

MINISTRY GUIDE

Making followers who love and live like Jesus



CONTENTS

THIS MINISTRY GUIDE IS MEANT TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT EACH MINISTRY IS EXCITED ABOUT THIS YEAR. FOR DATES, TIMES, LOCATIONS AND THE FINER DETAIL PLEASE VISIT EEFC.CA.

01



WHO WE ARE

STAFF & MINISTRY COUNCIL

A NOTE FROM LEADERSHIP

OUR HISTORY

10



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

eGROUPS

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

WOMENS MINISTRY

MENS MINISTRY

20



CARE MINISTRIES

CARING CONNECTIONS

STEPHEN MINISTRY

GRIEFSHARE

2ND CHAPTER

27



FAMILY MINISTRIES

eKIDS

eSTUDENTS

JR YOUTH

SR YOUTH

YOUNG ADULTS

34



WORSHIP MINISTRIES

MUSIC

FINANCE

PREACHING

45



AMENITIES & EVENTS CALENDAR

SOMETHING'S BREWING CAFE

LIBRARY

Pastoral Staff



Interim Preaching Pastor Terry Kaufman

Terry has served as our Senior Pastor of Preaching and teaching since 2003. He loves the privilege of learning and teaching from God's Word.

terry.kaufman@eefc.ca



Senior Executive Pastor Brynden Devenny

Brynden is responsible for overseeing staff, the facility and the operations side of the church. His role to ensure that all of the staff are successful.

brynden.devenny@eefc.ca



Family Ministries Pastor Kent Martens

Kent encourages, equips and challenges families through conversations, counseling, writing, coaching, seminars and, practical Bible teaching.

kent.martens@eefc.ca



Congregational Care Pastor Dave Dickey

Dave guides Stephen Ministry, Caring Connections, Grief Share and Second Chapter teams. Dave is fulfilled by interactions with individuals.

dave.dickey@eefc.ca



Childrens Ministry Pastor Rob Reimer

Rob spends most of his time encouraging his volunteers and working with his staff team on whatever has to do with kids at Emmanuel.

rob.reimer@eefc.ca



Discipleship Pastor Scott Marble

Scott's role comprises ministries including the leadership of LifeGroups, Men's and Women's Ministry, Adult Education, and Impact Ministry.

scott.marble@eefc.ca



Student Ministries Pastor Jori Dueck

Jori oversees student ministries at Emmanuel. She is passionate about seeing young people develop a personally owned and active faith.

jori.dueck@eefc.ca

Office Staff



Finance Manager
Brenda Wolf

brenda.wolf@eefc.ca



Facilities Manager
Fernando Hiebert

fernando.hiebert@eefc.ca



Technology Manager
Gavin Kroeker

gavin.kroeker@eefc.ca



LifeGroups Assistant
Janelle Heier

janelle.heier@eefc.ca



Administrative Assistant
Jenny Hiebert

jenny.hiebert@eefc.ca



Administrative Assistant
Jessica Nye

jessica.nye@eefc.ca



Office Manager
Kristin Friesen

kristin.friesen@eefc.ca



Mens Ministry Associate
Mike Thiessen

mike.thiessen@eefc.ca



Womens Ministries Associate
Natasha Friesen

natasha.friesen@eefc.ca



Childrens Ministry Assistant
Pam Friesen

pam.friesen@eefc.ca



Preschool Director
Selma Verrier

scp@eefc.ca



Creative Arts Director
Shelby Kroeker

shelby.kroeker@eefc.ca



Facilities Assistant
Shirley Schroeder

FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Over the years, our church has grown into the mission we live by today: to make followers of Jesus that love and live like Him. Our vision is to be a community that is gracious with our love, intentional with our lives and generous with our resources.

This is an exciting mission and vision for our church. We live in a community that has a reputation for knowing Jesus, the Bible and living out their faith. While this may be true, we know that there is still work to be done here in Steinbach.

We want you to be connected here at church. We want you to be excited to call Emmanuel home. Each week, we have over 900 people come through our doors, so we know that it takes intentional effort to make the big church feel small.

If I can offer one encouragement – the easiest way to do this is through eGroups. This is a great way to make friendships and partners in faith that will last a lifetime. In fact, I would love it if you would take a moment to read Pastor Scott’s heart and hope for groups at Emmanuel [page 13]. Then, dive in head first and join a group.

Beyond that, we have great opportunities for you to connect and serve at the church. From kids to not-so-kids, we have a way for you to connect at Emmanuel. All it takes is a willingness to take that step.

Considering you are reading this, you’ve probably attended a Sunday morning service. Though, perhaps you haven’t. I would encourage you to do that. We have two distinct service styles for you and your family. At 9:30 am, we have our traditional service which incorporates hymns and more traditional music. At 11:00 am, we have a more contemporary service with a full band. In both services, you can expect three things: strong biblical teaching, prayer, and worship. At Emmanuel, these are non-negotiable.

We enter the fall of 2019 with a feeling of transition and change. The truth is, God doesn’t feel that way at all. He knows where we have been, where we are, and – more importantly – where we are going. From our perspective, that is not just reassuring, but its also encouraging and exciting!

There is still work to be done. We need you to be a part of it. In the spirit of those who went before us – how are you going to partner with God to make Emmanuel a home for generations to come?

In His Hope,

Brynden S. Devenny

Senior Executive Pastor



Ministry Council



**Andrew
Heidebrecht**

Vice-Chair



**Bryan
Bartel**

Member



**Chris
Schroeder**

Member



**Daryl
Kroeker**

Member & Treasurer



**Ira
Dyck**

Chair



**Lou
Reimer**

Moderator



**Martin
Hildebrand**

Member



**Martin
Penner**

Member



**Peter
Wolf**

Member



**Randy
Funk**

Member

WHO WE ARE





Our History

In the summer of 1943, a small group of enthusiastic people shared a common passion to share the gospel with more than just the community at their doorstep but also the surrounding areas and abroad. Their joint concern to reach the lost for Christ was the impetus to band together and begin worshiping as a church body. In just a month's time an MB Church was being put up for sale on First Street and they followed God's leading and purchased it for \$2,800.

The first service, in September of 1943, was the beginning of a rich and vibrant church history. In that service Romans 12 was used to urge the brothers and sisters in Christ, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink." The passage emphasized that every person had their own gifts that should be used to enrich the body of Christ.

