

July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: Holy Spirit 7:15pm Prayer Meeting	4	5	6 1-4pm Baking Club
7 10am Worship 11:30pm BBYOL	8	9	10 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: Holy Spirit 7:15pm Prayer Meeting	11 7am Men's Prayer Meeting	12	13
14 10am Worship 11:30pm BBYOL	15	16	17 6:30pm Bible Study 7:15pm Prayer Meeting	18 7am Men's Prayer Meeting	19 6-9pm "Passing the Baton" Seminar	20 8:30am-12pm "Passing the Baton" Seminar
21 10am Worship Andrew & Courtney Joy Friesen family visiting 11:30pm BBYOL	22	23	24 6:30pm Bible Study 7:15pm Prayer Meeting	25 7am Men's Prayer Meeting	26	27 MOVE: Help families pack, clean & move – both locations
28 10am Worship Farewell for Q&N family 11:30pm BBYOL  MOVE: Help families pack, clean & move – both locations	29 MOVE: Help families pack, clean & move – both locations  11am Evelyn Smith Funeral (Canora, SK)	30 MOVE: Help families pack, clean & move – both locations	31 MOVE: Help families pack, clean & move – both locations  6:30pm Bible Study 7:15pm Prayer Meeting			

**Bethesda Church Office Information**  
**Hours:** Tuesdays (10-3) & Thursdays (9-3)  
**Phone:** 204-987-2890  
**1350 Grant Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3M 2A7**  
**Email:** [office@bethesdachurch.ca](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.ca)



# Bethesda Church

## Newsletter

Congregational letter July 2024

“God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth [...] So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God...” – Genesis 45:7,8

For all intents and purposes, Moses wrote the book of Genesis. Everyone in the ancient world thought so. Jesus clearly thought so, too. After all, in the controversy that swirled after he’d healed the man at the pool of Bethesda his last stinging rebuke was, “If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?” (John 5:46-47)

There’s no question that he meant for that – that last sentence in particular – to smart. The people he was interacting with prided themselves on their scrupulous faithfulness to what Moses had written.

Where did Moses write about Jesus? Well, everywhere. But with special richness and variety Moses wrote about him in his book that we call Genesis. Think way back to the kernel of a promise for humanity that’s contained within the terrible curse that God aims at the Serpent: “...he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” (3:15) Or think of the innocent blood that Cain spilled (Heb 12:24), or the covenant sign of the “bow in the clouds” aimed into the heart of heaven after the Flood<sup>1</sup> (9:13), or the

renewed pledge given to Abraham after God provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac (22:18), or the ladder to heaven that Jacob saw which Jesus appropriated as a reference to himself (John 1:51). Or, think about the words of Hosea that Matthew quotes regarding Jesus, “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.” (11:1/Matt 2:15) And of course, the story of Israel going into Egypt begins at the end of the book of Genesis.

It is the intriguing connection to Egypt that we will be exploring this summer as we study the faithfulness of God in the life of Joseph and his brothers, and through them God’s faithfulness to the rest of us. We will be considering the purposes of God as they are represented in the last chapters of Genesis. We will also connect those purposes to our own, equally uncertain, times. We are obviously far removed from the age when the pyramids were newly minted. But there are some startling parallels between our culture and the culture Joseph was thrown into. Most noteworthy is the morphing understanding of what it means to be human, our identity and purpose. That kind of distortion always goes with idolatry. But with Egypt the idol is all too familiar: The Machine. The

<sup>1</sup> Watch Manitoba artist Kyla Wiebe’s compelling take on that particular image here. Kyla and Elly will be drawing pictures for our bulletins this summer!





difference between the Egyptian Machine and ours is that we think of ours as mostly metal and plastic. The Egyptians knew that the Machine that built the pyramids was made of flesh and blood, a mass of humanity perfectly conditioned and calibrated to realize the monumental ambitions of the god-like Pharaohs. But like the Hebrews in Egypt, we are slowly waking up to the realization that the idol that has mastered us, that masters all of humanity (and seeks to master nature itself) is no longer delivering the kinds of results that fired our earlier enthusiasm for it.

Joseph’s story also features the effects of human sinfulness that are distinctive of every age: deception, betrayal, violence, loneliness, and displacement. Not only in the story of Joseph, but in the rest of Genesis as well, Moses seems to be wrestling with himself: he himself was

alienated, he himself didn’t have a home, he himself had once resorted to violence. Moses is writing from the wilderness, about the wilderness: from the literal wilderness he was wandering through, about the spiritual wilderness we all find ourselves continually navigating.

Of course, in the wilderness Moses is also writing to remind us of the way that Joseph always kept God’s promise in the front of his mind. Despite seeming to have his promising career violently cut short he committed himself to being faithful to God and trusting in the promises he had made. Neither Joseph nor Moses could have known exactly how God would keep his promises. Yet they refused to succumb to despair or to temptation. They acted in faith, in integrity, even though at times those

actions must have felt utterly pointless. They simply trusted God with the results.

If you know someone who is struggling with a promise that seems cut short, or with a future that feels out of control, please invite them to this summer sermon series. It will be especially geared towards young people. Our children will also be with us in the service and will have specially drawn colouring pages to go with the Joseph stories we will be studying!

Speaking of lives faithfully lived, in this month’s newsletter I want to also honour the memory of our dear sister in Christ, Evelyn Smith. After a relatively brief few months of illness, she passed into glory early on the morning of July 2. The time I was able to spend with her was precious, marked by a sweetness and a hope that I found deeply moving and inspiring. Please continue to pray for her adult kids Sean, Kevin, and Marnie as they mourn their loss. There will be a funeral in Canora, SK, on July 29, and a memorial

service at Bethesda in August. More information will be coming soon.

In hope,

*Pater Yuri*

July 2024

Bible Reading Plan

- Ex 35:4-36:7
- Rom 2:25-3:2
- 1 Chr 25:9-31
- Pr 18:1-3
- John 12:44-50
- Ps 84
- 1 Chr 26:1-19
- Ex 36:8-38
- Pr 18:4-7
- Rom 3:3-8
- John 13:1-11
- Rom 3:9-20
- Pr 18:8-9
- John 13:12-20
- 1 Ch 26:20-32
- Ex 37
- \*Rom 3:21-31
- Ex 38:1-20
- John 13:21-30
- \*\*Ps 41
- 1 Ch 27:1-15
- Pr 18:10-11

- John 13:31-38
- Pr 18:12-15
- 1 Ch 27:16-24
- Ex 38:21-31
- Rom 4:1-8
- Ps 32
- Rom 4:9-12
- Ex 39:1-31
- Pr 18:16-18
- 1 Ch 27:25-34
- John 14:1-14
- Ex 39:32-40:16
- \*1 Ch 28
- Pr 18:19-21
- John 14:15-21
- Rom 4:13-17
- 1 Ch 29
- Pr 18:22-24
- Ex 40:17-38
- Rom 4:18-25
- John 14:22-31
- John 15:1-8
- Rom 5:1-11
- Leviticus 1
- 2 Ch 1
- Pr 19:1-2

- 2 Ch 2
- John 15:9-17
- Pr 19:3-5 6-8
- Lev 2
- Rom 5:12-19
- Lev 3
- Ps 116
- Rom 5:20-6:4
- 2 Ch 3
- Pr 19:6-8 9-12
- John 15:18-16:4
- 2 Ch 4-5:1
- Pr 19:9-12 13-15
- Lev 4:1-26
- Rom 6:5-14
- John 16:5-16
- 2 Ch 5:2-14
- Lev 4:27-5:13
- Pr 19:13-15 16-18
- Rom 6:15-23
- Lev 5:14-6:7
- Pr 16-18
- 2 Ch 6
- Lev 6:8-23
- 2 Ch 7
- \*Pr 19:19-21
- John 16:17-33

- Rom 7:1-6
- Lev 6:24-7:27
- 2 Ch 8
- Pr 19:22-24
- \*John 17:1-8
- Lev 7:28-38
- 2 Ch 9
- Pr 19:25-27
- John 17:9-12
- Rom 7:7-12
- 2 Ch 10:1-15
- Rom 7:13-25
- Pr 19:28-29
- Lev 8
- John 17:13-19
- Rom 8:1-11
- Lev 9
- Pr 20:1-3
- 2 Ch 10:16-11:17
- John 17:20-26
- Lev 10
- 2 Ch 11:18-12:16
- Pr 20:4-6
- John 18:1-11
- Rom 8:12-17

\*Memory Verses:  
#1: Rom 3:22b-24

*There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace...*

#2: 1 Ch 28:9b

*...acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind...*

#3: Pr 19:21 – *Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails.*

#4: John 17:3 – *Now this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

**\*\*Psalm to sing!**

Announcements

“PASSING THE BATON” SEMINAR:

July 19 (Fri) 6-9pm; July 20 (Sat) 8:30am-12pm

Bethesda’s Council will be reviewing excerpts of a recent seminar offered at Steinbach Bible College featuring sociologist Dr. Joel Thiessen on how to effectively communicate Christian faith to the younger generation. All are welcome. Come with your questions! Coffee/tea will be provided.

OUR AFGHAN FAMILIES ARE MOVING!

If you are able to help with packing, cleaning, and/or moving items July 27-31, please contact Ruth. Prayer is also very welcome!

“PERSPECTIVES” ONLINE CLASS:

Tuesday nights, September 3 to December 3

Perspectives is a discipleship course that challenges you to consider how you can be a part of what God is doing locally and globally. Register by August 3 to get an early bird discount. For more info visit: [perspectivescanada.outreach.ca](https://perspectivescanada.outreach.ca)

Prayer & Intercession

- Afghan Families (moving)
- E’s brother in prison
- Gail Barnes
- Mona Behrens
- Betty Campbell (Personal Care Home)
- Mike & Sunny Cheon (financial support)
- Lawrence & Selma Churchill
- Venus Coté (kidney function)
- Ron De Hoff (Patti’s brother)
- Bernice Gruenke (health)
- Edwin & Kamala Henry (Esther’s parents)
- Marion Hill (Susanne’s Mom)/Susanne
- Valentyna K. (Kathy Clow’s friend; Ukrainian Christian/deportation)
- George Manalang
- Joan McRae (Misericordia Place)
- Debbie Mogilevsky (cancer)
- Laylee, her sons, and her mother
- Andrew Poirier (mental health)
- Patti Poirier (health and strength)
- Marye P. (Kathy Clow’s friend – cancer)
- Don Register (Shelly’s dad)
- Family of Evelyn Smith
- Chris Wilcoxson
- Shelly Wilcoxson
- Cheryl Warax (Pastor Mark’s sister)
- Andrea & Rick Wittebolle
- Pastor Mark
- Pastor Yuri: preaching, 2024 planning
- Bethesda Church (BC): 2024 Ministry Year
- BC Children’s Ministry: Helen Hooker (new Ministry Team Leader)
- BC Youth Ministry: Riley & Jina
- BC Young Adults
- BC Missions Team
- BC Elders (George & Dan, Philip & Yuri)
- BC Council
- BC building, finances
- Canada: wildfire season
- World conflicts Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, etc