

The Connection

31 JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER



Dear Church Family,

You have probably heard by now that the Edmonton city council passed a bylaw requiring face coverings in all indoor public spaces. This mandate goes into effect tomorrow and includes all indoor church gatherings.

I talked to a representative from the city's bylaw department to get some clarification of how this will impact the fellowship and worship in our church facility on Sundays. I was told that anyone teaching, speaking from the pulpit, or performing music qualifies under the exception of "engaging in services that require the temporary removal of a face covering." The bylaw also makes an exception for "persons unable to wear a face covering due to mental or physical concern or limitation." There may be several people in our congregation who do not wear a mask on Sunday or remove their mask during the service for one of these reasons.

This bylaw will not be enforced by our church, and we should all assume that anyone not wearing a face covering has a good reason. We should not be judgmental of anyone's motive. I am planning to wear a mask indoors except when I am speaking from the pulpit. I will attempt to sing with a mask on, but I'm not looking forward to it! If the weather allows, I will enjoy conversation outside without a face covering. A limited number of masks will be available; however, we encourage you to bring your own.

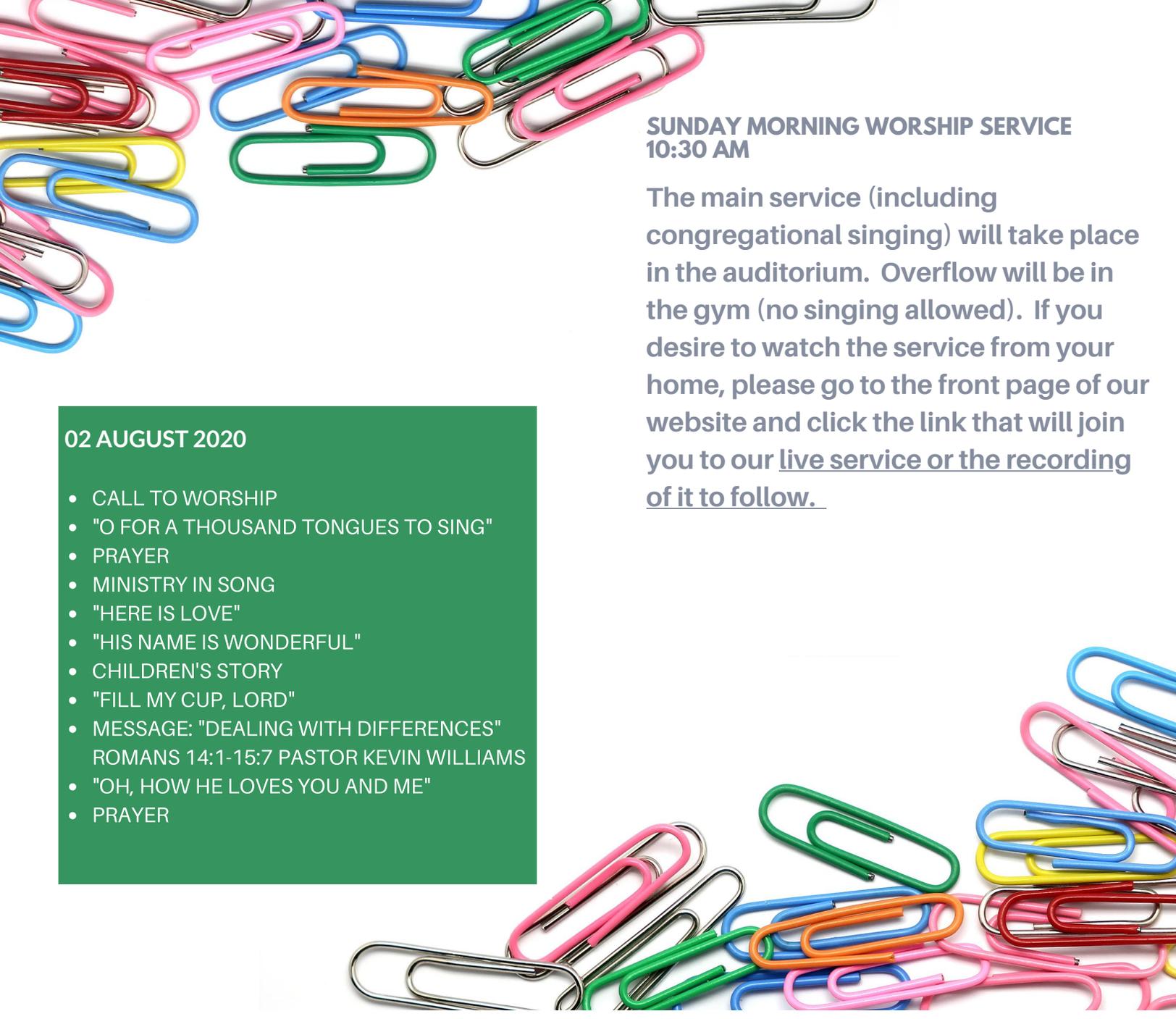
Around the year AD 57, there was a Christian living under the tyrannical rule of Emperor Nero. This follower of Christ was eventually beheaded under this cruel regime that persecuted Christians. Before his martyrdom, he wrote a letter to believers living in the capital city—the home of Nero. In his letter to them he wrote, "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities." He commanded them to obey Nero and the other pagan Roman authorities. He also wrote that "the authorities that exist are appointed by God;" therefore, "whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God." Three times he refers to government officials as "God's ministers."

