
The Bentheim Bell Tower

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BENTHEIM
REFORMED CHURCH



From the Elders

BY KYLE LAMPEN

The greatest weather in the world happens right here in west Michigan during the summer months. Yes, I said that, and it is true. Sunny skies, warm temperatures, and beautiful scenery of lakes, woods, and fields make this area a stunning paradise. Opportunity abounds with many activities available for everyone's interests. Camping, boating, fishing, and the list goes on and on. Ah, but what a short season it is! Something happens at this time of year and all that begins to change. There begins to be a chill in the air in the fall and then before you know it, we are faced with brutally cold temperatures and snow in winter. Then most of us wonder why we live here? We have such a short memory, don't we? Although we may have differing opinions on the weather, I know an overwhelming majority of Michigan residents stay living here despite the upcoming cold weather; we love the changing of seasons. There is something about the cycle of seasons here that we are fond of. Even though the weather may change, we are aware of that and anticipation of it is refreshing and new. We can count on it.

This is true of our lives and activities as well. As we transition away from summer, we know that the fall season is on its way and although it may bring change, we expect it and enjoy the variety. School is back in session, and it feels different at home with the kids gone during the day. At church, activities start up again. Cadets and Gems, youth programs, Bible studies, classes, and Church Made Simple are some of the things that are exciting as they kick off their season. What a blessing it is to look forward to and participate in these things. Beneath it all, we can be prone to getting anxious about the unknown. We can worry about things that may lie ahead and those of us that love a steady routine can begin feeling overwhelmed with the busyness of added responsibility. Things pop up unexpectedly that can cause us to question what our next move may be.

This is where we lean into scripture and step firmly onto passages such as Proverbs 3:5-6. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." We can also read Psalm 46 and rest in the security of knowing that God is our fortress. (*continued...*)



(...continued) As we continue together, we know that we are in a changing season of weather and also in our everyday lives. There may be stresses and anxieties about the unknown, but amidst it all we can lay our cares and concerns at the feet of our great God through prayer. What a blessing it is to be able to communicate with the Lord and trust Him to lead us.

Let's pray persistently and passionately through this month with anticipation as we transition into what God has in store for us. Let's pray for our staff, leadership, and committees as we are without a pastor during this time. Let's pray for our pastors that will continue to preach God's word for us every week. Let's pray for the lost that they may be found through the ministries here at church. All the while trusting him and remembering that the church is not our own but belongs to the Lord. Psalm 127:1a reminds us "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."

I pray that as we serve, we do the very best we can with what the Lord has given us and know that all things will be done for his glory!

Pastoral Search Committee Update

As previously shared, the Search Committee is committed to keeping you informed as we continue the process of seeking a new pastor. We have conducted a few interviews and continue to receive interest from potential candidates. We are prayerfully moving forward with the process of vetting candidates and conducting interviews, seeking God's wisdom and guidance at each step. We ask that you continue to pray for the Search Committee as we discern God's leading and seek the pastor He has prepared to serve our church and community. We are grateful for your prayers, patience, and continued support throughout this process.

Thank you,
The Search Committee

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Monday, November 9 at 7 p.m.

The deacons are reviewing the budget for 2027. If you have any thoughts, comments, or concerns about a particular aspect of the budget, please see one of the deacons.

Bible Study Fellowship Invitation

We're excited to announce that Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) begins **September 15 at 7:00 PM**, and this year we'll be studying the book of Romans! BSF is a wonderful opportunity to dig deeply into God's Word through personal study, thoughtful discussion, and learning alongside other women who are pursuing the Lord. It can be incredibly impactful in helping women understand Scripture more deeply and apply God's truth to their everyday lives. It's also a fantastic way to meet like-minded women from our church and community and learn from one another as we grow in our faith. We would love to see more women from our church take advantage of this incredible Bible study this year! And if you've heard that BSF is too time-consuming or too much to take on with an already busy life and schedule – **it's not!** There is grace for every woman who joins, wherever she is in life. Participants will be blessed in ways they can't imagine by committing to this study and spending time in God's Word together. **Come join us – you'll be so glad you did!** If you have any questions about BSF or would like more information, please reach out to **Michelle Lampen**.

Interior Updates

Thank you for your cooperation and feedback as we continue working on additional updates to the interior of our church building!

- The library is near completion. This updated space will now be available as a multi-purpose space for meetings and/or Bible studies
- The consistory room has been updated with fresh paint and new lights. New carpet will be installed soon.
- The narthex will be painted in early September. New carpet will be installed this fall.
- The women's upstairs bathroom will likely be updated toward the end of September.

