



The Eastwood Beacon

Eastwood nurtures positive development in people's lives
through the love and teachings of Jesus Christ.

September 16, 2020

It's Thursday morning, more than a week after the Alameda fire began, and it feels like the smoke is just beginning to clear. I'm sure that you, like me, are grateful that no one in our immediate congregation was irreparably harmed by the fires in our community. Yet there is still so much damage and devastation to be repaired.

I've heard multiple stories this past week, about how homes were spared despite neighbors burning. God has blessed the people of Eastwood in all this chaos. Perhaps this is for a reason. Everything we have is due to God trusting it to our care. God trusts to our care the children we raise, the land that we live on and the lives that we connect with. God gave us the ability to learn skills. God gave us talents to share. God gave us so much. But it's not really ours. It is entrusted to us. There is an expectation that we will use what is entrusted to us in a way that gets a return on God's investment. (ROI)

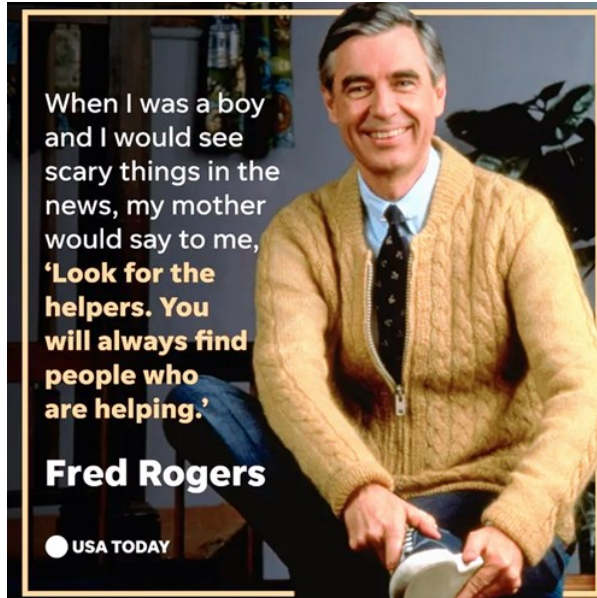
When emergencies like the Alameda and Obenchain fires happen, there is a lot of loss. Fred Rogers (Mr. Rogers Neighborhood) was quoted as saying, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" It is true. People come out of the woodwork to help during these times. Lesser known is that the volunteers and help often occur before the recipients are ready to receive, and by the time those in need are in a position to be helped, the public's attention has turned elsewhere.

I think God offered Eastwood a tremendous blessing in protecting our homes and businesses. Yet so many of our brothers and sisters were not spared. It looks like over 2300 housing units were destroyed in the last 2 weeks in our county. One report indicated that 80% of the children in the Phoenix school district had their homes burn down. These needs are not going to go away anytime soon. So we will be the helpers that scared children will look for over the next couple of years. I really don't know exactly what that will look like yet, but I am certain that we will be there for those in need.

If you wish to contribute to the deacons fund, know that we are already helping people affected by fires in Oregon. Donations of housing items are being arranged, and hopefully will be timed with the availability of FEMA trailers. Perhaps we will use the East Lot to provide space for people to park trailers while they rebuild. A fairly extensive list of places receiving donations for the Rogue Valley can be found at this website. <https://roguevalley.recovers.org/>.

I am terribly grateful for you all and your continued generosity! May God have mercy on our valley as we rebuild. I truly believe when we are on the other side of this, we will find so many blessings and lessons learned and earned, that the memory of this will not be all ashes and despair.

God Bless you all!



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EASTWOOD STAFF

Rev. Jeff Lundblad

Pastor

Sharon Dady

Choir Director

Linda Tripp

Accompanist & Worship Coordinator

Sue Becker

Church Secretary

Sam J. Angulo

Custodian

Kaltlyn Higginbotham

Nursery Attendant

i once was blind but now i see

mark 8:22-26

They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"

He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

MARK 8:22-25, NIV

"I can see clearly now..." The buoyant melody and infectious lyrics of Johnny Nash's 1972 chart-topping song echo through the back of my mind as I reflect on Jesus' healing of a blind man at Bethsaida.

