



A FRESH START



*It's time for an **upgrade!***

EATON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD | JANUARY 2021

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, January 10 | 9:45am

- There will be NO Sunday School on January 10.
- The meeting will be held in the sanctuary at 9:45 am.
- The meeting will be livestreamed on Facebook for those who cannot attend. You will be able to submit questions on Facebook, but you will be unable to vote unless you are at the meeting in person.
- The annual report, budget and ballot are available in the narthex for you to pick up a copy or call/email the church office and it will be sent to you.

We appreciate everyone's patience as we carry out the ministries of the church in new ways. We hope you will join us as we look at the past year, vote on the church budget & leaders and turn our eyes toward 2021.

COMING THIS MONTH

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------|
| Jan. 5 | Community Meal |
| Jan. 9 | Blood Drive |
| Jan. 10 | Annual Business Meeting |
| Jan. 10 | Youth Small Groups Start |
| Jan. 13 | Youth Open Gyms Start |
| Jan. 19 | Community Meal |
| Jan. 27 | Choir Sing-Along |

More details inside!

NEWS

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR AARON

Are you ready to put all of 2020 behind you? There is encouraging news on the horizon as the covid vaccines begin distribution and we anticipate a day when we can set aside the disruptions of the past year. Unfortunately, it will probably take longer for our lives to return to normal than we would like. And even then we will discover that 2021 will bring its own challenges and trials. Even when we celebrate good news in the short term, we should always keep in mind when our true hope will arrive. Listen to what James says:

James 5:7-8a

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient.

Everything will not be made right in 2021, or even in 2022. Instead, we must be patient until the final day, when Jesus returns to restore all things. Until then we can be patient no matter what happens because we know that God will do what He has promised.

COMMUNITY DRIVE-THRU MEALS

Our drive-thru meals are held the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Swing through the car port by the gym entrance at 6:00pm to be given a meal. Donations are accepted. Here's the schedule/menu:

- Tuesday, January 5 — pork loin, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, green beans and dessert
 - Tuesday, January 19 — chili, cornbread and dessert
- Contact the church office 937.456.4681 or office@e1cog.com for more information.

COLD WEATHER SHELTER

Home Is The Foundation Cold Shelter volunteer search is underway! Cold Shelter typically opens in November, or based on the weather conditions. Volunteers are needed to help monitor the shelter guests and serve meals. For more information and to sign up, please check out this link: [bit.ly/ColdShelter](https://volunteersignup.org/D49BW) or <https://volunteersignup.org/D49BW>. Also, if you would like to provide a warm meal for Cold Shelter, please email Jackie Hicks at jackie@hitfoundation.org or call 937-472-0500 ext. 422.

BLOOD DRIVE

Start your New Year off by being a Lifesaver! Sign up to give blood on Saturday, January 9th, 2020 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. here in the church gym. The holiday season is one of the biggest times of need for blood donation. Sign up at church website, on our app, or at www.donortime.com. You can also call or text our church blood drive coordinator, Mindy Jones, at 937-248-3296 to schedule an appointment.

9:45 AM SERVICE TIME (Note: not on January 10)

We are still offering a mid-service at 9:45am on Sundays for those at a higher risk for Covid or who are uneasy being in public places due to Covid. Because of this, we ask:

- A mask should be worn during the entire service.
- Social distancing requirements will be followed.

The door at the front of the sanctuary will be available to use if you'd like. If you have any questions about this additional service, feel free to contact the church office!

Note: There will be no 9:45am service on January 10th due to the Annual Business Meeting.

YEAR END GIVING

At the close of this year, as you thank God for His care and blessing, remember that your year-end, tax deductible gifts should be in the office or postmarked by Thursday, December 31. Contribution statements will be mailed no later than Jan. 31, 2021.

FOOD DRIVE

We will be doing a continual food drive for Jacob's Ladder to collect juice boxes and pudding cups. There will be a bin in the commons to drop your donations.

2020 GIVING STATEMENTS

To save postage, contribution statements will be emailed to you by January 31st. If we don't have an email address for you they will be mailed. If you have questions, or need a statement printed out, please contact Karen Bryant at office@e1cog.com or 937-456-4681.

