

The Eastwood Baptist

EASTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

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SYRACUSE, NY 13206-3095

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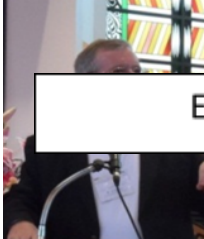
Syracuse, NY

Easter Sunday – April 4th

Eastwood Life

Connecting Hands & Hearts

“CONNECTING HEARTS & HANDS”



Eastwood Baptist Church Newsletter April 2021

Farewell Conversation

"I really felt that my thoughts would be a lot more organized than they are as I write this last piece for the newsletter..." That is how I started my farewell in 1989 as I prepared to leave a congregation after 9 years. You might think that after all these years, I might have it together by now. I could blame it on COVID-19 or age, but it is never easy to separate when you have been in a relationship.

I hope you will know that I love you all very much. I will miss you.

I hope and pray that you will love your next pastor as much as I have felt your love these many years. Eastwood Baptist has a way of caring for their pastors that makes them want to be the best pastors they can be. Love makes pastors better.

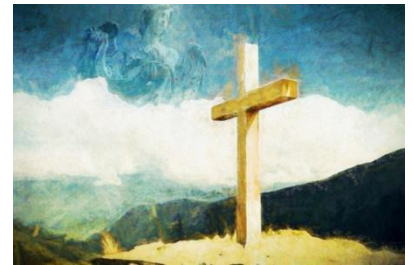
I also know that I have done and not done things that have caused people pain. I have said and not said things that have hurt. I am sorry. I would also pray that you will remember that it was me, and not the God who loves us so. He has broken people working for Him.

Interims can be both wonderful and stressful. Remember, God is ultimately our help and strength. There will be things to do. People will take on new tasks. You may get impatient or frustrated or... But this is a time to be especially present in worship and mission. God is never leaving. What can you do?

- Pray for the church and the transition to a new pastor.
- Attend worship regularly and with enthusiasm. Encourage one another.
- Send me a picture of you and your family with names on the back.

Good Friday Open Sanctuary

The sanctuary will be open for prayer and reflection on Good Friday from 10am to 4pm.



COMMUNITY EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Our traditional Easter Sunrise Service will be outside at Woodlawn Cemetery this year, at 6:30am. Bring your masks and appropriate wear for the weather. Area clergy will lead us in a brief and joyous time of worship as we welcome Easter morning. The sun rises at 6:40am.

EASTER WORSHIP CELEBRATION & COMMUNION

April 4TH at 10:30am

Pastor Paul Bailey

ETHICS FOR RETIRING PASTORS AND THOSE REPLACING THEM

Responsibilities of the Retiring Pastor

With more retiring pastors owning homes within the community of their last pastorate, careful attention must be given to the church's well-being and that of the new pastor called to serve that church. With this concern in mind, the region, in cooperation with the Commission on the Ministry and Ministers Council, sets forth the following as Regional Policy regarding this matter.

1. In keeping with the National Ministers Council Code of Ethics and the policies of the region, upon retirement, a pastor severs all pastoral ties with those previously served. This includes weddings, funerals, pastoral calls and visits, giving advice and counsel, and in any way continuing the previous pastoral relationships. This also involves attending church functions and services until an agreement can be made with the new pastor. Continuing ties of friendship is one thing; pastoral ties is another.
2. If remaining within the community last served, the retiring pastor will not attend the church previously served for a period of at least six months to one year following the retirement. Visits following that period will be at the invitation of the Interim Minister or the new pastor. Participation in weddings and funerals should be by invitation of the Interim Minister or new pastor. Persons not associated with the church should be encouraged to form a relationship with the church and its Interim Minister or new pastor.
3. Once the new pastor is in place, the relationship between the new pastor and the former pastor with the church she/he formerly served can be worked out. If a satisfactory and workable agreement cannot be reached between them, they may wish to consult with the Area Minister or Executive Minister.

[Next Applicable section]

7. Whenever a pastor is to remain within the community of a church just served, their relationship to that church, its Interim Minister, and it's newly called pastor shall be evaluated with the well-being of that church in mind. What evolves as a working relationship must give first priority to the needs of the church. Individuals' needs are important but must not take priority. The relationship of former pastor, Interim Minister and new pastor must reflect the needs of the church.

Dr. Ronald Brushwyler August 1996

Former Director Midwest Career Development Services Presented at the Ministers Council Senate

Upon the completion of my assignment, I will sever my professional relations with the church and will abstain from professional contacts with the congregation without the request or consent of the current pastor.

From the "The Covenant and Codes of Ethics for Professional Church Leaders of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A."

TRANSITIONS

Linda Troiano will be our newsletter editor going ahead. She welcomes your contributions.

Vaccinations – More and more in the congregation are receiving one or both vaccines, allowing for safer and safer gatherings.

Karen Sunday School restarts on April 11th in Titus Hall from 2-3 pm. We will wear masks and practice social distancing. If you can help on a regular basis or once in a while, please contact Laurie or Tom Hadlick for more information.



**CHURCH
WORKDAY**

SPRING WORK DAY

In Memoriam

Joseph Burgess, a long time member of the church, died at the Sunnyside Home on March 7th.

Teresa Euson, a friend of the congregation, died March 9th surrounded by family.



