

## The Psalms as Comic Relief

I once had the privilege of taking in a small, intimate lecture by perhaps the world's leading Jewish philosopher, David Novak. I had heard Dr. Novak lecture before, but it was in a larger and more formal academic setting. This time, however, there were only about 20 of us in attendance and the lecture was purposefully short with the question and answer period long. The question and response I remember most was from an audience member who simply asked, "How have the Jewish people been preserved for thousands of years despite the intense persecution and extreme trials they have endured?" Dr. Novak's response caught me slightly off-guard: "Because God gave his chosen people an ability to laugh even in the midst of the most tragic of circumstances... you may think Jewish humour is 'dark' but we simply call it survival."

I hope you have had a chance to dive into the Psalms this Summer. I hope you have immersed yourself in what

has been the song book of the people of God for thousands of years. And if you have, I suspect that you may have glimpsed the truth that Dr. Novak alluded to in his response. The strength, endurance, and perseverance of the Jewish people – a small semi-nomadic tribe of the Ancient Near East – having survived through most of known history, has, in part at least, done so by laughing in the face of danger, enemies, and tragedy. There are not many puns or slapstick schticks in the Psalter, but there is an almost absurd character to the poetry. The metaphors are borderline ridiculous, the rhetoric is silly at points, and the accusations of enemies are overly dramatic.

Now, that's not to say that the Psalms are not serious business, they certainly are – comprehensively spanning the human experience: love, hate, anger, hurt, loneliness, joy, peace, fear, indifference (continued on page 2)



Lane Scruggs  
Senior Pastor

(continued from page 1) and on and on. But it is to note that one of the gifts that God has given us in the midst of chaos, crisis, and challenges – three C's I would suggest applying to our current global and local (and personal for many) situation – is the gift of humour.

So, do not be afraid to read the Psalms as I think they were written – with a bit of tongue in cheek, a bit overly dramatic, a bit snarky even at points. Allow yourself to laugh at some of the absurdity and enter the ridiculousness of the comparisons. Part of the image of God within us is a sense of humor – perhaps by design God created us with that seemingly unnecessary component to help us get through some of the toughest things we will face? May we learn to pray Psalm 126:2 together as a community of God's people:

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then they said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."

By Pastor Lane

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## Online Services

Good news! We are streaming our Sunday services online!

How to view our online services:

1. Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)
2. Search for "Oak Park Church of Christ"
3. Select and subscribe to our channel
4. Select the Sunday service video that streams at 10am on Sundays



## Summer Sunday Vespers

### ves·pers

/ˈvespərz/ = A service of evening prayer.

Come, join, let us pray together and be reminded that our God is calling us to action in our world, but that action must always be deeply rooted in prayer and reflection. We must learn to be as we are called to do.

Our Summer Sunday Vespers series will be quite different from any “church service” you’ve been to here – that’s intentional! This is not trying to be Sunday morning-lite or some sort of replacement for our corporate gatherings. In the words of that very spiritual and wise comedy troupe, Monty Python, “And now for something completely different.”

Here’s what to expect: a reflective hour of prayer and communion set in our church foyer from **7-8pm each Sunday night**. No singing, intentional silence, and responsive liturgy and Scripture reading. Although children under 12 are welcome, they must remain with their parent at all times in order to comply with our regulations. Masks are encouraged, but not required as social distancing measures and gathering restrictions will be maintained.

How is your soul doing these days?



*Eat Well. Spend Less.*



2020

**Any one can order one or more Good Food Boxes.**

Boxes must be pre-ordered and paid for in cash (exact change) on or before the order by date. You can pre-purchase your next box when you pick up your order. Boxes must be picked up, before 6pm. (Note: Boxes not picked up will be donated - no refunds will be given.)

