

NEWS YOU CAN USE

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026



WELCOME PASTOR BILL VIS

This week's sermon
"Good Beginnings"
Acts 9:26-31

Join us for coffee after the service
to welcome Pastor Bill and Sandy

NOW TAKING COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

If you would like to nominate someone as a candidate for Council, please contact Amy Cline, Clerk of Council, at rcrccouncilclerk@gmail.com no later than September 10. The qualifications to serve on Council, and Guidelines for Congregational Meetings can be found at www.rochestercrc.org/members. If you are need the password for the members area of the website, please contact the office.

SERVING ON SUNDAY

Nursery: Peg Chambery
Clara Miller

Ushers: Phil Tschorke
Jan Hussen

Coffee: Bob & Chrissy Null
Kathie Larsson
John or Katie Singleton

STARTING SOON!

Wednesday, September 9	Koinonia Cook Out - 6PM GEMS and Cadets Registration - NEW TIME - 6:45
Sunday, September 13	Adult and children's Sunday school classes. Sr. High - 6 PM
Wednesday, September 16	Jr. High - 6:30 PM

JOYCE DOBBENGA'S SERVICE

A service celebrating Joyce Dobbenga's life and faith will be held at Rochester CRC on Saturday, September 19 at 11:00 AM.

**THE
OFFICE IS CLOSED
ON MONDAY**

Theology Conference 2026

“Being Human: Dust yet Crowned with Honor”
Rochester CRC | October 10-11



Speaker:

Dr. Mary Vanden Berg

Dr. Vanden Berg is professor emeritus of systematic theology at Calvin Theological Seminary. Her research interest is theological anthropology. Specifically, she considers questions surrounding what it means to be human for those at the margins of life, and the impact of sin on human relationships.

Registration opens in September



**Ryan Chan's Farewell Cake
a Rochester CRC tradition**

RYAN AT THE FRINGE FESTIVAL

Ryan and his friend Joyce Tseng (viola) will present a dance-themed recital on Thursday September 17, 7:30pm, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Westminster Rd. They will play classics like Brahms' Hungarian Dance, traditional Chinese Erhu music, and fiery tangos. Tickets available at www.rochesterfringe.com/tickets-and-shows/the-dancing-viola

TUTORING NEEDED

Volunteer tutoring opportunity! World Relief, a Christian refugee resettlement agency, needs volunteers to tutor refugees who want to learn or improve their English. No experience is necessary! Please see Sue Bratt Cok if you'd like more info.

STAFFING UPDATES!

As you heard announced on Sunday, **Bethany Miller** will be stepping down from her position as Children's Ministry Coordinator in order to focus on her family. She appreciates all of the support she and her family have received from our church family during this difficult time. Council is currently discussing ways to fill this position and will keep you posted.

Last Sunday, we celebrated **Ryan Chan's** last day with us as an organist and choir director. We wish Ryan well and are grateful for the time and talents he gave to us.

A search team is working on hiring a new organist and choir director, and in the meantime, **Lara Larsson** has agreed to step in as Interim Director of Choirs. She will be working with both adult and youth choirs. **Julianne Zhu** will fill in as our organist. Thanks to Lara and Julianne for stepping up so quickly!

A NOTE FROM LARA ABOUT THE CHOIR

Dear Rochester CRC Family,

In 2021, I entered the Rochester CRC choir as a singer. I found much more than a place to make music; I found a community that offered me fellowship and a sense of belonging. Now, as a member of Rochester CRC, I am humbled and grateful to serve as the church's Interim Director of Choirs this fall.

My musical formation was shaped by Dr. Brandon Johnson at Houghton University and Dr. Kevin Fenton and Dr. André Thomas at Florida State University. I share this conducting lineage with Dr. Adam Potter, under whose leadership I first sang at Rochester CRC. Since completing my studies I have led groups of singers, both large and small, in settings ranging from theatrical to educational. This will be my first position serving within the liturgy for a church community.

The choir that welcomed me in 2021 is the same choir I now have the privilege of caring for. My hope is that it will remain a place of warmth, welcome, and genuine belonging for everyone who enters the room.

If you have ever wondered what it might be like to sing with the choir, I warmly invite you to test the waters. Come to a rehearsal, listen, sit amongst the singers. Sing a line or two. You do not need to make an immediate commitment. Curiosity is enough to begin. I hope our congregation will see the choir as a place where collective healing, community, and growth can take root.

I am deeply grateful to the RCRC for trusting me with this transitional role. I look forward to growing alongside the choir in truth, in spirit, and in good humor as we learn, worship, and make music together.

With joy and gratitude,

Lara Larsson

Interim Director of Choirs, Rochester Christian Reformed Church

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL - FALL 2026

Paul the Apostle: A Biography | Biblical Study | N.T. Wright

Most of us know the story of Paul in the beginning (the stoning, the blinding light), but the details of the travels are less well known. NT Wright takes us through some of these details in a video series. Each week will include watching teaching by NT Wright followed by review of his discussion questions. For additional information, please contact Jim Quinn at james.b.quinn@gmail.com.

A study through the Canons Dort - one of the CRC Three Forms of Unity

The class will explore the Canons, reviewing their development, scriptural underpinnings and practical outworking through facilitated group discussion. The Canons describe God's grace in our calling, redemption, regeneration and preservation in Christ. The book "Grace Worth Fighting For: Recapturing the Vision of God's Grace in the Canons of Dort" will provide additional insights for those interested in digging deeper into this topic, For additional information, please contact Dave Dill at davidedill@gmail.com.

Pastor Vis Contact Information

Pastor Bill's email address is billvis1@gmail.com and his cell phone number is 907-575-0514. Feel free to call or text him at any time. After he retired, he decided to keep his Alaska phone number because it was on all his internet accounts and medical records, as well as countless contact lists. If you receive a call that says it is from Anchorage, Alaska, it is probably from him, so it is safe to answer it.