



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>

July 9, 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!

Some news reports say meeting to worship is very dangerous. I am convinced these news reports are presuming full buildings, no masks, no social distancing, etc. However, we are doing none of those things now. We have been at 20-25% capacity each Sunday. Everyone wore masks (the only ones taking off their masks were those at the pulpit and they were probably 20 feet from the nearest person), even in singing. With all my heart, I believe Eastern Meadows has been made a safe place to be. And as I have said before, safer than Publix, Winn Dixie, Walmart, or Home Depot. Please note the changes to how we are doing things! As has been said, we will worship in spirit and in truth and safely. -Steve Housley

Sunday Worship, 10 AM

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

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Budget: \$14,100.00 Contribution, 7/5: \$12,393.00 YTD: -\$29,299.86
7/5 AM Worship: 100

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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.

—Steve Housley

FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Last Sunday. An unusual Sunday for sure. We are still worshipping under the unusual circumstances of the Covid sanitized/social distance directive. Yet we had several sick who would have been here and some out of town. Hopefully the numbers that join us on Sunday will grow. Sunday's livestream feed had "technical" difficulties. Because the sermon is a part of a series, Sunday afternoon I "repreached" the lesson. It can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUihaFlapDg> This series on "Unity" is important to me. It has been difficult to say what needs to be said in the usual time. However, after this Sunday, I will take a break from this series and return to the series in mid-August.

Join Us. We have had two Sundays of sanitized, masked face, social distanced worship assemblies. While no one *wants* to wear a mask, it is presently required by the city of Montgomery and we understand it helps keep everyone safer. And we miss having the usual fellowship we enjoy at worship as we keep social distanced. However, everyone realizes this is needed for now. The result: Eastern Meadows church is the safest place you can be outside your own home. I hope you will come Sunday! I promise, we have plenty of room for you, even keeping you social distanced!

Clean Again. The building is clean and ready for another Sunday!

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS 7/9/20

July 12, 2020 / Leading the congregation in:

Scripture Reading:
A.M.: Norton Sewell

Main Prayer:
A.M.: Roy Mulkey

Closing Prayer:
A.M.: Nathan Futral

Singing:
A.M.: Paul Clements

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

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

SICK: STEVEN HULETT is scheduled for cataract surgery Tuesday, July 14. DUSTY POUNCEY was in the hospital last week. STAN NEUENSCHWANDER suffered a broken rib in a fall. CHARLOTTE PATTERSON is undergoing medical tests. PHYLLIS ALLEN, MARSHA SUTTON, and STANFORD JONES continue to recover from surgery. Sick at home Sunday: SARA BLACK, BARBARA NORMAN. 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, SA-RAH HOUSLEY, DUSTY POUNCEY.

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended to Randy Johnston and family in the passing of his father, WAYNE JOHNSTON. Wayne was a former EM member. A calling post will be made when we have the arrangements.

PRAYER REQUEST LIST: (Various Issues): CARSON DAVIS, 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 MISSILDINE, JODIE BATTISON, ANDY MULLINS, DANNY MOORE. (Other) The SPIRITUALLY ILL—weak and wayward members.

NEW PRAYER REQUEST: Prayers have been requested for DANNY MOORE, Randy & Marsha Sutton's niece's husband—not our EM Danny Moore—who has been diagnosed with kidney cancer.

GOSPEL ADVOCATE: Since March there have been several issues of the Gospel Advocate to arrive at Eastern Meadows. On the cushions in the foyer are stacks of Gospel Advocate. Each stack has different issues. If you are interested in Gospel Advocate take an entire stack. On some of these stacks are a Spiritual Sword as well. Please take the entire stack! (This manner of distribution is used to minimize touching).

SUNDAY-EVENING-EVANGELISM: Our usual method of conducting Sunday Night Evangelism is now impossible. However, we want to encourage all to continue to send cards. Bundles of 5 cards, along with a Prayer List (most listings of sick and prayer needs have an address), are also 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.

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.

