

November - December 2019



Welcome! It is great to have you with us!

We care deeply for people and want to see them give their lives to Christ, and grow in their love and devotion to Him! Please join us after the service for coffee and fellowship. Do you have children? They are welcome to join us in the Nursery (0-4) or Kid Zone (JK-Gr6). Ask us to direct you.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Prayer | 9:30 am | C.J. Feaver Room
Adult Class | 9:30 am | Fellowship Hall
Worship | 10:30 am | Sanctuary
Kids' Classes | 10:30 am | Sanctuary

PRAYER

Sunday | 9:30 am | C.J. Feaver Room
Sunday | 6:00 pm | C.J. Feaver Room
Wednesday | 7:00 pm | Library

SMALL GROUPS/BIBLE STUDIES

Small groups are an important part of how we grow in Christ and with each other here at Forward. A variety of groups meet on different days and at different locations. For details, talk to Pastor Steve.

YOUNG ADULTS

Monday | 7:00 pm | College +

ABOVE THE BEACH

Drop in playgroup for caregivers and kids 5 and under
Tuesday | 9:30-11:30 am

YOUTH PROGRAM

Wednesday | 7:00 pm | Gr. 6-12

FOOD BANK

9:30 am | 2nd Wednesday of the month

55+ MINISTRY

11:30 am | One Friday each month

Parents! Nursery (0-4)
is open throughout the
service and Kid Zone (JK-Gr6)
will be dismissed part way
through the service.

ADULT sundays
BIBLE CLASS
9:30 am

youth
GROUP
GRADES 6-12
WEDNESDAYS 7-9 PM

ACT II
A CHRISTIAN
YOUNG ADULT
GROUP

Mondays, 7-10 pm

The Young Adult Group is devoted to biblical teaching, prayer, and fellowship. The heart of ACT II is drawn from Acts 2:42 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

SONGS FOR
Sunday

Do you know the music we sing well?
Or want to help your kids learn it? Search
for Forward Baptist Church on Spotify or
YouTube to find our playlists!

november

2 SAT

Baby Shower 2 pm

3 SUN

Members' Meeting
(following the service)

8 FRI

55+ Ministry
11:30 am-1 pm

15 FRI

PA Day Camp
9 am - 4 pm

17 SUN

Singspiration
6:30 pm (offsite)

22-24 FRI-SUN

Bedlam (Youth Retreat)

24 SUN

Fellowship Meal
(following the service)

25 MON

Act II: Potluck and
Christmas Tree 7 pm

28 THU

Women's Tea
9:30 am

Women's Mission
Fellowship 12 pm

29 FRI

Jr. Youth Event
6:30-8:30 pm

december

1 SUN

Annual Budget Meeting
(following the service)

6 FRI

PA Day Camp
9 am - 4 pm

8 SUN

Carol Sing 6 pm

13 FRI

55+ Ministry
11:30 am-1 pm

14 SAT

Youth Christmas Party

17 TUE

ATB Christmas Special
9:30-11:30 am

20 FRI

Jr. Youth Event
6:30-8:30 pm

24 TUE

Christmas Eve
Service 6-7 pm

25-27 WED-FRI

Church Office Closed



Wednesdays:
7 pm

Sundays:
9:30 am &
6 pm

The Story of the Bible

Whenever you read a book, you have to take into consideration what kind of book it is. You don't read all kinds of books the same way. For instance, you don't read a cookbook in the same way you read a novel. And you don't read an encyclopedia the same way you read a book of poetry. The kind of book you are reading determines how you read it.

So what kind of book is the Bible? Is it a rule book? An encyclopedia of spiritual insights and promises? A theology textbook? A collection of unrelated stories? The kind of book it is will determine how you read it. And if you don't understand the kind of book it is, you'll read it the wrong way and miss out on what it is actually saying. For example, many people treat the Bible like an encyclopedia of spiritual insights and promises. Most people don't read an encyclopedia from cover to cover, they just look for the entry on the topic that interests them. That's how encyclopedias are meant to be read. The section on one topic isn't related to the next topic, so you don't need to keep reading once you have learned about the topic you are interested in. But the Bible isn't an encyclopedia. It's not arranged that way, so if we pick and choose verses, paragraphs, and chapters out of context, we won't really understand what we have read.

