



**The purpose of Bethany Baptist Church is to bring glory to God by making disciples who reflect the character and priorities of Jesus Christ.**

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

- 9:00 AM Sunday School
  - 10:30 AM Worship Service & Children’s Church during sermon
  - 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting
- Nursery is available in the supervised room downstairs or the unsupervised room in the back of the sanctuary with audio

SERMON

**Scripture: 1 Cor 5:6-13**

**Speaker: Pastor Peter**

Purity and Judgment in the Church (Part 1)

OUR ELDER SHEPHERDING GROUP

- A-B → Lyndon Unger
- C-D → Tim Archibald
- E-H → David Street
- I-M → Pastor Peter Erratt

- N-R → Tom Smith
- S → Cory Leniuk
- T-Z → Dennis Burriss

According to the first letter of your last name, feel free to bring any questions or concerns to your assigned elder or email them at [elders@bethanybaptist.ab.ca](mailto:elders@bethanybaptist.ab.ca)

GET TO KNOW US

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**Lead Pastor:**  
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**Church Admin & Children’s Ministry Coord:**  
Lilian Lara  
[lilian@bethanybaptist.ab.ca](mailto:lilian@bethanybaptist.ab.ca)

- Health Needs: Lorraine Hort, Gord Rue
- Email us your prayer requests or to join the Prayer Line!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Pastors

"I am so thankful and excited to celebrate all the baptisms, baby dedications, and new membership intakes over the past few months. It is such a blessing to see others step out in faith and obedience. I have also loved spending much time with people one-on-one, praying with them, encouraging them, and serving however I can. It is such a joy to walk alongside our church family in both life-changing milestones and everyday life...over a nice cup of coffee!"  
– Pastor Peter

"I am blessed to be walking alongside Bethany for the past couple of months. I am thankful for the preaching and teaching opportunities I have had so far. I really enjoy Sunday class time, and I am happy I managed to survive. I am thankful for the gospel and discipleship opportunities that the Lord allowed me to have for the sake of His Kingdom. We have a wonderful Young Adults group, and by God’s grace and mercy, it is slowly growing. Please pray for this new group the Lord is forming here at church."  
– Pastor Daniel

**Don't befriend angry people or associate with hot-tempered people, or you will learn to be like them and endanger your soul.**  
– Proverb 22:24–25

**TUESDAY MARCH 24**  
6:30 pm Adventure Club  
6:30 pm Youth Group

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 25**  
6:30 am Men’s Breakfast  
9:30 am Seniors’ Ministry

**FRIDAY MARCH 27**  
6:30 pm Women’s Night

**FRIDAY APRIL 3**  
10:30 am Good Friday Service

**SATURDAY APRIL 4**  
9 am Easter Egg Hunt @ Eastview Estates Community Hall

**SUNDAY APRIL 5**  
No Sunday School  
10:30 am Easter Cantata

**FRIDAY APRIL 10**  
9:30 am Ladies’ Bible Study

**SATURDAY APRIL 11**  
9 am Apologetics Conference

**SUNDAY APRIL 12**  
9 am Apologetics Conference Session 5

JOIN OUR LIFE GROUP

- EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON
  - Tim & Michelle Archibald
- EVERY OTHER SUNDAY
  - Martin & Lorna Scholz
  - Tom & Tina Smith
  - Peter & Nancy Erratt
- EVERY WEDNESDAY
  - Don & Jan Collier
  - David & Laurel Street
- EVERY THURSDAY
  - Mark & Shannia Guenther
- EVERY OTHER THURSDAY
  - Lyndon & Leah Unger

**February Financial Report**

General Fund Donation	Monthly Budget	Received
	\$31,835	\$26,795.35

**OFFERING**

E-TRANSFER: [treasurer@bethanybaptist.ab.ca](mailto:treasurer@bethanybaptist.ab.ca)

OR DROP OFF YOUR ENVELOPE AT THE OFFICE

**Donation Policy**

The spending of funds received by Bethany Baptist Church is confined to Church approved programs and projects. Each gift designated toward an approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, or the specified program or project cannot be reasonably carried out or has not been approved, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Where appropriate, an official receipt for tax purposes will be issued as soon as possible after the year end.

## MISSIONARY UPDATES

## Ric and Darlene Munro

## LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1) Praise the LORD for our safe return to Antakya. Immediately, there were opportunities to serve and help, which is good. Tülin is playing piano on Sunday, and I will be sharing from God's Word. Please pray for us that we would be all the LORD wants us to be while here - wisdom is always needed.

2) "Do you have a couple going to your church? He is tall, and she is short."  
"Why?"