CELEBRATING in APRIL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those celebrating in April

April	1	Alison Wood Patricia Catchouny
	4	Gregg Kuersteiner
	9	Adrianna Raneri
	10	Allison Foland
	13	Sharee Pierce
	14	Steven Copps
	15	Bill Wood
	16	Angeline Kimbrell
	17	Mark DeWolf
	19	Debbie Joyce
	20	Elle Neeves
	22	Dakota Dunn
	24	Chuck Foland Katie Murphy Garth Cadiz Janet Freeman
	26	Adele Stinziano Steve Dunn
	28	Nancy Graham
	29	Beth Cox
	30	Rachel Neeves

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:

6	Susan and Mathew Richard
11	Lisa and David Sampson
13	Analisa and Francis Stinziano
15	Van & Thorn Duch
16	Carol and Karl Lutz
24	Luana and Dave Reeves
25	Amy and Garth Cadiz

Next steps... by Gayle Vinette (Church Moderator)

You may be wondering what comes next. Pastor Paul's last service will be April 18th and then he will be considered officially retired. I hope to keep you in the loop as we move through these next steps together as a congregation.

Who will preach after Paul leaves?

At our last Deacon's meeting we decided on the type of interim we thought would serve us best during our search for a new pastor. We decided to pursue an intentional interim. That is an Interim Minister who is specially trained to help guide us through this transitional process. Until we hire the intentional interim we will be having a variety of Pastors and Lay Ministers who will fill the pulpit. The Worship Commission has started the process of filling the pulpit each Sunday until such a time the Interim Minister is hired.

What will we do about funerals, weddings or sick visits?

The Interim we are looking for will pick up those responsibilities once they are hired. In the meantime if there is a need that arises please communicate that with the church office and we will help find a Pastor or Lay Minister who can fill in.

What about looking for a new Minister?

At the last Deacon's meeting we decided to move forward with forming the Search committee. The Search Committee is a dedicated group of 5 or so church members who will meet regularly in person or by Zoom to work through the process of finding the right Pastor for our church. Pulpit/Search Committees should consist of a good cross section of our congregation. It is a 12-18 month commitment. The members of the committee will work through a process including a self-study that is provided by the American Baptist Churches of New York State. This process helps us identify our values, needs and vision for our church and helps to match us with appropriate candidates. The Search committee's work is confidential but regular updates will be provided.

Who is on the Search committee?

Good question! We are looking for interested church members to serve on the Search Committee. It is a 12-18 month commitment to meet either in person or by Zoom. (See more details above) As we collect names, we will be nominating a group that reflects the diversity of our congregation.

If you are interested please contact Gayle Vinette at gaylevinette@gmail.com or 315-458-9546 by April 12th. The names of those selected will be voted on at our April board meeting and presented to the congregation for a vote at a congregational meeting held after church on Sunday April 25th. Your interest in serving could lead to this or a number of other tasks and committees that will be needed throughout this transitional period. So keep your heart and ears open for more opportunities to help.

ABCUSA Call to Prayer for Myanmar (Burma) 2021

1. Pray that the situation does not come to a proxy war in Myanmar.
2. Pray that the people's bitterness and anger doesn't come to the stage of "Anarchy." This will be our loss completely.



3. Pray that military will stop killing and arresting the peaceful protesters and release them as soon as possible.
4. Pray that Myanmar will be free from this dictatorship and be able to start a new nation free from injustice and military rule once and for all.
5. Pray that ethnic people will get equally rights in Myanmar.

In Christ's Name

Prayer request submitted by Rev. Dr. Saw Ler Htoo, General Secretary of Karen Baptist Churches USA, Pastor of Calvary Burmese Baptist Church, Washington D.C.

American Baptist Churches USA Mission and History

ABCUSA is one of the most diverse Christian organizations with approximately 5,000 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Its history of involvement with Burma (Myanmar today) dates back 200 years, when Ann and Adoniram Judson, the first American missionaries landed in the port of Rangoon on July 13, 1813. The Judsons and other early missionaries introduced Christianity to the Burmese, Chin, Karen, Kachin, Shan and many other ethnic groups of Burma. As a result of the American Baptist mission work, Baptists constitute the largest Christian organization in Myanmar, currently numbering nearly 1.4 million members in 17 Baptist Conventions. The Myanmar Baptist Convention (MBC) based in Rangoon is the umbrella organization with oversight to the Conventions. Christians in Myanmar have produced the largest number of religious workers among their own people. International Ministries (IM), ABCUSA's global ministries organization, continues its support to MBC and related Baptist churches through relief and development, educational scholarships, theological training, church development, and medical work in the country. American Baptists Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), the domestic ministries organization of ABCUSA, has sponsored nearly 120,000 world refugees with its partner organization, Church World Service (CWS), since after World War II through its office of immigration and refugees.

In the spring of 2007, the national Burma Refugees Task Force (BRTF) was initiated in response to the influx of Burma refugees. The name was changed to the Burma Refugee Commission (BRC) in 2014. There are 80,000 Burma refugee immigrants who are now affiliated with ABCUSA and live across 130 cities and towns, urban and suburban areas. These Burma "diaspora" communities and churches are working closely with ABCUSA and with their respective conventions to advocate for the concerns of those in Myanmar suffering from human rights and religious freedom violations. They also raise funds to assist their vulnerable families and ethnic communities in Myanmar, in refugee camps in Thailand, and displaced people in Malaysia and India.