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.

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

Events

MID-AMERICA REFORMED SEMINARY invites you to participate in a four-part evening class led by Dr. J. Mark Beach, Learning to Believe through Samson: Finding Divine Strength in an Age of Spiritual Weaklings.
Together, we'll explore Judges 13-16, examining how Samson's story reflects our Christian walk, the challenges the Church faces, and Christ as our source of strength.
When: Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20, and 27, at 7:30 PM (CT)
Where: Seminary (In-person or Livestream)
Cost: **FREE!**
Register today at www.midamerica.edu

MID-AMERICA REFORMED SEMINARY is excited to welcome Dr. Kevin DeYoung on Thursday, March 13, 2025, for our Spring Student Lectures. He will present on the theme of "Godly Masculinity in the World, Home, and Church." The series of lectures begins at 1:00 pm. The event is free and will be held in our new chapel auditorium (limited seating). Registration is first come, first served. A live stream will also be available on Facebook & YouTube. Register at www.midamerica.edu and secure your seat today!

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
Ben vanStraten
Tel: 705-341-4114
pastorbenvs@gmail.com

Treasurer
Chris Terpstra
Tel: 705-878-6025
jenningscreektreasurer@gmail.com

Office Admin
Sarah Cooke
Tel: 705-328-0177
jenningscreekcrc@gmail.com

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

MARCH 2025

Jennings Creek
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

belong. grow. serve.

This Issue

LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE SCHEDULE: 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).

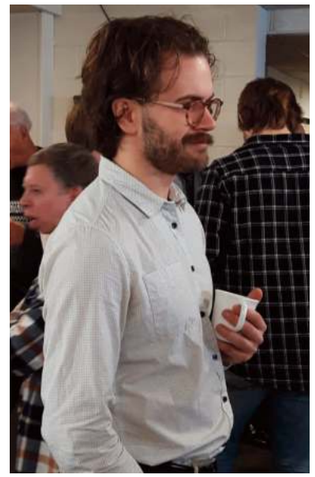
Precept Bible Study continues on Monday's at 7pm or Tuesday's at 9:30am. Meet in the Fellowship Hall. Milly Nokes leads.

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

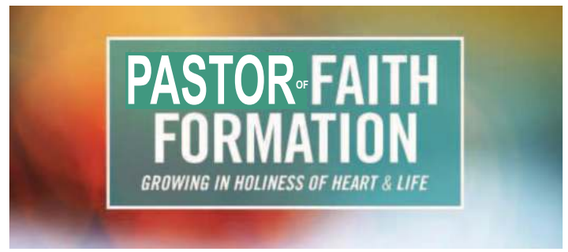
Something for everyone and everyone is welcome!

NEXT MONTH'S COUNCIL MEETING:
Next council meeting will be held on Thursday, April 6th, at 7:30pm. Council packets will be distributed on the Friday prior to the Council Meeting.

PASTOR OF FAITH FORMATION UPDATE



The search team is thrilled to announce that, with full Council support, an offer of employment was extended to **Patrick Bigelow** for the position of Pastor of Faith Formation. We are excited to share that Patrick has accepted the offer! He and his wife, Megan, will be moving to Lindsay in May or June of this year.
Thank you for your prayers and support throughout this process!



Monthly Finance Updates

OFFERING TOTAL RESULTS: FEBRUARY 2025

Church Ministry Budget	$19,556.73
Special Offerings	
Heritage Christian School	$1,598.00
Shalem Mental Health Network	$265.00
Kawartha Mission	$390.00
A Place Called Home	$310.00
ReFrame Ministry	$165.00
Deacons	$1,370.00
Kawartha Lakes Pregnancy Centre	$315.00
Centre Community Church	$790.00
Lindsay Soup Kitchen	$487.40
W/R Canada Food Grains Bank	$3,278.05
Canada Helps Cheque	$480.00
Facility Rental Income	$630.00
TOTAL INCOME FOR FEBRUARY	**$29,635.18**
YEAR-TO-DATE TOTAL	**$85,646.78**

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

Church Family

APRIL 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)*

HE LEADETH ME: Early in December I was diagnosed with cancer in my ear and left leg. I had to make quick decisions for a radical operation or lengthy radiation. It became a spiritual battle. After much prayer the Lord leadeth me into radiation with twenty treatments at the Oshawa Cancer Centre. I feel so blessed for the excellent care by the doctors and nurses. Also, the pleasant drivers of Wheels of Hope. Praising my Heavenly Father for His leading.

~ Jake Griffioen

HERITAGE UPDATE:
Gift card profits for the months of **February** was **$736.60**
Cash Back is **$2,072.02**. If you would like to purchase gift cards or would like more information, please contact **Hank Bossema at 705-328-2061**.

