SPRINGFIELD - EASTWOOD NEWSLETTER

"Joyful News"

2025

MISSION STATEMENTS

Mission Statement of Springfield Church of the Brethren: Following Jesus for the Glory of God and our Neighbors Good."
Mission Statement of Eastwood Church of the Brethren: Eastwood Church of the Brethren exists to lead people into encounters with the living Christ, to nurture each other in Christ-like love, to touch others through acts of service.

CONTACTING PASTOR ANDREW
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Coming Up at Springfield

Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship: 11:00 am
Jr. Worship- ages 6-12-after the Children's Story;
No class during the SS hour 9:45-10:45 for children
Nursery for ages 1-5 open during worship
Bible Study, Wed., 7 pm
Choir Practice, Thurs. 7 pm.
Kid's Closet, Sat. Oct. 4
Combined service/brunch & Pastor Appreciation Day, Sunday, October 5 at Eastwood 10 am
Combined Love Feast, Sun, Oct 12, 7pm, Springfield
Commissions & Board Meeting, Tues Oct 14, 7:00 pm
Council Meeting, Oct 22, 7 pm
Cecil Van Horn's funeral, Sat.,Oct. 25,11 am
Newsletter Deadline, Oct 31

Coming up at Eastwood

Worship: 9:30 am
Sunday school: 10:45 am
Eastwood Christ Closet, Sat Oct 11,7 & 25. 11-1 pm
Crop Walk, Sun Oct 12,2 pm, Goodyear Metro Park
Deacons, Tues Oct 14, 4:30 pm; **Board Mtg** 5:30
Men's District Fall Retreat, Camp, 9-3 Sat, Oct 18
Trunk or Treat Eastwood, 2-4,Sat Oct 25
Newsletter Deadline: Fri. Oct 31

Prayer concerns

Deacon Policy on Helping People - People who are in the hospital or sick should call Pastor Andrew, their deacon or a deacon-on-call.

Bulletin information: If you have any information or prayer concerns you would like in the bulletin, please email them to the church by Thursday each week. Thanks.

CD's of the worship service available: Please let the secretary know if you would like an audio CD mailed to you each week.

The Prayer Chain: If you have a prayer that you wished to share among the community, you can reach out by connecting Pastor Andrew's cell, the church secretary's phone or email. If prayers are urgently needed, call Pastor Andrew's cell. Reasons for prayers and names do not have to be disclosed if that is your wish.

Springfield September Attendance & Offering

September 7, 2025; Attendance: 29 plus 2 online
Offering: $4,190.00; Specials: $172.00
September 14, 2025; Attendance: 36 plus 3 online
Offering: $2,656.00; Specials: $438.00
September 21, 2025; Attendance: 28 plus 3 online
Offering: $2,145.00; Specials: $120.00
September 28, 2025; Attendance: 25 plus 3 online
Offering: $909.00; Specials: $68.00

The many ways to stay in the know with our happenings!

- **Sunday service:** We are continuing to offer worship online by broadcasting directly on YouTube. How to watch: You can watch the worship live at 9:30/11:00 am on Sunday or the recording on our YouTube channel.
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/SpringfieldCOB New information is posted here; you don't need to have an account to see the page.
- **YouTube:** search Eastwood Church of the Brethren, or Springfield Church of the Brethren
- www.youtube.com/channel/UCPFzecAEgzFC0Q4LP6ix3pw
- Video of worship is uploaded here; Subscribe if you can for updates!
- **Mailing of CD's.** The audio version CD's of the sermon are being mailed out to those requesting them.
- **Phone/Email:** Sent out by Pastor Andrew daily including prayer concerns.

