



# Century Meadows Baptist Church

Weekly Newsletter  
February 21, 2021

To Our Century Meadows Family



## CHURCH FAMILY ENCOURAGEMENT This Week: Justin McCarroll

### Faith, Hope, and Love in Hard Times

To say things have been tough is understated these days no doubt. In the midst of all of this though it is important to see the good, find contentment, and to love those around us.

Good!?! These days!?! Yes. Still so much to live for and be thankful for. When I am struggling to see the good it is usually because I am focusing on all the wrong things. Often this involves getting caught up in fake life; social media, political drama and similar nonsense. Yes, there is real drama these days, but putting all your hope in a particular thing is pretty futile and will wreck ya faster than falling in an icy parking lot.

Contentment. Grandma used to sing,

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*“Count your many blessings, name them one by one.”*

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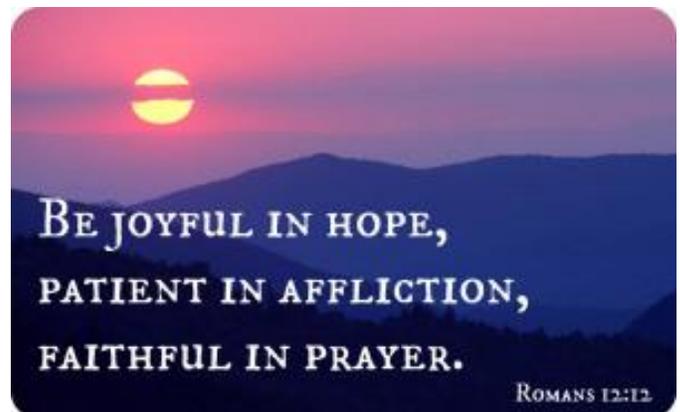
This is a good practice. Think about what is true, beautiful and good. For me that's as easy as looking at my wife.

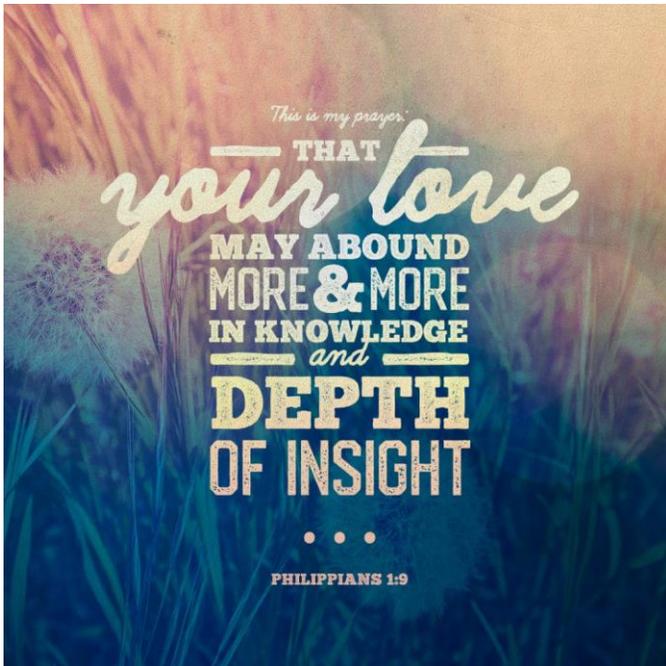
Love. Love for one another. If our love for God is not real as shown in our love for people then is it real? The book of James would argue that we must be real towards those we encounter for our love for God to be real. Also, putting all your faith, hope or love in one basket, which so many including myself do far too often, is a wide road to destruction. One flawed human is gonna fix it all, eh? Not a chance.

Let's focus on Jesus. Turn our eyes to him. Then perhaps faith, hope and love will rule the day, and more importantly our hearts and minds. True good is God alone. True contentment is the life of Christ. And a greater love than Christ's for all? Cannot be, there is none that compares.

Just a closer walk with Jesus will likely take us closer to those who need us most. That is not our ideals or our convictions, but those we actually interact with are who need us most. To gain the world or to be right in one's own mind and then lose your soul, your family, friends, neighbours is perhaps the greatest tragedy of these hard times.

You got this. Jesus makes all things new. Contentment in the midst of chaos. Grab a coffee and breathe. The small things in life are so sweet. Take hope, faith, love with you. Then goodness, contentment and fellowship have a fighting chance.





