

Looking Ahead

*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,
plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”*

- Jeremiah 29:11

I have heard this verse and have been encouraged by it for many years. In fact, I remember getting notes when I graduated from high school that used this verse to encourage me as I entered a new chapter in my life. It was not until many years later that I realized the context of this passage. God’s people were in exile in Babylon. Jeremiah’s letter to those exiled in Babylon carried a message from God. The Lord wanted them to settle into the land, establishing homes and raising families, “Increase in number there; do not decrease.” Those in captivity were also encouraged to seek the peace and prosperity of the city where they were dwelling in exile. When the city prospers, you will prosper with it, the Lord declared. Then after a warning to not listen to the false prophets, God gave them a promise. After 70 years He would come to fulfill His promise and bring His people back from captivity. At that time God’s people would call out to and pray to Him, seeking Him with all their heart and finding Him.

I would like to share a few thoughts from this passage that I found encouraging as we look ahead at 2025:

First, we are not living in our true home. Our true home and the desire of our hearts is to be with God.

While we are here however, God wants us to work on growing the kingdom of His people. He encouraged the Israelites to build houses and raise families in Babylon and to ensure that their numbers increased and did not decrease. While we are on this side of heaven, God wants us to work on strengthening His kingdom!

Second, I was struck by God’s instruction for his people to pray for the peace and prosperity of the land in which they were living in exile. They were to pray for Babylon. How often do we pray for this land in which we are living?

And lastly, do we live like we believe God’s promise that he has plans for us? Good plans for our benefit and blessing. Plans that are built on the hope and future He has to offer.

I want to encourage you as you look ahead and prepare for this new year, 2025, to spend some time in this passage meditating on and looking forward to the good plans that God has for you in this next year! “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future!”

~Eric Tremaine

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

January

- 12 "Foundations" Bible Class begins
- 24-25 Elders & Ministers retreat
- 28 Food Distribution 10:30-11:30 am
in south parking lot

February

- 1 Men's Breakfast 8 am in FH
- 7 Son Shiners at Chances "R" at 5:30
- 25 Food Distribution 10:30-11:30 am
in south parking lot

Save the Dates

- April—Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- April 6-12—Clothing Giveaway week

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

- 1/13 Travis Suhr
- 1/13 Riley Nugen
- 1/14 Evalee Robison
- 1/14 Gregory Hinman
- 1/15 Kenan Knapp

CELEBRATE

MINISTRIES & EVENTS

A New Sunday Bible Class begins today in rooms C-E of the fellowship hall! This class is titled "**Foundations: The Story of God.**" In this class, you will gain an understanding of God's plan for humanity and your place in it as revealed by the Bible. You'll learn about the Five Acts of the Theodrama (Creation, Israel, Messiah, Church, and New Creation). This class is ideal for those without a lot of experience reading the Bible and who find the Bible confusing, or if you're simply new to East Hill. Together, we'll seek to answer as many of your questions as possible. Teacher: Glenn Dallmann.

Continuing Adult Classes:

College/Young Adult—Jared Pack will be teaching this class this spring. Class meets in room A-B the fellowship hall.

Daily Bread—This class takes a chapter of scripture per week, highlighting the gospel found there. Class meets in room D-F in the fellowship hall.

Genesis—Glenn Hawley is leading his class through this key part of scripture. This quarter will focus on the story of Joseph (chapters 39-50). Class meets in the auditorium.

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.

New Sermon Series: Do you feel that your prayer life has gotten into a rut? Would you like a spark to renew your conversations with God? Glenn Hawley's new sermon series is called Praying with Scripture. It will take us through some of the prayers of the Bible and show us ways to rework them into our own lives.

*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:

Loretta Goben is back at home with Tana after being in the hospital. She is needing lots of help but being in a familiar place with familiar people is a huge comfort to her. Let's pray for Loretta's recovery and keep Tana and Jerry in prayer as they provide what Loretta needs.

Terry Krumrei has requested prayers for his brother Phil. Phil suffered a heart attack a week ago. They found a blockage and were able to get a stent inserted.

Ron Shields is back home from the hospital after his fall on Sunday following a blood pressure low that caused dizziness. His blood pressure is still fluctuating a lot, and he's waiting to see how the new meds will do. Because he is not able to walk due to frequent low blood pressure, he's currently using a wheelchair. Lynnette is staying home from work with him at least through Tuesday, when he has a follow up appointment.

Leadership: On January 24-25, the elders, ministers, and their wives will enter into our annual retreat. During this time we will be praying for the church, talking about our needs, and planning the next steps for us as a church. Please pray for us as we head into this retreat.

Body Life:

FriendSpeak: Our great thanks to everyone who came out yesterday to participate in the FriendSpeak training. Also, thanks to those who loaned us tables for the day. Pray for this ministry as we get it off of the ground. And if you know anyone who might benefit from conversational English sessions, please let them know about it. Business cards are available at both entrances, so take as many as you can use.

University News: York University announced on January 8 the selection of Dr. Tim Westbrook to serve as the new president of the University. He will assume the office July 1, 2025.

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: For the weekly youth activities contact Garrett Schwarz to get the Remind notices.

Women's Thursday Class is 10-11:30 am in the fellowship hall and is available via Zoom. Rose Miller is teaching on "God's Word and Interpersonal Relationships."

Praise in Motion: Ladies are invited to gather Thursdays 6:30-7 pm in the fellowship hall to breathe, stretch and praise God together.

Weekly Prayer Pal Suggestion
Integrity and Honesty – *Protect my life and rescue me! Do not let me be put to shame. I have taken refuge in you. Integrity and honesty will protect me because I wait for you. ~Psalm 25:20-21*

Scripture Memory for 3 weeks
2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, ...