By December of that first year, the small group of believers had hired their first pastor, Mr. A.T. Doerksen, and agreed on a name for the church; Emmanuel Menonite Mission Church. An emphasis was put on the use of the word "mission" because of their intense desire to reach the lost beyond their immediate doors. By the end of 1944, there were 100 members.

Annual mission conferences were a highlight for many years. At the first conference in 1949, the message of outreach was clearly a focal point that became a catalyst for many young people choosing Bible school as their post-secondary path to full-time missions. The church's goal of full-time ministry placements was lofty; sending out one in every ten members! During the conference, the church budget was announced and a "Faith Promise" system was promoted. This was a clear way for members and adherents to give a monthly tithe to ensure that expenses and mission project goals were met.

Continue on next page





During the 1950s the church growth was rapid. Music became a staple for the young congregation and the rich talent for music was apparent with five choirs ranging from young boys to adult. A Christian Education wing was soon added to the First Street building that provided for much-needed expansion.

Since the group had started the church for the reason of outreach the young congregation held many evangelical meetings in areas surrounding Steinbach as well as in western Ontario. A sister church was planted in Winnipeg that has become Winnipeg Evangelical Free Church. In time, other church plants were added as well.

In the 60's an affiliation with the Evangelical Free Church of America began and the church was renamed, Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church. A note from the minutes reads, "Since we decided to be a mission church and serve all nationalities alike, this decision was made."

Emmanuel was growing steadily and land was purchased on Third Street and by Christmas of again 1962, the new church location opened its doors. An observation was made for the importance of keeping our young people, which led to the hiring of our first full-time youth pastor.

In the 1970s and 1980s there were many

changes both in senior leadership and in the need for more space. The need for more space started the discussion of the feasibility of having more than one Sunday service and by the mid-1980s another piece of land was purchased for a new facility on McKenzie Avenue. In the fall of 1989, the now much larger group of believers moved into their new home.

Fast forwarding to the present, there have been many physical changes to the building and many changes to programming and staffing and one should remember as we note the changes in the purchase and erecting of buildings that it is the body of believers that make up God's church.

Today, Emmanuel is home to approximately 1,200 people. Both traditional and contemporary services are offered, along with vibrant weekly programming for all ages. The main goal of Emmanuel's mission is to "Make followers of Jesus who love and live like Him".

The church in its rich history has met many challenges and God has continued to be faithful. As one Emmanuel pioneer put it, "It has caused us to look inward but also inspires us to look forward."

Written by:
Joyce Reimer

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

eGROUPS | 12-15

SPIRITUAL FORMATION | 16-17

MENS MINISTRY | 18

WOMENS MINISTRY | 19





eGroups





Do We Sit in a Circle and Sing Kum Ba Yah?

The importance of community through an eGroup.

Small Groups. Cell Groups. Care Groups. Discipleship Groups. The list of names goes on and on. It seems like every church in the world is doing small groups. Meanwhile, you may be asking, who cares if I don't sign up for a small group? I'm pretty sure no ones going to die. Nobody is going to miss me if I'm not there in the first place. So why is so much importance placed on joining a small group?

These questions can best be answered by going back to the beginning. One of the first discipleship small groups we observe in the Bible begins when Jesus recruits his disciples. A little while down the road, we get another glimpse of these small group communities when the Apostles and early church regularly gather in the last six verses of Acts chapter 2. Then there's Acts 5:12, where all the believers daily gathered on Solomon's Colonnade. During this time in the early church history, Christians seem to understand how important it was to gather.

Turn the page to our modern time where there seems to be a growing hesitancy to join a community or a small group. People are growing more skeptical to organizations and their control or abuse. I get it, it can be a big step if you've never been in a group setting before, much less a church. We find that most of the time people's hesitancy stem from misconceptions or illogical expectations of what an eGroup is and will do for them. Some are wrong, some are right. Once someone asked me, "will we have to sing Kum Ba Yah every time we get together. Because if we do, I'm out!" To avoid community simply because we misunderstand it will deprive us of one of God's greatest gifts.

First, let's agree to get straight on a Biblical level. Growth happens best in the context of a community! At the mere mention of the word community, good sensible Christian people fear that you're going to tell them they have to sell all they own, move to a farm, wear bib overalls, and raise peanuts. Or that they have to abandon their fertilized lawns and move to the inner city.

Continue on next page

MINISTRY GUIDE



If you call yourself a Christian, it's impossible to wiggle yourself out of the basic idea that you need community and it needs you. Look at what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:12-15, "The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body." Christian community is merely accepting our responsibility to share a common life in Christ.

On the surface level, at Emmanuel, we define an eGroup as a Bible-centric discipleship environment navigated by a Leader supported by a Coach through four distinct actions: pray, reach, care, and empower. That's great and all, but there's so much more happening on a deeper level in the small group environment. Let's talk about three things that are going on underneath the surface of every eGroup.

Seeing Christ in Others

Howard Macy, the author of *Rhythms of the Inner Life*, says, "One of the most important ways the community helps us is by embodying Christ's continuing presence on earth. When my brothers and sisters love and accept me, I feel Christ's love, too. When I confess my sin and they forgive me, I know that God forgives me, too. When they pray for my brokenness, I know that they are sharing in the healing work of Jesus." Often our most significant relationships are conduits to help us through different seasons. Because God exists outside of time, space, and matter, the most tangible representation on Him other than the Scriptures is through the example of others living their lives in pursuit of Jesus. I get amped when I see Christians giving their all for Jesus, and it inspires me to push harder. If not for any other reason, this truth alone moves us to take part in the lives of others.

Accountability and Guidance

Accountability is like rain. Everyone knows it's good for you, but nobody wants to get wet. Humans have this internal propensity to rebel against God's goodness. Romans 3:23 says, "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." At the risk of sounding a bit judgy, if we're all being honest, we've done things that we'd never excuse or defend. It's because we know we've done wrong. It's a terrible feeling. Let's flip this around. How wonderful would it be if you could talk about your shortcomings with people that won't judge or condemn? What if after hearing you out, they give you the wisdom you need to help you the next time you're in the middle of a problem. We can't always see the way out of our issues. Our trials can become an opportunity for others to step into our path and help us navigate.

