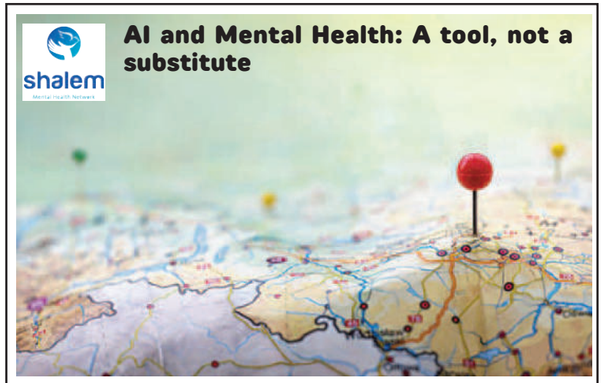
CONGREGATIONAL ASSISTANCE PLAN (CAP): Shalem Mental Health Network provides professional faith-based counselling services to our church through the CAP ministry. CAP usage is confidential and available to all congregants, at no cost for the first 6 sessions. To book an appt, or for more info, please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



AI and Mental Health: A tool, not a substitute
Increasingly, people are turning to AI for mental health information and support. While AI can be a useful resource, it cannot provide the connection and empathy of a loved one, or the skill, insight, responsibility, and ethics of a human mental health professional, which are all key factors in safe and effective mental health care. Understanding AI as a map can give realistic expectations about both the benefits and limitations of this technology, particularly in the area of mental health care. Follow this link to read the whole article, including recommendations for effective use of AI and a list of resources for further learning.
https://shalemnetwork.org/ai-and-mental-health-a-tool-not-a-substitute/

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.

Dunamis Fellowship Canada

Equipping Believers to Serve in the Power of the Holy Spirit

Please join us in praying for Brenda Boodt

"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2

These words from scripture have often strengthened me when facing challenges that seem insurmountable. Right now these words are sustaining us on the DFC Board as we pray for one of our own. We're contacting you, our Fellowship, to ask you to please join us in prayer.

Brenda Boodt was a valued member of our Board of Trustees. However, she has now stepped down from her role, as she was recently diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer. She has begun chemotherapy which will continue for the rest of her life. While the medical team has given a prognosis, Brenda knows that her days are numbered in God's book and will be as long or short as our God has ordained. She has complete trust in His plans.

Will you join the DFC Board in praying for Brenda's complete healing? Pray that God will use these medical treatments to restore her to health. Pray for her husband Robert and their extended family to experience the comfort of our God as they walk this journey with her. We pray these things in the powerful name of our Saviour and Healer, Jesus Christ.

May all the glory go to our God!

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

Director of Faith Formation
Patrick Bigelow
Tel: 514-914-7282
jenningscreekfaithformation@proton.me

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 2026

Jennings Creek
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

belong. grow. serve.

This Issue

LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE SCHEDULE: 2026

Sunday, April 5, 2026 (Easter)
Please join us. Everyone welcome

GROWING IN FAITH:

Family & Faith Formation Night: Thank you to all of our volunteers and participants for making these ministries successful. Truth Seekers, Club Kingdom Builders & Youth are happening at the church Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm.

Ladies Bible Study: Coffee Break runs 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 Is happening again on Monday's at 7pm or Tuesday's at 9:30am. Milly Nokes is the leader.

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 2nd, at 7:30pm. Council packets will be distributed on the Friday prior to the Council Meeting.

THIS IS THE DAY:
Farewell Blessings for *Jeanne Dykstra*

-By Pastor Ben vanStraten

On December 9, 2025, I had the opportunity to visit with Jeanne Dykstra before her move to Southbridge Nursing Home in Goderich. As I sat with her in her room at William Place, we talked about many things. It was a good day—almost as though dementia was not winning that day. We spoke about her years in Lindsay, her love for the Psalms, and what she had been reading most recently. As we visited, I couldn't help but recall the very first time I met Jeanne more than ten years ago.

~ continued on centre insert

Monthly Finance Updates

OFFERING TOTAL RESULTS: FEBRUARY 2026

Church Ministry Budget	$29,564.00
Special Offerings	
Heritage Christian School	$2,319.00
A Place Called Home	$290.00
Stamppot Supper - Deacons	$7,320.00
Lindsay Soup Kitchen	$748.00
ReFrame Ministries	$165.00
Deacons	$475.00
Kawartha Lakes Pregnancy Centre	$360.00
Shalem Mental Health Network	$185.00
Lindsay Soup Kitchen	$50.00
W/R Canada Food Grains Bank	$2,550.00
W/R Disaster Response	$150.00
Canadian Justice Ministries	$380.00
Facility Rental Income	$550.00
TOTAL INCOME FOR FEBRUARY	**$45,106.00**
YEAR-TO-DATE TOTAL	**$99,298.25**

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

Church Family

APRIL 2026 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.

