



followers of Jesus seeking to glorify God

2114-18 Street, Coaldale, Alberta T1M 1G2 phone: (403) 345-3636 fax (403) 345-3638
email: office@coaldalembchurch.com web: www.coaldalembchurch.com

Hello CMBC family,

Our world and our lives are somewhat different but our God never changes. Does it amaze you like it amazes me, that Almighty God is also our Good Shepherd, friend, guide, source, rock, peace, hope, joy and Life? And this is a short list! What a mighty God we serve!

I am finding this season of pandemic, restrictions, cancelations and uncertainty to be an opportunity more than an obstacle in life.

Yes there is grief and we need to face this in healthy ways. Our lives are different and we are left responding to or current reality and have lost the way things were. Please be aware of your own emotional state as well as how those around you are feeling. Together we can grieve well.

There is also huge opportunity in this season. We want to help you individually and as families make the most of this opportunity. This is a time for families to find ways to worship together, to build lasting memories and bonds, and to impact our world in ways we could not have without this crisis. Again, let's do this together. We need each other. We are the body of Christ. Our neighbors needs Christ through us. If you know of needs don't feel like you have to meet them by yourself. Call us. Several people in our congregation are willing and able to serve.

In an attempt to connect more personally we have purchased Zoom. This is a video platform so we can 'meet' together face to face via the internet to relate, encourage, learn, pray and more. When we have things set up you will receive an invitation to a:

- Wednesday night (8:00) Guided Prayer Time. We are doing this as MB pastors in Alberta and it is very good,
- Sunday morning (9:30) Devotional and Discussion. We have been wanting to be more interactive and this is an opportunity. We will discuss the devotional and passages sent out earlier in the week.
- if you are youth aged, Thursday evening Bible study, see parent letter

We are also initiating a closed Facebook group where we can share what's working and what's not through this season of social distancing.

Remember 1 Peter 2:9-12,

"you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."

Together, let's step into the opportunities and make the most of the time we have.

Pastor Gary



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Hello again from all the Leadership Board at Coaldale Mennonite Brethren Church. We pray that you are experiencing physical, emotional and spiritual health....

Your leadership board met last night to discuss our current situation, and what is necessary and helpful as we move forward. Thank you for your prayer and support. Input and feedback are always welcome.

We met via Zoom, a platform which enables face to face meetings with multiple participants. Zoom is similar to Skype, but does not require a prior download of the software onto one's computer, i-pad, tablet or phone, which makes it easier to use. We will experiment with using Zoom for congregational conversations. It can also be used for small groups. Watch for an upcoming email about this.

We also discussed other ways to connect with each other. Hannah will be creating a private Facebook group to enable us to share how we are doing, ask for help, provide support, etc. In the meantime, and even then, please be make a point to telephone (yes, as in talking over the phone) several people in our congregation and community who may have limited social contact each week. Perhaps this time can help us develop new and positive connections with each other and in our community.

As you know, Daron will be leaving his position as Youth Pastor in the near future. Based on the feedback received at several recent congregational meetings, we have prepared a draft position description for our future Associate Pastor. It is attached. **Please read through, consider, and provide your feedback to any one of us on our leadership board.**

We are also seeking to assemble a **search committee** for our incoming Associate Pastor. The leadership board will make the final decision about who will be on this committee and again, your input will be appreciated. Please consider if you might serve in this capacity, and let us know.

On a financial note: our Treasurers and Finance Committee members are confident that Coaldale MB will manage financially through this period of time, with your support, of course. You may give via:

- dropping off cash or post-dated cheques at the church office (or ask James or Darcy to pick these up from you)
- automatic withdrawal, and
- e-tsf to finance@coaldalembchurch.com.

For further information about any of these options, please contact James Reimer or Darcy Siebert.

We have tentatively set Sunday May 24 for our congregational meeting. At this point we hope but can't count on it being face to face. In the meantime, please send reports to Hannah at the church office.

Trusting that you are encountering and finding ways to share God's grace...

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Dear Church Family,

I pray and hope you are all doing well during this difficult time and that you are finding peace and comfort in God's word. David says in Psalms 94:19, "When anxiety was great within me Your consolation brought me joy".

As our church rep for the Coaldale Food Bank, I have an update and a request. After our last community wide food drive our shelves were stocked well, actually to overflowing. However, this has suddenly changed drastically largely because of the pandemic and the economic effects it is having on our people and their families. So at this time as a food bank board we are not in panic mode but are concerned that the needs will become greater as people are off work for an unknown amount of time and some are being laid off. We do have some cash reserves but they can be used up very quickly and we want to be as prepared as we can to meet as many needs as we can.

I believe this is one way we as a church can reach out to our community and meet some needs during this crisis. So in addition to praying for our community, I am asking you to give in two possible ways if you are able. One way is to donate food: canned goods or dry goods such as cereals, pasta, rice, jello, etc. These groceries can be dropped off at our church at the south entry, then we will deliver them to the food bank once a week as we are limiting foot traffic into the food bank to only one person at a time.

The other way to give is with money and this way is very effective, as the food bank has certain bulk outlets that they can buy product for a discounted rate. This way your dollar can go a lot further. If you are able to give financially, we feel the best way is through our church. You can give through our online system if you are set up or you can drop cash or checks off at the church office indicating these funds are for the food bank. You will be receipted for income tax purposes from our church.

Thanks so much to all of you for considering how you can help during this uncertain time!!!

Tim Wiens