



The Eastwood Beacon

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

June 25, 2020

*Matthew 10:16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep among wolves.
Therefore be wise as serpents, and gentle as doves.*

"Wise as serpents, and gentle as doves," Martin Luther King preached about this passage during the most trying times of the civil rights movement of the 60's. Words that were true in Jesus' time, ring true in the 60's as well as today.

Wisdom, the concept of divine understanding, transcends knowledge. Wisdom takes what we know and understand and gives us the ability to make good decisions. Solomon's wisdom was demonstrated by his ruling on the two women arguing of a baby, both claiming that they were the mother. His ruling – "Cut the baby in half and give a part to each woman." One woman replied, "Fine." And the other demanded the baby be given whole to the other, thus proving her rightful status as the mother of the child.

We need to be wise today, and so we must seek God's wisdom in our dealing with issues of race, poverty, health care and how to resume corporate worship. Knowledge on these issues require the humility to acknowledge that our current understandings may be wrong and in need of adjustment. Especially when dealing with racism, white people have several blind spots that can be painful to own. We need to seek God's grace in our learning and in our statements on race. We also need to be wise as we consider worshiping together again. Wearing masks have been demonstrated to substantially reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19. Physical distancing has been demonstrated to be effective. As a result, when we resume meeting, you will need to wear a mask and stay distant from each other. Our ushers will be instructing you where to sit, so some of you may be up front for the first time in your life!!!

Gentleness. I think this is one of the defining elements of how Jesus engage with people. There are a lot of controversies in the world today. Misinformation, misunderstanding and misallocation of resources plague our society. Let us all be gentle as doves as we work together in understanding and addressing these things. Specifically, let us be gentle with each other as we begin to meet. There will be new ways of doing things. Changes can feel uncomfortable. Let us embrace the gentleness of the dove as we navigate this all.

I hope to be announcing a final date in the next two weeks. Our video system will be installed prior to the opening, which will facilitate the continued online broadcast while enhancing in person attendance. There are lots of good things happening, but please continue to pray for us all during this transition!

Be well and love each other!

Pastor Jeff

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American Baptist Churches USA Survey Assesses Impact of COVID-19

On May of 2020, a survey regarding the impact of the global pandemic was sent to all of the American Baptist regions via each region's executive minister. On behalf of local churches, the person most knowledgeable was asked to complete the survey. Originally requested by the members of the National Executive Council and Regional Executive Ministers Council, the survey of American Baptist congregations was aimed at assessing the impact of COVID-19.

A total of 414 congregations responded to the survey. A summary of the quantitative results is shown below.

Overall Impact of COVID-19

The survey indicated that a slight majority of the congregations surveyed are experiencing only a slight or moderate impact from COVID-19, while a small percentage of ABC congregations have been hit very hard by the pandemic. The majority (63%) of respondents believe that they are in an area with fewer cases than the rest of the country. About one-half (52%) of the congregations surveyed indicated that COVID-19 has had a moderate or less impact on their congregation. Some congregations (14%) report being hit very hard financially by COVID-19 stating that at least 20% of their members are unemployed.

Impact of COVID-19 on Worship and Ministry

In regard to worship and ministry, the survey respondents indicated through their response that many congregations have delivered a robust response to the adverse effects of COVID-19. While the pandemic has elicited both positive and negative influences upon the congregations surveyed, sometimes the dual influences have occurred in same areas such as worship and outreach.

88% of the respondents indicate that their congregations have been able to offer online worship during the pandemic. Only 6% indicate that their congregation has not been able to offer any online activities during the pandemic.

73% of the respondents believe that COVID-19 has negatively impacted their worship, but a slightly higher number (77%) believe that COVID-19 has also created new opportunities for worship. Similarly, 50% of the respondents believe that COVID-19 has negatively impacted their outreach, while (61%) believe that COVID-19 has created new opportunities in this same area of ministry.

Over one-half (57%) of the respondents say that their worship attendance has increased during the pandemic compared to only 14% who indicate that worship attendance has declined. In most cases, however, increased worship attendance online has not translated into increased giving. Sixty-percent report that giving has decreased compared to only 16% who report that giving has increased during the pandemic.

Nearly 4 out of 5 respondents indicate that they plan to continue to offer online worship following the stay at home orders.

Respondents indicate that their congregants miss "feeling a sense of community" the most when compared to missing other elements of worship and ministry.

Nearly three-fourths of respondents revealed that their congregation has engaged in "delivering supplies to persons who cannot leave their home" during the pandemic and at least one-half have engaged in "distributing food to those in need" and "making masks."

Future Outlook

While COVID-19 has taken a severe toll on some congregations, others have shown strong signs of resiliency and hope.

Nearly two-thirds (62%) of the respondents say that their congregations are not worried about paying their pastor and staff in the near future.

Continued on the next page...

ABCUSA Survey Continued

In terms of balancing the budget, the responses are divided into thirds, with one-third expressing no concern, another third expressing some concern, and a third expressing moderate to heavy concern. Two-percent are wondering if they will be able to remain open after this global pandemic.