## CHURCH HAPPENINGS ...

**Young Adults**- Join us Thursdays at 7 pm in the crosswalk for a time of Bible Study and great community together! Contact: Karlina (780-781-4894)

**Youth (Gr 7-12)** – **NEW in-person small group format has begun!** **Tuesdays:** J High Boys – Crosswalk. **Wednesdays:** S High Boys – Crosswalk, S High Girls – Church, J High Girls - Church. Contact Amy Kowal for more info.

**Wednesday Prayer Group** – Our prayer group is currently praying from home. Let the church office know of prayer requests for this group (they're kept confidential).

**Ladies Bible Study (on Zoom)** – Join us Thursdays (via Zoom) from 9-11 am. All ages welcome! Contact Amy for info (780-678-6052).

**Primetimers** – Stay tuned for news about our next Primetimers.

## KIDS MINUTES

We miss seeing all those little faces! We are looking for short (+/- 1 minute) videos of your kids reciting a bible verse, singing a song, displaying their artwork, or anything they wish to show off during our Sunday morning services. Please let Kate de Hoog know if your kids would like to contribute, we'd love to see them! (780-781-6358)

### PRAYING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

- **Lawrence Woelk** – knee replacement surgery February 22.
- **Remington Remin (Duane & Vi Gerber's newborn great-grandson)** – pray for full recovery following surgery.
- **Vi Gerber** – praise God that no pacemaker is needed.

### PRAYING FOR OUR MINISTRIES

- **Trustee Committee** – that they would continue to see the needs in our facility; for the work of their hands and the time they commit to ensure everything runs smoothly.

### PRAYING FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

- **Nick & Iris Hung (South East Asia)** – pray for the Lord's guidance in their ministries as restrictions increase; for His healing/comfort on all affected physically, emotionally, and economically during this pandemic.

Thank you for praying for Remington's birth. The surgery went well. He will have to spend 10 days in hospital. Please pray for his full recovery.

*Dan & Raine Remin, Duane & Vi Gerber*

**PAPER COPIES OF OUR NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY ARE AVAILABLE AT THE WELCOME CENTRE.**

*Correction to Sherri Ellingson's cell #: 780-679-9713*

## ZOOM VISITS WITH PASTOR ROB

### An Opportunity To Get To Know Our Transitional Pastor!

Pastor Rob, along with our deacons and Pastor Laurie, will be hosting weekly "get-to-know-you" Zoom visits Wednesday evenings starting February 17. This will be an opportunity for Pastor Rob to get to know you a little and for you to get to know him as well. This isn't meant as a time for deep theological discussions, but more as a time to have some great get-to-know-you conversation. Each week, a different deacon will connect with those on his prayer list to share the invitation. **Stay tuned for your invite** and we encourage you to take advantage of this neat opportunity to get to know our new transitional pastor.

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*Monday, February 22, at 7 pm.*

*Attend in person if at all possible or view via Live Stream. Subscribe to our Century Meadows Baptist Church YouTube channel to be able to view the meeting.*

*If you would like to participate in the meeting from home, (ask questions, comment, or vote) please follow this zoom link.*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8803449112>

*Our youtube live-stream and Zoom will open at 6:30. Tune in 15-20mins early to ensure you're able to participate.*

*\*Agendas are available in each foyer.*



**BIBLE Adventures**

**COMING SOON!**

Ages 3-12

Century Meadows Baptist Church wants to bring The Word into your home in a new and exciting way!

Special surprise monthly packages that will help us remember the love of our Lord through lessons, games and more.

For questions and free registrations, please email: [office@centurymeadows.ca](mailto:office@centurymeadows.ca) or [jandrukow@yahoo.ca](mailto:jandrukow@yahoo.ca)

**Please register as soon as possible to receive Bible Adventures packages for your kids or grandkids!**

### Tech Volunteer Opportunity!

We are looking for volunteers to help with the media/video side of Sunday morning services once a month. If you or your Jnr high/high school student would like to serve in this way, please contact Joel Peterson @ 587-322-8082.

