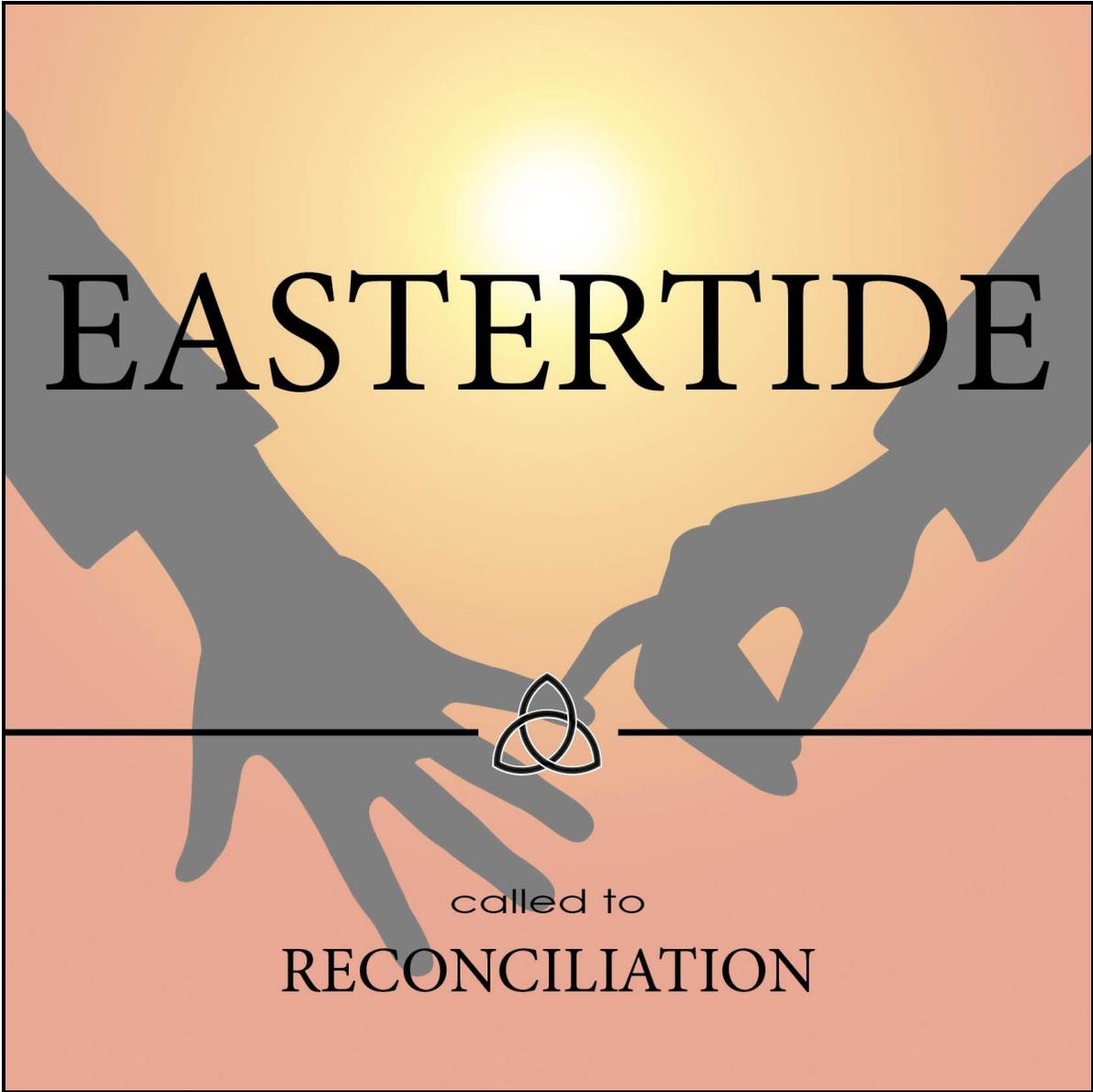


Community Christian Reformed Church
Kitchener, Ontario
April 29, 2018



EASTERTIDE

called to
RECONCILIATION

April 29, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Pastor Amanda Bakale

