theconnection

is a community of people working out what it means to understand and live out the values of Jesus Christ

Advent **December 16, 2018**

Welcome to *the connection*. If this is your first time with us, here's some information that should help orient you to our community gathering. You're invited to participate in as much or as little as you feel comfortable…

Candle & Cross | The cross is the central symbol of mercy in the world, a reminder of God's forgiveness, grace, and love. The tall candle on the cross symbolizes Jesus' presence. The prominence of the cross and candle reminds us that Jesus is the source of our worship.

Musical Instruments | We sing during our gathering because music helps connect us with Jesus in ways spoken word doesn't. In singing we join the tradition of the ancients in singing praise to and about God. We believe that music worship isn't a performance for the congregation, but rather the works of the people who together express praise to Jesus, the true audience. Because of this, our musicians are arranged on stage as participants in the community's singing.

Table, Bread, Cup (Communion, Eucharist, Lord's Supper | Jesus' blood was shed to cleanse us of sin. Jesus' body was broken and bruised to heal your soul. If you're in need of cleansing and your soul needs healing, come to the table.

Offering Boxes | We believe that more than a specific amount, one's offering should be a response to who God is and what God is leading you to give. If you've come with an offering or you're prompted to give during worship, you're invited to take it to one of the two offering boxes located at the back of the sanctuary near the doors.

Prayer box/prayer lounge | At the foot of the cross is a white box with paper and pens. During the communion/response time you're invited to come to this space and consider the mercy of Jesus, and write a prayer and leave it in the box. At the back of the sanctuary in the overflow area, we've created a place for you to pray during the response/ communion portion of our gathering. We will ensure that there is at least one other person available if you'd like someone to pray with you.

Response Cards | At the front of the sanctuary on the stage you'll find some response cards. If you'd like to tell us a little about your journey and ask for more information about following Jesus, fill out a card. One of *the connection's* pastors will get in touch with you if you'd like. (If you prefer, you can also email Rob at heypriest@ebap.ca).

FoodShare Box | Have some extra food? Why not leave it here for someone in need. Need some food to get you through the week? Please help yourself to whatever's in the basket. The FoodShare basket in located in the foyer.

Emmanuel BAPTIST CHURCH

Emmanuel Baptist exists to fully love God and all people for God's Kingdom, pleasure and glory.

the connection is a community of the Emmanuel family. We seek to know and follow Jesus. We believe that as we follow him, Jesus changes us and transforms us into the people God created us to be. As a community, there are certain Jesus-centered principles that frame our journey together. Principles aren't rules, they're guideposts we want to keep in view wherever we are and whatever we do as *the connection*.

STAYING CONNECTED

There are several ways for you to keep in the loop about what's going on in and around *the connection* …

- Email: Rob (heypriest@gmail.com)
- Phone: 477-1234
- Website: theconnection.ca
- Facebook: facebook.com/theconnectionsk
- Twitter: @TheConnectionSK

If you have anything to say or questions to ask, then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

COMING UP …

Event Calendar for **December/January** is available at the Welcome Desk.

Christmas Bags - Pick up a gift bag to purchase items for any of our local partners. Please return your filled bag no later than **TODAY!** See the flyer at the Information Centre for more info.

EBC Blood Drive - Please consider donating blood to Canadian Blood Services during advent. Call 1-888-236-6283 to make an appointment.

Christmas Eve Services - Monday, December 24
Family Service - 6pm
Candelight Services - 9pm & 11pm
Seniors Candelight Servce at The Bentley - 7pm

Morning Service only on Sunday, December 30 at 10:30am. ***No Connection!***

Family Ministries Movie/Games Night - Saturday, Jan 12 - Keep posted for details!

Heart Matters resumes January 15.

Together for Good Marriage Workshop - Begins Friday, January 18, 7:00pm. For more information & to register, please go to http://emmanuelbaptist.ca/together-for-good/.

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

Shalom | God's relationship with creation began with "God saw all that he had made and it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). The scriptures tell us that a day is coming when God will unfold a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21). This state of perfect wholeness is the centre of the Jewish idea of "Shalom". But what about the in-between time? Jesus' life and teaching reveals God's plan to unfold shalom here and now: "May your kingdom come, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6). We believe that followers of Jesus are invited to participate in the in-breaking of God's shalom here, now, on earth as it is in heaven. As a community, *the connection* seeks the shalom of God in the following broad expressions:

Shalom with God
Are we moving in right relationship with our Creator?

Shalom with Creation
How does our living reflect that "earth is God's and everything in it? Do we live aware that Creation is a gift to treasure and care for?

Shalom with Ourselves
God created humankind in God's own image. Are we living in such a sway as to care for ourselves as people uniquely and wonderfully made by our Creator?

Shalom with Others
We have been called to live as pictures of Jesus in the world where we live. Therefore we strive for relationships marked out by generous live, grace, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, encouragement and support. Believing that Jesus demonstrated how this is done, we seek to extend this generosity to all people whoever we meet them - next door, downtown, around the world.

