorus: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Verse 2: O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, Leaning on the everlasting arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day, Leaning on the everlasting arms. (Chorus)

Verse 3: What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Leaning on the everlasting arms; I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, Leaning on the everlasting arms.

I Stand Amazed

Verse 1: I stand amazed in the presence Of Jesus the Nazarene, And wonder how he could love me, A sinner, condemned, unclean. (Chorus)

Chorus: How marvelous! How wonderful! And my song shall ever be: How marvelous! How wonderful Is my Savior's love for me.

Verse 4: He took my sins and my sorrows, He made them his very own; He bore the burden to Calvary, And suffered and died alone. (Chorus)

Verse 5: When with the ransomed in glory His face I, at last, shall see, 'Twill be my joy through the ages To sing of his love for me. (Chorus)

How Sweet; How Heavenly

Verse 1: How sweet, how heav'nly is the sight, When those who love the Lord. In one another's peace delight, And so fulfill His Word:

Verse 2: When each can feel his brother's sigh, And with him bear a part; When sorrow flows from eye to eye, And joy from heart to heart;

Verse 3: When, free from envy, scorn and pride, Our wishes all above, Each can his brother's failings hide, And show a brother's love;

Verse 4: When love, in one delightful

Worship, Sunday, June 28

Welcome: David Hester

Main Prayer: Ted Norton

Song Leader: Allen Clements

Song: *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

Song: *I Stand Amazed*

Lord's Supper Presiding, Karl Strother

Giving

Scripture Reading: Marquez James, *Ephesians 4:1-5*

Song: *How Sweet, How Heavenly*

Song: *Blest Be the Tie*

Sermon, Steve Housley, *Unity of God's People*

Song: *Jesus Paid it All*

Closing Prayer and Closing Remarks: Tim Gotkiewicz

stream, Through every bosom flows; When union sweet, and dear esteem, In every action glows.

Verse 5: Love is the golden chain that binds; The happy souls above. And he's an heir of heav'n who finds His bosom glow with love.

Blessed Be the Tie

Verse 1: Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love; The fellowship of kindred minds 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.

Jesus Paid it All

Verse 1: I hear the Savior say Thy strength indeed is small! Child of weakness, watch and pray Find in Me thine all in all. (Chorus)

Chorus: Jesus paid it all; All to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain He washed it white as snow.

Verse 3: And when before the throne I stand in Him complete. I'll lay my trophies down, All down at Jesus' feet. (Chorus)

UNITY AMONG BRETHREN #1

I. UNITY _____.

- Psalms 133:1; John 17:20-21

II. UNITY _____!

- A. Abraham and _____.
- B. The _____ church. (Acts 6).
- C. Paul and _____ (Acts 15:36ff)
- D. _____ church (1 Corinthians 1:10-11)
- E. Euodias and _____ (Philippians 4:1).

III. UNITY DESTROYERS _____!

- A. _____ or _____.
- B. _____ is real or it is a conspiracy.
- C. Masks/No Masks.
- D. The _____, "Black Lives Matters" or "All Lives Matter."
- E. _____.
- F. _____ preferences; party or person.
- G. _____ in the church.
- H. _____ attitudes.

- How _____ may have addressed these things? (1 Corinthians 2:1-2).

IV. UNITY _____.

- Colossians 3:11-15; Galatians 3:27-28