Good Food Boxes come in the following sizes:

<b>LARGE</b>	40 lbs	\$35.00
<b>MEDIUM</b>	30 lbs	\$30.00
<b>SMALL</b>	20 lbs	\$25.00

**ORDER BY**

- January 13
- February 3
- March 9
- April 13
- May 4
- June 1
- September 7
- September 28
- October 26
- November 30

**DELIVERY DATE**

- January 22
- February 12
- March 18
- April 22
- May 13
- June 10
- September 16
- October 7
- November 4
- December 9

For information call Oak Park Church office at (403) 251-5150 or email [office@oakpark.ca](mailto:office@oakpark.ca)



**1**  
Volunteers pick up a shopping list from the church (after August 14)



**2**  
Go shopping!



**3**  
Drop off shopping at the church at your convenience, by August 27



**4**  
Submit receipts to Dawn for reimbursement\*



**5**  
On August 27 client packages are assembled, combining shopping, bread, used clothing, perishables, toys/household goods.



**7**  
Client packages delivered in our community



**6**  
Volunteer drivers arrive at the church, at scheduled times to maintain social distancing rules

# FOOD BANK AUGUST

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\*We want to reimburse you! All expenses for this Food Bank are covered by the Second Harvest Food Rescue grant

## Why Create A Breeze Account?

Breeze is our new church management software. We will be using this platform to stay connected with you, help you register for events and services as well as having an online, up to date directory. By creating a breeze account you will be able to:

- Register online to attend church services (when we resume meeting in person)
- Sign up for events happening at the church
- View the church calendar online
- View the church directory online
- Help keep our database up to date by updating your own information
- View scheduling for volunteers

## How to Create Your Breeze Account

### Step 1

Enter this link: <https://oakparkchurch.breezechms.com/login/create> or click on the "Create Account" link in the email we



have sent you. This will take you to a "Create User" screen. (Note: If you did not receive an email from us, or you are having trouble finding the Create User page, please call (403-251-5150) or email ([office@oakpark.ca](mailto:office@oakpark.ca)) the church office so we can assist you with Breeze set up.)

### Step 2

Fill out the information: create a username and password. For your username we recommend first initial and last name. For example: Sara Egely's username would be segely.

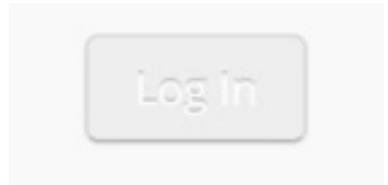
### Step 3

Click on the create user button, this will take you to the account created page.

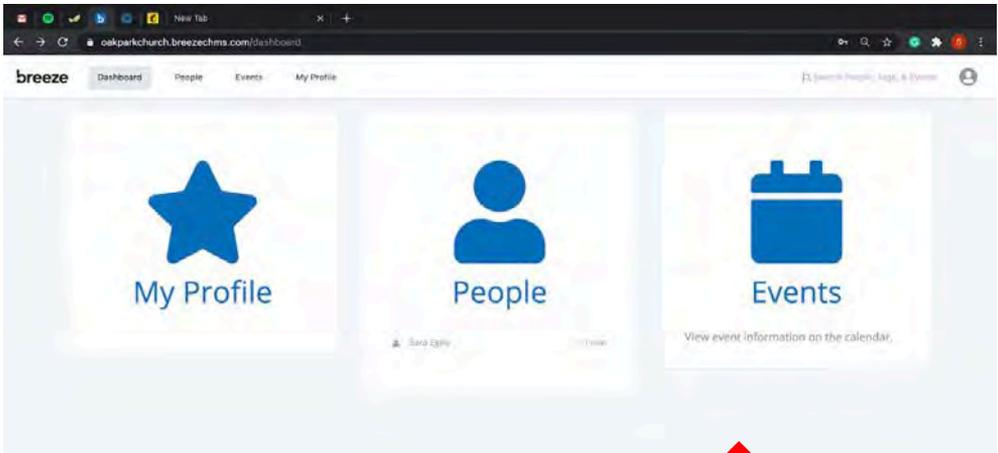


### Step 4

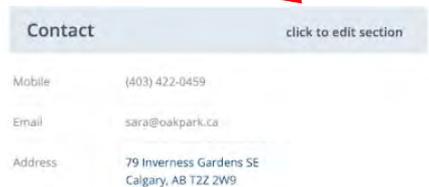
Click the login button and you will be taken to your breeze dashboard.



