

APRIL 19, 2020



BETHEL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

THE STORY

ENCOUNTER . ENGAGE . EMBRACE

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: THE STORY – CHAPTER 28 - NEW BEGINNINGS. The message will again be on video on the website or available through an email link.

NEXT WEEK: APRIL 26, 2020 10:00 AM: THE STORY – CHAPTER 29 - PAUL'S MISSION.

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 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 one another and for relatives and friends of members as we share stories of those close to us who are directly struggling with the Covid-19 disease.
- Pray for **Clara B-H. and Jack** in the loss of Clara's brother in law Bill V. who passed on last Sunday morning.
- Pray for **John & Agnes DG.** in the loss of John's sister in Hamilton who passed on last Thursday.
- Pray for **Sylvia & John R.** as Sylvia's 92-year-old brother in Holland had a stroke this week. As of this writing, he is resting comfortably..
- 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., Tina DV., Frans H., Andy V. and Bernie & Harmina K.** all of whom are in long term care facilities.
- Pray for **Bronson G.'s** mother, **Jane**, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer scheduled to continued chemotherapy and a second surgery.
- Pray for **Mary-Lynn MC.** who fell last week. She is experiencing headaches, a sore neck, bruising in several places and severe back pain. She is monitoring her condition as she remains with friends in Los Barriles, BSC, Mexico.
- Pray for **Peter & Irene O.** who both have brother-in-laws who are in their final days.
- Special birthday wishes to **Sylvia R.** who celebrates her 84th birthday on April 23 and **Tina DV.** who celebrates her 89th birthday on April 26.

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**

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: – In addition to these weekly denominational prayer items, you may access other requests 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?e119febc40>

CHURCH MINISTRY: AWARENESS: April is Child Abuse Awareness Month in the United States. Most child abuse is perpetrated by people known by their victims—and often at home. Pray for attentive parents, for healthy family relationships, and for children to have “trusted adults” and safe places to talk about what’s happening in their lives. May God’s transforming love bring healing to children who experience abuse.

DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA: Stewardship project - Diaconal Ministries Canada has launched a Stewardship Pilot Project in partnership with Christian Stewardship Services and the CRCNA Canadian Ministries Team. Please pray that this project will help deacons increase churches’ awareness of the biblical principles of stewardship and equip people to live those principles out in practical, measurable, effective ways.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: WEST AFRICA - Pray for the Fulani, a largely Muslim people group in West Africa with whom Resonate missionaries have been working. Pray for opportunities for Fulani Christians to share their faith in Jesus with friends and family. Ask the Holy Spirit to open hearts and draw more people into a relationship with the living God!

LEADERSHIP DIVERSITY: WOMEN: Pray for the called and gifted women serving in our churches and ministries in North America and throughout the world. Please pray for the flourishing of all women in their calling and use of spiritual gifts. May they bear much fruit for God’s kingdom. Pray for planned upcoming local training events and gatherings.

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIALOGUE: RESTORATION: As you pray on Easter Monday, please celebrate the coming restoration of all things and our ability to be part of that restoration in the here and now. Please lift up the work of the Centre for Public Dialogue as it works toward renewal in the public sphere.

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 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 bethelcrcdonate@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.

YARD SALE is hopefully planned for **JUNE 27** with the proceeds going to improving the sound system for the Fellowship Hall. It’s a good time now to clean your closets and save everything for the sale. When we are able to get out, you can make arrangements to drop it off or have it picked up. Please continue to save your donations—books, plants, household items, crafts, clothing, etc. Talk 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.

Interested in membership at Bethel Church?

In making profession of faith? To talk further, contact Pastor Eric at pastor.ericqn@gmail.com.

DIRECTORY UPDATES: Frans H.. 143 Byron Ave, Dorchester, ON N0L 1G5

John & Agnes DG.: 106 - 630 Springbank Dr., LONDON ON N6K 4V1 Phone: 519-453-6161

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BANNER APPEAL WAS DISRUPTED: Give Online. - The Banner is delivered free in print and online. Our annual donation appeal makes it possible, but it has been delayed. To help us keep this community conversation going and make up for lost time please give online now at www.thebanner.org/donate

YOUR OPINION ON WORSHIP IN THE CANADIAN CRC MATTERS! Regardless of age, gender, membership or position in leadership we want to hear from everyone across Canada. Would you take 10-15 minutes to add your valuable opinion [HERE?](#)

NEWGROUND SUNDAY 2020: God is always at work. He calls churches to follow Him into their communities to share Christ's transformational love with every person. Cities and neighbourhoods should be impacted and blessed through the social action and thoughtful, cultural engagement of local Christians. It's time to roll up our sleeves and join Him! **Sunday, May 3** has been designated as NewGround Sunday. This year's campaign will look a bit different, due to the Covid-19 global crisis, and yet, this valuable program still needs your prayers and financial support! Learn more about this program by visiting Diac-
 onal Ministries Canada's website at diaconalministries.com/newground.

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 ASCENDED TO

HEAVEN. - Join Groundwork as we study Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:6-11, John 16:4-15, and Ephesians 1:18-23 to better understand why Jesus' ascension into heaven is good and comforting for us, discover what he's doing now, and learn how we should respond. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP: From Psalm 65:8: "The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy." Make this passage your morning and evening prayer this week. During the day, look for God's "wonders" and point them out to the people you share life with. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; <https://www.crcna.org/FaithFormation>)

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.