This brings us back to our question: what kind of book is the Bible? It's a tricky question because the Bible is such a unique book. It was written over the course of thousands of years by dozens of authors and editors. It uses several different genres of writing, historical narrative, parable, poetry, letter, sermon, prophecy, as well as census information, and lists of laws. Not to mention ancient genres like apocalypse that we don't use at all today. But what makes the Bible truly unique is that despite its diversity, it's a book with amazing unity. It was written by dozens of human authors and editors over thousands of years, yet it claims to have one divine author who worked in each of these humans so that their writings were the very words of God (2 Peter 1:19-21, 2 Timothy 3:16-17). And God authored the Bible to be a single cohesive story.

Let me show you what I mean when I say that the Bible is a single cohesive story. Almost every story follows the same basic structure: Introduction, Crisis, Climax, Resolution. In the Introduction, we are introduced to the world of the story, including the main character. The Crisis is a problem that disrupts the world of the story and drives the story forward as the characters try to defeat the villain or solve the mystery or meet their true love, or whatever it is. At the Climax, the problem is either dealt with and defeated or (in a tragedy) the characters are defeated by the problem. In the Resolution, the new normal for the world of the story is found and the story concludes.

The Bible follows this structure as well. The Introduction is found in Genesis 1-2. God (the main character) creates the world and it is good. He creates humans as the pinnacle of creation (they are very good) and they dwell together in harmony - God protects and loves His creation and they love and obey God. The Crisis happens in Genesis 3. A villain enters the story and disrupts the harmony between God and His creations by tempting the humans to disobey God and try to take His place. As a result humanity is corrupted by sin. Sinful humans cannot dwell together with the Holy God, but rather they deserve death for their

treason. What's more, death and sin corrupt all of creation. The Climax of the story of the Bible is found in the gospels. A man named Jesus claims that He is the Son of God and that He has come to rescue humanity from their sin. He lives a perfectly holy life and is the first human ever to live who doesn't deserve death. Yet He sacrifices Himself by dying as a criminal to pay for the sins of the world. He is then raised to life by His Father, vindicating his claims and breaking the power of sin and death that have ravaged creation since the first humans disobeyed God. The Resolution is found in Revelation 19-22. In these chapters, Jesus returns to finally defeat the ancient villain who caused the Crisis of sin. He judges those who still oppose God and gives new life to those who follow God through faith in Him. He remakes heaven and earth so that it is like it was back in Genesis 1-2, but better. And that's the end.

That's the story of the Bible. But you might be thinking, "You left an awful lot out. You only covered the first three chapters, the last four chapters, and a few details in the middle. What about the rest?" Well, in any story, the basic structure is filled out by Rising Action and Falling Action. In the Rising Action, the problem created by the crisis builds and the characters try to deal with it, leading to the climax. In the Falling Action, the fallout from the climax is unpacked as the story heads towards the resolution. The Falling Action is typically pretty short (but if you have read the Lord of the Rings, you know there are exceptions). The Rising Action in the story of the Bible is everything from Genesis 4 up until Jesus dies on the cross. In other words, the Old Testament (and the beginning of the gospels) is the Rising Action. The Falling Action in the story of the Bible is everything between the resurrection and second coming of Jesus. In other words, the bulk of the New Testament is the Falling Action.

The Rising and Falling Action of the story of the Bible unpacks God's plan to save the world. That plan is presented in stages through a series of covenants (sacred promises) that God makes. God makes covenants to Noah (Genesis 8-9), Abraham (Genesis 15 and 17), Moses (Exodus 19-31), and David (2 Samuel 7). Each covenant helps with the problem of sin in an imperfect way and prepares the way for Jesus who will deal with sin perfectly and once and for all. The Rising Action of the story of the Bible (the Old Testament) is all about how God's people lived in light of these covenants, waiting for God's plan to fully unfold, and failing a lot along the way.

