

# REDEEMER REPORT



October 10, 2024

NEWSLETTER OF REDEEMER CRC  
SARNIA, ON

info@redeemercrc.com



## Connect

~In person gatherings Sundays at  
10am

~ Weekly messages from Pastor Corey  
Van Huizen on YouTube  
<https://bit.ly/2vPON8L>

~Redeemer Christian Reformed  
Church on Facebook



~Redeemer Sarnia on Instagram

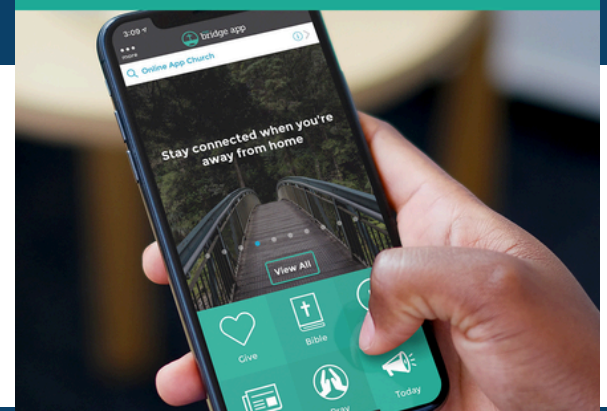


## Upcoming Events & News

- The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, October 27.
- The next Wednesday Worship will be on October 16 at 3:30pm. If you need a ride, please contact Didi v or Gerald V.
- Pastor Joe will be away on October 20. Elaine S will be bringing us a reading sermon message that day.
- You are invited to a weekly prayer group that meets at Redeemer on Wednesdays at 11am. We are asking for God's direction and power in the current and future work of our church. Even if you are hesitant to pray aloud, you are welcome to join us with your silent prayers. Contact Joleen V for more information.
- Listening Circles to further discuss Synod's decisions will be held on November 10. Details to follow.



Connecting churches with their communities, and  
community members to the body of Christ.



thebridgeapp.org  
Relational. Missional. Local.



# Upcoming Events & News (con't)

## Highlights of Classis Southwest Ontario Meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024 hosted by Wallaceburg CRC

With 25 of 28 churches of classis gathered, 57 delegates (including 7 first-time delegates), Rev. Peter H (Chair) of Compass Community Church and Rev. John M (Vice-Chair) of Covenant CRC, led us through our agenda. Delegates and guests were encouraged by a number of reports and presentations throughout the day. For more detail please refer to the Minutes which are available through your church or Ron M, Stated Clerk. The following are a few highlights.

- Classis was blessed to participate in and witness the examination of Candidate Nick V, called by Forest City Community Church (London). Nick sustained his examination, and is admitted as Minister of the Word in the CRCNA. Nick's ordination service is being planned for November 17th.
- Classis was also blessed to participate in and witness the examination of Stephanie V as Commissioned Pastor. Stephanie serves as the Director of Faith Formation and Worship at Grace Church (Chatham). Stephanie sustained her examination and is approved as a Commissioned Pastor. Stephanie's ordination service is being planned for October 6th.
- As Rev. Marcel K competed a term call at Fellowship Church (St. Thomas) in October 2021, classis approved a second one-year extension for his eligibility for call.
- As Rev. Steve D has accepted a ministry call outside of the CRCNA, Rev. D has resigned his position at Talbot Street Church (London). Classis approved the request of Talbot Street Church and Rev. D that he be honourably released from the office of Minister of the Word in the CRCNA (Art. 14-b C.O.)
- Classis approved the Auditor's Report and 2023 Financial Statements; approved increasing the classis mileage rate effective January 2025 to \$0.62/km; approved an increase in the remuneration for the Outreach Ministry Developer, Treasurer, and Stated Clerk by 2.5%; and approved the 2025 Classical Ministry Share budget. The 2025 budget is \$63.49 per member (a decrease of \$1.65/member)
- Classis elected the Officers and Directors of the Corporation for 2024-25:
  - President: Rev. Tim L (CMC Chair)
  - Secretary and Vice-All: Ron M (Stated Clerk)
  - Treasurer: Harry V (Treasurer)
- Rev. Corey V, pastor of RedeemerOnline.Church, updated classis of the successes of the ministry (now connecting with people from 81+ countries!). Classis approved three years of additional funding for this ministry from classis church plant funds.
- Classis was advised that we recently received a letter from Vitalpoint church that it is their intention to disaffiliate with the CRCNA. We will be following up with this and it will come before a future meeting of classis.
- As a result of decisions made by Synod 2024, a special meeting of classis is being planned for November 5 at Hope Community Church, Mount Brydges. The purpose is to share, listen, graciously discuss, and pray about the impact of Synod on our churches, classis and denomination.
- Classis approved that Art S (Living Hope) serve on the Nominating Committee.
- Classis is seeking people to serve as:
  - o Classical Safe Church Coordinator
  - o Deacon at Large member for CMC
  - o A member to serve on the Nominating Committee
  - o Two (pastor) Church Visitors

Please contact the Stated Clerk with any recommendations or questions.