Elder-in-Charge: Julie V

[* *Please rise, in body or spirit*]

Gathering and Greeting

Gathering Song: *"Forever"*

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

*God's Greeting and Mutual Greeting

*Songs of Praise: *"I Am Not My Own"*

"Hallelujah (Your Love is Amazing)"

Confession and Assurance

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Song of Thanksgiving: *"Jesus Friend of Sinners"*

Children's Blessing

Children ages 3 – Grade 3 are now invited to participate in Sunday School. Children (ages 3-5 only) need to be signed in and out by a parent or guardian.

Proclamation of the Word

Song of Preparation: *"Speak, O Lord"*

Confession of Faith: The Belhar Confession, Article 3

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Luke 15: 11-32

Sermon: **"On the Road"**

Prayer of Application

Response to the Word

Children in Grades 4-6 are invited to participate in their weekly sermon discussion.

*Song of Response: PsH #545 *"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"*

Prayers of the People

Offering: 1) Ministries of Community Christian Reformed Church
2) World Renew – Refugee Sunday

Song of Dedication: *"Behold Our God"*

*God's Parting Blessing

*Doxology: *"We Receive Your Blessing"*

**The Congregational meeting will start
immediately following the morning service.**

The congregation is asked to remain in their seats after the service to allow the Pastor and people with special duties or disabilities to exit first.

Please exit when the music begins.



Following the service, everyone is invited to come together for fellowship and coffee/tea/juice in the gymnasium. Coffee for seniors is served in the Multi-Purpose room.

6:00 pm

Pastor John Medendorp

Pianist: Irene G

[* Please rise, in body or spirit]

Praise and Prayer

Welcome

Call to Worship

*God's Greeting

*Song of Praise: PsH #431 vs. 1-5 *"All Creatures of Our God and King"*

Scripture Reading: Psalm 40

Song of Response: *“Wait for the Lord”*

Prayer and Share

Offering: World Renew – Refugee Sunday

Hearing the Word

Song of Preparation: PsH #42 vs. 1-3, 6 *“As a Deer in Want of Water”*

Belgic Confession, Article 25 - The Fulfillment of the Law

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 10: 1-18

Sermon: **“Sacramental Shadows”**

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response: *“Be Thou My Vision”*

*God’s Parting Blessing

*Doxology: PsH #620 vs. 1-3 *“By the Sea of Crystal”*

Belhar Confession, Article #3 (for morning service)

We believe

- that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ, that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells (2 Cor. 5:17-21; Matt. 5:13-16; Matt. 5:9; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21-22).
- that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world (Eph. 4:17–6:23, Rom. 6; Col. 1:9-14; Col. 2:13-19; Col. 3:1–4:6);
- that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people on a racial basis promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity;

- that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.

Therefore, we reject any doctrine

- which, in such a situation, sanctions in the name of the gospel or of the will of God the forced separation of people on the grounds of race and color and thereby in advance obstructs and weakens the ministry and experience of reconciliation in Christ.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

The bracketed numbers indicate the Community to which these individuals belong

Our condolences are extended to **Henk and Gine K (1)** and **Alyanne and Dave C and their son Willem (2)** with the passing away of Henk and Gine's daughter and Alyanne's sister, **Johanna W**. Johanna passed away early Friday morning following a long journey with cancer. At time of writing funeral arrangements were not as yet known. Details will be made available as soon as known.

Please keep **Janette W (13)** in your prayers as she will undergo surgery tomorrow at Grand River Hospital. Pray that all may go well and for a quick recovery.

We rejoice with **Marcela G (9)** and her son, **Ryan**, who together became Canadian citizens this past Tuesday! **Jacoby**, who is the youngest is already a Canadian by virtue of being born in Canada. It has been a long road for Marcela to gain stability in her newly adopted land and so we are excited with her and for her and Ryan and Jacoby.

