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# WELCOME

**June 4, 2023**



We are so glad that the Lord directed you here this morning!

- *Sunday School is available for ages 3 to grade 3.*
- *Washrooms are down the hall.*
- *Mother's Room is off of the foyer, next to the Sanctuary.*
- ***Please ask one of the ushers if you need help with anything.***

***Fort Macleod Alliance Church exists to equip Godly Disciples of  
Jesus Christ who:  
Share Christ's Life, Show Christ's love and Shine Christ's light.***

## **CHURCH POTLUCK**

Please join us after the service today for a potluck lunch! If you are visiting or forgot to bring something, please still join us as there will be more than enough food!

## **BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN**

Your support brings hope! Your donations provide peer support for clients experiencing an unexpected pregnancy, as well as clients who have journeyed through an adoption or abortion experience. Please continue to fill the bottles to help this year's Baby Bottle Campaign be a success! If you prefer to donate online, you are welcome to do so at [www.lethbridgepregcentre.com/babybottles](http://www.lethbridgepregcentre.com/babybottles).

## **DAILY BREAD**

The new issue of the Daily Bread is now available on the table in the foyer.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Happy Birthday this week to Joseph Boot and Stewart Hildebrand!  
Happy Anniversary to Ryan and Holly Lehbauer!

### **What temperature should a church set its thermostat to?**

It seems like a frivolous question, but it actually raises more serious concerns. The thermostat often becomes an issue because the church has to make a decision amidst different member preferences. This means that not everyone will agree with the decision, or get what they prefer. So how should a church decide? As a church leader myself, let me first address church leaders.

As with any decision, church leaders must decide on thermostat issues in a way that builds up trust among our congregation, because a

congregation's response to any decision is never a response to that decision alone. Their response is based on years, perhaps decades of trust (or mistrust) cultivated between the church leaders and the congregation. That's why every decision that leaders make must be covered with prayer, and made in a way that is faithful, loving, careful, humble, clearly communicated, and wisely carried out. However, regardless of how faithful the leadership, a single temperature has to be chosen, and so not everyone will get the exact temperature they want. This means that, when faced with a thermostat issue, it's not just the leaders who have to make a decision, but every church member too. To stay, or to leave. Stay in a church that has a temperature that is not quite set to my liking. Or leave for a church that has the temperature set exactly as I like it. There isn't one right answer. After all, a church that is unbearably cold or unbearably warm may make it impossible for one to worship.

The point is not that there is one right temperature that all churches should set their thermostat to. But there is a right way to approach the question. Every thermostat issue is an opportunity for the church to show the world what gospel unity looks like. Gospel unity is about God's diverse people uniting around the Gospel, worshipping together as one people. This necessarily means that there will be thermostat issues, and we will not always get exactly what we want. But how we respond to not getting what we want is, in many ways, the whole point. You see, thermostat issues are not just about the temperature of the church. They are also about the temperature of the church's unity.

Churches will always face thermostat issues, and all the above mentioned caveats about how leaders should make decisions should apply, and more. Members should feel comfortable voicing their concerns, and be able to have honest dialogue with their leaders. But sometimes, displaying gospel unity to the world could be as simple as choosing to taking off your jacket. Or putting one on.

-Excerpt taken from TGC – Sam Beh