



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 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service & Children’s Church during sermon
- 6 PM Prayer Meeting

Nursery is available in the supervised room downstairs or the unsupervised room in the back of the sanctuary with audio

Sermon
Speaker: Pastor Peter
 Scripture: 1 Cor. 6:12-15
 Freedom in Christ: Liberty vs. License

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

GET TO KNOW US

- ✉ office@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
- 🌐 www.bethanybaptist.ab.ca
- ☎ 403-347-7900
- 📍 3901 44 St. Red Deer, AB T4N 1G7

Lead Pastor:
 Peter Erratt
peter@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
Assistant Pastor:
 Daniel Lara
daniel@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
Church Admin & Children’s Ministry Coord:
 Lilian Lara
lilian@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

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

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Eastview Community BBQ
 This is our first time joining our neighborhood garage sale and providing BBQ. We were pleasantly surprised when our neighbor shared this idea with us and invited us to participate. We believe it is a great opportunity to meet those who live around the church, share our stories, and invite them to upcoming church events.

So far, we have a few people signed up to volunteer. It is a two-hour event on May 9, but if you are able to help for just one hour, you are more than welcome to join us! Your job is simply to enjoy some hot dogs and chat with our neighbors!

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

TUESDAY MAY 5
 6:30 pm Youth Group
 6:30 pm Adventure Club

WEDNESDAY MAY 6
 6:30 am Men’s Breakfast
 9:30 am Seniors’ Ministry

THURSDAY MAY 7
 9:30 am Youth for Christ Moms’ Group

FRIDAY MAY 8
 9:30 am Ladies’ Bible Study
 6:30 pm Life Group Leaders’ Meeting

SATURDAY MAY 9
 11:30 am Eastview Community BBQ

SUNDAY MAY 10
 Last Sunday School

FRIDAY MAY 15
 6:30 pm Men’s Night

FRIDAY MAY 22
 6:30pm Youth Night

SATURDAY MAY 23
 9am Workbee

July 6 - July 10
 9am to 12 pm VBS
 (Age 4 to Grade 6)

“One of the greatest gifts a husband and wife can bring to a church is a healthy marriage and family.” -Darcy Kimmel

March Financial Report		
General Fund Donation	Monthly Budget	Received
	\$31,835	\$26,382.62
Missions Giving	First Quarter Received	March
	\$13,835	\$3,625

OFFERING

E-TRANSFER: 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

Rod & Donna Black

Way back in 1982 Donna and I were asked to consider becoming missionaries with FEBInternational – our denominational mission. A year of raising support, and in September 1983 we arrived in Pakistan as raw recruits, never imagining that someday, 43 years later, we would be looking back on such a career! Along the way, our roles changed many times, and the name of our mission changed to Fellowship International, but our goal remained the same: to see the Kingdom of God come in the province of Sindh.

In October 2024 we traveled back to Pakistan to visit with leaders of the churches there and encourage them in their ministry. Again and again we heard the phrase, “our ministry now is happening because of the ministry of those who were here before us.” Amen! Our ministry began in 1983 built on the foundations of faithful servants of God who had labored in extremely hard soil for decades before us, and now we were hearing how the work they had done, and the work we had done after them, was enabling the new generation of leaders to see the Kingdom of God come. Those leaders in Pakistan are training another generation of leaders to carry the ministry even further for God’s glory. Our God is great!

Looking back on those years, it is with really mixed emotions that we are announcing that June 30 2026 will be our last day as employees of Fellowship International. Both of us are of retirement age and we are looking forward to more time with grandkids and our home church. God has been so good to us, caring for us and providing for us in these 43 years of ministry with Fellowship, and we give thanks to him for all of that shepherding and care.

Along the way we learned some new vocabulary – not only the Sindhi language and then Urdu, but even some new English! Church-planting movements, Bible correspondence school, ethnomusicology and ethnodoxology, Discovery Bible study, LeadersFormation, disciple-making movements and coaching. Not to mention one very special Bible-storying quilt which is being used by evangelists today in Sindh!

Along the way we moved from the city of Larkana to the city of Shikarpur, then on to Hyderabad with many moves up to the hills of Murree for the summers, before relocating back to Canada in 2011. That is a lot of suitcases, a lot of train and plane tickets, and a God who always knows where his children are.

Along the way God kept us through strikes and riots, crazy traffic and clinical burnout, floods and the searing summer heat - all to see house churches started among Sindhi believers. Tens of thousands of Sindhis heard the Gospel through the Bible correspondence school Rod led, neighbors’ lives were impacted, leaders for the house churches were trained, and believers today sing songs that were produced through the effort to produce modern worship and outreach music. Our God works in amazing ways!

Along the way God gifted us with four wonderful children. Stephen was born in our Shikarpur hospital during a power outage, but was welcomed into the world by most of the missionary staff and Donna’s parents, all crowded into the delivery room. Stephen and his wife Taryn live in Salmon Arm with their two sons. Cameron was also born in Shikarpur, and arrived just in time for Donna to be able to join the Christmas dinner, and then play the part of baby Jesus in a solo sung by his dad. Cam lives in Red Deer with his wife Anna and their three kids.

Emma was born in Qalandarabad after a 3 ½ hour journey through the mountains to get to the hospital. She was delivered by our family’s beloved Auntie Phyllis, and happily shows off her Urdu birth certificate. Emma and her husband David live in Lethbridge with their son, and another child is due in May.

