



December 25, 2022

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

Join us for the celebration of [Christmas](#) this weekend! We will gather for a candlelight Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m., and also worship Sunday morning at 10 a.m. for Christmas day. To join us online, go to Bethel's home page and click on the button that says: "Worship Online with Us." Invite friends, family and neighbours, especially those who you long to experience hope of Christ at the end of this year. Christ was born for us, and he will come again!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: (in person and online) - We will conclude our advent series on Christmas Eve through a celebration of the Gifts of Christmas. All are welcome to experience and receive the hope, joy, peace and love in Jesus who has given himself up for us. Apple cider and cookies will be provided after the service.

THIS SUNDAY: We will be worshipping together through one service in person and over live stream at 10:00 a.m.

This Sunday the sermon is titled "A Candy Cane Christmas". We will use the humble candy cane to help us walk through the miracle of Christ's birth, the misery of his sacrificial death, and the mercy promised by the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Our message will focus on Luke 2:1-21, Isaiah 53:1-5, and John 14:1-3.

**For resources in how you might behold and practice The Gifts of Christmas this year, visit our Advent page: discoverbethel.com/advent*

OUR OFFERINGS ON SUNDAY

- 1) BETHEL MINISTRIES & MISSION:** The ministries and programs of Bethel.
- 2) MINISTRY TO SEAFARERS:** The Ministry to Seafarers in Vancouver is a chaplaincy ministry that meets with visiting seafarers, in order to share the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ with seafarers in word and deed.

NEXT WEEK – MINISTRY SHARES: Supports various CRC initiatives that send missionaries around the world, start new churches, train pastors and leaders, and use media to spread the gospel.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to pray for **CURTIS COENEN, ELLA JENSEN, ELEANOR PROKUDA, JILL SNEEP, and WILLY VROON.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFFIRMATION VOTES: The result of last week's vote by Bethel's membership is that Kevin Magnes has been affirmed as our newest Shepherding Elder. We will share details in the new year about when Kevin and Marjean Verseveldt will be installed.

SAVE THE DATE: Bethel Community Church invites you to A Day of Prayer on January 11, a full day of opportunities to pray alongside one another. We will be using the theme, *Seek His Face* (Psalm 27:8), which has guided us well in the past. Join with us as we re-center ourselves on God's will and purpose for the New Year. Look for details for how you can participate in the first week of January.

READ THE BIBLE WITH US! Have you ever read the whole Bible – every chapter, every book? In 2023, we invite you to join us for 51 weeks of going through the Bible together! Project 51 is a plan to read and meditate on the New Testament and Psalms in 51 weeks. Each weekday one chapter from the New Testament will be read, meditated on, and put into action. The Psalms will be read on the weekends in preparation for worship. Join us in reading the same passages together each day – reading, discussing, and praying the Scriptures so that we might be shaped more and more in the image of Christ through his word. Subscribe to the plan online at our Reading Scripture Together Page: discoverbethel.com/readingscripturetogether. The reading plan will start on January 2, 2023, through the **Youversion Bible app**.

EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY DISCIPLESHIP: Pastor Cris and Pastor Wendy are working on one of the needs expressed in the Church Pulse, a clear pathway for growing in our Christian walk. More details will follow in the new year about when this class will be offered, but we want you to know we have heard your desire for this at Bethel. You can find a brief overview of the program and its resources [here](#). If you are interested in being part of a pilot program for this class in the new year, email Pastor Cris at cris@discoverbethel.com.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS & GIFTS PROGRAM: There is still time for you to get involved and bless our community through this program. You can make a financial donation to “Christmas Hampers and Gifts” through all the usual Bethel giving methods to help provide families with grocery gift cards for Christmas. Contact Ritta at 780-476-5076 or Selikke at 780-499-3731 for more info.

A REMINDER FOR ALL LADIES: We are planning on starting a Wednesday evening Bible study at the church at the end of January 2023 and would love your opinion on what you are interested in studying! Please take a few minutes to answer the survey [here](#).

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: The office will be closed on December 27 and 28. It will reopen December 29 and 30 with adjusted hours of 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN HOW TO SEW? You are in luck, as a member of Bethel has offered to do a few basic lessons on some upcoming evenings at the church! Minimal supplies will be needed, just come and join us develop some new skills. Stay tuned for more details and a sign-up sheet in the New Year.

REQUESTS FROM THE DEACONS:

- **Transportation to Oasis:** We have some members from the community who would like to attend our Oasis Women’s Bible Study, and we need your help! If you can offer a ride to and from Oasis on Wednesday mornings, please contact Laurie Veenstra at info@discoverbethel.com.
- **Transportation to Church:** If you can help with transporting a member with a young child to and from our Sunday services, please contact the deacons at deacons@discoverbethel.com.
- **Childcare:** We are looking for someone who is able and willing to care for a child on a few mornings or afternoons to give the mom a break. If this is something that you would like to help with, please contact the deacons at deacons@discoverbethel.com.
- **Looking for car seats:** If you have a rear facing car seat that is not expired, we have two families attending the church who could make good use of them. One for a child under 20lbs, and the other is for a 16-month-old. Please contact the deacon at deacons@discoverbethel.com if you can help with this request.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Our Mission and Ministry: \$56,850 was collected in the month of November for a total of \$185,637 this year. We anticipated \$219,040 by this time based on our budget for the year. We are blessed by the continued support for our ministries.

