



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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July 23, 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

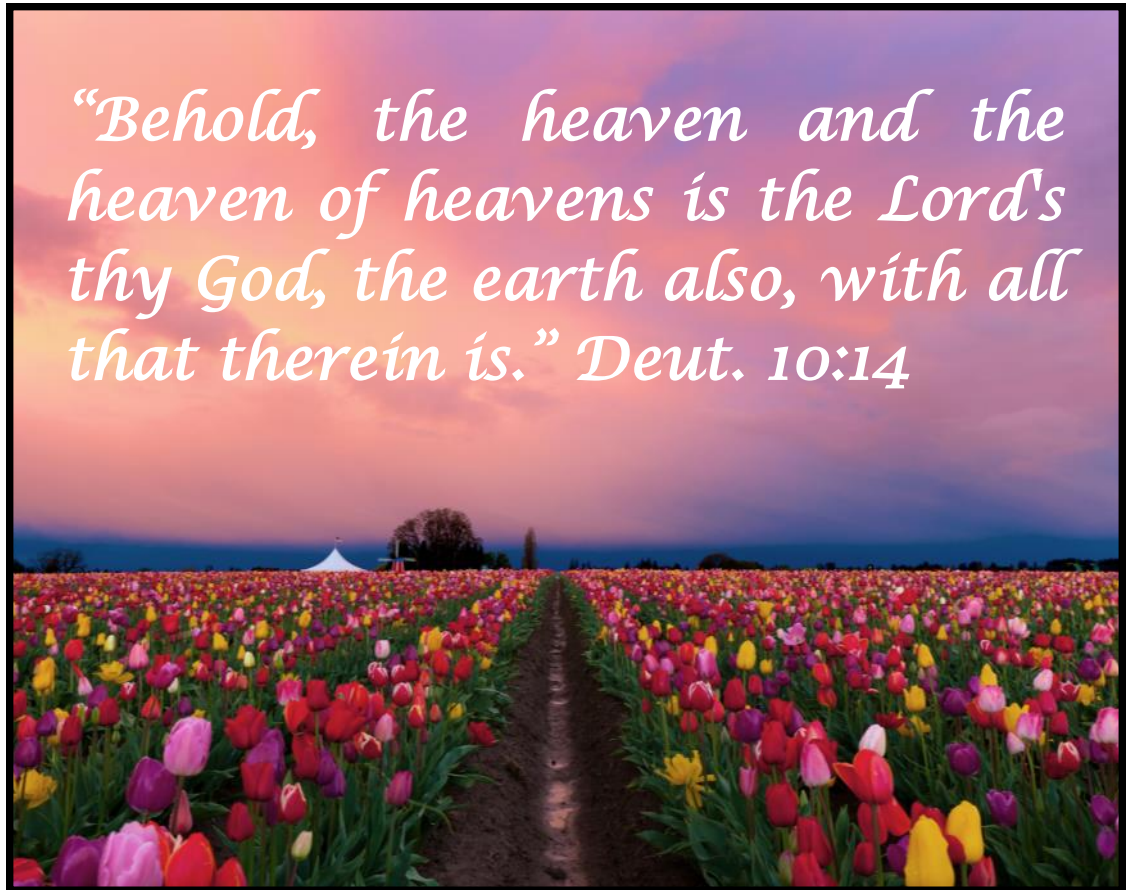
Wednesday:

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

WELCOME!

The guidelines for keeping worship safe are still in effect. Please come Sunday for 10 a.m. worship. Remember it will be a sanitized, masked face, social distanced worship assembly. I look forward to seeing you then!
—Steve

“Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.” Deut. 10:14



Budget: \$14,100.00 Contribution, 7/19: \$10,835.00 YTD: - \$33,095.56

FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Things that have not changed. We have seen a lot of things change in just the past few months. But a lot of things have NOT changed. Some of those things that have not changed: God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, God's plan for His church, sin, the need for salvation, God's grace, the commandments of the gospel to repent and be baptized, Heaven, Hell, and JUDGMENT. For all of the things that have changed in the past few months, these have not. Death will still come. Judgment will still take place. The need to be ready has not changed. Are you ready?

Don't let Satan get a foothold. The exact words from the ESV are, "give no opportunity to the devil." (Ephesians 4:27). While this was said in the context of anger, no doubt it can be true in many different circumstances. Spiritually, are you stronger or weaker than you were last year? Spiritually are you stronger or weaker than you were in March before the "lockdown" and Covid-19 wreaked havoc? Why? What can you do to grow spiritually again? Not assembling was an unnatural thing for faithful Christians. Not having the connection/fellowship of other Christians was unnatural for Christians. While we need to be physically safe; *we need to be spiritually safe!* Again, don't let Satan get a foothold.

