Jennings Creek
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

belong. grow. serve.

This Issue

LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE SCHEDULE: 2025

Sunday February 2, 2025
Sunday, April 20, 2025
Sunday, June 8, 2025
Sunday, September 14, 2025
Please join us. Everyone welcome

GROWING IN FAITH:

Family & Faith Formation Night: Our groups are meeting again for another year. Thank you to all of our volunteers and participants for making these ministries successful. Welcome back. Truth Seekers, Club Kingdom Builders and Youth start at 6:30pm here at the church every Wednesday evening.

Ladies Bible Study: Coffee Break is on every Thursday at 9:30am; Nursery is available. Feel free to bring a friend. (Sept. to May).

Precept Bible Study continues on Monday's at 7pm or Tuesday's at 9:30am. Meet in the Fellowship Hall. Milly Nokes leads.

Odyssey takes place every 4th Sunday of the month. Youth are released after the Sermon.

Something for everyone and everyone is welcome!

NEXT MONTH'S COUNCIL MEETING:

Next council meeting will be held on Thursday, March 6th, at 7:30pm. Council packets will be distributed on the Friday prior to the Council Meeting.

FAMILY DAY ACTIVITY OPPORTUNITY

Monthly Finance Updates

OFFERING TOTAL RESULTS: JANUARY 2025

Church Ministry Budget	$49,305.00
Special Offerings	
A Place Called Home	$540.00
Lindsay Soup Kitchen	$185.00
Centre Community Church Plant	$1,090.00
Kawartha Lakes Food Source	$625.00
Youth Unlimited	$165.00
Deacons	$500.00
Kawartha Lakes Pregnancy Centre	$872.00
Heritage Chirstian School	$281.00
World Renew - World Hunger	$65.00
World Renew	$125.00
Shalem Mental Health Network	$468.60
ReFrame Ministry	$546.00
Kawartha Mission	$164.00
Facility Rental Income	$1080.00
TOTAL INCOME FOR JANUARY	**$56,011.60**
YEAR-TO-DATE TOTAL	**$56,011.60**

This is the month in summary and includes Sunday morning Offerings, and October's PAR & GIVE App totals.

Church Family

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER:
If you have something that you would like to share with the congregation, please submit to the church office. Deadline for contributions is the Wednesday (9:00am) prior to the end of the month. The Newsletter will be posted online on the 1st Sunday of the month to update everyone on what is going on in our church, community and beyond. There will be a limited amount of copies available on the Welcome Centre for those individuals that do not have internet and for guests. *(For those that have internet please look there. We are trying this to help save some office expenses. ~ Council)*

JOY TO THE WORLD:
This past Christmas season was a time of great joy but also deep sorrow for many families. This past year, I have gone through trials and disappointments, but my faith and endurance in the promise of God leaded me into a closer relationship with my Heavenly Father. I do miss the Christmas Eve and the Old and New Years Eve services with my church family to share our joys and hardships. On Christmas Eve I watched an amazing program on TV put on by a church that was so uplifting!
I thank my Heavenly Father for today's communication that can teach the Gospel to the whole world.
Wishing you all a Blessed New Year!

~ Jake Griffioen

HERITAGE UPDATE:
Gift card profits for the months of **January** was **$1,013.92**
Cash Back is **$2,072.02** & **Total** is **$3,085.94** If you would like to purchase gift cards or would like more information, please contact **Hank Bossema at 705-328-2061**.

at Jason Bick & Nancy Harris home (487 Fairbairn Rd, Bobcaygeon ON K0M 1A0), open to all, members of the praise team or members of the church.) Bring a song, bring an instrument but definitely bring yourself and a friend, if you can.

CONGREGATIONAL ASSISTANCE PLAN (CAP): Shalem Mental Health Network provides professional faith-based counselling services to our church through the CAP ministry. CAP usage is confidential and available to all congregants, at no cost for the first 6 sessions. To book an appt, or for more info, please call Shalem directly at: 905-528-0353, 1-866-347-0041, or text 289-335-3543, or email office@shalemnetwork.org.