Other Giving: The deacons gratefully acknowledge the following receipts for other collections taken in November:

Ministry Shares:	\$	1,605.00
Dunamis Fellowship Canada:	\$	1,290.00
Edu Deo Ministries:	\$	1,410.00
Bethel World Mission Vision:	\$	705.00
Other Causes:	\$	6,764.00

COLLECTIONS IN DECEMBER:

December 4	Ministry Shares
December 11	Edmonton Food Bank
December 18	International Justice Mission Canada
December 25	Seafarers Vancouver

GIVING: Please visit our website at discoverbethel.com/give to see the ways that you can donate and support our different collections. If you have any questions about our giving options, please contact Sara at sara@discoverbethel.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CALVIN UNIVERSITY JANUARY SERIES: You are invited to the 36th year of the Calvin University January Series beginning January 9, 2023, and continuing weekdays through January 27 by livestream. Each lecture will be shown through livestream from Calvin University from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. MST. The series aims to cultivate deep thought and conversations about important issues of the day, to inspire cultural renewal and make us better global citizens in God's world. You can also watch the presentations digitally on demand each day until midnight MST on your own device. Just go to website (www.calvin.edu/january) each day around 10:00 p.m. MST and click on the "Watch Now" link, enter a few quick questions (name, email, etc.) and you will be able to access the livestream. Don't miss out on this chance to hear important lectures and experience a piece of Calvin University.

TOUR THE BIBLICAL LANDS OF ISRAEL: March 6 – March 17, 2023. Experience a refreshing renewal of your faith, and gain a deeper understanding of the Bible, as you tour the biblical lands with teaching host, Pastor Peter Tuininga, and Sindbad Tours of Israel. See many of the biblical places (Jerusalem, Galilee, Caesarea, Jericho, and much more), and gain spiritual and historical insights which will make the Bible come alive for you. For complete information, cost, and registration, go to toursofisrael.wordpress.com or call Peter Tuininga: 1-289-877-8433 or e-mail: peter.tuininga@gmail.com

IMPACTUS MEN'S CONFERENCE: Every man wants to make an impact. What if the key to having an impact is to first be impacted by God? Join us Saturday, March 4, 2023, from 8:40 a.m.-4:00p.m. at the Impactus Men's Conference where you will learn how to press into all God has for you, and to become the man he is calling you to be. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

YOU CAN HELP! HOST A UKRAINIAN FAMILY: More than 7,000,000 Ukrainians have left Ukraine. Do you have a spare bedroom and a willingness to help a newcomer family get on their feet in Edmonton? Temporary Hosting makes a huge difference. Families usually stay about one month. Hosts provide room and board and help them with initial tasks like opening a bank account, getting a SIN, and registering for healthcare. The Kilkenny and Dening families have hosted and are willing to answer any questions. Please see the QR code for more information.



CLIMATE WITNESS PROJECT: is excited to host Professor Debra Rienstra on January 12, 2023, at 8p.m. ET for a discussion of her new book *Refugia Faith: Seeking Hidden Shelters, Ordinary Wonders, and the Healing of the Earth*. This is an online event where Debra will discuss her book 'Refugia Faith'. Debra Rienstra is professor of English at Calvin University, and the author of four books—on motherhood, spirituality, worship, and ecotheology/climate change. Rienstra is also the host of the Refugia Podcast and writes bi-weekly for The Twelve, a blog connected with The Reformed Journal. Please register [here](#).

SOCO BEACH PROJECT - SUMMER YOUNG ADULT DISCIPLESHIP EXPERIENCE: Are you or is someone you know a young adult (18 - 29) looking to dig deeper into the life of faith and what impact that has on their unfolding life story? Check out the SoCo Beach Project - an intentional Christian community experience from May - August located in Port Dover, Ontario. Applications are open for SoCo 2023- deadline is January 16, 2023. For more information or a deeper conversation about this experience, email Pastor Willemina Zwart: info@southcoastbeachproject.org. Hear the reflections of last year's participants and check out the latest newsletter [here](#).

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, December 25

10:00 a.m. Worship - In Person & Live Stream

MONDAY, December 26 - Office Closed

7:00 p.m. Prayer (Zoom)

TUESDAY, December 27 - Office Closed

WEDNESDAY, December 28 - Office Closed

8:00 p.m. AA

THURSDAY, December 29

7:00 p.m. Worship Practice

FRIDAY, December 30

1:30 p.m. Food Bank

SATURDAY, December 31