God also promises one more covenant in the Old Testament, the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34). This covenant will be different than the ones before because it will deal with sin once and for all. The death and resurrection of Jesus inaugurated the promised New Covenant (Luke 22:19-20). The Falling Action of the story of the Bible (the New Testament) is all about how God's people should live in light of this New Covenant as we wait for Jesus to return and bring Resolution to the story.

And that's the story of the Bible. God's plan to save us from our sins and dwell with us again. Every part of the Bible is part of this story. So when you read the Bible, it's important to read it as a story and to know how the part you are reading fits into the whole story. If you read the Bible this way, it will still be difficult at times, but you will have a deeper understanding of who God is and what He is saying to you through His word.

-Steve Lambert
Pastor




2019 CHRISTMAS PROJECT

This year for our Christmas Project, we are making Christmas Boxes to bless community members with. The goal of this project is to re-enforce relationships we already have with people in the community and to hopefully meet new people and get to know them as well. Questions? Talk to Steve, Aaron, or Sarah.

This is a project for all of us!
Here are a few ways you can participate:

- ✦ Sign up to purchase specific items for the boxes (collection deadline: November 24)
- ✦ Be a shopper! Take care of purchasing (with funds that have been donated) items still needed Nov. 25-30.
- ✦ Organize a packing party the week of Dec 1-7.
- ✦ Connect with local businesses to see if they want to contribute to the project (talk to Aaron if you are interested in this one!)



Scripture Memory for November-December is Jeremiah 31:31-34 NIV

"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Kids' Ministry!

Our Kids' Ministry is growing! Praise God! That means some changes are taking place in order to better teach, disciple and care for our kids. The main change is that we will now have 4 separate age groups and each group will have their own classroom. This change will allow for more age-appropriate Bible lessons, activities, and fewer distractions for kids. What isn't changing? The curriculum: we will continue using the 3 year Gospel Project curriculum the kids are familiar with.

Kids in JK - Gr. 6 stay in the first part of the main worship service. We are aware that having kids in the service sometimes has its challenges for parents and the congregation, but strongly believe these temporary challenges or frustrations are worth it. Sunday mornings are a shared time of worshiping together, modeling Christ, and seeing the Church as a diverse body meeting together in unity. We will continue to equip parents and kids to participate in the Sunday worship services through song, prayer, scripture reading and learning about our missionaries. Keeping kids in the service also gives them space to be curious and ask their parents about God, church, and the gospel.

Let's remember to pray for our kids, parents, and Kids' Ministry volunteers...and let's be thankful for the diverse congregation that God has blessed us with!

Nursery (birth - age 4)

Classroom: the Nursery (in the basement).

The nursery is now open from the beginning of the service. You are welcome to bring your Nursery aged kids as early as 10:25 am or anytime during the service. If you wish to keep them with you in the service, the back of the sanctuary has plenty of room for you to rock or walk with your baby if needed. Each week, the nursery leaders care for the kids in the nursery: playing games, singing songs, and teaching them about Jesus.

JK - SK - Grade 1

Classroom: in the basement

across from the Nursery.

Parents/guardians: you must pick up your kids after the service.

Grades 2 - 3

Classroom: on the second floor in the current Kid Zone room.

Parents/guardians: you must pick up your kids after the service.



Grades 4 - 5 - 6

Classroom: on the second floor in the Jr. Hall. Parents/guardians: these kids can be dismissed after the service independently if you have given prior permission.

Winter Weekend

January 3-5 at Beacon Bible Camp

Cost? Talk to John Deinum or
18+: \$125 Aaron Woodhouse to register.
9-17: \$110 DEADLINE: November 30
3-8: \$75 (If enough registrations are not received by
0-2: free November 30, the camp will be cancelled.)



