



Easton Place United Methodist Church

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May 2021

Cephas's Corner

Sunday school
For all ages
Gathers at
9:00 am

Worship Service
Every Sunday 10:30 am

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Holy Living Reflection!

Have you taken a day for reflection on your behaviors and attitudes, reflecting on the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes in relation to holy living and how God is calling you into relationship with Him? If not give it a try as a spiritual practice for a day. I did it for a day when I was at Perkins School of Theology and below is my reflection.

A day of reflection on my behaviors and attitudes in light of the Ten Commandments seem tough and weighty. I could not see myself as one striving for holy living or closer intimacy to God. It was like a constant reminder (you must do this or else) that for me to get closer to God I must abide by certain rules. It also feels like I had a bucket list of stuff I have to complete to reach that goal of holy living.

On the other hand, I ask myself, why did the Ten Commandments not speak to me in relation to my behaviors and attitude? Is it because I know it was given directly to Israel in light to their covenant relationship to Yahweh? In all I will say the Ten Commandments does not give me a greater desire for holy living, instead it reminds me of guilt and punishment of Yahweh who says do these things to be my own. Not a Yahweh who is calling one to holy living and intimate relationship with Him. It became more like a demanding relationship than a relationship of a father calling his children into a way of holy living. The Ten Commandments kept reminding me of a duty I have fulfilled, not creating a desire within that calls one to a holy living.

The reflection on the Beatitudes helps me to see myself more clearly than the Ten Commandments. It makes me bewail my guilt and long for my savior. It also brings me to the moment of emptiness, trusting in God's mercy through Jesus the Christ. The text is like a revival, it brings one to the point of self-examination and desire to holy living. I see myself as that servant who is walking toward perfection and reaching the least of these by fulfilling God's kingdom here on earth.

I also look at the desire to holy living in line to that Jesus continues teaching in Matthew chapter five specifically verse forty-eight; "Be holy as your Father in

heaven is holy.” For me, this holy living is loving God and also loving one’s neighbor and enemies as I often say, “if Christianity is not humanity, I don’t want to be a Christian.” This is what the desire of holy living moves me to do; longing for justice for those that suffer injustice, feeling the hungry and showing mercy to all. This draws me closer to the God whom I have not seen but by faith believe in Him as revealed in the Old and New Testaments. My desire of holy living grows each day as I show mercy to those made in the image of God. In the words of John, the apostle; “How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help?” (John 3:17). Again, my desire of holy living from the text under reflection is to love God and neighbors after that point of emptiness and refilling with God’s grace and mercy. The more I long to do these things, the closer I get to my relationship of intimacy with God.

EASTON PLACE WOMEN UNITED

May 5	1:00 pm	EPWU General
May 12	6:30 pm	Deborah Circle
May 13	1:00 pm	Easton Service Group
May 14	1:00 pm	Esther Circle
May 19	1:00 pm	Mary Circle

UNITED METHODIST MEN

May 8 8:00 am

Congratulation to Midge and Bruce Tillotson on their new great granddaughter Amelia Jane. Parents-Jessica and Eric Chiles

Mission Report

As the Missions Committee starts the New Year, we hope to be busy. Every 3rd Saturday, we will be at the church passing out food. **PLEASE**, as a congregation, let people know we are there! We also have donated toilet paper and spiral notebooks to Hope Ministries. We will be looking for opportunities to help and serve others this year. We are now partnered with Hy-Vee for donations (Thanks to Bruce and Barry Tillotson). Every Monday the donations are picked up. This will be helpful for the drive-thru pantry, and also our congregation. Downstairs on the “Free/Bread” table there will be different items. The boxes or cans might be bent or torn but are still very usable. All are welcome to come down and see what is there. Take what you need or want.

In Christ’s Love,
The Mission Committee

**The Mission of
Easton Place UMC**

To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Gather in a safe, nurturing Christ-centered way in worship, meetings, and small groups as we... Grow in relationship with Christ; and Go into the world, to share the love of Christ with others.

**As members of the Easton Place UMC,
we vow to faithfully participate
in its ministries**



PRAY FOR

LOST A LOVED ONE:

HOSPITAL: Charlene Montgomery

RECOVERING AT HOME:

NURSING HOME AND ASSISTED LIVING

RESIDENTS: Nadine Layton (Brio, Johnston), Anna Mascaro (Mill Pond, Ankeny), George & Jenny Schultz (Afton IA, assisted living), Keith Mascaro (assisted living, group home in DSM)

KEEP IN PRAYERS: Ray Olson, Kim Cox, Dennis Bishop, Merry Orcutt

Keep in Prayer for Healing:

(Remember to let the office or the Pastor know if you are in the hospital)

To start prayer chain:

Call Romona Moore 515-262-9489

Trustee Notes

Our next meeting will be April 13th at 7:00pm

Worship Committee Report

Our next meeting will be April 6th at 7:00pm.