One of the metaphors we use to describe our life in Community is the breathing rhythm. For a body to live it needs to inhale and exhale. This is true of us as *the connection:*

Inhale - Gathering as a Community | We value being together as often as possible. One of the ways Jesus shapes his people is by speaking through community. One of the ancient traditions described in the Bible is the journeying people of God worshiping God together. So when we gather we anticipate growing toward Jesus together. "Inhale" is described in our context as any whole-community gathering - Sunday evenings, Connection Feasts, etc.

Exhale - Living as a Dispersed Community | We believe that Jesus taught and demonstrated that all of life is to reflect God's kingdom values. In other words, following Jesus is more than once-a-week Sunday get-togethers. "Exhale" in this context describes how we live as a dispersed community between Sundays. A new and growing initiative to help us 'exhale' is Connection House.

For more information about *the connection*, our core values, Connection House, or questions about what it means to follow Jesus in the world today, contact Rob Priestly (heypriest@ebap.ca).

EBC Wi-Fi
We now have public Wi-Fi in our sanctuary.
Look for EBC Sanctuary - password *ebcsk4330*.

KINGDOM GIVING THROUGH EBC

The Bible calls us to give to the Lord generously, sacrificially and joyfully. We are grateful for your support of the ministry of EBC through tithes and offerings, and through the use of your time and gifts in service to the Lord and His kingdom. If you ever have any questions regarding our finances, please feel free to contact our treasurer at elders@ebap.ca.

Budgeted Offerings as of December 9, 2018	$ 327,761
Actual Offerings as of December 9, 2018	$ 333,289
Reserve	$ 5,528

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN "TEAM 300" (Building Fund)
Target: $300,000

Building Fund - November 30, 2017	$ 15,985
Donations as of December 9, 2018	$ 146,507
Outstanding Pledges as of December 9, 2018	$ 2,245
TOTAL as of December 9, 2018	$ 164,737

NEWS & OTHER INFO

EBC Staffing Update - Jenelle Lepp will not be overseeing the preschool ministry. She has decided to focus on her family and her teaching position. We love you Jenelle and wish you God's blessing in this! Given our current budget shortfall, we have decided not to pursue a replacement at this time. Beverly Toth will assume responsibility for this area until further notice.

Quest Staffing News - Please check the Missions Bulletin Board in the foyer for news on recent staff hires at The Quest.

PRAISE & PRAYER

If you would like prayer for yourself or someone you know, please contact the church office with your concerns. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." ~ Phil 4:6

1. Please pray for **Barb & Ernie Dawson** as they grieve the sudden death of Barb's brother, Bob, in Kamloops, B.C. Pray also for **Bob's wife, Caroline.**
2. Pray for **Lindsay Nemanishen's dad** who is in ICU struggling with complications from leukemia. He is undergoing tests to determine what exactly is going on. Also, pray for **his family** as they support him.
3. Pray for the **family & friends of Arlene Nicholls** who passed away on Sunday, November 25 in Victoria, BC.
4. Pray for **Lois Bliss' brother, Paul**, who is recovering from back surgery.
5. Continue to pray for **Emily Block** as she employs the information she received from the Mayo clinic with her health team here.
6. Praise that **Jennifer, Jordan Reimer's mother,** has seen significant improvements in her health.
7. Continue to pray for the **Robson family** as they walk alongside **Sadie** as she struggles with seizures.
8. Continue to pray for **Emett & Carson, Fred & Ann Odnokon's great-grandsons,** who are both dealing with heart issues.
9. Please pray for **Jean Campbell** who is doing better & is now back at work part-time.
10. Pray for **Robin Crich** as he continues to struggle with health concerns.

Pray for our partners at home and abroad:

Overseas:
- Rev. Andre, Rev. Gato (Rwanda)

Close to Home:
- The Quest at Christopher Lake
- The Bridge on 20th, Saskatoon (Linda Walker)
- IVCF-International Students, Saskatoon (Gerry & Shirley Falk)
- Hope Restored, Saskatoon (Jodi Kozan)
- Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre, Saskatoon (Cathy LaFleche)
- LeaderImpact (Arlene Jorgenson)
- Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM)
- Canadian Baptists of Western Canada (CBWC)
- Carey Theological College

Donations to the following can be made through EBC:
(please designate on your offering envelope)
- The Bridge on 20th, Saskatoon (Linda Walker)
- The Quest at Christopher Lake
- Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre, Saskatoon (Cathy LaFleche)
- Hope Restored, Saskatoon (Jodi Kozan)
- Canadian Baptist Ministries

DONATE TO EBC:
THROUGH INTERNET BANKING
Contact Jan at 477-1234, ext 126 or bookkeeper@ebap.ca
for an identifier code and create EBC as a Payee
under your Bill Payments option.
THROUGH INTERAC
You can also donate through Interac with the
terminal at the Welcome Desk.
ON-LINE GIVING
www.emmanuelbaptist.ca/giving