



The Eastwood Beacon

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

October 7, 2020

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Dear Eastwood Family,

How are you doing? I hope you are doing well, not just physically but mentally and emotionally as well. I recently read an article that talked about the emotional and mental effects of being subject to fear over an extended period of time. Nearly everyone experiences reduced mental performance and higher degrees of anxiety when faced with long term fear and stress. (Even people who know what's happening feel these effects.) I want you to know that if you are feeling down or struggling right now, I'd love to chat with you. Feel free to call or stop by the office.

Of the many things causing additional stress in our lives, we have the added drama of the upcoming political elections. I find solace in knowing that whomever wins, Jesus will still be our Lord. At the very least, there will be fewer campaign commercials on TV and the Radio! I was reminded in my devotions this morning, that Jesus tells us in John 12:25-27 that *"Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour."* When Jesus calls us to take up our crosses and follow him, he probably wasn't talking about a literal cross. So many of the things we endure and suffer through feel unfair and may even cause us to feel angry. Who knows, we might even have good reason to feel angry! But, these difficult things are, like 30 second campaign commercials, temporary and part of God's work in shaping us.

I find comfort in remembering that as I follow Jesus, that he has walked these steps already. He suffered. He was angry at injustice. And he forgave and continues to forgive and love, even when we stray from his path.

Know that you are not alone, and that no matter what you have done God will continue to LOVE you for who you are! (but that doesn't mean God is content with you as you are)

As a reminder, we are collecting funds for The Pregnancy Resource Center this month, as well as for the World Mission Offering. You can give online at the church website ebcmedford.org or by sending a separate check for each charity with your offering if you are not attending in person yet.

Stay healthy, wear your masks and don't forget to wash your hands!

Pastor Jeff

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

Where the Williams Are

Hi Friends,

August marked one year in to our time in Thailand. Honestly, it feels a lot longer than that because we all live in a bit of a different world today than we did in January. We have finished our year of formal language studies feeling confident that we now have the tools to continue learning in less formal settings. Pray for us as we have entered more official roles.

CRICS: Katrina began volunteer teaching classes on the 25th of August. (All teachers except for Thai staff are essentially volunteers). Before classes began she spent time in teacher orientation and prepping for her two classes, chemistry and yearbook/digital design. Because Thailand has not had a locally transmitted case of COVID in over two months, CRICS can meet in as a community on campus. Precautions are still being taken, like masks and temperature checks. Not all the teachers have been able to return to Thailand so the school is working with a skeletal crew with teachers picking up classes until the full-time teachers can arrive. You can be praying for CRICS and its teachers both in and outside of Thailand.

I (Kyle) have started at the Envisage office. My first week was spent assisting a team project to administer a survey in a nearby country. The survey is designed to gain a better sense of what challenges and vulnerabilities people are facing in their daily lives in the various different regions of the Country due to COVID-19 and violence. There are many challenges when trying to access some of these regions and people. Mistrust of foreigners is high so we do our best to mitigate our presence and let national staff lead. Internet access is limited, travel from region to region is further hindered by militias, monsoons, and poor infrastructure. In order to sit down with the thousands of individuals needed to validate such a study will be touch. The challenges are high but not impossible. We have an eager team.

An Anxious Moment and the Unknown

Normally when a missionary type person addresses an anxious moment it has to do with some foreign stressor. But not for me right now. I love Thailand. I love getting to know this beautiful place. I love my job. My current anxiousness is primarily about the US. I feel like I don't understand it. I am not sure I ever did but it is just so palpable right now.

In WE Asia a lot of people wear masks all the time. So when we were instructed to wear masks, everyone just wore a mask. I don't understand why so many people are so adamantly against what seems like a simple request in the States.

After 38 years living on this planet, in 5 countries, on 4 different continents, I am convinced that hell is a present reality on Earth...but so is the Kingdom. Jesus proclaimed that he was bringing sight to the blind, good news for the poor, and freedom to those who are incarcerated. It's weird that these things have become a "right vs left" argument instead of just ideas that Jesus took seriously. Maybe that is what hell does. Maybe it divides us into ideologies instead of binding us together in love.

Maybe our battle is against division of the spirit and not flesh and blood. Maybe our weapons in this fight are not violent but fruit; Love, peace, patience, gentleness, faithfulness, kindness, joy, and self-control. I must remember that it is these things that destroy the walls of hell, not my political ideology, theology, intelligence, or even rightness in thinking. Here, I would echo Paul's words: "Knowing every deep mystery of God and Heaven and eloquently teaching others, counts for nothing if my love for others wanes."