Finance Report

3/7/21- \$1,812.19
3/14/21-\$2,679.75
3/21/21-\$1,503.84
3/28/21- \$ 938.08
Total \$6,933.86

4/4/21- \$2,259.28
4/11/21-\$1,639.77
4/18/21-\$2,932.05
4/25/21-\$2,472.00
Total \$9,303.10

God is Good! He supplies all we need! As you can see from all the reports that are posted around the church, giving is down for the 1st 4 months of 2021.

Summer is here. If you are going on vacation, you can drop your tithes and offerings at the church, or maybe consider looking into having your checks sent from the bank to the church (online bill pay they call it). Some here at the church use it and think it is great! If we faithfully give back to God what is His, He blesses us more than we ever imagined.

Think about it.

In Christ's Love
The Finance Committee

Gifts -Tithes and Offerings Received

April \$9,303.10

Presence:

April 162 (includes Good Friday & Easter Sunday)

**DRIVE-THRU
FOOD PANTRY**

**SATURDAY
MAY 15**

1:00-2:00 PM

Or until we run out of food



MAY

Tyler DeYoung	5-2
Chuck Faux	5-3
Shelby Langill	5-4
Tim Hoffman	5-6
Nick Buettner	5-7
Connie DeYoung	5-8
Anna Mascaro	5-8
David DeYoung	5-16
Sandra Fleck	5-16
Linda Moore	5-17
Jenifer Parsons	5-19
Kathy Fedson	5-22
Courtney Heer	5-22

This year we have made \$230.23 in metal income. This is not what we usually make, however, we are grateful for whatever we have gotten. The items we can take are: Metal cans, Electrical wires, Pots and pans, Old Cell phones, DVDs, Vcr's, Remote controls, Tools

Any metal items continue to bring to church and put in bin by the back door. Thank you

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS
NEXT VBS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 26
6:00 PM**

Lectionary Scriptures for May
Personal Devotions and Study

May 2 Communion-
5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

May 9-Mother's Day
6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

May 16-Ascension Sunday

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

May 23

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

May 30

Trinity Sunday

Peace with Justice Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

Worship Helpers for May 2021

May 2, 2021

Worship Leader: Romona Moore
Liturgist: Jim Alton or Jeannie Staton
Sound: Mike & Janice Hoffman
Children's Message: Diana Alton
Offering Counters: Jeannie Staton
Kay Dilks
Communion Steward: Cathy Parsons

May 9, 2021-Mother's Day

Worship Leader: Romona Moore
Liturgist: Jim Alton or Jeannie Staton
Sound: Mike & Janice Hoffman
Children's Message: Diana Alton
Offering Counters: Jeannie Staton
Diana Alton

May 16, 2021

Worship Leader: Romona Moore
Liturgist: Jim Alton or Jeannie Staton
Sound: Dennis & Connie Bishop
Children's Message: Diana Alton
Offering Counters: Jeannie Staton
Bruce Tillotson

May 23, 2021

Worship Leader: Romona Moore
Liturgist: Jim Alton or Jeannie Staton
Sound: Dennis & Connie Bishop
Children's Message: Diana Alton
Offering Counters: Jeannie Staton
Bryan Dilks

May 30, 2021

Worship Leader: Romona Moore
Liturgist: Jim Alton or Jeannie Staton
Sound: Mike & Janice Hoffman
Children's Message: Diana Alton
Offering Counters: Jeannie Staton
Sandy Mathews

Circle Reports March

EPWU General

General was called to order on April 7, 2021 at 7pm with 10 members present. Jeannie offered a devotional titled "The Promise of Spring". Romona's devotional was Exodus "Coming Out of the Wilderness".

The vendor sale raised \$197.00 minus table rent for a net of \$157.00 for General. This will be used like all fundraiser monies are used.

Each circle gave their reports.

The next general meeting is May 5th at 1:00 pm.

Our social concerns were the contaminated water problem in Florida, speeders on the highways, violence such as the recent stabbing at the Subway restaurant, the pandemic, and the outcome of the George Floyd trial.

General closed with prayer at 7:25 pm.

Deborah Circle was the host for the General and presented poems relating to Spring. Some were funny, some sad, all delightful. There was cookies and soda for refreshments.

The program was completed at 7:55 pm and in prayer.

