



The Eastwood Beacon

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

December 18, 2019

As I sit to write this December newsletter message, the easy jazz music of the Vince Guaraldi Trio's 'Oh Christmas Tree' is looping in my mind. For some reason, this is the only time of year that I crave piano jazz. I'm stunned that Christmas is less than a week away and somewhat worried that I've done no shopping, though I have made quite a few things for other people to give as gifts.

We spend so much time and energy trying to find the right gifts for the people we love. Sometimes we try to take care of a physical need. "We'll get uncle Phil a sweater and socks." Other times, we hope to elicit a strong emotional response. "Oh Jeff, you shouldn't have!" Occasionally with give those gifts that are really for ourselves, whether we realize it or not.

Once a few years ago, I couldn't decide on a gift for Brenda. Down to the wire, I wandered the aisles at Walmart seeking inspiration and found it in an ice-cream maker. Now Brenda likes ice-cream, but she's perfectly content to purchase it packaged nicely in the store. I'm the one who tries to do strange things like making mozzarella cheese in the microwave. Needless to say, she was less than impressed with her ice-cream maker, though I love it.

The best gift we have ever received is simply Jesus. God chose to enter creation taking on the flesh and weaknesses of God's created people. Mary is called blessed to be his mother. Elizabeth recognized him as Lord before his birth. Ananias and Sapphira recognized the infant as messiah. John named his own inadequacy in baptizing Jesus. Nicodemus debated him, Pharisees scorned him, the Jews rejected him and Rome executed him. He invites all to be part of his Kingdom and offers life for all who make him the Lord of their life. What a gift from God!

If I could pick a gift for each of you this season, I'd ask you all, like Elizabeth, would recognize and receive the gift of Jesus as Lord of your life. By this I don't just mean that you call yourself a Christian; rather that Jesus and his teachings would be the first and highest priority and authority in your life. I would seek the gift of submission to his identity over your political party, your nation, your state university preference, even over your family. For in that submission, you will find peace, hope, joy and love.

May you all find your life filled with Jesus in word, action and inspiration!

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EASTWOOD STAFF

Rev. Jeff Lundblad

Pastor

Sharon Dady

Choir Director

Linda Tripp

*Accompanist &
Worship Coordinator*

Sue Becker

Church Secretary

Sam J. Angulo

Custodian

Kaltlyn Higginbotham

Nursery Attendant

Pastor Jeff

An Advent Devotion: Mary's Magnificat

Luke 1: 46b-55

Isaiah 35: 1-10



“God is turning the world upside down.”

Whatever else can be said about Mary's song of praise to God, this “Magnificat” from the heart of the mother of Jesus, proclaims is that God is the One who brings down the mighty and exalts the lowly, who fills the hungry and sends the rich away empty. In the birth of Jesus Christ we see, once again, the work of God in the great reversal of fortunes where places are exchanged between the rich and powerful with the poor and powerless. Through God's choice of Mary to bring the Christ in human flesh, God continues the work of turning the world upside down in which

“The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad

.....

the eyes of the blind shall be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.”

Mary sings of this great turning because as she humbly professes to be God's “lowly servant,” Mary was gifted to see with the eyes of the heart in at least three ways. She looked at and saw what was real, recognizing the magnitude of injustice perpetrated by the powerful and rich and how the economic, political and religious systems crushed the weak and vulnerable. She also saw what could be and what should be, the intention of God for life where

“the lame shall leap like a deer and
the tongue of the speechless sings for joy”
and

“waters break forth in the wilderness and
streams in the desert.”

And she saw that, in her lowliness, she was not alone as her

“spirit rejoices in God [her] Savior.

Surely, from now on, all generations will call [her] blessed.”

In the midst of the injustice, oppression and devastation we humans are inflicting upon Earth, all people and all living beings, what do you see today? Like Mary, do we see what's real, recognizing that our way of life, modern industrial society, is wreaking havoc on eco-systems everywhere with the greatest impact upon the weakest and most vulnerable people, those who contribute the least to the destruction? Do we see what can be done and should be done for the sake of the “world that God so loves,” with both individual acts of compassion and care, and systemic changes that must come about in order for God's great reversal to realized? What can you do within your congregation and community and as American Baptists? And do we see that despite the dire circumstances we have created, we are not alone in our call and quest to be faithful servants of the God of all life to help create a more just and sustainable world for all?