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Winning the war against darkness hinges on my ability to hold my views (political, theological, personal) gently and kindly, loving neighbor and enemy, without differentiation. To battle like Christ I must carry peace when I go to dark places. This is exemplified on the cross. Jesus was victorious, not because he clung to an ideology of his individual rights and militant power, but when he freely gave up his rights for the sake of others, when he spoke "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

I frankly have not been great at this as I read the news coming out of the US. I find myself filling with anxiety as we approach the US elections. My anxiety sometimes turns into fear, which sometimes turns into hatred of those who are politically different. I must repent of this. My high school self would assure me that it is never the external circumstance that dictates my ability to love my neighbor and seek justice on their behalf. Meaning if the British won the War of Independence, I could still love my neighbor, or if Germany or Japan won WWII I could still love my neighbor. I lean into this idea for November. No matter who wins I need to still love my neighbor and my enemy. I need to seek justice, shalom and freedom on their behalf. This doesn't mean I don't have a preferred candidate, it just means I know none of them are Jesus.



Online Giving Available

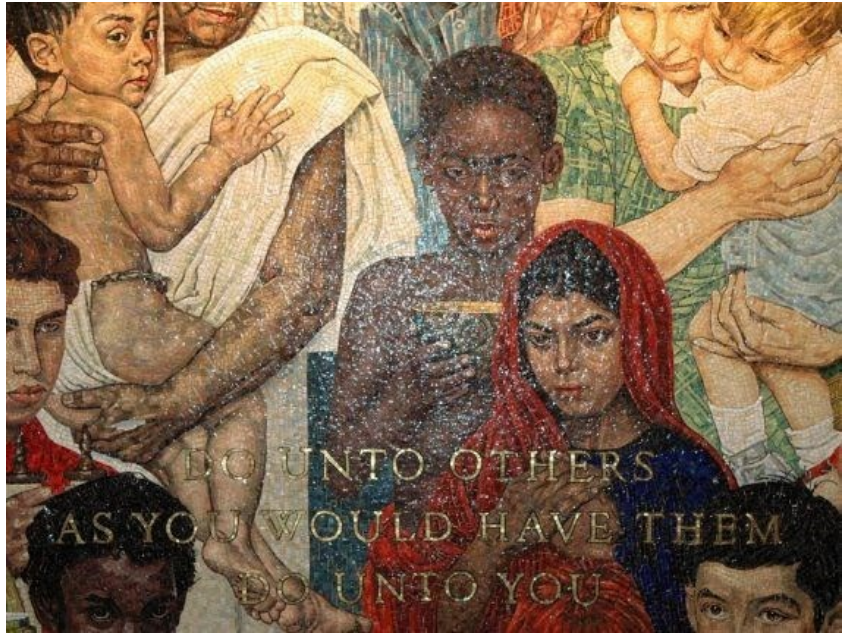
Online giving is now an option! You can give by downloading the Tithe.ly app to your smartphone/tablet, or by going to <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2195174> on your computer. You can give manually each month, or you can automatically have your tithe transferred from your account!



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.

WHAT IS WORLD MISSION OFFERING?



Every September and October, individuals and congregations come together for a time of awareness, advocacy, and action for global mission. Thousands across the country celebrate and support the ministries that God is using to transform the world. This is the World Mission Offering and gifts can be received every month.

For the 2020 World Mission Offering, we are highlighting the Ministry Priorities of Discipleship, Theological Education, Peace and Justice, Education, Health and Wellness, and Economic Development. While these represent only a fraction of IM's ministries, they provide a window into what God is doing worldwide through our 125 global servants, 900+ volunteers, home staff, and 250+ international partners.

BEAT the Flu BUG Get your SHOT!

**Unfortunately, the Flu Shot Clinic has been postponed until November.
We'll let you know when we have rescheduled.**



Mission Giving Opportunity

We will be collecting for the Pregnancy Center during the month of October. Baby bottles are available to take home and fill with coins and bills to return to help support their work. The mission of the Pregnancy Center is to provide education, godly guidance, supportive programs and loving encouragement to those who may be pregnant, parenting or post-abortive.



Carol Bath
Missions Deacon

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.



Mercy Flights Membership Time Combined Air & Ground Ambulance

It is time to join or renew your Mercy Flights Group Membership. This year's membership expires on October 31st. Our group rate is \$63.00 per household for Combined Air & Ground Membership. Enrollment forms are at the Welcome Center. You do not have to fill out an enrollment form if you are not making any changes and are a returning member. Mercy Flights is no longer able to accept individual payments mailed in or by phone by group members.

Please have your check (made out to Mercy Flights) and enrollment form turned into the church office . Although there was a deadline, that does not mean that you can not renew or enroll at any time. Please bring the check/enrollment form to the Church Office and not in the offering plate.