

SERVICE SCHEDULE (No information will be posted until services resume.)

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL...		
SUNDAY April 12	6:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous
TUESDAY April 14	7:00 PM	Full Council Meeting (Remotely)

Pastor Eric Groot-Nibbelink: 519.453.0767 (<i>church study</i>)	pastor.ericgn@gmail.com
Chair of Council: Steve te Bokkel 519.461.0853	stevet8566@yahoo.com
Office Admin: Barb Wesselius 519.453.6565	bethelcrcldn@gmail.com
Office Hours: Friday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM	Bulletin Deadline: Thursday by Noon.



APRIL 12, 2020

BETHEL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

ENCOUNTER . ENGAGE . EMBRACE

THE STORY

NOTE REGARDING MEETING FOR SERVICES: As of this writing, we are continuing to suspend meeting together in person for Sunday services at Bethel Church. The council of Bethel Church is following developments and ministry of health guidelines regarding public meetings. We will keep our membership informed of updated information and plans through various means of communication including by phone. Please check the church's website as well if you are able. Through our website we are making sermons, messages and relevant documents available week to week. If you have needs or questions please contact the church office, Pastor Eric, the council chair Steve tB. or any elder or deacon of the church. Contact information is located near the end of this bulletin.

THIS WEEK: APRIL 12, 2020 10:00 AM: EASTER & THE STORY – CHAPTER 27 - THE RESURRECTION. *Blessed Easter everyone!! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!!* NOTE: Classis Chatham churches (a block of Christian Reformed churches from Woodstock to Sarnia to Windsor) is inviting all churches in this region to be part of a live-streaming worship service. You need simply to connect click on this link just prior to or after 10 AM Sunday morning to view ... <http://chathamgrace.com/media/live-stream/> This worship service will originate from Chatham Grace CR Church.

NEXT WEEK: APRIL 19, 2020 10:00 AM: THE STORY – CHAPTER 28 - NEW BEGINNINGS.

REGARDING THE STORY SMALL GROUPS: Currently, the Administrative Council envisions the possibility of small groups reconvening a later time. Even if out of sequence or after THE STORY's completion, there can still be great benefit from gathering together for Bible study.

CHURCH FAMILY

We pray for each other in the ongoing challenges, hardships and health concerns we experience within our community; we pray also in thanksgiving for the gifts of blessings and joys.

We continue to encourage prayer regarding COVID-19.

Pray:

+ with thankfulness with **John VT** and **Peter & Irene O.** that their daughters have come safely through their battles with the disease

+ as we come to experience more and more close family members and friends in other communities, we pray for those who may be ill, showing symptoms of the virus or grieving the loss of a loved one

+ those in long-term care facilities who are particularly vulnerable and are unable to receive visitors including close family members

+ those struggling with the challenges of current isolating restrictions, both for work and socially

+ those who are working in higher-risk and frontline situations

+ those who provide leadership in government and other contexts under these unique conditions

+ those researchers and innovators working on new ways to combat the disease

+ those who have recovered, giving thanks for renewed health

• Pray for **Peter & Irene O.** who both have brother-in-laws who are in their final days.

• Pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, especially we remember **John VT.** who recalls the loss of **Ellen VT.** this week on April 14

• Pray for **Jane K.** who remains in the palliative care wing of Parkwood Institute (B4-126B). You may contact her by phone using Parkwood's main number.

• Pray for **Riek V., Albert P., Margaret S., Bernie and Harmina K., Tina DV., Frans H., and Andy V.** all of whom are in long term care facilities, plac-

PRAYER LIST: Pray for Bethel members and friends with ongoing health concerns or unable to attend as well as those whose ministries we support: **Janet B.; Tina DV.; Truus DV.; Bernie H.; Sid K.; Melissa P.;** Marlene P., Gerry M.; **Albert P.; Joan S.; Margaret S.; Rita J.; Keith and Alie's son-in-law; Nel DV.; Rose S.; Bernie and Harmina K.**

In Ministry: **Leah Hopp; Karen Lubbers-Odel**

- es especially vulnerable at this time and closed to visitors.
- Pray for **Bronson G.'s** mother, Jane, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and will be undergoing chemotherapy and a second surgery.
- Pray for **Mary-Lynn MC.** who remains safe with friends in Los Barriles, BSC, Mexico. Currently, she is booked for a flight out of the region, May 7.
- Join Ed & Barb W. in offering praises to our great God for the safe arrival of our newest granddaughter, Sloan McCue on Thursday, April 9 at 9:25 AM.
- Special birthday wishes to **Harmina K.** who celebrates her 89th birthday on April 17.