WEATHER RELATED CANCELLATIONS

All church activities on a weekday will be cancelled if Eaton Schools are closed. If Sunday morning services need to be cancelled, it will be noted on the church's website (www.e1cog.com), Facebook and on whiotv (Channel 7).

BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

Dolores Linke will turn 91 on January 6th and I know she would truly appreciate any and all cards from her church family. Please send cards to: 9627 Preble County Line Rd., Lewisburg, OH 45338.

DOWNLOAD OUR CHURCH APP

Visit e1cog.com/church-app

Download our app by visiting our website and clicking on "Church App". With this app, you will be able to customize notifications you'll receive and interact with the study guide. You will still be able to access features like the Prayer Wall, listen to past messages, and more. Get the app today!



EATON FIRST students

ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all those who have donated so far through our envelope fundraiser. We will continue to have envelopes available for those that would like to give. Each envelope is numbered; 1 through 144. If you are able to help financially support our students, simply take the envelope matching the dollar amount you would like to give. Once the envelope is filled, there will be a box to place the filled envelope into. You can give as little as \$1, all the way up to \$144. If you would like your gift to be counted toward your giving statement for tax purposes, please make sure your name is on the envelope when you return it. We appreciate the love and support from our church family for all of our students. All proceeds will go toward helping our students attend the International Youth Convention.

SUNDAY EVENING SMALL GROUPS

Small Groups will start back up on January 10th. We will meet every Sunday Evening from 6:00 - 7:30pm in the youth room at the church for both Middle School and High School.

In January, we will begin our new series called *Squad Up*. Everyone wants a squad — a community of people that cares for us, helps and supports us, and gives us a place to belong. In short, we all want to be part of a community that feels like family. That kind of community isn't easy to come by, but it's exactly what Jesus had in mind for His followers when the Church first began. In this series, we'll discover why the word "Church" means something much bigger than a building, we'll learn what life was like for some of the earliest Christians, and we'll explore four big ideas that mean as much for us today as they did to the Jesus-followers who lived nearly 2,000 years ago. The truth is, we can all be part of God's family, and because we're God's family, we can do for others what God has done for us, we can grow together, and we can stand strong together.

OPEN GYM WEDNESDAYS

Beginning January 13th from 6:00 - 7:00pm, we will have the gym open on Wednesdays for our students to come hang out and spend time together while burning off a little energy. Students can come play some basketball, volleyball, or a few other games, and maybe snack on some pizza. Masks will be required when not actively playing or eating.



EATON FIRST KIDS

EATON FIRST KIDS

Happy New Year to each of our Eaton First Kids Families! Finally, we can put 2020 behind us and put our best foot forward in 2021. Though things are not back to "normal" just yet I know each of us is looking forward to what awaits us this year. I am looking forward to the day that I get to see you all back here in person each week!! So hang tight. Great things will be coming this year!

Be sure to watch the bulletin and Eaton First Kids Facebook page for up-to-date info on the activities that will be happening. As

things begin to change and hopefully open up more I may be able to fit in other activities that may not be able to appear in the newsletter.

Be on the look out for your January bags 'o' fun the second week of January. It will be filled with lots of fun activities, as well as, all of your at home curriculum supplies. This month we will be studying the "Rules for Life": Play well, finish strong.

JACOB'S LADDER

We will be doing a continual food drive for Jacob's Ladder to collect juice boxes and pudding cups. There will be a bin in the commons to drop your donations. Thank you for your continued support of this fantastic program!

COVID-19 Plan

In the event that a staff member or congregant/visitor of E1COG is diagnosed with COVID-19 the following steps shall be taken:

- The individual should notify the Preble County Dept of Health 937.472.0087
- The individual should notify the church office 937.456.4681
- If individual had attended church in the past 10 days, an email should be sent to the church members notifying them that a person has been diagnosed with Covid-19.
- Carter Cleaning will be called and a deep sanitation of the church will be completed.
- Staff/Congregants will be asked to remain home for quarantined protocol that is recommended by the Dept. of Health.
- Quarantine requirements for church services/activities will be determined & communicated by the PCHD.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

20 Something | Room 208 | Led by Rick & Becky McCollum | Join us as we look at college/young adult studies on Christian life in the real world.

Boundaries | Room 205 | Led by Randy Bryant | Join us as we look at the book of Job, and find there is more to the story than suffering and patience.

