



THE MESSENGER

EASTERN HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

Thank You for Being a Welcoming Church

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.” — Matthew 25:35–36

“We are a welcoming church.” I have heard this line many, many times, and, honestly, it is usually from a church that’s simply too complacent to do anything but smile and say hello to new people. Being friendly to people on a Sunday morning is often a cover-up for a lack of real concern for those people. You see, pretending to be a welcoming church takes very little effort, physically or spiritually. Actually being a welcoming church, however, takes a lot of effort. Just look at Jesus’ description in Matthew 25:35–36 of a welcoming Christian, feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing those who need clothes, and taking care of those who are sick and in trouble. Now, let me say, over the last four(ish) years that I have been your pastor, I have found Eastern Hills to actually be a welcoming church, you are the real deal.

I’ve seen you bring single mothers into this church and care for them as if they were your sisters or daughters. I’ve seen you invite the hungry out to a personal, sit-down meal. I’ve seen you invite strangers to family gatherings. I’ve seen you give foster children a home while others in the church surround and support the foster parents. I’ve seen you provide a place of belonging for those who don’t feel like they belong anywhere else. I’ve seen you pour out love over and over on others, expecting nothing in return. You aren’t just friendly on a Sunday morning, you are truly welcoming all the time, and I recently realized that I haven’t taken the time to thank you. As a pastor, it is a privilege to minister alongside a truly welcoming church.

And Jesus reminds us why it is so important to be this kind of church. Welcoming others is an act of caring more profound than the non-believing world would ever recognize. You see, we, Christ’s church, know the truth about the stranger, the hungry, the thirsty, the infirm. They are God’s creation, his unique image bearers and Jesus identifies with these people. He says in Matthew 25:40 that whatever we do to “the least of these” we do to him. Since we, the church, belong to him, of course we are going to welcome in “the least of these,” and not as some kind of humanitarian project, not to fulfill our good deed for the day, and certainly not to gain recognition in the church. We welcome people because this is how we would welcome Christ himself.

So, as I thank you for being a welcoming church, let me encourage you to continue and to grow in your welcoming spirit just as you continue in and grow in your love of Christ. Some of you are new to the idea of welcoming others this way. I encourage you to try it, yes, you. Find someone you don’t know and show them that you are glad to be here with them. Invite someone to lunch or to coffee. It doesn’t have to be someone who looks poor or out-of-place. It can be anyone. We all need to feel welcome here. And maybe you were once the recipient of such a welcoming attitude, I challenge you to pay it forward to someone else. Let your love for Christ shine through your actions and show someone, don’t just tell them, that you are glad they are here!

Pastor Josh



REGISTRATION INFORMATION & MORE DETAILS TO COME!



CURRENT AMOUNT: \$18,886 | GOAL: \$18,000

We exceeded our goal for Annie Armstrong! Because of your faithfulness \$18,886 is going straight to our North American missionaries for the spread of the gospel. Way to go church! — Pastor Josh

CAREGIVER DEMENTIA LUNCH & LEARN

Thursday, May 5, 2022 from 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM in the Reception Room. The most important part of caregiving is learning to take care of yourself. The more you know and understand about Dementia, the more equipped you are to care for your loved one as they travel the Dementia Journey.

UPCOMING SENIOR ADULT EVENTS

Movie Night

Thursday, April 28 at 6:00 PM in the Reception Room. The movie will be American Underdog. \$3 per person - this includes a hot dog, popcorn, and cookies. Sign-up on Realm!

Senior Adult Evangelism Conference

Monday, May 2 from 9:30 AM - noon. EHBC will be taking a bus to this conference. The bus will leave at 8:30 AM on Monday. We will have lunch in Prattville after the conference. Please arrive on time if you would like to attend. No sign-up is necessary. Call Dan Harrison or Angie Simmons if you have any questions.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER MENU —

Chick-fil-A Box: Sandwich, chips, and a cookie.

Hot Meal: Old fashion pot roast, roasted potatoes, broccoli and cheese casserole, sliced tomatoes, roll, and apple pie.

Salad: Grilled chicken caesar salad. Sign up online, on the Realm app or by calling the church offices. **Deadline every week is Monday at noon — no exceptions.**

PRAYER EMPHASIS

Let us thank God for the warm welcomes we have all received at Eastern Hills and let us ask that he would grow us in genuine care for everyone that comes across our path, all for the glory of the Lord.

FAMILY NEWS

Christian Sympathy

To **Gayle Cowan and Family** in the death of her husband, Billy Cowan.

IN THE PULPIT

10:30 A.M.

Striving for Unity —
“We Build Together”
1 Corinthians 3:1-23

BUDGET REPORT

YEAR TO DATE

Budget Requirements	\$571,132.34
Budget Receipts	546,109.37
UNDER Budget	25,022.97

WEEKLY BUDGET REPORT

APRIL 24, 2022

Budget Requirements	\$33,596.02
Budget Receipts	27,571.00
UNDER BUDGET	6,025.02

DESIGNATED

Designated	\$3,609.00
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CARPENTERS FOR CHRIST MEETING

There will be a Carpenters for Christ Organizational meeting this Sunday, May 1 at 2:00 PM in Room 150

Dot Erikson's 90th Birthday Celebration
Saturday, May 7 from 2:00-4:00 in the Reception Room. Everyone is invited to attend!

BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS MAT MINISTRY

A donation bin has been placed in the stairwell across from the church office for plastic bag donations.

THE MESSENGER

EASTERN HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

The Messenger, Eastern Hills Baptist Church
3604 Pleasant Ridge Road, Montgomery, Alabama 36109.
334-272-0604

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Worship Service, 10:30 AM
Library Hours, 8:30 AM - 10:15 AM
Student Choir, 4:00 PM

TUESDAY

Men's Prayer Meeting, 6:00 AM in the RR
Women's Bible study, 9:30 AM in the RR

WEDNESDAY

Supper in the Gym, 5:00 PM
ACTEENS & Real Men, 5:30 PM
SLAM (ages 2-6th grade), 5:30-7:15 PM
Adult Choir, 6:00 PM
Adult Bible Study, 6:00 PM in the RR
Men's Bible Study, 6:00 PM in Room 150
ONE (Student Ministry), 6:15 PM
Library Hours, 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM

*Schedule may change due to special events or holidays



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Congratulations to our member, Karla Groves, for winning the Senior Volunteer of the Year award from HandsOn River Region!

MENTORS MEETING

Thursday, April 28 in Room 154. The meeting will begin sharply at 12:45 PM. Please be on time. Candace McIntosh will be our guest. She will conduct a zoom prayer time with Pakistani missionaries during the meeting beginning at 1:00 PM. Candace will then share important information about the WMU. Don't miss this amazing opportunity!