"Oh, they are very bad people - they go out of their way to make problems and upset people."

Well, indeed, this couple is part of our church. They have come to faith, and they have been baptised. They are actively serving in the church, posting videos on YouTube, sharing spiritual songs on the church WhatsApp groups, reading scripture and praying in church. Of course, none of us is perfect, but through the powerful grace of God, they are being changed and are a positive addition to the family of God. God makes the difference. Praise the LORD. Nevertheless, please pray for this family, for healing and, as with us all, to be remade in the image of Christ our LORD and Saviour.

3) There was a special outing for those on the discipleship course. There are people on the course from four different cities. This was a special gathering where they all came together. They had activities as well as some teaching. Part of the reason was to have them meet and get to know each other. They left on Friday. After a six-hour drive, they immediately went into the programme. It continued until noon the next day, when they began the return trip. Praise the LORD for this opportunity. Please pray for those who are on the discipleship course. Pray also for Hamdullah, who drove them all out and back.

4) There is a young man who has grown up in the church. As a child, he was rejected by his relatives, mother, father, and grandmother. However, he received love and acceptance in the church. As he grew, he came to faith. God has gifted him, and he has learned guitar and piano. He is the lad who wants to study piano at university. Recently, he was diagnosed with Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1. There is hope for a cure in five years, but nothing now. His father has it, and they suspect his brother has, as well. Please pray for him, as these are some deep waters to navigate. His name is Atif.

5) Many who came to faith live near the ministry centre. Getting to and from the church is difficult, especially on Sundays (when public transport becomes rather sporadic). We had been using two vans to move people back and forth, but often things fell apart for the want of a second driver - Hamdullah is the first. By God's grace, we have purchased a 16+1-passenger minibus, which means we can transport 2 vans' worth of people with one driver. Brilliant. One van was sold to help pay for the minibus, and we are trusting the LORD for the remaining ½ still outstanding. Praise the LORD for this minibus. It has already been used to capacity and will be essential for the children's camp, family camp, children's conference and many other outings and activities.

6) The electricity supply in Antakya has always been.... variable. Now, with much new construction, changes are being made to provide electricity to the rebuilt areas of the city. This means power can be, and is, variable. Additionally, there are electricity cuts to facilitate work. In the old days, we would consider a diesel generator. But these need fuel, maintenance, and to be run regularly to keep them functioning. When used, it produces extremely expensive electricity. With advances in solar PV technology, the abundant sunshine, even in winter, and battery storage, the best option for the church is a Solar PV panel and battery system. This is a bit more expensive than a generator, but without the ongoing expense of maintaining it and the high cost per kilowatt of creating electricity from diesel fuel. Once installed, our day-to-day electrical charges would drop, and for most of the year, be zero. This would provide the best solution to the challenges we face with the electricity supply. Please pray with us.

7) It is a fact of life that there is war fighting going on in our greater neighbourhood. Whilst not close, a ballistic missile was aimed at and intercepted over Turkiye, with debris from the destruction falling on Hatay province. We live in Hatay province, but over an hour's driving time away from where the debris fell. Thankfully, no one was injured there. Of course, there is an increase in tension and fear, and Christians are not immune to these feelings. Please pray for the saints that we will not focus on what "might happen," but focus on the promises of God, recalling the love of God and resting in the faithfulness of God. God is good - even in times like these. May the hallmark of all the saints be peace and joy and contentment in Him. Please pray for us. Thank you for your prayer partnership in what God is doing in Antakya. I speak not only for ourselves, but also for Hamdullah and Elmas and all the saints gathered at the Antakya Christian Church. We are all part of God's family, the one universal church and look to Jesus, not only as the author and finisher of our faith, but also to Him who is the head of the church. God is good - always. In these turbulent times, even more we need to remember and focus on Him who does not change and whose word is "yes and amen" in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

1. In 1 Corinthians 5:6, Paul says, "a little leaven leavens the whole lump." What does this metaphor teach us about how sin operates in a the life of a Chrisitan and in the life of a church?

2. Why do you think the Corinthians were "boasting" instead of grieving over sin? What does that reveal about their spiritual condition?

3. The sermon identified moral pride and doctrinal pride as two dangers. Which of these do you think is more subtle or harder to recognize in your own life? Why?

4. The "small leak" illustration challenges us to look inward. Where might there be a "little leaven" in your life that you've been minimizing or justifying?

5. Read 1 John 1:7. What does it practically look like to "walk in the light" with other believers? What makes this difficult?

6. Why is it often easier to think about someone else's sin rather than examine our own hearts? How can we guard against that tendency?

