

Meadow Brook Calendar

- Tues Jan 10 | 7- 8pm
“new” MB Kids Club begins – ages SK – grade 5
- Jan 16-20 – Prayer Week here at MBC Mon - Fri 7- 8pm
- Tues Jan 17 – Precept Bible Study starts
- Jan 20-22 -DEEP FREEZE - Jr High Winter Retreat @ Camp Crossroads
- Mon Jan 23– “The Armor of God” women’s study starts
- Jan 27-29 -WINTER RETREAT - Sr High Hidden Acres
- Sun Jan 29 – 730pm – Next ‘Worship Open House’ at MBC



*“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”
Isaiah 43:18-19*

JANUARY 2017

MINISTRY MANAGEMENT TEAM

Week of Prayer

From Monday, Jan 16 to Friday, Jan 20, we are calling Meadow Brook Church to a week of prayer! We do this every January, as there is no better way to start off a new year! There will be a prayer time at the church every evening from Mon-Fri at 7pm, and three lunchtime prayer times from Tues-Thurs at noon. We would like everyone who calls Meadow Brook “home” to make it out to at least one session that week! See you there!

Children’s Director

Sarah will officially be wrapping up her time as Interim Children’s Director at the end of May, so we have begun advertising the open position, and a search team will begin exploring resumes as they come in! If you know someone who may be interested, they can

send a resume to search@meadowbrook.ca. Please see a job description on our website at www.meadowbrook.ca

Women’s Roles at Meadow Brook

In December we hosted an evening where we had a wonderful, open, respectful, and authentic conversation about women and their roles at Meadow Brook Church. We are very grateful with how everyone engaged on the issue! Stay tuned for next steps, and please keep praying with us!

On Line Giving

In Fall of 2016, a new way of giving was introduced, called MBF PAD.

PAD stands for “Pre-Authorized Debit.” Using this method, your donation is automatically deducted from your bank account.

We are excited about this method of giving because it allows people to give regularly without having to remember to bring cash or cheques on a Sunday morning. PAD is very inexpensive for the church to use, so when compared with our online option of canadahelps.org (3.5% fee), we are maximizing each donation amount. Signing up is as easy as completing an application form available in the office or at www.meadowbrook.ca/give. You can authorize a once or twice-monthly donation, or choose to donate sporadically by giving email authorization for each donation. Please email dona-tions@meadowbrook.ca or speak with Julia Dueckman for any additional information.

COMMUNITY LIFE

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

- To Dan & Kim Sacasa on the birth of their daughter – Noelle – born Dec 20th.
- To Derrick Friesen and Shannen Guinan on your recent engagement!

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” (Isa 43:18-19)

Our son started school for the first time this past fall, charging off across the playground into Junior Kindergarten on his first day, literally without looking back. It was a conflicted moment as a parent, with part of me exclaiming proudly, “Oh wow, he never even looked back!!” and part of me grieving, “Oh wow....he never even looked back....”

With both our kids now in school full-time, it’s shocking how much life changed. My wife has some free time in the day (free time to do all the other things she needs to do!). Friday, my day off, is actually a very quiet and restful day off! More importantly, our kids are learning, growing, thriving, and making friends. Overall, it’s an amazing thing!

There are some harder parts too. We have had the odd encounter with a mean kid at school. The teacher has sometimes had to correct. Today’s “best friend” might not be so by the end of the day. Kids say things, and we can’t control it, and we’re not there to fix it in the moment. The change has not always been easy.

But, in what became Meadow Brook’s sort of unofficial motto in our year of transition:

**Healthy things grow.
Growing things change.
Change always challenges.**

It is the inevitable by-product of health and growth that things must change. We always want the health and the growth – who doesn’t want to be healthy and thriving?! But the change part – that can be more difficult!

And yet, even with the occasional challenges of school, we wouldn’t trade the health and the growth of it for anything. We are happy to see our kids getting smarter, wiser, more social, more compassionate – the trade-off is very, very good!

As followers of Jesus, we are never “done” – we are in a constant state of transformation, and are on a constant mission to win the world over to Jesus. Whether we like it or not, we have committed to a life of never-ending newness, as God makes us new, and does new things in us and through us in order to spread His Gospel and advance His Kingdom.

We are on the brink of a new year, and history has proven that it’s a safe bet that it won’t look much like last year. A new year, with the new adventures, new possibilities, new challenges to overcome, new changes to embrace and navigate – all led by a God who is always doing new things, but, at the same time, who is trustworthy because He Himself never, ever changes.

May God bless us richly in 2017, and may His will be done in everything!

TOOL SHED

Next Precept Study

Hebrews Part 3-"Jesus , the Author and Perfecter of our Faith". Without faith it is impossible to please God. So what is faith? Where do I get it? And what does it look like lived out in my life? This study will answer these questions and more, encouraging us to fix our eyes on Jesus and run with endurance to the finish line.

This is a 7 week course including the first week of orientation. Part 1 & 2 are not required before taking Part 3.

January 17-Feb 28, 2017, Tuesdays 9:30-11:45am OR 6:45-8:30pm. Cost \$16.00. Call Elly Dyck 519-398-8438
ellydyck@gmail.com

Women's Study

The Armor of God with Priscilla Shirer

All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you — unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life. A devoted, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you: your heart, your mind, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny. But his battle plan depends on catching you unaware and unarmed. If you're tired of being pushed around and caught with your guard down, this study is for you.

- Monday January 23 - March 6th.
- 7pm
- \$18 for book

Please sign up at the HUB or call the office to make sure we have enough books.



Essex County Community Bulletin Board

- January 9 (Monday) – 6pm Ladies, you are invited to a dinner evening at Colasanti's Cost \$18. Inspirational speaker and musician, Bonita Stevenson from Kingsville will speak on: "The Gift of Cancer". Special feature is Wendy Irwin, Just Jewellery. Reservations by Fri. Jan. 6 with Barb 519-326-7631
- Jan 13-14 – Understanding & Answering Islam – Heritage Park Alliance Church, Windsor. Cost: free. Friday 7-9pm; Saturday 9-3:30pm. Information available at RZIMUAI.org
- February 25 (Sat) – 9-4pm – A one-day Parent Event with National speaker, author, and lead pastor, Carey Nieuwhof of Connexus Community. At St. Paul's Congregational Church in Chatham ON. Register at <http://www.spcchurch.com/events>