Precept Bible Study Schedule

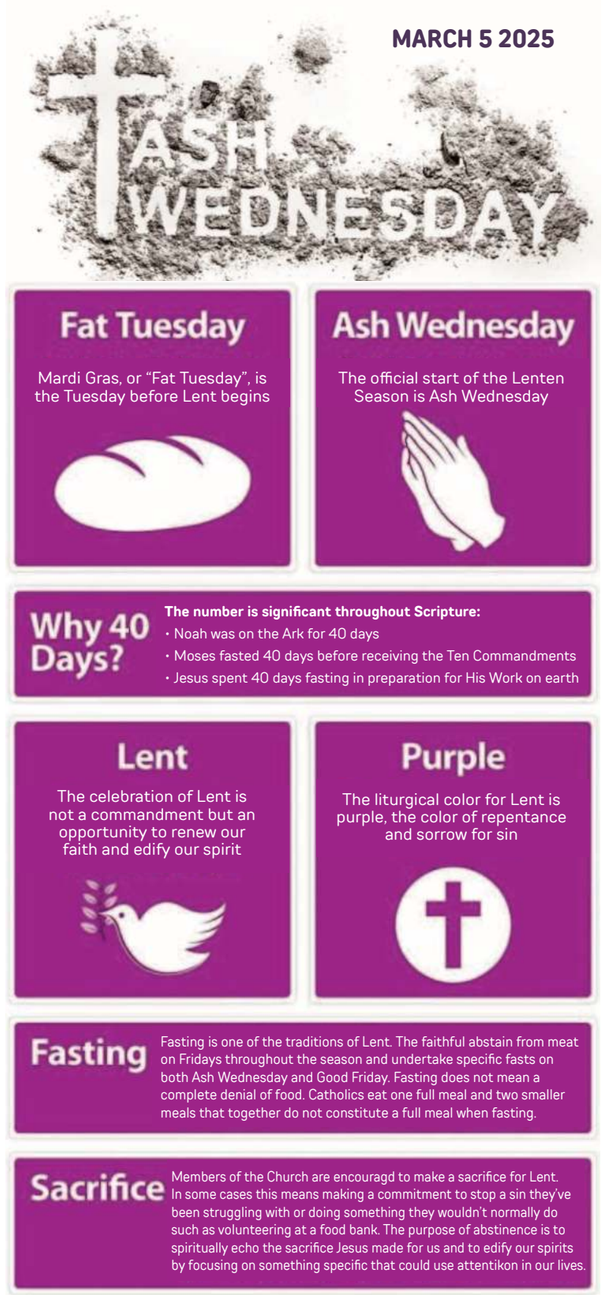
LUKE PART 1: "Who Is This Man Who Forgives Sins?"
MONDAY EVENING 7:00 - 8:30 PM or
TUESDAY MORNING 9:30 - 11:00 AM
Begins: September 9/10 to March 3/4

LESSON 11
Mar 3/4 2025
Mar 10/11 - **DVD**
Milly Nokes at 705-328-2629

SHALEM MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK: Tending to our Relationships: Relationships need regular maintenance and at times, expert help. Many couples wait years before getting help, but earlier interventions can help replace negative interaction patterns with loving connections. For more information and resources to help maintain healthy connection follow this link to read Shalem's monthly Mental Health Matters article.https://shalemnetwork.org/tending-to-our-relationships/

KAWARTHA LAKES SINGERS is presenting "GRASSROOTS" a collection of folk and pop music featuring artists from the 70s and 80's. The concert will be held on Sunday March 23, 2025–at 2:30 p.m., at Cambridge St. United Church, Lindsay. Tickets are available from Marilyn Kuiperij (choir member), klsingers.ca, or at the door..

KAWARTHA LAKES (YU) YOUTH UNLIMITED LINDSAY MARTIAL ARTS A program that uses the self-discipline, hard work and creativity of martial arts as a tool for teaching youth about Jesus. This is a Christian based and focused club with prayer, devotions and memory verses, in addition to the martial arts. The belief is that martial arts is to be used for self defense only. Any aggressive behaviour inside or outside the club will not be tolerated and will result in dismissal from the club.
Location: Jennings Creek CRC
Schedule: Wednesday, 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm
Ages: 6+ years to Adult – "Beginner" Class
Cost: The rate is $40.00 per student. The additional cost for a Gi (Currently Waiting List Only)
Contact: martin@kawyu.ca



Christian Reformed Church

News

CRC COMMUNICATIONS

Resonate Global Mission

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION MINISTRY AMPLIFIED REGISTRATION LINK;
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfnIoz_19Mm_icle599X65qGg1xaUoyHFO1JZ0u2ayQxBoV5g/viewform?pli=1

DIACONAL MINISTRIES JOB OPENING: Are you looking for rewarding work? Do you want to be part of a dynamic and committed team that equips and supports community-minded and justice-oriented Christ-followers in the CRC? Diaconal Ministries Canada is currently accepting applications for the full-time position of National Director. The National Director is responsible for the integrity, viability, and quality of all components of Diaconal Ministries Canada including programs, communications, staff, promotion, and fiscal management. This person will oversee the development and use of effective tools and resources that will help us inspire, empower, and equip Deacons as they animate congregations to join in God's transforming work in communities across Canada. Visit our website for more details and the full job description at: https://diaconalministries.com/our-team/careers-opportunities/. Application deadline: **March 21, 2025**. Please share this with your friends and family!