Everyone Gets to Participate

In 1 Corinthians 14:26, Paul instructs the house churches of Corinth, "Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you." Notice how everyone receives an opportunity to participate with the final goal to strengthen all? Healthy eGroups create communities where everyone is needed. Where everyone's gift is useful. Where everyone gets to practice. That doesn't always happen in a Sunday worship service.

eGroups are an opportunity for our big church to be broken down into small, more intimate groups of believers to share a Christ-centric life. We don't need to fear community but welcome it. The risk of joining an eGroup will never go beyond what it has already taken to be a follower of Jesus.

Written by:
Scott Marble

Spiritual Formation

Formally known as Adult Education



What is truth?

Spiritual formation and why knowledge of God matters in a post-truth culture.

Written by:
Nicole Marble

“Let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me” Jeremiah 9:24.

Post-truth has become a recent term used to explain the current spiritual atmosphere in North America. Post-truth is defined to be when truth exists objectively, but our subjective feelings and opinion matter more. This shift from facts to feelings determining truth has most greatly impacted and confused today’s young people. Barna, a Christian research organization, concludes: “For many teens, truth seems relative at best and, at worst, unknowable.”

As the church body, we must choose how we will respond to this truth crisis. We can be discouraged, or, we can equip ourselves with a knowledge of God that significantly impacts the culture in which we live. We have an urgent responsibility to demonstrate to the up-and-coming generation that our faith is rational, understandable, and transformational.

This is where the Spiritual Formation ministry fits in.

This year, our ministry will be team-led. Our goal is to equip the church to know and encounter God through Bible-based learning. We hope to innovatively provide resources that will grow and challenge your understanding of our faith.

2 Corinthians 10:5 states, “We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ.” In order to interact with arguments against God, we must take the time to discover what they are. We desire to proactively engage questions that may arise about our faith as a way to instill confidence in the hope we have through Christ. According to the Apostle Paul, preparing in this way is practical spiritual warfare.

Raising intellectualism above a personal relationship with Jesus is not our goal. We aim to foster community and accountability for loving our Father holistically with our minds as well as our hearts in a way that leads to sincere worship. When we know Him more, we can’t help but love Him more.

Sean McDowell and J. Warner Wallace in their book “So The Next Generation Shall Know” give this sobering call to action: “We should expect the objections from young people to be far more articulate and well researched. Our responses must meet the challenge offered by internet skeptics, and we must start training our youth earlier than ever before.” As adults in the church, we have a biblical mandate to serve as mentors and examples to the next generation. Adult Education hopes to help in equipping you for this opportunity!



Mens Ministry

Picture a boat. A rusted, prone to sinking, barely meets safety regulations boat. And you have been given the task of fixing it. What is your first step? Grab duct tape and cover the holes and deem it ‘good enough?’ Not likely. You would study the damage, talk to experts, get the proper tools, and then fix it. To get the job done, you need the right equipment, a workplace, and a few people who know what they are talking about.

While the boat is hypothetical, the needing to be properly equipped to do a task is real. That is the goal of men’s ministry: to equip men in their relationship with God through teaching, discipleship, and sending them out into their own environments. This is done through our various ministries such as moMENTum, Thrive, and LifeGroups.

But why does men’s ministry matter? Does it truly make a difference? Let’s look at the life of Jesus. Before he officially begins his ministry, what does he do? In Matthew 4:19, we see Jesus calling out Simon Peter and Andrew, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” From that point on, Jesus surrounds himself with disciples. He intentionally built relationships with them, engaged their minds and their hearts, and prepared them for a time when he would not be physically present on the earth. During that time, the disciples were equipped, were discipled, and grew in their faith.

We recognize that, as with repairing a boat, living a dedicated Christian life can be a challenge. Especially if you do not know what step you have to take. If you are in that place where you are not sure what the next step might be, here are a few suggestions:

Come to moMENTum

This is a chill event to connect with others, and a

fantastic way to meet others from Emmanuel. Come by yourself, bring a friend, or invite someone new. This is our kickoff event for the year, and an excellent way to plug into life at Emmanuel.

Attend Thrive

Coming this fall, ‘Thrive’ is an event dedicated to seeing men grow deeper in their relationship with God through a day-long event. Throughout the day, our speaker will lead us through two sessions focused on discipleship. When you are not participating in a session, there will be six workshops available to attend which will cover various topics, such as ‘How to Share Your Faith’. You can choose up to three to listen in on. The entire event is hosted here at Emmanuel.

Join an eGroup

If you have not already, we strongly encourage you to join an eGroup. This is the step to take if you are wanting to invest in a group of men who are like-minded in seeing God lead their lives, transforming them into men who love and live as Jesus did. Reflecting our goal of faith impacting our lives, these evenings will be designed to connect with your interests, while exploring how biblical truth influences who we are. Come and experience a community that is devoted to seeing the kingdom of God impact and shape the lives of people in our neighbourhoods and beyond.

Whether you are new to Emmanuel or have been attending here for a long time, we encourage you to come to these events. We hope to see you there as we continue to build community, grow through discipleship, and equip ourselves to go out and share the news of Christ.

Womens Ministry



There are exciting things happening in women's ministry over this next year! We will continue to enjoy the Oasis evenings which are always inspiring and a great time to gather women and get to know new faces. Oasis is an event where we as women come together in a large group format to hear real life stories from the women of Emmanuel. We also enjoy food and fellowship around tables as we visit and sing together. It's a place for the women to hear more about next steps they can take in getting involved in the life of the church. We always have a great turn out and would love for you to invite a friend and come join us!

Attend Oasis & Flourish

Coming alongside Oasis, and new to us this year, we are planning Flourish Women's Gatherings. These, single day, conference style gatherings will be a time for women from our community to hear a speaker, worship together, attend workshops, eat great food and most importantly, learn how we can practically be the hands and feet of Jesus. We are His disciples in our homes, neighbourhoods, community and world.

eGroups

We are also excited for the start of women's specific eGroups, starting in fall. We have women who are ready to lead our groups that will be happening at different times and days of the week. They will cover a number of different topics. One of them will focus on encouraging new believers to dig deeper in their new faith. There will be a group that will focus on the devastation and sadness and offering hope to women who have experienced loss and find themselves single, either after separation, divorce or death of a spouse. We have a group that focuses on the betrayal of a spouse with sexual addiction and offers practical help to heal the wounds caused by this. We have many more eGroups that offer an opportunity to dig deeper in God's word and we would love to have you join us this fall!