ONGOING SHELTER NEEDS INCLUDE:
Deodorant (men and women); shampoo; shaving cream; paper towels; toilet paper; all purpose cleaner; clear garbage bags ; canned food/non perishable food items; granola bars; & chocolate/candy. Donations can be brought to the church or dropped off at the shelter.

Christian Reformed Church

Events

IN-PERSON MARRIAGE CONFERENCE: Couples! Dating, engaged, married 1 year, married 60 years or anywhere in between...come and join us for Return to Eden, Ellel Ministries Canada's 2-day in-person marriage conference. Covering topics like intimacy, wounding, the differences between men and women, and so much more. This conference will be hosted at Fellowship CRC on Friday, February 21 (evening) & Saturday, February 22 (all day). The teaching will be live and there will be no large group sharing - just time for you and your special someone to have time together to grow and invest into your relationship. Come and join us! Registration is $60/person and you can register at https://www.ellelcanadacourses.com/blog/RTEFeb. Spaces are limited, so be sure to register! Any questions? Contact Linda & Tony Jeronimus tljeronimus@hotmail.com. We are looking forward to a great weekend together!!
Monica Macgregor, Office Administrator
Fellowship Christian Reformed Church PO Box 699, Brighton, ON K0K 1H0 Tel: 613-475-3401.

Christian Reformed Church

Events

PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS IN GREECE (March 28 - April 8, 2025): Travel by motor coach (7 days) and cruise ship (3 days) to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

SOCO BEACH PROJECT UPDATE: Recruitment has begun for SOCO 2025. If you are a young adult between 18 - 29, check out this summer opportunity (May - August) to deepen your faith and live in intentional Christian community, all while having a summer job in beautiful Port Dover. Check out this week's newsletter, celebrating God's faithfulness to young adults through SOCO. Be part of this ministry with a year end gift!
https://mailchi.mp/southcoastbeachproject/soco-update-november-21-8565954

CROSSROADS PRISON MINISTRIES CANADA

Do any of you like to write? Are there any among you who are encouragers? **Crossroads for Prisoners Canada** is a correspondence Bible study program for those who are incarcerated. If you are interested in becoming a mentor---marking a lesson and writing a one page letter of encouragement, either weekly or bi weekly, please check us out at info@crossroadscanada.ca.

Pastor
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Jennings Creek Church Office Hours : **Wednesday 11-2:30; Thursday 9-3 & Friday 9-12:30**

Christian Reformed Church

News

CRC COMMUNICATIONS

Resonate Global Mission Technology Support Volunteer Opportunity in Nicaragua - Do you have IT skills and a heart for service? Tesoros de Dios, a ministry in Nicaragua serving children and youth with disabilities, is seeking a volunteer to help improve their technological systems. Tasks include updating databases, cleaning and securing computers, improving networks, and training staff in technology. This flexible opportunity ranges from 1 week to 3 months. Basic Spanish is preferred. Visit resonateglobalmission.org/technology to learn more and apply!

REFRAME MINISTRIES

KIDS CORNER: God Created Me - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. God deliberately designed each one of us. This means we fit together in God's story like pieces in a giant puzzle. Being part of a huge family means we will always have someone we can help or someone who can teach us. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Valentine Cards.

GROUNDWORK: Jesus Prays for Us - In his High Priestly Prayer, Jesus prayed for us to experience unity and the Father's love, and for the world to know God through our lives. Join Groundwork as we explore John 17:20–26 to witness the depth of Jesus Christ's love for us and discuss what it means to live in the reality of Jesus' prayer. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

OTHER

MERCY & JUSTICE WEBINARS - February - Gain Christian spiritual insight and practical understanding on timely and complex issues to do with the church's calling to practice mercy and justice. Feb 4: Changing Immigration Law & Refugee Support w/ Dena Nicolai; Feb 11: Disability without Poverty, w/ Rachel Vroege and Amanda Lockitch; Feb. 18: Positive Care & Grace in Dementia, w/ Steve Berkenpas; Feb 25: Reflecting on MAID, w/ Caroline Short. For more info or to register, go to crc1life.ca/2024/12/spotlight-on-mercy-justice-an-online-webinar-series/

Precept Bible Study Schedule

LUKE PART 1: "Who Is This Man Who Forgives Sins?"

