



THE EASTLAWN JOURNEY

FEBRUARY 2019



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THE STEEPLE STORY

“Intentional Love”

by Brother Andy Collette

February is the month of love. Valentine’s Day will soon be here and everyone, and everywhere is focused on this one topic...Love. What does intentional love look like? At Valentine’s Day it comes in the form of candy, cards and flowers. Perhaps you prefer a night on the town or a secretive card from an unknown person who likes you a lot; whatever form it is about romance and deep friendship. Intentional love does involve those things for some, but for the church that is less a focus. For us intentional love concerns our desire to draw near our savior Jesus and to live his way in our lives, including our love lives.

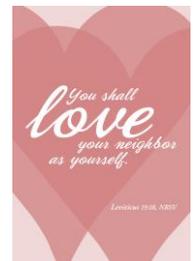


So what does his way look like? In Deuteronomy 6 the Jewish people were taught to love the Lord with all their heart, mind and soul. In Matthew 22:34-39 Jesus commends a man for practicing this ancient kind of love and adds to it that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. Intentional love the way Jesus would have us practice it then comes from this idea: that we love the Lord with our whole being and that we love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

How do you love yourself? At Valentine’s I like to go out and get a fancy Italian dinner, give sweet gifts to my wife and daughter and then find something I really like for myself and get that too. I don’t mind watching a corny romance film like, “Last Samurai” or “Lady and the Tramp” and I like to spend time with the people I love.

That is all intentional and if I loosely translate neighbor as my family, then I have done what Christ has called me to. Obviously it is a very loose definition to call my spouse and my daughter my neighbors. They would be offended, I am sure, maybe I should be for even considering such a thought. So the dilemma presents itself, who is my neighbor?

Who is our neighbor? Many would have us believe that it is the most at risk, fringe person we can think of in a flash. Many would say everyone around us but who is it really? Well it is all of these people and everyone else not fitting into this category. Our neighbor is the lady at the end of the pew, whose name you still do not know. Our neighbor is the person waiting on us in the grocery store and the man across the street that always parks his car in front of our driveway. Our neighbor is the foreigner who is trying to gain entry into our country and the national trying to escape us. Neighbors are everywhere; they are everyone. Intentionally loving them as ourselves then becomes this grandiose effort on our parts to truly care for others, to love them. Yep, that’s exactly what was being taught by Jesus. It is easy to love your relatives and friends. It is easy to love the lady at the end of the pew even if you don’t know her name. It is very hard to love someone different than yourself, it is very hard to intentionally love strangers. Jesus calls us to that as a matter of faith. In his culture there was a belief which stated that angels often came as strangers. How many blessings do we miss out on when we fail to intentionally love those who are different from us? We might never know unless we chose to intentionally follow what Christ is teaching and love the Lord our God with all our heart and mind and soul and love our neighbor as ourself. This month try intentionally loving someone you currently do not love at all. Try to draw nearer to Christ by living out the teachings of Christ from Matthew 22.



The Eastlawn Journey

February 2019 Jesus' Intentional Teachings

February 3, 2019 (Communion Sunday)

Reading: Psalm 23 (KJV)
Scripture: Matthew 5:1-11
Message: "Jesus' Intentional Teaching: Blessings"

February 10, 2019

Reading: Psalm 34:8-14
Scripture: Matthew 5:38-48
Message: "Jesus' Intentional Teaching: Peace"

February 17, 2019

Reading: Psalm 65:1-4
Scripture: Matthew 6:1-4, 19-24
Message: "Jesus' Intentional Teaching: Giving"

February 24, 2019

Reading: Psalm 95:1-7
Scripture: Matthew 7
Message: "Jesus' Intentional Teaching: Discipleship"

March 3, 2019 (Communion Sunday, Transfiguration Sunday)

Reading: UMH #819
Scripture: Luke 9:28-36
Message: "The Transfiguration"



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2019

Feb 2 8:30a-Our Daily Bread Ministry

Feb 3 8:15a-UMM Breakfast Mtg.
9:45a-Sunday School
11:00a- Morning Worship

Feb 6 7:30a-Men's Bible Study @
The Menagerie Cafe
9:00a-Hilltoppers Coffee/Fellowship