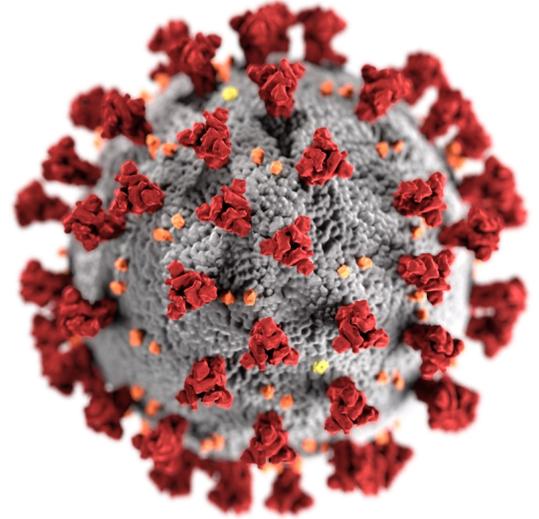
Responding to a list of possible state of mind descriptors, the majority of persons (68%) indicated that they are “hopeful” and another 52% indicated that they feel “resilient” about the future.

42% of respondents said that they feel that their congregation is an extremely innovative or very innovative congregation, signaling more creative responses to COVID-19.

38% of respondents said that their congregation would be “healthier than it was before” following the pandemic, compared to only 12% who said that they believe that it would be “less healthy than it was before.”

Respondents noted additional areas impacted by COVID-19, including:

- Our well-being
- Our leadership team, committee, and board meetings
- My workload
- Our unity
- Ability to grieve with those who died
- Support of the homeless
- Ability to integrate our new pastor
- Pastoral calling
- Actual presence
- Need to gather as the Body of Christ
- Has just made each of these look different
- Sense of security



Help those affected by COVID-19 across United States and Puerto Rico

Help ABHMS to raise \$1,000,000 to help those affected by COVID-19 across the United States and Puerto Rico through its One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) "COVID-19 Recovery: Renewing Hope and Service" campaign, on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA.

The pastor of a mid-western church shares that his congregation is struggling financially. "A number of our members are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and have been denied tests because they have no primary care order, no medical insurance or limited access to sites offering free testing," he says. "The cost of a COVID-19 test is \$225! These folks are unemployed and can't afford that expense! So many are in need of our assistance with rent, utility bills, groceries and other essential supplies, but our church is currently unable to support them because our monthly revenue has been reduced by 60 percent. It's so painful to want to help people who are crying out for relief, but our hands are tied!"

This week on the "Pictures of a Pandemic" podcast, the Rev. Patricia Lawrence, associate pastor, Memorial Baptist Church, Hartford, Conn., discusses how the pandemic is affecting her shrinking congregation of older members. Lawrence has given up her salary so that other church staff can continue to be paid. Listen at abhms.org or ministrElife.org.

To give to OGHS for support of relief initiatives across the United States and Puerto Rico, donations can be to Eastwood Baptist Church. Please write "OGHS-COVID Recovery: US & PR" on the memo line.

One hundred percent of donations go to relief efforts; no dollars are retained for administrative costs.

Eastwood Proposed Initial Reopening Plan (Draft 6/15/20)

The country is going to slowly reopen, and that includes our church. Following are the guidelines for the initial reopening. We will re-evaluate the COVID-19 situation in the fall and make any appropriate changes or adjustments at that time. Our primary concern is to keep everyone safe and healthy. If, **for any reason, you do not feel comfortable returning to the physical building, do not come. We will continue to have the services available through Facebook streaming.**

1. Our initial opening will be limited to the Sunday morning worship service.

2. Worship Service

We have space to seat about 80 in the sanctuary and another 8-10 in the foyer, maintaining physical distancing. Because our typical attendance is around 80-85 we expect to be able to accommodate all who would like to attend.

3. In order to maintain physical distancing the following steps will be followed:

- The two sets of double doors leading into the foyer will be propped open.
- You are asked to wait outside of the building until you are led in by an usher.
- You will be asked to use the hand-sanitizing station as you come through the door.
- We know that most parishioners have places they like to sit but in order to maintain distancing and avoid unnecessary passing we ask that you bear with us during this time and graciously sit where you are directed.
- Each member or family group will be lead in to the sanctuary and shown where to sit. The sanctuary will be filled from front to back.
- At the end of the service you will be escorted by an usher from your pew out of the building. The sanctuary will be emptied from back to front. If you wish to visit you can do so outside but please maintain 6 feet of distance between you.

4. We will require that everyone wear a face mask. We ask that you provide your own if possible. However, we will have disposable masks available for anyone that needs one.

5. At this stage we will not have: Greeters, Communion, Choir, the Cookie/Fellowship time following the service, or adult Sunday morning classes. Mid-week and Wednesday night services, meals, and Bible studies are also on hold. Singing will be done with masks in place.

6. Offering: We will not pass the collection plates. Instead you will find a locked collection box attached to the wall in the foyer.

7. Restrooms: Restroom doors will be propped open in order to eliminate the need to touch the door handles. Ladies, please be aware of site-lines when using the women's restroom.