Like many of those Jesus encountered, this man met Jesus not through his own initiative, but through friends who cared and saw in the itinerate rabbi a spark of hope for their friend. If only they could lead him to the place of encounter, if only they could get him close enough that Jesus could reach out and touch him, then perhaps there was hope. Just maybe their friend could, and would, see.

Jesus, though, was not a public showman. He took the man by the hand and led him out of the village, to a quiet and private place where he could attend more intimately to the man's need. He first spit in the man's eyes and applied his touch, then asked if he saw anything. Indeed, the man could now see people, but his vision was not clear—the people appeared "like trees." In this case, the miracle happened in two stages—it took a second touch from Jesus to transform the man's eyes.

We live in a fast-paced culture that prefers the immediate over the prolonged, the event over the process, the destination to the exclusion of the journey.

We visit "fast food" restaurants and prepare "instant" meals at home, expect not only next day but same day delivery, and access libraries of information with the click of a mouse or touch of a link in our smartphones.

This story of Jesus healing the man at Bethsaida reminds us that genuine transformation often—probably most often—happens over time rather than in an instant. Just as it took both an initial and then a second touch from Jesus to restore the blind man's sight fully, making disciples of Jesus involves both leading persons to an initial commitment to Christ ("baptizing them") and ongoing formation in the way of following Jesus ("teaching them to observe," Matthew 28:18-20).

International Ministries' global servants, staff, and volunteers work cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus. This involves leading individuals toward making an initial life commitment to Christ, and then supporting the ongoing transformation of individuals and communities by "proclaiming through word and deed God's reign of justice, peace, and abundant life for all creation." IM's ministries touch whole persons and whole communities, engaging body and spirit, toward the wholeness that comes from fullness of life in Christ.

Your support of IM in prayer, encouragement, and giving makes possible amazing transformative work around the globe, from ministries of evangelism and discipleship to work in health and wellness, abolition of global slavery, peace and justice, and more. In all of this, we work toward the vision of a time when God's will is done fully "on earth as it is in heaven." That will most assuredly be a "bright, bright sunshiny day!"



Jim Bell

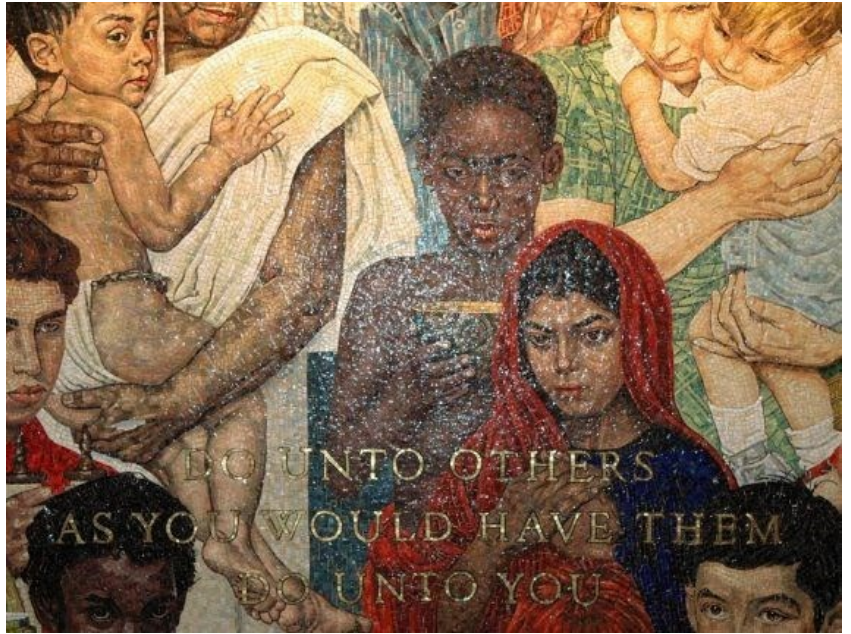
Rev. Jim Bell

Associate Executive Director
for Global Mission

Golden Rule 2020: A Call for Dignity and Respect

As we get closer to our national election and as many Americans have concern that the days ahead will be filled with hostility and hatred which will further divide our country, we encourage you to visit our page for **Golden Rule 2020** to learn how you can participate. The initiative, which began a few months ago, encourages people to apply Christian teachings to our political discussions.

The purpose of **Golden Rule 2020: A Call for Dignity and Respect** is to promote the application of the Golden Rule in interactions during this election year. American Baptist Churches USA invites partners and friends to participate in Golden Rule 2020 because it reminds us that the teachings of Jesus are relevant in all areas of life-even our political interactions.



It is not easy to practice the Golden Rule-especially in difficult discussions with those who have very different views-but our faith requires us to try.

Anti-Racism Task Force Formation



The Call to Prayer event for anti-racism was held on August 5, 2020 with over 150 participants. A dozen American Baptists participated in the Call to Prayer by sharing their prayers and reflections on anti-racism.

Following the Call to Prayer, ABCUSA President Karen Podsiadly designed an application process for persons interested in serving on the task force. To date, 37 persons have applied to serve on the task force.

Due to the great number of applicants, three groups are being formed in addition to a task force. The three sub-groups will help to identify anti-racism resources for individuals, congregations, and institutions as their overall work is guided by the task force.

We are excited about the possibilities as we move forward in work on this critical issue.

Donation Information

MEDFORD, Ore. — NewsWatch 12 is partnering with the **American Red Cross** to support those impacted by the wildfires burning in Oregon. Donations support the work the Red Cross is providing to families that have been affected by the wildfires in Oregon.

Your support helps the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to, and help people recover from disasters. Your generous donations make it possible for the Red Cross to provide food, water, showers, first aid and emotional support to our neighbors in need.

If you have in-kind donations or are looking for where else to contribute, here is a growing list of local places accepting donations:

Jackson County Emergency Management is urging those who want to donate or need help to [go to Rogue Valley Recovers and complete the online form](#). The county is working to consolidate resources on this site.

- **Ella Lane Boutique** at 739 Medford Center is accepting donations, here is what they need:
New Underwear (all sizes) New Socks (all sizes) Shoes (all sizes)
Hangers Clothing (all sizes)
- **Josephine County Fairgrounds** is open to receive donated items, here is what they need:
Non-perishable food Water Toiletries
New sleeping bags, blankets and pillows
- **Medford Neighborhood Church** - "I C.A.R.E." campaign – MONETARY DONATIONS ONLY
Mail to 1819 W. Stewart Ave. Medford, OR 97501
- **Journey Church** – MONETARY DONATIONS ONLY
- **Rogue Valley Fire Mutual Aid** has established supply drop-off locations:
South Ashland @ 770 Faith St. (Drop off at driveway on Wine St.)
North Ashland @ 223 Maple St. (Drop off at side yard/driveway)
Medford @ YMCA parking lot, 522 West 6th St. (Drop off 9/10 from 2:30 pm-6:30 pm)
- **Rogue Credit Union** is taking donations, now matching up to \$100,000.
- **New Life Church** is open as a shelter and is distributing donated goods
Call (541) 779-7777 Text (531) 262-1823 Email: info@newlifenz.church
Two locations at 1974 E. McAndrews Rd. Medford, OR & South Medford High School 1551 Cunningham Ave. Medford, OR
- **House of Leaves** is gathering monetary donations
Medford - (541) 816-4202 Ashland - (541) 488-6776
- **Living Waters Church** is receiving and distributing food and items.
Living Waters Church @ 360 E. Jackson St. Medford, OR; enter through side entrance
- **Southern Oregon Spartans** are collecting gift cards and supplies at **The Rrrink**
To donate, contact Coach Dylan Martin at (609) 921-7253 or coachmartin@sospartans.com
More information on specific items and stores for gift cards can be found on [their Facebook page](#)
- **Medford Gospel Mission** is offering free clothing and meals to anyone affected by fires.
Outfit Outlet Store open each day 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Free meals every evening from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Continued on next page

- **Phoenix Talent Fire Relief Fund** - If you would like to contribute to a fund to help the families of Talent and Phoenix who have lost their homes or had to evacuate you can mail or deliver a cash/check donation to the address below:

P.O. Box 937 Medford, OR 97501

Make checks payable to Jackson County School District #4

You can also deliver a cash/gift card donation to Orchard Hill Elementary at 1011 La Loma Dr. Medford, OR

- **Relief for seniors left homeless** - Bear Lake Estates has set up a relief fund to help their residents that lost their homes. The entire community of 210 homes is now gone.
- **Herb's Restaurant & Event Center with Shenanigans Lounge** - Herb's is serving free meals to anyone who has lost their home in local fires, firefighters, and first responders.
- **Real Life Church** - 2417 Avenue A, White City, OR 97503 is collecting donations of food, camping gear, pillows, blankets, hygiene products, and allowing families affected to pick up these donated items. Also, need phone chargers, clothing racks, and volunteers.