PRAYER MINISTRY AT BETHEL

Each week we are encouraged to formulate our personal prayers using such categories as our city, our community, our world; the deepening of God's people; the extending of God's Kingdom; the flourishing of love, justice, peace and the spread of the gospel.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER SUGGESTIONS:

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES: FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL through this link of CCNL (Christian Churches Network of London). <https://mailchi.mp/2c8eb8ad644c/promotion-for-ccnl-prayer-breakfastday-of-prayer-618136?e119feb40>

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: EASTER: The promise of Easter goes beyond the forgiveness of sins—the awesome power of this day shows God's plan to renew all things! Give thanks for the many CRC congregations, missionaries, campus ministers, church planters, and other ministry leaders who are

partnering with Resonate to join God on mission. Pray that people throughout the world will know the love of Christ.

BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: Today devotions - Mary began reading Today devotions last year during Lent. "I always believed in God but never realized the importance of Jesus," she said. Pray for thousands of new Today readers who have been reading for the first time during Lent this year. Pray that, like Mary, they will continue seeking a relationship with Jesus all year long.

WORLD RENEW: NIGERIA: In 2019, 1,200 Nigerian families were displaced by drought and religious violence. Through help from World Renew and local partners, they received cash assistance, giving them the freedom and flexibility to purchase necessary food and household items and to support the recovery of nearby markets and the local economy. Please continue to pray for peace, justice, and protection in Nigeria.

CHAPLAINCY AND CARE: SUPPORT: When events such as mass shootings, disease, and tornadoes overwhelm the lives of large groups of individuals, active and retired chaplains are called upon to provide emergency support, critical incident debriefing, and spiritual care. Please pray for chaplains providing such support in response to natural or human disasters.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEADLINE EXTENDED! COUNCIL is requesting nominations for 2 elders and 4 deacons. Nomination forms are available in the council room. Please prayerfully consider members to nominate and give completed forms to Ron H.

FROM COUNCIL: WAYS TO DONATE: In the absence of church services, we suggest alternate ways of giving to causes normally covered by Sunday offerings:

1. Print and fill out the PAR form and return it to the church mail slot or talk to Jack Hoekstra.
2. Write a cheque listing the cause(s) you would like to support. Drop your envelope in the church mail

Interested in membership at Bethel Church?
In making profession of faith? To talk further, contact Pastor Eric at pastor.ericgn@gmail.com.

slot or mail it to the church office.

3. E-Transfer - Interac E-transfer has now been set up for donations to the church budget. You can use the email address bethelcrrdonate@gmail.com. Please record your envelope number in the comment field, eg "Env Number 1". Donations received through this method will be added to your annual donation receipt. If you have any questions about this process please call Steve tB.

4. You may also place your donation into your regular weekly offering envelope and put them all in the offering plate when church services resume. Donations will be allocated as per the weekly envelope in which they are submitted.

FELLOWSHIP HALL SOUND SYSTEM: is in dire need of upgrading to a total bill of \$8—9000. A special account has been opened for this. Donations are gratefully accepted. A **YARD SALE** is planned for **JUNE 6** with the proceeds going to the improved sound system for the Fellowship Hall. All donations gratefully accepted—books, plants, household items, crafts, clothing, etc. Speak to a member of the Board of Stewards or Ben S.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP IS CANCELLED FOR NOW: In light of the fact that we have vulnerable friends in our group, it will be wise to cancel for the time being. Thanks, folks!

CARE & SHARE: Need a meal? Know of someone who could use a meal? Maybe a neighbour, friend or co-worker? The meals are free and available to anyone who could use one. Contact Carolyn or Jenica G-N or Carolyn tB.

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Denominational Ministry Shares \$ 170.00	Resonate Global Missions	Local Christian Schools
Diaconate 160.00		
Tuition Assistance 130.00		
Redeemer University College 10.00		
World Renew (Foodgrains Bank) 1000.00		
World Renew 260.00		
BETHEL BUDGET—GIVING 2020		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 6390.00		

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUR OPINION ON WORSHIP MATTERS: CRCNA in Canada seeks to answer the following question: "How do we, in the area of worship, address the needs of churches living within a broad range of cultural contexts, ie Eastern, Western, Central Canada etc.?" This is your chance to be heard, regardless of age, gender, membership or position in leadership. If you would like to have your unique voice heard, please email survey@crcna.org with the subject line: Please send me a survey!

BANNER UPDATE: In the wake of necessary prevention measures for the COVID-19 pandemic, our everyday life has changed drastically. This new reality has delayed *The Banner's* annual appeal mailing for an indeterminate period. Therefore, we ask that you please **look out for our email appeal this April 2** or please consider giving a [donation online](#) right now. In this difficult time, we pray that God will keep you safe, even as you act wisely to safeguard yourselves and your loved ones. As our Lord Jesus said, *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33 NIV).

