



Our theme for Lent this year is *Who is This?*

This question is frequently asked of Jesus by both his followers and his opposers. Jesus wasn't the kind of Messiah that any of them imagined. Is Jesus the kind of Messiah we are looking for? Perhaps we have our own version of what we'd like Jesus to be, but the Bible describes him differently than we hoped for. Are we willing to let Jesus tell us exactly who he is without imposing our own ideas?



Join us Sunday morning at 10 am or anytime throughout the week. This Sunday we begin the first message in the Lent Series "**Who Is This?**" Pastor Jolene begins with a look at "**The One Who Invites Us In!**" She will be focusing on the book of [Matthew chapter 3 verses 13-17](#).

John doesn't want to baptize Jesus; it seems backwards and it feels wrong. But something in Jesus' voice convinces him to proceed, and suddenly the heavens are torn open and incredible things are happening. Who is this Jesus, and what is he doing?

Let's Build Community Connections!

DIG Guatemala: Our DIG team invites you to experience Guatemala with us as we update Mountainview's DIG webpage while we are away from Feb.17-25th. We hope to post about our days and throw in some photos during our time there. We'll also have some daily prayer requests for you! We hope you'll join with us and check it out at www.mountainviewcrc.org/dig. Gracias, Mountainview's DIG team :)



It's **BREAKFAST Time**

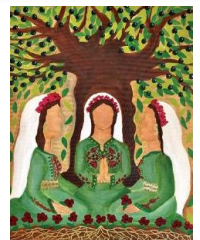


The Annual Cadet Breakfast is taking place on Saturday, February 24th from 8-9:30 am. A full breakfast will be cooked and served by our Mountainview Cadets. Come enjoy a great breakfast!! Cost: Free-will donation.



Next Potluck & Prayer happening on Sunday, February 25th at from 5-7pm. Come join us!

World Day of Prayer 2024 – Please join us for this year's service, **Friday, March 1 @ St Joseph Church.** This year's theme is written by the women of Palestine: "**I Beg**



You... Bear With One Another In Love" based on Ephesians 4:1-3



Youth Fundraising Dinner: Taking place on the evening of Saturday, March 2, 2024. Come out and support our youth to attend events like AOYC or participate in Serve this summer. Dine-in or Take-out. Take out available from 5-5:45 pm; Doors open/Cocktails & Photo Booth at 5:30; Dinner @ 6:00 pm. [Link to RSVP HERE](#). Donate on the Bridge App "Youth Fundraising Dinner", etranster: treasurer@mountainviewcrc.org, or donate by envelope. Please note that your donation if for the Youth.



We are purging some of our book collection. There are a number of books available on tables in the lobby. LAST CHANCE! You are welcome to take some home to add some to your personal collection...Drop by and take a look.

Mountainview's Library is OPEN before and after church and on weekdays for self-checkout. Adult Youth, Children, Fiction and Non-Fiction books are available as well as movies and audiobooks. **We will be highlighting some newer books again soon.**

OTHER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS OPPORTUNITIES...



I also want to let you know about our special series of Lent devotions [Focus on the Cross](#), from our *Today* devotional. These devotions are a perfect way to focus on the depth, beauty, and mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ this Lenten season. You can receive this series [straight to your inbox](#), or [download them as one file for printing](#).



Young Adult Worship Event: Brock Campus Ministry is hosting a worship night on February 27th at 7PM in the beautiful Faith and Life Center. The topic of the teaching for this evening is 'Pace & Presence': As we navigate an instantaneous impatient world, how does our faith call us to be present? **All Classis Young Adults are invited** to join us for this wonderful night of worship, reflection, and community! If you have any questions please reach out to Pastor Zack at zdebruyne@brocku.ca or at 905-321-8295.



