



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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Website: <http://www.emcofc.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EasternMeadowsChurchofChrist/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EasternMeadows>

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

November 23, 2016

ELDERS:

Tim Bagents
Don Brannan
Ted Norton

DEACONS:

Billy Bush
Tim Gotkiewicz
Steve Housley
Wayne Johnston
Jimmy Mathews
Roy Mulkey
Randy Porterfield
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

STATISTICS 11/20/16

Bible Class: 138
AM Worship: 212
PM Worship: 130
EMBF: \$124.00

WELCOME!

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy endures forever. Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever: To Him who alone does great wonders, For His mercy endures forever; To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, For His mercy endures forever; To Him who laid out the earth above the waters, For His mercy endures forever; To Him who made great lights, For His mercy endures forever—The sun to rule by day, For His mercy endures forever; The moon and stars to rule by night, For His mercy endures forever” (Psalm 136:1-9).



Happy Thanksgiving!

FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Great Day Sunday. We welcomed MARY SEARIGHT, to Eastern Meadows. Mary was reared in Crenshaw County. She is a cousin of Lucy Sumerlin but would say they were more like sisters than cousins. She moved to Niagara Falls in 1956. She has four children, three boys and one girl, eight grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren. They lived in Tucson, Arizona and Niagara Falls, New York. She worked for 25 years before retirement as a mental health therapist. Over the years she enjoyed camping and fishing. In Niagara Falls, she attended the Niagara Falls church of Christ.

We welcome the JESSE LUCAS family to Eastern Meadows. JESSE was born in Buffalo, NY but has lived in Niagra Falls since 1994. Jesse, along with MARY SEARIGHT and his wife, RENAY, and daughter and son, JAMAL AND RENAY recently moved to Montgomery, AL. Jesse enjoys horse-back riding; shooting pool; and sightseeing. We rejoice that JESSE was baptized this Sunday, November 20, at Eastern Meadows' morning service. RENAY, Jesse's wife, is Mary Searight's daughter. She was born in Niagra Falls and lived most of her life there. Renay enjoys sightseeing. Jesse and Renay have two children Jamal, 21, Janae, 17. JANAE is also placing membership with Eastern meadows. She is attending Carver High School and is in the 11th grade. She enjoys writing songs and poetry. Renay and Janae also attended the Niagara Falls church of Christ. We welcome you all to Eastern Meadows!!



Pictured L to R: Jesse, Renay, & Janae Lucas, and Mary Searight.

Not A Joyous Record. Last week I lamented the larger than usual number of surgeries of Eastern Meadows members. And since I wrote that I learned of additional surgeries at EM, totaling, four surgeries just last week. Pray for our Eastern Meadows sick and those having surgery!

Christmas Steak Dinner Fellowship. One of my favorite fellowships is the Christmas Steak Dinner. It is good food. It is good fellowship. Please sign up! After 10 years of not being able to have the Christmas Fellowship Dinner in our own building, this one will be in our Fellowship Hall!

Fellowship Entertainment. Once again we will have an "Eastern Meadows Talent Review" for entertainment at our Christmas Dinner. This gives several EM members the opportunity to sing, or play, or do a comic act. If you would like to do this let me know! There are a few "acts," signed up already but the more the better. And if you only wish to do one song, that is great. Let me know ASAP!

FROM THE YOUTH & COLLEGE MINISTER – TIM GOTKIEWICZ:

Aaron Ferrell is hosting a special screening of the Tim Burton classic, "The Nightmare Before Christmas" at the fellowship hall from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, December 3rd. All 7th grade through college students are invited. Snacks will be provided and other activities are planned.

Next College Devo will be on December 4th at the home of Steve and Tish Housley.

Youth Group will be serving at the Christmas Dinner on the 10th. Bonus-Servers eat free!!!

Sunday evening December 11th - Area-Wide @ Grandview Pines. The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly series continues with a lesson about Solomon.

TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

Last week's question: David and Bathsheba had a son named Solomon. What was Solomon's other name? **Answer:** Jedidiah

This week's question: Besides Solomon, which two people ruled Israel during Solomon's lifetime?