BAPTISM

The next Baptism Class is Nov. 10 and 17.
To register or for more information,
talk to Pastor Steve

annual
BUDGET MEETING
following the service bring a bag lunch DEC 1

foodbank

One of the ways we seek to serve the local community is through the Food Bank here at Forward. On the second Wednesday of each month, volunteers and community members gather for a time of sharing and conversation, snacks, and food supplies.

This is possible because of the generosity of the church community.

Could you help us by adding some extra things to your cart when you shop?

Often used items we are always in need of:

- tuna
- chunky soups
- canned stews
- instant coffee
- evaporated milk



SMALL GROUPS

at Forward Baptist Church

fellowship
safety
service
wisdom
accountability

Are you a part of a small group yet?
Small groups are an important part
of life here at Forward!
They help us to intentionally
grow together in Christ,
build community, and
learn to be a church of people
who disciple each other.

WOMEN'S GROUPS:

- Every other Wednesday, Sep. 11-Dec. 4, 7-9 pm at the church.
Contact person: Carol Bain (carol.j.bain@gmail.com) or Debbie Michaud (deborahmichaud1@gmail.com) . Join us as we study the book of Ruth and discover again the devoted love of God and His transformative power in our lives.
- Every other Thursday, 12-2 pm at the church (bring a lunch).
Contact person: Eunice Chaffey (echaffey@sympatico.ca)
- Every week, alternating between Thursday and Friday, 9:30-11:30 am.
This group meets offsite.
Contact person: Christine Woodhouse (christine.cwoodhouse@gmail.com)

MEN'S GROUPS:

- Every other Wednesday, 7:30-9 pm at the church.
Contact person: Aaron Woodhouse (aaron@forwardbaptist.com)
- Every other Thursday, 7:30-9:30 pm. This group meets offsite.
Contact person: John Deinum (jgdeinum@gmail.com)
- Every other Thursday, 1:30-3 pm at the church.
Contact person: Don Webster (aboveall3@bell.net)

MIXED GROUPS:

- The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, 7:30-9:30 pm.
This small group meets offsite.
Contact person: Steve Lambert (steve@forwardbaptist.com)
- Every Wednesday, 7-8:30 pm at the church. Bible study and prayer meeting.
Contact person: Steve Lambert (steve@forwardbaptist.com)



FALL FUN



Training day
 Sat, Feb 1
 9 am-12 pm
 Music & Tech Teams
 Host Teams

55+
 Ministry

Oct 18
 Nov 8
 Dec 13
 Jan 10
 Feb 21
 Mar 13
 Apr 17
 May 8
 Jun 12

Are you 55+? Bring a friend and join us one Friday of each month, 11:30 am-1 pm.
 A tasty soup lunch will be provided.

2019-20
jr. youth
GRADES 3-6

Sept 27
 Oct 25
 Nov 29
 Dec 20
 Jan 24
 Feb 28
 Mar 27
 Apr 24
 May 22
 June 26

Fridays 6:30-8:30pm
fun. snacks. friends.
see you there!

Kids from JK-6 | Registration open
Time: 9am-4pm | September 4 on
Cost: \$20/day | forwardbaptist.com

Oct 11 | Jan 17
 Nov 15 | Feb 14
 Dec 6 | Jun 5

PA day
kids camps

Forward Baptist Church 1891 Gerrard St E Toronto

Elders



Shawn Freer (Chairman)
shawn.freer@gmail.com



Pastor Stephen Lambert
Teaching & Discipleship
steve@forwardbaptist.com



Pastor Aaron Woodhouse
Community Engagement
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Brian Taylor
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Ministry Staff



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Deacons



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David Nunn
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E-TRANSFERS:

Send donations to
donation@forwardbaptist.com
and payments (i.e. event/camp fees)
payment@forwardbaptist.com

Please include a comment
with the transfer indicating
what it is for.

Glorify God.
Grow in Christ
Go with the Gospel.

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FORW>RD
BAPTIST CHURCH



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Notes:

