

Should Freedom Be Our Primary Pursuit

We use the word narrative these days to refer to an overarching set of beliefs about God, the world and its people, about good and bad, meaning and the future. Important stuff! The narrative you are living in is your worldview. It should provide you with your beliefs and convictions, the way you live in the light of these beliefs, and your reason to hope in the face of pain and disappointment. It is important for Christians to be intentional and well informed not only about the Biblical narrative, but also about the narratives that inform the people we know and care about in our world.

With Bible in hand, let's briefly explore a view of God and the world that has been dubbed "Moralistic Therapeutic Deism." Have you ever heard of it? This is the way sociologists, Christian Smith and Melinda Lundquist Denton describe the beliefs of many Christian teens from a variety of fellowships, including Churches of Christ. Read carefully through each of these beliefs, then search the Bible to see how close they are to what is taught in scripture:

One, a god exists who created and orders the world and watches over life on earth.

Two, this god wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught and in most world religions.

Three, the central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.

Four, this god is not involved in our lives except when we might need him to resolve a problem.

Five, good people go to heaven when they die.

What do you think? As I read over these beliefs my mind bristles with many questions. For example, what kind of "god" created the world, and what were his intentions? Can't we be more specific? Do most religions

really envision the purpose of life in this world the same way? If personal happiness is the goal, what if I say that I can be happy without God (as many do these days)? What if the pursuit of my personal happiness conflicts with yours? How can we resolve this conflict? What might this god have to say about that, and how could we know? If this god really wants me to be happy, then why is he not more involved in my life? And who says what is good anyway? If good people go to heaven when they die, where do bad people go?

Keep in mind that the young people in view here are those influenced by the Christian faith. They apparently have received some form of Christian instruction. If these young people have come out of this instruction believing these things, I have more questions. Did their teachers take the time to teach the Biblical narrative with confidence and conviction? Having taught the Bible for almost 40 years I can tell you that good Bible instruction takes time, but that the basic story of the Bible is clear, and it actually makes sense. How would you explain the Biblical narrative? Consider: The story of the Bible contradicts the cultural narratives that influence all of us at several points, beginning with its view of human nature. Because we are weak and willful by nature, we are bound to misuse the freedom we may have. Therefore, our primary need is not freedom from what other people want from us, but redemption from ourselves. The answer is what Jesus has done for us on the cross. At the foot of the cross is where our story begins, and where everything else in the Bible makes sense. The cross reveals God's love and our need more clearly than anything else. Do you see? ... Pray that you will be able to share this beautiful vision with someone soon.

~Michael Case

Welcome to East Hill Church of Christ, a place where you can discover the gospel!
Please, don't hesitate to let any of the greeters or ministers know how we can serve you.

CALENDAR

October

- 15 MSCH Food Drive pick up
- 15 New Member Welcome
- 22 Set-up for clothing give-away 5:30
- 23-27 Sorting and hanging for give-away
9 am to 9 pm daily
- 24 Food Distribution 10:30-11:30
in South Parking Lot
- 28 Clothing Give-away 8 am to noon

November

- 3 Son Shiners meet at 5:30
at Chances "R"
- 5 End of Daylight Saving Time
set your clocks back one hour
- 11 Men's Breakfast 8 am
in Fellowship Hall
- 28 Food Distribution 10:30-11:30
in South Parking Lot
- 30 Women's Ornament Craft Night
in Fellowship Hall

10/15 Isaac Perkins
10/18 Megan Fifield
10/19 Mark Miller
10/20 Nathan Lacina

10/17 Glenn & Heidi Dallmann

CELEBRATE

MINISTRIES & EVENTS

Meals on Wheels: East Hill has the meals on wheels deliveries for October. We still need "drivers" and "runners" on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. There is a sign up sheet on the information table in the lobby. If you have questions please see Susanne Keller.

Mountain States Children's Home: The Fall Food Drive will be picking up next week. Please have your non-perishable items to the building by today. Please make sure the food expiration date is out further than the next few months. There are shopping list cards on the bulletin board that list specific needs. Please see Tera Knapp with questions. Thank you to all who participate in this effort!

Operation Ecuador Summit: The stateside summit for Operation Ecuador will be October 20-21 in Wichita Falls, TX. If you would like to know more about the summit, please see the poster on the bulletin board. Please be praying for this ministry we support.

Youth Group Sunday Gatherings: This week the youth group will have gatherings on Sunday evening. They will meet from 6 to 7:30 for a meal and a Bible study. The high school will meet at Ben and Tracy Babcock's and the middle school will meet at Ken and Sarah Van Gompel's. They are planning to make these semi regular events so be watching for future dates!

2024 God's World Calendar: The order sheet is on the table in the lobby. Please sign up by Sunday, the 22nd. Payment can be made after they arrive. Please note the price increase and options. Contact Deena Tandy with questions.

New Member Welcome: If you are fairly new and we missed you today as part of our new members, please contact an elder or minister so that we can get your information added at the church office. YU students interested in joining our family, please use the QR code:



Clothing Giveaway: Set up and load in for the giveaway is only one week from today! Set up will start at 5:30 pm on Sunday, October 22. We will be sorting clothes from 9 am to 9 pm Monday through Thursday. On

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But in your hearts, revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

I Peter 3:15 East Hill 2023 Theme Verse

BODY LIFE & PRAYERS

Prayer Requests:

Tania Billington's father Tania's father went in for heart surgery on Thursday. The doctor prepared the family for the possibility of open-heart surgery. But it turned out they were able to clear the blockage through conventional means and then he was to return home. Tania is very grateful for your prayers.

