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.

THE POWER OF SABBATH AND REST: CONSIDERING THE BENEFITS OF THIS ANCIENT PRACTICE: In our fast-paced, productivity-minded society, it can be hard to cultivate practices of rest and balance. Research suggests that engaging in Sabbath is associated with physical, psychological, social and spiritual benefits. Despite these benefits, however, we face real barriers to implementing this practice. In this edition of Shalem's monthly Mental Health Matters article, we explore the origin, barriers, and benefits of sabbath rest and tips for how to start a rhythm of intentional rest in your life. Follow this link to read the whole article.
https://shalemnetwork.org/the-power-of-sabbath-rest-considering-the-benefits-of-this-ancient-practice/

PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS IN GREECE (APRIL 3 - 13. 2026): Travel by motor coach (6 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.

NEEMA GOSPEL CHOIR: The Choir will be joining us on **Sunday, Aug. 31st**. Please join us and invite others you feel would enjoy this ministry.

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

Jennings Creek
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

belong. grow. serve.

This Issue

LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE SCHEDULE: 2025
Sunday, September 14, 2025
Please join us. Everyone welcome

GROWING IN FAITH:
Family & Faith Formation Night: Our groups finished up for another year. Thank you to all of our volunteers and participants for making these ministries successful. Truth Seekers, Club Kingdom Builders & Youth will start up again in the fall here at the church every Wednesday evening.

Ladies Bible Study: Coffee Break will resume in the fall every Thursday at 9:30am; Nursery is available. Feel free to bring a friend. (Sept. to May). Thank you to all of our leaders.

Precept Bible Study Has finished for the summer. It will start again on Monday's at 7pm or Tuesday's at 9:30am in the fall. Milly Nokes is the leader.

Odyssey takes place every 4th Sunday of the month. Youth are released after the Sermon. They are done for the summer and will return in the fall.

Something for everyone and everyone is welcome!

NEXT MONTH'S COUNCIL MEETING:
Next council meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 4th, at 7:30pm. Council packets will be distributed on the Friday prior to the Council Meeting.

10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

TEN YEARS:
A REFLECTION ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Lamentations 3:22–23 – *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*

July 10 marked ten years since my family and I moved to Lindsay, Ontario, to begin serving as the pastor at Jennings Creek CRC. Over the past few weeks, I've found myself reflecting on this milestone—ten years of ministry, ten years of life, ten years of God's grace.

It's been:

480 sermons
48 sermon series
34 funerals
21 baptisms
19 weddings
13 professions of faith

And while it's interesting to think that a younger version of myself—someone who once struggled to complete most Grade 8 assignments—has somehow managed to write nearly 500 sermons, that's not really the point. Numbers are just numbers. If there's one thing these past ten years have taught me, it's this: God is faithful.

~ continued on page 2

Monthly Finance Updates

OFFERING TOTAL RESULTS: JULY 2025

Church Ministry Budget	$20,666.00
Special Offerings	
ReFrame Ministry	$290.00
A Place Called Home	$695.50
Kawartha Lakes Pregnancy Ctr	$1,190.20
Centre Community Church Plant	$729.25
Heritage Christian School	$276.00
World Renew	$20.00
Deacons - Johnathan Fritz Camp	$590.00
Durham Christian High School	$65.00
Resonate Global Mission	$165.00
Deacons	$350.00
World Renew - World Hunger Sunday	$30.00
Community Soup Kitchen	$30.00
World Renew - Canada Refugee Sunday	$175.00
Deacons - Micah vanS. CHANGE Conference	$150.00
Facility Rental Income	$600.00
TOTAL INCOME FOR JUNE	**$26,021.95**
YEAR-TO-DATE TOTAL	**$236,899.08**

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

Church Family

SEPTEMBER 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)*

A CHILD'S PRAYER:
On December 8, 2021 in Ross Memorial Hospital suffering with Covid, double pneumonia and having a spiritual war with my Heavenly Father, I asked the Lord to please take my life. In the middle of that night, the Holy Spirit reminded me about a prayer my mother taught me when I was three years old:
"ik ga slaapen ik ben moe" [Dutch] *"I am tired, closing my eyes, going to sleep Father keep me this night, safely in your might."*
This simple prayer renewed my faith and gave me peace that passes all understanding. In my distress I prayed to the Lord, and He answered me and set me free.