We are not alone. God is with us; Immanuel. Sing praise to God for the great turning!

You may want to listen to the song, “[Canticle of the Turning](#),” by Gary Daigle and Rory Conney.

Rev. Tom Carr

Pastor, Second Baptist Church, Suffield, CT

Thanks and Praise

THANK YOU!

Thanks to the following people helped out at the last Church Work Party:

Jerry Darby
Don Eastman
Ellen Husel
Gene & Fay Rashé
Merle Neufeld

Our next work party will take place on Saturday, January 11th at 9:00 a.m. Come join us!

Paul Klatt
Buildings & Properties

With Thanksgiving,

Many times I'm the one who gets all the thanks and kudos for the Thanksgiving dinner. It would never happen without the many folks who help me. So this is a big THANK YOU to those who helped.

Turkey bakers: Fay Rashe, Susan and Jerry Darby, Susan and Terry Miller.

Saturday prep: Fay and Gene Rashe decorated tables, Susan and Jerry Darby prepped and carved the turkeys, Sue Becker made the sweet potatoes.

Sunday cooking: Susan and Jerry Darby and Fay Rashe. Mary Lewis made the corn bread dressing.

Servers: Susan and Jerry Darby, Sue and John Becker, Barbara Barnhill, and Fay Rashe.

Donation for the five turkeys was graciously given by Marv and Norma Hart. WOW!

Thank you all so much!
With a Grateful Heart,
Sandy Tepper



Dear Friends,

Thank you to all who have been so helpful around the office and the church this past year. Your help and fellowship has meant so much to me. Special thanks to: Allan Campbell, Carolyn Dutton, Sandy and Sue Shaw, Carolyn Barnhill, and Hugh and Barbara Barnhill.

Blessings to you at this Season of Christmas.

Sue Becker, Church Secretary



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

Emilia Gilmer, Army

Lolo Vasquez, Iraq

Jason Cesario, Iraq

Logan Oravetz, Army

Tyler Powell, Marines

Tiffany Hart, 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. **Tim & Mary Dady** serving in Latvia

2020 Church Directories

A Draft copy of the 2020 Church Directory is at the Welcome Center. Please make any corrections to addresses, phone numbers, birthdays, or any other information that is in error. New Church Directories will be available at the Annual Meeting on January 19th.

2020 Budget & Deacon Nominations

The 2020 Budget and Deacon Nominations have been posted on the kiosk closest to the Church Office.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are a number of opportunities for service at Eastwood. Check out this list and if you are interested, write it on your communication card and we'll get you connected.

- Sunday school or Kid's church teacher or assistant.
- Preparing the pews for Sunday Worship Services
- Preparing the Beacon for mailing
- Church Work Days - helping maintain the grounds and building
- Join the choir!
- Preparing the bulletin for Sunday Worship Service
- Transportation for those who don't drive
- Serve on a Deacon Committee
- Help prepare or serve meals for special events
- Bake Cookies for the Fellowship Hour

January 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>Dec 29</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Rev. George Nye</p>	<p>Dec 30</p>	<p>Dec 31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p>	<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day Office Closed</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1:00 Fellowship Support at New Far East</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Communion Worship Service Dr. Fred Grewe</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 Women's Grove Bible Study 7:00 Boys Scouts</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Noon - Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:15 Choir Practice</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:30 Deacons' Agape Meeting</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 Church Work Party</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Rev. Jeff Lundblad</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 Women's Grove Bible Study 7:00 Boys Scouts</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Noon - Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:15 Fellowship Potluck 6:00 Mid-Week Bible Study 7:15 Choir Practice</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 Builders' Social at Rogue Diner</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 Women's Fellowship Breakfast at Punky's</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Rev. Jeff Lundblad</p> <p>Annual Congregational Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00 Women's Grove Bible Study 7:00 Boys Scouts</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Noon - Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:15 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 Mid-Week Bible Study 7:15 Choir Practice</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:30 Deacons' Business Meeting</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Rev. Jeff Lundblad</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00 Women's Grove Bible Study 7:00 Boys Scouts</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Noon - Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:15 Fellowship Potluck 6:00 Mid-Week Bible Study 7:15 Choir Practice</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4-Jan Korey Mitchell
5-Jan Aleena Austin
6-Jan Katy Ceglia
6-Jan Julie Kinsman
6-Jan William Saylor
8-Jan Jacqueline Graber
10-Jan Tyler Hunter
10-Jan Jerry Lektorich
10-Jan Gene Versteeg
11-Jan Ada Senften
12-Jan Kaylee Tarrant
14-Jan Cheryl Giddings
15-Jan Chris Daniel
15-Jan Allyson Nottingham
16-Jan Lois Olstad
19-Jan Suzan Darby
20-Jan Eldon Allsup
20-Jan Carol Bath
22-Jan Kamryn Brunson
22-Jan Melba McIntyre
22-Jan Matthew Nottingham
22-Jan Tyler VanDyke
23-Jan Justin Cawthorne
23-Jan Jonathan Cawthorne
24-Jan Heather Campbell
24-Jan Miranda Lektorich
25-Jan Krystal VanDyke
25-Jan Kevin VanDyke
28-Jan Lindy Boyersmith
28-Jan Kyle Mitchell
29-Jan Merle Neufeld
30-Jan Joseph Yungen
31-Jan Eric Lektorich

