

APRIL 26, 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 26, 2020 10:00 AM: THE STORY – CHAPTER 29 - PAUL'S MISSION. The message will again be on video on the website or available through an email link.

NEXT WEEK: MAY 3, 2020 10:00 AM: THE STORY – CHAPTER 30 - PAUL'S FINAL DAYS

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
 - + those struggling with current restrictions, both for work and socially
 - + those who are working in higher-risk and frontline situations
 - + those providing leadership in government and other con-

texts

+ 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 **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 **Bronson G.'s** mother, Jane, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer scheduled to continue chemotherapy and a second surgery.
- Pray for **Mary-Lynn MC.** recovering from a recent fall and as of this writing is looking to return home from Mexico today (Sunday) and will be self quarantined for 14 days.
- Pray for **Peter and Irene O.** who each have a brother in law in their final days.
- Pray for **Riek V., Albert P., Margaret S., Tina D., Frans H., Andy V. and B. & Harmina K.** all of whom are in long term care facilities.
- Extra special wishes for a wonderful 50th wedding anniversary to **Peter & Rita B.** on May 9. God is so good!

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

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**

link of CCNL (Christian Churches Network of London).
<https://mailchi.mp/2c8eb8ad644c/promotion-for-ccnl-prayer-breakfastday-of-prayer-618136?e119feb40>

GEMS GIRLS' CLUBS. Thank God for using GEMS to shape girls and leaders for over 60 years. Loved by God, their calling is to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Mic. 6:8). Ask God to continue to strengthen leaders on their mission to help bring girls into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: CHURCH PLANTS: Pray for Resonate partner church plants that are uniquely positioned to reach people from a Muslim background. Ask God to draw people to these church plants and to provide opportunities for ministry leaders to share the gospel.

WORLD RENEW: UGANDA: Currently World Renew Uganda is working with local church organizations in areas that have suffered disasters or are hosting South Sudanese refugees. Additionally, northern and eastern parts of Uganda are battling a large invasion of locusts that is threatening the livelihoods of subsistence farmers. Please ask God to use World Renew as a blessing to all who need assistance in Uganda.

OFFICE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND WORLD RENEW: Climate Witness - Earth Day was marked this past week. Please pray for facilitators and partners in the Climate Witness Project as they walk with congregations in learning about the realities of climate change. Pray for churches as they find ways to bring this topic before God in worship, educate their communities, reduce their energy footprints, and advocate for policies to protect creation.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS: Many Resonate missionaries lead training for teachers, pastors, and ministry leaders who work in countries where Christians are persecuted. Ask God to equip, protect, and encourage these leaders as they share their faith in every aspect of their lives.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNCIL has decided to delay the nomination process for 2 elders and 4 deacons until we can worship together again.

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.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BANNER Keep the Banner Going! - It's our annual appeal time. The Banner is delivered free in print and online to every household in the CRC, and this annual donation appeal makes it possible. If you haven't given to The Banner yet, 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: Another Sunday... another cause. You may be asking, 'So where does our money go when we give to NewGround?' Let us tell you! All across Canada, there are churches like yours, filled with people who long to see their communities transformed with the love of Christ. Yet many congregations don't have all of the resources or expertise in order to do that. This is where NewGround can help. 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! Visit Diaconal Ministries Canada's website to watch the [2020 Campaign Video](#). Many churches don't have the resources or expertise to reach out to their communities so they turn to NewGround! Please prayerfully consider how you can support other Canadian CRCs Through your donations, your church is actively participating in growing God's Kingdom in new and exciting ways all across Canada. To learn more about this revamped program, visit the Diaconal Ministries' website: diaconalministries.com/newground

COVID-19 UPDATES: Keep up to date on how local churches and the Christian Reformed Church in North America are being

Interested in membership at Bethel Church?

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

affected by and responding to the novel coronavirus. [Read More](#)

GROUNDWORK: I BELIEVE THE SON WILL JUDGE - The Apostles' Creed declares that Christ "will come to judge the living and the dead." Study Mark 13:26-27, Acts 1:11, 2 Peter 3:3-13, and 2 Corinthians 5:10 with Groundwork to discover why believers don't need to fear Judgment Day and what it means for how we live today. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP: Count your blessings as a household. When something happens for which you are grateful, write it down or draw it on a piece of paper. Collect these blessings in a bowl or jar, and at the end of the year, reflect on the many ways God has blessed you—and blessed others through you! (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.

