

Eastwood Baptist Church

Eastwood Baptist Church is located in St. Thomas, ON, just south of London, and was established in 1980 as a daughter work of Faith Baptist Church.

The congregation includes individuals of all ages, and we run programs for each age group. As COVID restrictions continue to lift, attendance at these programs, as well as the Sunday morning worship services continues to increase.

Many at EBC participate in Growth Groups for study and fellowship. Approximately 15-20 Junior and Senior High Youth meet each Thursday evening for activities and study. Several come from the Eastwood Village, the complex directly across from the church. We have a growing Kids Worship program each Sunday morning. Our newest program, Moms & Munchkins (a drop-in for moms and their little ones) meets on Wednesday mornings. Moms from the church and from the community look forward to this special weekly time of fellowship. As many as 22 moms and grandmas and 30 kids have participated.

The Tuesday morning prayer meeting is open to all adults who are able to attend, and the Ladies' Bible Study meets every other Tuesday evening. Our Intentional Interim Pastor is discipling a number of men in preparation to take on leadership roles within the church. The Women of Power who meet on Tuesday mornings complete various service projects and enjoy their time of fellowship. The 55+ group has started up once again. Meetings typically include announcements, special music, a guest speaker, and lunch at a local restaurant or a potluck (as restrictions allow).

Both foreign and local missions have always played a key role in the life of Eastwood Baptist. We have supported some of our foreign missionaries for decades. Eastwood Non-Profit Housing Corporation (now simply, Eastwood Housing) was also formed in 1980 and has grown to include 275 units, including apartments and townhouses, many of which are geared-to-income. Reaching out to the seniors and families that live in these units provides us with the opportunities to share the gospel with unbelievers and encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ who live in the complexes around the city.

Through the efforts of staff and volunteers, Eastwood has continued to minister to the needs of the church family and the community over the past two years in the midst of Covid, meeting spiritual as well as physical needs. Eastwood runs a clothing giveaway twice a month and stocks a food cupboard for those struggling to make ends meet.

When in lockdown, the church streamed recorded messages. As restrictions began to lift, the congregation increased. We've continued to livestream the Sunday services for the benefit of those who are shut in and those not yet comfortable meeting in person.

These are exciting days, as former attendees begin to come back to in-person services, and we welcome new individuals and families. We look forward to what the Lord has in store for the days ahead and are regularly praying for our new Lead Pastor and his family.

St. Thomas, ON

St. Thomas is a small city of approximately 40,000 people. Housing ranges from walk-ups above the downtown shops to new housing communities and everything in between. As mentioned above, Eastwood Housing provides 275 homes, including apartments for seniors and family townhouses, a God-given mission field all within 10 minutes of the church.

The downtown core has been brought back to life over the last few years with many shops and services, grocery stores and restaurants. Many survived COVID and are in the process of, once again, getting back to business as usual. New businesses will be opening in St. Thomas over the next few years, many of them centred around the Walmart / Canadian Tire complex.

If you can't find what you're looking for in St. Thomas—or you just want a day in “the big city”—London is less than half an hour away. And if you want to spend a day at the beach, Port Stanley is approximately 20 minutes south of St. Thomas.

There are a number of churches in St. Thomas. However, the pandemic has taken its toll. Attendance at many churches was declining even before March 2020. However, we are now in a unique position to reach out to those who have experienced various trials over the past two years and meet their spiritual, emotional, and physical needs.

“FUN” FACTS: St. Thomas is known as the Railway Capital of Canada and the place where Jumbo the Elephant died. In fact, there is a life-size statue of Jumbo at the west end of town.