Thank you I would just like to take a moment to thank everyone for all of the support for my family and me these last

eight months since I was diagnosed with cancer. The prayers, the cards of encouragement, the texts, the kind words, the meals, and so much more have lifted us up, brought comfort, and made us smile. Thankfully, the chemotherapy worked to reduce the masses past what can be visibly perceived on the scans and now I will continue with biotherapy treatments every three weeks. I am truly feeling stronger and blessed these days. God is good. Please continue to pray that the treatment will serve to keep this disease at bay for as long as possible and that we may live each day to its fullest.

Brenda A & family (13)

Classis Huron will be meeting on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at Maranatha CRC in Cambridge. Meeting on Saturday is an experiment to see if it will be easier for more people to serve as delegates. Delegates for Community CRC are: Pastor Carel (pastoral and serving as chair for the day), Larry L (elder); Annette N (deacon). The agenda is fairly light and straightforward including such things as the 2017 financial statements, providing

stipends for our Youth Champion and a Safe Church Coordinator, an update on River City CRC in Cambridge and various other reports. The meeting is open to everyone, so if you are interested in what the broader gathering of churches does, please feel free to sit in for the day or even a part of the day. The meeting begins at 9 a.m.

Please continue to pray for:

- those who are shut-in and/or unable to worship with us on a regular basis because of various health issues;
- those dealing with depression and other forms of mental illness;
- those dealing with cancer, its treatment and effects: **Shannon B** (7);
- **Olga S** (11) who remains as a patient at St. Mary's until alternative housing can be arranged. Olga has moved to the 5th floor.
- those dealing with broken relationships;
- those who are unemployed or underemployed;
- **Anthony and Barbara P** with Daystar Ministries on Manitoulin Island; **Hank and Rosario S** volunteering with Resonate Global Mission in Guatemala
- the persecuted Church;
- the Ministries and the Leadership of our congregation

STAFF NEWS

Pastor John is preaching at Palmerston CRC this morning.

Pastor John will be on vacation from May 1 – May 7. He will be back in the office on Tuesday, May 8.

Congratulations to the following couples



celebrating milestone anniversaries in the coming week:

Ron and Anita H (4) will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary tomorrow, April 30.

Aaron and Lisa D (9) will celebrate their 5th wedding anniversary on May 3.

John and Nelly D (2) will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on May 4.

May God continue to bless and strengthen all these marriages for many years to come!

Congratulations to the following



members celebrating a birthday in the coming week:

May 1 - Bob P (14)

May 6 - Minnie H (11)

May they experience God's richest blessings in the coming year and as they celebrate their birthday!

UPCOMING SERVICES

May 6	10 a.m.	Pastor Amanda Friendship Group participates
	6 p.m.	Communities meet
May 13	10 a.m.	Pastor Carel Lord's Supper
	6 p.m.	Pastor John

OFFERING SCHEDULE

**Budget Contributions
For April 22, 2018 including PAR
(Pre-Authorized Remittance)**

	Actual Contributions Received	Targeted Contributions	Contributions (Shortfall)/ Surplus
April 22	32,520	30,584	1,936
YTD	243,000	275,435	(32,435)
GEMS			\$ 2,298
Benevolence			\$ 1,100
Friendship			\$ 235
World Renew			\$ 190
Christian School Foundation			\$ 150
Resonate Global Mission			\$ 100
Waterloo Campus Ministry			\$ 60
Food Bank			\$ 50
Food Bank - Sunday School Offering			\$ 225

Our offering today is for World Renew – Refugee Sunday. Since 1979, World Renew has been working with churches and the Canadian public to sponsor and help resettle refugees. Through World Renew’s Refugee Office, Christian Reformed Churches and other church partners in Canada have had the opportunity to welcome refugees and assist them as they resettle.

