



# *The Connection*

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH

15 JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

## CONGREGATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

God has established three primary institutions: the family, government, and the church. Within each of these, He has given responsibilities. And with responsibility comes the authority to carry it out. Within the local church there are God-ordained responsibilities and authority.

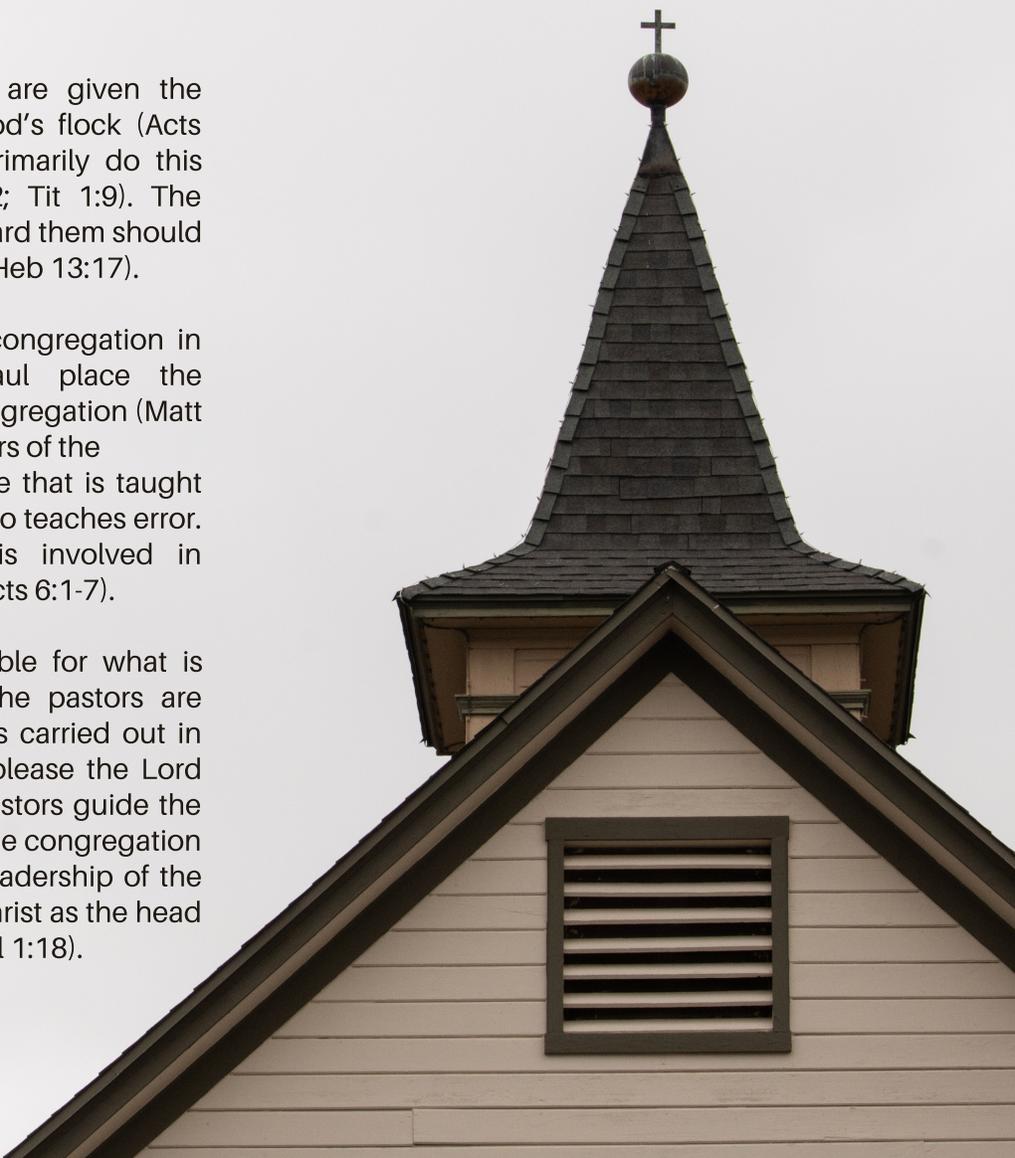
The pastors (also referred to as elders) are given the responsibility to oversee and shepherd God's flock (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim 3:5; 1 Pet 5:2). And they primarily do this through teaching God's Word (1 Tim 3:2; Tit 1:9). The general disposition of the congregation toward them should be submission and respect (1 Thes 5:12-13; Heb 13:17).

The Scripture also gives authority to the congregation in certain instances. Both Jesus and Paul place the responsibility of church discipline on the congregation (Matt 18:15-18; 1 Cor 5:1-5; 2 Cor 2:6). The members of the church are also responsible for the doctrine that is taught (Gal 1:6-9). They must remove any leader who teaches error. In practical matters, the congregation is involved in selecting servants to lead in various areas (Acts 6:1-7).

In summary, the congregation is responsible for what is taught and who teaches it. In general, the pastors are responsible for how the church's mission is carried out in specific ways. And they work together to please the Lord with the authority He has entrusted. The pastors guide the congregation to make wise decisions, and the congregation advises and supports the pastors in their leadership of the church. And each member looks to Jesus Christ as the head of the church in all things (Eph 1:22; 5:23; Col 1:18).

PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## IMPORTANT CONGREGATIONAL DECISIONS

There are a few congregational decisions before us right now. Each of these are important as we seek to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Please contact us if you have any questions.