REFRAME MINISTRIES

KIDS CORNER: The Price of Lies - Check out this week's kids' devotion "The Price of Lies" at www.kidscorner.net. Have you ever told a fib? Believe it or not, lies that seem small can hurt others, and we eventually have to pay the cost for them. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Lent and Easter Collection.

GROUNDWORK: The Jerusalem Council: The Church Resolves Division and Seeks Unity - As the church grew, it experienced confusion and disagreement while welcoming new Gentile believers. Join Groundwork as we explore Acts 15:1–38 to learn from the early church about resolving division and seeking unity by gathering, listening, and relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit to resolve their division and seek unity. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

WORLD RENEW

Thank you for Helping Answer God's Call to Feed the Hungry - Last week, generous-hearted people like you helped share Christ's hope with families around the world struggling with hunger. Thank you! Your offering will help World Renew and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank address the emergency food needs of vulnerable families and provide communities with the training they need to overcome hunger, not just today, but for generations. To learn more about how World Renew is answering God's call to feed the hungry, please visit: worldrenew.ca

World Renew Nicaragua Young Adults Trip - Calling all young adults age 18–30! World Renew extends an invitation to join us in Nicaragua this summer from August 9–17, 2025. We are recruiting young adults to experience God in another culture while developing a perspective on poverty, missions, and community development. Apply for a $1,000 CAD bursary! To learn more about this trip and to register, visit: bit.ly/nicaragua2025info

OTHER

Need Help with Recruitment? - It's that time of year again for most churches; putting together your nomination lists for Elders and Deacons. Diaconal Ministries has some great resources to help you find the right people for the right positions within your church council. And don't forget: you aren't just looking for warm bodies. You are inviting people into discipleship, as coworkers in Christ's church and, more importantly, in His kingdom. What an awesome privilege and responsibility we get to take on as His followers! Find out more on our website: diaconalministries.com/leadership-development-administration/#recruitment-mentoring.

THRIVE

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - "Dust you are and to dust you will return" (Genesis 3:19, NIV). This week marks the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. While it might seem morbid to focus intentionally on our mortality, we can use this time to remember our humanity. We live with bodies and minds that not only are fearfully and wonderfully made but will also age and begin to fail us. Give thanks to God for the gift of your body, and ask him to help you be mindful of its limits. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

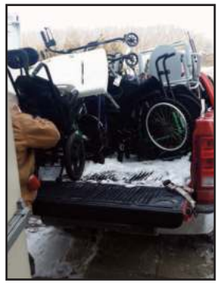
KAWARTHA MISSION UPDATE

We continue to be blessed. Since the beginning of 2025, we have already been able to deliver 2 busloads of goods to Canadian Food For Children in Mississauga. The Lord continues to move hearts to donate. With Willem Buwalda going through chemo at this time we are grateful to have Pieter vanOudenaren stepping in to help with the driving.
We just wanted to share with you some of the blessings that have come our way. There are some very talented individuals in our church who are sharing their gifts with those in need. As you can see by these photos we are receiving handmade items.

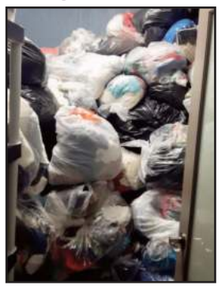
KAWARTHA MISSION

Included in these hand knitted items, we also received boxes of bars of soap individually wrapped in scrub bags. Some even have a washcloth tucked inside the bag. These soaps along with little sweaters, bonnets, booties and blankets come from a group of energetic ladies from Cambridge St. Baptist Church. They call themselves "Hooks & Needles". There were more than 300 bars of soap. Some of these have been distributed locally through APCH and Peterborough Level Street Advocacy (all for the homeless).

We also received a pick-up truck full of medical equipment from the Oddfellows of Cobourg. This load included:
6 Wheelchairs, 6 sets of Toilet Handles,10 Walkers, 5 commodes, 2 Bath Seats, 6 Bed Handles, 20 canes, 5 Toilet Seats, 1 Bath Tub Rail, 2 Toilet Safety Rails, 1 Folding Seat, 1 Bathroom Safety Rail and 2 Shower Seats. We've been informed that another similar load is waiting to be delivered to us. We are so excited that we have been able to bless several local families with Medical Equipment. God is truly blessing KM as well as individuals. If you ever have a need for any of these kinds of items, please don't hesitate to ask us. We may have just what you need.