Next week our offering is for Friendship Ministries. The mission of Friendship Ministries is to provide resources that support faith formation and congregational inclusion with individuals with intellectual disability. Their vision is for people with and without intellectual disability growing deeper in their relationship with God and with each other in community together.

COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWS

**Administrative Council
Meeting Highlights – April 24, 2018**

- Richard D visited to provide an update on the L.A.F.F. (Life After Fifty Five) program, a senior’s group that meets every other Tuesday with approximately 60 regular attenders. It is a wonderful program with lots to be thankful for. Prayer was offered for the L.A.F.F. program.
 - The elders met with and interviewed Mrs. Betsy D (a candidate for ministry in the CRC) as the intern candidate for Pastor Amanda’s upcoming maternity leave.
 - Various staff and ministry monthly reports were reviewed and received for information.
 - The Community Ministry Team was thanked for all their work developing the Communities/CCG model over the years and dismissed with thanks. Members who have served were Chris d, Pastor Carel, Arlene H, Julie V, and Fimke V. Much of the work of the CMT will now be carried out by the Pastoral Team as well as the Mission Strategy Team.
 - The Board of Stewards is reviewing the custodial requirements during upcoming church building construction addition.
 - A mortgage from the CRC Extension Fund for the upcoming church building addition was applied for.
 - The Deacons and the Mission Strategy Team are considering how to best support our missionaries in 2019.
 - Office bearer nomination letters are being distributed.

- The Administrative Council will be having a retreat on Saturday May 12, 2018 at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre to discern and plan.

Today Booklets: The May/June 2018 edition of the Today Devotional Booklet is available today. Large Print copies are in the mailboxes of members who have requested them. Regular print copies are available at the Information Centre or on the shelves by the front doors. Please help yourself!

Volunteers needed: Members of our church are invited to assist in the performance appraisal process of our pastors. Our pastors and other support staff are provided feedback annually through an evaluation process that is intended to build up and encourage them in their work. In addition to obtaining feedback from their peers, the office bearers and ministry volunteers, we invite other members to also assist.

If you are willing to complete a short questionnaire on one of the pastors, please send a note to Keith O. Each person will be asked to evaluate one pastor (at random). Questions ask Keith.

L.A.F.F. (Life After Fifty Five) will meet this Tuesday, May 1, at the church. Coffee and fellowship is at 10:15 a.m. with the meeting to start at 10:45 a.m. Pastor Bernie will lead in the final lesson on Elijah. Lunch will be provided. This is the final LAFF meeting of this ministry year.

Dive into Doctrine: Youth and adults (grades 6 and up) are invited to join us every **Wednesday until May 16** in the sanctuary for our intergenerational catechism class on the Belhar Confession. This week, we will be looking at the theme of UNITY from the Belhar Confession, Article 2. We will also be hearing from Rev. Anthony Elenbaas from Hamilton, a member of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee of the CRC. Pastor Anthony will be sharing stories of how the CRC is working toward unity with other Christian churches. Fellowship and refreshments begins at 7, devotions in the sanctuary at 7:15, and the exercise at 7:30.

Coffee Break's final meeting will be this Wednesday, May 2nd at 9:30 am.



Join us as we wrap up our studies for the season. Thank you to each of our volunteers and attendees for all that they contribute to the ministry each week. Going forward, we will now be meeting at the Country Hills playground (100 Rittenhouse Road in Kitchener) on Wednesday mornings 9-11ish. This is a great time of fellowship and connection for moms and their kids. For more information regarding upcoming Coffee Break events in the summer, please follow us on Facebook: CCRC Coffee Break."

Friday Night Dinner: May 4 @ 6-8pm: Are you a young adult looking for a place to connect over a good meal? Join other young adults from Community CRC, Waterloo CRC, and Waterloo Campus Ministry at Pastor Amanda and Brian's home every first Friday of the month for dinner and conversation.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

For all of the announcements, employment and volunteer opportunities available through the Denomination and others, please see the listing and posters on the Deacons bulletin board across from the washrooms for information.

The All Ontario Youth Convention is looking for safety team members! All Ontario Youth convention is happening at Wilfrid Laurier in Waterloo on the May long weekend. If you are over 25, enjoy an action packed weekend, enjoy drinking lots of coffee, and have a desire to see youth experience Jesus this maybe for you. This is an important role for keeping our youth safe during the weekend and no prep work required. If you are interested or have questions please look for the contact information in the printed edition of the bulletin.

Volunteers Needed! The All Ontario Youth Convention needs your help! We are looking for about 50 adult and young adult volunteers to help us with our epic Saturday Night Activity, beginning at 7pm on May 19, 2018. If this sounds exciting, we'd love to have you partner with us! Please email the contact in the printed edition of the bulletin if you would like to know more information or would like to join us.

Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue - Ask Parliament to End Refugee Travel Loan Repayment - We all want refugees to settle well in Canada--to learn one of our official languages, find jobs, and become integrated into communities. But

Canada currently asks refugees to pay back the money that the government spent on their travel to Canada. The evidence shows that these immigration travel loans have a negative impact on refugees' ability to settle well. The pressure to pay them back can make it difficult to pay for necessities, push refugees to find jobs before they've completed their language training, and add unneeded stress to already stressful transitions. The government knows this-- which is why they just stopped charging interest on the loans. But it would cost just 40 cents per Canadian to stop asking refugees to repay these loans entirely. We all want refugees to settle well in Canada-- and for just 40 cents per Canadian, we can do it. Ask the Minister of Immigration and your MP to exempt refugees from travel loan repayment! Please see website at <https://p2a.co/MZlo7zc> and voice your concerns.

Calvin Prison Initiative: Reforming Our Prisons through Education: Calvin Prison Initiative (CPI) is training faithful leaders in a Prison context. A partnership between Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary, CPI is a unique program that provides a Christian liberal arts education at Handlon Prison in Michigan. Come hear the amazing story of how CPI has been bringing hope, dignity, and opportunity for real accomplishment to these students in prison.

Join us Thursday May 3rd either at breakfast (8-9 AM) at Immanuel CRC in Hamilton, or in the afternoon (2:30-3:30 PM) in Harmony Hall at Holland Christian Home, Brampton.

RSVP by May 1st to semevents@calvinseminary.edu or 1 800 388 6034 and hit option 3.

Climate Change: Why it matters and what we can do about it? Friday, May 25 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Waterloo CRC: Do you know why many scientists are worried about the future of the world's climate? Why are so many governments still reluctant to act on this issue? What does the Bible have to say about our responsibility as Christians? What does the future hold for our children and grandchildren? What more you can do about it? Climate change is a growing factor in many crises today – from hunger and poverty to wars and forced migration. Dr. Henry Brouwer, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Science, Redeemer University College, will speak on climate change. Bring your questions and your curiosity. (Henry Brouwer serves as a member of the Climate Witness Project of the Christian Reformed Church. For more info, see crcna.org/CWP.)

MISCELLANEOUS

Spring into action for Christian Education: Woodland Christian High School invites you to participate in our annual ***Nurture the Vision – Spring Fund Drive***. During the week of **April 30 – May 12**. Volunteers from your community will be contacting friends of Woodland to ask for financial support. Your gifts have helped Woodland to provide excellent Christian high school education for over **40 years!** Donations help young people in your community and keeps the cost of that education affordable for as many families as possible. When you are

called, please give to this important annual drive. If you have any questions or wish to make a donation, please contact **Brian & Lisa E**, the Fund Drive Coordinator in Kitchener/Waterloo or visit our school website for online giving options: www.woodland.on.ca. Thank you for your prayerful support.

May 10th is National March for Life day in Canada for more information go to: <https://www.crcna.org/events/march-life-canada>