ANNOUNCEMENTS 11/23/16

Nov. 27, 2016 / Leading the congregation in:

Announcements:	Opening Prayer:	Closing Prayer:	Singing:
A.M.: Austin Brown	A.M.: David Hester	A.M.: Andrew Long	A.M.: Dean Norton
P.M.: Austin Brown	P.M.: James Berry	P.M.: Tim Stevens	P.M.: Dean Norton

SICK: JIMMY ALLEN, CINDY DENDY, MIRANDA PORTERFIELD, and GWEN MANN are recovering from surgery. BARBARA NORMAN is home after being in the hospital last week. JAN HILYER underwent a heart ablation Tuesday, Nov. 22, in Birmingham. GEORGE DAVIDSON is scheduled for surgery November 29. DAVID WARREN will have shoulder surgery Dec. 1. ELVERNICE DEES is scheduled for surgery Dec. 13. Prayers have been requested for MARK BOUTWELL, Donna Boutwell's son, who is suffering with cluster headaches. RUTH ROBERTS and JOAN HOSKINSON remain in rehab. Sick at home Sunday: ANNEGENE DAVIS, BARRETT EDWARDS, GREG EDWARDS, MARCIA GRAVES, FRANCIS NELSON, and DOT SULLIVAN. Continue to remember our members listed on our Sunday-Night-Service Prayer List. Shut-ins: TAM LOWERY, PATSY LOWERY, CATHERINE LEINHEISER, LOURINE BLACK, JACKIE JOHNSTON, JEWEL BARNES, and RED & LANETTE TAYLOR. Battling Cancer: MIKE NORMAN.

PRAYER REQUEST LIST: (Health Issues): KAY PEARSON, CHRIS GORDON, BRIAN & ERIN WAITS, MARTHA HOWARD, WILLIAM BUNT, RUTH ROBERTS, JIM RUSSELL, JOAN HOSKINSON, ELIZABETH ENGLEBERT, and LISA GANT. (Battling Cancer) RAELEIGH JANE MCCARTHA, GERMAINE HARDIN, IMOGENE GRACE, MARK CHESSOR, WALTER SIEVERS, LINDA STEELE, JAN KELLEHER, MARC MCDANIEL, LISA HANKINS, KYLE PURVICAL, ANUDLA CURD, DIANE LINDSEY, and ULMER UTLEY.

NURSERY ATTENDANTS: TAMMY EVANS & SARAH NORTON

PURPOSE SUNDAY FOR 2017: Sunday, December 4, has been designated "Purpose Sunday for 2017". Be prayerfully considering what you can possibly do for next year in regard to your giving.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER: The Annual Eastern Meadows Adults Christmas Dinner will be Saturday, Dec. 10, 2 PM, in our Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$10 per person. See Sally Gotkiewicz or Wilma Berry to sign-up and pay by Sunday, Dec. 4. Mark your calendars and plan to be there!

CHRISTMAS PROJECT: The LadyBUGS are planning to help provide Christmas for some children this year. If you would like to participate in our Christmas Project, please see Melanie Bush or Shirley Kaye by Wednesday, December 7. If you would like to help shop or wrap gifts, please see Terry.

HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS: The LadyBUGS are planning to prepare holiday bags for those members of our family who are shut-in. We want to send gift bags filled with treats to brighten their day and remind them that we miss them. A list of suggested items is available in the LadyBUGS' Room along with a sign-up list. Also, please take a minute to write a note to each one of these people that can be included in each bag. A list of those who will receive a holiday bag is available in the LadyBUGS' Room as well. Please leave all items in designated area in the LadyBUGS' Room no later than, Sunday, December 11. Bags will be assembled Sunday afternoon (12/11) before evening worship. We will prepare 15-20 bags. NO PERISHABLES please!

LEADERSHIP EAT & MEET: There will be a Business Meeting for all the Leadership (Elders, Deacons, & Ministers) Sunday, Dec. 11, 7:30 AM. Breakfast will be served at 7 AM by Roy Mulkey & Jimmy Mathews.

SHEPHERD'S TALK: Our Shepherds will give a brief update on business and current events immediately following the morning worship service on Sunday, Dec. 11.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: "Kids from one to ninety-two" are invited to spread some holiday cheer on Friday, December 16. We will meet at 5:30 in the offices for pizza and fellowship. If you can't be there for dinner, join us at 6:15 in the back parking lot, and we will caravan to each location. Please sign the list in the front foyer if you plan to participate so that we can order pizzas and approximate the number of homes we will be able to visit. All are encouraged to come!

