

The Connection

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH
05 FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

AN OXYMORON

BY KEVIN WILLIAMS



An oxymoron is a figure of speech that combines two contradictory words. Here are a few examples: jumbo shrimp, irregular pattern, detailed summary, civil war, old news, good grief, and unbiased opinion. Sometimes an author uses an oxymoron to grab attention or get a laugh. But many Christians are combining two words they don't even realize are contradictory. The oxymoron is "online church."

The word "church" occurs 114 times in the New Testament. This term literally refers to a gathering of people, an assembly. A church is a group of believers who congregate together for worship and fellowship. When "church" is combined with "online" it doesn't make sense. If individuals are separately watching the same video, they are not assembled.

I am very grateful for the technology that allows us to listen to godly music and hear biblical sermons. The Lord has used these to significantly influence my life. And I've been especially blessed by these mediums when I've been unable to gather with others for worship. But we need to recognize that these edifying videos are not a replacement for the physical gatherings of a local church.

I've had conversations with several folks in our church family who are refraining from in-person gatherings right now.

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I think there are some good reasons for being careful during this time. I do, however, want to warn of the possible consequences to one's spiritual health. We are physical bodies, but we are much more than that. If this pandemic continues for another year, what effect will it have on your soul, and how will others suffer because of your absence?

Hebrews 10:25 contains the well-known phrase "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together." The biblical author's intention is for God's people to regularly "stir up love and good works" (Heb 10:24) and "exhort each other" (Heb 10:25). If you are unable to gather at the present time, you will need to be more creative in fulfilling this God-given obligation toward your brothers and sisters. We need each other.

These last eleven months have been challenging for all of us. And although we continue to face obstacles to the ways we care for each other, let's be even more diligent to overcome these obstacles. How can you stir up love and good works in others this week? In what ways can you encourage the members of your church family? We must remember that the church is a community committed to our Lord and His family; it is not a weekly video.



In an effort to accommodate as many people as possible and remain compliant with the current capacity restriction of 15%, a third service will be added on Sundays beginning this weekend. In addition to 9:30 and 11:00, the same service will take place on Sunday evening at 6:00. We are committed to having as many services as needed. We would rather not require weekly registrations, and we will not turn anyone away.

Our largest attendance is the 11:00 service. Please consider coming at 9:30 or 6:00 to allow more space for others. Also, there is always plenty of room to watch the livestream in the auditorium.

Since the Sunday evening service will be the same content as the morning service, we will postpone our scheduled study of the Foundation discipleship book. Both Sunday morning services will continue to be livestreamed and available to watch any time after.



In-person services (with singing) take place in the gym. Services are simultaneously livestreamed in the auditorium (no singing) or available to you at home.

SUNDAY, 07 FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICES: 9:30 AM, 11 AM OR 6 PM

- "YE SERVANTS OF GOD"
- "PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY"
- PRAYER
- "I PLEAD FOR GRACE"
- CHILDREN'S STORY
- "THE PERFECT WISDOM OF OUR GOD"
- MESSAGE: "CHRIST PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES" JOHN 17:11-19
PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS
- "FACING A TASK UNFINISHED"
- PRAYER

WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY & KIDS 4 TRUTH 7 PM

This mid-week service takes place in-person in the auditorium. If you would like a Zoom link to participate, please email the church office.



Discussion Questions from John 17:11-19

1. Which three words in this passage do you think are most significant?
2. What is being said about those three important words?
3. What does this passage say about Jesus?
4. How do people in this passage respond to Jesus?
5. How does this passage challenge or encourage you?
6. What from this passage can you share to encourage a fellow Christian?
7. What from this passage can you share with an unbeliever?

2020 DONATION RECEIPTS AVAILABLE

Receipts are available for pick up at the Information Desk on Sundays and in the church office Monday-Friday (9-4). Those that remain will be mailed out February 16.



GIVING

E-transfer is available. From your bank's website, select the e-transfer feature. The email address to transfer to is donations@meadowlandsbaptist.com. Your donation will be automatically accepted and you will receive a confirmation of the transfer.

Need to contact us?

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MISSIONARY UPDATE FROM ANTUAN & CITADEL

(CREATIVE ACCESS NATION: PROJECT WORLD WALK)

A short update since we got the order from the immigration office on January 27th.

On February 2, our local lawyer has officially submitted our appeals to the government justice department.

Citadel's national ID has been completely blocked, that means any hospital and pharmacy visits, are not possible for her, and we are assuming that her driver license has been revoked too.

A short-term solution may be for Citadel to leave for a nearby country for a short-time, or to return to the Philippines.

For our long-term solution, we hope to leave as a family, perhaps in a country where we can start a ministry and plant a church. A country where strategically, Antuan can easily travel and continue the ministry and church works here.

We have so many encouraging Bible verses in the midst of our situations, but tonight, we want share Exodus 14:14 "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." This is just so personal to us right now, a beautiful promise we kept in our hearts and recite repeatedly for healing when the anxiety, sleepless nights, fears try to get us.

Our family is deeply grateful for supporting us with your presence and prayers during these difficult days. Continue to pray for us, that we will be sensitive to God's words as we wait. That we would respond with an obedient and willing hearts for some changes and adjustments that needs to be made. Wisdom for our lawyer as he represents our case, that God would also move and soften the hearts of the government team who will review my appeals. Most importantly, that His name will be glorified during and after this case is over.