8. Sanitize and disinfect the church building:

Before Initial Opening: The church facilities have all been spray sanitized.

Ongoing: Arrangements will be made to have the facilities sanitized between services.

Areas to be included:

- Pews, chairs, visitor center/kiosk
- Doorknobs, handles, sanitation dispensers, offering box, and other high touch areas
- There will be no bulletins and pew Bibles and hymnals will be removed from the sanctuary for the time being.
- All songs, scripture readings, etc. will be displayed on the screens.

9. Children's programs: There will be no Children's Sunday school, Children's Church or Nursery. Children will attend the main worship service with their parents and/or other family members.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1-Jul Sadi Lektorich
1-Jul Katie Powell Ellis
2-Jul Alyssum Barber
2-Jul Gail Manchur
4-Jul Wanda Peets Ekman
9-Jul Vernon Petermeyer
10-Jul Travis Goins
11-Jul Lola Burke
11-Jul Connor Lektorich
11-Jul Sarah Lundblad
12-Jul Gerri Bolles
14-Jul Ellen Husel
14-Jul Isabella Robinson
16-Jul Susan Elder
19-Jul Jack Lundblad
20-Jul Marilyn Powell
20-Jul Malachi Robinson
24-Jul Donna Hildebrand
25-Jul Derek Tripp
26-Jul Teresa Tripp
28-Jul Josiah Kinsman
31-Jul Diana Thayer

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

4-Jul Steve & Lindy Boyersmith
6-Jul Don & Bobbie Jaquette
7-Jul Gene & Fay Rashé
10-Jul Keven & Leighanne Nottingham
21-Jul Kyle & Wendy Cawthorne
25-Jul Derrick & Joanie VanDyke
27-Jul Allan & Dianne Rowell

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

Correction to June Birthdays

Brenda Lundblad's birthday was incorrectly reported. Her birthday is June 25th.

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, Glen & Rita Chapman, Alise & Mark Juanes, and Kyle & Katrina Williams**) serving around the world.

Lemonade

When I'm feeling down...I have found that if I call a friend, church family friends included, to see how they are doing, I feel better. And sometimes we have a good healthy laugh about something, that really isn't anything. But it sure helps to lift my spirits! I should say our spirits. Blessings to everyone!! Miss you all!!

Fay Rashé

THANK YOU!

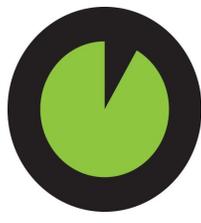
What a nice surprise to receive a birthday card from Eastwood! I had a lovely day, with birthday greetings from family and friends, and lovely weather, too.

Allan and I are "laying low." We hope all our Eastwood family is staying safe, too.

Dianne Rowell

Praise!

Maxine Gilmer's Grandson, Kevin Hoffman, has been to Lieutenant Colonel!



One Great Hour O F S H A R I N G

Purpose

One Great Hour of Sharing (“OGHS”) is one of four annual offerings received by American Baptist churches. OGHS makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, poverty or severe economic hardship, and for those who find themselves refugees or displaced within their home country.

Meet Your World Relief Committee

Have you ever wondered how the gifts that you give to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering get to the places where they are put to work? This is the responsibility of the World Relief Committee (WRC or “Committee”). The Committee’s purpose is to support, enable and encourage emergency relief, refugee work, disaster rehabilitation, and development assistance. The source of funds for this work is the gifts you give to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

The WRC is made up of people from different parts of our American Baptist life:

- 7 voting members elected as follows:
- 2 from the Board of Directors of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society
- 2 from the Board of Directors of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies
- 2 from the Board of General Ministries
- 1 from the Executive Committee of the American Baptist Women’s Ministries
- 3 staff members: a representative each from the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, and the American Baptist Churches USA
- The World Relief Officer serves as staff to the committee

Although only the voting members vote on final decisions, all members have the opportunity to give input on each of the project requests prior to the decision being made. The World Relief Committee meets face-to-face two days a year to consider development project proposals. Each individual project proposal is submitted via a completed application which is presented by the appropriate staff representative and then considered by the committee. A formal vote is taken on each project, and the approval process is followed by a time of prayer for the partners who will receive the funding and for the people whose lives will be made better in some way by the project. The committee also receives and reviews the annual financial report of the income and use of all One Great Hour of Sharing monies.

Dear Ruth Hockersmith Eastwood Baptist Church,

I am very grateful and fortunate for the scholarship you have given me. This is a great blessing in my life since. The scholarship you have given me will be used for my studies at the University of Oregon. I am planning on majoring in Psychology. The reason I want to do this is because as a child I have always cared for others even if I did not know them. I have seen how people give up on their dreams or belittle themselves and my goal is to become a therapist so I can help others grow and overcome their obstacles. Every time I face a struggle I remember to myself God is greater than our problems and everything is possible with Him, but not many people can face their challenges by themselves. It touches my heart that I received this scholarship because this is what I am passionate about and will study hard to achieve. Thank you so much?

Sincerely,

Leslie Barbosa