



# *the Connection*

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH

30 JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

## **FREEDOM TO LOVE OTHERS**

BY KEVIN WILLIAMS

In Canada we sing and pray “God keep our land glorious and free.” We place a high value on freedom. As Christians, we especially cherish the freedom that comes from Christ. Paul commands the church to “stand fast in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage” (Gal 5:1). Since Christ is the fulfillment of the Old Testament ceremonial laws, God’s people are no longer bound to them. I’m so glad to be free! But Paul warns, “do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another” (Gal 5:13). And then Paul reminds us of a law that we are bound to: “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Gal 5:14).

Our relationship with Christ liberates us to get our eyes off of self and onto the needs of others. But that doesn’t come to us naturally, which is why Paul tells the church to “walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh” (Gal 5:16). By the Holy Spirit’s power, we can overcome the natural desire to please ourselves. Through the Spirit our lives will produce the fruit of “love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” Notice that the Spirit’s fruit is primarily evidenced in relationship with others. Spending time with others and serving them in love is one of our highest priorities.

We are stewards of freedom. And our Lord has called us to use our liberty for His purposes—especially to love others through His Spirit’s enablement. How can you serve others this week? In what ways might the Holy Spirit influence others by the fruit He produces in you? How can you edify others this Sunday, or even at the church picnic? Let’s pray that God will use us this summer to love others in response to the love Christ has shown to us.





**Beginning July 4, childcare for children ages 2-3 will be available in the gym foyer nursery during the 9:30 am service.**



### *Need to contact us?*

#### **Church Office**

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#### **Pastor Kevin Williams**

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#### **Pastor Jerry Ascher**

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#### **Pastor Mark Richmond**

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### **GIVING**

E-transfer is available.

From your bank's website, select the e-transfer feature. The email address to transfer to is

[donations@meadowlands](mailto:donations@meadowlandsbaptist.com)

[baptist.com](http://baptist.com). Your donation

will be automatically

accepted, and you will

receive a confirmation of

the transfer.



## *Preparing for Sunday*

After the original lockdown in spring of 2020, our church family has gathered each Sunday for the last 13 months with various limitations. Although the essential elements of worship and fellowship have continued, our circumstances have been less than ideal. In alignment with the lifting of all government restrictions on July 1, our Sunday gatherings will return to the auditorium without the requirements of physical distance and masks.

While many are eagerly anticipating a return to hugs and handshakes, there are others who are apprehensive. Some church members have been advised by their doctors to remain cautious. Please be sensitive to others. Our church family includes a variety of people with different circumstances. The gym will be available with livestream for those who would like to avoid crowds and spread out more. Anyone is welcome to wear a face covering in the church building, but it is not required. Livestreaming from home will continue to be available.

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES: 9:30 AM OR 11:00 AM**

In-person services take place in the auditorium. Services are simultaneously livestreamed in the gym, or available to you at home.

- "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"
- PRAYER
- "ROCK OF AGES"
- "THE OLD RUGGED CROSS"
- CHILDREN'S STORY
- "GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY"
- MESSAGE: "GOD'S GRACIOUS RESTORATION"  
JONAH 2  
PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS
- "HIS MERCY IS MORE"
- BENEDICTION

### **COMING UP**

#### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30**

There will be no Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study this week.

#### **THURSDAY, JULY 1, 10AM-5PM**

Come join us for our annual Canada Day Picnic located at Deville-North Cooking Lake. See p. 3 for more details.

#### **WEDNESDAY, JULY 7**

Eric Knutson, our summer intern will be preaching in the auditorium. This service will be available on livestream.



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 18-22, 6:30-8:30 pm  
Age 4 to Grade 6 (in September)



Register at [meadowlandsbaptist.com](http://meadowlandsbaptist.com)



**Thursday 10-5**  
**Lunch 12 Noon**  
**Deville-North**  
**Cooking Lake**  
**Community Hall**  
**21033 Wye Road,**  
**Sherwood Park**  
**(20 KM East of**  
**Sherwood Park)**

## CHURCH WILL PROVIDE:

Plates, cutlery, drinks, individually wrapped chips, dessert/ice cream

## YOU PROVIDE:

Meat, condiments, sides for yourself or family (no dishes to share), lawn chairs

- VOLLEYBALL
- BOUNCE HOUSES
- KIDS CARNIVAL
- BADMINTON
- FAMILY GAMES
- WATER BALLOONS



## How can I Help?

- Prayer! Please pray for the kids, leaders, helpers, and all the details that go into making a VBS possible. Also, that our team may stay healthy.
- Please help us with donations of:
  - Candy -- to give as prizes. We need to be careful of peanuts and tree nuts.
  - Sports prizes - -basketballs, soccer balls, hockey sticks, badminton sets; things kids can play with outside (our VBS has a sports theme).
- Please lend us your favourite sports team jersey, hats or pennants. Please attach a label with your name on it so we can return them to you. We will use these to decorate the auditorium.

We appreciate all the varieties of help that go into a VBS. Thank you for your support in this ministry.



## Church Family Fellowship

**When:** July 11th after the second service

**Where:** Meadowlands Baptist Church  
(kids can play in the gym and we may try to play kickball in the field by Meadows Rec Centre.)

**Who:** Everyone and all ages

**Bring:** A picnic lunch, lawn chairs, outdoor games (and board games if it's raining or hot)