



# The Eastwood Beacon

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

- Mission Statement adopted by Eastwood Baptist Church, January 19, 2014.

November 15, 2017

## In the Image of God

As the year-end approaches, we once again enter that wonderful time of celebration: Celebration of Thanksgiving and Celebration of the birth of Christ. The interlude between celebrations, Advent, is a time of pondering and preparation.

Let us ponder the two mysteries of faith taught by scriptures:

First, all humans are created "in the image of God" (Genesis 1:27) and as such, share a common race – the human race. In efforts to control other human beings, the world likes to separate people groups into race, nation, tribe, language, religion, education, and economic status with some groups declared as superior to others. "Those living on the Southside of Chicago knew they were superior to those on the Northside or Westside." From God's perspective, we are made in and carry the image of God. There is no superior race, just a human race that is profoundly loved by God (John 3:16). The truth of love is that it transcends and breaks down all human boundaries.

This love of God leads to the second mystery of the season: The creator God took on human flesh, became a member of the human race – Emmanuel. God became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). Eugene Peterson paraphrases Paul's words in Philippians 2: 6 – 11:

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself.

He had equal status with God, but didn't think so much of himself  
that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what.  
Not at all.

When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity  
and took on the status of a slave, became *human!*

Having become human, he stayed human.

It was an incredibly humbling process.

He didn't claim special privileges.

Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life  
and then died a selfless, obedient death

– and the worst kind of death at that: a crucifixion.

In love, he became human flesh, resisting the worldly patterns of separations, and then offered himself as an atonement for all flesh.

Paul then challenges us: Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself.

Our World could use a lot more of that kind of thinking – of that kind of loving.

Happy Ponderings – Happy Thanksgiving

Pastor Miller

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## EASTWOOD STAFF

**Randolph T. Miller**

*Pastor*

**Sharon Dady**

*Choir Director*

**Linda Tripp**

*Accompanist*

**Sue Becker**

*Church Secretary*

**Sam J. Angulo**

*Custodian*

**Kaitlyn Brunson**

*Nursery Attendant*

## Transition Times and Pastoral Services

Eastwood is an American Baptist Congregation and as such operates under a constitution that directs the Board of Deacons to ensure continuity of Pastoral Services in times of transition.

With the retirement announcement of Pastor Miller, the Board of Deacons is already assuming their responsibilities for smooth transition and continuity of Pastoral Services.

On September 30th, 2017, a request was made to Rev. Steve Bils, executive minister of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast, for an interim pastor. It is anticipated the Interim will begin as early as middle February or as late as the end of March, 2018.

This Interim Pastor will provide leadership and pastoral care during the period that Eastwood searches for their new pastor.

Pulpit supply has already been arranged for the early months of 2018 and includes the following:

January 7     George Nye, pastor of Eastwood, retired  
January 14    George Nye  
January 21    Steve Bils, Executive Minister, ABC-CPC  
January 28    Michael Sayler, pastor of Eastwood, retired  
February 4    Michael Sayler  
February 11   Don Hildebrand, member of Eastwood, chaplain, retired.  
February 18   Don Hildebrand  
February 25   Ev Denniston, former youth minister, Eastwood

Additionally, the Board of Deacons is working to secure Pastoral Care services during this period of time, prior to when the Interim Pastor arrives. It is anticipated that these pastoral care services will be in place when the new year begins.

A congregational meeting to survey dreams, feelings, and hopes of members for determining the direction of the church is planned for early January.

It is anticipated that the Pastoral Search Committee will be formed and appointed during the month of March or soon after the arrival of the Interim Pastor. This search committee will begin regular meetings with guidance of our Executive Minister. It is likely that this process will take more than a year.

Meanwhile, all committees of the Board of Deacons are extending their planning into 2018. We will hold our Annual Meeting on January 21, 2018 for the propose of approving the 2018 budget and electing deacons and moderator for three years terms.

Further information will be provided when it is available. Any questions can be forwarded to your leadership team of Deacons and Pastor Miller.

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.    Philippians 4:4-7*

Randolph Miller, Pastor

Jerry Darby, Moderator

## Thanks and Praise - 11/12

Thank you, Rev. Fred Grewe – Always enjoy your sermon.  
Get well, Pastor Randy!

Great message for us all to hear for our upcoming changes.  
Thank you, Fred.

Dear Eastwood,

On behalf of everyone at the American Baptist Seminary of the West I want to offer my sincere gratitude for your generous gift which will be applied to the Seminary Fund. That fund provides an enduring level of support for the ongoing needs of the seminary and our students.

