

The Eastwood Baptist

EASTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

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IT'S COMING March 1st
THE RACE FOR READING GOD'S WORD

- You'll need to find a readable Bible
- You'll need to sign up on a team
- You'll be amazed reading the Word of God

Eastwood Life



“CONNECTING HEARTS & HANDS”

Eastwood Baptist Church Newsletter March 2020

PASTORAL CONVERSATIONS

After Jesus resurrected, appeared to the disciples and ascended to Heaven, things appeared to be falling apart. The disciples did not know what to do next. The Bible says: “They all joined together constantly in prayer.” (Acts 1:14)

The Christian church today is in the middle of a huge cultural change in which we can easily find ourselves asking the same question. So we should do what they did: PRAY!

This past Fall, the Adult Class studied a book about the Holy Spirit. In it Jim Cymbala referred to prayer meetings as the engine that drives a church.

During Lent, our preparation time for Easter, we will be holding Prayer Meetings on Wednesday Nights at 7pm. We’ll gather with 2 or 22 in the sanctuary and pray. We will pray for others, pray for ourselves, and especially pray for our church. We’ll pray for things like this:

“I keep praying that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ...may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.” (Ephesians 1:17)

**Join us for Prayer Meeting Wednesdays
at 7pm beginning February 26th**



IT'S COMING March 1st **THE RACE FOR READING GOD'S WORD**

Sign up to join the Race to Read God's Word. We'll form teams, you'll get a team name and an accountant. Each Sunday in Lent, each racer will report to their team accountant the number of chapters in the Bible you read that past week. We'll post the totals and make up more rules as we go along. (Yes, it is a trick to get us reading the Bible, but here is your motivation to jump in.)

- Find a Bible
- Sign up to Read
- Be ready to start on March 1st
- If you want, begin training today!

March 10:30am WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

March 1 WORSHIP CELEBRATION – FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Gospel of John: Jesus Washing Feet

John 18:12-27

Communion

March 8 WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Gospel of John: Peter's Denial

John 18:12-27

Covenant Players in Worship

Daylight Saving Time begins

March 15 WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Gospel of John: Jesus & Pilate

John 18:28-40

March 22 WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Gospel of John: Jesus Condemned

John 19:1-16a

Baptism Sunday

March 29 WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Gospel of John: Crucifixion

John 19:16b-22



Coming in April...

- Palm Sunday – April 5
- Good Friday Dinner Service – April 10
- Easter Sunrise Service at Woodlawn Cemetery
- Easter Worship Celebration – April 12 at 10:30am

TRANSITIONS

- **CUB PACK 7** officially ended in February after decades of service and memories. The supplies, including the pinewood derby track, will be transferred to a pack meeting at Blessed Sacrament.
- **SOUP R SUNDAE is a WINNER** in more ways than one. We predicted that Kansas City would win! (San Francisco donations at \$130 and Kansas City donations at \$210). Proceeds of \$340 will go to the Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry.
- **RETIRED MINISTERS OFFERING THANKS!** - We received over \$1000 to share with our church's retired pastors and pastors across the country.
- **ANN BARNES**, a good friend of Eastwood Baptist as a frequent substitute organist, died after a short illness on Feb 7th. We will miss and her music.

GIVING THOUGHTS



“For if you are eager to give, God will accept your gift on the basis of what you have to give, not on what you don’t have.” - 2 Corinthians 8:12 (TEV translation)



“An apple tree bears fruit whether there are hungry people to eat the apples or not. We give because it is the nature of God in us.” – Kenneth Kunz

Eastwood Baptist Finances – as reported to the Deacons on February 11, 2020

End of January Checking Account Balance	\$ 31,900
End of December Checking Account Balance	\$ 34,100

Our ABFoundation Vision Team UPDATE



Linda Cassel, in her presentation to the Deacons last year, pointed to the fact that Baby Boomers are expected to transfer \$30 trillion in wealth to the next generation. She said the church needs to be an available option for people able and wanting to leave a gift that will make a difference, later in life and beyond.

Linda was from the American Baptist Foundation (ABF) and is devoted to partnering with American Baptist Ministries and individuals to develop and promote planned giving for the long-term sustainability of ministry and mission through the Foundation's "Strengthening Your Financial Future Program". Through the program ABF is helping churches, regions, and ministry organizations to increase support.

For the last generation, our church has had one main giving option available for wills, stocks, annuities, and all kinds of endowment gifts: The Eastwood Endowment Fund. We have guarded the \$100,000 given in the past. We borrow from it to pay for large property and building projects. We always pay it back (paying ourselves). But what if there was more than this one non-descript fund...funds that could extend ministry?

Currently our church's ABFoundation Vision Team is working on a Strengthening Your Financial Future plan with Linda Cassell and the American Baptist Foundation. They are developing three vision empowering areas of ministry. Watch for future updates.

