

Syncretism: Playing Mix & Match

Combining the beliefs, practices, and worship of different gods is called syncretism. Syncretism has been a perennial stumbling block among God's people. I would argue that it still is today.

In Scripture, even in times when Israel and Judah were spiraling into apostasy, rarely would they stop worshipping Yahweh altogether. The Israelites would masterfully weave the beliefs and practices of pagan religions into their worship of Yahweh. They were perfectly comfortable bringing sacrifices and incense to Yahweh while bending the knee to Baal and Asherah on the high places or offering their children to the flames of Molech (2 Kings 17:16-17; 2 Chronicles 28:3-4; 33:4-6). In all this, they kept Yahweh somewhere in the mix.

The Israelites were adept at directly ascribing both Yahweh's name and mighty works of deliverance to pagan gods fashioned to their own liking. When Aaron fashioned a gold calf at the base of Mt. Sinai, he tells the grumbling Israelites, "These, O Israel, are your gods, *who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!*" (Exodus 32:4) Israel's king Jeroboam does exactly the same thing in 1 Kings 12:28. They placed the one true God's name on their own god and beliefs. Sadly, in both cases, Israel followed along like a puppy.

God unequivocally condemned this mixing of His name and great works into their convenient, custom-made religion. Yahweh plus any other god is idolatry.

We often think of sin in sterile transactional terms. We break God's law, so there's a penalty to be paid. This misses the obvious fact that our God isn't a cosmic cop who "gives us a ticket" for sinning as part of his job. That's a shallow and wholly unbiblical view of us and God.

God's design from Eden onward is relational. "I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be My people." (Leviticus 26:12). Yahweh considers mixed allegiances a breach of relationship. We are not to live like those around us nor are we to bring secular priorities and practices into our lives and worship.

Over and over the Bible casts God's view of immorality, injustice, and especially idolatry—joining Yahweh with any other competing loyalty—to a husband, jealous for his wife, who will not accept her sleeping around. Israel's penchant for syncretism, mixing and matching holy worship and living with the beliefs and practices of the nations around them, drove the prophets to apply the husband/wife adultery metaphor to syncretism over and over again.

How we live, what we believe and the priorities we exhibit are to reflect our unrivaled commitment to our merciful but just God as set out in Scripture. It's not "transactional"—rules and punishments—in His eyes. He has "skin in the game". Remember that it was He who purchased the church with the blood of his own son (Acts 20:28), ransoming us from our futile ways of living (1 Peter 1:18) as Hosea bought back his unfaithful Gomer off the slave auction blocks (Hosea 3).

Let's not mix & match our beliefs and life choices with the trendy gods of our day, merely welcoming Yahweh into our personal pantheon of competing allegiances. He demands and deserves our complete loyalty and obedience.

— 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.

- C** February
 23 Soup Lunch Fundraiser for Youth Mission Trip
- A**
 23 Elder's Meeting
 25 Food Distribution 10:30-11:30 am in south parking lot
- L** March
 1 Ladies' Crafting 8 am-6 pm in FH
 2 Praise and Worship Service
 7 Son Shiners at Chances "R" at 5:30
 8 Men's Breakfast 8 am in FH
- N** 17-19 YU Equip Conference
 19 New Song Night
 19 Farewell Social for Sheila Tandy following class time
- D** 25 Food Distribution 10:30-11:30 am in south parking lot
- A** 30 5th Sunday Church Potluck after worship in FH
- Save the Dates**
R 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

- 2/17 Pam Miller
- 2/18 Ken Van Gomple
- 2/19 Cody Wyatt
- 2/20 Wesley Tandy
- 2/20 Anthony Hodson
- 2/22 Eldsworth Cleland
- 2/22 Andrew Van Gomple

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MINISTRIES & EVENTS

The Youth Mission Trip Soup Lunch Fundraiser is next Sunday, February 23. There will be a soup lunch served after worship. A free will donation will be accepted to help those who are planning to go to Ecuador this summer, June 17-25. Please pray for the following youth who plan to go: **Milan Babcock, Ryan Coehoorn, Peter Dallmann, Ava Goodwin, Audrey and Madi Miller, Carlye Philipp, Ben and Harrison Sears, Lael Schwarz, and Charlie Van Gomple.**

March 17-18 York University Equip Conference will feature many incredible teachers who will address a variety of topics related to evangelism, discipleship, and ministry with keynote speakers as well as breakout sessions. There will also be a Youth Ministry Workshop to focus on growing faith in young people. There is a dinner on Monday night to present the Minister's Heart Award and to announce the partnership with Pepperdine University for a grant to focus on small churches and to open a new center for ministry on the YU campus. The annual Ides of March dinner and lecture will close out the conference. Register by March 7. The fee is \$50, paid at the conference. More information and registration can be found at the QR code.