We are pleased to have Eastwood Baptist Church as a sustaining partner in this sacred enterprise. Too few consider where the next generation of moral and spiritual leaders will come from, yet their expectations for excellence are undiminished. Thus, if those leaders are to have the highest quality of preparation for the challenges of ministry in the 21st century we must join together to ensure that they have the support they need. We at ABSW are honored to have you stand with us in this great work.

Sincerely,  
James E. Brenneman, President

## Christmas Poinsettias

For Christmas our Worship Center will be decorated with live poinsettias purchased by the congregation.



We are inviting you to individually purchase the poinsettias by using the following form. The Worship Committee will place the flowers on December 10th and will care for them.

If you are interested, please fill in the necessary information and return this slip to the office. The cost is \$10 each. On Christmas Eve we will publish who the poinsettias are "In Honor/Celebration Of" or "In Memory Of" and you may take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve Service.

I will purchase \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s)

In Honor/Celebration of :

\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

My name :

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number:

\_\_\_\_\_

## 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

**Lolo Vasquez**, Iraq

**Aaron Chisem**, US Navy

**Jason Cesario**, Iraq

**Logan Oravetz**, Army

**Tyler Powell**, Marines

**Tiffany Hart**, Air Force

**Trevor Swanson**, Air Force

**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**, **Ed & Miriam Noyes**, **Glen & Rita Chapman**, and **Kyle & Katrina Williams**) serving around the world.

## Mission News from Jonna Reeder

Jonna Reeder, daughter of John and Walda Reeder, has returned to the USA after 15 years serving overseas. She will be moving to Seattle on November 1st and requests your prayers for her future in God's service.

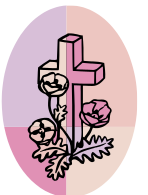
## New Library Books

Max Lucado. Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World.

Eric Metaxas. Martin Luther; the Man who Rediscovered God and Changed the World.

*In Memory of*

**Jim Brummet**



At home with the Lord: November 11, 2017

# Responding to Violence in Our Society – American Baptists Express Love and Not Fear

Published on November 6th, 2017 | by ABCUSA

## A Pastoral Letter from Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer, General Secretary, ABCUSA

November 6, 2017

Dear American Baptist Family,

On Tuesday, October 31, my son and I were traveling home from the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board meetings in Manhattan. Driving south on the West Side Highway, and then turning west to enter New Jersey through the Lincoln Tunnel, I was unaware that just a short distance away a terrorist act of extreme violence was unfolding. Yesterday, while traveling home from a wonderful ABCOFLASH celebration of the executive ministry of Sam Chetti, along with the rest of the country, I was deeply saddened by the news of the horrific violence inflicted upon the members of the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Texas.

American Baptists categorically reject all forms of unnecessary and senseless violence, regardless of motivation. Throughout the country, I know our churches will mourn and pray for the church and the town they serve in solidarity with all who have experienced grievous loss. I ask for every church to dedicate a special time of prayer for First Baptist Church and Sutherland Springs when you gather for Bible study, service or worship this week.

In 1998, American Baptists stated:

The culture of violence is manifested both in the pervasiveness of overt acts of physical force and in the more subtle dynamics by which harm is persistently done to people. This culture of violence is reflected in such ways as: the glorified role of violence in historic frontier communities; violence in the family; violence of sexual abuse, incest and rape; violence in the workplace; violence in the schools; violence in the streets; violence in the criminal justice system; violence in the use of guns, knives, and other weapons of assault; violence in the military; violence in war; violence in the marketing of weapons; violence of industries that profit by harming others; violence in the media; violence in music; violence of hate crimes; violence of the systematic destruction of the earth; and the existence of nuclear weapons, wherein we have seized the divine prerogative to determine the destiny of humanity. (AMERICAN BAPTIST POLICY STATEMENT ON VIOLENCE, June 1998)

Accordingly, I ask our churches, pastors and members to re-commit to proactive Christian and biblical witness and ministry, including (as examples):

- 1) Let us gather together in love, and not fear. “Perfect love casts out all fear,” according to 1 John 4:18. Do not give in to reactionary fear that promotes unhealthy responses to violence. May we keep the doors of our sanctuaries and buildings open, not locked. Paul calls us to “practice hospitality” (Romans 12:13) and not be fearful of strangers.
- 2) Work as peacemakers, because Jesus stated, “Blessed are the peacemakers” (Matthew 5:9). Let us serve as healing agents in our communities, since we are called to be “ambassadors of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:20).
- 3) Let us “bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2). Let us train our members to discern when people around us are troubled and may require professional assistance in order to prevent violence.
- 4) Regardless of political perspective, can’t we all agree that sensible measures can be taken to keep weapons from people who have mental illnesses or terrorist ties?

