

THE MESSENGER

EASTERN HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

A TIME TO BE THANKFUL!

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

I love to have something growing in my garden. This year I did not have a spring and summer garden, and my garden spot grew up with weeds and I had some extremely healthy weeds. As time for a fall garden approached, I began to fight the weeds and get the ground ready to plant collard greens. The ground was extremely hard and there were a lot of weeds to pull out so I could plant the new plants. Once the ground was cleared and the dirt was tilled, I was ready to plant the new plants. In just a few weeks the new plants have grown, and they are almost ready for the first harvest.

These new plants would have never survived if I had not prepared the ground and removed the weeds. Our hearts are like my garden spot. Sometimes it gets over-run with the pesky weeds, and the weeds keep us from enjoying all that God longs to give us. We must take care of our heart and keep the soil of our heart clean so that we can receive all that God longs to give us. Scripture is filled with encouragement to be thankful. Our experiences tell us that being thankful is essential in the pursuit of an abundant life.

Thankfulness is one of the most powerful tools in making our hearts soft to the seed of God’s word and filled with abundant joy. Thanksgiving aligns our thoughts and emotions with the reality of God’s goodness in a world wrought with lies about the character of God. It breeds joy and trust rather than entitlement and negativity.

The Bible is filled with commands to be thankful. Ephesians 5:20 tells us to be *“giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* Philippians 4:6 tells us, *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”* But my favorite command on thankfulness is Psalm 107:1, *“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!”*

You see, it is important to understand that the Bible does not suggest that we give thanks, but rather commands us to always be thankful. And in God’s command he reveals his heart. We learn in Psalm 107 that our thankfulness is meant to be a response to the steadfast love of our heavenly Father. Thankfulness is meant to be the overflow of remembering, encountering, and mulling over how our God is abundantly faithful and filled with unconditional love for us.

I used to read Scripture commanding me to be thankful and think, “Sorry God, I know I need to be more thankful. I know I am so provided for and loved. I am sorry for not thanking you more.” But after meditating on Psalm 107:1, I realized that my lack of thankfulness is a symptom of not spending enough time encountering God’s wonderful character rather than a core issue in and of itself. Tilling the soil of my heart through thankfulness requires that I set aside time to simply experience God’s goodness and love. Because everything he does is by grace, my natural response to his character will always be one of thanksgiving.

Take time today to reflect on the faithful and loving character of your heavenly Father. Allow his goodness to cause thankfulness to well up within you. May your time in guided prayer be filled with a transformational encounter with God and cultivate good soil that bears the fruit of an abundant life. This next week we will celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving. This holiday reminds us to be thankful for all the things that God has blessed us with. Not just this holiday but every day.

Dan Harrison

EASTERN HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH PRESENTS

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

THE LIGHT HAS COME!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
3:00 PM

Featuring the Eastern Hills
Adult Choir & Guest Orchestra

Also Features: Children & Youth Choirs
and Celebration Ringers (Handbell Choir)

Christmas Cookie Fellowship will
immediately follow in the Reception Room!



Tea Cakes for Lottie

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

GA's & RA's will sell tea cakes before & after Sunday School. All proceeds will go toward the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

CONTACT:
MORGAN HILLIARD



Thanksgiving Feast & Praise Service

Tuesday, November 26

Supper at 5 PM ♦ Praise Service at 6 PM

Families are encouraged to attend the meal in the gym at 5 PM and stay for the service at 6 PM. If you do not have a standing Wednesday night supper reservation, please call the church office or register online by noon on *Thursday, November 21* to reserve. Cost of the meal is \$8 per person. No other groups will meet on Tuesday, November 26. There will be no services or activities on Wednesday, November 27. *The Church Office will be CLOSED Thursday, November 28 - Friday, November 29.*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

There will be no Wednesday night supper, prayer meeting or activities.

The church office will be closed
Thursday, Nov. 28 and Friday, Nov. 29.



Operation Christmas
Child Shoeboxes
Total Collected: 138

THANK YOU EHBC!



**River Region
Brass Band**

Christmas Program

SUN, DEC 15, 2024 | 3:00 PM
Eastern Hills Baptist Church
3604 Pleasant Ridge Road
Montgomery, AL 36109

Women's Ministry Fall Dinner
Over 100 women attended for an evening of great fellowship, delicious food and a lesson on life changing faith!



