

Around this time every year falls the Jewish festival of Hanukkah, a weeklong commemoration with an interesting background and connection to Jesus.

Hanukkah might be the best known Jewish feast not commanded in the Bible. Its story starts around 170 B.C.—long after the close of Old Testament history—when a Seleucid (Syrian) king named Antiochus IV came along and upset a 150-year equilibrium that had allowed Jews to keep their culture and worship God under semi-autonomous governance dating back to the Ptolemies. Armed with ambition matched only by his penchant for self-aggrandisement, Antiochus IV felt Judea had resisted Hellenization long enough. It was time to turn the Jews into Greeks.

Antiochus IV took on the name “Epiphanes” (God Manifest) and set up his own high priest in Jerusalem. But while Antiochus Epiphanes was on a campaign in Egypt, the usurped high priest mustered an army, raided the Holy City, and killed the king’s appointee. Antiochus IV raced back from Egypt and “raging like a wild animal . . . took Jerusalem by storm.” (2 Maccabees 5:11). He proceeded to ban the Sabbath, circumcision, all Jewish feasts, as well as the mere possession of the Holy Scriptures. He openly sacrificed pigs in the Temple and filled its courts with drunken hedonism. He erected a statue of Zeus in his own likeness above the altar and demanded its worship. He forced Jews, on penalty of death, to eat pork. Most did. (Would you? Maybe if it was bacon?)

Antiochus then sent emissaries to enforce his edicts throughout the land.

Enter a little country town name Modi’in. When the king’s emissary showed up and demanded they sacrifice to Zeus, their aging priest, a man named Mattathias, told ‘em to go pound sand. When another Jew volunteered to perform the sacrifice, Mattathias killed both him and the royal emissary. He knew what that meant. It meant the king’s army was on its way.

Mattathias and his five sons headed for the hills. They hunkered down in the Judean countryside and, under the command of Mattathias’ third son Judah, they launched a three-year guerilla war that defied all odds and began routing the Seleucids. His fierce agility in battle earned him the moniker “Judah Maccabbeus”, literally, “Judas the Hammer”.

The Hammer went on to recapture Jerusalem, purged it of idols, and gave the defiled and desolate Temple an extreme makeover. In December 164 B.C., he rededicated the Temple and sacrifices again were offered to Yahweh. Judas The Hammer then held an eight-day “Hanukkah” or “Feast of Dedication”.

Many don’t realize that Hanukkah actually turns up in the gospels, in John 10, where it’s called the Feast of Dedication. But why was Jesus there? To Jews, Hanukkah was sort of “Thanksgiving meets the 4th of July”, a patriotic time for giving thanks to God for his providence in protecting their faith and way of life. It was a time Jesus might have expected to hear some messianic chatter, and indeed he did. “If you are the Christ, tell us plainly”, the Jews demanded (10:24). Jesus had told them, but they were dull to hear. In verse 30 Jesus threw down a “hammer” of his own, “I and the Father are one”. Jaws dropped, blood boiled, and Jews nearly stoned him on the spot.

You see, it was not lost on those Jews that 200 years earlier, in this same Temple, Antiochus Epiphanes rose and proclaimed *the exact same thing. He set himself up as god, demanded the Jews worship him, and this very feast was to celebrate God’s deliverance from the clutches of the Seleucids by The Hammer. There could hardly have been a more fitting moment for Jesus to pronounce himself “God Manifest”, Jesus Epiphanes.*

This time, would they side with Yahweh and recognize their deliverer? Someone much greater than “The Hammer” now stood before them. The true redeemer of all mankind. He was God Manifest, all the fullness of God in bodily form (Colossians 2:9).

Christians live year round with our faith and beliefs often besieged by our own flesh as well as the armies of cultural secularism. How appropriate would it be if we made this a season of cleansing and rededication as well? A time to refocus on what matters. What if, in the little country town of York, we drew inspiration from that old priest Mattathias and told the world and its encroaching values to go pound sand? How mightily would God deliver our families, congregation, and community if we placed Jesus, “God Manifest” prominently on display in all we think, do, and proclaim?