Feb 6 9:00a-Bible Study
5:00p-Dinner
6:00p-Bible Study
6:00p-Youth & Children's Activities

Feb 8 3:45p-Arts Under the Dome outing

Feb 10 8:30a-Early Worship-Communion
9:45a-Sunday School
11:00a-Morning Worship

Feb 11 6:00p-NOW meeting

Feb 12 7:30a-Men's Bible Study @
The Menagerie Cafe
9:00a-Hilltoppers Coffee/Fellowship

Feb 13 9:00a-Bible Study
5:00p-Dinner
6:00p-Bible Study
6:00p-Youth & Children's Activities

Feb 14 11:30a-Mamie Kimbrough Lunch Meeting

Feb 17 8:30a-Early Worship – Communion
9:45a-Sunday School
11:00a-Morning Worship
12:00p-Lunch Fundraiser

Feb 18 Washington's Birthday

Feb 19 7:30a-Men's Bible Study @
The Menagerie Café
9:00a-Hilltoppers Coffee/Fellowship

Feb 20 9:00a-Bible Study
5:00p-Dinner
6:00p-Bible Study
6:00p-Youth & Children's Activities

Feb 24 8:30a – Early worship- communion
9:45a-Sunday School
11:00a-Morning Worship

Feb 26 7:30a-Men's Bible Study
The Menagerie Café
9:00a-Hilltoppers Coffee/Fellowship

Feb 27 9:00a-Bible Study
5:00p-Dinner
6:00p-Bible Study
6:00p-Youth & Children's Activities

The Eastlawn Journey



Feb 1.....David McCormick
Feb 2.....Betty Barham
Feb 3.....David Epps
.....Grayson Hail
.....Patricia McKeel
Feb 5.....Gene Killen
Feb 6.....Lisa Ellis
Feb 9.....Bobby Neely, Jr.
Feb 10.....Tammy Hardy
Feb 13.....Bob Burns
.....Blaire Gager
Feb 15.....Joe Ferrer, Jr.
Feb 18.....Cynthia Lovorn
Feb 21.....Jackie McDonald
Feb 24.....Carol King
Feb 25.....Joseph Scarborough
Feb 26.....James Lovorn
Feb 28.....Cindy Rancier

This study is led by Brother Andy. Everyone is welcomed to be part of this study.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Eastlawn's Tuesday morning Bible study which meets at the Menagerie on Market Street at 7:30am is going strong.

We just finished a study of 2nd Samuel and are beginning a study of Maccabees from the Apocrypha. All are invited to come and join us for breakfast and a great study!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

6:00 pm

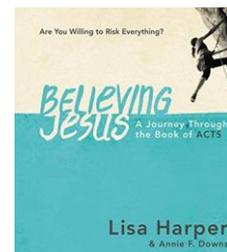
Beginning this Wednesday we will study and discuss the Book of James. The letter to first century Jewish Christians is often referred to as "a how-to book on Christian living." James encourages Christians to behave as Christ taught us, to put our Faith into action, to recognize the difference in heavenly and earthly wisdom. Join us as we strive to understand James' words and how we can apply his teachings in our own lives.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Believing Jesus – A Journey Through the Book of ACTS

by Lisa Harper and Annie F. Downs

In this eight-session video-based Bible study, Lisa Harper traces the revolutionary steps of the early Christians and shows how the first believers were willing to risk everything to follow Christ. Today, we are faced with the same decisions the early church faced. Will we, like them, truly *believe* the words of Jesus and allow them to transform every part of our lives?



Come study with us Wednesdays, in the Conference Room at 9 a.m. For more details, contact Opal Currie 28.623.1666.



SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

5-6 P.M. IN CONFERENCE ROOM

"Genesis to Revelations – The Books of 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, and Ephesians"

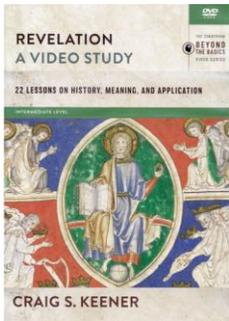
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G.I.F.T.E.D. YOUNG ADULT CLASS

This class usually meets from 9:45 until about 10:35 each Sunday morning upstairs. So, please, feel welcome to come join us.