WORLD RENEW: With the continuing Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, many people in our world feel hopeless. But you and I know that, because of Jesus, we can have hope. Not only that, justice calls us to share that hope with the most vulnerable.

Today I want to invite you to take action to create moments of hope through World Renew in the midst of this global pandemic. You can do that in three ways:

1.**PRAY.** Pray for our world. Pray for the people who are already ill. Pray for those who are already vulnerable. Pray for the virus to stop spreading. Pray for the communities that haven't been hit hard yet.

2.**SHARE.** Share stories of hope on social media and [join our COVID-19 Facebook community](#). The more our community spreads moments of hope, the lighter this dark time in our world will become. We need each other to remind our community that God is still moving with His love and power in this season of unknowns.

3.**GIVE.** We are stepping up our efforts to ensure that life saving programs can continue. In addition, we are working with local communities and churches to respond with supplies, trauma healing support, training and education. Your gift demonstrates God's love and care in very practical ways.

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: To all the sewers out there... We've had a tremendous response to our request last week for people to sew gowns. For all those who are sewing gowns already, have ordered kits from Len's Mill, or who have talked to us about helping in this way, thank you! We look forward to

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Denominational Ministry Shares \$ 85.84	GEMS	NewGround (formerly Diaconal Ministries)
Diaconate 5.00		
Tuition Assistance 5.00		
Resonate Global Missions 165.84		
World Renew 95.00		
Local Christian Schools 217.84		
BETHEL BUDGET—GIVING 2020		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 5707.00		

receiving them!

Between what's already come to us and what's currently in the works, it looks like we'll be receiving enough to fully supply our team at this time, so once we've received the kits you're working on, you may hold off on further gown donations for now. **Thank you again!**

As you may have seen, this week (April 19–25) is National Volunteer Week. This is a cross-country celebration of volunteers of all ages—a way to applaud and say “thank you” to the millions of people across Canada who selflessly donate their time, energy, and resources to causes that matter.

On our social media over the past few days, we've been celebrating a few of our many volunteers here at Indwell. As we expected, physical distancing restrictions meant that most of our social programs had to pause for the time-being. The same is true for our volunteer programs; and currently we're not accepting any volunteer applications—but stay tuned for more information on how you can be a part of transforming lives at Indwell once it's safe to do so again.

From all of us at Indwell, **thank you** for being a part of transforming lives—whether it's through volunteering, donating, funding projects, sending encouragement notes or covering us in prayer—we are so grateful for you.

GREETINGS KUYPER COLLEGE COMMUNITY: During this unique time in our history, we at Kuyper College are still doing our best to share with you what our alumni are doing around the world. We are thankful for the people and modern technology that make this possible. Please enjoy reading our most recent newsletter at this link: [Spring 2020 Newsletter](#) . We pray that you and your family are finding peace in the new rhythm of life right now.

Dear Congregation :

Thank you for your generous gift to Resonate Global Mission! Your gift comes at a critical time as the world faces the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19, and we are grateful for your continued support.

The rapidly spreading nature and the global reach of the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting mission work everywhere. Your Resonate missionaries, church planters, and campus ministers rely on small and large group meetings, one-on-one meetings, and travel to do their work of sharing the gospel. This crisis requires us to change and adapt—and we are adapting, thanks to your partnership.

Like we see at churches across North America, COVID-19 won't stop ministry; rather, your ministry leaders are finding new ways to respond to needs in their communities throughout the world. The message of salvation in Jesus Christ is needed more than ever as people search for peace and hope. Thank you for partnering with us in the gospel.

I hope that you and your church will continue to pray for your missionaries and church planters through this crisis. Resonate will be posting updates on ministry during COVID-19 at www.resonateglobalmission.org/covid19 and I encourage you to check there for the latest needs and updates.