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October Deacons for Springfield

Bruce Morckel 330-605-1348
Kim Morckel 330-618-2379
Morckel's home # 330-877-6758
Jean Garcia 330-699-9128

Eastwood Deacons

Gary and Trish Griffith
Edith Kieffaber & Larry Croston
Gary Lorenz & Rebecca Ebie

Springfield Prayer Concerns

For our church and it's leadership
Prayers for our Eastwood/Springfield Yoked Committee
Christ's Closet/Kids Closet clothing ministry

The Adams
Elizabeth Butera
Bill & Donna Davis
Jean Garcia
Scott Snyder
Amy Mishler
Jim & Pat Mills
Norma Shanafelt
Jason Hawk
Emily Bell
Avenell Cippant
Anthony Garcia
Karen Hites
Howard Ludwick
Meredith Morckel
Dick Putt
Bonnie Young
Erica Jewell
Cecil Van Horn's family upon his passing.
Joe & Veronna Stefanka
Gerry Mills (sister of Jim Mills)
Melissa Reed (friend of the Courie's)
Michael Davis (Donna Davis's great grandson)
Bob and Letha Hatherill (parents of Ranay Cowie)
Michael Hatherill (Ranay's cousin)

Remembering Our Shut-Ins

Elizabeth Butera Glenwood Home, Rm #54
836 34th St., Canton, OH 44709

Dick Putt Danbury Sr. Center
73 East Ave. Apt. 237
Tallmadge, OH 44278

Norma Shanafelt 316 Lisa Ave. SW
(330-877-3749)
Hartville, OH 44632
(daughter, Cathy—330-603-1912)
Norma is living at the Gables of Green in Uniontown.

Eastwood Prayer Concerns

Continued prayers of healing and comfort for: Sue Galloway, Ida Gene James, Jerry & Linda Fuller, Ron & Penny Smith, Galen & Peggy Tobias, Jaxon Fuller, Ron & Hope Mitchell, Warnick family, Bob & Norma Lute, Bob Oxford, Dianne Myers

Brian (boss of Karen Warnick)strength and comfort, new trial meds

Ashley (friend of Karen W) tumor on brain and on spine inoperable

Jeanan (friend of Karen W.) strength & comfort
Karen Warnick – uplifting prayers

Angela(niece of the Griffith's) treatment for breast cancer

Rea(sister of Gary Griffith) strength in caring for Angela and baby

Peggy M. Tobias – recovering from hip surgery doing well

Gary Lorenz – recent diabetes diagnosis

Wayne Kissel (interim pastor at Akron First) diagnosed with prostate cancer

Bonnie Swisher, heart attack early morning 10/4, stent put in, recovering in City Hosp. no visits.

Prayers for our Eastwood/Springfield Yoked Committee

Christ's Closet clothing ministry – recipients, contributors &; volunteers

For our church and it's leadership

EASTWOOD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Springfield COB – We are blessed to have members from our sister congregation join us for today's worship and celebration.

Pastor Appreciation Brunch –Please join us following worship in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate and show our appreciation to our Pastor Andrew, wife Lauren and family. Worship is 10 am, Oct. 5; Brunch to follow. Please share by bringing fruit or bread item.

Christ's Closet – We are in need of clothing and winter coats. Please pass the word along to friends and family! Children's clothing is always in demand! Dates this month are Sat. Oct 11 and 25 from 11-1 pm

Crop Walk – The Annual Crop Walk will be held on Sunday, Oct, 12 @ 2 pm at Goodyear Metro Park. See Edith Kieffaber if you would like to participate or make a donation

Combined Love Feast, Sun Oct 7pm, Springfield

Deacon Meeting 4:30 followed by Board Meeting 5:30, Tues. Oct. 14th

Greeters – Please check the list on the bulletin board in the lounge to sign up to be a greeter for November and December.

Trunk or Treat – Eastwood will be having their annual community Trunk or Treat on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 2-4 pm. Please consider joining us and passing out treats. Let's fill the parking lot!!! See Gary or Trish Griffith for more information.

