

the Connection

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH

19 MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER



A YEAR OF CHANGE AND CONSISTENCY

BY KEVIN WILLIAMS

The essentials of Christ's church are transferable to any time, place, and culture. Over the last 2,000 years, local assemblies have had to adapt to the challenges of war, disease, natural disaster, and persecution. Christ has continued to build His church under all kinds of governments and in various social and economic environments. These last twelve months have forced us to be flexible even as we cling steadfastly to the unchanging biblical essentials. It's been a full year since our lives were turned upside down. Here's a brief snapshot of how our church has adapted to these challenges.

- 8 MARCH 2020
24th Anniversary Service & All Church Luncheon (last "normal" Sunday)
- 15 MARCH
Morning Worship Services without hymnals, offering, and shaking hands
- 20 MARCH
Beginning of our weekly newsletter *The Connection*
- 22 MARCH
First Sunday Service broadcast online
- 22 APRIL
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study begins via Zoom
- 24 MAY
Sunday Evening Services resume in-person at 4 & 6 pm in groups of 50
- 21 JUNE
Regular Sunday Morning Worship Services resume in-person Livestreamed to gym and homes
- 9 SEPTEMBER
Kids 4 Truth Resumes
- 13 SEPTEMBER
Children's Sunday School & Adult Fellowship Groups resume
- 29 NOVEMBER
Building capacity restricted to 1/3 Sunday School & Fellowship Groups suspended
- 15 DECEMBER
Building capacity restricted to 15% Christmas concert in auditorium with overflow in gym
- 22 DECEMBER
Begin Sunday services in gym with livestream in auditorium
- 7 FEBRUARY
Third service added on Sunday evening to accommodate the number of worshippers

The scheduled, yet unprinted bulletin for March 15 was full of announcements for upcoming events and ministry opportunities. By the next day, everything was canceled. The church, however, was never canceled; God's people continued to serve Him in flexible ways. Care packages were assembled and delivered to shut-ins and front-line workers. Baby and bridal showers became virtual events. Countless phone calls and front-porch visits were made to give encouragement. Volunteers recorded lessons and assembled activity bags for a virtual Vacation Bible School.

Although the circumstances have been less than ideal, we have continued to worship the Lord, study His Word, practice the "one anothers," and reach out to the lost in our community. Our improvements in technology have allowed us to reach more people with God's truth than before. And, according to James 1:2-4, our congregation should be spiritually stronger having endured this trial with God's wisdom and grace. Praise the Lord for what He has done in and through our church family over the last twelve months! We can continue to trust Him in the days ahead.



Numerous care packages assembled and distributed to front line workers and shut-ins



Over 150 activity/craft bags distributed for online VBS

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

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.

- "TO GOD BE THE GLORY"
- PRAYER
- "THE POWER OF THE CROSS"
- "O GREAT GOD"
- CHILDREN'S STORY
- "BLESSED ASSURANCE"
- MESSAGE: "SO CLOSE YET SO FAR AWAY"
JOHN 18:1-12 PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS
- "GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN"
- BENEDICTION

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.

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?

Church Office

780-440-1195

Pastor Kevin Williams

587-635-2758

Pastor Jerry Ascher

587-635-2751

Pastor Mark Richmond

587-635-2752

David Treau

587-635-2753

Email:

info@meadowlandsbaptist.com

BABY SHOWERS

Since no in-person showers are allowed at this time, please drop off gifts in church office by March 28.

Gifts will then be delivered to each recipient.

Lisa Elliot

Pienaar

4 mos.

William
Thomas
Steenson

4 mos.

Ella-Maria

Lidia

Lumsden

2.5 mos.



change

Be still, my soul! your God
doth undertake
To guide the future as He has
the past.

Your hope, your confidence
let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be
bright at last.
Be still, my soul! the waves
and winds still know
His voice who ruled them
while He dwelt below.
Katharina von Schlegel