IN THE PULPIT
SUNDAY, November 24 | 10:30 AM
Pastor Jeremy Smalley
Let Us Thank Him
(Grounds for Gratitude)
Psalm 100

ATTENDANCE
Sunday, November 17, 2024

SUNDAY SCHOOL
 Total In-Person..... 207
 Remote..... 31

WORSHIP
 Worship Care.....8
 Worship Service.....196
 Total Worship.....204

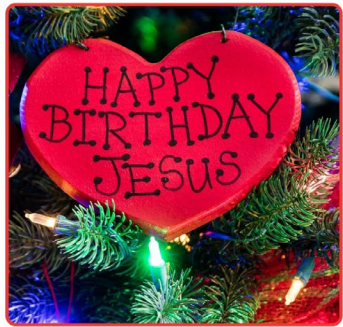
SENIOR ADULT EVENTS

Monday, November 25, 8:00 AM - Senior Breakfast Bunch at Chappy's on Perry Hill Road

Tuesday, December 10, 6:00 PM - Senior Adult Christmas Party, Reception Room - \$10 per person, Sign up online, in Sunday School or call the church office by Thursday, December 5th.

Thursday, December 12, 9:30 AM - Celebration Singers, choir Suite.

Thursday, December 19, 9:00 AM - Celebration Singers & Voices of Victory will sing at The Crossings Assisted Living-Eastchase. The bus will leave EHBC at 9:00 AM.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
 4:00 - 7:00 PM
 EHBC GYM
 BABIES TO 6TH GRADE
 Event is free.
 Children will make crafts,
 enjoy a Bible story and
 end with a party.
 Parents will have 3 hours to
 shop, wrap gifts or rest!
 You must pre-register in advance
 so that childcare can be available.

BUDGET REPORT

YTD BUDGET REPORT

Budget Requirements	\$1,272,588.16
Budget Receipts	1,168,396.76
UNDER BUDGET	104,191.40

WEEKLY BUDGET REPORT
November 17, 2024

Budget Requirements	\$27,664.96
Budget Receipts	26,649.06
UNDER BUDGET	1,015.90

DESIGNATED
 Designated \$970.00

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24
WE WILL VOTE TO APPROVE
THE 2025 BUDGET.

FAMILY NATIVITY WALK



Come celebrate Christmas with your EHBC family and bring your Nativity to display at our Nativity Walk. A placard will be displayed with your name and any information you want to share about your Nativity. Santa will also be at the walk for children to visit. Cider & Cookies will be served.

Sunday, December 22
 3:00 - 4:30 | Reception Room

Donations will be accepted to help provide Bibles for the Montgomery Fire & Rescue Training Academy Graduates.

Contact: Cyndi Arnold, 303-1156


Sign up in Sunday School or call the church office. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, December 15.

You will set up your display on Sunday, December 22, between 1:30 - 3:00 PM.

Sanctuary Flowers

November 24, 2024

In Loving Memory of
Annette & Kenneth Banks
 on the occasion of their birthdays,
 given by Vickie Dudley & family



**A Cookie Fellowship
will follow the
Celebrate Christmas
Choir Program on
December 8th,
Reception Room.**

*Homemade
Cookies Needed*

**Sign-up in Sunday School.
Please bring cookies by
Sunday morning, December 8.
You can leave the cookies in the
Reception Room kitchen.**

Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias are available for those who would like to place a flower in the Sanctuary this Christmas Season in memory or honor of a loved one. Please fill out the form below, along with payment and mail or drop in the offering plate or offering boxes located by the Sanctuary doors. We will print in THE MESSENGER the names of those giving poinsettias and to whom they are given in memory or honor.

Available Poinsettias Include:

20 LIVE Poinsettia, \$17 each - You may pick up your live poinsettia following the Christmas Eve Service on December 24th.

20 RED SILK Poinsettia, \$19 each - These will remain at the church to use each Christmas season. Your memorial/honorary designations will be acknowledged each year.

Circle One: LIVE or SILK *Deadline to reserve your poinsettia is Sunday, December 8.*

Given By: _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

NOVEMBER MISSIONS EMPHASIS



**Sam's Angel
Market**

**TOTAL COLLECTED:
\$425.00**

Gift envelopes are available in the pew backs and sanctuary entrances.



**STRENGTH TO STAND CONFERENCE | EHBC Youth, 7-12th Grade
December 27-30, 2024 | Pigeon Forge, TN**

The cost is \$125 per person. You can register online through the Realm App or easternhills.church. The cost includes conference fee, hotel, meals, and fun surprise outings. If you have questions, please contact Taylor Noah.

THE MESSENGER

EASTERN HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

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

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

9:15 AM - Sunday School
10:30 AM - Worship Service
8:30 - 10:15 AM - Library Hours

TUESDAY

6:00 AM - Men's Prayer Meeting in the RR

WEDNESDAY

5:00 PM - Supper, Gym
5:45 PM - Acteens
5:45 PM - M² Music & Missions (4K - 6th grade)
6:00 PM - Adult Bible Study - Reception Room
6:15 PM - ONE (7th-12th grades) in the Youth Room
6:15 PM - Adult Choir Rehearsal



**November 24
Children's Worship
Ten Commandments
Grades: K-3
Please bring your Bible.**

POSTAGE

ADDRESS LABEL