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS



The Friendship Sunday School Class meets in the conference room by 9:45. New members, old members and visitors are welcomed each Sunday. For the new year the Friendship Sunday School Class will begin the study, Revelation, A Video Study, featuring Craig S. Keener. The study explores the links between the Bible's final book and how we should live our lives today. The 22 lessons show how Revelation strengthens our hope in the future while enabling us to live out our Christian faith wisely in the present. If you should wonder about Revelation's vision of apocalyptic horsemen, horn with faces, flying angels and fantastic beasts, you are welcome to join us in the study of these challenging lessons

YOUTH AND CHILDREN SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Youth and Children meet upstairs at 9:45. All are invited to attend.

JOYCE GARRETT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Please join us for our new study by Sandra Richter. We meet upstairs at 9:45 a.m.



COUNTERS FOR FEBRUARY

Jerry Clement

Lesa Larsen

USHERS

The USHERS FOR FEBRUARY are **Bobby Rayborn, Jerry Clement, Jerry McPhail, Wayne Currie.** If you are willing to be an Usher, please contact Carl Weihing.



FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

It's a new year and the flower committee is looking for people who want to place flowers in the church for Sunday Morning Worship in memory or honor of someone. If you are interested:



ALTAR FLOWERS

- ✠ Please sign your name and phone number with the date on the flower calendar located in the ministry center hall.
- ✠ Contact the flower committee person for February, to coordinate the details of your flowers.

FUNDRAISER



There will be a lunch fundraiser Sunday February 17. This fund raiser will be for Brother Andy's Upcoming trip to London on the John Wesley Tour with Bishop Swanson. The trip is July 9-17, 2019. If this trip sounds interesting to members of the congregation, there are spaces available, See brother Andy for details. Suggested donation is \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children under twelve. RSVPs welcome to Brother Andy for pre-planned meal count. Volunteers to help serve are welcome as well. The meal will be Spaghetti and Meatballs, Green Beans, Bread & Dessert.

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Wednesday Night Dinner

Feb 6- New York Pizza, salad, fruit, tea & dessert hosted by G.I.F.T.E.D. Young Adult Sunday School

Feb 13- Roast beef au jus sandwiches, Chips, and dessert hosted by the Hardy Family

Feb 20- Pulled pork sandwiches, Coleslaw, baked beans, potato salad, and dessert hosted by David & Susan McCormick

Feb 27- Beef stew, rice, salad, and dessert hosted by Doug & Amanda Merrill

FINANCIALLY FAITHFUL



**Church
FINANCES**

BUDGET FOR 2019

\$369,087.00

TITHES 2019 (YTD)

\$23,885.00

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

\$250.00

BENEVOLENCE FUND

\$570.00

If you are interested in having your tithes or pledge commitment automatically withdrawn from your checking account, you will find forms in the church foyer to aid in this. If you need assistance, please call the church office or Beth Chapuis (424-4333)

If you are interested in joining the Eastlawn Family or just have questions about the church, please talk with Brother Andy. Call him at 228-219-3898. His email is pastorandyumc@gmail.com.

The Eastlawn Journey is a monthly publication of Eastlawn United Methodist Church. Send inquiries, pictures, and info to Eastlawnjourney@gmail.com.



EASTLAWN UMC STAFF

2502 Ingalls Ave. Pascagoula, MS

228-762-2364

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Rev. Andy Collette | Pastor |
| Robert Weathersby | Lay Pastor |
| Lashunda Taulbee | Administrative Assistant |
| Doug Wall | Choir/Handbell Director |
| Susie Riley | Children's/Family Minister |
| Rachael Goff | Children's Music Director |
| David Westfaul | Organist |
| Brenda McCormick | Day Care Director |
| Charlene Gibson | Nursery |
| Amy Davis | Nursery |