HERITAGE UPDATE:
Gift card profits for the months of **February** was **$3,802.68.**
If you would like to purchase gift cards or would like more information, please contact **Hank Bossema at 705-328-2061**.

Are you new to the Christian faith and wanting to learn more? Have you been raised in the church but still find yourself wondering what it really means to be a Christian? We invite you to consider taking part in a five-session Profession of Faith course.
Together, we will explore these questions while also taking a fresh look at the Reformed faith. This course is well suited for those interested in baptism, making profession of faith, or for anyone who would like to make Jennings Creek CRC their church home.
If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please email **Pastor Ben** at pastorbenvs@gmail.com.

Our nursery continues to grow! We're looking for a few more helping hands to serve on the nursery volunteer team. We currently schedule three volunteers in the nursery each week, and adding a few more people to the rotation will help ensure that no one is serving too frequently. Even if you're able to help just once or twice a year, it makes a big difference and is a meaningful way to support our young families. If you enjoy spending time with children and would be willing to serve in this way, we'd love to have you join the team. Current nursery volunteers are also welcome to reach out if you'd like to adjust how often you're scheduled. Please contact **Adriana Koornneef** at adrianabossema@gmail.com if you're interested or have questions. Thank you for helping care for the youngest members of our church community!

Club Kingdom Builders ~ Building Bat Boxes

~ photos submitted by Jen vanStraten

CKB ACTIVITY: our Club Kingdom Builders group with the help of our volunteer leaders made bat boxes as one of their evening activities. What a wonderful learning experience and an opportunity to connect with the world around them.

Club Kingdom Builders ~ Chili Night

~ photos submitted by Jen vanStraten

CKB ACTIVITY: Club Kingdom Builders group with the help of our volunteer leaders made chili. What a tasty treat that would be and a wonderful opportunity to learn how to cook. Thank you to our volunteer leaders and helpers.

It's Chili Season!

Club Kingdom Builders ~ Archery Night

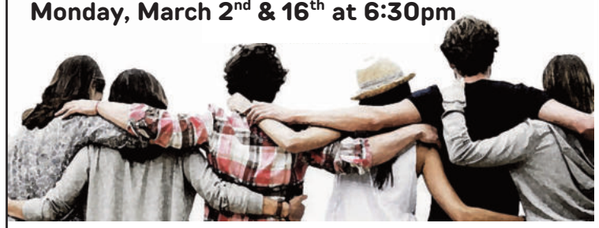
~ photos submitted by Patrick Bigelow

CKB ACTIVITY: Club Kingdom Builders group had the opportunity to learn how to do archery.

ANNETTE GRIFFIOEN UPDATE: On Feb 12th ***"I rang the bell after 6 rounds of chemotherapy!"*** I am thankful that they are finished since the drugs have many side effects that are not pleasant to go through.
Radiation starts on March 9th for 5 weeks 5 days a week. These treatments will be done at the Queensway Hospital which is the closest hospital to my home. An answer to prayer!
"I appreciate all the support from JCCRC. I miss seeing people and hope I can visit as soon as I feel well enough."
We rejoice with Annette and please continue to pray for strength and healing as she begins the next chapter in this journey.

Young Adults Meeting:
ages 18-35
(or thereabouts)

Monday, March 2nd & 16th at 6:30pm



Jeff & Carol Pypkers, 37 Blackbird Rd, Lindsay

Precept Bible Study

Precept Bible Study:

"Jesus' Witnesses Empowered by His Holy Spirit", a 16-week study of **ACTS Part 1 (Acts 1 - 12)**
Mondays (7pm) and
Tuesdays, (9:30am)

LESSON 1
~~February 23/24, 2026~~
March 2/3 - **DVD**

LESSON 2
March 9/10, 2026
March 16/17 - **DVD**

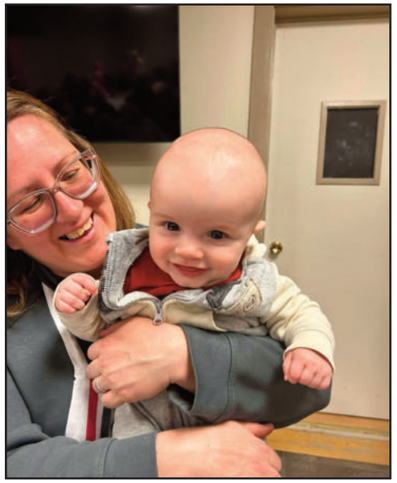
SAVE THE DATE: MEN'S BREAKFAST
SAT. MARCH 28TH
more details to come...