In Christ, Kevin DeRaaf, Acting Canada Director

ENDNOTES: Having celebrated Easter Sunday, we are moving through the church calendar's marking of 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 third Sunday of Easter is simply "Worship." The worship that is communal and an in-person gathering of God's people is one of the things that many of us are missing these days. However, it is a discipline that consists of far more than just showing up on a Sunday. Calhoun says: "Worship happens whenever we intentionally cherish God and value him above all else in life. Worship reveals what is important to us." She says that worship involves keeping company with Jesus no matter what happens (including Cov-19 conditions) and it allows us to fulfill our deep-seated and God-given longing to adore and praise our Creator. Worship is closely associated with the word 'serve' and impacts daily living. The Old Testament prophets frequently spoke out against the inconsistencies between people's acts of worship and their lack of daily practicing of love toward neighbour and care of the poor and disadvantaged. People following the Risen Christ in this season of Easter take up worship of God with extra vigour every day of the week and align that worship with faithful practice of neighbour love. – EGN

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

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

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	bethelcrlcdn@gmail.com
Office Hours: Friday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM		Bulletin Deadline: Thursday by Noon.

BETHEL CRC LONDON, SUMMARY MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL

Tuesday April 14, 2019 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom

Present: Steve tB.-chair, Rose S.-clerk, Pastor Eric, Richard B., Fred DV., Ron H., Peter O., John VT., Harry J., Janet and Ray B., Arie R.

Absent: John P., and Denise C., with notice

- Opening Devotions and Prayer by Fred DV. .reading Psalms of Ascents #121
- Opening Items: Motion - John VT. approved January 28, 2020 minutes; Arie R. seconded; all in favor; carried
- Administrative Items
 - * Classis Meeting May 26 th , 2020 – form completed with attending elders and deacons
 - * Renewal Lab Fall of 2020 – Pastor Eric stated that Keith Doornbos would like to set up a presentation at Bethel to present networking with other classis churches; COVID-19 restrictions may postpone event; Pastor Eric will reach out to Keith D. for update
 - * Covid-19 – due to another possible 4 weeks of being house bound, Peter O. requests a financial update from Jan DV; Steve will reach out to Jan DV for an update; Janet prepared a list of member house bound need to be contacted via card/note
 - * Sabbatical – P. Eric confirms that his sabbatical will be delayed at this time; will reconvene the process to AC once restrictions are removed
 - * Nominations – Ron H states that no names have been presented; election will be put on hold; Ron will request Barb W to remove elections from the bulletin and will be postponed temporarily
 - * Green Space Letter – Peter O reports that the committee will put this process on hold; Steve will send out letter that Green Space process has been postponed temporarily
- Council Retreat – discussion regarding doing retreat by zoom; P. Eric will follow up at AC
- Correspondence
 - * Jenica–license to exhort update by Fred DV; states he spoke to Jenica and will follow up
 - * Letters – resolution/meetings of some matters held and will be discussed further; Steve will follow up
 - * Aleida, in Belize – P. Eric received a letter from Edu Deo acknowledging the generous financial donation. May mission on hold at present
- Congregational Meeting – Peter O suggested to combine the two cong meetings at one time in the fall; this will be brought up at AC meeting; Steve to send out the congregational minutes for council's approval
- Misc. - Peter states Dementia Friendliness by Susan Osler is placed on hold; Susan will do the presentation when able
- Ministry Items
 - * Surprise the World book– discussed Chapter 3 Blessings
 - * The Story update- small groups studying The Story presently on hold; P. Eric is continuing to move through the chapters so that The Story would end on schedule; Motion by John VT to reconvene The Story chapter 23 in small groups when time allows; seconded by Fred DV. approval shown by a majority of hands; motion carried
- Reports
 - * Pastor Eric – report summarized by P. Eric; members expressed how well the sermons were given
 - * AC – Steve reports a couple meetings have been held via zoom regarding church events
 - * Shepherding Elders - Peter reports numerous prayer requests, funeral process; bulletins being hand delivered, May 16, wedding with immediate family only, and appreciation for the outreach given; prayer meeting by zoom well attended

- * Deacons – Harry J reports hosting deacon workshop Mar 7, 2020 successful; volunteers stepped up for Salvation Army meals for the homeless; masks/hats being made for hospitals, community and family; Arie reports on one year anniversary sponsoring of refugee family-Hizbawi, Eden and Hiyabel; Arie compliments this family's work ethics and states he is grateful for being part of their settlement; Rose S will send out an appreciation card to Hagos E. acknowledging our gratitude for this family
- * WPT - Peter O reports that he contacted Ann P, custodian; Ann states cleaning has been kept up; Ben S has changed the sign outside; June fund raiser will be postponed until further notice
- * Safe Church – Richard states there is nothing to report

Next FC Meeting: - May 26, 2020 @ 7:00 pm Closing Prayer by Arie R. @ 9:33 pm