

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7am Men's Prayer Meeting	2 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: Prayer 7:15pm Prayer Meeting	3	4 7pm Bethesda Fun Night 7pm Youth	5 1-4pm Baking Club
6 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (Pr 16:6 – <i>You Can't Buy Virtue</i>) 11am Sermon Q&A 12pm BBYOL	7	8 7am Men's Prayer Meeting 8am Elders meeting	9 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: Prayer 6:30pm English Conversation 7:15pm Prayer Meeting 7:15pm Youth	10	11	12
13 THANKSGIVING 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (Pr 3:1-10 – <i>You Can't Buy Gratitude</i>) 11:15 Faith Formation (all ages); Sermon Q&A 12pm BBYOL	14	15 7am Men's Prayer Meeting	16 10am Missions Team Meeting 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: Prayer 6:30pm English Conversation 7:15pm Prayer Meeting	17	18 7pm Bethesda Fun Night 7:00pm Youth (UGM Worship night)	19 12pm; 6:30pm UGM Banquet, NKMB Church (1315 Gateway)
20 Bethesda's 80th Anniversary Celebration! 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (Luke 1:1 – <i>Love's Fulfillment</i>) 11:15 Faith Formation (all ages); Sermon Q&A 12pm BBYOL 7pm Hymn Sing / Communion	21 6pm YFC Fall Banquet, Christian Fellowship Chapel (465 Osborne)	22 7am Men's Prayer Meeting	23 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: Prayer 6:30pm English Conversation 7:15pm Prayer Meeting 7:15pm Youth	24	25	26 8:30am Men's Breakfast 10am-12pm A/V Team Meeting; Hospitality Team Meeting 1-4pm "Heart of Hospitality", Event, hosted by Missionfest
27 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (Luke 1:1-4 – <i>Love's Assurance</i>) 11:15 Faith Formation (all ages); Sermon Q&A 12pm BBYOL	28	29 7am Men's Prayer Meeting 7pm Council Meeting	30 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: Prayer 6:30pm English Conversation 7:15pm Prayer Meeting	31	1 7pm Bethesda Fun Night 7:00pm Youth	2 1-4pm Baking Club 9:30am-12:30pm OMF: "Heart for Asia" Bethesda Fellowship Hall



Bethesda Church Newsletter

Congregational letter

October 2024

**“Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days [...]
establish the work of our hands for us –
yes, establish the work of our hands.”**

– Psalm 90:14,17b

According to the Psalm above, the normal human life span is 80 years “if we have the strength”. Those years, we are told, are characterized by “trouble and sorrow”, they “quickly pass”, and then “we fly away” (v10).

Bethesda is celebrating her 80th “birthday” this month! So we would do well to remember two things: 1) a church’s life span is NOT the same as a single human being’s life span! and 2) the reason it isn’t is because a church’s life span is the aggregate of MANY human lives lived by faith and hope, together! In other words, a local church will stay alive and well as long as her people stay faithful, as long as the Holy Spirit is present within her present within the little bodies who are bound and committed to gather together as a bigger Body. Theoretically, a local church could go on forever – as long as there are Christians who are truly born again¹ who are keen to meet under the same umbrella.

Whatever “troubles and sorrow” any of us may have experienced over the last 80 odd years, looking back I daresay most would affirm that they have indeed “passed quickly”. And unless the Lord returns we as a church aren’t “flying

¹“born of the Spirit”, according to Jesus’ taxonomy

away” anytime soon! Still, by any measure, they have been 80 “odd” years. Not just at Bethesda, of course, but everywhere. They have been years of rapid change. The things that we used to be able to count on have largely gone by the wayside. Thus, many of the needs we have in church ministry are different from what they were in the past. What people expect from their church is radically different.

The most rapid changes have been driven by technology. Just as one example: in 1944 when Bethesda started, PA systems were still relatively new. People were still getting used to amplification. And, it should go without saying, everyone assumed that going to church literally meant *going to church*, as in being physically present! Not so long ago scoring a “good seat” meant getting somewhere early to sit in the front row so that you could see and hear everything clearly. With amplification and large screens all that changed. The good seats became the seats near the back: “not standing out” became the new priority (and you still didn’t have to miss anything!) Since COVID and the advent of Zoom and livestreaming, the “best seat in the



BETHESDA CHURCH

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house” became literally that: the comfy recliner in your very own living room.

