

Little Free Pantry

Items needed in are canned meats, vegetables, and soups, mac & cheese, breakfast foods, toiletries such as soap, deodorant, shampoo, and paper goods. Cash donations are also appreciated. We cannot accept items in glass jars or perishables.

EBC now offers online giving through our church website. You can use a credit or debit card for a one-time gift or recurring transaction. Also available is a one time or recurring ACH transaction.



Extended Care Workers

| | |
|--------|---|
| Jan 4 | Kyle & Cecily Kirby |
| Jan 11 | Billy & Lou Madden Kathy McKinney |
| Jan 18 | Kevin & Pam Gassett Shelby Vaughn |
| Jan 25 | Deanna Moore, Ashlie Jeffery Jeanette Melton |

A Monthly Publication Of:
Emory Baptist Church
(903) 473-3357
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www.emorybaptist.org
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(Corner Of North & Planters)
Emory, TX 75440

Regular Weekly Schedule

Sunday

9:15 A Sunday School Small Groups
10:30 Morning Worship
(In person & online)
5:00 P Celebration Choir Rehearsal
6:30 Evening Worship
RA's & GA's /CB (K-5th)
Youth Ministries/MH (6th-12th)

Monday

10:00 A Church-wide Prayer Meeting

Tuesday

9:00 A Threads of Service/MH
(2nd & 4th Tuesday)
10:00 Grief Share/Bride's Room
6:30 P Recovery Ministry

Wednesday

6:30 A Men's Reading Group/FH
9:30 Women's Reading Group/MH
5:30 P Fellowship Meal/FH
6:30 Wednesday Worship/FH
KidzPraize/CB (K-5th grade)
Youth Ministries/MH (6th-12th)

Friday

7:00 A Men's Discipleship/
Y'all Come Back Cafe

Ministry Staff

Pastor - Dr. Richard D. Piles
Minister of Music & Senior Adults - Chris Henderson
Minister of Youth & Education - Ronnie Witt
Director of Preschool Ministries - Cecily Kirby



Volume 25, Number 1

January 2026

Emory Baptist Church exists to:

Love God (Matt. 22:37-38), Love People (Matt. 22:39-40), and Make Disciples (Matt. 28:19-20).



Will you be a World Mission Fund Family in 2026? \$25 per week or \$108 per month or \$1,300 for the year is given for international, North American, and state missions.

Youth Winter Retreat-Camp Akiva January 18-19

Retreat Kickoff is Saturday 17 at 6pm in Fellowship Hall. Jason Sturgeon will lead Bible study times again this year and Eric Mendez will lead worship. The theme is "Great Gain" from 1 Timothy 6:6.

The cost \$85 and a \$20 deposit gets you signed up.

Find more info at retreat.emorybaptist.org or the sign up page at retreat.emorybaptist.org/signup

Intercessory Prayer

Our Prayer Room needs you to help complete our goal of 36 hours per week of praying. Can you pray for one hour per week in 2026? The schedule with available time slots is on the Front Foyer Bulletin Board.



Thank you for participated in Operation Christmas Child. EBC members donated enough school supplies, toys, clothing, shoes, and hygiene items in 2025 to donate about 150 shoeboxes.

In Jan/Feb 2026, we are collecting personal hygiene items such as combs, hair-brushes, floss, washcloths, etc. **Toothpaste, bar soap or anything liquid cannot be accepted.**

"But He said, 'The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.'" Luke 18:27

Dr. Richard D. Piles, Pastor
Ronnie Witt, Minister of Youth & Education

Chris Henderson, Minister of Music & Sr. Adults
Cecily Kirby, Director of Preschool Ministries

Pastor's Pen

Happy New Year to you and your family!

In 2021, our verse for the year was Matthew 9:37-38, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." In 2022, it was Matthew 21:13. Jesus said, "My house shall be called a house of prayer." In 2023, it was Luke 6:46, "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" In 2024, it was Psalm 118:24, "This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." In 2025, it was James 1:22, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

In 2026, our verse for the year will be Luke 18:27... "But He said, 'The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.'"

As has been my custom every January, let me encourage you to consider some new commitments for the new year:

First, consider reading through the Bible in a year. Our member directory and handbook will have a plan that I recommend.

Second, consider committing to pray for 1 hour per week in our Prayer Room located in Memorial Hall.

Third, consider giving to our World Mission Fund. That commitment is \$1,300 for the year or just \$25 per week to send the gospel around the world through our missionaries.