### Happy Birthday!

**Feb 21** David Vince, Kate deHoog

**Feb 23** Amber Pauls,

Greg Andrukow, Sheralyn McNalley

**Feb 24** Brooklyn Vandenberg,

Gordon Johnson, Pay McManus

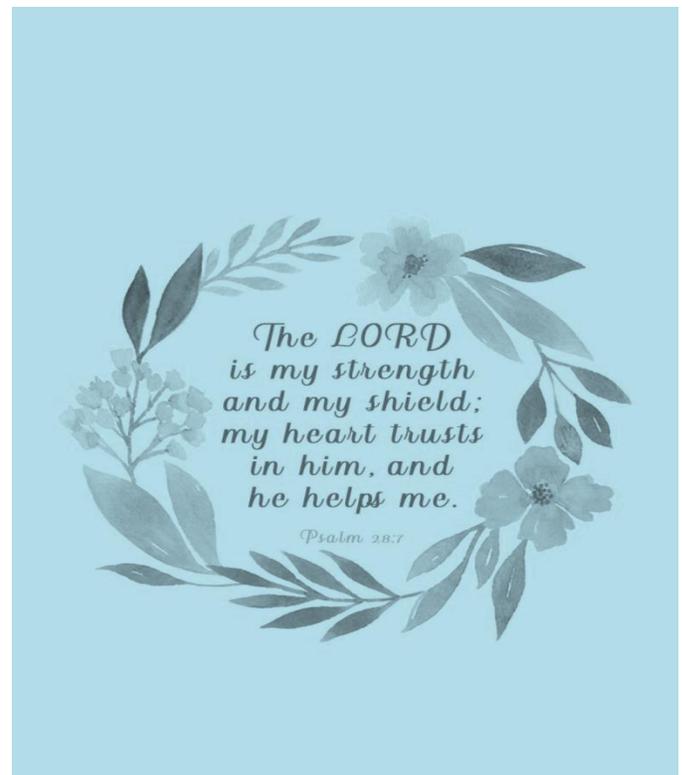
**Feb 25** Gillian Wolf, Nolan Sigfusson

**Feb 26** Matthew Davis

### Happy Anniversary!

**Feb 21** Volker & Audrey Hein

**Feb 25** Carlin & Monica Szott



### WE CAN'T WAIT TO WORSHIP WITH YOU

Kids/Family service is suspended temporarily,  
AND

**Regular Worship Service**

*In person or online*

**@ 10 am Sundays.**

Watch our live-stream via our website, [www.centurymeadows.ca](http://www.centurymeadows.ca), under Messages. Or watch via our Youtube - subscribe to our Century Meadows Baptist Church channel to see all of our services.

**Let's pray:** Nehemiah was a caring man of prayer, faith, vision, courage, action and team work. I'll follow a Nehemiah leader at church, community and business any day.

*"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." (Romans 12:4-5 NIV)*

*"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." (Ephesians 4:16 NIV)*

*"You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home." (Ephesians 2:21-22 MSG)*

Look at your work and volunteer life. What is your role? Are you a leader or a team member? Are you trusted?

Nehemiah led a team to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Paul led a team of young men travelling on his missionary journeys. They shared resources focused on heavenly goals instead of their personal agendas. They trusted each other and were trusted by others. They lived their vision and values. They maintained integrity and were known to live what they said. They were people of their word and openly communicated Christ whether speaking in the temple or their place of work. They listened, taught and demonstrated a new idea for going to church.

We can all agree that Nehemiah, Paul and others were called to accomplish God's purpose. What are you and I at Century Meadows called here to do?

Leadership Is ... living God's calling.

Yours in Service,

Laurie D. Kennedy, Pastor of Congregational Care

## SONG OF THE WEEK

### *Battle Belongs*

(by Phil Wickham)

When all I see is the battle, You see my victory  
When all I see is the mountain, You see a mountain moved  
And as I walk through the shadow, Your love surrounds me  
There's nothing to fear now for I am safe with You

So when I fight, I'll fight on my knees  
With my hands lifted high  
Oh God, the battle belongs to You  
And every fear I lay at Your feet  
I'll sing through the night  
Oh God, the battle belongs to You

And if You are for me, who can be against me? Yeah  
For Jesus there's nothing impossible for You  
When all I see are the ashes, You see the beauty  
Thank You, God  
When all I see is a cross, God, You see the empty tomb

So when I fight, I'll fight on my knees  
With my hands lifted high  
Oh God, the battle belongs to You  
And every fear I lay at Your feet  
I'll sing through the night  
Oh God, the battle belongs to You

Almighty fortress, You go before us  
Nothing can stand against the power of our God  
You shine in the shadow, You win every battle  
Nothing can stand against the power of our God

So when I fight, I'll fight on my knees  
With my hands lifted high  
Oh God, the battle belongs to You  
And every fear I lay at Your feet  
I'll sing through the night  
Oh God, the battle belongs to You  
Oh God, the battle belongs to You

CCLI Song # 7148126 Brian Johnson | Phil Wickham © Phil Wickham Music (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]) Simply Global Songs (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]) Sing My Songs (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]) Remaining portion is unaffiliated For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)

## TRANSITIONS WITH PASTOR ROB

*Philippians 3:12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.*

The last few sermons have focused on what are called “Ends Statements,” that is, they tell you where you want to end up, and include Mission and Vision Statements. The other kind of policies our church leadership is working on currently fall under the category of “Means Statements.” These tell you HOW you are going to get where you want to end up, and include Values and Strategies. Strategies include things like programs, ministries, events, staff, and even facilities, and we need to revisit, revise, and prioritize our strategies as a church on a regular basis, as these necessarily change over time.

Values include all the behaviours, commitments, and attitudes that are or are not acceptable within the church, and the importance of them can be summarized in the old expression, “The ends do not justify the means.” My dad had a similar expression: “Sometimes you are wrong even when you are right.” In other words, you can’t lie and cheat and bully your way to accomplish some ‘good’ objective.

I remember a pastor friend telling me about the time someone chased him into the parking lot after church and proceeded to loudly chew him out about something. My friend waited until he was done, and then said, “Have I ever treated you like this? Even if everything you have said is true, you have no right to treat me like this, and I won’t talk any more about this issue until I have cooled down, you have apologized, and we set a time and some boundaries about how we will talk about this sort of thing in the future!”

Mission and vision really matter, and so do our strategies and priorities about how we will accomplish them. It’s important that people have the freedom, expectation, confidence, and commitment to speak up in the right time and place when they feel strongly about something, but it’s just as important that we do so in the ways scripture clearly direct us to treat one another in the church.

To this end, the church leadership have created a “leadership covenant,” which they will be sharing with the congregation at the meeting on February 22. As usual, most if not all of what we expect of leaders really applies to every person who calls Christ their Lord.

The same Paul who strove with such energy to ‘take hold’ of the mission for which he had been taken hold of by Christ, also said in 2 Corinthians 4:2 “we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God.”

**Pastor Rob**

## FINANCIAL REPORT

OUR GIVING	Feb 14/21	YTD
Giving for Budget	\$6,165.00	\$48,253.80
Budget Requirement	\$10,696.68	\$74,876.76
<b>*YTD Giving 64% of Budget</b>		

Your faithful giving continues to support ongoing ministries in our church, our city, our nation or around the world. Here’s just a reminder of the different ways to give:

- Cheque mailed to: Century Meadows Baptist Church 3720 66 Street Camrose AB T4V 3N4
- Cheque dropped off at the above address (mail slot is to the left of the glass foyer doors toward the office)
- E-transfer – [donate@centurymeadows.ca](mailto:donate@centurymeadows.ca). No need for a security question.
- Automated debit transactions – contact the church for the form or download from our website: [www.centurymeadows.ca](http://www.centurymeadows.ca).

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CHURCH LIBRARY





## Pastor Brett's Weekly Update:

### What is Church Membership?

I took a quick survey of all of the different associations and programs that I am a *member* of. Turns out, I currently hold over 15 memberships! I hold a membership in the Alberta Teacher's Association, Canadian Professional Rodeo Association, Christianity Today, Preaching Today, Clergy in the North American Baptist Conference, and Century Meadows Baptist Church to name a few. I also hold memberships for several things of lesser importance like the Canadian Tire Triangle Rewards Membership. Who could live without the 70 cents back on a \$200 air compressor purchase?

We live in a world where membership is often a flippant "sign-up here to receive today's bonus offer." When we consider membership in the Church (global) and in our local church (CMBC), we ought not approach that flippantly but we must have a good understanding of what it means.