— Mark Miller



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

## December

- 15 Final day the Survey is available
- 18 Youth Group Christmas Party  
6:30-8 pm at Campbell Center
- 19 Food Distribution 10:30-11:30 am  
in south parking lot (Thursday  
before Christmas)
- 22 Elders Meeting
- 24 Christmas Eve Service 6 pm
- 25 No Classes meeting at the  
building
- 29 No Sunday morning classes  
—we are planning a fellowship  
time in the fellowship hall before  
service

## January

- 1 Devotional in Lieu of Classes
- 3 Son Shiners at Chances "R" at 5:30
- 4 Men's Breakfast 8 am in FH
- 5 Baby Shower 2-4 pm Lacina
- 11 FriendSpeak Training 9 am
- 12 "Foundations" Bible Class begins
- 24-25 Elders & Ministers retreat

- 12/15 Jayden Lamonde
- 12/15 Les Miller
- 12/15 Tatiana Noe
- 12/16 Ellee Williamson
- 12/18 Malachi Knapp
- 12/18 Samuel Tremaine
- 12/18 Jonathan Tandy
- 12/18 Justin Carver
- 12/18 Laela Stewart
- 12/19 Brittany Kretz
- 12/20 Ava Goodwin
- 12/21 Tania Billington
- 12/21 Chana Marsh
- 12/15 Mark & Rose Miller
- 12/20 Titus & Angie Robison

# CELEBRATE

## MINISTRIES & EVENTS

**Survey Request:** This is the **final day** to participate in the survey exploring the impact of the pandemic on congregations across the nation. Everyone, 18 and older who attends East Hill is encouraged to take the survey to give us and the study the best information. It is estimated that the survey will take about 10 to 15 minutes. At the QR code is a link to the survey unique to East Hill so your responses will be linked to East Hill but will also be anonymous.



**Today:** The McNeeses invite all **Son Shiners** to a Christmas open house, come-and-go on Sunday afternoon, December 15, from 2-5 pm. Their address is 30 Eastridge Avenue.

**East Hill Youth Group Christmas Party:** Join us at the Campbell Center on Wednesday, December 18, from 6:30-8pm for our annual Christmas Party! Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater, most festive holiday attire, there will be a prize for the best dressed! Please bring a \$10 white elephant gift! Pizza, pop, and cookies will be provided. Please sign up on the Remind app or in the EHPN if you plan to attend.

**Food Distribution:** The December food distribution will be 10:30-11:30am on Thursday December 19 since the 4th Tuesday is Christmas Eve. With the University being out for the holidays, we will need some more help than usual to pass out the food items. Please arrive by 10 am if you are able to help out. Contact Tonya Carr with questions.

**Christmas Dinner:** Harold and Deena Tandy are having a Christmas Day dinner for either singles or couples who have no family around to be with. If you would like to come, please contact Harold or Deena by Sunday, December 22.

**Christmas Eve Devotional:** On Tuesday, December 24, we are hosting a Christmas Eve service at the York University prayer chapel at 6 pm. We are inviting the York Community and we hope to fill the chapel. Please invite your neighbors and friends. Contact Glenn Dallmann if you would like to help with scripture reading. We would like to have some cookies to hand out, if you would be willing to make and package cookies please sign up on the Meal Train "potluck" at the link in the QR code.





*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 Request:

**Candy Battreall** was diagnosed with pneumonia and had a blood transfusion last week. Please keep her in your prayers.

**Michele Briggs** had outpatient surgery on Wednesday to remove a uterine fibroid. Prayers for a good recovery would be appreciated.