Resources available: 8 am to 5 pm

Volunteers needed: 8 am to 7 pm

- **ACCESS** is encouraging virtual food drives to help raise funds to buy food. Right now, the most needed items at ACCESS are: peanut butter, canned meat and tuna and toiletries

- Donation Locations:

- Online through ACCESS Virtual Food Drive
- Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 3630 Aviation Way in Medford
- Set Free Ministry (God's Food Pantry) - Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- St. John's Lutheran (Eagle Point Pantry) - Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Harry & David's Country Village, daily from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- **Rogue Valley Fire Relief Resources** - organized by Rogue Climate, Rogue Action Center, SOEquity, SOHealthE, Siskiyou Rising Tide.

- **Alameda Fire Supply distribution sites:**

Ashland - Carpenter Hall (OSF) - 44 Pioneer St.

Medford - Living Waters Church - 360 E. Jackson St.

Phoenix - Home Depot - 3345 N. Phoenix Rd.

Talent - Talent Maker City Parking Lot - 304 E. Main St.

- **Alameda Fire Relief Supply Drop-off locations:**

Ashland - 770 Faith Ave.

Medford - Living Waters Church - 360 E. Jackson St.

Immediate supply needs:

Water bottles/containers, Hand sanitizer, Disinfectant wipes, Masks (N95), Non-perishable foods, Adult & baby diapers, Baby formula, Blankets, Menstrual supplies, Sleeping bags/pads, Tents, Pet Food, Toilet paper, First Aid supplies, Cell phone chargers, Contact & glasses care, New underwear. New socks

- **Court House Family Fitness** on N Phoenix Road is offering free showers to those displaced by fire.

Check in at the Court House front desk for free half-hour access to showers.

- **Rockwell Real Estate** is raising money for fire relief, to be matched up to \$10,000.

Funds go toward temporary housing for displaced residents and goods for rebuilding.

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BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2-Oct	Kaitlyn Higginbotham
4-Oct	Tyreese Flowers
5-Oct	Terry Middleton
8-Oct	Carolyn Barnhill
9-Oct	Lucille Potts
10-Oct	Derrick VanDyke
11-Oct	Rylee Boyersmith
11-Oct	Alicia Rubin
12-Oct	Kyle Cawthorne
14-Oct	Gaynelle Pollard
19-Oct	Leona Lloyd
20-Oct	Maizie Foster
20-Oct	Maximus Foster
21-Oct	Becki Foster
21-Oct	Jearld Foster
21-Oct	Sue Lektorich
22-Oct	Jim Florian
22-Oct	Lora McLean
27-Oct	Andrew Tripp
28-Oct	Brien Blankenship
28-Oct	Allen Hill
28-Oct	Susan Miller

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

5-Oct	Eli & Kelly Matthews
8-Oct	Howard & Rosalie Bowman
10-Oct	Kent & Karen Clinkinbeard
14-Oct	Richard & Carol Bath
21-Oct	Scott & Sara Lektorich
25-Oct	Ernest & Geraldine Bucher

Please contact the Church Office or note it on your communication card if your special day has been missed or reported incorrectly.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

Our Church: its leaders and families. All of those with health needs. All service people here and overseas, including:

Kevin Hoffman, Army
Emilia Gilmer, Army
Lolo Vasquez, Iraq
Jason Cesario, Iraq
Logan Oravetz, Army
Tyler Powell, Marines
Samuel Strom, Army
Eric Lektorich, Army National Guard

Please pray for all students, teachers and parents of all ages of children. Unemployed / Underemployed

Our ABC-CPC churches, pastors and missionaries: (**Dan & Sarah Chetti, Glen & Rita Chapman, Alise & Mark Juanes, and Kyle & Katrina Williams**) serving around the world.