Canadian National Gathering

Call for Nominations to the Canadian National Gathering - The 2026 Canadian National Gathering is creating space for a diverse and well-rounded group of participants from across Canada, representing different regions, generations, and experiences. Nominations are open to any member of a CRC in Canada. If someone comes to mind, please nominate them! This is a meaningful way to affirm their gifts and invite them into something that will have a lasting impact on our wider church community. Learn more and make a nomination: www.crcna.org/canada.

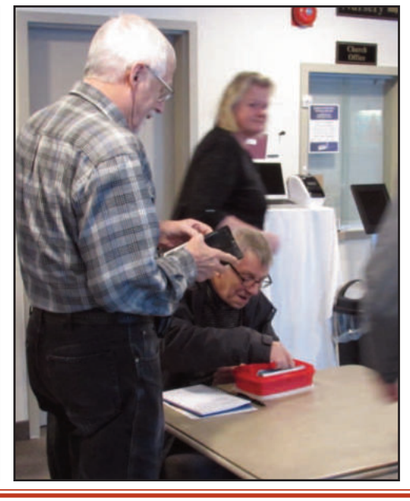
ANNUAL STAMPPOT SUPPER

~ photos submitted by Jen vanStraten & Lena Wilms



ANNUAL STAMPPOT SUPPER: The Stamppot Supper was a wonderful gathering. There was laughter, socializing, game playing, a delicious supper and of course an energeticAuction of leftovers. The line-up was out in the hall waiting to get supper. **$7,320** was raised to help with Christian School Tuition Help.

A special thank you to Terri-Lee and her crew in the kitchen and Jake Thalen as he encouraged the bidding by being the auctioneer. The community of church family is truly heartwarming.



~ continued from page 1...

From that first visit, Jeanne's independence stood out. She was living on her own, tending a beautiful garden, and still driving. She shared about the loss of her husband at the age of 46, just after their family had moved to Grand Bend. It quickly became clear how strong Jeanne was. The grief was real and deep, yet she pressed on for the sake of her children, leaning on God's strength and trusting that even in her sorrow, the Lord was present with her.

That first visit also included a moment of unexpected humour. As we closed our time in prayer, my phone somehow heard the word "Siri." In the middle of the prayer, Siri chimed in: "Sorry, I can't help you with that." Jeanne, understandably confused, asked where the voice was coming from—at which point Siri helpfully replied, *"I don't have an answer for that."* I've since turned Siri off on my phone.

Over the years, whenever I visited Jeanne, I would share a psalm with her. It felt especially fitting, then, that a member of our congregation made her a beautiful farewell card with Psalm 118:24 written inside:

"This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

And there is much to rejoice in as we reflect on the 41 years Jeanne was part of Jennings Creek Church.

Jeanne had a wonderful habit of sharing poems or meaningful writings she found in the church newsletter. She volunteered faithfully, visiting people in nursing homes and serving for many years with Telecare. She also raised funds for the Lindsay Pregnancy Centre—often through pussy willow bundles and hand-knit dishcloths.

I've heard that Jeanne once got herself into a bit of a pickle while gathering pussy willows. Seeing a particularly good patch along a private fence line somewhere in Lindsay, she helped herself—without asking permission. The owner was not amused and chased her away. Jeanne was quite miffed by the encounter and later told her daughter all about it, though she never did reveal *where* in Lindsay this incident occurred. Even explaining her charitable intentions did nothing to soften the owner's mood.

For many years, Jeanne also entered flower arrangements at the Lindsay Fair, often placing first or second. This was a long-standing passion of hers, dating back to her time entering flower shows in Bowmanville. At church art shows, she would sometimes submit a miniature garden she had created on the glass from an old television—a quiet but wonderful display of her creativity.