FAITHFULNESS MOTIVATED BY LOVE

Since March of this year, we have seen changes we never imagined. We have struggled with staying in "quarantine" to avoid catching Covid-19. We have seen a time when we did not meet together as the church, except online (and we are grateful for this technology granted to us by God). We have been frustrated that we cannot do what we were doing because of social distancing. Worship has changed in many ways, not because we wanted it so, but because we are thinking about others more and trying to prevent the spread of the disease.

Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us that we cannot count on anything, and there will be a time for everything. Change is a part of life!

Sometimes change is a good thing because when things change, we consider whether the way we are doing something is the best way, the right way, or if we can do something better.

We also know that when it comes to worship and things pertaining to God, we must, to please God, worship him as he commands in his word. We cannot change that, nor would we wish to. God is the

Creator, we are the creatures, and we must worship him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). We should not add to, nor take from, what God has said we must do to worship Him. Another part to proper worship is that our hearts must be engaged – giving God what he has asked for, and hence, deserves. We can go to worship with the saints and not worship God.

It has been different since we have gone “online” because singing, prayer, giving, partaking of the Lord’s Supper, preaching, and teaching all have been different in one way or another. Bible study has been different. We could grow discouraged because “that’s not the way we usually do it,” – we can even think that if something is different it is then not Scriptural. We have to make sure that we examine what we do by Scripture.

Some may use this as an opportunity to no longer be faithful to the Lord in actually attending with the saints. They miss out on worship thinking that they do not need to worship with the saints if they can do so online. Yet, there is something about corporate worship that encourages us more than we will ever be by staying in a house and watching others worship. We do not write this to condemn anyone – if you feel that there is still a danger from catching COVID-19 then by all means do what you think is best. We do write this to encourage everyone to remember that we are to be faithful to the Lord and attend if we can.

When the saints in Jerusalem were persecuted and “run out of town” they went everywhere “preaching the word.” Worshipping and serving with the saints in Jerusalem then became much different, yet they went and established churches everywhere they went. They scattered the seed of the kingdom by preaching the gospel. They adapted to the circumstances and remained faithful to the Lord.

Please remember that being faithful to God means much more than just attending services and worshipping God. It means living the Christian life every day. It means staying in communion with God through his Word and prayer. It means serving the Lord by serving others, by teaching the gospel and being faithful in every way we can. It means faithfulness in the midst of adversity.

I am grateful that God has been faithful to me all of my life. I am grateful to God for the fact that he sent his Son to die for me, and for all mankind, on the cross. I am grateful for his continued forgiveness. I am grateful for his continuing love! I am grateful for the knowledge that the Son is with me (Hebrews 13:5-6) and ever lives to make intercession for me (Hebrews 7:25). I am grateful that the Spirit prays with my spirit and makes intercessions as well (Romans 8:27-28).

This is the motive for faithfulness. This is the motive for loving the Lord. This is the motive for worship. Beloved, let us be found faithful when the Lord comes again! WE WILL NOT REGRET IT!

--Tommy Tidwell, South Cobb church of Christ

Savior and Lord

Herod wanted to put Jesus to death (Matthew 2:13). The people from Jesus’ home town rejected Him (Lk.4:16-30). The apostles, chosen by Jesus to take His message to the world, were generally not admired. The early disciples who started to follow Jesus were often treated with contempt.

Those of us today who have decided to follow Jesus and become a Christ-like individual still face various challenges. Peter’s words encourage us to be steadfast and always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks us about the hope we have and the life we live (1 Peter 3:13-16). Unjust suffering for being a Christian and doing good, still happens in our world today.

We may be tempted to give up .But stop and think who we are following. Jesus was God in the flesh (John 1:1,14). He is the Savior and the Lord. I know, there were some who thought when he died on the cross (John 19:32-33) that the talk about Him would cease. Well – on that Sunday morning (Matthew 28:1-9) Jesus was raised from the dead and appeared to many people over the next 40 days. This is the greatest proof that Jesus is Savior and Lord.

– Rob Albright, *BulletinGold*