



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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

July 2, 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!

Sunday Worship, 10 AM

We will assemble in the building at 8464 Vaughn Road! We can all be excited to assemble! Worship will be in spirit and in truth, but some things are 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 and 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!)

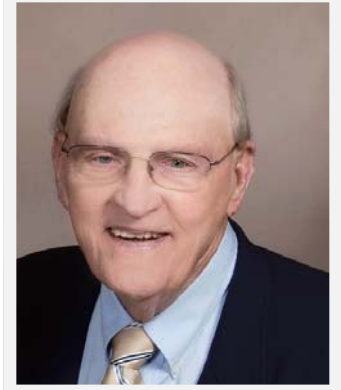
Respect People's Space - You are kindly asked not to shake hands or hug. Also please keep a distance between you and others.

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Budget: \$14,100.00 Contribution, 6/28: \$11,780.00 YTD: -\$27,592.86
6/28 AM Worship: 119

JAMES HILYER

1934 – 2020



We express sympathy to Jan Hilyer and her family (Dixie Brannan is a sister-in-law) at the passing of brother James Hilyer, Monday evening, June 29, at his home. It had only been a few weeks since his cancer diagnosis. It was only last week that we announced James was under hospice care.

The viewing and graveside funeral on Friday will be family only.

I don't remember when there were so many statements of sympathy since we have had the Eastern Meadows Members Facebook Page at the passing of an Eastern Meadows' member. Additionally, many spoke of their high regard for James. Some of these statements are:

"He was a humble and good man" (Russ Chandler). "James was a good man, a great encourager!" (Gladys Clements). "Such a fine man." (Betsy Yates). "James was truly a light." (Autumn Bailey). "He was an encourager to all of us." (Tish Housley). "James was such a humble Christian man." (Charlotte Housley). "He was so good to Jan!" (Billie Pouncey). "He was such a sweet kind man!!" (Faye Allen). "James was a great man." (David Hester). "James was a fine Christian man!" (Dianne Hoskinson). "Godly. Thoughtful. Kind. Humble. Caring. Sweet. A Big Man indeed." (Ted Norton). "He was such a sweet caring man. He and Jan were some of the first people I met when I moved to Montgomery. They were both wonderful back then, making me feel welcome at church and that never changed. I am so thankful I had the pleasure of knowing James" (Sara Black). "Loved James" (Randy Sutton). "Such a sweet and Godly man!!" (Bonnie Crow). "He was so kind and gentle." (Judy Creel). "James was such a Godly humble man and loved and respected!" (Theresa Mulkey). "Such a good Christian man." (Becky Norton). "A great loss! He was a kind hearted true Christian brother and friend!" (Laurie Norton). "James and Jan were some of the first to welcome our family to Eastern Meadows. I so loved his gentle, quiet spirit." (Barbara Norman). "James was a good man, a Christian man that loved the congregation!" (Michael Crow).

How could you say it any better than these folks said it. We loved James. We will miss James. Let us pray for and support Jan in her loss.

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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:

Last Sunday. Last Sunday exceeded my expectation. No we were not at a “normal” crowd; however, when I have heard of other “first Sunday back” stories from other congregations, I was not very optimistic. However, we started with a great number. Everything was clean. Well, cleaner than clean. Tim and Sally Gotkiewicz spent hours doing some “deep” cleaning to the auditorium and foyer and sanitizing surfaces. After the city required masks, “mask compliance” at Eastern Meadows was also better than I expected. Most of us have read, from more than once source, that mask wearing does little to protect ourselves, but much to protect others. By the way, no one likes wearing masks. I don’t. Wearing masks is one reason for streaming Bible class and not meeting at 9 and for keeping the worship to less than an hour. Most folks may be only wearing a mask for one hour, from coming in and leaving. I cannot imagine being a surgeon or surgery nurse who wears a mask most of the day! But they do it to protect the patient. I admit I look forward to the day when wearing a mask in crowd situations is not needful! Sunday’s “social distance” seating was easy with the way Tim had “marked off” the auditorium for seating. Even the singing was better than expected. Thanks to all for making the first Sunday back a great success.

Clean Again. Monday evening the surfaces and door handles, etc. were wiped down with a virucide. Whatever germs that may have been brought in on Sunday are DEAD. We are ready for another Sunday!

Thanks. A special thanks to Dean Norton for the quick curve learning to stream during our hiatus from assembling. And streaming continues. The auditorium has been “outfitted” to stream assemblies, which is especially needed now, as some who have not gotten out during the Covid-19 pandemic will be absent from the assembly for a bit longer. Thanks to Ron Hoskinson for being at the building running Power-Point during the hiatus from assembling. Thanks to Ron for getting Tish’s Children’s class on YouTube. Thanks to the many who helped in various ways with the assembly Sunday morning.