**Nell Cole** is having trouble with an infection in her right eye. She has been seeing a specialist for over 8 months but it is still an issue. It has caused her to be almost completely blind. She is unable to do the things she loves to do like painting and arts and crafts. Her son, Dan Cole, is looking for help getting Nell to her appointments. Please contact him through the office.

**Sue Keller** is waiting to see the heart doctor on December 18. She would like prayers for strength and peace, knowing God's love is with her. We have also been praying for her daughter, Stephanie, and husband, Gary. Gary had some health concerns, and Sue reports that he is doing great.

**Chana Marsh** is dealing with a viral infection that is affecting her breathing. Please keep her in your prayers.

### Update and Thank You:

**Garrett and Jenna Schwarz** would like to thank everyone for the prayers and support over the past year in regards to Jenna's health concerns. Prayers were answered and the doctors were able to find her spinal fluid leak and repair it. God is Good!

We can't express enough how grateful we are for your willingness to help us acquire solar panels to address our electricity shortages—especially knowing you are supporting so many other wonderful charitable efforts during this time of year. This week, our electricity cuts are down to only 5 hours a day! Woohoo! We're hopeful that everything will be set up and running by the end of next week or just in time for Christmas to help keep the lights on.

Praying for you as you do us. Una Feliz Navidad,

~Familia Marcum

### Weekly Events

**FriendSpeak:** Do you know someone who would like to have conversational English lessons? Have them call our FriendSpeak hotline: 402-710-0042

**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 be meeting for the rest of this year. Class will resume on January 9.

### Weekly Prayer Pal Suggestion

Prudence (good judgement) – *I wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion.*

~Proverbs 8:2

Scripture Memory for December 8-21  
Acts 2:38-39

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. *The promise is for you and your children and all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.*



## 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:	December 8, 2024
Weekly Attendance:	
<u>Weekly Giving</u>	
Budgeted:	\$7,143.85
Actual:	\$7,283.42
Children's:	\$35.50
<u>Year to Date</u>	
Budgeted:	\$350,048.65
Giving:	\$328,548.49
Children's for Ecuador:	\$2,372.20

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WiFi: EHguest PW: JesusIsLord!

### Ministry Staff:

#### Preaching Minister

Glenn Hawley

#### Outreach & Involvement 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 Sign Up:** The sheet to sign up to help for one month of communion preparation is now up on the bulletin board under the TV in the foyer. Please see Diane Kretz if you have questions.

**Baby Shower:** Ladies, mark your calendars for Sunday, January 5 from 2-4 pm when there will be a shower to help Lexi and Nate Lacina prepare for Alieth, the little girl they are expecting in mid-February. They are registered at Walmart.

### Body Life:

As part of today's lament service, we will remember the people who have died at East Hill this year. We do this to support each other in our faith in the resurrection and the acknowledgment of the pain of our loss.

Marty Salsbury (11/4/83-2/13/24),  
Richard Danielson (10/22/38-6/7/24),  
Bernadine Smith (5/25/20-6/15/24),  
Carol Shafer (1/23/45-9/24/24),  
Margaret Friesen (5/24/42-11/17/24),  
Marla Huber (3/18/58-11/26/24).

## Order of Worship

### Save Me, O God

**Welcome:** Glenn Dallmann

189 *Master the Tempest is Raging*

### *Psalm 69:1-4*

*While on the Sea*

*As the Deer*

### *Lament from Grief*

*Psalm 42-43*

**Shepherd's Prayer:** Eric Tremaine

### *Lament of the Forsaken*

*Psalm 22*

**Shepherd's Prayer:** Tim Carr

### *Psalm 96:13-18*

778 *Be with Me, Lord*

*Still*

*In Need*

### *Matthew 26:36-46*

*Night with Ebon Pinion*

**Communion:** Noah McNeese

### **Children's Offering**

479 *Peace Perfect Peace*

*Is He Worthby?*

**Shepherd's Prayer:** Mark Miller

**Body Life:** Ken Van Gomple

*The Steadfast Love of the Lord*