Also besides these specialty items we have also received huge shipments of clothing, linens etc. from a church in Lake St. Peter. They run a Thrift Store in their church basement and have been over inundated with items, so they have passed them onto us.
The bags piled on the floor in front of our sorting table are about 5' high. The small storage room was almost piled to the ceiling.



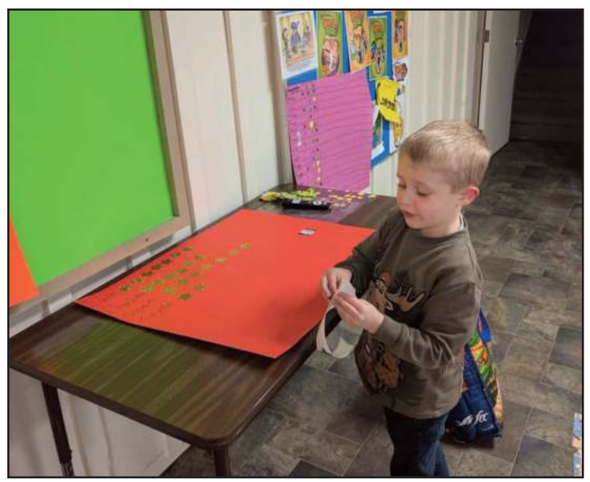
As you can see, ***GOD IS GOOD*** beyond words and He certainly wants us to help those in need.
Please continue to pray for the volunteers of KM and the work we do there.
We have been very thankful for the new volunteers who have stepped in to take the place of those unable to help or are no longer with us.
We continue to give thanks to the Lord for placing Gertie Ottens as one of our main volunteers and founder of KM. We miss her so much.
Please also continue to keep Willem Buwalda in your prayers. All your prayers are greatly appreciated.

~ Lena Wilms, on behalf of KM volunteers.

TRUTH SEEKERS

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WITH THE TRUTH SEEKERS: Some snapshots of the Truth Seekers working on "What's in the Bible".

~ photos submitted by Mary Whitton



PIZZA, PRAISE & PLAY

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WITH THE CLUB KINGDOM BUILDERS & THE TRUTH SEEKERS: The Kingdom Builders finishing their pizzas . And, some snapshots of the opening worship/fun time with Truth Seekers and Club Kingdom Builders.

~ photos submitted by Jen vanStraten

Christian Reformed Church News

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

PASTORAL LETTER REGARDING THE CANADA - UNITED STATES RELATIONSHIP

Dear churches and members,

In his first letter to the Corinthian church, the apostle Paul reflects significantly about the unity of the church using the metaphor of the body: “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ” (1 Corinthians 12:12). As a small portion of Christ’s universal body, the Christian Reformed Church in North America is made up of many parts, including citizens of both Canada and the United States.

Paul also writes, “If one part [of the body of Christ] suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26). It is with that spirit that we are writing this today.

CRCNA leaders have received many notes of concern and pain from CRC members regarding recent statements made by the U.S. government administration detracting from the national sovereignty of Canada. Other expressions of concern and pain have been shared regarding threats of a potential trade conflict coming from U.S. leadership.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we lament the brokenness we are experiencing in our cross-border relationship. We feel the hurt that is being experienced by comments that belittle one country at the expense of the other. We urgently desire a relationship of justice, peace, and mutual respect.

The synod of the Christian Reformed Church in North America has spoken many times about our vision for the relationship between Canadian and American congregations—for example—“The CRCNA values being a binational denomination for the opportunity it provides to combine pursuit of a common mission with an intentional and meaningful engagement with different national, regional, and local contexts for ministry. Binationality in the CRCNA fosters a culture of gracious space that encourages different expressions of common convictions to achieve common goals of meaningful witness and effective, holistic ministry in different contexts” (Acts of Synod 2013, pp. 451, 467, 610–11).

As a community of churches in both Canada and the United States (and now a handful in Venezuela), we seek to live into these types of relationships that offer opportunities to contextualize ministry and give witness to a kingdom that is larger than any one nation.

In Romans 12:18 Paul encourages believers, “As far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” In a time when churches are divided across many lines, we, as CRCNA members from Canada and the United States, have an opportunity to display kingdom values of love, respect, peace, and justice in our words and actions, and to encourage our leaders to do the same. May God give us strength to live out these values.

Your partners in ministry,
Zach King
General Secretary

Al Postma
Executive Director Canada

Dan DeKam
Director U.S. Ministry Operations