~ Jake Griffioen

~ continued from page 1

There have been many moments where I've felt completely unequipped for the calling. I'll never forget an evening in August 2016, driving to the home of a family in our congregation after a dear, kind-hearted woman had taken her own life. What do you say in a moment like that? What words can possibly help? What did seminary prepare me for? The truth is—I don't even remember what I said, or if it was helpful at all. But I do remember this: God was there. He carried that family, and He carried this church, through the valley of the shadow of death.

Throughout these ten years, I've had the privilege of welcoming new members, leading profession of faith classes, baptizing children and adults, officiating weddings and funerals, and preaching each week. Each of those moments represents far more than a tally—they represent relationships, people, stories. Each one is an image-bearer of God, someone I've had the honour to walk alongside and share the grace of Jesus with. God is faithful.

There have also been times when my own family was hurting—times of deep personal grief. We had to say goodbye to a mother far too soon (at least in our eyes), and just weeks later, bury a father after a difficult struggle with dementia and the painful loss that brings. In those seasons, you—the people of Jennings Creek—ministered to us. You surrounded us with compassion, prayer, meals, and presence. And for that, we are forever thankful. God's faithfulness showed up through you.

I've seen God's faithfulness in the difficult conversations, in the seasons of discouragement, in the moments where I sat at my desk not knowing what to preach on Sunday. I've seen it in the times I made mistakes, in the times of discernment—"Do I stay or do I go?"—in the seasons of transition and change. Through it all, this truth has remained:

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22–23)

Even when we are tired, uncertain, or broken, God's mercy greets us each day like the sunrise—quiet but unshakable. The same God who was faithful ten years ago is the same God who is faithful today—and He will be faithful in the years to come.

I'm deeply thankful for these past ten years of ministry at Jennings Creek CRC. It has been a blessing and an honour to serve this congregation and community. *"I don't know what the future holds—but I know who holds the future."*

And I know this much: the God we serve is faithful.

~ Pastor Ben vanStraten

BALSAM LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK:
Not a camper?
Here are some events you can come and enjoy.

EVENTS:
(Day passes are required for non-campers to enter the park)

Saturday August 23rd (4:30ish) has become a tradition of a *"Wine & Cheese Social"*. Bring your own beverage (drinking vessel & lawn chairs) and cheese is provided by Pieter vanOudenaren.
Followed with campfires and fellowship.
Location/Site #: Will be determined when we know which site will work the best.

Sunday August 24th Morning Worship Service at **10:00am** at the Amphitheatre. Anyone can join us. Pastor Ben will deliver the morning message and Pieter leads us in worship. Followed with a time of coffee and fellowship at a designated campsite (announced following the service). Bring a treat to share with the group and your lawn chairs. You can plan to go down to the beach or just hang around and chat. That evening there will be campfires to enjoy as well.

HERITAGE UPDATE:
Gift card profits for the months of **June** was **$1588.05 &** **July** was **$1425.85**. If you would like to purchase gift cards or would like more information, please contact **Hank Bossema at 705-328-2061**.

Go Beyond the Study — Learn to Lead Others

ONE DAY ONLINE TRAINING WORKSHOP

Saturday, Sept. 6th
9am – 5pm
REGISTRATION $50
For more information and to register, contact preceptministries.ca and go to "Workshops" or **Milly Nokes 705-328-2629**

PRECEPT BIBLE STUDY opportunities for the FALL

HOW TO STUDY NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS
(Intermediate // Skills Workshop)
Discover who God is and how it impacts you today! This workshop deals with how to do an overview of a New Testament epistle using Precept's Bible Study Method. The student will gain application insight by studying the book of Titus collectively. It's also for Precept students who want to understand why and when to use specific study skills (how to do markings, overview a chapter of a book, use a concordance, etc.) During this workshop you will: · Learn observation, interpretation and application skills for a New Testament Letter · Apply Precept's Bible study skills to a New Testament Letter · Overview a New Testament Letter · Observe a chapter · Learn to use word study tools Fairview Baptist Church - 130 Colborne Street,
Saturday, September 6 - 9am – 5pm Registration $10

FALL PRECEPT COURSE: THE SAVIOUR OF SINNERS
Luke Part 2 (Luke 17 - 24) – 14 weeks JCCRC
Mon, September 8 @ 7pm / Tues, September 9 @ 9:30am
Cost: $25 Contact: Milly Nokes 705-328-2629 for more information and to order a study workbook.