The next regular session of classis is scheduled, D.V., for Saturday, February 1, 2025 at Alymer CRC.

Contact Pastor  
Joe at  
519-331-7466  
for any  
assistance.

# Upcoming Events & News (con't)

## Highlights of Council Meeting, October 1

1. A follow up Listening Circle about Synod's decisions over the last couple of years will take place on November 10 to provide time and space for questions and concerns from the congregation.
2. A special Classis meeting is being held on November 5 at Hope Community Church in Mount Brydges. This informal meeting is being held to share, listen and pray about the impact of Synod on congregations, classis, and the denomination. No credentials are required, no motions will be accepted or decisions made. Each church is encouraged to send up to three currently serving Council members. Pastor Joe, Martin B and Wilma V will be attending.
3. The Facilities Team is looking for an additional member with administrative skills.
4. Motion made and carried to proceed with hiring our lawyer (at a cost of approx. \$1500) to make the changes required to the Redeemer CRC bylaws to ensure compliance with the Ontario Not-for Profit Corporation Act which comes into effect October 19, 2024. The Bylaws Team at Redeemer completed an initial review which has been submitted to the lawyer with the necessary changes.
5. Motion made and carried to approve a Long Term Office Lease Agreement between Redeemer CRC and Ashley S Counselling as presented.
6. Church Christmas dinner is scheduled for December 8. Details to follow.
7. Motion made and carried to approve an expenditure of \$10,000 to repair the sanctuary sound system.

Care

Ministry

Frozen meals are available for anyone who is in need of a meal.

This can be for a new birth, sickness, death in a family, welcome to the neighborhood or any other reason you can think of to bless someone through this ministry.

Cisca  
Elaine



Stephen  
Ministry

Your Stephen Ministry Leaders are here to help you! If you need a helping hand as you walk through a difficult time, please call Sara S, Diana W, or Pastor Joe for more information. We would love to connect you with a trained church member who will meet with you regularly as you sort out how to move forward.

# Opportunities to Give

## **Missionary Christeena Nienhuis (October 13)**

Our offering provides support to Christina as she works with new immigrants in the Owen Sound area. Christeena works with the organization Pioneers to teach English classes and coordinates volunteers to teach a class or tutor students.

## **Lambton Christian School Society (October 20)**

Sarnia Christian School remains true to the mission and vision for students to learn about their place in God's world and their responsibility as image bearers of God to make a difference in the world both now and in the future.

[www.sarniachristian.com](http://www.sarniachristian.com)

## **Lambton County Refugee Committee (October 27)**

This team, supported by four local CRC churches, completes the groundwork to bring and support refugees to our community. During the past years, this team has been able to support several refugee families. The Team continues to work with government and other agencies to continue this important work.

## **World Renew – World Hunger (November 3)**

World Renew strives to eliminate hunger and malnutrition, and improve diet quality. Despite an increase in urbanization, over 821 million people around the world still go to bed hungry every night. Through gifts received, World Renew works to identify the root causes of food insecurity in order to strengthen the prosperity and well-being of communities around the globe.

<https://worldrenew.ca>

**The Inn of the Good Shepherd (November 10)** is a local organization that provides services with dignity to those who are in need of food, shelter and other essentials. Some of the services provided are a food bank, soup kitchen, assistance with income tax returns, a back pack program for school children, The Lodge, The Haven, utilities support and many others. Check out their web site: <https://www.theinnsarnia.ca>

**NeighbourLink Sarnia-Lambton (November 17)** is a network of 20 local community churches working together to respond to the needs of our community neighbours. NeighbourLink could not accomplish their goals without the help of supporters like you. They are always looking for volunteers to help us make their vision a reality. Redeemer supports NeighbourLink through offerings and donations to the food bin in the foyer.

<https://neighbourlinksarnia.org>

# Birthdays



October 10:	Trish V
October 11:	Don V
October 14:	Trish M
October 16:	John V
October 16:	Amanda K
October 17:	Alicia D
October 17:	Elaine S
October 20:	Anne L
October 22:	Sydney M
October 24:	Sally W
October 28:	Fran V
October 31:	Tracey L

*If you would like to have your name added or removed from this list, please contact the church office.*

## How Can I Donate?



~ Mail in or drop off cheques to the church office

~ Donate on the Bridge App

~ E-transfers sent to [offering@redeemercrc.com](mailto:offering@redeemercrc.com) (please include in the email the cause that you wish to support)

~ Weekly offerings at the end of each Sunday service\*

\* If not using church numbered envelopes, please write the name of the cause on the envelope as well as your name and address if you would like a donation receipt at year-end for tax purposes.

*(Treasurer ~ Fred V)*

# Community News

## Indwell in Sarnia

The Indwell fundraising event on Oct 25 is more than 50% reserved and financial gifts are being donated. We need your help and prayers to make this event a success. Please don't wait until the last week to reserve your seat or make inquiries. Our volunteers are passionate about this cause, and have been reaching out to the residents of Sarnia and local businesses to attend the event. 100% of all donations will be donated to a Sarnia Indwell project, held by the Sarnia Community Foundation until the funds are needed. Please contact Lynn B or Susan S for more information.

## Moving Forward in Faith Conference, November 15 & 16 (Burlington, ON)

Church members and leaders of all ages are invited for an inspiring event you don't want to miss! God is doing great things within our region, our churches, and our denomination. We are chosen by God to walk alongside His vision for the world and play our part in its transformation. Diaconal Ministries Canada and Resonate Global Mission have put together a Friday evening and all-day Saturday event at Compass Point Church in Burlington, ON. Join us for worship, a plenary session by best-selling author and disciple-maker, Caesar Kalinowski, and a variety of workshops related to young adult ministry, mission in your own backyard, Indigenous ministry, being a deacon, and more! We promise there is a workshop for (almost) everyone. REGISTER TODAY: <https://www.resonateglobalmission.org/moving-forward-faith>. Hotel discounts are available until October 8th.

## Workshop with Keith Getty

On Saturday, October 26, at 10 a.m., Redeemer University will be hosting world-renowned Christian singer and songwriter Keith Getty for a workshop titled "Christian Music for the Church Today." At this free workshop, Keith will share his perspective on what Christian music should look like and how to get good congregational participation in corporate worship. Keith will also talk about the songwriting process he, Kristyn, and their hymn-writing team use. Come learn musical insights from a professional Christian musician—and perhaps sing a song or two along the way! Registration required @ <https://www.redeemer.ca/events/christian-music-for-the-church-today/>

**Remembrance Day** wreath laying will be shared by Sarnia First CRC, Redeemer and Living Hope. Peter V has enthusiastically agreed to walk in the parade and lay the wreath on behalf of our members again this year. Thank you Peter!



## Library Corner

Throughout the year, the Redeemer CRC church librarians will highlight newly purchased books as well as reading material currently in circulation that may be of interest.

If you have a book from the church library that you think would be a good one to spotlight, just let Wilma V or Elaine S know the title and we will include it!

## Book Spotlight

*Under the Wings of God: Twenty Biblical Reflections for a Deeper Faith* pairs well with Plantinga's book on gratitude: "Gratitude is a powerful engine of joy" says Plantinga in his reflection on Mark 4:21-25. What is Jesus talking about when he says, "For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away"? And how do we understand Psalm 91 when we experience trouble or suffering? What does it mean to love God with all our mind? Gain helpful and practical insights from Plantinga's short reflections on twenty selected passages.



# Community News (con't)

## SOCO Beach Project Update

Get a peek into what is going on at the SOCO house this fall. Watch the latest SOCO video and read reflections from a SOCO Alum '23. Newsletter link:

<https://mailchi.mp/southcoastbeachproject/soco-update-october-3-6251722>

**The youth group from Wyoming CRC** invites all high school aged youth (and above) to come out for a youth led service on Sunday , Oct 20 at 5:00 at Wyoming CRC. Supper and games will follow after a quick trip down the road at John Knox Christian School. Carpooling will be available! Hope to see you there!!

## Toward a CRC in Canada

According to the Acts of Synod, and the Q+A that was sent from the CRC office, Synod made several major decisions. These are having and undoubtedly will have profound impacts on your congregation's ministry, as well as that of other churches in your classis. Already, churches are experiencing concerns in recruiting office bearers; concerns in young persons' decisions to profess their faith, concerns about recruiting church visitors, concerns about funding local congregational and classical ministries.

These are Synodical decisions that are impacting the day-to-day functioning and hopes of congregations. Toward a CRC in Canada (<https://www.towardcrrcanada.net/>) invites you to a zoom conversation (late October/early November) about these concerns: how do and will these decisions impact us locally? We believe that an honest conversation is vital. There is no real "status quo". More information is forthcoming.



*mini* Training a **BIG** opportunity

Wednesday Evenings 7-9:30 PM

SAVE THE DATE

- to grow personally
- to deepen your relational skills
- to care better for those in crisis
- to bring more to existing relationships

OCTOBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**STEPHEN MINISTRY** *mini* TRAINING  
The fundamentals in just 4 sessions!

The Church Office is open Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9AM and 1PM