Newsletter deadline, Fri. Oct 31st

SPRINGFIELD ANNOUCEMENTS

Love Feast, October 12, 7 pm
Please plan to take part in our Love Feast on Sunday, Oct 12th at 7 pm. Note the new date! It will be held at Springfield but we are blessed to have our brothers and sisters from Eastwood joining us. The symbolism of Love Feast touches us all and brings us closer to our Lord as we partake in the meal and act of feet washing which Christ started. Please plan to attend this holy service on Oct. 12. If you need transportation, please reach out to your deacon.

Note the date change for the combined Thanksgiving meal/service at Eastwood to be on be Nov 30 at 10 am.

Ellet Good Neighbor food donations. Please remember to continue to bring in your Good Neighbor donations1st Sun: peanut butter and jelly, 2nd Sun: soup and crackers, 3rd Sun.: paper products; 4th Sun: Pasta and sauce , 5th Sun and anytime: personal hygiene products.

District Conference Wrap-up News can be found on the back table.

Acme receipt program is underway. Save your receipts.

Choir Practice is now meeting on Thursday at 7 pm. New members are welcome to join in to share our love of music and of God.

Commissions, 7 pm, Board Mtg, 7:40, Tues. Oct. 14th

Bible study has started up again and is meeting Wednesdays at 7 pm. You may attend in person or by using zoom.

Newsletter deadline: Fri. Oct. 31

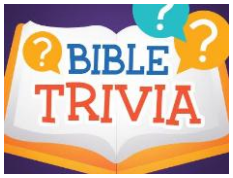
Condolences It is with deep sorrow that I, Pastor Andrew share the news of the passing of our brother in Christ, Cecil VanHorn, on October 2. Cecil was a beloved member of our church family, and we give thanks for his faithful life and witness, and for his friendship. We rejoice that he is now reunited with his dear Doris in the eternal presence of God.

Let's take a moment and pray together: Gracious God, we give thanks for the life of Cecil VanHorn and the love he shared among us. Comfort his family with your peace, strengthen them with hope, and surround them with your presence. We rejoice that Cecil and Doris are reunited in your heavenly home. Receive them into your eternal rest, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Woman's Zoom Bible Study Cindy Peel has started up a woman's zoom Bible Study that meets at different times. One time is 7:30 Wed. night and the other time is Thursday morning. Interested?? This coming week will be the third week the groups are meeting. Give Cindy a call if you want to be a part of this study. She is putting out this idea to the entire N. OH church district.

Brethren Disaster Ministries Work

Our church district sent a group of volunteers to Letcher County Kentucky, area flooding from 2022: Don Earlenbaugh, Sandy Humphrey, Ruth McCrea, Deb Rising, and Linda Smith. The project took place Sept. 7-13. Project days for 2026 will be available any time now. If interested contact the disaster team: Sandy Humphrey, Pete Snyder and our own Kim Morckel



Answers to the August/September Bible Quiz
Eph 2: 8-10; 2 Corinth 6

1. Our faith in Jesus Chist
2. Gift of God
3. No
4. We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jeus to do good works.
5. The Apostle Paul
6. It is because of our faith in God.
7. Jesus Christ
8. To respond to the grace they have received through faith
9. They are asked to open wide their hearts
10. Not to be yoked together with non-believers.

October Bible Quiz based on Pastor Andrew's message

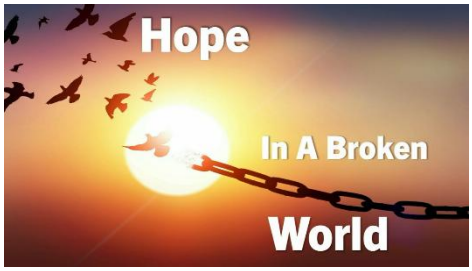
1 What does the quote from Matt: 19:24 mean?
2 What was the small gate in Jerusalem called that Pastor Andrew is referring to?
3 Is the story about this gate true?
4 What guardrails did God put up to make it easier to share wealth with others?
5 Who kept reminding the kings and elites of these guardrails?
6 Today, what are we bowing down to and worshipping instead of idols?
7 What does Luke 12:48 tell us?
8 Why must the wealthy be measured by a higher standard?
9 Elijah faced down Ahab. Why?
10 Today, what is the way through the narrow gate?