*Continued on Page 5*

## Responding to Violence in Our Society - Continued

5) I would encourage pastors and church leaders to contact your Executive Minister if you are willing to either participate in a conversation about the church and violence, or if you would consider cooperating on a common anti-violence witness in your region.

6) Consider creating sensible and practical crisis management policies and procedures, in cooperation with your local police and insurance agencies, to prepare your church for possible future crises.

In closing, let us dedicate ourselves to the advice Paul gave to us in troubled times:

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends,...Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:17-19; 21)

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer  
ABCUSA General Secretary

Affirmed by Randolph Miller  
November 10, 2017



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### Advent 2017 Sunday Worship Services "The Characters of Christmas"



Sunday, December 3rd -

Hope - Mary & Joseph

Sunday, December 10th

Peace - The Shepherds

Sunday, December 17th

Joy - The Wise Ones

Sunday, December 24th

Love - The Birth of Christ

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### Wednesday Evening Prayer Services Fellowship Dinner at 5:15 - Prayer Service at 6:00 The Prophecies of Isaiah

Wednesday, December 6th "The Stump of Jesse" Isaiah 11: 1 - 9

Wednesday, December 13th "Streams in the Desert" Isaiah 43: 14 - 21

Wednesday, December 20th "Emmanuel" Isaiah 7: 10 - 14

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### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

*Sing Joy to All the World!*

A Christmas Celebration

By Lloyd Larson

Performed by the Eastwood Sanctuary Choir



# December 2017

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

<p>Nov 26</p> <p>8:00 Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service</p>	<p>Nov 27</p> <p>10:00 Women's Grove Bible Study 7:00 Boys Scouts</p>	<p>Nov 28</p> <p>Noon - Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>Nov 29</p> <p>11:00 Staff Meeting <b>Mission Nite with Dan &amp; Sarah Chetti</b> 5:15 Dinner 6:00 Presentation 7:15 Choir Practice</p>	<p>Nov 30</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:30 Hanging of the Greens 10:00 Uke Practice 1:00 Baby Shower for Mikayla Goins/Baby Elias</p>
<p>3</p> <p><b>1st Sunday of Advent - Hope</b></p> <p>8:00 Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Communion Worship Service</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 Women's Grove Bible Study 7:00 Boys Scouts</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Noon - Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11:00 Staff Meeting 5:15 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 Advent Prayer Service 7:15 Choir Practice</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1:00 Fellowship Support at New Far East 5:30 Deacons' Agape Meeting</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00 Uke Practice</p>
<p>10</p> <p><b>2nd Sunday of Advent - Peace</b></p> <p>8:00 Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 Women's Grove Bible Study 7:00 Boys Scouts</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Noon - Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11:00 Staff Meeting 5:15 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 Advent Prayer Service 7:15 Choir Practice</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00 Builders' Social</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30 Women's Fellowship Breakfast at Punky's 10:00 Uke Practice</p>
<p>17</p> <p><b>3rd Sunday of Advent - Joy</b></p> <p>8:00 Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service</p> <p><b>Family Christmas Celebration</b></p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 Women's Grove Bible Study 7:00 Boys Scouts</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Noon - Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11:00 Staff Meeting 5:15 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 Advent Prayer Service 7:15 Choir Practice</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:30 Deacons' Business Meeting</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p><b>Christmas Eve</b></p> <p><b>4th Sunday of Advent - Love</b></p> <p>8:00 Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>Christmas Day</b></p>	<p>26</p> <p>Noon - Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p><b>New Years' Eve</b></p> <p>8:00 Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service</p>	<p>Jan 1</p> <p><b>New Years' Day</b></p>	<p>Jan 2</p> <p>Noon - Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>Jan 3</p>	<p>Jan 4</p> <p>1:00 Fellowship Support at New Far East</p>	<p>Jan 5</p>	<p>Jan 6</p>

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1-Dec	Curtis Smith
1-Dec	Eunice Williams
3-Dec	Danny Meuse
7-Dec	John Mast
7-Dec	Bob Yoshida
8-Dec	Betty Hewitt
13-Dec	Chris Tarrant
14-Dec	Larry Aguirre
14-Dec	Luke Lektorich
14-Dec	Kevin Nottingham
15-Dec	Gail Eastman
15-Dec	Fernando Gomez
17-Dec	Don Bolles
20-Dec	Kristyn Brunson
22-Dec	Felicity Saylor
23-Dec	Sandra Nye
24-Dec	Chrissy Chisem
25-Dec	Judy Versteeg
28-Dec	Clementina Gomez
29-Dec	Ada Kirkman Harsch
30-Dec	John Yungen

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1-Dec	Merle & Rosalie Neufeld
10-Dec	Jerry & Sue Lektorich
27-Dec	Rev. Randolph & Leslie
28-Dec	Aaron & Cathy Thayer
31-Dec	Michael & Marybeth Gresham

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Please contact Sue in the Church Office or note it on your communication card if your special day has been missed or reported incorrectly.

