

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29 7am Men's Prayer Meeting 12pm Women's Prayer Meeting	30 TRUTH & RECONCILIATION DAY (No meetings)	1	2 7pm Youth	3 1-4pm Baking Club
PASTOR YURI VACATION						
4 10am Worship - Rob Charach 11:15am - Faith Formation (TBA) 12pm BBYOL	5	6 7am Men's Prayer Meeting 12pm Women's Prayer Meeting	7 6:30pm Bible Study (Romans) 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	8	9 7pm Youth	10
11 10am Worship - Pastor Yuri (Romans 12) 11:15am - Faith Formation (Your SHAPE for God's Service) 12pm BBYOL	12 THANKSGIVING	13 7am Men's Prayer Meeting 12pm Women's Prayer Meeting	14 6:30pm Bible Study (Romans) 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	15	16 7pm Youth	17 7:30pm UGM
18 Communion 10am Worship - Pastor Yuri (Romans 12) 11:15am - Faith Formation (Your SHAPE for God's Service) 12pm BBYOL	19	20 7am Men's Prayer Meeting 12pm Women's Prayer Meeting	21 6:30pm Bible Study (Romans) 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	22	23 7pm Youth	24
25 10am Worship - Pastor Yuri (Romans 12) 11:15am - Faith Formation (Your SHAPE for God's Service) 12pm BBYOL	26	27 7am Men's Prayer Meeting 12pm Women's Prayer Meeting	28 6:30pm Bible Study (Romans) 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	29	30 7pm Youth	31 8:30am Men's Prayer Fellowship



Bethesda Church Office Information
Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10:30am-3:00pm
Phone: 204-987-2890 (main office)
1350 Grant Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3M 2A7
Email: office@bethesdachurch.ca



Bethesda Church

Newsletter

Congregational Letter

Fall 2026

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms [...] with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.”
–1 Peter 4:10,11b

Autumn is the beginning of our new year for all practical purposes.

Do you feel invigorated? Like you’ve enjoyed a break from last year’s rush of activities? Rested up and ready for new vision? Raring for new opportunities? Harvesting the produce of a warm, relaxing summer?

Usually that’s how I am in September. All fired up. But if I’m being honest...not so much this year. It’s simple enough to explain: I didn’t have a break this summer. It’s no one’s fault. I had one planned. It’s just that God had a different plan—a better plan!

Before I go on, I’m a little concerned that being honest about this will make you nervous or worried about me. I don’t want that. You can rest assured, I will be taking a week off at the end of September, so I am looking forward to getting a good rest soon!

Why share this, then? Because it occurred to me that I’m probably not alone. Maybe you’re starting the year and you’re not feeling refreshed. Maybe you’re feeling foggy. Or maybe you’re not feeling anything at all. Maybe the summer was withering for you, regardless of the fruit it may have produced. You’re just plain tired, and you’re overwhelmed by the monstrous pile that you left for yourself to come back to.

But even if that is you, God expects you and me to get back into the harness. However we’re feeling, whether dynamic or depleted, the passage above directs us to seek God for his grace, his gifting, and his strength...to SERVE.

God wants you to serve him here at Bethesda. Figuring out exactly how God wants you to serve is what we are committed to helping you discover this fall. Why now? Because Bethesda is in an exciting period of growth! But we are still relying heavily on the same small core of faithful but aging servants to carry the largest share of the tasks (which grow along with the size of the congregation!) This imbalance is neither healthy nor sustainable. It also does not please God. God is telling you right now—and I am telling you, too—if you are not significantly engaged in a Bethesda ministry, it’s time to get to work!