First off, the term "membership" in Scripture refers to belonging to 1. a household (Acts 16:15; Matthew

10:25), 2. a religious sect such as the Pharisees or Sadducees (Acts 5:17; 6:9; 7:54), or 3. to the Body of Christ (Romans 12:4; 1 Cor. 6:15). Membership as part of a household or family is an informal and unwritten type of membership – it is a "given" based upon your birth context or your career. The second type of membership in a religious sect or denomination often comes with a sort of "rulebook." "You believe and behave this way and then you can be part of us" type of idea. The thing about this type of membership is that Scripture does not present a black and white "rulebook" for the perfect church denomination or religious sect. Scripture simply states that to be reconciled to God (to be saved) necessarily makes one a member of the Body of Christ, which is the third type of membership stated above.

The question is, where do we at CMBC get our "rules" for membership from? Well, we get our rules for membership from Scripture, first and foremost. Secondly, we refer to our NAB Statement of Beliefs. It is interesting that the requirement for membership in the Body of Christ (church), as stated in both Scripture and the NAB statement of beliefs, is to simply be "regenerate." Regenerate means that we have truly experienced conversion. We have been forgiven of our sin by the cross of Jesus Christ and have been born-again to new life in Christ as we trust Him as Lord and Savior. The only requirement for individual membership in a church within our NAB Conference is "regenerate membership."

The next question this necessarily leads to is - why is it that we have so many rules or requirements to be members of our local churches? Well, the answer to that is church history and tradition have made it that way. Baptists have a long history that is rich with upholding the authority of Scripture, teaching the truth in grace, and reaching the nations with the Gospel. We have certain "distinctives" that make us "Baptist" in the same way Pentecostals have distinctives that make them Pentecostal. Tradition and history are important as they help us discover meaning in our lives by giving us a group of people to identify with and live out our faith with. In sum, Baptists have a way of interpreting Scripture that we feel is the right way.

However, Christians for centuries have disagreed on theology and the interpretation of Scripture and hence, we have thousands of Christian denominations today. We must always avoid the

prideful temptation to declare that “our denomination gets everything correct and everyone else is dead wrong.” When we consider that God’s Word reveals membership in His Church/Body as simply being “regenerate,” we must be careful so as to not add too much policy, rules, or distinctives for folks to have to adhere to in order to become members. Remember, Jesus explicitly calls us to be “one unified church” in John 17:20-23. He never suggested we break off into thousands of denominations that disagree so vehemently.

Membership is important because our salvation and inclusion as members of the Body of Christ is extremely important! We get to be called children of God and active participants in what Christ is doing in the world as members of His body. This is really Good News! Tradition is important too and we ought to participate in the local church that best aligns with our particular beliefs. As a pastor in an NAB church, I affirm that our Statement of Beliefs is very good. However, we must always be on guard so as to not allow tradition or even history to play a more important role in determining our guiding principles as a church. In the same way that we should not put too much stock in the reward programs our world offers like Canadian Tire’s Triangle program, we must not place more emphasis on local church traditions than we do on the Word of God.

God Bless you this week!

-Pastor Brett

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PASTORS

### Sunday, Feb 21 – Pastor Rob McLaren

**Message:** “Church Membership”

**Scripture:** *Romans 12:4-8, Ephesians 4:11-16*

**Key Question:** How does our culture use the term ‘membership?’ How does scripture use the term?

### Sunday, Feb 28 – Pastor Rob/Amy

**Message:** “Worship in the Life of the Church”

**Scripture:** *1 Samuel 15:22, Romans 12:1*

**Key Question:** When you hear the word “worship”, what do you think of? How does that line up with these 2 verses?

## IN-PERSON SERVICES

We will be continuing our in-person Sunday morning worship services under the current AHS guidelines. As always, we will continue to monitor the situation and make necessary changes to our gatherings in response to changing AHS protocols.

- Worship service will start at 10 am.
- Our live stream will continue for at home viewing.
- The family service will not be running at this time; stay tuned for updates on this (we will have kids moments/features in the main service).
- 15% capacity restriction (47 people allowed in the Sanctuary, 39 in the Gym, 18 in the Fellowship Hall - 104 total. The Crosswalk could be utilized as well.)
- Masks are mandatory, as per our City bylaw.
- Singing is allowed with masks being worn.

We pray that each person at CMBC would “*love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength*” and also extend “*love and grace*” towards others at this time. We look forward to being the church together as we worship in-person and from our homes.

## CONTACT US

### We’re Here For You!

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