### Dashboard



You have now created your account! To view your information click on "My Profile." Make sure all the information is correct. If it is not, you can edit it by hovering over the header of each section and selecting "click to edit section." **Please remember to upload a photo of yourself for our photo directory.**



To view the online church calendar click on the "Events" tab on your dashboard. To search for other members click on the "People" tab on your dashboard.

# New Staff Family Edition

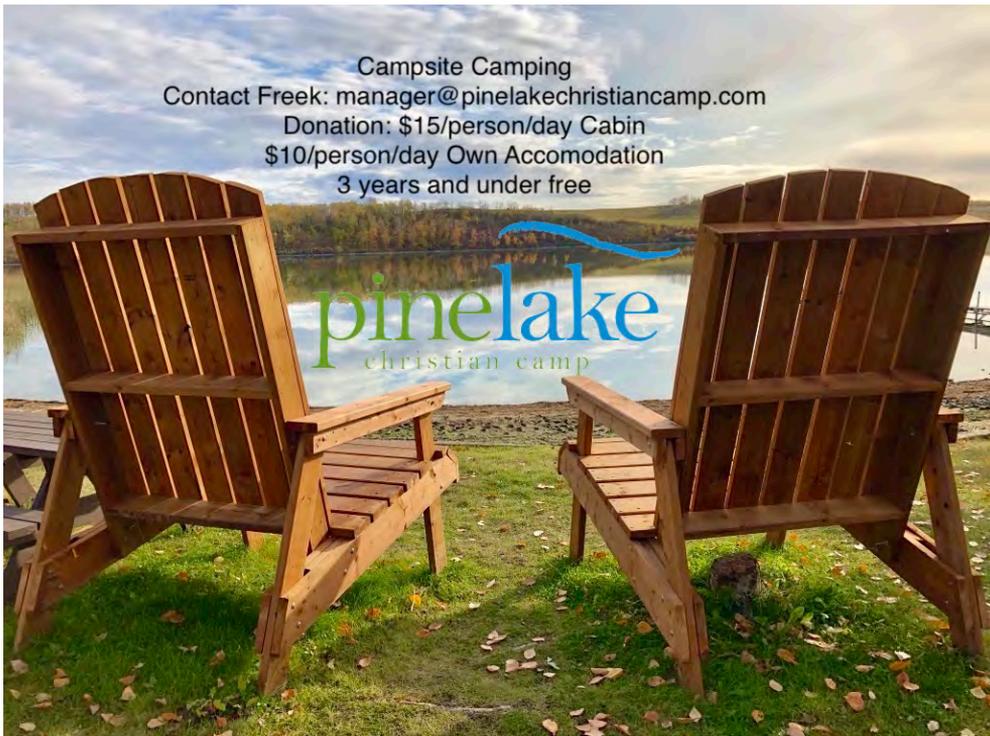


## Introducing Ila Madison Scruggs

Ila was born on August 12th, 2020 weighing 6lbs 14oz. The Scruggs family wants to say a big thank you for your prayers and love during this time. We can't wait for you all to meet her. Ila is Hungarian for "light" and our prayer as a church family is that this little one brings the light of Christ to a world that desperately needs it!

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**Want to bless the Scruggs family with a meal?** Join our Meal Train by calling Pastor Dawn at the church office (403-251-5150) or e-mail [office@oakpark.ca](mailto:office@oakpark.ca)



Campsite Camping  
Contact Freek: [manager@pinelakechristiancamp.com](mailto:manager@pinelakechristiancamp.com)  
Donation: \$15/person/day Cabin  
\$10/person/day Own Accomodation  
3 years and under free

pinelake  
christian camp



### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

**Purpose:** To help pay tuition for Biblical post-secondary education

**Candidates:** Any Oak Park Church of Christ Member

**Application Deadline:** September 30, 2020

**Application Process:** Write a letter (1-2 pages) answering the following:

- Why are you choosing to attend Bible College?
- What do you hope to gain from your education?
- What do you hope to gain from this experience?
- Where is your relationship with God right now?
- Do you have any long term goals that stem from your education? (ie: future ministry desires)
- Please outline your financial need