Great Awaits: Christian School Spring and Fall Getaway – Thurs May 2 – Sat May 4 AND Thursday Oct. 24 – Sat. Oct 26, 2024. For more information, or reservations [BOOK HERE](#) or call 1 800 605 9653. Use Group Code: 2405CHRISTIAN. **Must book by April 2nd**



**NIAGARA CHRISTIAN
GLEANERS**

The Niagara Christian Gleaners will once again be hosting a Fundraising Dinner Weekend. The dates this year are **Friday, April 5 & Saturday, April 6** at the West Niagara Agricultural Centre, 7402 Mud St W, Grassie. Doors open for the Silent Auction

at 5pm. Dinner is at 6pm. Our guest speaker this year is Mr. Jeremy Frith, CEO Barnabas Aid USA. Seating is limited. A free will offering will be taken. towards NCG's Operating Expenses. Reserve seats through our website at www.niagaragleaners.org. Donations for our Silent Auction are appreciated and can be dropped off at the Gleaners any weekday morning. Questions/comments please contact us at ncgdinners@gmail.com. We hope to see you!



Join the 2024 Food, Faith & Justice 6-week series (webinar) of discussions with leaders working in community. Topics will include Food and Our Faith; Food, Faith and Farming; Food, Faith and Creating Just Food Systems; Food, Faith and Church Growing Projects; Food, Faith and Sharing with Community; and Food, Faith and Advocacy. Discussions will include congregations in the US who are responding in creative and caring ways because of their faith. Dates: **February 8 - March 14,**

Thursday PM (7:30 Eastern). Register at worldrenew.net/events. There will be a giveaway at each session, but you must be present online to win! Contact Jodi Koeman at jkoeman@worldrenew.net.



[Give it up for the Earth!](#) is a national faith-in-action campaign that raises awareness about the climate crisis and mobilizes people across Canada to act. Addressing the climate crisis in a just and equitable way prioritizes Indigenous autonomy and considers the needs of communities who have been historically marginalized and are particularly vulnerable to the climate crisis. Give it up for the Earth! 2024 includes three action items:



- A pledge to reduce your personal and household greenhouse gas emissions.
- A Commitment to embrace eco-spirituality through climate action and by building relationships with the Indigenous communities on whose traditional territories we live, work, and play.
- Send a letter to the Minister of the Environment & Climate Change, Steven Guilbeault, urging him to set more ambitious climate action targets and expressing support for a just transition towards a low-carbon economy. [SIGN THE OPEN LETTER](#); [WATCH ECO-SPIRITUALITY IN ACTION WEBINAR](#); [ADDITIONAL RESOURCES](#)



Let's Talk Trees - This talk by Aaron Boonstra, sponsored by the Creation Care Support Team at Meadowlands Fellowship CRC in Ancaster, will focus on the important role that trees play in the fight against climate change and how we, as stewards, can care for trees. We'll discuss the unique aspects of different tree species, including invasives, how to care for trees on your property, and issues facing the urban forest. Aaron is an ISA Certified Arborist who works with Reep Green Solutions. When: **Monday, February 19 at 7:30 pm**. Where: Meadowlands Fellowship Church or online at <https://vimeo.com/event/385354>. Questions? Contact Henry (hbrouwer746@gmail.com).



Attention Grade 6-8 families: Great Lakes Christian High School invites you to: **Virtual Open House: Tuesday February 20th at 2:00pm**. Join us from wherever you are. Meet the Principal, Guidance counselor and other staff who will work directly with your teen in their future. To register: [Click Here](#). **NEW:** Transportation available on demand from Stoney Creek and Grimsby as well as St Catharines.

Experience Great Lakes: Thursday, February 29th 8:00am-3:15pm. Students, this day is for YOU! Come experience high school as a Great Lakes Laker! (Lunch provided). To register: [Click Here](#).



YOUTH TALKS - Re Launched! Youth and Young Adults are invited to join together on the evening of **Sunday March 3rd** at Smithville CRC. Time: **7:30 – 9pm (ish)**. Terry Posthumus will lead us in music and is sure to inspire. Gord Park will be the speaker for the evening. *(Those of us who were youth in the 80's and 90's are excited for all y'all! You'll have a great time!)*. Scan the QR code to register – Registration is appreciated so that we know how much food to prepare. Invite your friends!



Joining IF:Grimsby is being part of a sisterhood of women who are willing to step out in faith. Forestview will be streaming the conference right from our sanctuary; gathering at tables, learning and growing in a small group atmosphere together with other local women. Great food Great learning

Great worship! We hope to see you there! IF takes place **March 22-23** along with other IF:Locals around the world! The theme for this year is **"Because of Jesus"** John 8:12.

Join IF:Grimsby: **Friday March 22 from 6pm - 10pm** (session 1 starts at 6:30); **Saturday March 23 from 9am - 5pm**. Your ticket includes an IF:Local ticket, snacks & lunch, and our in-person experience. Only Friday - \$25; Only Saturday - \$50 (including lunch); Whole event \$65 (including lunch). For those attending who have dietary restrictions please email info@forestviewcommunitychurch.ca



Tickets are now available for the annual combined concert of the Hosanna Choir & Mattaniah Christian Male Choir concert at FirstOntario Concert Hall, Hamilton on **Saturday, March 30 at 7:30pm**. Choirs accompanied by Ryan Vandenberg (Organ), Andre Knevel (Organ), and Naomi Noorduynd (Piano) and the 13-piece Scott Harrison Brass/Percussion Ensemble. Tickets \$25 & \$35. Visit: www.hosanna-choir.org. Contact Wendy den Hollander at 905-628-1211 or at hdenhollander@yahoo.com, or ask a choir member.

"Inhabiting the Scriptures: Finding Home in a World of Displacement" by Dr. Brian Walsh. We will explore how "home" is an integrating theme in the Bible, one that meets the deepest longings of life in this world. This course will be on zoom on Sunday evenings throughout Lent. Pay what you can. Go to www.bibleremixed.ca for more details."



Wolters Centre Lecture: Are We Free? On **March 20**, the Albert M. Wolters Centre for Christian Scholarship hosts Dr. Lydia Jaeger (Institut Biblique de Nogent, France), for her lecture "Are We Free? Navigating Scientific Determinism and Liberty of Creation." Dr. Jaeger will explore how an understanding of God as creator provides a helpful and important framework for thinking about science, including implications for understanding human freedom before the face of God.

Worship for Justice Concert - Redeemer is sponsoring The Worship for Justice tour featuring Don Moen, Paul Baloche, and Brooke Nichols when it comes to campus for one of four concerts in Southern Ontario in **April 2024**. [Learn More.](#)

CHURCH CALENDAR

Staff work a combination of in the office and at home throughout the week. At least one staff person is typically in the church each weekday. Contact info: <https://www.mountainviewcrc.org/staff-1>

Sun Feb 18	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Service; Pastor Jolene "The One Who Invites Us In"; Matthew 3: 13-17; First Sunday of Lent
	7-9 p.m.	Youth Alpha
Mon Feb 19	7:00 p.m.	Cadets
Tues Feb 20	9:30 a.m.	Coffee Break
	7:00 p.m.	Volleyball
Wed Feb 21	9:30 a.m.	Mission Circle
	7:00 p.m.	GEMS
	7:00 p.m.	Evening Coffee Break
Thurs Feb 22	7:00 p.m.	Worship Team practice
	7:30 p.m.	Friendship
Sat. Feb 24	8-9:30 a.m.	Cadet Breakfast
	9am-2pm	WOGP Companion Training
Sun Feb 25	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Service; Intern Pastor Brady; "Who is This"; Mark 4:41 Schwanz Baptism; 2nd Sunday of Lent;
	5-7 p.m.	Potluck and Prayer
	7-9 p.m.	Youth Alpha

JOYFUL GIVING

THIS WEEK'S OFFERING: February 18th A.M. – ReFrame Ministries (formerly BTGMI) is the cross-cultural media ministry of the CRCNA. It proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ through indigenous teams in people's "heart languages" using the web, radio, television, phone, print, and other media; broadcasting in otherwise closed regions. BTGMI aired its first radio program in 1939. Today, we are reaching people in almost 200 countries and 10 major languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish; from remote villages in Indonesia to large universities in China. Every dollar you send will provide video recording tools for social media, airtime for television/radio stations, and discipleship for seekers or new believers. It is changing communities all over the world.