Again, Happy New Year, and I pray that 2026 is a memorable one at EBC!

Bro. Richard
Pastor

Choir Corner with Chris

New Year's will look a little different at the Henderson Household this year. As I am writing this article, Grace has not yet given birth, but she will before the end of 2025. We are so excited to welcome Tucker Ryan into the world, and we know that he is already so loved by so many at Emory Baptist Church. Thank you for all the prayers, support, advice, and well wishes over the past 9 months. It has been a year full of firsts, and we are elated to be starting off the new year with our first child.

Because 2026 will be a year of unknowns for my family, I wanted to share a couple of my favorite scriptures on trusting in the Lord rather than worrying.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

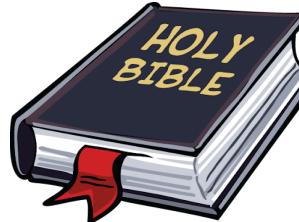
Philippians 4:6-7

"Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Matthew 6:34

Please continue to be prayer for my little family as we learn how to be parents this next year. We look forward to introducing you to Tucker as soon as we can.

Bro. Chris
Minister of Music & Senior Adults



DAILY BIBLE READING

| | | | |
|-------|----------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| Jan 1 | Gen 1-2 Matt 1 | 16 | Gen 38-40 Matt 12:22-50 |
| 2 | Gen 3-5 Matt 2 | 17 | Gen 41 Matt 13:1-32 |
| 3 | Gen 6-8 Matt 3 | 18 | Gen 42-43 Matt 13:33-58 |
| 4 | Gen 9-11 Matt 4 | 19 | Gen 44-45 Matt 14:1-21 |
| 5 | Gen 12-14 Matt 5:1-26 | 20 | Gen 46-48 Matt 14:22-36 |
| 6 | Gen 15-17 Matt 5:27-48 | 21 | Gen 49-50 Matt 15:1-20 |
| 7 | Gen 18-19 Matt 6 | 22 | Ex 1-3 Matt 15:21-39 |
| 8 | Gen 20-22 Matt 7 | 23 | Ex 4-6 Matt 16 |
| 9 | Gen 23-24 Matt 8 | 24 | Ex 7-8 Matt 17 |
| 10 | Gen 25-26 Matt 9:1-17 | 25 | Ex 9-10 Matt 18:1-20 |
| 11 | Gen 27-28 Matt 9:18-38 | 26 | Ex 11-12 Matt 18:21-35 |
| 12 | Gen 29-30 Matt 10:1-23 | 27 | Ex 13-15 Matt 19:1-15 |
| 13 | Gen 31-32 Matt 10:24-42 | 28 | Ex 16-18 Matt 19:16-30 |
| 14 | Gen 33-35 Matt 11 | 29 | Ex 19-21 Matt 20:1-16 |
| 15 | Gen 36-37 Matt 12:1-21 | 30 | Ex 22-24 Matt 20:17-34 |
| | | 31 | Ex 25-26 Matt 21:1-22 |

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Emma Thurman by baptism on Sunday, 11/23.

Tom & Jan Byrum by letter on Sunday, 11/30.



Christian Quilt Guild
Monday, January 5, 6:30pm, MH

Christian Quilt Guild Workshop
Saturday, January 10, 9am, MH

Everyone is welcome! The purpose is to share our Christian faith through using our God-given gifts and talents to serve God and those in need.

We encourage spiritual and personal growth through developing and educating the skill and art of quilting and sewing.

If you have questions, please contact:
Lisa Provost - 409.673.8522
Teresa Runion - 903.439.7161

If you need an announcement included in the February newsletter, please contact **Teresa White** no later than Wednesday, Jan. 21.

Nursery Rhymes

This month our preschoolers will be learning all about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! We'll explore how they trusted God, stood strong in their faith, and how God was with them even in the fire. Our preschoolers will learn that God is always with us and cares for us every day!

The story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego can be found in Daniel chapters 1-3.

Key Points:

1. We should stand FOR God.
2. God will help us THROUGH difficult situations.
3. God is with us IN difficult situations.



Cecily Kirby
Director of Preschool Ministries

Sonbeam Day School

Memory Verse:

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:11

Bible Story:

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego

Nursery Rhyme:

This Little Piggy

Family Bible Question:

Who was the strongest man who ever lived?

Hint: Judges 14:6

Important Dates:

December 22-January 5th: Christmas Break

January 6th: Staff Workday

February 12th: Valentine's Day Party

Please continue to pray for our ministry, staff, students, and their families.