As I said goodbye to Jeanne that day at William Place—and as we prayed together, this time without Siri interrupting—I shared a blessing with her on behalf of the church:

"May the LORD bless you and keep you.
May the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."
(Numbers 6:24-26)

Jeanne, thank you for being part of Jennings Creek CRC. Thank you for your faithful participation in Bible studies, prayer meetings, and our biannual Celebration of Gifts. Thank you for belonging, growing, and serving here at JCCRC. Thank you for being a blessing.

THE KAWARTHA LAKES SINGERS is presenting *"DISNEY"*. Sunday, March 8th, 2026 at 2:30pm., Cambridge St. United Church, Lindsay. **CHILDREN ARE FREE!** Adults $25. each. Purchase tickets at klsingers.ca, from choir members (**Marilyn Kuiperij**) or at the door. Bring your children, grandchildren along.

Christian Reformed Church News

ReFrame MINISTRIES

KIDS CORNER DEVOTIONS: Faithfulness: Never Give Up - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Faithfulness: Never Give Up," at www.kidscorner.net. God is always with us and shows us what true loyalty looks like, no matter what we face. Discover how his never-ending love can help us become faithful, kind, and trustworthy friends to others! Prepare for Easter with all the great content at kidscorner.net, like Kids Corner's Lent Devotional.

FOCUS ON THE CROSS - Lent is a season to focus on the hope of Jesus Christ. Receive a free Today devotional email series to help you refresh, refocus, and renew your faith during Lent. Or download the ebook! Subscribe at todaydevotional.com/lent.

GROUNDWORK: IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE: Jesus Prays, Judas Betrays, and Jesus is Arrested. - As Lent begins, let's prepare our hearts in this season by following Jesus to Golgotha and studying the biblical events that comprise the traditional stations of the cross. Join Groundwork as we begin our journey by studying Matthew 26:31-56 to reflect on what happened to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and consider the effects of his prayer, betrayal, and arrest for Jesus and for us. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

THRIVE

THRIVE FAITH FORMATION TIP - Today is the first Sunday of Lent. The forty days of Lent bring to mind the forty years of Israel's sojourn in the wilderness and the forty days of fasting that preceded Jesus' public ministry. During Lent, Christians around the world reflect on the weight of sin, the cost of salvation, and the love that motivated Jesus' earthly sojourn and sacrificial death. This year during Lent, find an object that reminds you of the wilderness (like a small stone or a container of sand) and place it in plain sight. Whenever you see it, pause and remember the depth of Jesus' love and how far he went to rescue you from sin and death. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive.

HIRING! DIRECTOR OF THRIVE - The Thrive Director will provide overall direction and leadership for Thrive, ensuring that strategic planning, fiscal management, programming, resource development, staff care and development, achievement of goals, and administrative functions are effectively carried out. The Director will ensure the overall implementation, assessment, and success of Thrive's mandate serving churches in both Canada and the United States. Ths is a full-time, hybrid position based in Burlington, Ont., or Grand Rapids, Mich. Learn more and apply by March 23 at crcna.pinpointhq.com

CRC COMMUNICATIONS

TODAY IS JUSTICE AND HOPE SUNDAY! - This year, we focus on Intercultural Ministries, celebrating God's diverse and unified family. Intercultural Ministries helps CRC churches become places of belonging, unity, and flourishing for people of all backgrounds. Learn more at crcna.org/intercultural

WORLD RENEW

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT TO HELP END GLOBAL HUNGER - Last week, congregations across Canada gave generously to help World Renew share Christ's hope with families around the world struggling with hunger. Gifts like yours help World Renew and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to provide food vouchers to survivors of disasters, training to farmers grappling with the impacts of extreme weather, and vulnerable families with the tools needed to sustainably overcome food insecurity. Thank you for your generosity and compassion. To learn more about how World Renew is working to renew hope for communities facing hunger, poverty and injustice, visit: worldrenew.ca

OTHER

CAIRN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SEEKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Cairn Christian School, a Christian elementary school system operating campuses in southern Ontario (Smithville and Stoney Creek) is seeking an inspiring Executive Director to begin August 1, 2026. Application deadline is February 28, 2026. To learn more about this position, please reference: https://bit.ly/cairned

THE BANNER

SUPPORT 'THE BANNER' SUNDAY, MARCH 1 - Our congregation is encouraged to support a 160-year-old member of the CRC! 'The Banner' is the official magazine of the CRC and is available for free, in print and online, to every member of the denomination. A special offering will be taken next week to help continue the journalistic ministry of this historic magazine. Discover how you can get it and best support it at: thebanner.org/signup