ANDREW'S MESSAGE FOR OCTOBER

A note about this letter:

I was quite angry when I wrote the first draft of this letter. Following the assassination of Charlie Kirk and the shooting of those children in Denver, the air was thick with vitriol. Whatever side of the political aisle you stand on, you'll agree tensions were already high before September 10th; after the shootings, they boiled over. Finger-pointing, furious words, calls for retribution, and endless rewriting of narratives filled the air—each side trying to vindicate itself by demonizing the other.

What disturbed me most was seeing people of influence exploit the pain and anger of others to advance their own agendas, cloaking their ambitions with appeals to God. That kind of invocation—using the Lord's name to sanctify violence, greed, or vengeance—is blasphemy in its purest form.



As someone who takes seriously how the name of God is spoken, I could not stay silent. Yet as a human being with political leanings, personal opinions, and my own understanding of faith, I must admit my earliest drafts probably mirrored the same fault lines I was criticizing. So I have spent the last week reflecting on my anger and my words, trying to separate my own failings from the message I believe I must share.

I am still angry—angry at the violence, the death, the division. Angry at politicians, media figures, and cultural influencers who drive wedges deeper into our fractured society. Angry at faith leaders who have become defenders of worldly rulers instead of moral compasses pointing us to Christ. But beyond anger, I feel sorrow. Sorrow for a world so broken that it does not always feel safe to send my child to school or to speak openly with a neighbor.

As this introduction threatens to become a letter in itself, let me close it with this thought: I know many of you are also angry, sad, and weary. But things will not get better if we continue to dehumanize those who are different from us. Jesus teaches that people are worthy of respect and love. So I implore you: lay down tribal colors and take up the cross. We are called to follow God, even when it means walking away from the ways of this world. So, without further ado..

A Kingdom Not of This World

Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God. — Matthew 19:24

You may have heard the story that Jesus was referring to a small gate in Jerusalem called "the Needle." Supposedly a camel could only pass through if stripped of its load, suggesting the wealthy must lay down their riches to enter God's kingdom. It's a neat illustration—but it isn't true. No such gate existed. No archaeology supports it. And the Gospels themselves don't agree on the wording, each using a slightly different turn of phrase for "needle's eye." If

it had been a landmark, they would have been consistent.

That matters. Because it shows how quickly we want to soften Jesus' words. We would rather imagine a difficult but possible challenge than accept an impossible standard. But Jesus left no wiggle room: wealth is a dangerous burden. Not evil in itself, but blinding, tempting, and capable of convincing us that we don't need God.

This is not a new struggle. Ancient Israel was warned against hoarding—commanded to release debts, return land to families, and leave gleanings for the hungry. God placed guardrails so that abundance would not harden into idolatry. The prophets thundered against kings and elites who ignored those commands, not because they hated wealth, but because they saw the corrosion it brought to both soul and society when it became the measure of worth.

And yet here we are, millennia later, bowing before the same idol. For while the wealthy may not kneel before a carved statue, the pursuit of wealth can easily become the center of devotion, overriding the law of God and eroding even the most basic human morality. We still treat abundance as proof of blessing, when Jesus said the opposite: it is a responsibility, a heavier yoke of accountability. "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded" (Luke 12:48). Wealth and influence are not in themselves evil, but they are a powerful temptation—drawing hearts away from trust in God and toward trust in self. That is why those who hold wealth, power, or platforms must be measured by a higher standard—not because we despise them, but because God requires it. Respect is not owed simply because someone is rich or influential. To give deference on the basis of worldly power is to join in the worship of Mammon.