Peter Dallmann competes in State tennis on Monday and then the family requests your prayers as he will be having eye surgery on Thursday.

Marty Salsbury's lumbar surgery went well on Wednesday. There were no complications but he has been in significant pain (which was expected). He was scheduled to go home Friday afternoon or Saturday morning.

Thank you for the food and prayers. I greatly appreciated it. - Lynda Smith

Kim Van Esch was scheduled for foot surgery on Friday.

Body Life:

Today, we welcome these people to our church family: Dianna Brennan, Lauren Chapman, Rose Cuyler, the Seth and Mellisa Marsh family, and Clarence Rodrigues. We would also like to welcome the following Student Members: Samantha Burch, Katie Isham, Alba Kindelan, Mallory Myers, Faith Ortega, DJ Rager-Ridley, Jenna Smith, Shawn Smith, Nayana Wilderson, and Macey Truitt. Let's pray for God's blessings on their lives and for us to serve the Lord with gladness.

Prayer Focus:

This last week has seen the ongoing chaos and destruction in the war in Ukraine and now the war in Israel/Palestine. It has also seen the incredible destruction in Afghanistan, where approximately 2,000 people have died. Despite these catastrophes, God still reigns and will redeem this world. Though, let's lament with the psalmist over the wickedness that remains in the world. "The Lord is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth. Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve. How long, Lord, will the wicked, how long will the wicked be jubilant?" (Psalm 94:1-3)

Weekly Events

Attended Nursery: You can drop off children ages 0 up to 2 years in the nursery during services.

Youth Updates: Contact Garrett Schwarz to get the Remind notices and stay connected on the latest news regarding the East Hill Youth.

Women's Thursday Class: The women's Bible study meets each Thursday 10:00-11:30 in the fellowship hall and on Zoom. See EHPN or contact office for the link.

Wednesday Meal: The meal is sliders, pasta salad, and cookies. Sign up by today! \$6 per person, serving line open 5:15-6:00.



Weekly Prayer Pal Suggestion

Justice – He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. ~Micah 6:8

Weekly Scripture Memory

October 1- 21

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. *So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

~2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Worship 10 am, livestreamed on Facebook

Bible classes for all 9 am

Sunday evening 5 pm, communion available

Wednesday

Adult Class 6:30 pm

Adult class is livestreamed on Facebook

Children & Families event twice a month this Summer

For the Record:	October 8, 2023
Weekly Attendance:	280
<u>Weekly Giving</u>	
Budgeted:	\$6,971.50
Actual:	\$6,807.70
Children's:	\$39.63
<u>Year to Date</u>	
Budgeted:	\$285,831.50
Giving:	\$284,079.97
Children's for Ecuador:	\$2,059.35

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Ministry Staff:

Preaching Minister

Glenn Hawley

Worship & Family Minister

Glenn Dallmann

Children's Ministry - School Age

Tana Albin

Children's Ministry - Preschool

Hannah Sikes

Youth Ministry - Coordinator

Garrett Schwarz

Administrative Assistants

Michele Briggs 9 am-noon

Tera Knapp 11:30-2:30

Missionaries in Ecuador

Joshua & Julie Marcum

Michaela, Eliana, Jana, Enoch

Shepherds:

Tim Carr

Michael Case

Keith Miller

Mark Miller

Steddon Sikes

Eric Tremaine

Shepherd of the month is in bold font.

Deacons-----Area of Service

Marty Barrett ----- Benevolence

Trey Colle ----- Emergency Meals

Robert Cunningham ----- Son Shiners

Troy Flynt ----- Treasurer

Jansen Fraser ----- Grounds

Trent Hinton ----- Livestream

Ron Kretz ----- Singles

Larry Light ----- Single Seniors, Facilities

Garrett Schwarz ----- Youth

Jeff Shafer ----- Worship Support

Lonnie Shafer ----- Elder/deacon liaison

Ken Van Gompel ----- LTC

Wednesday after classes we will set up the shoe and coat areas. On Friday morning, we will finish up sorting; in the afternoon, we will clean up all the detritus from sorting and set up for the giveaway. Friday evening East Hill folks and YU students are invited to come from 6-8 pm to get what they need. On Saturday morning at 8 am we open our doors to the community. We will need 13 gallon draw string garbage bags for people to take things home. Greeters will be needed from 8 am to noon when we close. At noon, we will clean it all up, put away all the racks, and set the building back up for regular use. The "we" used throughout this description is an open group. If you are interested in participating in this service for our church family and community, you can show up at any of the times mentioned for the activity of the hour. If you have clothes to donate or can bring us the 13 gallon trash bags, it would be great if you could bring them between 9 am and 9 pm on Monday- Thursday of that week. If you have questions about any of it, please contact Michele Briggs.

Order of Worship

Praise You in the Storm

Call to Worship: Glenn Dallmann

*I Will Call Upon the Lord
The Lord Reigns
Whom Shall I Fear*

Psalm 23: Jim Ulrich

Prayer: Dan Goodwin
*Surround Us, O Lord
The Lord Thy God
538 My Hope is Built*

Communion: Larry Light

Children's Offering

God is so Good

"Amazing!" Mark 6:1-6
Lesson: Glenn Hawley

Invitation for Prayer

679 *Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

New Member Introduction

Shepherd's Prayer: Michael Case

Body Life: Ken Van Gompel