Showers: The QR codes have been updated to actually take you to the registries this week!

Please join us for a bridal shower in honor of **Kitra Cody** who is marrying **Avery Miller**, son of Mark and Rose. The shower will be held at 1804 E 9th St in York on Saturday March 8 from 2 PM-4PM. Gift Registry can be found at the QR code. Contact Rose or Rena Miller for more details.



A come and go Couples' wedding shower for **Timberly Carr and Jaden Beske** will be on Sunday March 9, 2025 from 2-4 pm on the 3rd floor of Hulitt Hall on YU campus. Please bring gifts unwrapped and include a card with your name so we can properly thank you! Registry can be found at the QR code.



The Encourager Ministry puts out cards for members' birthdays and anniversaries. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Brenda Reicheneker.

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
East Hill 2025 Theme Verse—Hebrews 10:24 (NIV)*

BODY LIFE & PRAYERS

Prayers:

We had shared that **Frank Billington's** mother's health had taken a turn for the worse. His mother, Ruth, passed away on February 6. She lived in Tacoma, WA. Frank returned home on Thursday. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Sue Keller has an appointment on March 6. Please pray for solutions to be found for her weakened heart valves.

Logan Rice asks for prayers regarding his health. He passed out several times last week and was brought to the ER on one incident. He is concerned about what this might mean for his health.

Body Life:

Allison, Conner, and big sister **Vivian** welcomed **Bodie Clyde Mogul** to the family on Thursday, February 6. Everyone is home and doing well.

Nathan and Lexi Lacina welcomed their new daughter, **Alieth Ryan** on February 9 at 7:59. She was 7 lbs, 6 oz and 20 inches long.

Nathaniel Tremaine was baptized last week. Let's pray for him and encourage him in his walk with God.

Invitation: Sheila Tandy and Tom Norris together with their families request the pleasure of your company at the celebration of their wedding on Saturday, March 22, 2025 at 2:00 pm, in Wichita, KS. Contact the office for the RSVP number. No gifts, please.

Today we welcome **Crystal Morrow** and **Logan Rice** to East Hill.

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

Respect – *Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.*

~I Peter 2:17

Scripture Memory

Psalm 46:10-11

"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

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:	February 9, 2025
Weekly Attendance:	208
<u>Weekly Giving</u>	
Budgeted:	\$
Actual:	\$7,334.12
Children's:	\$72.05
<u>Year to Date</u>	
Budgeted:	\$
Giving:	\$51,260.98
Children's for Ecuador:	\$335.57

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

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

Trent Hinton -----Livestream

Larry Light ----Single Seniors, Facilities

Garrett Schwarz-----Youth

Jeff Shafer-----Worship Support

Ken Van Gompel -----LTC

LTC Practice Schedule:

The season is upon us! Practices will kick off today here at the building and will continue through the following weeks. Please take note of the practice times for events that your child is signed up for. The practice times are not long, so please be sure students arrive on time and ready to go! If there is a gap between practices for your child please be aware that coaches are not planning to stay and supervise between.

The following practices will be on Sundays:

Bible Study - 1:00

Sign Language - 1:30

3-6 Chorus - 2:00

7-12 Chorus - 2:00

3-6 Drama - 2:40

10-12 Drama - 3:00

Song Leading - 4:00

Public Speaking - 4:30

The following practice will be on Wednesdays:

6-9 Drama - 5:45

Order of Worship

Blessed in Christ

Worship Leader: Jared Pack

We Praise Thee, O God

Luke 6:17-26

Reading: Timothy Briggs

Prayer: Luke Case

O to be Like Thee

Come to the Table

Communion: Dan Goodwin

Children's Offering

In Christ Alone

New Doxology

"Praying with Scripture: Glory"

Romans 11:33-36

Glenn Hawley

Do You Know My Jesus?

Take the Name of Jesus With You

Body Life: Glenn Dallmann

Shepherd's Prayer: Mark Miller