NOVEMBER STANDBY TEAM: Team 1 (Porterfield)

NEW ADDRESSES: MARY SEARIGHT, 4332 Sussex, 36116, (334) 593-5311; JESSE & RENAY LUCAS, 4332 Sussex Drive, 36116, (334) 593-5311.

La dybugs

- ♦ **Dec. 2:** Ornament Swap, 6 PM, @ Jane Sewell's. Sign-up sheets are posted at the Front Welcome Center and LadyBUGS Room.
- ♦ **Dec. 6:** Quilting, 10 AM & Covered Dish Lunch @ 12 noon
- ♦ **Dec. 7:** Deadline to contribute to our Christmas Project. See Melanie Bush or Shirley Kaye to contribute. See Terry Bagents if you can help shop and/or wrap presents.
- ♦ **Dec. 11:** Holiday Gift Bag Items Due

ELEMENTARY L2L/L

- * **Sunday's, 4 PM:** Bible Bowl
- * **Wednesdays, 6:20 PM:** Song Leading
- * **Bible Class:** Know the Books

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- **Dec. 3:** "Nightmare Before Christmas" Party, 1-4 PM
- **Dec. 11:** Area Wide Youth Devo, PM
- **Dec. 18:** SSS, Lunch until...
- **Dec. 30:** Holiday Party, 7-11 PM

COLLEGE EVENTS:

- **Dec. 3:** "Nightmare Before Christmas" Party, 1-4 PM
- **Dec. 4:** Devo, PM, @ Steve & Tish Housley's
- **Dec. 30:** Holiday Party, 7-11 PM

Sunday Bible Classes—Nov. 27

Auditorium: *Gospel of John—David Hester* ;
Young Ladies: *Parables of Jesus*; Experienced Ladies: *OT Women, Lesson 36*

2016 BUDGET—\$12,930.00

11/20/16—CONTRIBUTION: **\$10,828.50**

BUDGET: - **\$2,101.50** / YTD: + **\$24,212.48**

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thess. 5:18).

"IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS"

In I Thessalonians 5:18 the apostle Paul wrote, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." A preacher by the name of Martin Rinkhard wrote the lyrics of the song, "Now Thank We All Our God" to be used as an expression of gratitude by his family at meal time. The unusual background of this song of praise was that it was written during the "Thirty

Year's War" when the preacher was conducting as many as forty funerals a day, including that of his own wife. Yet in spite of war and plagues, he was able to give thanks to God for his blessings. The lyrics of the first stanza of his song is as follows: "Now thank we all our God, With heart, and hands, and voices, Who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world rejoices; Who from our mother's arms Hath blessed us on our way With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today." This true story amazes me but it does not surprise me. It seems that in times of extreme and difficult circumstances, people who believe in God can find in their heart expressions of gratitude.

In contrast when a nation is greatly blessed with a bounty of material and physical substances there is a tendency of man to forget the source of such blessings. Someone has suggested that our lack of expressing our gratefulness to God for the blessings we receive would be like animals eating the acorns that have fallen to the earth without ever realizing the source of their food. The lesson is obvious and clear. Most of God's children are more apt to make requests, petitions and supplications rather than the giving of thanks. The nation that is greatly blessed with a bounty of material and physical substance is most likely to forget the source of such blessings. The writer James declared that "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:17). The psalmist encourages us by his response from being a recipient of God's blessings in this manner, "What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will take up the cup of salvation, And call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people." "I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, And I will call upon the name of the Lord" (Psalm 116:12, 13, 14, 17).



The children of the Heavenly Father should remember daily the blessings that flow from His bountiful hand of grace. Especially there should be an awareness of "every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). Everyday is Thanksgiving for the redeemed. However it is good that families and friends can be together on the national day of Thanksgiving. Let us never forget the sacrifices made by our forefathers and loved ones to ensure us of the liberties and freedoms we now enjoy and experience. "O that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!" (Psalm 107:8). "Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms" (Psalm 95:2).

—Raymond Elliott



Don't
forget
to pray!