Where should you start? The simplest commitment you can make right now is not to miss a Sunday this fall. Starting September 27, I will be preaching through Romans 12, which is one of the most important Bible passages on spiritual gifts and sacrificial service. Paul calls this your “spiritual act of worship”, that is, a way to worship God with your whole being! During our Faith Formation time I will be leading a course called

Your *SHAPE for God's Service*, which is designed to help you think about how God has designed you—your **S**piritual gifts, **H**eart's desires, **A**bilities, **P**ersonality, and **E**xperiences—to help you discover the place he wants you to serve among us! (NB: This SHAPE course is quite different from the one that Bethesda offered a number of years ago.)

As you consider these things, it's OK to admit that you're tired, or afraid—that you're wrestling with any number of problems—because that's what humble Bible people do. Truly, that's another reason that I am willing to share my own struggles: the Bible models it. It's one of the proofs that the Bible is true and trustworthy. As we read it, we can see that these were real people, because all humans have limits. (Even Jesus got tired, and hungry!)

Nevertheless, the Bible teaches us that we should always serve...even when we feel drained. Because although you and I are limited, God is limitless. Only when we reach the end of ourselves can we see how God is teaching us to trust in him and in his endless store of resources. That is what faith means.

The people that Peter was writing to had all kinds of problems. He speaks to those who had the least amount of power in that society (who therefore had the most reason to be exhausted or anxious): slaves with cruel masters (2:18), and wives whose husbands had little sympathy for them or their faith (3:12). Of course, there were others who were of higher status, but regardless of social standing Peter takes it for granted that the world will “heap abuse” on everyone who is a true Christian (4:4). And for these particular believers, things couldn't have been much worse. At best, they were ignored and insulted. At worst, they were being tortured and killed. Peter acknowledges all that, yet that's the moment he urges them to “use whatever gift you have received to serve others”! In other words,

your limitations and your circumstances are not an excuse. You are called to serve, to “administer God's grace in its various forms [...] with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised.”

Limits and tough circumstances are a means of God's grace. When I feel unstoppable, I charge forward under my own steam, plotting my own course, and never stop to ask God for help (let alone what he wants). Extra energy can easily shoot me farther out of the way than I meant to go. But when it's a struggle to get going it's not hard to remember that I need God. I sound him out again and again. I stay close, sensing I'll never find my way back if I wander off. Of course it is hard to trust him in these moments, being vividly aware of what I lack. I wonder how I will ever cope, whether I will ever feel strong again. But God says, “‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore [...] I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Cor 12:9,10)

God also calls us to regular periods of rest, of course. He built night and day into the fabric of the world he created. Plus, Sabbaths and other holy days are part of the rhythm of his divine order. He gives us these moments not simply to “recharge”, but to teach us to respect our limits, in order to encourage us to intentionally seek him and his strength.

Loved ones, however you are feeling today, whether you're strong or weak, eager or nervous, whether you welcome the call to serve or it seems beyond you, you are commanded to “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice [...] this is your spiritual act of worship”.

God's grace is enough, his gifts are boundless, and his strength never fails.

Peter Yori

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7am Men's Prayer Meeting 12pm Women's Prayer Meeting	2 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	3	4 10am Funeral for Joan McRae (1442 Main St.) 6:30pm YA Bible Study (St. Vital Park)	5 1-4pm Baking Club
6 10am Worship - Pastor George Balaktsis 11:30am BBYOL	7	8 7am Men's Prayer Meeting 12pm Women's Prayer Meeting	9 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	10	11	12
13 Communion 10am Worship - Pastor Yuri (The Story) 11:30am BBYOL	14	15 7am Men's Prayer Meeting 12pm Women's Prayer Meeting	16 6:30pm Bible Study (Romans) 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	17	18	19 10am-12pm Safe Relationships Training 7:30pm UGM
20 KICKOFF SUNDAY! 10am Worship - Pastor Yuri 11:15am - Faith Formation(Your SHAPE for God's Service) 12pm BBYOL	21	22 7am Men's Prayer Meeting 12pm Women's Prayer Meeting	23 6:30pm Bible Study (Romans) 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	24	25 7pm Youth	26 8:30am Men's Prayer Fellowship
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