UPCOMING OFFERING: February 25th A.M. – World Renew Canada Foodgrains Bank: As one of the founding members of Canadian Foodgrains Bank, World Renew multiplies your impact through food security programs like their early response project in Madagascar. Around the world, floods have washed away crops and droughts have left farmlands barren. But together we can end global hunger! With the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, World Renew's capacity to provide disaster response and food security programs on a global scale has grown over the years." Visit worldrenew.ca/foodgrains



Is there a charity close to your heart that you would love to see thrive for years to come? Questions about wills and legacy? **Christian Stewardship Services is hosting open Q&A sessions** about these topics and more throughout the winter to answer all of your questions on charitable giving and estate planning. **Winter Conversation series** [here](#). While you are planning, why not contact a consultant to maximize your year end giving, or set up an appointment to review your will in the new year? [Schedule an appointment](#) today!



You can Help Change the Story of Global Hunger - God has blessed this planet with more than enough resources so no one should have to go hungry. Sadly, an estimated 783 million people around the world suffer from chronic hunger. Next week, on Canadian Foodgrains Bank Sunday, let us join World Renew to learn how through our gifts we can help

change the story of global hunger. Through World Renew's unique partnership with Canadian Foodgrains Bank, your gifts will be matched up to 4X. For more information go to: worldrenew.ca/food



Both our offering causes of the past two weeks are ministries supported by Ministry Shares. [The Video linked HERE is a "Thank-you" from the Ministries of the CRCNA supported by Ministry Shares.](#) You can also [LEARN MORE](#) about CRCNA MINISTRY SHARES HERE.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

NEWSLETTERS FROM OUR MINISTRY PARTNERS – Available under “Community Partners” on our Website. Posted as they come in. Paper copies can be requested from the church office.. [Browse through the work of local and CRCNA ministries...](#)



ReFrame Ministries
God's Story. Today's Media.

ReFrame Ministries Provides Devotions, Podcasts, and Blogs - Start a new Biblical habit with resources from ReFrame Ministries. DEVOTIONS including the Today devotional offer short daily meditations and scripture. Kids Corner includes devotions, (for children and guardians). PODCASTS help you dig into scripture with Groundwork, explore pop culture and Christianity with Think Christian, or energize your church communications with Church Juice. BLOGS offering spiritual advice for parenting, dating, and more are available in new posts from Family Fire. Learn more about the spiritual habit of praying with ReFrame's prayer ministry.



We want to let you know about our special series of Lent devotions **Focus on the Cross**, from our Today devotional. These devotions are a perfect way to focus on the depth, beauty, and mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ this Lenten season. You can receive this series [straight to your inbox](#), or [download them as one file for printing](#).

Kids Corner: Names of God: The Lord Is My Peace - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net/. Can you think of a time when you did not feel worthy enough to do something? Maybe you thought, “Why did they pick me?” or “There's someone else better than me.” If so, you know exactly how Gideon felt in Judges 6:11- 24. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Lent and Easter Collection.



Groundwork: Why Jesus Had To Die On A Cross - We begin the season of Lent by slowing down and remembering why Jesus Christ's awful death was necessary. Join Groundwork as we study Genesis 3:14-15, Romans 5:12-17, Isaiah 10:1-3, Habakkuk 1:2-4, and Jeremiah 31:31-34 to reflect on scriptures that answer the question: “Why did Jesus have to die on a cross?” Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



Thrive Faith Formation Tip - 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? Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject



Calvin invites you to attend the Festival of Faith & Writing, April 11-13, on the campus of Calvin University. The Festival features over 70 speakers, including plenary speakers Anthony Doerr, Yaa Gyasi, and Tracy K. Smith. [Visit our website to see our full roster of fabulous speakers, purchase tickets, or to learn more.](#) Questions? Reach out to ccfw@calvin.edu.

