



# Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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September 17, 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, 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!**

# Please join us for worship this Sunday, 10 AM.



## A CHRISTIAN SHOULD...

	GROW	→ 1 PETER 2:2
	STUDY THE BIBLE	→ 2 TIMOTHY 2:15
	BE FAITHFUL	→ REVELATION 2:10
	GROW IN GRACE & IN KNOWLEDGE	→ 2 PETER 3:18
	ADD THE CHRISTIAN GRACES	→ 2 PETER 1:5-11
	DEMONSTRATE THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT	→ GALATIANS 5:22-23
	WEAR THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD	→ EPHESIANS 6:11-20
	FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH	→ 1 TIMOTHY 6:12
	LOVE THE BRETHREN	→ 1 PETER 1:22
	OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD	→ ROMANS 12:21
	WORSHIP IN SPIRIT & IN TRUTH	→ JOHN 4:24

**Live For Jesus Everyday!**

Budget: **\$12,000.00** Contribution, 9/13: **\$8,598.00** Revised YTD: **-\$6,461.00**

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

### *FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:*

**Away.** It has been wonderful to have a few days away. It has been a long time since taking a trip. We have been able to see Tish's family in Missouri and spend a few "vacation" days in northern Arkansas, a place we have driven through for years, but never took the time to stop and see. It is interesting to see the effects of Covid-19 in this area. Not having been hit as hard as Montgomery, there seems to be fewer precautions by folks here. I appreciate David preaching Sunday and will soon listen to his lesson. By the time you read this we will almost be on our way back.

**Shepherd's Talk.** If you are a member of Eastern Meadows I hope you are on the Eastern Meadows Members Facebook page. This page is limited to members at Eastern Meadows. It is not an open page. I appreciate that the Shepherd's Talk was placed on the EM Members FB page. If you are an Eastern Meadows member go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1348345201853571>. It is limited to the EM Members page because it is "family business." Thanks to those who recorded and put it on the Members page.

## **How to Shine in a Dark World**

The world in which we live has always been dark. Since the fall of humanity in Genesis 3, sin has been in the lives of people and destroying those who submit to sin rather than God. Though we may look at our current times as intensely dark and sinful, the things being done today should come as no surprise to the student of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:13). Jesus told His disciples that they were to be different. He wants us to shine our lights in this world so God our Father will receive the glory (Matthew 5:16). The idea of shining our light is normally taken to simply mean Christians should be good examples. Most certainly, Christians should be examples, but in what ways? How can we practically let those around us know that this world is not our home? I believe there are practical ways that we can let our light shine, which will catch the attention of those around us (Philippians 2:14-16). Near the end of 1 Thessalonians, Paul gave several commands that we should take to heart and adopt. When we examine 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22, I think we get a clear picture of how we can shine our light in a world that desperately needs it.

### ***Always Rejoice (1 Thessalonians 5:16)***

Paul told the Thessalonians to rejoice evermore (1 Thessalonians 5:16 KJV) or to rejoice always (NKJV). This does not mean that Christians never experience sadness. We do, but our overall disposition should be one of constant joy (Romans 12:15). We can have an abiding joy that is more permanent than momentary happiness because we know that God is in control of the world. We rejoice "in the Lord" at all times (Philippians 4:4). When we consider God reigning in Heaven, we can have joy even when many others think the sky is falling. In a world overrun with bad news, those of us who have the good news should demonstrate it by not being downcast or sullen but instead by rejoicing continually (2 Corinthians 6:10). Many people in our world seek joy through substance abuse, perfect circumstances or material possessions. We should be paving the way to show others that true and lasting joy is tied to our relationship to God, not to things of the world.

Paul previously praised the Thessalonians for being examples to all of those around them because of their conversion (1 Thessalonians 1:8-10). They would continue to be examples if they demonstrated persistent rejoicing in a world of persistent negativity and pessimism. We should sing with joy (James 5:13). Most importantly, we should share the good news of forgiveness with joy in our hearts (Ephesians 1:7). Jesus told us that we could be of good cheer because He overcame the world (John 16:33). **If our joy is full, it will spill over into every area of our lives.** Our friends, neighbors and relatives will take notice (1 John 1:4). We will be able to point them to Jesus, who is the True Light, when they see the light in us (John 1:4).

### *Pray Incessantly (1 Thessalonians 5:17)*

**Paul's command to pray without ceasing is easy to quote and hard to practice.** Our light will shine brightly in this dark world if we actually take the Holy Spirit's words seriously and pray constantly. When we see crisis in our world, we should be those who fall on our knees in prayer before we do anything else. Instead of posting on social media about all that is wrong, we should be praying to the One who can make it right. Rather than pouting about how terrible things in the world have become, we should be petitioning God to allow us to continue to spread the Word freely, which can change hearts (2 Thessalonians 3:1). The Colossians were told to be steadfast in prayer (Colossians 4:2). The Romans were admonished to be constant in prayer (Romans 12:12). The darker things get, the more we have about which to pray. We should accompany our prayers with action as we have the opportunity to put our faith into operation.