Cecily Kirby
Director of Sonbeam

Student Ministry Spot

2026 will be an incredible year of change for the Witt family. Caleb and Jenna are quickly planning toward their wedding coming up in May. So, you know what that means. I won't be able to count him as a dependent on my taxes next year. Just kidding, it means that I'll be gaining the daughter everyone always said I've been missing all these years. And Caleb could not have picked a sweeter young woman to be his wife. Every time Caleb's Life360 app tells us that "Caleb has arrived at home," I tell Lacy, "Jenna's here!"

Youth Winter Retreat is Saturday through Monday, January 17-19. Students have off of school on Monday, January 19, so they can participate. Jason Sturgeon will be leading the Bible study times again this year and Eric Mendez will be leading worship. The theme is "Great Gain" which comes from 1 Timothy 6:6. The cost for Winter Retreat is \$85, but \$20 deposit gets you signed up. There is a price break for families of multiple students. Find more info at retreat.emorybaptist.org or go straight to the sign up page at:

retreat.emorybaptist.org/SignUp

On Sunday nights beginning in January, Emory Baptist Students are going to do a book study called "Bite-Size Theology." We will read a (very short) chapter from a book and then discuss the topic.

While you're planning your vacation days for family vacations, keep in mind that Emory Baptist youth will go to camp July 13-17. Preteen camp will be the same week. Parents, we would love for your students to be able to go to camp with us that week. Some of you might also consider taking some vacation time to go with us sponsors for youth camp or preteen camp. Vacation Bible School will be June 8-12, too.

Bro. Ronnie
Minister of Youth & Education

Pray for our Military

Joshua Allen
Gabe Baker
Robert Barrientos
Joshua Crain
Jaxon Davenport
Christopher Donaldson
Jeremiah Duke
Nicholas Endris
Peter Hughes
Travis Johns
Christian LaToof

Colin Mayo
John McCann
James McGarry
Travis Mosley
Robert Palin Jr.
Robert Sandlin
Josh Satterfield
Kenny Schulze
Gerrick Stainaker
Kolby Stephenson
Kristy Tunney
Colton Wilkerson

THANK YOU!

The EBC church staff and nursery workers wish to thank all who gave to the Staff Love Offering.

We are so very blessed and thankful to be a part of such a loving and generous church family.

God Bless You!



JANUARY 2025

Calendar Online: go to www.emorybaptist.org and click on "Schedule"

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--------------------------------|--|---|-----|---|
| | | | <i>Church Office closes at 12noon</i> No PM Activities | 1 <i>HAPPY NEW YEAR !!</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i> | 2 | 3 |
| 4 <i>1st Fruits on 1st Sunday</i> | 5 <i>WOM 11am</i> <i>Christian Quilt Guild 6pm/FH</i> | 6 | 7 <i>Backpack Buddies 10:30am</i> Enchiladas | 8 <i>SAM Lunch & Game Day/FH 12pm</i>  | 9 | 10 <i>Christian Quilt Guild Workshop 9am/MH</i> |
| 11 <i>Lord's Supper 10:30am</i> | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 <i>Youth Winter Retreat Kickoff 6pm/ FH</i> |
| 18 <i>Youth Winter Retreat 18-19</i> <i>Members' Mtg. 6:30pm</i> | 19 <i>Youth Winter Retreat 18-19</i> | 20 <i>TEL Lunch 12pm/FH</i> | 21 <i>Men's & Women's Reading Groups Resume</i> <i>Backpack Buddies 10:30am</i> Tacos | 22 <i>SAM Lunch & Game Day/FH 12pm</i>  | 23 | 24 <i>5:30pm</i>  |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| | | | King Ranch Chicken | | | |



Members' Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Sandra Dougherty | 15 Peggy Bolton |
| | Teresa White |
| 4 Caroline Piles | 22 Marilyn Hargrave |
| | 23 Bobbie Harris |
| 7 Doug Conner | Barbra Jaggers |
| | Janet Temaat |
| | Nancy Wilson |
| 14 Jackie Butler | 24 Stryker Kirby |
| | Ken Crews |
| | Grayson Smith |
| | Georgia Speake |
| | 27 Rose Kirkpatrick |
| | 28 Jan Byrum |

Members' Anniversaries

| |
|-----------------------------|
| 7 Steven & Melissa Johnson |
| 10 Tony & Ann Jennings |
| 21 A.B. & Loretta Godwin |
| 25 Matt & Sherry Smith |
| 27 Dempsey & Martha Bullock |