- **BUDGET FOR 2021**

Each year the pastors and deacons present a budget for the congregation to approve. That budget was presented to the church family on Sunday, November 15, followed by an open discussion of the details on November 22. The deacons oversee the income and expenses on a regular basis, but the congregation is asked to approve the budget at the beginning of each year.

- **DEACONS**

Each year the congregation is involved in the process of nominating and approving deacons that serve our local assembly. We had several qualified nominees this fall, but none were willing to serve at this time. All of our current deacons are serving in the middle of their 3-year terms except Jeff McConnell. We will be voting on a second term for him.

- **MISSIONS**

On Sunday, December 6, the congregation was presented with a proposal from the pastors and deacons regarding missions support. This proposal is reflected in the 2021 budget. This proposal was openly discussed by members at a meeting following the presentation. The recommendation is to raise the support level of nine missionaries/ministries (Nolands, Ouellettes, Hammeremeisters, Wiebes, Burrills, Hunters, Project World Walk, Grand View Camp, Foundation Baptist College) from \$400/mo to \$500/mo and the Kolts (sent out from MBC) from \$750/mo to \$850/mo. [Click here or below to view that presentation.](#)

- **NEW MISSIONARIES**

This fall we heard about two exciting ministries for future partnership. On October 4, Jeremie Roy presented (via video) his ministry in the Dominican Republic. [You can click here or below to listen to it.](#) On November 29, David Pruden presented *Freedom that Lasts*. [You can click here or below to learn more about this ministry.](#) The proposal is to partner with both of these ministries and support each financially for \$500/mo.

## VOTING

Because of our current situation, you will have some options for voting.

1. You can vote in person anytime on Sunday, January 24 (9:15-12:30, 5:30-6:00) at a designated table in the church foyer.
2. You can also come to the church office and vote anytime between the hours of 9 am-4 pm, January 18-22.
3. If you prefer to vote electronically, [click here or below to access the form.](#) Online voting will be available from now through Saturday, January 23. One form for each member should be completed. Only members votes will be counted, and you can only vote once.

*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](mailto:info@meadowlandsbaptist.com)

## 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.

## COMING UP:

Sunday, January 24,  
6 pm: Annual  
Church Update &  
Year-End Financials

Sunday, January 31,  
6 pm: Baptism &  
New Members'  
Joining Service



## SUNDAY, 17 JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES: 9:30 OR 11 AM

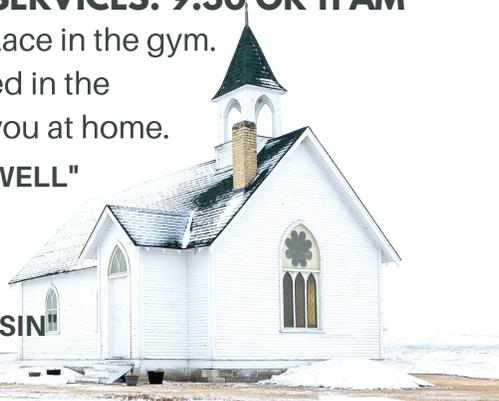
In-person services (with singing) take place in the gym.

Services are simultaneously livestreamed in the auditorium (no singing) or available to you at home.

- "ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL"
- "ARISE, MY SOUL, ARISE"
- PRAYER
- "FREE FROM GUILT AND FREE FROM SIN"
- SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 61
- "YOU ARE ALWAYS GOOD"
- MESSAGE: "FROM SORROW TO JOY" JOHN 16: 5-33

PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS

- "COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING"
- PRAYER



## SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

### 6 PM

The service will take place in the auditorium. Livestream is available.

### MESSAGE:

"THE SPIRIT & THE WORD"  
JOHN 16:12-15

### Sunday Evenings in February:

Lessons on Stewardship & Evangelism from *Foundations: Bible Truths for Christian Growth*

## WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY 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 16: 5-33

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?

After all these years we are very thankful for your partnership in His work in Poland.

We are so thankful our preschools have still remained open during the pandemic. At the end of October my wife and I were sick for several weeks and my wife tested positive, however, we are back in full strength and trying to cover staff shortages as many are still on sick leave since October. The attendance of children in our preschools remains high and we had to hire extra help. It is hard to find extra help during the pandemic, but God has provided. God has been faithful to us.

We are not allowed to do our Christmas program in person this year, however we have recorded programs that we can share online with the families. I have also recorded an evangelistic message to be included in these videos and you can pray this will be effective. For Christmas, all the preschool parents received a free booklet entitled "What if He Did Not Come?" You can also pray that they would read this book and God would work through this as well.

Even though we had to close our preschools for three months this year, other limitations, and loss of earnings, the Lord still allowed us to meet our budget and we are amazed at the Lord's blessing in our finances this year. We are praying for more English teachers for the coming year as well as open borders so they can travel here.

We are hoping and praying that we will still be allowed to have camps. We have a reservation for two weeks, July 2-17. The first week will be a junior/teen camp and the second week will be a family camp.

Our church continues to meet twice a week. However due to limitations on the number of people who can attend, we can have about 50% of our church in the building and the rest meet with us online. We are still recording all the preaching and posting it online so our church family can access these.

**DID YOU KNOW?**



**BAGELS ORIGINATED IN POLAND**



KRIS & MARIOLA KOLT, POLAND



**CORNER**

**MISSIONARY**