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### *New Address/Phone Number*

Kerry and Jenna Sandstrom  
2480 Connell Avenue  
Medford, OR 97501

Mildred Byers (541) 621-5125

## *Eastwood's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner*

*November 19th!*

*Immediately following the  
Worship Service*



Your fellowship committee will be serving turkey with ALL the trimmings. In order to accommodate everyone we need an accurate count so please make reservations on your communication cards or call Sue in the church office.

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### **Year End Love Gift**

Dear Congregation,

It is the desire of your Board of Deacons to provide a Year-End Love Gift to our Pastor and staff as a way of showing our appreciation for their service to us this year. If you wish to participate in this "Thank You," please place your gift in one of the Love Offering envelopes, designating your checks to "Staff Love Gift" and place it in the offering plate or turn it into the church office during normal business hours.

Thank you for your generosity in this opportunity to share God's love with our staff this Christmas season.

Jerry Darby, Moderator

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### **Eastwood Knitters and Crocheters**

We will again be collecting hats and scarves to be donated to the Maslow Project at Christmas time. If you need yarn, please check the closet by the give-away books.

Please bring them to the "yarn closet" or the office when you are finished.

Any questions, call Joan Avery, 541 702-2114 or Barbara Davis, 541 414-4889.

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### **Mission Giving Opportunity**

November's Mission Giving Opportunity will be the Medford Gospel Mission. The primary purpose of the Mission is to reach people with the saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The secondary purpose is to feed, clothe and shelter people in need.

Bottles are available on the Mission table to take home and bring back with your loose change.

**Women of Eastwood Fellowship Breakfast  
Saturday, November 18th - 9:30 a.m.**

Come join us for fellowship and breakfast at Punky's Diner in Medford. See you there!



Questions? Need a ride?  
Call Sue Lektorich (541) 499-1059

**December Cookie & Host/Hostess Sign-ups!**

It's time to sign up to bring cookies for our Fellowship hour. The cookie calendar is located on the kiosk closest to the Church Office. We would also love to see some new faces behind the cookie and punch tables. Please call Suzan Darby if you would like to host.

**Mission Nite with Dan & Sarah Chetti**

Dan and Sarah Chetti will be with us from Lebanon on Wednesday, Nov. 29th. Dinner will be served at 5:15 p.m. and will be followed by dessert. The program will start at 6:00 p.m.



Please sign up on your communication card so we have an accurate count of



**Eastwood Beacon**

The next issue of *The Beacon* will be **December 6th, 2017**. If you have anything you would like put in the *Beacon*, an upcoming event, a function, etc. please **have all copy in the church office by 12:00 noon on Tuesday, November 14th, 2017**.

Email [sbecker@ebcmedford.org](mailto:sbecker@ebcmedford.org)  
This Beacon will **not** be mailed.



**Baby Shower for: Mikayla Goins/Baby Elias**

**December 2, 2017 - 1:00 p.m.  
Eastwood Koinonia Building**

**November 19, 2017**

**SUNDAY, November 19th - Thanksgiving Sunday**

Prayer in Chapel	8:00
Sunday School	9:15
Worship Service, Pastor Miller, preaching	10:30
Thanksgiving dinner following the Worship service.	

**MONDAY, November 20th**

Boy Scouts	7:00
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**TUESDAY, November 21st**

Men's Bible Study	Noon
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**WEDNESDAY, November 22nd**

Staff Meeting	11:00
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**THURSDAY, November 23rd - Thanksgiving Day  
Office Closed**

**FRIDAY, November 24th  
Office Closed**

**SATURDAY, November 25th**

Church Work Party	9:00
Uke Practice	10:00

**November 26, 2017**

**SUNDAY, November 26th**

Prayer in Chapel	8:00
Sunday School	9:15
Worship Service, Pastor Miller, preaching	10:30

**MONDAY, November 27th**

Women's Grove Bible Study	10:00
Boy Scouts	7:00

**TUESDAY, November 28th**

Men's Bible Study	Noon
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**WEDNESDAY, November 29th**

Staff Meeting	11:00
Mission Nite with the Chettis	5:15
Choir Practice	7:15

**THURSDAY, November 30th**

**FRIDAY, December 1st**

**SATURDAY, December 2nd**

Hanging of the Greens	9:30
Uke Practice	10:00