REMEMBERING WHO IS IN CONTROL: Acting Executive Director Colin P. Watson shares words of wisdom in light of the CRC's big changes, but they also apply to fears experienced during the COVID-19 outbreak. [Read More](#)

MESSAGE FROM CRCNA LEADERS Colin Watson, Acting Executive Director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, and Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director, have prepared a [video message](#) to encourage local

churches and to outline how the CRCNA is supporting churches during the COVID-19 crisis.

COVID-19 UPDATES: Keep up to date on how local churches and the Christian Reformed Church in North America are being affected by and responding to the novel coronavirus. [Read More](#)

GROUNDWORK: I BELIEVE THE SON HAS RISEN - Christians believe that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Dig into 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Luke 24:36-48, and Revelation 1:12-18 with Groundwork to examine the details of Christ's resurrection and remember the crucial, life-changing meaning of this belief. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

STAY CONNECTED: While practicing "social distancing" and "self-isolation/quarantine," be creative in reaching out to others to stay connected and engage with your local church and community. Keep your neighbors in mind who may be struggling or suffering in these challenging times, practicing kindness and generosity.

12 MUSEUMS AROUND THE WORLD YOU CAN VISIT VIRTUALLY: Experience the best museums from London to Seoul in the comfort of your own home. [Read More](#)

FROM DISABILITY CONCERNS: BREAKING BARRIERS: The Spring 2020 edition of Breaking Barriers is now available at <https://network.crcna.org/disability-concerns/breaking-barriers%E2%80%94spring-2020>. Printed copies will be mailed later this year.

DUNAMIS FELLOWSHIP CANADA: Last week Martin Boardman and Mary Ellen Conners from PRMI launched the Shalom Prayer Initiative. This week they have decided to expand this initiative to daily prayer. They will be meeting Monday – Friday for 20-30 minutes at 12 noon EST throughout this COVID-19 crisis as the Lord

leads us. This time is open for all to participate. The Zoom link is embedded in this link: <https://www.primi.org/shalom-in-these-times-of-crises/>

SHALEM: Shalem and CAP therapists have continued to provide counselling support services during this time, all being provided through a secure video platform or by phone. Shalem's Intake team has been able to continue to work from our office and answering calls during regular business hours. As people may be seeking further supports while the pandemic restrictions go on, Shalem has also added some resources to their webpage, which hopefully will provide some encouragement and be helpful to those seeking added assistance to manage impacts that social distancing and economic or health worries can trigger. Please use this link: <https://shalemnetwork.org/resources-to-help-us-cope-during-a-pandemic>

THE BANNER AVAILABLE ONLINE - Get The Banner by Email - Stay connected with our weekly e-newsletter, the Banner Update, delivering you new online content for free, by signing up at the-banner.org/signup.

FAMILY FIRE: is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

CHURCHES CONTINUE TO CONNECT WITHOUT GATHERING: Christian Reformed congregations from British Columbia to Michigan and Ontario are ministering, with and without technology, as physical distancing orders persist to prevent the spread of COVID-19. [READ](#)

SYNOD 2020 CANCELED : Synod 2020, the annual leadership meeting of the Christian Reformed Church, has been canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. [READ](#)

LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR THROUGH THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK: Christian Reformed congrega-

tions are following guidelines for gatherings and beginning to seek ways to maintain ministry while not meeting face to face. [READ MORE](#)

ENDNOTES: Easter 2020: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Leading up to today, we have been considering suggestions of a habit, practice or discipline to incorporate into the upcoming week (based on "Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us" by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun).

The practice suggested for today Easter Sunday is called "Celebrate" and comes from the book's section entitled WORSHIP. In this time of COVID-19 upheaval, 'celebrate' may seem like a stretch as a practice or habit. Although we don't want to discount the losses we lament in this demanding time, similarly we do not want to discount the fact that we do 'grieve as those without hope.' (1 Thessalonians 4:13) We make room for the discipline of celebration precisely because of Easter, because of our hope in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. Calhoun points us to Jeremiah, known as the weeping prophet. In the midst of recognizing the depths of his sadness, Jeremiah writes, 'Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning.' (Lamentations 3:20-24)

As Easter people, we are particularly equipped to engage in actions that orient the spirit toward praise and thanksgiving (see Calhoun, p.28), delighting in the attention and love of the never-changing presence of God in all his fullness, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! We are called to celebrate!

– EGN

To access Pastor's Eric's regular COVID-19 MEDITATIONS, click here ...

<http://www.bethel-crc.ca/covid-19-meditations/>