

“Take up your cross ...”

Every fall for the last 30 years I have had the privilege of trying to help a group of inquisitive freshmen learn about Jesus. It is the most exciting, and the most challenging class I teach. I think the study of Jesus is supposed to be challenging. As I continue, think about how you have reacted to the story of Jesus. I find Jesus challenging on several levels. One, for a figure who comes at the apex of the Biblical story to bring its grand vision into reality, it is surprising to say the least. All the Gospels present Jesus as thoroughly human in appearance. He was born in a stable, raised by peasants, trained as a carpenter, totally normal in all ways so that His own brothers were offended when He began to do and say things that proved how exceptional He really was. On the surface Jesus seems to have as many problems as the people He came to help. Two, and by far the most serious challenge for me is what Jesus says about Himself. Consider a few examples. This peasant teaches with authority greater than the law-giver Moses, but when asked who He is He rarely answers directly. He is known as “rabbi” by His followers because, like other rabbis, He spends so much time teaching. But among the teachers of His day, He is clearly in a class by Himself. It is not only the authority He claims, but there is also the matter of the powerful works. Like the parables He tells, the miracles are signs or parabolic actions that illustrate what He came to do. He intentionally aligns Himself with the prophetic visions of a dramatic renewal of life for everyone in God’s world. And the miracles prove that He might just be able to pull it off. All of this coming in the ministry of a humble peasant who walked the dusty paths of Palestine and lived from the donations of a few women! With His power He could have had anything He wanted, and this is the life He chose?

All of this should prepare us for the greatest shock uttered by the unorthodox rabbi, but it doesn’t. At the mid-point of His journey, when the most perceptive of His disciples have come to realize that He must be God’s anointed one, He drops a bomb on their brains that He is going to Jerusalem to be rejected, condemned, and yes, crucified. Not only that, but He invites, nay, requires them to take up a cross and follow Him! ... In His world the cross was universally scorned. Crucifixion was the fate of the cursed, the despised, the ultimate losers. How could this be the destiny of the one sent by the sovereign God to save His people? How could He allow this to become the symbol of the life of the disciple? ... To this day the cross is the symbol of the system of beliefs and practices associated with Jesus. But how often do we stop and dwell deeply on the meaning of the cross for our lives today?

Every time I try to explain these things to students I am surprised again. I am challenged to think about the things that I value and wonder if these things are really as important as I think. I am invited to look at my attitudes toward you, my purpose, the people in the world, the political debates of these times, and everything else, through the eyes of Jesus, the crucified and risen Lord. Every time I do I find my priorities being sifted. I feel challenged to love more, argue less, find ways to make a difference, realizing how short life in this broken world really is ... and to long for the day of renewal. How about you?

~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.

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December

- 10 Birthday Party for Sharon Woods
2:30-3:30 in fellowship hall
- 10 Sunday Night Youth Gatherings
HS at Babcocks 6:00-7:30
MS at Van Gompel's 6:30-8:00
bring \$5 for meal
- 13 Adult Ecuador Trip Meeting
after class in foyer
- 16 Youth Christmas Party 6-10 pm
at YU's Campbell Center
- 17 Adult Ecuador Trip Meeting
after service in fellowship hall
- 17 Elders' Meeting
- 20 Adult Ecuador Trip Meeting
after class in foyer
- 24 No Bible Classes Sunday Morning
No Sunday evening 5:00 meeting
- 26 Food Distribution 10:30-11:30 am
in South Parking Lot
- 27 Devotional in lieu of Bible classes
- 31 No Bible Classes Sunday Morning
No Sunday evening 5:00 meeting

January

- 5 Son Shiners meet at 5:30
at Chances "R"
- 13 Men's Breakfast
- 19-20 Leader's Retreat

12/10 Jason Mader
12/11 Ross Fraser
12/13 Heather Suhr
12/13 Isaiah Davis
12/13 Luke Davis
12/14 Carolyn Hambleton
12/14 Heidi Mader
12/15 Jayden Lamonde
12/15 Les Miller
12/16 Ellee Tandy

12/14 Nathan & Lexi Lacina
12/15 Mark & Rose Miller

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MINISTRIES & EVENTS

Birthday Party: There will be a birthday party to celebrate Sharon Woods' 80th birthday today from 2:30 to 3:30 in the fellowship hall. There will be cake and cookies. Please stop by and wish her well.

Sunday Night Youth Gatherings: Middle school youth will meet at the Van Gompel family's house tonight from 6:30-8:00. MS are asked to bring \$5 for the meal that will be served. High School will meet at the Babcock family's house from 6:00-7:30.

Adult Ecuador Trip Informational Meetings: A trip for adults to see and participate in the ministry of Operation Ecuador is now in the interest/information gathering phase. There are three opportunities in the next two weeks to participate in an informational meeting about the 2024 trip. The trip will likely take place in May or early June, depending on the needs of the interested parties. If you have even a slight interest, please attend one of the meetings on December 13, 17 or 20. The Wednesday meetings on the 13th and 20th will meet in the foyer after Bible classes. The Sunday meeting on the 17th will be in the fellowship hall room A after service. Jared Leinen or Todd Sheldon will lead the meetings. If you have questions and cannot make it, please contact Jared Leinen.

The Annual HS and MS Christmas Party will be at YU's Campbell Center on December 16 from 6-10 pm. Come enjoy pizza, treats, games and activities. Please bring a \$15 gift for the white elephant gift exchange.