JOBS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Christian Reformed Church

The CRCNA is seeking a candidate to fill the full-time, permanent position of Executive Director Canada. A search team has been tasked with recruiting for this position with the goal of having the successful candidate begin on or before May 1, 2024. Learn More at crcna.org/executive-director-canada-search



We Are hiring at Shalom! Working at Shalom is a great opportunity to share your gifts and talents in a wonderful workplace and to become involved in the community! We take pride in offering the best possible care and making Shalom home for our residents. Become part of the team! [Visit our website](#) and send your resume or any questions to hr@shalommmanor.ca to see if a career with Shalom is a good fit for you!

OFFERING SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2024

March 3rd A.M. – Benevolence: Your contribution to Mountainview's Benevolent Fund provides assistance for those in need in our church family and in our local community. These include basic needs such as food, clothing, housing and schooling. A church and community of our size has many varied needs within it. Please continue to support our ministry of Benevolence.

March 10th A.M. – Smithville Christian High School is providing an authentically Christian education to teens from all over central Niagara. Smithville Christian High graduates are serving God and bringing shalom all over the world. Your gift will be used to keep tuition in check so that many families can have access to the exciting programs that enable our students to thrive. Thank-you for your part in keeping Christian education affordable at all levels.

March 17th A.M. – Kathleen & Colin Wassenaar, serving with Engineering Ministries International (EMI) in Phnom Penh- Cambodia - EMI is a nonprofit Christian development organization made up of architects, engineers, surveyors, and construction managers who use their skills to serve the least reached worldwide. We design hospitals, schools, water systems, and many other facilities that enable our Christian ministry partners to fulfill their calling and transform their communities. Together we are designing a world of hope. Stay in Touch with the Wassenaars: send them an email if you would like to receive their monthly email updates @ kathleen.wassenaar@emiworld.org; colinwassenaar@gmail.com, or check out their blog that contains more photos and stories: thewingsofdawn.wordpress.com.

March 24th A.M. – Redeemer University is a Christian undergraduate university offering programs leading to Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Education degrees. From its Hamilton, Ontario campus, Redeemer has prepared graduating classes — the next generation of Christian leaders — for more than 30 years. Redeemer students are being shaped by the Reformed Christian commitment to see faith woven through all aspects of learning and life. Across the world, from the classroom to the convocation stage to careers and churches, our faculty, students and alumni are making an impact.

March 29th P.M. – Good Friday – Resonate Global Mission: Formerly Christian Reformed World Missions and Christian Reformed Home Missions, we came together in 2017 as Resonate to walk alongside CRCs as they join God's mission in their own neighborhoods and around the world.

We do this by planting churches and supporting ministry in North America as well as sending missionaries around the globe to share the good news. But sending people is only part of God's plan for your congregation. Your church partners with Resonate as you join God's mission in your own neighborhood and around the world. Resonate is here to walk alongside you in preparing missionaries and volunteers, calling and supporting church planters and campus ministers, connecting with ministries overseas, engaging church members and younger generations in mission work, and following the Spirit by discerning new ways to demonstrate and proclaim the gospel. Together, we help build God's church.

March 31st A.M. – Easter Sunday - Bible League of Canada provides Scriptures and training worldwide, so people will be brought into relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church... because the world needs the Living Word of God more than anything else! Change, real change, happens from the inside out. When people come into a relationship with Jesus, they are transformed by the power of God's Spirit. The Holy Spirit inspires new Christians to adopt and apply Biblical values to address their needs. Family, friends, whole communities experience this transformation! Adult Bible-based literacy, Church planter training, Children's Ministry Programs and support for persecuted Christians are the programs we use to deliver the Living Word of God in 43 countries. By God's grace, the eternal Living Word impacts generations to come. THANK YOU for your support.