



EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

“Be still and know
that I am God!”

Psalms 46:10



**Women's
Friday Fellowship**

Friday mornings
9:30am

**Happy
St. Patrick's Day**

Friday
March 17



**LEADERSHIP
MEETING**

**Leadership Team
Meeting**

Sunday
March 19



A Note from Pastor Seth

The American church is at a major divide right now. I do not say this to be combative; I say this because this is the reality. In America, broadly speaking, there are three different groups of Christians. The first group is full blown worldly Christians. These are those who redefine who Jesus is. These “Christians” take Scripture out of context. For example in Matthew 7:1 Jesus said, “Do not Judge or you too will be judged.” They take this to mean that we are not to judge others but accept people’s sins. Their understanding of this is taken out of context because in verse five Jesus says, “First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.” What Jesus is saying is that you can judge another, but examine yourself before you offer that judgment. But this is what these “Christians” do. They make Jesus who they want him to be, when in reality the true Jesus is nothing like their “Jesus.” These so called “Christians” are apostates through and through. They invite LGBTQ individuals to their church not to welcome them and call them to repentance, leading to freedom from sin and given new life, no, they tell them to stay in their sin, which in reality is unloving, since to stay in one’s sin means eternal death (John 8:24). The people who lead these “churches” are false teachers and the people who sit in the pews are goats (Matthew 25:41-46).

This leaves two other groups of Christians that at times can be hard to distinguish between. These two groups both call themselves evangelical Christians, but there is a major problem with one of these two groups. One of these groups can sign a sound doctrinal statement of faith, but this group cares much about what the world thinks. The first group is completely worldly while this group of evangelicals is somewhat worldly. But this group is problematic because Jesus does not want a people who partly love the world and partly love Him (1 John 2:15). He wants His followers to be completely sold out for Him. Jesus rebuked certain Christians with divided hearts in Revelation where He said, “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot” (Revelation 3:15). But this is where mainstream American evangelicalism is. All one has to do is to look around to see this is true. Recently I received an email from a compromised evangelical organization. I do not say compromised flippantly.

I say this based off of several years of observing their ministry focus. This is what was written to churches: “Your church members are likely feeling pressure to understand and engage with an ever-growing array of confusing, polarizing issues. They want less heat and more light. They want to stay focused on the gospel. They want to put their faith into action. They want to care. But they don’t know who to trust. When we keep the gospel central, we can disagree on lesser but still important matters in good faith. The Good Faith Debates series is designed to help your congregation think well – and disagree well – about some of today’s contested cultural issues.”

This email came from a progressive evangelical organization known as The Gospel Coalition. When I became Pastor of Eureka Baptist in February 2017 our church joined this organization because at the time I thought it was sound. But then I noticed that they did not handle the hot button issues of society according to Scripture but rather in a politically correct way. I have explained this before but once again political correctness is the desire not to offend, and it is a desire not to offend when the right thing to do is to speak the truth, which will be offensive to the world that opposes Christianity (2 Timothy 3:12). What The Gospel Coalition is saying is that there are cultural issues in America that Christians can disagree on. But is this true? Can Christians disagree on the hot button issues of society? The answer is no. Christians should not disagree. Let us go through some of these hot button issues. To follow Jesus closely means being vocal (not silent) that abortion is evil. It is being vocal (not silent) that homosexuality is not like others sins; it is a perversion (Romans 1:26-27). It is also saying that same sex attraction is sinful, and in so doing we should not give special treatment to the sin of homosexuality because of the fear of being called a bigot. To follow Jesus closely means exposing the social justice agenda for what it really is. The social justice agenda is an evil agenda that desires to divide people according to race, and the goal of it is to give more power to evil people who then punish their political enemies; these enemies being those who are conservative. These evil people use minorities to increase their power. In the same vein, to follow Jesus closely is being vocal that voting Democrat is not an option for Christians, because it is a godless agenda through and through. To follow Jesus means being politically incorrect, because political correctness is the “morality” of The Devil. These are the cultural issues that The Gospel Coalition says that Christians can disagree on, but

Eureka Baptist Church

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St. Croix Falls, WI 54024
715-483-9464
www.eurekabapchurch.com
Sunday Morning Service: 10:00am
*Kid's Church during Service
Sunday School: 9:00am
Wed Night Bible Study: 6:30pm
Women's Friday Group: 9:30am

they cannot. It is black and white. Christians are called to proclaim righteousness to put evil in its place, but to soften ones stance on these issues actually advances evil. The only way to stop evil is to stand one’s ground biblically, not let it sneak into the Christian community and then present it as true morality. What I read above from The Gospel Coalition is an example of what has gone wrong with the American evangelical church. You cannot combine the core tenets of Christianity with worldly philosophy. The fruit of this will not be good. I pray that more Christians, including from The Gospel Coalition, will see what is going on and turn from it to embrace biblical fidelity. I do not wish Christians in this camp anything ill, but I desire for them to see how far from the Bible mainstream evangelicalism has strayed. The problem with this mass of evangelicals is that they care too much what the world thinks. Have they forgotten what Jesus said? “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you” (John 15:18).

What The Gospel Coalition and other Christian organizations are saying is that we need to be “Gospel-centered.” In other words, just preach the gospel and then we can disagree on the moral issues facing society, but the issues facing society are not hard to figure out. They are only complicated when compromised Christians muddy the clear waters. Once one sincerely believes the gospel that Jesus died for sinners and rose victoriously from the dead, that person becomes a follower of Jesus. Once one belongs to Jesus, He calls that person to be obedient to Him in all of life. On these controversial cultural issues it is clear what is right and what is wrong and the believer must go down the straight path. There is a dividing line within evangelicalism between worldly Christianity and true biblical Christianity. My prayer is that more Christians would leave worldly Christianity behind and follow fully the Lord Jesus Christ. The ones who voice God’s righteous Law and call out the evil in the world, these are the ones who are willing to look like a fool to the world. After all, according to Scripture Christians are to be “the scum of the world, the refuse of all things” (1 Corinthians 4:13). As one looks like a fool to the world and receives ridicule God is pleased (1 Peter 4:14). This is the call as the Old hymn says, “I have decided to follow Jesus. The cross before me; the world behind me. No turning back. No turning back!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Seth

MissionMissionsreach

Tokar Family: Ukraine

From my school:

Today is exactly one year since the Russian Federation started its unprovoked full-scale aggression against Ukraine. To say that this year (we call it “February one year long”) has changed all of us means to say almost nothing.

Nevertheless, despite the tremendous pain, losses and other toll the war takes every single day, Ukraine, which the enemy planned to occupy within just several days, has not fallen... It is standing due to the courage and resilience demonstrated by the Ukrainian people, support of the international community and, of course, God's mercy.

So, we decided to ask the seminary faculty and staff to share their reminiscences of the first year of the war by answering several questions such as “How has the war changed you?” “What was the most difficult thing to do or decision to make?” “What did you see God's goodness in?” Below you can find some of the answers to the aforementioned questions. We deliberately omitted names of the respondents for you to concentrate on the depth of what they have been experiencing.

“Definitely, the war has changed me. I think it has made me more resilient, independent and responsible. It is still difficult to realize that the war has separated me with my relatives and friends.”

“The year has turned out to be difficult not only because of what is happening around but also because I have lost my son I loved so much. It has changed my perspective of the war and everything that is going on.”

“I have not seen so many miracles in my life as during this year of the war... For example, God kept my father safe when he was in the very epicenter of shelling. He sent people who took care of us, provided financially.”

“The war does not go by unnoticed, it always leaves its marks... I have become very sensitive to sounds. Trams used to go in the same way, something fell down, but I did not react to these sounds before as I do now. Today, every unexpected sound scares me...”

“Last year I happened to be close to the frontline for the first time. Also, I had to do other things I had never done before, for example, evacuate people from under shelling, hide in trenches and basements from missiles and rockets.”

“To make decision to leave the occupied Bucha on day 15 of the war not easy, but God miraculously brought us out. On the first day of the evacuation corridor (March 9) the occupiers did not let anyone out. So, we returned. On the next day we found ourselves in the only bus that made it through the checkpoint to the railway station in Kyiv.”

“People say that we live on pages of history. Although it is supposed to be honorable, it can also be scary at the same time. We evacuated, kneeled down by roadside to meet bodies of the killed Ukrainian soldiers, cried and prayed a lot.”

“I remember packing food parcels, driving a truck with winter clothes for the IDP's, crying together with a teacher from Bucha, learning about death of my friends and their children...”

“The most difficult, probably, was to trust my father who made a deliberate choice to stay with his church in a dangerous place into God's gracious hands.”

“To pay the price of the mother whose son is in the frontline is extremely difficult...”

“Although I have been a believer for a long time, the war has helped me better realize that material things just come and go... You never know if you see a new day, if you can hug your wife and children again.”

“This year has taught me to fill in many documents, live in different countries; it has also made me a guardian of my younger brother I had to evacuate from the country.”