MONDAY EVENING 7:00 - 8:30 PM or
TUESDAY MORNING 9:30 - 11:00 AM
Begins: September 9/10 to March 3/4

LESSON 9
~~Jan 27/28 2025~~
Feb 3/4 - **DVD**
LESSON 10
Feb 10/11 2025
NO LESSONS -
Feb 17/18 - Family Day Holiday
LESSON 10
Feb 24/25 - **DVD**
LESSON 11
Mar 3/4 2025
Mar 10/11 - **DVD**

Milly Nokes at 705-328-2629

SIMPLE CHRISTMAS

Throughout our Advent series, Simple Christmas, Pastor Ben wrote a spoken word piece for each theme. Spoken word is a form of poetry meant to be performed aloud rather than simply read on a page.

What follows are the poems Pastor Ben shared throughout the series.

Hope Has Come, Hope Is Coming

Hope came in a child, born among the lowly,
No palace, no throne, yet His presence was holy.
The cry of an infant, the song of the skies,
Angels proclaiming, "Lift up your eyes!"
The promise of ages in swaddling clothes,
Love in the flesh where the humble repose.
In the still of the night, a new dawn begun—
Hope has come, hope is coming.

Hope came in a Saviour who knelt to serve,
Washing the feet of those undeserved.
The hands that formed the heavens and seas,
Became hands of compassion, healing disease.
He taught of a kingdom where mercy would reign,
Where grace would conquer all sin and shame.
He showed us the way, the truth, and the life—
Hope has come, hope is coming.

Hope came in a Saviour, lifted on a cross,
Bearing the weight of humanity's loss.
The nails in His hands, the thorns on His brow,
Love poured out then, and it pours out now.
"It is finished!" He cried, as death lost its sting,
Hope rose again, defeating the grave's king.
A victory sealed, a new song begun—
Hope has come, hope is coming.

Hope is coming in a King who will return,
With justice ablaze and a passion that burns.
The heavens will open, the trumpet will sound,
Every knee bowing, all glory resounds.
Hope is coming in His bride, pure and bright,
The church standing strong, adorned in His light.
When heaven and earth are made whole again—
Hope has come, hope is coming.

Hope is coming in the restoration of all,
When tears will be wiped, and the shadows will fall.
No more death, no more pain, no more strife,
Only the fullness of eternal life.
Behold, He is making all things new,
The faithful promise is steadfast and true.
So, with hearts lifted high, we join in the song—
Hope has come, hope is coming.

A child, a Saviour, a King, a return—
Hope has come, hope is coming.

Hope

Good News of Great Joy

Good news of great joy for all the people,
A Savior is born—
Not to kings or the mighty,
But to shepherds beneath a starlit sky.
To the weary, the broken, the unseen,
The Good News of Great Joy
Breaks into our story.

Good news of great joy for all the people—
The angel's voice cuts through the fear:
"Do not be afraid!" God is here.
His glory shines where darkness ruled,
No longer distant, no longer confined—
The Savior is born, and He's born to you.

The shepherds ran—they couldn't wait,
They saw, they believed, they celebrated.
Joy like this can't be contained—
It overflows, it must be proclaimed.
Good news for the lost, for the found,
For every soul the world's let down.

Good news of great joy for all the people.
For the sinner, the doubter, the one weighed low—
This joy is Jesus, sent to save,
To bring us hope, to break our chains.

Do you hear it today?
Not just for them, but for you,
For me, for all—
Good news of great joy for all the people.
A Saviour is born.