7. What does it look like for a church to pursue holiness together, not just individually? How can a small group like ours help with that?

8. Paul says we are to live as who we already are in Christ (a "new lump"). How does understanding your identity in Christ motivate you to pursue holiness?

## GOT QUESTIONS ARTICLE

### When is it necessary to rebuke another believer?

To rebuke someone is to criticize him or her sharply. The Greek word most often translated “rebuke” in the New Testament is *elegchó*. In its fullest sense, *elegchó* means “to reprimand and convict by exposing (sometimes publicly) a wrong.” There are times when all of us need to be rebuked, and there are times when a believer needs to rebuke another believer.

We normally think of a rebuke in a negative sense, but [Proverbs 27:5–6](#) says, “Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.” Paul instructs Titus, as an overseer of the church, to “speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority” ([Titus 2:15](#)), implying that all three activities are of equal importance. We know we should always encourage each other and speak the truth ([1 Thessalonians 5:11](#); [Ephesians 4:25](#)), but how do we know when to rebuke another believer?

Scriptural rebuke begins in the heart. Before we confront anyone about anything, we should first examine our own motives. [First Corinthians 16:14](#) says, “Let everything be done in love.” That includes rebuke. There is a right way and a wrong way to rebuke someone. Wrong rebuking stems from pride, anger, malice, jealousy, or another selfish attitude. The goal of an unscriptural rebuke is to injure, shame, or otherwise injure a Christian brother or sister. Often, hypocrisy is involved. Most of the Bible’s warnings against [judging others](#) pertain to those who condemn others for the very things they do themselves ([Matthew 7:3–5](#)). Paul wrote, “I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified” ([1 Corinthians 9:27](#)).

Jesus gave clear instructions for handling situations in which a brother or sister is caught up in a sin: “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over” ([Matthew 18:15](#)). There is discernment implied in this verse. We are not to be watchdogs over each other, because we all sin in many ways every day ([1 John 1:8](#); [James 3:2](#)). We all sin in thought, word, attitude, or motivation. But when another believer is choosing sin that harms himself, someone else, or the body of Christ, we are to intervene. A rebuke is necessary at times, as we must look out for each other. [James 5:20](#) says, “Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.” Confrontation may be difficult, but it is not loving to allow a professing Christian to continue in a sin that will bring God’s consequences upon him or his family or his church.

[Matthew 18](#) goes on to clarify what is to be done in [church discipline](#) if a confronted believer refuses to listen to a loving rebuke. Jesus says, “But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector” (verses 16–17). This may sound harsh to our tolerance-saturated minds, but this is Jesus talking. The purity of His church is of utmost importance to Him. People who want to claim His name while defiling His reputation must be rebuked, not overlooked or excused.

If the church as a whole took Jesus’ words more seriously, our voice would be more respected in the world. When we neglect to address grievous sins in the church, we appear to take sin lightly. Skeptics can’t respect our claim to honor the Bible as God’s Word while we ignore those of our number who are overtly disobeying it.

Sometimes, believers are hesitant to rebuke those who need it because of abuses in the past. Some churches or pastors have been overly eager to rebuke others or have used Scripture to humiliate and ostracize those who disagreed with them. Such judgmental behavior has led some church leaders to forego the application of the [Matthew 18](#) standards entirely.

A simple checklist can help individuals know when it may be necessary to rebuke a sinning Christian. We should never be hasty or rash in a rebuke. We should evaluate each situation carefully and prayerfully and ask ourselves these questions:

1. Is my life free from similar sin? ([Romans 2:1](#))
2. Do I have a relationship with this person that allows me to speak into his life? ([Galatians 6:2](#))
3. Is my motive that of restoration rather than condemnation? ([Galatians 6:1](#))
4. Would I be willing to have someone rebuke me in the same way? ([Matthew 7:12](#))
5. Do I understand Scripture well enough to know how and why this person is violating it? ([2 Timothy 2:15](#))
6. Am I prepared to go to my pastor or elders on this person’s behalf if he refuses to listen to me?
7. Am I willing to commit to praying for this person’s healing and restoration before and after I confront him? ([Matthew 26:41](#))
8. Is this offense truly a sin or simply an act of immaturity or preference? ([Ephesians 4:2](#))
9. Am I acting in love? ([1 Corinthians 13:1](#))

[Galatians 6:1](#) tells us, “Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.” When we are called to confront or rebuke a fellow believer, we must always do so in an attitude of humility, knowing that we too are prone to sin. We can follow Jesus’ golden words in this and every other situation: “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you” ([Matthew 7:12](#)).