“I had to evacuate almost all my church and then leave home on day 10 of the full-scale invasion... When we returned home, there was no electricity, water, heating... However, we managed to resume our ministry.”

Let us take advantage of the opportunity and yet again thank all our partners and friends for your compassionate hearts, prayers, encouragement and feasible support! Indeed, you have been one of the biggest blessings for us during this year. May the Lord richly bless all of you!

Youth Group Event



Some of the church youth had an event in February. Lots of food, games and devotions. Bottom photos: while leaving, some might have made a game of "basketball" trying to get a snowball in the bowl of the new toilets being installed in the church bathrooms. I believe Pastor won that game.



Monthly Events



Women's Bible Study
Saturday, March 4
9:00am



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, March 11
8:00am



Marriage Bible Study
Monday, March 6
7:00pm



“I opened up my box of God’s Promises for You,” Nancy Hahn told the gathering of women at a February Bible Study, “and the first verse I spied was Isaiah 41:10.”

Assorted murmurs arose.
 “A God Spot,” Nancy said.
 She smiled.

... Fear not ...

The story behind this God Spot begins over 75 years ago when a veteran of World War 1 gave that verse to Allen Johnson before he went overseas to serve our country in WW II. He kept it close throughout the war, and it found a permanent spot in his wallet after the war.

... for I am with you ...

When Allen learned that Mark and Lori Brooks’ son, Brandon, was scheduled to go to Iraq, he reached for the small slip of paper in his wallet. “Give this to your son.”

... be not dismayed ...

And Isaiah 41:10 accompanied Brandon, too. When he was in firefights and things seemed impossible, he would recite the verse, and it would give him the strength and courage to keep fighting. Since that time, Brandon shared the verse with countless other Marines. It was a doorway for many of them to seek out other Scripture passages.

... for I am your God ...

Lori treasured this story, and on the Friday morning that the topic of the Bible Study was “In a World of War, Be Calm,” she shared it with the group.

... I will strengthen you ...

Quietly, Nancy jotted down the reference. She would give the verse to her granddaughter Emily, who was heading off to boot camp.

...I will help you...

Nancy was quite sure the verse was one of the 120 included in her promises box.
 When she got home, she opened her little box and picked up the entire stack of verse cards. When she randomly divided the pile, there it was, right on top. Isaiah 41:10.

... I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

A God Spot indeed.

-Barb Trombley

Weekly Events



Sunday School
 Sunday Mornings
 9:00am



Morning Service
 Sunday Mornings
 10:00am



Fridays
 Matson Building
 9:30am



Kids Church
 Sunday mornings during
 Morning Service

2023 Board Members

Deacons

Shaun Anderson
Gordon Trombley

Elders

Mark Brooks
Keith Johnson

Trustees

Eric McKinley
Shaun Anderson

Deaconess

Barbara Trombley
Lori Brooks
Hansi Fox
Abby Swanson

Secretary

Amber Lindo

Treasurers

Hansi Fox
Abby Swanson

Church Announcements

- If you are interested in becoming a **church member**, please talk with Pastor Seth.
 - Abby Swanson will be collecting **Easter Flower order forms**. Please watch for them!
 - A reminder that we have a new system for **church reimbursements**. Please get a form at church or in the weekly emails.
 - **Easter** is in early April. If you know of any friends or neighbors that do not have a church service to attend, please invite them to Eureka Baptist! All are welcome!
 - There will be a **Leadership Team Meeting** on March 19 after morning service.
 - Thank you to **Bob Swanson** and **Kyle Swanson** for plowing the church property after snowfalls.
 - If you have any items to add to the **April Newsletter**, please have them to Amber by March 20.
 - We have a new and improved **weekly email update system**. If you do not receive weekly updates and would like to, please let Amber know. jeffamberlindo@gmail.com
 - **Marriage Bible Study** will be meeting on Monday, March 6 at 7:00pm.
 - Please correct **Susan Matson's address** in your member book: 2019 180th Avenue
 - At the Annual Meeting, we budgeted to hire an **Associate Pastor** to the staff. Although we do not have that position filled, please be praying for the man that will eventually join us!
- HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Hope McKinley 3/12, Isaiah Brickley 3/13, Gordon Trombley 3/18, Sophie Lindo 3/19, Debi Swanson 3/28, Josie Peterson 3/28
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Keith & Julie Johnson 3/2



Join us for some great Women's Topics!



March Meeting

Topic: A Gathering of Gardeners
Saturday, March 4
9:00am

If you like to garden, or would like to know more about gardening, this First Saturday talk is for you! See you at nine AM on Saturday, March 4th. Bring your tips, tricks, and questions.



April Meeting

Topic: No Fooling!

On April 1, the Women's Bible Study Group will learn more about creating healthy boundaries. The discussion begins at 9 AM.

"Incense can neither smell, nor ascend without fire."

Psalm 141:1-2

Inflamed, desires, impassioned, unwearied, insistent in prayer delights heaven.

-submitted

THE CHRISTIAN
WORLDVIEW
THINK BIBLICALLY • LIVE ACCORDINGLY

Podcasts Worth Pursuing

The Christian Worldview is a radio and online ministry that aims to sharpen the Biblical worldview of Christians and share the good news that all people can be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. The host, David Wheaton, is based out of the Twin Cities. He is a clear-speaking conservative voice, and he's not afraid to tackle the tough issues.

As John MacArthur states, "What we think shapes who we are. That's why the Bible tells us, 'Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind' (Romans 12:2). In a world of differing voices competing for our allegiance, we must learn to "think biblically" so we can distinguish good from evil. God is the Creator of this world; his voice-his Word-must guide our thoughts and our lives."

**What are the most helpful podcasts you listen to?
Please tell us, so we can feature them in this column.**



CHURCH LIBRARY *News*

Featured Library Book

What Happens After Life
by: Ron Rhodes

Trusted Bible teacher Ron Rhodes combines his rock-solid scriptural insight with illustrations from leaders throughout church history. These are inspirational explanations of the Bible's most encouraging teachings about heaven.

Each chapter is short enough to read in one sitting and zeroes in on a single encouraging truth. You will quickly find your fears and doubts replaced with confidence in these truths:

- Death is a transition into a wonderful life, not a fearful end.
- You will enjoy eternity in a wonderful new body.
- You will be reunited with Christian loved ones.
- Sin, sorrow, sickness, and pain will be no more.
- Best of all, you will enjoy face-to-face fellowship with God.

This reassuring look at the clear teaching of the Bible will empower you to embrace the future with hope and joy.

We have a new bookshelf with some new chapter books for kids ages 6-12. Please encourage your kids to check out these books.

Julie Johnson
Eureka Baptist Church Librarian

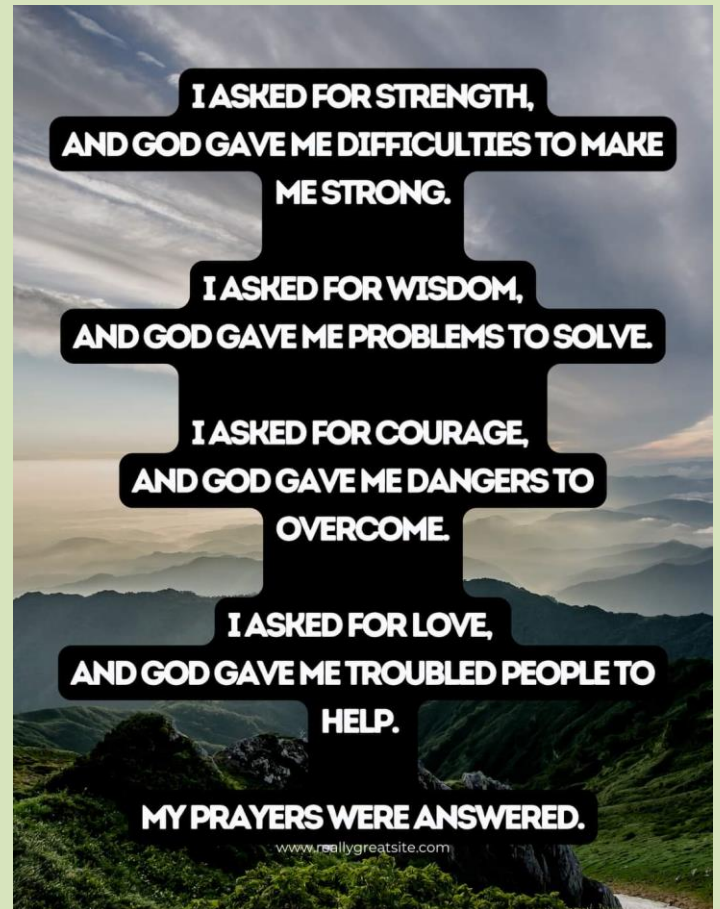


Easter Flower order forms will be available soon.
Please watch for them.

Palm Sunday, April 2
Morning Service 10:00am
Potluck Brunch following

Easter Sunday, April 9
No Adult Sunday School
Easter Service 10:00am

If you would like to do a special during these services, please talk with Pastor Seth by the end of March.



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