Unity. This is the subject of a series I began preaching last Sunday. I had originally planned three lessons. There may be four. As I said Sunday this subject has been on my mind for several months. I have never seen a year like 2020 that had so many things that could threaten unity. Ephesians 4:3 (Living Oracles) says, “earnestly endeavoring to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the bond of peace.” I think if Paul were living in 2020 he might say, after writing Ephesians 4:3, “Let me repeat myself so you that understand the importance of unity, earnestly endeavoring to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the bond of peace.” I cannot imagine a more heinous act than disturbing the unity of God’s people. May we never be guilty of this! If you were not able to hear the lesson last Sunday go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5oUoI-Tnws&feature=em-uploademail> The Sunday sermon starts at the 23 minute mark.

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

What Others Said About Sunday

“It did my heart good to actually be with my fellow Christians this past Sunday. Even though we wore masks and distanced ourselves, everyone's eyes seemed to sparkle with the renewed hope that our lives

are on the road to recovery. We missed those that watched from home and hope and pray that they continue to guard their health and will one day return to worship with us." (Barbara Norman)

"It was sweet to me knowing that my brothers and sisters were smiling back at me behind their masks! I was happy and blessed by seeing each dear member of my EM family. It was indeed sweet being among those I love and with whom I share a common love and bond." (Sally Gotkiewicz)

"So grateful we were able to meet with our brothers and sisters in Christ this morning! A great day..." (Russ Chandler)

"I was so happy to be back in the Lord's house today! The planning that was done to keep us safe was excellent! I was perfectly comfortable the way the sanctuary had been prepared. Great preparation!" (Millie Thomas)

"I knew I would be glad to see my sisters and brothers. I did not realize that I would experience the warmth in my soul that I did when seeing everyone so happy to be in our house of worship." (Ted Norton)

"Sunday worship was amazing. I was extremely impressed how the building was prepared for maximum safety against the spread of COVID-19. Hats off to all of you that made it possible to worship without worrying about exposure. Great to be in the mist of my brother and sisters in Christ, again. Love you all." (Sara Black)

"I thought everything went well, spaced out enough and everyone respected the guidelines. Good preparedness on all responsible." (Mark Evans)

"Finally we were able to come together and worship at the building! I have so missed seeing everyone's faces. The assembly was handled in a very safe manner and I can tell a lot of care and thought went into making it a safe return. Looking forward to the next assembly!" (Sarita Strother)

"It was a great feeling to see everyone in person. The live streaming service was great but no comparison with meeting safely together again." (Chuck Norton)

"Sunday morning was extremely well-organized, and it's apparent that each aspect of the service was carefully thought through. I'm a cautious person, and the environment felt clean and safe." (Sarah Housley)

"Nowhere I have gone during this pandemic have I felt so comfortable. All the guidelines were followed and even went above what I expected. It was absolutely perfect. Thanks to all that put everything together so we could safely worship God and be in the fellowship of others." (Shirley Hancock)

"Sunday was an exciting reunion of my Christian family! Nothing compares to meeting together. After solos at home, the singing gave me chill bumps! Praising God together is so much better than alone, and it is so understandable why God commanded us to assemble together." (Holly Thomasson)

ANNOUNCEMENTS 7/2/20

July 5, 2020 / Leading the congregation in:

Scripture Reading:

A.M.: Landon Evans

Main Prayer:

A.M.: Blaine Benson

Closing Prayer:

A.M.:

Singing:

A.M.: David Hester

Security (During Services) - Sunday AM: Randy Porterfield / Security (Building Lock-up After Services): Adam Bass

SICK: WILMA MILLICAN is home after being in the hospital. PHYLLIS ALLEN, MARSHA SUTTON, and STANFORD JONES continue to recover from surgery. 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, WAYNE JOHNSTON, ALIVIA SIMMONS, DON SIMMONS, KATHRINE LESTER. (Battling Cancer): CAROL ANN WOODALL, CHANDRA JOHNSON, KATY PENICK, LANISE KIRK, DARNELL STROTHER, NINA JOSEPH, LISA DOBBS, BJ BUCHMANN, SAMEER HOQUE, PAT NORMAN, SANDRA MISILDINE, JODIE BATTISON, ANDY MULLINS. (Other) The SPIRITUALLY ILL—weak and wayward members.

NEW PRAYER REQUEST FOR:

- KATHRINE LESTER, mother of Bonnie Crow, who is very ill. Surgery has been delayed due to being too weak.