LENT



Why Observe Lent? by Matt Meyer IVP staff

Believe it or not, “Lent” comes from a Latin word that means, “God wants you to stop eating candy for a few weeks until Easter.”

I’m kidding. But it sure *seems* like that’s what Lent has come to mean. And while there’s nothing wrong with a 40-day sugar fast, devoting some time and energy to understanding and observing Lent can be profoundly good for our souls.

In the first 300-400 years of Christianity, many faithful women and men recognized the fruitfulness of setting aside chunks of time surrounding major Christian holidays. Christians from Jewish and Gentile roots adapted this practice from the rhythms of festivals that God laid out in the Old Testament. Followers of Jesus began to contextualize this in order to help themselves fully prepare for and then enter into the most important annual celebrations like Christmas and Easter.

Lent was set aside as a time for Christians to contemplate Jesus’ work on the cross in preparation for a massive celebration on Easter. People would fast as an act of recognition of their sin and also as a means of preparing for the Spirit to have more access to work in their lives.

The same opportunity is available to us today during Lent. It’s a time to reflect on our sinful nature and our fragile humanity so that when Easter comes we are able to more fully appreciate and celebrate Jesus’ victory over sin and death on the cross.

CELEBRATING in MARCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those celebrating in March

March	1	David Lollie
	2	Larry Wood
	3	Doris Gambacorto Donna Price
	4	Andreanna Logan
	7	Cindy Rogers
	8	Lisa Sampson Heather Czarny
	13	Veronica Melfi
	14	Steve Eichmann
	18	Jonelle Wood Joe Troiano
	19	Melissa Kuersteiner
	22	Olivia Barry Michael Copps
	23	Lisa Demello
	28	Madeline Kimbrell Redd Long Bonnie Seitz
	31	Dustin Hamlin

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:

March 22 Ann & Chris Braga

THANK YOU!

The Education Commission would like to thank everyone who contributed soup, ice cream, toppings, bread, etc. And contributions for Soup R Sundae. We raised \$345 which will be going across the street to the Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry.

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 26TH

America for Christ Offering

Dear Church Family,

Jesus teaches us to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). Our church follows the teaching of Jesus by reaching out to the community and providing for our neighbors’ needs, physical and spiritual alike.

Our church’s efforts are supported by American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), which provides resources for cultivating leaders, equipping disciples, and healing and transforming communities. Through ABHMS, we serve neighbors in Puerto Rico and other places in the United States in long-term recovery after natural disasters. Indeed, ABHMS provides many ways to help our church love our many neighbors, near and far!

Our church supports this work through our generous gifts to the America for Christ (AFC) Offering. Each dollar given increases the ministry and impact of ABHMS to serve neighbors with ministries incarnating Christ’s love, justice and compassion. Further, a portion of this offering (28%) will be shared with our American Baptist Churches region for strengthening local church leaders through programming, pastoral search support and other efforts to help our local church thrive, especially in these times when North America is its own challenging mission field!

In 2019, our church’s AFC gifts supported the following ministries:

- “Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico” — rebuilding the island one church and one building at a time.
- Scholarships and Emerging Leaders — providing scholarships to students to help ease the debilitating effects of excessive student-loan debt.
- Immigration and Refugee Resettlement — partnering with organizations that have resettled more than 100,000 displaced persons from across the world.
- Rizpah’s Children — partnering with agencies that provide support to children living in poverty.

Additional supported ministries included Disaster Response, Volunteer Mobilization, Prisoner Re-Entry and Community Outreach Ministries.

AFC 2020 empowers our local and national efforts to “love our neighbor.” I ask you to join with American Baptists across the country in giving generously to this year’s AFC Offering and help us to reach our goal, as we partner with ABHMS to love our neighbors and share the gospel!

Your Eastwood Baptist Mission Commission

“You shall
LOVE your
NEIGHBOR
as **YOURSELF.**”
MATTHEW 22:39

America for CHRIST OFFERING 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the national goal?

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is promoting the America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2020, which seeks to raise \$1,000,000 to support American Baptist mission and ministry across the United States and Puerto Rico.

What is the AFC 2020 theme?

The theme for the AFC 2020 Offering is “Love Thy Neighbor” based on Matthew 22:39: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

How is the AFC offering used?

The offering is distributed in three parts:

- 59% supports the ministries of ABHMS;
- 12% supports the offering’s promotional and deputation costs; and
- 29% supports regional ministries (American Baptist Churches of New York State)

We are leading the way in convening and connecting various American Baptist partners into networks that address a wide range of missional needs and opportunities because we believe that we can accomplish more—and build stronger, more viable ministries—together.

The net of partners invited to join the networks is cast widely: We are engaging not only American Baptist Churches USA regions but also congregations, colleges and seminaries, along with Neighborhood Action Program Christian centers, specialized ministries, language group leaders (Asian, Indian, Latino, Haitian and others), volunteers and friends of ABHMS.