

**November 2016**

**happenings at MEADOW BROOK...**

# STREAMLINE

## NEWS & EVENTS

### **Ministry Management Team**

#### **Women's Roles Surveys**

Thank you for participating! The church leadership is prayerfully processing the results. Stay tuned for next steps to come!

**Café** A generous benefactor in our church recently donated some funds to give our café a nice face-lift! Thank you to that generous family! Work will be happening over the next little while, check out the progress when you grab a coffee on Sunday mornings!

**Elder Nominations** It's that time of year again! From Sunday, Oct 30 – Sunday Nov 13, elder nominations will be open for our voting membership. At the next AGM in February, we will be filling two empty seats on the Board. Nomination Tool Kits are available at the HUB or the Welcome Centre!

**Website** It took a little longer than planned, but we are happy to have our new and improved church website up and running, and it looks amazing! Check us out at [www.meadowbrook.ca](http://www.meadowbrook.ca) !

### **Midweek Kids Program**

We put "Crazytown" to bed this fall, not because we don't love a mid-week program for our kids, but because we felt that we needed to restart it fresh, with a new focus and new vision. We are thrilled to announce that our midweek program will start up again in January on Tuesday nights! Stay tuned for more!

### **Christmas Banquet/Baptism**

On the evening of Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our annual Christmas Banquet, and tying it together with our water baptism service! We will have limited seating so tickets will be available and for sale starting Sunday, Nov 6 on a first come-first served basis.

### **Marriage Course Offered**

The Marriage Course (a.k.a. "Friday Date Night") is again being offered this Fall on a flexible date basis to accommodate couples' variable schedules. For information, contact Nancy & Larry Burgess (519) 326-9720 or email: [lburgess615@gmail.com](mailto:lburgess615@gmail.com)

### **Open House Worship**



Open House Worship is starting up again! It will be a night of Worship and prayer. It is scheduled to take place the last Sunday evening of every month at 730pm. It starts tonight, Oct 30 in the Youth Room, led by Merissa and others. All are invited!

### **Operation Child Christmas Boxes**

Please pick up a box before it's too late! Due back Sunday November 13.

Shoobox packing week is Wednesday November 16 to Saturday November 19.



**Join us for prayer Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays 12-1pm**



## COMMUNITY LIFE

### CONGRATULATIONS!!!

- To John & Sarah Wiebe on the birth of their daughter Odessa Elise.
- To Craig & Ashley Racicot on the birth of their son Keith Damian.
- To JJ Wiebe & Porsche Taylor who got married on Saturday October 22.

### ACCOMADATIONS NEEDED!

Our Thailand missionaries Somdy & Chanh Jusse will be home (Leamington) for 2 weeks in November, a time between their training and their departure to Thailand. They require a place to stay for 2 weeks Nov 11 – 25. If you are able to provide lodging for them, please let the office know.

## YOUTH & KIDS



**MB Kids Director** - Since last fall, Sarah Walker stepped into our MB Kids Director role on a temporary basis, as we were in transition and needed some help! Sarah has been a great help to the program, working hard to streamline the ministry and adjust it to make two services work! Although she is in no rush, Sarah has let the leadership know that while she has loved what she is doing, and what has been accomplished with her as a temporary fix, she feels that God is leading her towards a different career path long-term. We have a long time to figure things out, with Sarah planning on staying on until the summer, and helping to transition to a new, more permanent person into this very important role! You can join us in praying into this!



### NEW!!!

Starting November 3, Jr and Sr High will be merging into one night. Jr and Sr high will run simultaneously but will remain two separate groups.  
Jr High will switch to Thursdays and will keep its current time - 7-8:45pm  
Sr High will stay on Thursday and will change times. The new time is 7-10pm.

## MISSION FOCUS

Jeph and Heather would appreciate our prayers for:

1. For individuals around our neighborhood that we have a chance to interact with- a Muslim neighbour, several families and others that we have had a chance to get closer to. It is our prayer that we can have a positive influence on them.
2. Our small group- for continued depth and growth spiritually and for us to have hearts to give and serve selflessly within our group.
3. For direction for the next six months. We feel very much at peace where we are now, but have no idea what's ahead or in the new year. For vision for Jeph and continued financial security and provision.
4. Unity, harmony and richness within our family and within our marriage. Health for me ( Heather) and the new coming baby.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

### Between a Rock and a Hard Place

by Chris

*“Joshua went up to the man and asked, ‘Are you for us, or for our enemies?’  
‘Neither,’ the man replied, ‘but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.’ ”  
(Joshua 5:13-14)*

“I sure am glad I’m not American!” It’s a phrase that I’ve heard often in recent months. Don’t get me wrong, I love America, but this phrase is being used lately whenever someone is talking about the mercifully soon-to-be-over presidential election.