Amen.

Joy

SIMPLE CHRISTMAS

Simply Peace

In a world that spins restless, with hearts worn thin,
Where chaos runs rampant, and storms rage within,
We cry for peace — we crave the still.
But the world defines it as war standing still.

It's a ceasefire, a fragile truce, a silence so brief,
Like holding your breath for a moment's relief.
But God's peace—Shalom—it's deeper, it's more.
Not absence of trouble, but strength at the core.

Peace that surpasses, transcends what we know,
A river of calm in the torrents that flow.
Philippians says it — and hear it, my friend —
The peace of God guards, it won't break, won't bend.

It guards your heart when fears invade,
It guards your mind when hope starts to fade.
Not as the world gives—this gift is divine,
A supernatural calm, a refuge, a sign.

Peace in the storm, the prison cell's chains,
Peace when injustice runs wild through the veins.
Peace on the Cross when Christ took our place,
Saying, "Father, forgive," while He poured out grace.

Peace isn't passive—it moves and it breathes,
It's the Spirit alive in the ones who believe.
It calls us to action, to make peace known,
To sow seeds of Shalom where discord has grown.

So breathe in peace, and breathe out love,
As ambassadors sent by the King above.
Because the world's peace fades—it cracks and it shatters,
But God's peace remains—it's eternal, it matters.

This Christmas, it's simple, but profound to the core:
The Prince of Peace reigns, His peace is yours.

So rest in His presence when troubles increase,
For He is our refuge, our joy, our peace.

Peace

God Is Love

Three simple words, but can you feel their weight?
Not just a description, not just a trait.
Not "God has love," like it's something He gives,
But God is love—it's the essence of how He lives.

Many try to define Him,
Some claim, "He's everything and beyond."
Others seek enlightenment in a transcendent bond.
Some say, "He's the song of the stars,"
Or "the dream of a better tomorrow, a light in the dark."

But the truth?
The truth is found in the Word made flesh.
The God who stepped into the mess.
Who didn't just speak love, but became it.
Who wore our shame and overcame it.

God is love.
Unconditional. Unfailing. Pure.
Not swayed by our sin, steadfast and sure.
He doesn't love us because we're worthy or good,
But because He is—and He always would.

Love like this is more than a feeling;
It's sacrifice, healing, grace unsealing.
He didn't create love as a fleeting emotion,
He created out of love—an eternal devotion.

And yet, we doubt it, don't we?
We carry guilt, we carry shame,
Thinking, "I'm too broken, I'm the one to blame."
But listen: His love is greater than your fear.
He whispers, "You are mine. You are dear."

Do you see it?
God's love isn't earned, it's given.
It's not about you being worthy; it's about Him being risen.
It's not about how far you've run,
It's about the Father's arms open wide for His son.

God's son Jesus, hung on a cross,
It wasn't just wood and nails,
It was love that bore our sins and prevailed.
Romans tells us, "While we were still sinners, Christ died."
Not for the righteous, but for the broken inside.

So what do we do with this love so profound?
We love others. Let it resound.
Because if God is love, and we're His creation,
Then love should be our daily declaration.

God is love.
Not just a statement, but the truth that transforms.
It's the calm in the storm, the warmth that reforms.
So live it, breathe it, let it flow through you,
Because when you love, God's love is made new.

PASTORAL CANDIDATE POTLUCK

PASTOR OF FAITH FORMATION CANDIDATE POTLUCK: During the service, Pastor Ben introduced our candidate, **Patrick Bigelow,** he is a full-time student in the Master of Divinity Distance Education program at Calvin Theological Seminary. Following the service, we had an opportunity to meet Patrick (unfortunately his wife Megan was ill) in a more casual setting over a delicious meal.

~ photos submitted by Lena Wilms

COFFEE BREAK CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

We had a parcel wrapping competition at our Dec. Christmas gathering. We split into 2 groups and Sandi and Elke volunteered to be the gifts that we wrapped. There was a lot of laughter. So much fun.
Which one would you pick?

~ photos submitted by Lena Wilms

1 was a joyful gift and
1 was a mysterious gift.

Dismantling our gifts was fun too!

Elke was chosen as the winner as she was the most mysterious of the 2.

Obituary for Jantina (Tina) Fintelman (nee Herder)
May 12, 1929 - January 20, 2025

Tina passed into eternal glory peacefully on Monday, January 20, 2025, in her 96th year. As we grieve, we take comfort in knowing that her hope was firmly rooted in her faithful Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Predeceased by her beloved husband, Rudy Fintelman (2010). Loving mother of Ron (Kim), Irene Westerveld (John), Nancy Duursma (Sieger), and Marianne Bossema (Richard). Much loved grandmother of 13 grandchildren along with their spouses, and 21 great-grandchildren. Tina was also a beloved sister, sister-in-law, aunt, and friend.

Family and friends are invited to a visitation on Thursday, February 6th at Jennings Creek CRC, from 11 am – 12:30 pm. Funeral service to follow at 1 pm.

If desired, memorial donations to Heritage Christian School, Lindsay, would be appreciated.

SIMPLE CHRISTMAS

In every act of kindness, every sacrifice you make,
In forgiveness given for another's mistake,
In loving your neighbour, your family, your friend,
You declare the truth that never will end:

God is love.
From the dawn of creation to eternity's shore,
Through the cross and the grave and forevermore.
The heartbeat of heaven, the gift from above,
The story begins and ends with this:
God is love.

Love

The Light of the World

In the beginning, darkness reigned,
A void, a shadow, chaos unchained.
But then He spoke—"Let there be light,"
And the darkness bowed to creation's might.
Light was born, but it wasn't the end,
For a greater Light was promised to men.

The prophets foretold, the psalmist sang,
Of a Light to the nations where hope would hang.
Not just a spark or a flickering flame,
But a fire eternal, in a child's name.
A star rose over Bethlehem's skies,
Guiding the wise and piercing the lies.

The Light of the world in a manger lay,
The Word made flesh, the dawn of day.
No golden throne, no royal decree,
Just a humble child to set us free.
Angels proclaimed to shepherds at night,
"Glory to God! Behold the Light!"

This Light didn't falter; it grew and shone,
Walking among us, making the broken His own.
The blind saw, the lame walked, the dead were raised,
Darkness shattered as His name was praised.
He was the beacon for the weary and lost,
The Light that would carry a world to the cross.

But darkness tried to snuff Him out,
The cross loomed heavy, the world in doubt.
Yet even in death, the Light remained,
For in the grave, it could not be contained.
Three days passed, and dawn declared,
The Light of the world was still prepared.

He rose in power, the darkness fled,
Life victorious, the Light not dead.
Now His glow reaches every place,
In every heart that's touched by grace.
The city on a hill cannot be hidden,
For His light shines through the forgiven.

And one day soon, the Light will descend,
A King returning, where night will end.
No need for the sun or moon on high,
For His glory will light the eternal sky.
Tears will dry, and shadows will cease,
The Light of the world will bring perfect peace.

So rise and shine, for your Light has come,
The glory of God, the Holy One.
In every moment, through joy and strife,
The Light of the world is the light of life.

Christ

TRUTH SEEKERS & CLUB KINGDOM BUILDERS CHRISTMAS PARTY, PIZZA DOUGH & WINTER ACTIVITIES

~ photos submitted by Jen vanStraten

WOW! IF ONLY WE COULD HARNESS ALL THIS ENERGY: The Truth Seekers and Club Kingdom Builders have been busy. They had Christmas parties with different activities and games. One night they made pizza dough with Ernie Griffioen. And now that winter is finally here they enjoyed an evening on the slopes tobogganing and snowboarding. Makes one wish they were a kid again. Thank you to all of our volunteers who come out and make these events so memorable for our younger kids.