

Harvest Season

"The kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day he sleeps and wakes, and the seed sprouts and grows, though he knows not how."

— Mark 4:26-27

In Nebraska it's harvest time! Time for the farmers to gather what they've worked hard since spring to grow. Many East Hill members are clocking overtime at work. There's a reason grocery stores call it "produce".

Glenn Hawley and I recently attended the Midwest Preachers' Retreat up in Wisconsin. The theme centered around establishing and leading churches that are engaged in God's mission into their own communities. After spending the past 10 days processing all I've heard and studied, I am left both uplifted and concerned.

One line that has stuck with me from the retreat is "God's church doesn't have a mission; His mission has a church". Let me explain using Acts 16.

If ever there were a Spirit-led missionary, it was the Apostle Paul. Acts 16 falls at the beginning of his 2nd missionary journey as Paul & Silas sweep across Asia Minor encouraging young churches founded just a year or two earlier by he and Barnabas. But then, Access Denied!! (:6) None other than the Holy Spirit himself blocks Paul & Silas from preaching the word in the province of Asia. Now why would the Holy Spirit ever prevent the Word from being spread?? The only reason that comes to mind is because God wanted them somewhere else.

They pass through Phrygia and Galatia before encountering another resounding "Access Denied!" when attempting to enter the province of Bithynia (:7). Blocked by the Spirit ... again. Through a nighttime vision, God directs Paul & Silas to the Greek province of Macedonia. (:9-10)

We're fond of saying, "God must have had something better in store for Paul & Silas". Right? Well, they arrive in Macedonia, convert Lydia (:11-15), then get beaten and thrown in jail in Philippi (:16-24). All part of God's "better plan" for Paul & Silas.

"Thanks a lot, Lord!! I've heard Bithynia's nice this time of year, can't we just go there!?" would have been my response. Paul & Silas go on to establish churches in Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, and Corinth before returning to Asia Minor.

Fruitful ministry, led by the Spirit. The Spirit was Paul & Silas' "advance team", working in hearts, lives, and circumstances laying the groundwork for their arrival.

Do you believe the Spirit still does this today? Do you believe the Spirit still works outside the four walls of the church building? Do you believe the Spirit still plows the terrain to prepare for us to scatter the seed in order to reap a harvest?

As I see it, the East Hill church is at a crossroads. The hard truth is for decades East Hill grew without having to actively evangelize the city of York. The congregation enjoyed a steady flow of new members and talent moving to York from other places, many of whom would "automatically" begin attending East Hill. That influx has abated considerably. In the '70s and '80s, the York University (then college) student body was composed of around 85%-90% members of the churches of Christ. That figure is now below 25%.

This is actually good news for East Hill because we can no longer count on growth by "swelling". We'll have to get out of our doors and spread the Word, New Testament style!

The question is not, "Does the East Hill church have a mission?" The question is "Will East Hill engage with God's mission already at work in our community?" The Spirit always does His work, though we rarely understand how. Our "job" is to open our Bibles, our eyes, and our mouths. Start by looking around the auditorium on Sunday morning. Look at the many new faces the Lord is sending right through our doors. Get to know them!! They're here to connect. Learn their kids' names. Welcome them, not just once, but regularly among our number.

Like in Acts 16, night and day the Spirit is still at work tilling the ground, preparing hearts, ordaining encounters for us to sow abundant seed in our community. All for a harvest.

Will you & I engage in God's mission from the streets or the bleachers?

— Mark Miller

(A shout out to Dr. Steve Cloer, the keynote speaker at this year's Midwest Preachers' Retreat, whose insights and challenges provided some of the "impetus" behind this article.)

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.

- C** October
- 6 Elders' meeting
 - 6 Set up - Clothing Give-away 5:30 pm
 - 7 YU Equipped for Mission Workshop
- A**
- 7-11 Clothing Give-away sorting
9 am to 9 pm daily
 - 9 Devotional in Lieu of Bible classes
- L**
- 11 Church Family Clothing night 6-8 pm
 - 12 Clothing Give-away 8 am-noon
 - 13 Due date for Marcum gifts
- E**
- 18-19 YU Homecoming
 - 20-23 Bellevue Church of Christ Fall Seminar, in Bellevue
 - 22 Food Distribution 10:30-11:30 am in south parking lot
- N**
- 26 Ladies Craft Day 8 am-4 pm in fellowship hall
 - 26 Chili Cook off and singing in FH at 5:30
- D**
- 27 Elders' meeting
 - 30 New Song Night
- November**
- A**
- 1 Son Shiners at Chances "R" at 5:30
 - 3 Daylight Saving Time ends "Fall Back" an hour
 - 9 Men's Breakfast 8 am in FH
- R**
- 24 QPR Workshop 6-7:30 in East Hill fellowship hall
 - 26 Food Distribution 10:30-11:30 am in south parking lot

10/6 Jansen Fraser
10/10 James Thomas
10/10 Ben Pack

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MINISTRIES & EVENTS

The Annual Life Chain Event in support of the belief that all life is important is today from 2-3 pm on the east side of the York County Courthouse at 5th and Grant Ave. Signs and refreshments are provided for those who wish to participate by standing peacefully and prayerfully. If you are unable to stand for an hour you are free to bring a chair.