In what is no doubt one of the strangest political contests of our lifetime, Americans are being forced to choose between Clinton and Trump, two highly controversial candidates who have the highest unfavorability ratings in presidential election history. Even a lot of the people who support each candidate don’t seem to really like them that much – it’s more that they just really hate the *other* candidate. “I sure am glad I’m not American – because I don’t have to choose!” is the implication.

As Canadians, we of course have zero influence on polls or votes, but that doesn’t mean we sit by quietly! We have *tremendous* influence with the God who hears us when we call out to Him.

But what in the world do we pray for? Should we be praying for a specific candidate? If so, which one do we pick to pray for? Both have some positive qualities, but both also have major issues that should offend Christian morality, without question. Both have strong vision, but both also have questionable pasts. Both tout their track records in various areas, but both have victories and horrible failures as well. So who do we pray for? What are we to do?

In Joshua chapter 5, we find an unusual story. Joshua, leader of Israel, is approaching the city of Jericho and preparing to attack it. He finds a man with a drawn sword. “Are you fighting for us, or for our enemies?” he asks the man (v.13). The man’s response is curious: “*Neither*. I command the army of the LORD.” (v.14). Joshua realizes that he is the presence of something divine, and his attitude immediately shifts away from his own plans and preferences, and immediately shifts on to what the LORD wants to do next (5:14-6:27). As Joshua followed God’s will, favour and victory would follow him.

Some have speculated that this “man” was actually Jesus, or an angel or an archangel. The text isn’t clear. But whatever this mysterious being was, he was obviously not coming to serve any man’s agenda – he was coming as a servant of the LORD, serving the LORD’s agenda. Joshua was victorious when he realized that it wasn’t about getting God on *his* side, but it was about him getting on *God’s* side.

“Which side are you on?” It’s a very human question, and a major one is this election. And I have no doubt that God has a choice in this presidential election. I also have no doubt that I’m not sure who that is. I also have no doubt that the Bible is chock-full of stories of God using unpolished, corrupt, unprepared, vindictive, manipulative, lying, selfish, violent, and even full-on evil leaders to accomplish His plans and purposes, because He is LORD over any and every leader. God’s will doesn’t stop just because someone we think is the “wrong” candidate gets elected. If it did, He’d be a very small and powerless God indeed!

And I know that, whoever wins, God’s kingdom will be unshaken and unmoved. I know that God will not be surprised. I know that God will not be worried. I know that He will accomplish all that He desires to accomplish. And I know that we will be more than fine, because we don’t put either our hope or our fear into any human candidate – we put our hope and our holy fear in the LORD, and Him alone.

So, let us pray. Let’s pray for wisdom for Americans, for protection, for insight, and most of all, for God’s good and pleasing and perfect will to be done. Because that last part – right there – is always, always, always a perfect prayer.

## MEADOW BROOK CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Monday Oct 31 – Whoopalooza Event
- Nov 15-19 – Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection Week
- Sunday Dec 4 – Baptism
- Sunday Dec 4 – Christmas Dinner - \$5/ticket

## ESSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Saturday, Nov 5 – 9-3pm – Life-Changing Joy (Women of Influence Conference) at Roseland Golf & Curling Club, Windsor. Tickets \$40 (includes hot lunch). Visit website for more info [thewomenofinfluence.net](http://thewomenofinfluence.net)
- Saturday, Nov 5 – 5pm - Annual Widows Banquet at New Reinland Mennonite Church. Free dinner – RSVP Mary 519 322 4831.
- Friday, Nov 18 – 7pm – The KLASSENS in concert (harpist & speaker) – Harrow Baptist Church. Free will offering given towards Sunparlour Pregnancy Centre.
- Saturday, Nov 5 – 9-5 – Anabaptist Learning Workshop – 'Walking the Talk of the Gospel of Peace'. At North Leam UM Church. Register <https://mcec.ca/alw>
- Saturday, Nov 12 – 9-12noon – "The Calling" – Conference for Men only. Cost \$25. At Roseland Golf & Curling Club Windsor. Guest speaker – Barrett Hairston (supervisor of Wayne County Sheriff Dept Detroit MI). See Shari for tickets.
- Monday, Nov 14 – 6pm – Leamington After 5 Christian Women's Club – Dinner at Colasanti's. Fall Fair Auction. Speaker is Carol Rodgers, Topic is "Letting Your Life Become Your Legacy". Reservations by Friday, November 11. Call Barb 519-326-7631 or Sharon 519-326-0421