Hope to see you Sunday!

GROWING UP NOW vs THEN

What was it like when you were growing up? For me it was a carefree world, building tree-houses, going fishing in the neighbor's pond, digging tunnels and making an underground fort; my only fear was getting caught holding hands or chewing gum in church. Nowadays kids have to worry about "what is my real gender?" "Will I get a virus and die if I touch someone?" "My mom is in her second marriage and my dad is in his third ... I don't know where home is and who to call 'mom.'" With this virus hanging around, getting caught holding hands in church has a whole different meaning than it did in my day.

To tell you the truth, the world we have given our kids and grand-kids is truly awful, and an apology (which is due them) won't fix it! Homelessness, racism, riots, a constant state of fear - this is their daily reality. I grew up with differences of political opinions and views that could be discussed at a fence post or over a cup of coffee; now it's just pure hatred spewing across the aisles often followed by violence or threats of it. We all come from "different worlds," but did any of us expect this in 2020? I doubt that even five years ago (maybe even one year ago) none of us could even begin to imagine that things would be like they are today. Besides "where we are," where is this going? I have heard the phrase, "This is the new normal," ad nauseam. This is not my new normal ... there is nothing normal about this.

We are in an election year. I'm not so much interested in for whom you are voting, but I am curious, for what are you praying? When you turn off the news and the constant feed of social media and your heart is racing with anxiety - what are the passionate pleas and concerns that you lay before God? It seems to matter little if it is a republican or a democrat in office, the culture we live in is in a deep spiraling dive away from God. As Paul puts it, our culture is greedy to do evil; they can't get enough of it. History is replete with examples of what happens to a society when that is the case.

It may be that my generation squandered the carefree world in which we grew up. Because we had no cares, we placed no dependence on God; He was an afterthought, a Sunday habit, but not a part of our daily life. We didn't depend on Him because we didn't have to and while we were tiptoeing through our tulips with our heads in the clouds, Satan was doing a work, an evil and dark work, whose venomous flower has now blossomed and we are all breathing in its lethal stench.

Sounds pretty negative, doesn't it? It is. But as bad as our times are and as unfortunate as our children and grandchildren are (in regards to the world we are giving them), it has been worse. If you were to get

in a time machine and go back to the time of Jesus and the apostles, you would find a dark, dark world. So dark was it that they crucified the Son of God. Historical records of the time show unimaginable things that men were doing to their fellow men. Racism, sexual perversion, injustice, homelessness, hatred ... these are not new today and it was worse then. In the dark of that midnight, when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, knowing it would end in His crucifixion. Why did God choose that time? A lot of reasons could be given, but at least one to be considered is this: God wanted to show that even in the deepest darkness of sin and chaos, God can bring salvation and life. Beginning with a handful of righteous people who were willing to be reborn using the mind of Christ to direct their passions and lives, God turned that world upside-down.

God has the power to do that again, but it will not happen while we are tiptoeing through our tulips with our heads in the clouds. Neither will it happen while we are cowering behind our locked doors in fear. It cannot happen if we spend our lives conforming to the world around us. It will only happen when we as His reborn new creation allow the mind of Christ to direct our lives and passions. The differences between who we are and who the world is should be as obvious as daylight and dark. Until that happens, the light of God will not be seen and darkness will prevail.

Ephesians 5:7 Therefore do not be partakers with them. 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

1 Thessalonians 5:4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

--Mike Underwood, Chestnut Drive Church of Christ

WHO SHALL ASCEND TO THE HILL OF THE LORD?

Psalms 24:3-6

Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?

Or who may stand in His holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive blessing from the Lord, And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face.

The Psalmist in Psalms 24 begins this psalm by stressing GOD. He emphasizes that everything in this earth and on this earth is the Lord's, hence, he has the right to judge it and do with it as he pleases. These are words we would all do well to remember - He is our creator, our Sovereign - HE IS THE LORD. We would be remiss if we did not remind ourselves daily that we will have to give an account to him.