LTC stands for Leadership Training for Christ: On March 29-30, our youth will have the opportunity to explore/use their gifts to inspire and equip them to lead in the future. LTC 2024 is fast approaching and we need your feedback now... please prayerfully consider how you, parents (also grandparents and other role models) might support LTC and encourage our youth in their involvement. We will need to know the kids (between 3rd and 12th grades) that will participate, what activities they will participate in and how adults will be involved (coaching, judging, helping in other ways). More information is available at:
<https://hoaltc.org/>

We will have a meeting today, 5 minutes after services, in the fellowship hall. This will be a short meeting, about 10 minutes long.

(Continued on page 4)

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 and Updates:

Keith Miller will have surgery to fuse vertebra in his neck on Tuesday this week. The plan is that he will recover in the hospital two days before release. Please remember him in prayer.

LaRae Melvin has requested prayers for her friend Kathy Burbach. Kathy recently had knee surgery and is now dealing with blood clots.

Peter Dallmann's surgery on Thursday went well. He will have a week of recovery and then another before his vision clears and they can determine the effectiveness of the procedure.

Angie Robison had MRI scans on Friday in Omaha. Please pray for answers to her pain issues as she has been struggling with symptoms of peripheral neuropathy and sciatica.

Lonnie Shafer's eyebrow and eyelid surgery was last Tuesday and he is now at home for rest and recovery. Lonnie and Carol are grateful for everyone who has prayed for them recently.

Thank You East Hill church family for the plants, flowers, cards, phone calls, messages, and other expressions of your caring and sympathy in the loss of our beloved Helen. We especially appreciate all the prayers. ~**Ron and Virginia Helmlinger**, Aaron Helmlinger, Gertrude Longa and family

Body Life:

Jim Ulrich will deliver the commencement address at the York University winter graduation ceremony on Thursday, December 14.

Congrats to the following East Hill actors who performed in the Yorkshire Playhouse production of *A Miracle on 34th Street*. **Frank, Mark, and Joseph Billington**, also our friends, John Baker and Ian Wallgren.

Prayer Focus:

Today is the last Sunday that we'll see many of our college students. They wrap up their finals this week and then begin their Christmas break. It's been wonderful sharing in worship and prayer with them this semester. Let's remember them in our prayers; that they will be able to finish strong, that they will have a safe and refreshing break, and that we'll see each other again in January when they return for the Spring Semester. Amen.

Weekly Events

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

Service at Legacy Square: There is a service for the residents of Legacy Square in Henderson at 2:30 each Sunday. See Tommy Carr if you have questions.

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

Wednesday Meal: Menu this week: Chili and cinnamon rolls. Sign up on the sheet in the foyer by today! \$6 per person, serving line is open 5:15-6:00. This will be the last meal before the holidays; meals will return on Jan 20.

Women's Thursday Class is on break for the holidays. They will resume on January 11.

Weekly Prayer Pal Suggestion
Generosity – A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. ~Proverbs 11:25

Weekly Scripture Memory

Dec 3—23 *Isaiah 12:1-6*

... "I will praise you, Lord. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. *Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.*"
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day...

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:

December 3, 2023

Weekly Attendance:

280

Weekly Giving

Budgeted:

\$6,971.50

Actual:

\$12,406.70

Children's:

\$129.85

Year to Date

Budgeted:

\$341,603.50

Giving:

\$340,076.44

Children's for Ecuador:

\$129.85

East Hill Church of Christ

1122 Delaware Ave. (Building)

1225 E 10th St. (Mailing/Offices)

York, NE 68467

Office: (402) 362-4990

Email: easthillsecretary@gmail.com

Website: www.easthillcofc.org

WiFi: EHguest PW: JesusIsLord!

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

Ron Kretz

Keith Miller

Mark Miller

Todd Sheldon

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

Larry Light ----Single Seniors, Facilities

Garrett Schwarz -----Youth

Jeff Shafer ----- Worship Support

Lonnie Shafer -----Elder/deacon liaison

Ken Van Gomple -----LTC

Communion Preparers for 2024:

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer for those willing to help prepare communion throughout 2024.

Leaders' Retreat: The elders and ministers have their annual retreat on January 19 and 20 where we'll spend time in prayer and discussion over the East Hill family and church ministries. We welcome your input on matters that you would like us to discuss. If you have feedback, please put it in writing and share it with any one of the elders. And, thank you.

Christmas Dinner: Harold & Deena Tandy are planning a meal at noon on the 25th for individuals or couples in the congregation who will not have a Christmas meal with family. If you would like to attend or know someone who might attend, please give names to Harold or Deena so they can send invitations and plan for the number coming. This will be a meal in the Fellowship Hall with time to visit and some singing.

Order of Worship

Gathered in His Arms

Worship Leader: Jansen Fraser

Shout Hallelujah

533 I Am a Sheep

Isaiah 40:1-5

Reading: Cody Wyatt

Prayer: John Jewell

391 Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

410 He Leadeth Me

930 Jesus, the Loving Shepherd

"Voices" Isaiah 40:1-11

Lesson: Glenn Hawley

Invitation for Prayer

Ancient Words

167 Hosanna

Communion: Rick White

Children's Offering

Shepherd's Prayer: Michael Case

Behold Our God

Body Life: Ken Van Gomple