Mom's Group

We are thrilled to also be offering a program specific to moms of young children this fall. At Emmanuel, we realize how important this is and are looking forward to offering a quality program to come alongside the joys and hardships this season of life brings.

Our Mission

The ultimate goal of the women's ministry team is to provide consistent themes and teaching through all events over the course of the next year, including multiple opportunities for you to get involved, with the goal to unify and strengthen women at Emmanuel so they can effectively live gracious, intentional and generous lives.

Written by:

Natasha Friesen

CARE MINISTRY

2ND CHAPTER | 23-24

GRIEFSHARE | 25-26

CARING CONNECTIONS | 27

STEPHEN MINISTRY | 28





2nd Chapter

It's a Friday evening supper hour as you step into the Hub. There's a buzz of conversations and laughter. Someone waves you over to their table. What's happening? It's another 2nd Chapter potluck, Emmanuel's bi-monthly social event, connecting those 55 and over.

For many, this low-key social setting has been an ideal and simple way to move beyond Sunday mornings. Acquaintances made through 2nd Chapter have become friends as casual conversation surfaces common ground of life-experience and interests. This has opened doors to other meaningful relationships, whether by an invitation to join your new friend's LifeGroup or participate with them on a ministry team.

Others have found this fun evening to be an enlightening introduction to Emmanuel. Having positively experienced some of the people and atmosphere of our church, guests you've invited have ventured to join you for a worship service. Soon these friends from work or from your neighbourhood find themselves taking next steps in their personal spiritual journey. 2nd Chapter can be your partner in reaching out to your community.

Keep your ears open for the next 2nd Chapter, typically the last Friday, every second month. Bring a dish for the potluck (awesome desserts), invite some friends, and prepare to enjoy an evening of conversation, entertainment (often music, other times a showcase of local interests), and inspiration.

" TWO COUPLES GAVE THEIR TESTIMONIES ONE EVENING, THEY HAD BOTH RECEIVED A CLEAR CALL TO SALVATION FROM GOD AND I THINK THAT WAS INSPIRING TO HEAR BECAUSE IT IS A REMINDER OF HOW GREAT GOD IS AND HOW MUSH HE CARES ABOUT EACH INDIVIDUAL."

~ LORRAINE DUECK ~



GriefShare

Do you feel alone in your grief? Like there's a moat with no drawbridge to connect with life again? Grieving is so very hard, & we at Emmanuel want to come alongside you as you grieve the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend! As others return to their normal lives after the funeral, the world goes on even though yours has come to a shocking abrupt halt!

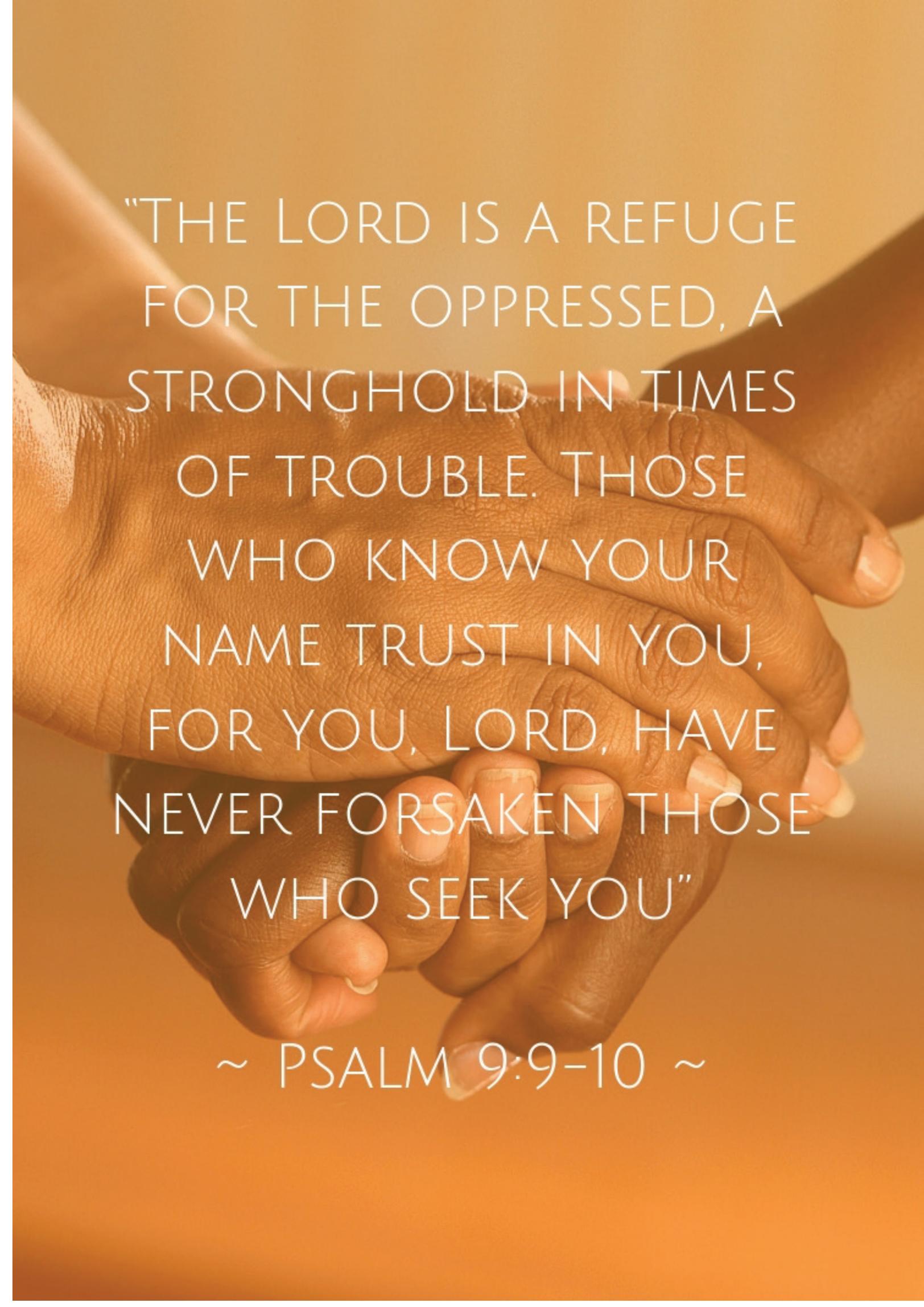
Often friends want to help you but they don't know how. That's the reason for GriefShare. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief & have successfully rebuilt their lives. As you attend you will find us a safe haven, where each grief journey is unique but this welcoming group will offer you helpful tools and information as you navigate through your grief journey. As you are ambushed by grief, there'll be many "tour guides" in your life telling you how to grieve or move forward, but here we know that everyone has their own pace to travel, don't let others push you into their time zone!

