

# The Connection

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH  
01 JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

## HOW TO HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR

WRITTEN BY KEVIN WILLIAMS

For the last few weeks, the familiar greeting has been “Merry Christmas” or “Happy Holidays.” This week the greeting changed to “Happy New Year.” This is certainly something that everyone wishes, but how can we truly be happy in 2021?

The Book of Psalms begins with the word “blessed.” The Hebrew term means “fortunate, enviable, happy.” The first Psalm teaches us that happiness is not based on the happenings of life but the direction of your life. There is a clear path that leads to happiness.

Psalm 1 begins with a warning. “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers” (v. 1). You won’t find happiness with these people. So where do you find it? “But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night” (v. 2). Blessing comes through intentional daily meditation on the Lord and His Word. Delighting in God’s law leads to happiness.

In addition to happiness, God’s Word makes you fruitful and prosperous. “He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers” (v. 3). Even in the desert during a drought, you can thrive if you are planted next to a nourishing stream. Nothing can rob you of your joy if you are delighting in the Lord.

In many ways this last year has been a barren desert, and there is no guaranty that 2021 will be less challenging. But the Lord is always with us, and His Word continues to refresh. If we keep our focus on His Word and find our joy in Him, no amount of difficulties will prevent us from a blessed new year.



**SUNDAY, 03 JANUARY**

**WORSHIP SERVICES:**

**9:30 OR 11 AM**

Two in-person services (with singing) take place in the gymnasium. Services will simultaneously be livestreamed in the auditorium (with singing) or available to you at home.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Sunday evening services will resume January 10 and Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study will resume January 6.

- "O GOD OUR HELP IN AGES PAST"
- "HALELUJAH, WHAT A SAVIOR"
- SCRIPTURE READING: GENESIS 3:1-13
- "I WILL PRAISE HIM"
- SCRIPTURE READING: GENESIS 22:1-14
- "HIS ROBES FOR MINE"
- SCRIPTURE READING: EXODUS 12:1-13
- "THERE IS A REDEEMER"
- "GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN"
- "AND CAN IT BE?"
- SCRIPTURE READING: NUMBERS 21:4-9;  
JOHN 3:14-21
- "MY JESUS FAIR"
- SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 53
- "THE COMMUNION HYMN"
- THE LORD'S SUPPER
- "HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US"
- SCRIPTURE READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-58
- "ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING"

**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](mailto:donations@meadowlandsbaptist.com). Your donation will be automatically accepted and you will receive a confirmation of the transfer.

**BIBLE READING PLANS:**

*(Digital Downloads Available Below)*

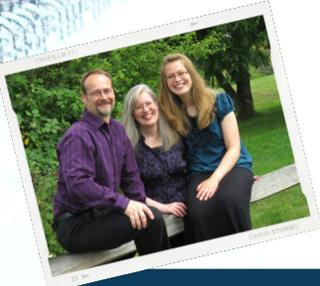
[1st Quarter Bible Story Plan](#)

[1st Quarter Chronological Plan](#)

**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

"Over the past months, we have experienced, like many churches, times which cause grief and sorrow. Earlier in the year, we were locked out of our place of worship because of COVID edicts. From July till October, we were again able to meet for worship. However, just recently, the provincial government again temporarily banned all religious services. To make matters worse, some of our attendees have fallen away. Despite sorrowing over unresponsive people, we are still rejoicing in the Lord and His goodness to us. For the last month, we have had a new elderly couple joining our services, first in-person, and now online. Their keen interest and participation has been unusual, refreshing and encouraging. God continues to provide for us, despite the economic shutdown; Elizabeth and Charis have been able to maintain their jobs. And, of course, we continue to rejoice in the fact that many are supporting us through prayer and financial giving, so that we can take the message of the Gospel to the lost of Surrey, BC. We greatly appreciate your partnership in our ministry."



**DARREN & ELIZABETH  
HAMMERMEISTER  
SURREY, BC  
MISSIONARY**

**CORNER**