Clothing Giveaway Volunteer Opportunities: It takes many hands to prepare the gift of the giveaway that will be this Saturday. Listed here are the times for opportunities to provide those hands. Donations of clothes or 13 gallon unscented trash bags can be brought Monday-Thursday 9 am-9 pm. **Sunday 5:30-7:00ish** - tear down of usual set up and set up of racks and sorting tables. **Monday-Thursday 9 am-9 pm** - sorting and hanging (occasionally need empty totes moved out and totes of unsorted clothes moved in). **Wednesday 7:00ish** (following devotional) - expand set up and big hanging push. **Friday 9 am-2:00ish** - clean up and rearranging for give-away. **Saturday 8 am-noon** - greeters/bag distributors/supervisors. **Saturday noon-4:00ish** - clean up and reset building for regular use. Volunteers for clean up on Saturday if you would like pizza to power your afternoon, please sign up (available in EHPN or talk to Michele.) Questions the member next to you can't answer? See Michele Briggs.

Devotional in Lieu of Bible Classes: On Wednesday, due to clothing giveaway set up, we will have a devotional at 6:30 in lieu of Bible classes.

Church Family Clothing Night: On Friday from 6-8 pm the church family is invited to special shopping time to see what we have prepared and get clothing for yourselves.

Collecting Cards, Notes and Gifts for the Marcum Family: Sheila Tandy will be traveling to Ecuador for the Operation Ecuador annual meeting. If you would like to send cards, notes or small gifts you can put them in the collection basket in the foyer on the information table. Sheila will collect everything to pack on October 13. See Sheila Tandy with questions.

Calendars: The sign up sheet for 2025 God's World calendars is in the foyer on the information table. Price is \$9, due when they are received. \$4.50 will go to a mission effort such as EEM, Orphans' Lifeline or local needs. The order will be placed on October 23. See Deena Tandy if you have questions.

Save the date for the annual chili and dessert cooking competition along with fellowship and singing on October 26.

*Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy;
without holiness no one will see the Lord.*

East Hill 2024 Theme Verse—Hebrews 12:14 (NIV)

BODY LIFE & PRAYERS

Prayer Requests and Updates:

Tommy Carr's ablation procedure on Tuesday went well. He is convalescing at home. The doctors think this will be effective to help with arrhythmia issues, but it could take a couple of months to heal completely.

LaRae Melvin asks for prayers for her former coworkers who are under a lot of stress. A number of people have quit recently leaving those who are left under a lot of pressure with extra overtime and inflexible management.

Thomas Tandy had surgery for skin and tissue grafts on Friday to close up the wound from the cancerous tissue taken out last week.

Travis Suhr's surgery went well. The tear was worse than expected but the repair was successful and he started therapy on Thursday. Please pray for a fast recovery and for him to take it easy and not over do it and rush the healing process.

Scott Van Esch's test results came back good. They will meet with his cardiologist in a few weeks to see what the next step will be.

Clothing Giveaway: Please be in prayer for the volunteers this week that they can accomplish the task before them without injury or illness. For those who will come to receive the gift on Saturday, please, pray that they will recognize the love of Jesus in what they receive and desire to know him and follow him.

Body Life:

We would like to shower **Marla Huber** with cards of encouragement and love. There is a basket on the information table in the foyer where you can leave your card and we will get them to her. If you forgot your card this morning, please get it to the office on Monday.

Thank You for the flowers, prayers, and comfort.. ~ **Lonnie Shafer & family**

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.

Women's Thursday Class will not meet this week due to the clothing giveaway set up.

*Make every effort to
live in peace with
everyone and to be holy;
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Hebrews 12:14 (NIV)

Weekly Prayer Pal Suggestion

Faith – See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright – but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness.

~Habakkuk 2:4

Scripture Memory for the week of Oct 6

Psalm 121:7-8

The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

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 (livestream-East Hill's Facebook)
Children's Class 6:30 pm (drop off 6:20, pick up 7:15)
MS & HS Huddle 6:20-7:20 pm

For the Record:	September 29, 2024
Weekly Attendance:	285
<u>Weekly Giving</u>	
Budgeted:	\$7,143.85
Actual:	\$6,323.12
Children's:	\$126.55
<u>Year to Date</u>	
Budgeted:	\$278,610.15
Giving:	\$258,667.84
Children's for Ecuador:	\$1,711.61

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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

Charlene Huskins (summer) 1:00-4:00

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

Clothing Giveaway

Our Fall clothing giveaway will be this Saturday, October 12 from 8 am to noon. This does mean some disruption of our regular weekly schedule as we work all week to prepare this gift for our community. We appreciate everyone's patience with the disruption.

Volunteers have been picking up and presorting donations from The Trading Posts' surplus since the spring give away and the storage building is bursting at the seams. We will have coats, boots, sweat shirts and everyday clothing for men, women and children as well as blankets and bedding to help people in our community get through the winter more comfortably without the expense.

We have been doing this so long that some young adults who grew up in this congregation have childhood memories of playing on piles of unsorted clothes. Over those years we have worked out systems that have enabled us to handle greater and greater volumes of clothes but the hands to do what is needed are always needed. People's availability to volunteer varies from time to time and we can always use new volunteers. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO SIGN UP AHEAD OF TIME TO HELP!** Just show up.

In Galatians, Paul tells the believers, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:10
The giveaway is about doing good to all people and especially to the family of believers. We hope you will participate in whatever way you can.

Order of Worship

Jesus, Redeemer and Friend

Worship Leader: Les Miller

You're Worthy of My Praise

Welcome

144 *O Worship the King*
538 *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*
167 *Hosanna*

Prayer: Andrew Van Gomple

Scripture Reading: Dan Keller

Hebrews 3:1-4, 2:5-12

266 *Majesty*

185 *Jesus, Thy Name I Love*
Night, with Ebon Pinion

Communion: Titus Robison

Children's Offering

533 *I Am a Sheep*

"No Other Gospel"

Galatians 1:3-9

Glenn Hawley

Invitation for Prayer

410 *He Leadeth Me*

Shepherd's Prayer: Mark Miller

Body Life: Ken Van Gomple