

Upcoming Events

Jan 4th Believer's Pot Luck @ Emory
Jan 9th Open Board Meeting
Jan 16th Chili Lunch
Feb 1st Believers
Feb 13th Valentine Cookie Cake

Prayer Request

Mary Ann Cooper
Frank Burton
Rita Stewart
Carlyon Crook
Danette Roberson

Explorer's Bible Study

The Spring Session begins on Tuesday, January 4th
The topic for the Spring Session is "Making Sure of the Truth"

Hearts & Hands

Needs non-perishable food/canned goods, winter clothing & coats.
Please help if you can.

Contact: hearts.hands2013@gmail.com or (662) 838-8899

Christmas Card Exchange

Check the table in the Foyer for your Christmas Cards

Christmas Poinsettias

Please pick-up your Poinsettias after the service

Emory Independent Methodist Church

872 Watson Road
Byhalia, MS 38611
(662) 838-7878

Sr. Pastor Dr. Michael Johnson
(901) 606-8113

Robin Cox Home Ministry
(901) 351-7269

Margie Thompson Believers
(901) 262-6747

Sunday Service

Sunday School 10:00am
Worship Service 11:00am

www.emorychurchbyhalia.org

Emory Church



December 26, 2021

Apollo 8: Christmas at the Moon

Christmas Eve, 1968. As one of the most turbulent, tragic years in American history drew to a close, millions around the world were watching and listening as the Apollo 8 astronauts - Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders became the first humans to orbit another world.

As part of their broadcast from the moon to the earth they read the following:

Genesis 1:10

¹ In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. ² And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

³ And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. ⁴ And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

⁶ And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. ⁷ And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. ⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

⁹ And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. ¹⁰ And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

China

The church in China continues to enjoy strong growth; however, life for Christians is anything but straightforward.

The policy of "Sinicizing" the church is implemented across the country, as the Communist Party relies strongly on Chinese cultural identity to stay in power and limits whatever it perceives as a threat to its control on society.

New restrictions on the internet, social media and non-governmental organizations, and 2018 regulations on religion are strictly applied and seriously limit freedom. Churches are being monitored and closed down, whether they are independent or part of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement, the officially sanctioned Protestant church in China.

And it's not just the introduction of new laws that impinge on Christian activity, it's also the stricter implementation of already existing laws, such as the ban on the online sale of Bibles.

On a more local level, if a convert from Islam or Buddhism is discovered by their community and family, they are likely to face threats and physical harm—all in an effort to win them back. Spouses may be forced to divorce. Neighbors and the community may even report the practice of Christian activities to the authorities, who could take action to stop them.

Order of Worship

Prelude	Please be seated to prepare for worship	
Advent Candle Lighting		
*Hymn	#125 Joy to the World	Congregation
*Hymn	#136 The First Noel	Congregation
Scripture Reading	Psalm 103:17-18, John 1:14-18	
Special	Chad Baldwin	
Prayer for the Nations	China	
Scripture Reading	Matthew 1:18-25	
Communion		
Special	Joshua Howard Jr.	
Sermon	The Fullness of Time	Michael Johnson
	Psalm 103:17-18	
Benediction		
Announcements		
Closing Prayer		

(*) indicates times when you are invited to stand as you are able