



"the cowboy church" ~ Ministry Year 2023-24

Welcome to the new ministry year here at "the cowboy church" (tcc). We are glad you've chosen to join us on these Friday nights to celebrate our Lord Jesus, the Christ and to fellowship together. We are excited about where the Lord is leading us this year with His ministry plans.

Captivated by the AUTHOR!

That will be our ministry theme and focus this coming year. As I wrote in our newsletter last month,

"...we spend so much time and energy trying to capture the meaning of Scripture that we have lost the ability to be captured by Scripture (or by the Author of Scripture)"

This theme will be reflected in our mid-week services, workshops, Friday night services and perhaps even our social events. I pray that this year will see you captivated even more by our Wonderful Lord Jesus!

Reading Plan

We have a Scripture reading plan, this year, that I would encourage you to engage with. It is a little different than most (if not all) the other reading plans out there. This reading plan is designed to focus on the human authors of Scripture. There are suggested readings for each week, beginning the second week of September and ending May 31, 2024.

Each New Testament author's writings are grouped together and then grouped chronologically. In other words, Paul's letters to churches are all gathered together and read in the order that they were written. We begin the New Testament with James as that was the first NT book written. We follow that with Mark, the first gospel followed by Peter's other writings (since Peter is commonly acknowledged as Mark's source). We end with the writings of John – the last human author of the New Testament.

As for the Psalms, they are grouped by poet but have no chronological aspect. We start with the "Unknown" Psalms. From there we move into the various contributors ending with David's 75 Psalms.

Each monthly Newsletter will contain a reading chart for that particular month so you can follow as we go along. That also means that it will be readily available on our website (cowboychurch.ca) in the “downloads” section as each month’s Newsletter is posted.

Mid-week Services

As we did last year, each week of the month will be a different focus. This year’s services will be held on Wednesdays.

1st Wednesday – Listening Prayer Service

This service is focussed on listening to the Lord through guided quiet contemplation of His Scripture. It is a time of becoming still before the Lord so we can better hear His voice.

2nd Wednesday – Approaches Class

This will be a class taught by Pastor Orban and will focus on various ways and tools to help us in our Bible reading. There are many ways to engage with Scripture and the purpose of this class is to introduce some of them. The purpose is, again, to allow ourselves to be more fully captured by the Author and not just the written word.

3rd Wednesday – Reflection and Prayer

Since the early days of Covid-19, we have had one day a month set aside for prayer and fasting. This is being tweaked a bit for this coming ministry year. The time is shortened (12:00-5:30) and communion will no longer be offered that day. There will still be a reflection and prayer guide published for each day. This is designed as a time of quiet conversation between you and the Lord. Come and interact with Him in the quietness of the church and allow him to speak into your life and to hear the concerns of your heart.

4th Wednesday – Bible Study

We are adding a Bible Study into the schedule for this coming year. It will be focused on exploring the Lord in our favourite/life verses. In the verses God has given to us He has given us Himself. Norm (one of our members and a retired pastor and teacher) will be leading us through these discussions. The passage being discussed will be “announced” in our monthly Newsletter.

Workshops

I am planning and preparing for two workshops this coming year. One will be held in November and the other in April (probably). Listen for more details and signup opportunities as the times approach.

Topic Fridays

Each month that has a 5th Friday will allow us a focus time other than the regular preaching series. During these months I will take one of the Fridays to address a topic that has been raised by people in our congregation. This will be a Biblical outlook on the topic with an eye to see the heart of God in the matter, and how He relates to us and the topic for His glory.

Social Events

Of course, periodically throughout the year we will take the time just to socialize and spend some time together. This is such an important part of church life. We are family and, as such, it is good for us to build and deepen relationships with each other. We are hoping to have some of these events centred on music this year, as well as other being more socially interactive.

So, there it is, the 2023-24 ministry year for tcc. It is my hope and prayer that you will be able to engage with the opportunities presented. And that through the coming year, you will grow even more captivated and enthralled with the person of our God – the AUTHOR of Scripture! ~ Pastor Orban 🙏