Typical Evening: Coffee's on as we meet for a video which has so much helpful information by others who've all experienced deep loss. There's a video each week, & afterwards we are in our table groups discussing (in confidentiality) what we've heard & also open to sharing your thoughts as much or as little as you'd like. You will come to see your group as an "oasis" on

your long journey through grief. Lastly you'll get a workbook that you can work through at your pace at home.

We meet in September & February for 9 Monday evening sessions each, covering various topics of grief. Topics include...Is this Normal? Challenges of grief, The journey of Grief-part 1 & 2, Grief & your relationships, Why? Guilt & anger, Stuck in grief, Complicating factors, Lessons on Grief-parts 1&2, Heaven, & What do I live for now? These sessions are open to anyone in our community grieving the death of a loved one. You will find hope & healing as you find it is possible to move beyond being consumed by grief. Grief is the price you pay for loving someone! Its okay to grieve, Don't apologize for tears. It is our prayer that as you do the difficult grief work, you'll be comforted by the God of all comfort, who promises to be near the broken hearted. Not processing your grief is not healthy as it's like a pressure cooker that'll blow under all that pressure. You'll find out that you are not alone in your pain. This group is the best thing I ever did for myself. It provides a safety net when our world is literally falling apart. Praying for you & that you'll have the courage to come join us & your perspective will be clearer as you pull through an experience that's above & beyond our ability of handling.

Written by:
Karen Bergen



"THE LORD IS A REFUGE
FOR THE OPPRESSED, A
STRONGHOLD IN TIMES
OF TROUBLE. THOSE
WHO KNOW YOUR
NAME TRUST IN YOU,
FOR YOU, LORD, HAVE
NEVER FORSAKEN THOSE
WHO SEEK YOU"

~ PSALM 9:9-10 ~

Need a hand?

Written by:

Dave Dickey

Some changes sneak up on us subtly, over years. Others intrude suddenly overnight. Some changes we navigate on our own without huge effort; others seem to bowl us over ... unless we have the understanding support of others. In the later season of life a person can feel more vulnerable when changes accelerate at the very time energy and ability are reducing. We wonder, “If I’m out of sight, will I also fade out of mind?” as our level of engagement with our church family shrinks.

To help counteract this natural tendency, Emmanuel has initiated Caring Connections.

Simply put, Caring Connections links members of Emmanuel over the age of 70 with one of our visiting team. On a mutually arranged and regular basis individuals or couples keep in touch, whether by phone or in person, at home or on an outing. Some are in touch monthly, others quarterly. The conversations range from what’s happening in each other’s lives personally, to wondering what God is up to, to updates on what’s happening around church. Caring Connections visitors may facilitate connecting a senior with other resources in church and community. They may assist with broadening personal connections with others in the church. Awareness aids belonging!

Caring Connections seeks to facilitate connections in the other direction too, alerting church staff and leaders to the needs, challenges, concerns and suggestions of Emmanuel’s seniors.

Some of our visitors visit as many as 5 to 7 people a month; others focus with 2 or 3. They choose how involved they want to be.

Whether you wish to join the team or you or a family member wish to benefit from this ministry, either way, please call the church office to be put in touch with our Caring Connection team or email caring.connection@eefc.ca.

Caring Connections



Stephen Ministry



Is life more than you can handle alone right now? Is your health, your attitude, or a relationship suffering? Are you adjusting to a job loss or new job, change in marital status, a serious illness, the death of a loved one, a recent move? Would you like to have someone in your life who really cares?

Everyone goes through difficult times at some point. It can make all the difference having a living expression of God's presence with you ... someone to care, to listen, to share God's love with you. Strengthened by a trusted person's support, people find their way through the confusion, stress, or loneliness they are experiencing.

Emmanuel's Stephen Ministers provide that kind of one-on-one support for our congregation and a number of community members facing a life-crisis where support and spiritual care is needed. Each has walked their own journey and experienced God's help first-hand for their own challenges. In addition, their 50 hours of training equips these care-givers with insights and practical skills to more effectively support hurting people.

A Stephen Minister is NOT a counselor or therapist, a problem-solver, or a casual visitor.

A Stephen Minister IS a child of God who walks beside a hurting person with strict confidentiality; a lay person who has received 50 hours of training in how to provide one-on-one Christ-centered care.