Ellen McFadden

Esther Circle

Esther Circle met on April 9, 2021 at 1:00 pm at Romona's house with 8 members present. Diana opened with Virginia's poem remembering dear friends that had passed. The Secretary's minutes were read, and the Treasurer's report given. Both were approved. New Business: Our ladies table at the vendor sale made \$197, minus \$40 for the table which gave us a profit of \$157. There will be a Standing Rules meeting on April 21, 2021 at 6:00

pm at the church. Since the Mother/Daughter Banquet is cancelled, we plan to have flowers to handout for Mother's Day Sunday at church. We will be hosting the General meeting on May 5, 2021 at 1pm at the church. Our program will be beautiful and blooming fun as we will have Julie instructing us on how to make fabric flowers. Julie will have the fabric cut for us and we will sew them together. We are encouraged to bring vases to put the blooming finish product in. Each of us will bring our favorite flowers to decorate the tables, telling why these are our favorites. We will serve light, colorful, and refreshing sherbet. We will also serve coffee and water to drink. Janice will bring sherbet, Sandy the napkins and Kathy/Romona will bring extra needles with Julie supplying the other equipment, Diana will look for sticks, pompoms, and buttons. Julie would like to be last on our program. We would like to encourage everyone to come and join us! Old Business: General meeting was genuinely nice hearing spring poems. It gave all of us laughter and seeing God in His creation! Romona's devotion was taken from Nehemiah 8 and from Dr. Stanley's thoughts. Coming together to hear God's words with open hearts and minds with prayers and studying His words will bring us closer to Jesus. Jesus will always rejoice over us!! Kathy as our hostess served wonderful vegetable pizza with the best oatmeal raisin cookies and refreshing lemonade. Our next hostess will be Diana on May 14, 2021 at 1:00 pm at her home.

Submitted by Connie

Mary Circle

Mary Circle met at 1:00 pm on April 21, 2021 at Diana's. We had six in attendance and really had a good meeting. We are

busy putting together a “bag of fruit” project which we are excited about. Diana had us synergy gratitude and joy by sharing hymns, psalms, and blessings. Plus, she served us apple pie ala mode as a treat. And we also put stickers on May Baskets which brought back lots of memories of Hilda and when she first got us involved in May Baskets. We will get together next month at Sandy’s or the park depending on the weather. Please feel free to join us, we have lots of fun sharing God’s love!
Diana A

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle met April 14, 2021 at 7:00 pm with 18 members present. Jeannie opened with devotion from Mark 3:31-35, reminding us that in God’s sight we are all family, and we should care for each other as our own family. The secretary’s minutes and the treasurer’s report were read, and both were approved. There was not any old business. New business: there will be a Standing Rules meeting on April 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the church. Since Kathy cannot attend, Sue T will stand in for her. The General meeting will be May 2, 2021 at 1:00 pm at the church hosted by Esther Circle. Our next Deborah Circle will be May 2, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the church. Please bring lawn chairs to sit outside. Jeannie and Bev will be our hostess. Bev made the motion to adjourn, and Kathy seconded it. Julie’s lesson came from Zephaniah 3:17 “The Lord, your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.” We should look how God reveals himself to us: through family, friends, strangers, and in

the pages of the Bible. We can rest in His love and rejoice always!!
Submitted by Connie B

Easton Service Group

No minutes submitted

Asking Jesus into your life:

O God, without you, I am lost-a sinner in a sinful world. Jesus, I believe in you. I need you. Be my Lord and Savior? Receive me-your child. I ask for forgiveness. I ask for guidance. I accept you as my God, my Guide, my Help, and my Hope from this day forward into the very light of eternity. I lift this prayer in the power of Jesus’ mighty name. Amen

God’s Promise of Forgiveness-1 John 1:9
God’s Promise of Salvation-John 3:16
God’s Promise to You-Romans 8:15b-17a
All you need to do-Romans 10:9

Mark your Calendar May 2021

- 1.
- 2.
3. **6:30 pm** Bible Study
(Romona Moore's home)
5:30 pm Cub Scouts
6:30 pm Boy Scouts
4. **9:30 am** Women's Bible Study
5. **1:00 pm** EPWU-General
6. **7:00 pm** NA
- 7.
8. **8:00 am** UMM (?)
9. *Happy Mother's Day*
10. **6:30 pm** Bible Study
(Romona Moore's home)
5:30 pm Cub Scouts
6:30 pm Boy Scouts
11. **9:30 am** Women's Bible Study
12. **6:30 pm** Deborah Circle
13. **1:00 pm** Easton Place Service Group
7:00 pm NA
14. **1:00 pm** Esther Circle
15. **1:00 pm-2:00 pm** Drive-thru Food Pantry
- 16.
17. **6:30 pm** Bible Study
(Romona Moore's home)
5:30 pm Cub Scouts
6:30 pm Boy Scouts
18. **9:30 am** Women's Bible Study
19. **1:00 pm** Mary Circle
20. **7:00 pm** NA
- 21.
- 22.
23. **Star Articles DUE!**
24. **6:30 pm** Bible Study
(Romona Moore's home)
5:30 pm Cub Scouts
6:30 pm Boy Scouts
25. **9:30 am** Women's Bible Study
26. **6:00 pm** VBS meeting
7:00 pm EPWU Board
27. **7:00 pm** NA
- 28.
- 29.
30. *Peace with Justice Sunday*
31. **6:30 pm** Bible Study
(Romona Moore's home)
5:30 pm Cub Scouts
6:30 pm Boy Scouts