**Submission:** Email your letter to the Oak Park Church Board at: [office@oakpark.ca](mailto:office@oakpark.ca)

## Oak Park Missions Update

### Vienna Moilliet - Tabuk Refuge of Hope Shelter

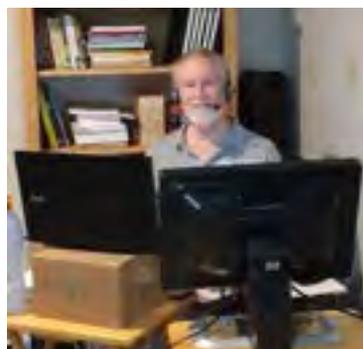


The shelter has been going for two months now and has two residents. One girl is 14 and another is soon to celebrate her 25th birthday. They are pouring their love into these two and learning lots. God has continued to provide finances, for the monthly costs (including the wages but not Vienna's support) that range from \$2000-\$3000 depending on certain expenses. As treasurer, Vienna is learning

tricks to shop smart to keep our food costs low but still having nutritious meals. Cases of Covid are also starting to occur in the rural area, and they are unsure how this will affect their work. Vienna has experienced a lot of spiritual attacks, but says "God is good! All the time!" He is in control of where this ministry goes. Our website [www.refugeofhopeinternational.com](http://www.refugeofhopeinternational.com) and our Facebook is Refuge of Hope International.

### Norm Weatherhead - Pioneer Bible Translators

Canadian Institute of Linguistics in Langley, BC, has approached Norm to help teach linguistic courses to their students, the next generation of potential Bible translators. Norm asks for prayer for the Akukem translation team. Health-wise they are doing well, and they are also making progress on two main fronts: a) completing the Village Check of Luke; and b) proceeding with the translation and back-translation of Genesis. Norm is able to electronically send some top up



credit to the mobile phones of three Akukem translators. Thanks to the modern technology of cell phones and cell towers, it is possible to get messages to and from the translators out in their remote Papua New Guinea villages. This is such an answer to prayer during this time of Covid isolation.

## Oak Park Missions Update

### Jay and Colette - Graceland Ministries

Jay and Colette are asking for prayer as they adjust to the difficulties of interacting with students during this time of Covid. They have been busy preparing for the Fall teaching session and have come up with several ideas using Zoom and involving North American participants. If you are interested in being a part of this please check out <https://www.gracelandministries.com>. They hope to be able to purchase iPads for students to use.



Colette is having some significant mobility issues right now. Please pray that physio will be able to help her. They have recently participated in the Global Leadership Summit virtually. It has been extremely hot in Poland with temperatures as high as 41 degrees so that has made life extra challenging.

### Terri Scruggs - Wycliffe Bible Translators

Terri asks that we continue to pray for progress for the Cree project. Pray for Peter and Ruth as Peter continues chemo treatments for brain cancer. Pray that the teams and their families would be healthy enough to work and that progress can happen. Pray that people would turn to God for peace in their lives



"Thanks to all of you for your prayers for me and for the work of Wycliffe around the world. We do appreciate it so much. Progress on the various translation projects has been slowed down or even stopped because of travel restrictions, physical distancing, and the like. Pray that the spread of this virus would slow down and even stop soon."

-Terri Scruggs

### Pregnancy Care Centre

We are pleased to let you know that we were able to deliver a very generous supply of sorted and organized baby clothes to the Pregnancy Care Centre and they were very appreciative. A big thank you to everyone for their donations to Doris to make this possible.



## Your Giving Matters! - August Financial Update

Watch for a financial update coming in our weekly email!



Good news!

The finance team (specifically Dawn Driediger and Mike Grant) have taken the initiative to change the church's PayPal account to a not-for-profit designation. This may not mean much for you, but it allows us to pay less fees on gifts we receive through PayPal. Previously we paid a flat 3% fee on each gift, but we now are eligible for a 1.6% +\$.30 fee per gift, which is a significant reduction on most PayPal donations we receive. Etransfer is still the best option for giving to the church, but this helps for those more inclined to use PayPal.



Did you know Oak Park has an app? Download to your smartphone to access online sermons & event information. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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 **oak park**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST