

BETHEL

Christian Reformed Church

Connect . Grow . Care



New Covid-19 Meeting Protocols (as of January 14, 2021) NOTE REGARDING WORSHIP SERVICES:

Due to the province's latest restrictions meant to curb the spread of Covid-19, we will NOT be gathering in person as a congregation. However, we will be able to meet virtually for worship through our live-streamed services each Sunday morning at 10 AM. Services will be accessible through this YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4Wwd6R15RahvSSyEFwAxeA>

If you have any needs or questions please contact the church office, Pastor Eric, the council chair or any elder or deacon of the church. Contact information is located near the end of this bulletin.

NOTE IF YOU ARE HAVING ANY DIFFICULTY ACCESSING THE Members Only BULLETIN OR WORKING THROUGH THE WORSHIP GUIDE, please contact the Pastor Eric, the office, one of the council members or another Bethel member who may be able to help.

acts. Ultimately, LENT is seen as preparation for Easter and the celebration of the resurrection of our Saviour Jesus.

TODAY: February 21, 2021. 10:00 AM: – THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Live-Stream: Our series Upside Down Prayer for a Sideways World will focus on the petition of the prayer "Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive Others." **Please note** that we will have brief time set aside for the imposition of ashes as part of our first-Sunday-in-Lent liturgy. We will be encouraged to simply apply ashes on our foreheads symbolically (no materials needed) but of course, you may have ashes (or other materials as a substitute) ready to apply as ashes to yourself or to anyone else in your household.

NEXT WEEK: February 28, 2021. THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (Live-Stream) - Next week our series Upside Down Prayer for a Sideways World will focus on the petition of the prayer "Lead us not into temptation" (or sometimes translated as "Save Us From the Time of Trial").

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.

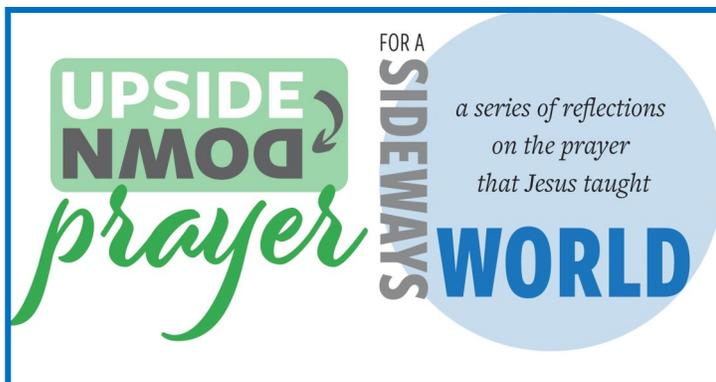
THIS WEEK'S PRAYER SUGGESTIONS:

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES: In addition to these weekly denominational prayer items, you may access other updated requests through this link of CCNL (Christian Churches Network of London <http://www.ccnl.org/resources/pray/>)

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIALOGUE: JUSTICE AND HOPE

SUNDAY: Please pray that God would use the disruptions of this past year to remind us of our interdependence with our neighbors. Ask God to use us to help governments see the importance of caring for people who are vulnerable. Praise God with us for signs of hope already emerging in the church's calling to seek justice and speak truth.

SAFE CHURCH: NEW DIRECTOR: We are thankful that Dr. Amanda Benckhuysen will be stepping into the role of director for Safe Church Ministry this month. Please pray for our ministry as we come together as a new team and plan



THE SEASON OF LENT began last Wednesday. Lent is that period of forty days (excluding Sundays) from Ash Wednesday until Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday. In the history of the church, this season sets aside time for sober reflection as we remember Christ's suffering on the way to his crucifixion and death on the cross on Good Friday. In the worldwide church, lent has traditionally been a time for fasting, deep self-examination and the practice of extra compassionate

for the years ahead. May Amanda receive abundant grace and strength as she serves in this new role.

REFRAME: JAPAN: Pray for a ReFrame Japanese ministry listener who recently called and shared his concerns about the end of the world. Pray for other listeners like him who are asking big and important questions during the ongoing pandemic. Pray that they'll continue to look to God for answers.

RESONATE: EAST ASIA: Pray for educators in East Asia who are persecuted because of their faith. Several teachers who participated in Educational Care trainings facilitated by Resonate have recently been arrested. Ask God to protect these teachers and the many other educators who share the gospel with students who may never have heard of Jesus.

WORSHIP MINISTRIES: PRAYER: "Savior, many worship leaders feel exhausted as each season quickly leads to the next. Give them peace to know you are present in their preparation and renew their body and spirit. In this season of Lent, may we be mindful that we need the Savior, that we need to recognize our sin and turn to you. Having experienced your love and forgiveness, may we live grateful lives in service to you."

WORLD RENEW: NIGERIA: Nigeria is currently experiencing a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank God for providing grace for people adjusting to the challenges of this situation. Please pray for a solution to the pandemic in Nigeria and around the world, and pray for safety and wisdom for World Renew and partner staff as we continue in ministry.

RESONATE: Pray for families throughout the world whose children are enrolled in Resonate partner Christian schools. COVID-19 has made education difficult for children and parents. Pray that these families will experience the peace of Christ in the midst of stress and challenges. Pray that circumstances will not divide them but that they will draw nearer in relationship to God and one another.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTE from INDWELL: Hi Friends at Bethel CRC of London, I hope you are keeping safe and warm during these cold winter days! Progress at Embassy Commons is going well, and we are on track to open the building in spring 2022. Please enjoy [this short one-minute video update](#), and feel free to pass it along to friends who may be interested in Indwell's work in creating hope and homes in London. Thank you for your generous support of this project. If you have any questions or suggestions about Indwell's work in London, please contact me – I'd love to hear from you. *Kind Regards, Julie Ryan (Community Engagement Coordinator jryan@indwell.ca)*

HEY LADIES! Save the Date - April 16 - 17, 2021 - a virtual retreat for all women! **WOMEN'S ONLINE RETREAT**

SOUTH COAST BEACH PROJECT UPDATE: Applications have been received and invitations extended to nine young adults for this upcoming summer project. Pastor Willemina will know by Feb. 15 who plans to participate. Thankfully, rental properties have been secured for housing. However, we are still looking to raise funds and secure a permanent housing site for future projects. Please pray for the following:

- * for employment options that fit each participant
- * for the pandemic to subside so as not to impede the launch of the SCBP
- * for an on-going search and funding for a permanent ministry/housing site

FEBRUARY 21 IS JUSTICE AND HOPE SUNDAY! The Centre for Public Dialogue invites you to mark Justice and Hope Sunday on the first Sunday of Lent. Isaiah 42 encourages us to think about our spiritual condition and our hope for renewal.

GROUNDWORK: FATHER, FORGIVE THEM - Studying Jesus' words from the cross is a valuable Lenten tradition for reflection on his ultimate sacrifice. Why was Jesus' first word about forgiveness? Who was he forgiving? Join our Groundwork discussion on Luke 23:32-38 to learn about the practice of forgiveness and why it relates to our salvation. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP: The Practice of Justice and Mercy: Wendell Berry wrote, "Rats and roaches live by competition under the laws of supply and demand; it is the privilege of human beings to live under the laws of justice and mercy." Which laws in your community promote justice, mercy, and human flourishing? Which do not? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices)

LENT CREATION CARE CHALLENGE: This Lent, we're inviting you to join us in a journey of Creation Care. We want to live out our faith by investing in the flourishing of God's creation. Each week, we'll share practical challenges and Scriptural reflections on how we can be faithful stewards during this season of worship. Get the full details here: justice.crcna.org/len-2021

FOCUS ON THE CROSS - LENTEN DEVOTIONS: Lent is a season to focus on the hope of Jesus Christ. Receive

Interested in membership at Bethel Church?

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

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

2021 CENSUS JOBS: Statistics Canada has this message for the communities served by the Christian Reformed Church in Canada about the benefits of the upcoming census and census job opportunities:

Statistics Canada is hiring approximately 32,000 people for census enumerator and crew leader positions across Canada to help in collection of census surveys. The positions available are for four months (either part-time or full-time) and consist of:

- **Crew Leaders** to train, lead and supervise a team of Enumerators;
- **Enumerators** will be hired to complete census questionnaires with residents.

Visit www.census.gc.ca/jobs for the information you need to pass on the opportunity to your community, including a video explaining more about the positions. Detailed information on the jobs available and the application process can also be found at www.census.gc.ca/jobs.

WHY VISION IS NOT YOUR PROBLEM: Who's responsible for church vision? Too often leaders bear the mantle of church vision alone, as if it depends entirely on them. *In reality, healthy vision is broadly owned by both church members and leaders.* So, what does it take to sow seeds for grassroots vision at your church? How might the work of church vision change if it were shared? Watch as **Phil Leo** joins **Jodi Koeman**, church with community coordinator for World Renew, as they discuss the potential for broadly owned vision at your church. [Click this link.](#)

CCNL (CHRISTIAN CHURCHES NETWORK OF LONDON) regularly brings together Christian Churches in the city of London for mutual encouragement and service. Check out CCNL's Events Page here ... <https://ccnl.churchcenter.com/registrations>

THANK YOU FROM WORLD RENEW! Bethel CRC's giving in 2020 is furthering God's story of justice and mercy as World Renew joins communities around the globe to renew hope. We are deeply grateful for your gifts of \$18,168.03 received in 2020 for our Canadian Foodgrains Bank projects, World Hunger campaign, and Program fund (where needed most). We press on to fix our eyes on Jesus in a world laden with challenges affecting humanity from racial injustice, increasing hunger, and mounting

deaths from COVID-19. Together as a global church let us "learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." (Isaiah 1:17) To learn about how World Renew is joining the world's families in more than 30 countries to change the story of poverty, visit worldrenew.ca.

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