You can see why the Christians in Rome needed instruction about this. Should they submit to such a wicked government? Should they rebel in response to excessive overreach? Should they pay taxes to an emperor who was murdering their brothers and sisters? The letter answers these questions by saying, "Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor." Not only should Christians obey and pay taxes to a corrupt government, but they should do so with respect.

If an authority ever commands you to do something that God forbids or forbids you to do something that God commands, then you must "obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). He is the higher authority. Yet even civil disobedience must be respectful. But if governing authorities are not commanding us to commit sin, we are obligated to obey them as God's ministers, even if they are ungodly and irresponsible, and their mandates seem unreasonable.

That ancient letter written to citizens under Nero was authored by the apostle Paul under divine inspiration (Romans 13:1-7). These instructions about our responsibility toward government leaders are just as relevant and authoritative today as they were nearly 2,000 years ago. Praise God that we can rest in His sovereign control over the leaders He has appointed! I pray that God would help us to be wise and respectful when submission to government is especially difficult.

-Pastor Kevin



**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
10:30 AM**

The main service (including congregational singing) will take place in the auditorium. Overflow will be in the gym (no singing allowed). If you desire to watch the service from your home, please go to the front page of our website and click the link that will join you to our [live service or the recording of it to follow.](#)

02 AUGUST 2020

- CALL TO WORSHIP
- "O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING"
- PRAYER
- MINISTRY IN SONG
- "HERE IS LOVE"
- "HIS NAME IS WONDERFUL"
- CHILDREN'S STORY
- "FILL MY CUP, LORD"
- MESSAGE: "DEALING WITH DIFFERENCES"
ROMANS 14:1-15:7 PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS
- "OH, HOW HE LOVES YOU AND ME"
- PRAYER

WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY 7 PM

This service takes place in the auditorium. In addition, you may also participate in a Zoom group that will follow the same format at the same time (Please email kwilliams@meadowlandsbaptist.com for a Zoom invitation). For our Bible study we will discuss the following questions that relate to the Sunday morning sermon:

ROMANS 14:1-15:7

1. What are some examples of "doubtful things" (differing opinions)? (Rom 14:1)
2. What convictions are more important than "doubtful things" and leave no room for compromise?
3. What is the responsibility of one who holds a stricter standard than his brother? (Rom 14:3-12)
4. What is the responsibility of one whose conscience is free in a particular area? (Rom 14:1-5:2)
5. According to Romans 14:15-20, what realities are more important than your opinion?
6. Is it a sin to violate your conscience? (Rom 14:14, 20, 22, 23)
7. How can you follow Christ's example in your interactions with Christians who hold different opinions? (Rom 15:1-7)

Heritage Day



**Church Office
Closed Monday**

MISSIONARY UPDATE

I was recently reminded of James 4:13-15 by a pastor friend. Although I don't have any plans to "buy, sell and get gain" we have had to change many plans due to Coronavirus. James teaches us to hold to our plans loosely, since God's purposes may differ from our plans! So much of what we planned has had to be postponed or canceled. God has his own timetable.

For instance, we planned to leave South Africa in the middle of June, travel across Canada and the USA for about 6 months visiting supporting churches, sharing what God has been doing through us in South Africa and getting our visas renewed. But, since we are on lockdown level 3 here - and international flights are not allowed in or out of South Africa - we have had to cancel our travel plans. We saw an immigration attorney on Friday to see what our options are for renewing our visas from within South Africa. Pray with us about this detail. We need wisdom on how it is best to proceed.

Please pray for:

- Lives we touch through the food relief program we are managing for the Rotary Club.
- Unique outreaches with our Knysna Hope team.
- Children: (Two oldest in Canada) Caleb has continued to work throughout the pandemic. Jared graduated from high school and has found work in our hometown of Saint John. Noah and Megan have settled into a "schooling from home" routine. Megan returns to school on July 6.
- Those who are part of our counseling ministry.



Herb & Janet Hunter are missionaries in Kynsna, South Africa. Meadowlands has supported them since 2016.

Need to contact us?



Church Office

780-440-1195

Pastor Kevin Williams

587-635-2758

Pastor Jerry Ascher

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Pastor Mark Richmond

587-635-2752

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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@meadowlandsbaptist.com. Your donation will be automatically accepted and you will receive a confirmation of the transfer.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Daniel Robinson's mom has Covid, and is in a care home suffering with dementia.
- Jen Michalycia's grandparents both have Covid.
- Laura Cook's sister, Lee, is going through chemo treatments for breast cancer.
- Nell Popowich is recovering at home.
- Dale Bevan has ongoing health needs.
- Scott Young's mom is at Good Samaritan Southgate Care facility. Please pray for her protection from Covid.
- Gertrude Ruttich, Gabriele Henze's mom, is at home, being cared for by the Henses. She is very weak.

DEACON NOMINATIONS BEGIN AUGUST 2-SEPTEMBER 27

CURRENT DEACONS:

Robert Lummerding, Paul Stephens, Anthony Neumann, Chris Lee, Brian Hunter, Manuele Russo, Willem Piennar, Jeffrey Parcon, Jeff McConnell

Nomination forms and ballot box are located in the church foyer on the credenza by the front doors.

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC IN MBC GYM SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 9-1

By appointment only. Please visit blood.ca or call 1-888-2 DONATE

Guidelines for in-person gatherings may be found on our website.
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