The passage cited above then stresses, "Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?" Was the psalmist here talking about ascending into the city of Jerusalem in order to worship? Was he describing the character of those who may have attended the festivals of the Lord? If so, the next few statements emphasize that when they came before the Lord, they had to have clean hands and a pure heart. Oh, how this applies today. The child of God must always remember that God knows what we do, and he knows our motives that define our actions. He knows us! How important it is that we have the right attitudes when we worship him! As we worship, it should also remind us that we need to live lives EVERY DAY that is clean and pure.

The Psalmist then stressed to his readers (including us) that they could not have mixed allegiances. While we do not bow down before idols today, we can have them in our hearts! ANYTHING THAT GETS IN THE WAY OF OUR ALLEGIANCE TO GOD AND HIS WORD BECOMES AN IDOL, and we must make sure that when we worship we do not have anything between us and God.

Our tongue - our speech, also affects our worship to God, and our relationship to God. We cannot swear (swear not at all-Matthew 5:34-35). Our speech needs to be clear, truthful and right (James 3:1-12).

Should the things mentioned here characterize all of us, not only when we come to worship God, but every day of our lives?

“O Lord, please help me to so live that I can come and worship you without pretense or falsehood. Help me to realize that my worship to you will always be affected by the way I live my life. And help me, Father, to know that my life should be so lived EVERYDAY, not just when I come to meet with the saints for worship, but also when I meet people every day of my life! May I always seek to honor you in my actions, and in my speech. In Jesus name, AMEN!

--Tommy Tidwell

ANNOUNCEMENTS 7/23/20

July 26, 2020 / **Leading the congregation in:**

Scripture Reading:

A.M.: Alden Futral

Security (During Services) - Sunday AM: Danny Moore / Security (Building Lock-up After Services): Henly Khantisouriya

Main Prayer:

A.M.: Ted Norton

Closing Prayer:

A.M.: Tim Hatch

Singing:

A.M.: Jon Timbes

With the restrictions caused by COVID-19, it is difficult to have an accurate report of our members who are ill.

SICK: MILLIE THOMAS has a broken foot. STEVEN HULETT will have cataract surgery on the other eye July 28 and is scheduled for hip-replacement surgery Aug. 17. PHYLLIS ALLEN and MARSHA SUTTON continue to recover from surgery. Sick at home Sunday: STAN NEUENSCHWANDER. 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.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT: KENDALL LYNN COVERDALE was born Wednesday, July 22, to JEFF & KATIE COVERDALE. Kendall was 8 lbs. and 4 oz. and 20 inches long. TREY is the big brother. Congratulations to all!

PRAYER REQUEST LIST: (Various Issues): CARSON DAVIS, DON SIMMONS, KATHRINE LESTER, LINDA DOBYNS, LUKE & HEATHER BROOKS. (Battling Cancer): LANISE KIRK, DARNELL STROTHER, NINA JOSEPH, LISA DOBBS, BJ BUCHMANN, PAT NORMAN, SANDRA MISSILDINE, ANDY MULLINS, DANNY MOORE (This is the Sutton's nephew, Not EM's Danny Moore). (Other) The SPIRITUALLY ILL—weak and wayward members.

THANK YOU: Dear Eastern Meadows Family, Thanks for many prayers offered on my behalf and the cards I have received as I continue to recover. Love, Stan Neuenschwander

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING: There will be a business meeting for all the Men of the Congregation Sunday, Aug. 2, 8:45 AM. Breakfast will **not** be served.

GOSPEL MEETING: There will be a Gospel Meeting at Georgia Road Church of Christ Aug. 9-12 with Mel Futrell speaking. Sunday schedule—9 AM Bible Class, 10 AM & 1 PM Worship. Monday-Wednesday—7 PM.

ELDER LED WORSHIP: The Sunday, Aug. 16, Worship Service will be led by the Eastern Meadows Elders.

SUNDAY-EVENING-EVANGELISM: Bundles of 5 cards, along with a Prayer List (most listings of sick and prayer needs have an address), are available in the foyer. Please take a bundle and write cards this week! (This manner of distribution is used to minimize touching).

SONGS & OUTLINE FOR SUNDAY'S WORSHIP: The songs and sermon outline for Sunday's worship will be emailed on Saturday to EM members.

JULY STANDBY TEAM—#2 (HESTER) / AUGUST STANDBY TEAM—#3 (GOTKIEWICZ)

JULY SPECIAL NEEDS TEAM—#3 (GOTKIEWICZ) / AUGUST SPECIAL NEEDS TEAM—#1 (PORTERFIELD)

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. The Elder of the Month for August is **MIKE NORMAN**. Contact information for Mike: (334) 306-7583; mikenorman7583@yahoo.com.