As I say, expectations have changed radically. Where once we were eager to get “up close and personal” we’re now so frazzled with life that we’ll do just what we need simply to “keep calm and carry on”. That said, we still expect not to miss out on things! None of these observations are meant to point the finger, exactly, since they are true of pretty well everyone, myself included.

But the upshot of this is that for us to get up and get dressed and go to an event ... and at church, of all places ... well, it kind of feels like we are doing someone a favour. Which doesn’t bode well. For any of us. Because, after all, we are not called to gather by just anyone, but by Someone. We’re not doing him (or anyone else) a favour, we are practicing – rehearsing – for eternity.

Still, that Someone has compassion for us. He helps us and welcomes us despite our frailties. Not only that, he expects us to help one another, and to welcome one another, no matter where they are coming from or what their challenges are. We ALL struggle, and we ALL need encouragement!

This is why two ministry areas have become vital to modern ministry: Audio/Video (A/V) teams, which use technology to help modern people discover and pay attention to the Good News in an increasingly distracted and distracting world, and hospitality teams to help modern people like us “do” church: that is, to warmly welcome, low-key care for, and kindly direct people who don’t think they need it! Why “kindly direct”? We all have adopted a consumer mentality and forget sometimes what’s expected of us – we all need

gentle reminders of what it means to make worshipping Jesus together the reason for our gathering. He is the only one who will “establish the work of our hands” for 80 more years. Only he can “make us glad all the days” we carry on!

Patn You

Prayer & Intercession

- Lori Manalang (mild stroke) & George
- Pastor Mark (knee surgery, Oct 10) *New!*
- Jaeho, Samjin & Eean Cho (Lebanon)
- Afghan Families: language, culture, school
- World conflicts: Lebanon / Israel / Iran / Gaza; Ukraine / Russia, etc.
- World: U.S. election race
- Bethesda Church (BC): 2024 Ministry Year
- BC Children’s Ministry
- E’s brother in prison
- Gail Barnes
- Mona Behrens
- Betty Campbell (Personal Care Home)
- Mike & Sunny Cheon (financial support)
- Lawrence & Selma Churchill
- Ron De Hoff (Patti’s brother)
- Bernice Gruenke (health)
- Edwin & Kamala Henry (Esther’s parents)
- Marion Hill (Susanne’s Mom)/Susanne
- Pastor Yuri
- Tania & Valentyna K. (Kathy’s friends – housing, immigration issues)
- Joan McRae (Misericordia Place)
- Shirley Mercer
- Debbie Mogilevsky (cancer)
- Laylee, her sons, and her mother
- Andrew Poirier (mental health)
- Patti Poirier (health and strength)
- Marye P. (Kathy’s friend – cancer)
- Don Register (Shelly’s dad)
- Cheryl Warax (Pastor Mark’s sister)
- Chris Wilcoxson
- Pastor Mark
- Andrea & Rick Wittebolle
- _____