Yet, we should always remember that prayer is in itself an action. When we pray, we involve the God of the universe Who can do the most about our situation. People should hear Christians say, "I'm praying for you." When people express fear and anxiety about the events in the world, we should be saying, "I'm praying and trusting the Lord." **If we are just as faithless and overwhelmed as unbelievers, we will never draw them closer to God. Prayer must not be regulated to a last resort. Prayer is our first line of defense as we boldly approach the throne of grace and find the help that we need** (Hebrews 4:16).

### *Be Thankful (1 Thessalonians 5:18)*

One thing that sets Christians apart from the world is our attitude of thankfulness. We are told to "give thanks always and for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20). Paul told the Thessalonians that it was the will of God for them in Christ Jesus to give thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:18). In a world of gripes and ungrateful people, we can shine our light if we fail to voice our complaints. The New Testament describes the worldly person as ungrateful (2 Timothy 3:2) and unthankful (Romans 1:21). It is not that we do not see things that enrage us or wish things were different, but we know things could always be worse. Also, we appreciate that God can use anything to His ultimate good (Romans 8:28). Practice gratitude. Do not just feel thankful inside but express it to God and to others. It will be impactful. Gratitude shows that we know we are undeserving of God's blessings, and we want to thank Him for them. Count your many blessings and name them one by one. It may help someone else count theirs, too.

### *Love Good & Refrain from Evil (1 Thessalonians 5:19-22)*

The last few verses in this section deal with our relationship to the truth of God's revelation. We should not quench the Spirit or put out His work (1 Thessalonians 5:19). We should not despise prophecy (1 Thessalonians 5:20). We need to test everything and hold to what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Lastly, we must abstain from evil in every avenue it appears (1 Thessalonians 5:22). One could summarize Paul's thoughts here by saying we should love the good and refrain from the evil (3 John 11). Paul wanted the Thessalonians to treat the Word of God properly and reject everything that was opposed to it.

Much of what on which people meditate today is contrary to the Word of God. The nightly news can keep us informed, but it will not help us to be conformed to the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:17-18). **If we love the things that God loves and reject the things He hates, people will know that we are different.** Shining our light in this dark world is not about being an example in a general way. There are concrete and specific ways by which we can announce to the world that our citizenship is in Heaven. Study 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22. Go and do likewise.

--Hiram Kemp, *Gospel Gazette Online*



*"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).*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS 9/17/20

September 20, 2020 / Leading the congregation in:

**Scripture Reading:**  
A.M.: Landon Evans

**Main Prayer:**  
A.M.: Tim Gotkiewicz

**Closing Prayer:**  
A.M.: John Cole

**Singing:**  
A.M.: Allen Clements

**Security (During Services): Danny Moore / Security (Building Lock-up After Services): Steve Housley**

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

**SICK:** DOROTHY SULLIVAN is in Baptist South. BETSY YATES continues 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, 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, DON SIMMONS, KATHRINE LESTER, LINDA DOBYNS, JUDY MILLER, MARTHA HUGGINS, MYRA HUGHES, JUDY CURTAIN. (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*), CHRIS HETHCOX. (Other) The SPIRITUALLY ILL—weak and wayward members.

## NEW PRAYER REQUESTS FOR:

- BUTCH ROYAL, Barbara Norman's brother-in-law, who suffered a concussion in a fall.
- NANCY HOLT, friend of Jean Berry who has been visiting with EM, is at UAB following a kidney transplant. Cards may be sent to 1619 Coliseum Blvd., Montgomery, AL, 36110.

**ZOOM LADIES BIBLE CLASS:** There is a ZOOM Ladies Bible Class Wednesdays from 7:15-7:45 pm. Gwen Mann is leading our class in a study of "Church Unity." All ladies are invited to participate via zoom each Wednesday night. Please let Shirley Kaye know if you are planning to participate. We will also list the ZOOM information to join the class on the Eastern Meadows LadyBUGS' group on Facebook.

**MOUNT DORA CHILDREN'S HOME FOOD & SUPPLY DRIVE:** Due to the pandemic, the truck will not be sent around to congregations to pick up food and supplies. Instead, they are requesting gift cards from Walmart or Publix. The gift cards or money to purchase gifts cards may be given to Wilma Berry or mailed/dropped off at the office by Sunday, Sept. 27.

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

## SEPTEMBER STANDBY TEAM—#1 (PORTERFIELD)

**ELDER OF THE MONTH / ON CALL:** The Elder of the Month for September is ALAN KAYE. Contact information for Alan: (334) 322-7363; nantahalan@gmail.com.



**Pictured above:** Quilts made by the Eastern Meadows' Quilters and donated to the NICU at Baptist South Medical Center.

The EM Quilters meet on the first Wednesday of the month from 10 AM—2 PM. See Becky Neuenschwander for more information.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

- **Sept. 26:** Youth Group Movie Night, 7 PM

## COLLEGE EVENTS:

- **Sept. 20:** College Dinner & Movie, 5 PM