SHALEM: During COVID19 restrictions the CAP counselling ministry through Shalem Mental Health Network continues to make anonymous professional counselling support available to congregants of our church at no charge. All services are provided through a secured video or telephone connection. To book a CAP appt, call Shalem directly at 1-866-347-0041. And for more resource information check their website at <https://shalemnetwork.org/>

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 thebanner.org/signup.

RESONATE: The COVID-19 pandemic is forcing missionaries, church planters, and campus ministers around the world to adapt to a new reality. While we lament many ministry losses, there are new opportunities as well. Because of the threat posed by COVID-19, people are longing for the stability and

| DIACONAL GIVING | | |
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| LAST WEEK | THIS WEEK | NEXT WEEK |
| Denominational Ministry Shares \$ 215.00 | Local Christian Schools | GEMS |
| Diaconate 200.00 | | |
| Tuition Assistance 200.00 | | |
| Resonate Global Missions 115.00 | | |
| World Renew (Refugee Sunday) 300.00 | | |
| World Renew 200.00 | | |
| BETHEL BUDGET—GIVING 2020 | | |
| Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 1465.00 | | |

communion that only a relationship with Christ provides—that's why your continued support is so important. For Resonate, the way we do things can't stay the same, because ministry doesn't stop during a pandemic. In fact, Resonate ministry leaders are finding creative ways to respond to COVID-19 and minister to their communities.

Right now, there are three important things you can do to continue to support the ministry you care about. You can click each link to learn more if you feel called to help.

[Pray for your missionary, church planter, or campus minister](#): your Resonate ministry leaders are experiencing stress and anxiety just like everyone else. Please lift them up in prayer and ask God for health and safety.

[Live God's mission through your church](#): across the US and Canada, Christian Reformed Churches are rising to the occasion, filled with the Holy Spirit and ready to make a difference. Please join with what your local church is doing!

[Make a gift](#): if you are able, please consider making a special gift during this crisis. Your missionaries and church planters depend on support from Resonate, and right now, a generous donor has agreed to match any amount you give!

Thank you again for your faithfulness in mission. Please encourage your loved ones and your church during this crisis, and continue to remember Resonate ministry leaders in prayer. To read the most recent updates on how Resonate is responding to the COVID-19 crisis, please visit www.resonateglobalmission.org/covid19.

SAFE CHURCH MINISTRY is hosting a webinar with Ruth Everhart, author of *The #MeToo Reckoning: Facing the Church's Complicity in Sexual Abuse and Misconduct*, on Wednesday, April 29 from 12 to 1:30 pm EDT (9 am Pacific). More info and zoom link can be found in the network post at network.crcna.org/safe-church/safe-church-webinar-ruth-everhart-author-metoo-reckoning. We will also be following up her conversation with a book study that anyone is welcome to attend. There is a form to fill out in the second network link, at network.crcna.org/safe-church/safe-church-book-study-metoo-reckoning. Book Study dates: Thursdays at 4 pm Eastern: May 7, 14, 21, and 28.

INDWELL: Calling all sewers (SOH-ers)! As we increase precautions, our staff are preparing to use cloth gowns when needed (as opposed to paper). And we could use your help! Purchase a [5-gown kit from Len's Mills](#) (including instructions, pre-cut fabric and all supplies except thread), sew the gowns, and contact the locations listed [here](#) to arrange drop off. Don't worry if the fabric isn't too attractive. To quote one of our nurses: *"That is the*

the least of my worries! Safety over beauty."

Staying connected while apart helps keep anxiety in check, and when appropriate, our staff continue to meet with tenants one-on-one for support while keeping a safe distance apart and with proper PPE (personal protective equipment). Regular cleaning and sanitizing in our buildings takes a **big effort** from staff, tenants, and cleaning contractors. Our cleaners help make it possible for everyone to keep connected and remember that we belong. We are **so thankful** for all of the many efforts from so many to help all of us **stay well, stay apart, and, yet, stay together**. We have received cards, letters, notes of encouragement, flowers, gift cards, and other creative gifts in these last weeks. From all of us, a deep thank you because **all of your thoughts, words, and prayers keep fuel in our collective love tank to keep going**. We know we are all in this together—we always have been—but we know it even more now.

ENDNOTES: Having celebrated Easter Sunday, we are moving through the church calendar's marking on the Easter season. Consistent with this season's celebration of new life and a new way of life together, we continue our consideration of habits, practices or disciplines to incorporate into the upcoming week (based on "Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us" by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun).

The practice suggested for this second Sunday of Easter is "Gratitude" and comes from the book's section entitled WORSHIP. Gratitude is a discipline that can be cultivated, even in hard times. It's interesting that Paul rolls gratitude into advice for times in which we may be tempted to anxiety. "Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Without giving thanks FOR current circumstances, can we find ways to be grateful IN these circumstances. Striving for this habit we are called to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's prompting to live with a grateful heart, cognizant of God's work in our lives and his abundant resources (Calhoun).

In this Easter season especially, we recognize that our practice of gratitude is founded on

thanksgiving for the gifts of the Risen Christ !

– EGN

To access Pastor's Eric's regular COVID-19 MEDITATIONS, [click here ...](#)

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

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| Office Hours: Friday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM | | Bulletin Deadline: Thursday by Noon. |