RECOGNIZING OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE: We will be recognizing our High School Graduate, JACQUE HANGAN, but will do so a little differently than we have in the past due to the Covid-19 safety guidelines. Please place any cards or gifts at the table set-up in the front foyer by this Sunday, July 5.

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



Budget Area of Work Spotlight: LadyBUGS Ladies' Ministry

The Ladies' Ministry at Eastern Meadows, known as the LadyBUGS (Ladies Being Useful in God's Service), has long been one of the distinguishing aspects of our congregation. Through the years constant care and effort have resulted in a level of refinement in this ministry that meets needs inside the church and around the community. There are four areas of responsibility within the ladies' ministry: Encouragement and Fellowship, Outreach, Service, and Ladies' Education. Each area has talented leadership, effective organization, good planning, and appropriate goals. Although we have lost a few of our ladies who were significant leaders in this area of work, we intend to finish out 2020 as closely as possible to the original plan and move forward in 2021 to continue the work and influence of the LadyBUGS.

Budgeting for this area is unlike any other at Eastern Meadows. In a normal year (not 2020) the Ladies' Retreat can bring in a net gain that covers any expenses of the various ladies' ministry areas. That in turn is due to a customary donation of food and food preparation that has been made to the retreat in recent years. It causes the entire LadyBUGS area to result in either a wash or a net gain in the church finances, depending on whether there are expenses for other things. Therefore, in the budgeting process each year, the Ladies' Ministry presents a zero budget, and the understanding is that it would still allow for some expenditure. This year we will all be working in the absence of money changing hands for the retreat, so there truly is no money to speak of, except some for materials in Ladies' Education. Later in the year there are always some donations to a holiday gift box project, and that money is spent on those items.

As we look toward 2021 and our eventual emergence from quarantine, the LadyBUGS program has a bright future and a purpose rooted in the years of faithful service by those who saw the need and potential for this excellent ministry.

— Alan Kaye

PREJUDICE AND THE “PRINCE OF PEACE”

– Raymond Elliott –

Prejudice is not peculiar (distinctive) to any people, whether we speak of race, ethnic or religious groups. It can be found among all. Prejudice is defined as follows: “An unfavorable opinion or feeling formed beforehand or without knowledge, thought, or reason. Any preconceived opinion or feeling, either favorable, unreasonable feelings, opinions, or attitudes, especially of a hostile nature, regarding an ethnic, racial, social, or religious group” (Dictionary.Com). A person is not born with prejudice in his/her heart toward any persons. Prejudice is learned by being taught by someone; or, one learns to be prejudiced against other persons by being influenced by his/her environment or by association. My wife and I entered a mall in a nearby city on one occasion when our precious granddaughter, age 2-3 years old, was with us. Our granddaughter saw two black children about her age and immediately ran up to them and began hugging their necks. I think the mothers were amazed as we were. We thought, how wonderful it would be if adults acted in their hearts as these precious children did toward one another.

There was a person who was even prejudiced against Jesus because He came from a certain town. It was Philip who “found Nathanael and said to him, ““We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” (John 1:45, 46). Nathanael did become a believer in Jesus, the Son of God. He was of the lineage of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He was an Israelite, in other words, a Jew. The Jews were despised by non-Jews. In like manner, the Jews were greatly prejudiced against the Samaritans and the Greeks. In traveling from Judea to the region of Galilee, the Jews would cross over the Jordan River and travel on the eastern side until they passed the country of Samaria, and then they would cross back over the River of Jordan and continue their trip.

In the gospel of John, chapter 4, you can read the story of Jesus, while passing through Samaria with his disciples, He spoke to a Samaritan woman and talked with her of the “living water”. As we might say, this was unheard of, that is, a Jewish man speaking to a woman who was a Samaritan! But, Jesus was not prejudiced against others simply because they were not a Jew. To be like Christ, we will not harbor prejudice and/or hatred in our hearts against people who are of a different race or ethnic group.

In the book of Isaiah 9:6, the messianic prophet wrote of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, as being the “Prince of Peace”. The apostle Paul, wrote “To the saints who are in Ephesus” (Eph.1:1), that Jesus “Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His Flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the father.” (Ephesians 2:14-18). That which separated the Jews and Gentiles had been abolished and now the Jews and Gentiles could be reconciled in Jesus Christ and His body, which is His church (1:22,23). This was made possible when Jesus shed his precious blood on Calvary’s cross (2:13). Jesus, the “Prince of Peace”, preached peace that prevents persons from having prejudice in one’s heart toward people of different racial or ethnic backgrounds. The apostle Paul explains it clearly that we all can be united in Jesus Christ as found in Galatians 3:26-29: “for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.”