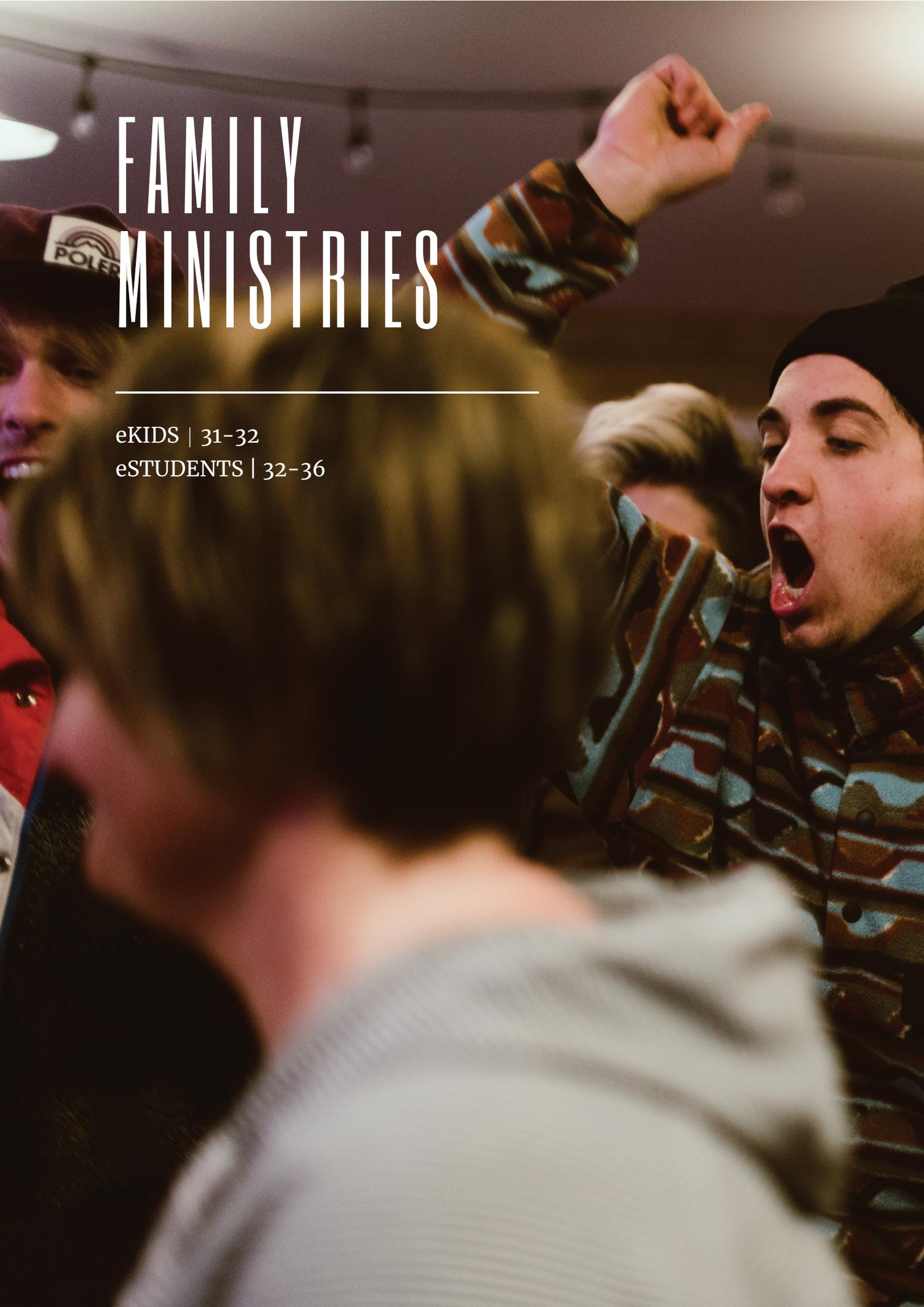
Each Stephen Minister is matched with a hurting person – men paired with men, women with women – and meets weekly for an hour with that person to listen, care, pray and encourage. This is distinctively Christian care.

Former Team Leader, Tom Peters, expressed his confidence in the ministry this way:

“One of the reasons I was involved in Stephen Ministry here at Emmanuel is seeing how Stephen Ministry brings out the wanted qualities in caregivers so that people receiving care get the very best in support during times of transition, loss or unexpected circumstances catching them off guard. Further, Stephen Ministry puts people on a safe track whether giving or receiving care. Safe because it is intentional, structured and supervised. This way, care is planned for through training, well executed through a program, and effective for growth for everyone through a continuing supervision process.”

E-mail stephen.ministry@eefc.ca if you are interested in becoming a Stephen Leader, if you need to speak with a Stephen Leader, or if you would like to refer someone (with their permission) to receive care from a Stephen Leader. The leader you contact will answer further questions and put you or your friend in touch with the right Stephen Minister.

Written by:
Dave Dickey

A photograph of a group of young people at what appears to be a church event. In the foreground, a young man with a black beanie and a patterned jacket is shouting with his mouth wide open and his right fist raised. To his left, another young man is partially visible, wearing a red jacket and a brown beanie with a "POLER" logo. The background is filled with other people, mostly out of focus, suggesting a large gathering. The lighting is warm and indoor.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

eKIDS | 31-32

eSTUDENTS | 32-36



eKids

Gotta Love ‘Em

Written by:
Rob Reimer

We do love you guys! We really do! But more importantly Jesus loves you!

In school and the rest of your life you are learning a whole heap of important information that you will need to know to get a job, learn to drive, play sports, build a house, cook and so on. Then as you get older you can teach it all over again to your own kids. But the most important thing you will ever learn or teach to anyone is that Jesus loves you!

The main thing we want to teach in Kidz Printz and Awana is that exactly that, Jesus loves you! The small group leaders in your departments don't get paid for teaching – at least not by me. They are teaching about Jesus because they love Him, and they love you and they also love to tell you about just that.

In children's ministry we know that God wants you to enjoy learning about Him. We want you to be involved in your learning as you do activities. We want you to make friends that also know Jesus and we want you to understand how much your teacher cares about you. God designed us to be with people that love Him so we can learn from each other how to love Him better.

In eKids we go through the whole Bible in one year starting with when God made the world

and ending with when God takes us all to heaven. Each year we look at different Bible stories to see where Jesus fits into the whole Bible. There is only one person that is the hero in every story of the Bible and that one person is God Himself. It's pretty cool actually because in Kidz Printz we also learn how we fit into and how important we are in God's Big Story.

In Awana we have three parts in our one and a half hours together. These are large group, handbook time and game time. The large group time is where you will hear about Jesus and the Bible. During the handbook small group time you will be with your small group leader and friends, going through your handbook, memorizing verses, and studying the Bible. I know the word study makes it sound too much like school, but it really is a fun time as together you learn about all the neat stuff the Bible has to teach you. Then there is game time. This is a fun time of active games that usually takes place in the gym.

Also included in Awana are many dress up theme nights throughout the year, a Grand Prix car race, a fair day and a number of opportunities for parents to be involved in the program.

So now you know what we do to help you understand that Jesus loves you. Come check us out.





eKIDS | AGES 3 - 5



eKIDS | GRADES 1 - 6



AWANA | AGES 3 - GRADE

MINISTRY GUIDE



eSTUDENTS

Owning Our Faith

Being a teenager isn't always easy, amidst the pressures of social media, the anxieties of school, work, extracurriculars, and just trying to figure out who you are and what you're made for. You are not alone. Here at eStudents, our goal is to help you navigate these tough questions and situations in life, by welcoming you into a community that studies the Bible together, serves together, and encourages one another.

We desire everyone to have a personally owned and active faith. A faith that isn't your parents, your friends, or your siblings. A faith that is yours, that you've intentionally decided you've wanted to have and want to grow in. Whether you're exploring questions and doubts about faith, or wanting to take intentional actions to help grow and develop your relationship with Jesus, we want to journey with you!

Each student has the opportunity to participate in LifeGroups with their peers led by adults who want to walk with them and encourage them in life and in their faith. eGroups also offers the chance to build lifegiving community with friends and connect with new friends.

Jr High

You can expect to step into an energetic and fun atmosphere for our Junior High nights on Mondays. Between running around playing games, worship, teaching from the Bible and meeting with LifeGroups, there is much to be excited for! Each evening, eGroups have the oppor-

tunity to meet and discuss what they're learning and be encouraged by one another and pray for one another. And don't forget about the delicious snacks prepared by our wonderful parent volunteers!

Sr High

As life gets busy in high school with work, sports, music, drama, our Thursday night gatherings are a time to be encouraged by our eGroups and focus on who God created us to be through worship, Bible teaching, and community. As we get into real life, there is much laughter and occasionally tears.

We believe that knowing and understanding what we read in the Bible is important and influences the way we live our lives. We offer Bible Study after school on Tuesdays to study the Bible in community. This is an opportunity to gain resources and knowledge about how to study the Bible for yourself and apply it to your life.

Young Adults

Whether you have just graduated high school, are working, or are attending university, you are welcome at our Young Adults group. This community meets on Tuesday evenings to connect with each other for Bible Studies, events, and food! Here on Sunday mornings? Meet in the board room for conversations about the Bible.

**Written by:
Jori Dueck**





MINISTRY GUIDE





WORSHIP MINISTRIES

MUSIC | 39-40

FINANCE | 41-42

PREACHING | 43-44

Music



Let Your Voice Be Heard

Psalm 100:1-4 reads: “Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all the lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing. Know that the Lord, he is God; it is he who has made us, and not we ourselves.”

These short simple verses describe singing to the Lord in a worship state of mind. Worship Arts Ministries plays an essential role in the church and the regular Sunday services.

A Day in The Life of a Worship Arts Team

The role of worship Arts ministries aims to advance the kingdom of God by leading our church family in worshiping God through music and the arts. On or off the stage on a Sunday morning, behind a computer during the week in the office or during Saturday morning rehearsals, Emmanuel’s worship arts ministries are always keeping busy. Each day may look slightly different but regularly contains scheduling for Sunday services, selecting songs based on the theme of the upcoming service, communicating with the upcoming team to plan rehearsals and preparing song sheets.

The responsibilities of a worship arts ministries volunteer is to help lead our church family in the praise and worship of God through music and other creative arts.

Surrendering Through Worship

Worshipping God can take many different artistic forms. Here at Emmanuel we celebrate this diversity by including a variety of artistic expressions in our services. As we worship we surrender our minds, bodies and souls to God. As Christ’s people Romans 12:1 tells us “...to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

Raise a Hallelujah

By participating in worship arts ministries here at Emmanuel, you will experience community with others in fulfilling that calling. In community, you will have opportunities to share your joys, struggles and prayer requests with each other. This sense of belonging will demonstrate how “church” can truly be the family of God.

We are always seeking singers, musicians, dancers and other artists who love Jesus to join

our worship arts ministries. Being on a worship team will allow you to grow in the talents God has given you. Your skills will definitely be improved. We strive for excellence on and off the stage we recognize that we owe Christ our very best, challenging ourselves to create the best worship environment for our congregation, always working to take our eyes off ourselves and focus on Jesus.

Jessica’s Story

“This past March, at The Great Hallelujah concert. While attending the concert God presented himself to me, nudging me to ask about the next mission trip to Germany in May of 2019. I knew that God was leading me to go on my second missions’ trip with Emmanuel. Through conversation, meetings and prayer, God made it clear to me that He was taking me to Germany to spread the gospel through worship concerts with the team. Throughout this journey, I was taken back to Psalm 81:5b-7 which says: “I heard an unknown voice say, “now I will take the load from your shoulders; I will free your hands from their tasks.” God is clearly at work within the worship ministries here at Emmanuel and is moving people through events like The Great Hallelujah. Also, As a worship team member, and simply participating in music worship in the congregation, I have been spoken to, touched and moved by the Holy Spirit at very different times throughout services and rehearsals.” - Jessica Nye, 2019.

Going Forward

As Christians, we are called to explore God’s heart and his passions. Hebrews 12:28-29 expresses: “since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.” While we worship, we enter into a time of solidarity with Christ and we come to Him with open hearts and open arms. We are able to express emotions, thankfulness and joy by offering ourselves in worship.

1 Chronicles 16 :29b-30a reads: “Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness. Tremble before him, all the earth.”

This verse reveals that worship is an essential part of our relationship with Christ. We are called to unite together before Him in worship.

Finance



Talking about money is the worst, isn't it?

Written by:
Brenda Wolf

"GIVING IS A REFLECTION OF
OUR PRIORITIES, TRUST, AND
PURPOSE AS FOLLOWERS OF
JESUS CHRIST."
~ KAELYN NICKEL ~

Consider your last family gathering when Uncle Bill brought up money. Or when you and your spouse tried to go through the family budget. Or when you had to scour the couch cushions for change to pay your tuition. Talking about money with family is a great way to have the rest of the family reunion be awkward and uncomfortable.

Funny thing is, we sort of have the same feeling at church. We love each other so we don't want to talk about it. We want to brush it aside to avoid offending our brothers and sisters sitting next to us in the pews. Could you imagine what Jesus would say about this way of thinking.

Jesus spoke often and strongly about what to do with our money. Matthew 6:21 tells us, "For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also." Those are strong but very clear words. Check out your bank statement – that will show what is important to you. Jesus was spot on about this. Jesus wanted us to consider: does our money lead us towards God or away? There is no in between.

Think about this. For those of you who grew up in (or outside) the church, we have all sat through a sermon that made you feel bad for not giving or not giving enough. I want to apologize for that. Why? Because that is not the intent of giving. Yes, we need to keep the lights on and pay the bills. But, do you want to know something strange? God doesn't need your money. Think about it – this is the God that fed thousands with just a little bit of bread and fish. He really doesn't need your money.