The prophets knew this danger well. Nathan stood before David, not to strip him of his crown, but to confront him with the truth that even kings are subject to God's law. Elijah faced down Ahab, not because monarchy was evil, but because power had seduced him into idolatry and injustice. Amos thundered against Israel's elites, crying out against those who "trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth and deny justice to the oppressed" (Amos 2:7). Their warnings were not about wealth in the abstract, but about what happens when wealth and power become shields against accountability, weapons of exploitation, and excuses for abandoning God's covenant.

And so we return to the gate. Narrow, unyielding, impossible to enter if we come burdened with pride, greed, or self-importance. The way through is not with camels carrying loads, nor with kings wrapped in finery, nor with crowds dazzled by riches. The way through is with the cross—borne in humility, carried in faith, and marked by love. This is the path the prophets pointed toward, and the way Christ himself calls us to walk. Not worshiping wealth, not excusing injustice, not bending the knee to worldly power—but following the narrow way of the kingdom, where treasure is measured not in gold, but in mercy, justice, and love.

Pastor Andrew P. Wenger

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Eastwood Church

2 Debbie Brown
6 Karen Warnick
11 Jill & Brian Swain
13 Andrew & Lauren Wenger
15 Jean Poling
16 Bob & Norma Lute
19 Angela & Will O'Connor
20 Dale Brown
21 Linda Fuller
23 Elijah O'Connor
24 Rebecca Ebie
26 Edith Kieffaber
27 Aaron Propst
28 Jill Swain
29 Mike Fuller
31 David LeBarre

Springfield Church

1 Nicole/Cory Hornish
2 Dick Putt
3 Jenna Myler
4 Sam/Delores Courie
5 Elizabeth Butera
8 Jason/Ari Kinsey
9 Josh Conner
13 Andrew/Lauren Wenger
15 Grayce Woerz
16 David Davis Sr.
17 Ron Whitmer
18 Liam Boswell
18 Christine Davis
19 Lauren Bowling
23 Mike/Elva Brown
24 Rebecca Ebie
25 Seth Frient
27 Tammy Paveloi
29 Grace Frient
30 Jonathan Hawk
31 John/Erica Jewell

OCTOBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bible Study, Springfield 7:00 pm	2 Springfield Choir Practice, 7pm	3	4 Kids Closet 10-12 Camp Fall Festival 10-2
5 Combined Pastor Appreciation Service & Brunch 10 am, Eastwood	6	7	8 Bible Study, Springfield 7:00 pm	9 Springfield Choir Practice, pm	10	11 Eastwood Clothes Closet 11-1
12 Combined Love Feast, Springfield, 7 pm	13	14 Church meetings for both Eastwood and Springfield	15 Bible Study, Springfield 7:00 pm	16 Springfield Choir Practice, 7 pm	17	18 District Men's Fall Retreat Camp, 9-3
19	20	21	22 Springfield Council Mtg 7 pm	23 Springfield Choir Practice, 7 pm	24	25 Cecil VanHorn's funeral 11 am Eastwood Clothes Closet 11-1 Trunk or Treat, Eastwood 2-4
26	27	28	29 Bible study, Springfield, 7:00 pm	30 Springfield Choir Practice, 7 pm	31 November Newsletter deadline	

EASTWOODCHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

581 Darrow Road, Akron, OH 44305

SPRINGFIELD CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

3500 Albrecht Ave, Akron, OH 44312

We invite you

- To join with us in the fellowship of a Christian family.
- To join us in our journey to a deeper faith in Lord Jesus.
- To strive with us to "Live in the Glory of God and our neighbor's good.

Pastor: Andrew Wenger
Phone: (717) 725-4695

Email: scob.andew@gmai.com
Pastor's in-office hours: Tues-Fri. mornings, & by appointment
Church secretary: Beckie Ebie
Church Office: 330-628-3058
Email: springfieldcob@gmail.com

Springfield worship: 11 AM
Sunday, Sunday school: 9:45 am
Eastwood worship: 9:30 am
Sunday, Sunday school: 11:00 am