October 2024 Bible Reading Plan	Est 3	Est 8	Num 3:39-51	Heb 2:10-18
○ Ezra 4:1-6	○ Pr 26:1-3	○ Pr 26:17-20	○ Ezra 6:1-12	○ Num 5:1-10
○ Esther 1	○ Num 2:1-9	○ Num 3:1-10	○ Pr 27:7-9	○ Pr 27:20-22
○ Num 1:26-31	○ Is 22:1-14	○ *Rev 21:1-8	○ Is 28:23-29	○ Is 30:19-26
○ Is 19:16-25	○ Rev 17	○ Ps 48	○ Heb 1:3b-9	○ Haggai 2:10-23
○ Pr 25:14-17	○ Rev 18	○ Is 25:6-8	○ Luke 1:5-20	○ Luke 1:39-56
○ Rev 14:6-13	○ Is 22:15-25	○ Is 25:9-26:21	○ Ezra 6:13-22	○ Luke 1:57-66
○ Num 1:32-37	○ Num 2:10-16	○ Est 9:1-17	○ Is 29:1-8	○ Pr 27:23-27
○ Is 20	○ Pr 26:4-6	○ Pr 26 21-23	○ Pr 27:10-12	○ Is 30:27-33
○ Ps 44	○ *Est 4	○ Num 3:11-20	○ Num 4:1-20	○ Num 5:11-31
○ Pr 25:18-20	○ Est 5	○ Rev 21:9-21	○ Luke 1:21-25	○ Zechariah 1:1-6
○ Rev 14:14-20	○ Pr 26:7-10	○ Is 27	○ Heb 1:10-14	○ Heb 3:1-6
○ Est 2:1-11	○ Num 2:17	○ Pr 26:24-28	○ Num 4:21-28	*Memory Verses:
○ Est 2:12-18	○ Is 23	○ Est 9:18-10:3	○ Haggai 1	#1: Ps 42:5 – <i>Why are you so downcast, O my soul? Why so...</i>
○ Pr 25:21-24	○ Rev 19:1-10	○ Num 3:21-26	○ Pr 27:13-16	#2: Est 4:14 – <i>For if you remain silent at this time, relief and ...</i>
○ Ps 140	○ Is 24	○ Rev 21:22-22:7	○ Is 29:9-24	#3: Rev 21:6 – <i>He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and ...</i>
○ Num 1:38-46	○ Pr 26:11-13	○ Ezra 4:7-23	○ Luke 1:26-39	#4: Heb 1:1-3a – <i>In the past God spoke to our fathers through ...</i>
○ Is 21:1-12	○ Rev 19:11-21	○ Pr 27:1-3	○ Heb 2:1-4	
○ Rev 15:1-4	○ Num 2:18-24	○ Num 3:27-32	○ Haggai 2:1-9	
○ Pr 25:25-28	○ Est 6	○ Is 28:1-15	○ Num 4:29-49	
○ *Ps 42	○ Pr 26:14-16	○ Rev 22:8-21	○ Pr 27:17-19	
○ Est 2:19-23	○ Num 2:25-34	○ Ezra 4:24-5:17	○ Is 30:1-18	
○ Num 1:47-54	○ Est 7	○ Is 28:16-22	○ Heb 2:5-9	
○ Is 21:13-17	○ Is 25:1-5	○ Pr 27:4-6		
○ Rev 15:5-16:21	○ Ps 102	○ Num 3:33-38		
	○ Rev 20	○ Luke 1:1-4		
		○ *Heb 1:1-3a		

Announcements

PASTOR MARK, SHELLY & FAMILY
...wish to thank our Bethesda Church Family for your generosity, friendship & goodwill as expressed in our recent appreciation event! We love and appreciate you, too!

BETHESDA’S NEW HOSPITALITY TEAM
 ...needs team members! Initial meeting for information and training will be on **Saturday, Oct. 26 at 10:00am**. Please speak to Johan or Sandri if you feel God calling you to this ministry.

NEEDED: MORE A/V TEAM MEMBERS!
 Please speak to Michelle if you’re interested in helping with sound, projection, or running the live stream. Training will be provided! Initial training session: **Saturday, Oct. 26 at 10:00am**.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES
 ...start **October 9!** Wednesday nights at 6:30, through October and November. Please talk to Dr. Neil Craton if you would like to participate, either as a teacher as a student!

80th ANNIVERSARY HYMN SING
Sunday, October 20 at 7:00pm. Plan to join us for “Giving Thanks in Song!” an hour of singing and stories reflecting Bethesda’s “four score” years of God’s gracious provision and mission!

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH
Sunday, November 3. To kick off Missions Month, we will be inviting you to spend a day in prayer and fasting with brothers and sisters around the globe for the persecuted church. For more info and resources, please visit www.idop.ca

BETHESDA MEMBERSHIP CLASSES
 Will take place over two Saturday mornings: 9:00-12:00. November 23 and ... TBA! See Pastor Yuri!
If you have thoughts (pro or con) about the current setup of the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings, please share them with Pastor Yuri, Philip Tan, or another Council Member!