God doesn't want something FROM you, he wants something FOR you. To see that your money can be put to great use in His church. To change not only the church, the community, the

world, but also to change you. To change your heart to be able to confidently say, "God, I trust you with my whole life – including my finances." And, to do so with gladness and joy. Check out the words of the Apostle Paul:

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully[a] will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

God wants you to give sacrificially, that's it! You may only have \$10 to give, for others \$100 and others \$10,000 – to God (and to the church), it doesn't matter. He wants you to give in a way that shows you trust Him and His plans for your life. What does that look like for you?

At Emmanuel, we make this commitment to you: to handle our costs, expenses and financial stewardship in a way that honours God. We want to continue to earn your trust as you choose to invest in what God is doing at, and through, Emmanuel.

There are so many ways to give. All of which can be found at eefc.ca/give – but we would love it if you would consider one of two things. First, if you are not giving – take that step today. We would love to have you give even a few dollars a week to see what God does in you and through you. Second, if you are already giving – we challenge you take it to new level that recognizes a sacrifice for you and your family?

At Emmanuel, we need you on this journey. But, far above and beyond our mission, God needs you – yes, YOU – to join Him on his mission to change hearts, minds and souls for Jesus!

MINISTRY GUIDE



Preaching

We Still Believe In Preaching The Bible

Written by:

Terry Kaufman

Gathering together on a Sunday morning to worship and sit under the preaching of God's Word follows a pattern exemplified for us in the New Testament. In Acts 20:7 it recounts how the early church did exactly that — gathering on the first day of the week to worship and hear Paul preach. On that Sunday we are told Paul preached until midnight. Don't worry, we don't follow the "midnight" part of the example any more. But we do believe that gathering together for corporate worship and teaching is an important part of the life of the church and the life of all Christians. Sunday is the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and it is also the day most available for people to meet together.

At Emmanuel, part of our historic DNA has been to prioritize that corporate teaching of the Word through carefully studied preaching based on the text of the Bible — what we call exegetical preaching. That means we work hard to understand what the text is saying and make that our primary focus. To do so we most often carefully work our way through one book of the Bible at a time, for those books were recorded as carefully designed unified books, not to be used by picking and choosing bit and pieces only. Occasionally, we will use a variety of scriptures to address a topic or series of topics, but even then we are careful to be sure we understand the context of each passage we use.

As a church family we welcome "families" into that preaching time. That means that children are welcome in our services, though we have

alternate options for pre-school age children. We try to include something in our sermons for all ages to engage with. We also invite people to bring their own bibles and to take notes, because the sermon is provided as a primer to help direct people in their own study of the Word and it should not entirely replace private study. In fact, sermons make great topics for further discussion in LifeGroups.

Most of our sermons are about thirty five minutes long, and they may be preached by one of several of our pastoral or volunteer staff. Sermons are also available online at eefc.ca to view at convenient times for those who can't join us live on any given Sunday.

We truly believe it is important for the church body to collectively sit under shared teaching and experience learning together as the family God has woven us into. Our faith, while personal, is never intended to be private, and our learning must always be a joint endeavor of our own study and the solid corporate teaching of the Word.

Some people think preaching and sermons are old-fashioned, ineffective, and irrelevant. We don't believe that should be true, so we work very hard to keep the preaching of the Word both vital (connected to your life) and sound (connected to God's Word.) We believe God inhabits the proclamation of His Word, and we invite you to join us and discover the timeless truths of the Bible along with us.

AMENITIES



Something's Brewing Cafe

"SOMETHING'S BREWING IS A PLACE WHERE COMMUNITY HAPPENS – BOTH BETWEEN THE VOLUNTEERS AND AMONG THE PEOPLE WHO GATHER THERE. I HAVE SEEN NEW FACES AND HAVE HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH PEOPLE I PROBABLY NEVER WOULD HAVE SPOKEN TO OTHERWISE. THE CAFE BRINGS TOGETHER PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND WALKS OF LIFE TO ENJOY A WELCOMING AND UPBEAT ATMOSPHERE."

~CORRIE LEHMANN~



Library

“I HAVE BEEN BLESSED BY OUR CHURCH LIBRARY SO OFTEN OVER THE YEARS. IT HAS SAFE AND EDUCATIONAL READING MATERIAL FOR MY CHILDREN AND INSPIRING BOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES TO ENCOURAGE ME IN MY WALK WITH JESUS.”
~ CINDI KROEKER ~



EVENTS CALENDAR

Disclaimer

Visit eefc.ca/events to verify dates and to see times and location of all events as they are subject to change.

September

- 08 | Ministry Kick Off
- 09 | First Junior High event
- 12 | First Senior High Event
- 18 | First Awana night
- 19 | GriefShare
(Runs every Monday)
- 28 | Flourish Womens Gathering
- 30 | Monday Night moMENTum

October

- 04 | 2nd Chapter
- 13 | Thanksgiving weekend

November

- 03 | Daylight Savings Ends
- 05 | Oasis
- 23 | Thrive Mens Gathering
- 25 | Last GriefShare
- 29 | 2nd Chapter

December

- 01 | First Sunday of Advent
- 01 | Congregational Meeting
- 08 | eKids Christmas Program
- 24 | Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

January

- 3-5 | Senior High Winter Retreat
- 24-26 | Mens Retreat
- 31 | 2nd Chapter

February

- 04 | Oasis
- 14-16 | YouthQuake
- 17 | GriefShare Starts
(Runs every Monday)

March

- 07 | Flourish Womens Gathering
- 21 | Thrive Mens Gathering
- 27 | 2nd Chapter
- 30-1 | Grade 8 Serving Retreat

April

- 05 | eKids Easter Program
- 10 | Good Friday Services
- 12 | Easter Sunday
- 20 | Last GriefShare

May

- 03 | Congregational Meeting
- 04 | Spiritual Formations May Sessions
(Every Wednesday in May)
- 10 | Mothers Day
- 29 | 2nd Chapter

June

- 21 | Fathers Day

More Info?

Serving Opportunities

Volunteering is an important way to give back to God and to serve the church and community that you are a part of. There are so many different areas that need volunteers here at Emmanuel. All of the areas that you've seen in this magazine need people to help them run, you can find details on all of those areas at eefc.ca/serve. If you have a special gift, talent, or skill that is not on that list please let us know and we would love to find ways to get you involved.

Contact Us

Email | info@eefc.ca

Phone | 204-326-9865

Office Hours | Monday-Thursday 8:30-4