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

8-Jan Jeff & Brenda Lundblad
22-Jan Joan & Richard Avery

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

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 Special 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.

Richard Bath, Moderator

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

During Eastwood's exciting transition of being restructured with the arrival of our new Pastor, we are so thrilled to announce open opportunities for service within Eastwood's body. The Lord has given each one of us a spiritual gift and calling to serve. Eastwood is looking for willing members with this calling to prayerfully consider moving forward into leadership positions within the church. Whether you have a background in finance, grounds maintenance, teaching, administration or just have a desire to serve the Lord, you are encouraged to come and speak with Pastor Jeff or Joshua Robinson. If you are unsure of how best to serve but are interested in being a part of building up God's church, we will have questionnaires that will identify areas of strength to determine the position or roles that are best suited to your spiritual gifts.

Roles currently available include:

Finance	Buildings and Properties
Christian Education	Worship
Missions	Hospitality
Moderator	

Information and questions about these positions can be obtained through Joshua Robinson, Dick Bath, or Pastor Jeff.

Please continue to pray for Eastwood and these opportunities of service. The Lord is moving, but we need every member to stand with us in this time to make that step into a new beginning.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts,
Nominating Committee

Church Work Day

Inviting **ALL** who want to help "spruce up" our church.



The next scheduled Work Day is **Saturday, January 11th**. Meet at the church at 9:00 am and we should be finished by 12:00. Please bring rakes, clippers and **DON'T FORGET** the gloves!

Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering December 2019

The roots of the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) originated in the mid-1930s, when American Baptist congregations received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. The long-standing tradition of the RMMO established in 1977 supports ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses who have devoted 15 years or more to ABCUSA.

RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING



December 22, 2019

SUNDAY, December 22nd - 4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday School	9:15
Worship Service, Rev. Jeff Lundblad	10:30

MONDAY, December 23rd

Church Office Open 9:30 - 2:00

TUESDAY, December 24th - Christmas Eve

Office Closed

Christmas Eve Service of Light	7:00
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WEDNESDAY, December 25th - Christmas Day

Office Closed

THURSDAY, December 26th

Office Closed

FRIDAY, December 27th

Church Office Open - 9:30 - 3:30

SATURDAY, December 28th

Women of Eastwood Fellowship Breakfast Saturday, December 21st - 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

Christmas Eve Service of Light - 7:00 P. M.



Mark Your Calendars!!

Eastwood Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 19th

Immediately following the Worship Service

EBC's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19th following Worship Service. A light lunch will be served. Please use your communication card or call the office to let us know if you will be attending.

December 29, 2019

SUNDAY, December 29th

Sunday School	9:00
Worship Service, Rev. George Nye	10:30

MONDAY, December 30th

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

TUESDAY, December 31st - New Year's Eve

Men's Bible Study	Noon
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WEDNESDAY, January 1st - New Year's Day

Fellowship Dinner	5:15
Mid-Week Bible Study	6:00
Choir Practice	7:15

THURSDAY, January 2nd

Fellowship Support at New Far East	1:00
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FRIDAY, January 3rd

SATURDAY, January 4th