Graham was almost born on the roof of the Multan hospital as a flood threatened to sweep through the city that night. The delivery was actually conducted in Urdu – the only common language between Donna and the staff. Graham lives now in Wellington, New Zealand. We thank our good God for our wonderful children!

For the past 15 years we have been in Canada, and along the way Rod has been coaching some of our Fellowship personnel, including a new generation of missionaries and national leaders in several Asian countries. Lord willing, Rod will continue to volunteer as a coach with a reduced case load beginning in the fall of 2026. Colleagues in the mission are also making plans for him to travel internationally in 2027 as a facilitator in leadership training workshops and as a member care worker. Glory to God who never runs out of wonderful things for his children to do!

It has been an incredible journey, and we thank you for being our partners, our supporters and our friends all along this way. Thank you for letting us see God’s incredible faithfulness through you. Many of you have been with us since the 1980’s, but we are so glad that each of you decided at one time or another to find out what is happening with the Blacks and keep in touch with us through our newsletter. There have been over 150 editions of BlackTalk in that time!

We are so grateful for all those years of support. Along the way you provided not only funds for our ministry and our salary, but also special gifts for the extras, like unexpected trips and special projects. Thank you to all who served on missions committees in churches to keep us before the congregation and enable us to serve. Thank you to all our individual supporters who gave so sacrificially when they had their own needs to also consider - and we're not forgetting an annual pie auction to provide a Christmas gift!

For those churches and individuals who are financially supporting us, you will receive an email from the Fellowship International office with the official notice of our retirement, and suggestions for how to redirect your support. For those who would like to continue supporting us after June 30, all funds will go into our support account, and will be used for international travel on Fellowship service as required.

Please contact us if you have any questions, or memories you want to share. We would love to hear from you about what is happening in your life.

From Donna and Rod, and on behalf of our kids who spent much of their childhood in Pakistan, thank you for being there to make this journey happen.

Got Question Article: What is sexual immorality?

In the New Testament, the word most often translated “sexual immorality” is *porneia*. This word is also translated as “whoredom,” “fornication,” and “idolatry.” It means “a surrendering of sexual purity,” and it is primarily used of premarital sexual relations. From this Greek word we get the English word pornography, stemming from the concept of “selling off.” Sexual immorality is the “selling off” of sexual purity and involves any type of sexual expression outside the boundaries of a biblically defined marriage relationship (Matthew 19:4–5).

The connection between sexual immorality and idolatry is best understood in the context of 1 Corinthians 6:18, which says, “Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.” The bodies of believers are the “temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). Pagan idol worship often involved perverse and immoral sexual acts performed in the temple of a false god. When we use our physical bodies for immoral purposes, we are imitating pagan worship by profaning God’s holy temple with acts He calls detestable (1 Corinthians 6:9–11).

Biblical prohibitions against sexual immorality are often coupled with warnings against “impurity” (Romans 1:24; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 4:19). This word in the Greek is *akatharsia*, which means “defiled, foul, ceremonially unfit.” It connotes actions that render a person unfit to enter God’s presence. Those who persist in unrepentant immorality and impurity cannot come into the presence of God. Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8; cf. Psalm 24:3–4). It is impossible to maintain a healthy intimacy with God when our bodies and souls are given over to impurities of any kind.

Sexuality is God’s design. He alone can define the parameters for its use. The Bible is clear that sex was created to be enjoyed between one man and one woman who are in a covenant marriage until one of them dies (Matthew 19:6). Sexuality is His sacred wedding gift to human beings. Any expression of it outside those parameters constitutes an abuse of God’s gift. Adultery, premarital sex, pornography, and homosexual relations are all contrary to God’s design. That makes those things sinful.

The following are some common objections to God’s commands against sexual immorality:

1. It’s not wrong if we love each other. The Bible makes no distinction between “loving” and “unloving” sexual relations. The only biblical distinction is between married and unmarried people. Sex within marriage is blessed (Genesis 1:28); sex outside of marriage is “fornication” or “sexual immorality” (1 Corinthians 7:2–5).

2. Times have changed, and what was wrong in biblical times is no longer considered sin. Most of the passages condemning sexual immorality also include evils such as greed, lust, stealing, etc. (1 Corinthians 6:9–10; Galatians 5:19–21). We have no problem understanding that these other things are still sin. God’s character does not change with culture’s opinion (Malachi 3:6; Numbers 23:19; Hebrews 13:8).

3. We’re married in God’s eyes. The fallacy of this idea is that the God who created marriage in the first place would retract His own command to accommodate what He has called sin. God declared marriage to be one man and one woman united for life (Mark 10:6–9). The Bible often uses the imagery of a wedding and a covenant marriage as a metaphor to teach spiritual truth (Matthew 22:2; Revelation 19:9). God takes marriage seriously, and His “eyes” see immorality for what it is, regardless of how cleverly we have redefined it.

4. I can still have a good relationship with God because He understands. Proverbs 28:9 says, “If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.” We fool ourselves when we think that we can stubbornly choose sin and God does not care. First John 2:3–4 contains a serious challenge for those who persist in this line of thinking: “We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, ‘I know him,’ but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.”

Hebrews 13:4 makes God’s expectation for His children crystal clear: “Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.” Sexual immorality is wrong. The blood of Jesus can cleanse us from every type of impurity when we repent and receive His forgiveness (1 John 1:7–9). But that cleansing means our old nature and all its practices, including sexual immorality, are put to death (Romans 6:12–14; 8:13). Ephesians 5:3 says, “But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.”