Common Ground | Room 200 | Led by Matt/Izzy Roberts | Join us as we study various topics that impact our daily lives.

Growing in God's Word | Room 102 | Led by Phyllis Martin | This group is studying the book of Acts.

Men's Sunday School | Room 206 | Led by Danny Reynolds | Studying: What it means to be a man in a world full of extremes.

Messiah's Misfits | Room 204 | Led by Bryan Scholl | This class is studying Jesus' parables.

Search for Significance | Rm 103 | Led by Lynn Morey | This class is studying the book "Death and the Afterlife" by Dr. Robert Morey.

ADULT SMALL GROUPS

Mondays | 7p at home of Rick/Becky McCollum (405 Rebecca Dr., W. Alex.) | This group discusses the weekly Dig Deeper questions with scripture.

Wednesdays | 6:30p in Room 104 | This group is starting Oct. 7 and is studying I Thessalonians, led by Joel Eck.

Thursdays | 6:30p at home of Gerald/Carolyn Scholl (519 E. Wadsworth) | This group is studying the book of Revelations, led by Carolyn Scholl.

Sundays | 6p in Room 104 | This group is studying the book of James, led by Pastor Jerry Reynolds.

WORSHIP ARTS

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all those who helped with our Drive-Through Live Nativity, from packing bags to directing traffic to braving the cold in costume. We were able to share a bit of Christmas hope with over 300 cars/families over the weekend!

CHOIR SING ALONG | January 27

We will be having a socially distanced sing along gathering on Wednesday, January 27th at 6:30! We'll enjoy a time of fellowship before spreading out in the sanctuary to sing through some hymns and choir songs from our library. Whether or not you've been a part of choir, you're welcome to join us for this fun evening of music!

If you're interested in being a part of one of our worship arts ministries, we'd love to get you plugged in. Contact Pastor Liisa (liisa@e1cog.com) for more information!

www.e1cog.com

937.456.4681

Office Hours: 9a-4p

Email: office@e1cog.com

Visit us on facebook or download our app

MISSIONS/COMMUNITY NEWS

SCRIP GIFT CARDS

Gift cards can be purchased/ordered in the commons after Sunday School. Purchases benefit missions.

LOVE PACKAGES

To donate Bibles, books, CD's, videos, etc. to send overseas, leave items in the container in the commons.

BIRTHRIGHT OF EATON

You can help by donating your money, time or new/used baby clothes up to 24 months. Stop in @ 212 E. High St. for a tour or to drop off donations.

GIVING FOR LAST MONTH

	AM Attn. (in bldg.)	Offering	Building Fund	Faith Promise
December		12314.30	780.00	220.00
Dec. 6	131	6,457.00	54.00	336.00
Dec. 13	138	6,162.40	394.00	941.00
Dec. 20	138	6,701.05	536.50	479.50
Dec. 27	120	5,425.36	54.00	86.00

Average Weekly Offering: \$ 9,265.03

Average Weekly Offering Needed 2021: \$ 7,869.00

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:30a, 9:45a & 11a Worship Gathering 9:45a Sunday School	4 7p Small Group	5 6p Community Drive-Thru Meal	6 6:30p Small Group	7 6:30p Small Group	8	9 7:30a—1:30p Blood Drive
10 8:30a & 11a Worship Gathering 9:45a Annual Business Meeting 6p Youth Small Groups 6p Small Group	11 7p Small Group	12	13 6:00p Youth Open Gym 6:30p Small Group	14 6:30p Small Group	15	16
17 8:30a, 9:45a & 11a Worship Gathering 9:45a Sunday School 6p Youth Small Groups 6p Small Group	18 7p Small Group	19 6p Community Drive-Thru Meal	20 6:00p Youth Open Gym 6:30p Small Group	21 6:30p Small Group	22	23
24 8:30a, 9:45a & 11a Worship Gathering 9:45a Sunday School 6p Youth Small Groups 6p Small Group	25 7p Small Group	26	27 6:00p Youth Open Gym 6:30p Small Group 6:30p Choir Sing-Along	28 6:30p Small Group	29	30
31 8:30a, 9:45a & 11a Worship Gathering 9:45a Sunday School 6p Youth Small Groups 6p Small Group						