Additional Donation Opportunities

- **Grange Co-op** is accepting pet and livestock supply donations to be distributed at evacuation hubs here:

Jackson County Expo
Southern Oregon Emergency Aid
Yuba Habitat for Humanity
Klamath County Fairgrounds

- **Medford Cascade Self Storage** is working with the City of Phoenix to collect donations for fire victims. Items needed include:

Camping supplies - tents, cots, air mattress, sleeping bags, blankets, pillows and camp stoves

Cooking utensils

Clothes - children and adult sizes

Wash cloths and towels, Hygiene and toiletries

Flashlights, Batteries

Gift cards, Meal cards

Non-perishable food, can openers

Bottled water

Storage totes

Eastwood Reopening Protocols

The country is going to slowly reopen, and that includes our church. Following are the guidelines for the reopening. We will re-evaluate the COVID-19 situation in the fall and make any appropriate changes or adjustments at that time. Our primary concern is to keep everyone safe and healthy. **If, for any reason, you do not feel comfortable returning to the physical building, do not come. We want you all to be safe, healthy and at peace. To that end, we will continue to have the services available through Facebook streaming live each week.**

Our initial opening will be limited to the Sunday morning worship service.

The church doors will not open for seating until 10:15 am.

Worship Service

We have space to seat about 80 in the sanctuary and another 8-10 in the foyer, maintaining physical distancing. Because our typical attendance is around 80-85 we expect to be able to accommodate all who would like to attend.

To maintain physical distancing, the following steps will be followed:

The two sets of double doors leading into the foyer will be propped open.

You are asked to wait outside of the building until you are led in by an usher.

You will be asked to use the hand-sanitizing station as you come through the door.

We know that most parishioners have places they like to sit but in order to maintain distancing and avoid unnecessary passing we ask that you bear with us during this time and graciously sit where you are directed.

Each member or family group will be led in to the sanctuary and shown where to sit. The sanctuary will be filled from front to back.

At the end of the service you will be escorted by an usher from your pew out of the building. The sanctuary will be emptied from back to front. If you wish to visit you can do so outside but please maintain 6 feet of distance between you.

We will require that everyone wear a face mask. We ask that you provide your own if possible. However, we will have disposable masks available for anyone that needs one.

At this stage we will not have: Greeters, Communion, Choir, the Cookie/Fellowship time following the service, or adult Sunday morning classes. Mid-week and Wednesday night services, meals, and Bible studies are also on hold. Singing will be done with masks in place.

Offering: We will not pass the collection plates. Instead you will find a locked collection box attached to the wall in the foyer.

Restrooms: Restroom doors will be propped open to eliminate the need to touch the door handles. Ladies, we have covered the site-lines in to the restroom with a banner.

Sanitize and disinfect the church building:

Before Initial Opening: The church facilities have all been spray sanitized.

Ongoing: Arrangements will be made to have the facilities sanitized between services.

Areas to be included:

Pews, chairs, visitor center/kiosk

Doorknobs, handles, sanitation dispensers, offering box, and other high touch areas

There will be no bulletins and pew Bibles and hymnals will be removed from the sanctuary for the time being. All songs, scripture readings, etc. will be displayed on the screens.

Children's programs: There will be no Children's Sunday School, Children's Church or Nursery for the time being. Children will attend the main worship service with their parents and/or other family members. The Pastor and worship team are attempting to make the service accessible for the younger kids.

Bible Word Search: CALLED TO BE MERCIFUL

N C O Q B T X D T P S U J L S
O E O O F F N U B A J C J N T
I C A M S U O E L U E L O S R
T N O L P V Q V M G L I R I E
A E V O L A A P A G S D W N S
I I X U D T S R J S D E V N P
L T R W I S U S E O Q U T E A
I A A O D O V R I Q Z H J R S
C P N K C F G P E O S M D S S
N P W B N S J W D V N L N R E
O A W E N E M I E S E D P M S
C F O A F O R G I V E N E S S
E P R Z B N R C X O T R G K S
R T N E R H T E R B C E G E B
J M P N X R B M J Y M B E J G

BRETHREN	COURAGE	COMPASSION
ENEMIES	FORGIVENESS	JUDGMENT
LOVE	MERCY	PATIENCE
RECONCILIATION	REVENGE	SALVATION
SINNERS	TRANSGRESSIONS	TRESPASSES

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