Thank you to all who have been involved in helping with these projects and investing into our facilities!

July 2026 Financial Report

General Fund

Receipts needed per month per budget	\$44,238.23
Receipts: from offerings	\$34,178.03
Disbursements: for the month	\$45,734.44

Building Fund

Receipts: from offerings	\$12,250.00
Disbursements	\$1,918.73

Mission Fund

Receipts needed per month per budget	\$6,916.67
Receipts: from offerings	\$7,294.00
Disbursements	\$16,209.27



Church Sign Donations

Received in July 2026: \$5,450

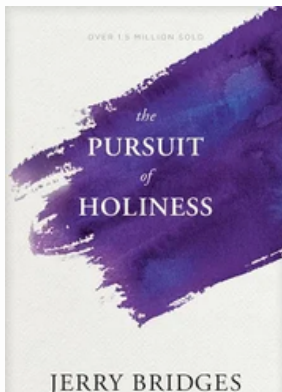
Total Received through July: \$10,200

If you would like to contribute to the purchase of the new sign, you can use your giving envelopes, indicate the funds are for the Building Fund and note that it is for the church sign

Book-of-the-Month

The Pursuit of Holiness

Jerry Bridges



This could be one of the most inspiring books you might ever read. Jerry Bridges writes a challenging and practical charge to Christians to live holy lives. All too often we can fail to prioritize holy living because of our limited understanding of who God is, how He commands us to be holy, and what it means to apply that to everyday life. Sometimes we can even downplay holy living for fear of falling into legalism. Fully backed with lots of scripture, Bridges shows how our actions are critical and gives a clear explanation of how the Bible instructs us to live the life that is pleasing to the Lord. This book makes for a perfect supplement to your daily Bible reading and would also be a great resource for your small group. You will be blessed and drawn closer to Christ!



Missionary of the Month: SON-Life Camp

**Moment for Ministry:
Sunday, September 6
during the morning service**

Mission Statement

SON-Life Camp & Retreat Center exists to provide a setting where people can enter or enhance a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Vision Statement

To see ministry happening at camp everyday in multiple ways, leading people to Christ or bringing them to a deeper relationship with Him.

Core Values

We are a Christian organization, Biblically-based, promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ, acknowledging the work of the Holy Spirit, and giving God the Father all praise and glory. We believe in a camp setting, with an outdoor emphasis on God's creation. We focus on spiritually impacting people for Jesus Christ. We believe in relational ministry, where people are valued and personally cared for. We uphold prayer as a vital tool in ministry, praying for each team member and camper. We maintain that youth are an important focus in ministry. We will remain fiscally responsible, being good stewards of all God has entrusted to us.

The ministry of SON-Life Camp & Retreat Center began in the fall of 1976...

When Mr. Fred Oldebeken donated approximately 40 acres of his farm in memory of his wife, Daisy Irene Oldebeken, who died of cancer on October 4, 1972. Located on the east side of Round Lake in Wayland Township, this most generous gift was given for the purpose of beginning an inter-denominational, Christian youth camp.

A group of churches formed the organization, Christian Camping Ministries, Inc. and volunteers from these churches first began to develop the camp, then given the name, Round Lake Youth Camp. The first youth camps were held in the summer of 1978. Using army tents with primitive facilities, volunteers ran two weeks of summer camp. Since that first summer of camp, God has blessed SON-Life Camp & Retreat Center beyond measure with growth.

As the ministry grew, modern facilities, staff, and programs were added. The camp was renamed Son-Life Camps to emphasize our focus on the Son – Jesus Christ, and was later changed to SON-Life Camp & Retreat Center to reflect both our camping and retreat ministries. Our ministries now include a summer camp program, year round retreat ministry, and campground ministry that touches thousands of lives for Christ each year.

SON-Life Camp & Retreat Center is owned and operated by Christian Camping Ministries Inc., a non-profit, inter-denominational, Michigan Corporation comprised of area representatives who serve as a Board of Directors. The Board is made up of 9-12 members from all different churches and denominations. Financial support is received from churches, corporations, and individual donors who are united in their concern for impacting people with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ through this camping ministry.

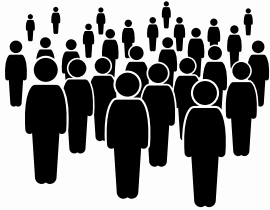
Check out the mission's bulletin board for more information and how to get involved.

Upcoming Events



September 15: Women's Ministries

7 p.m.



November 9: Annual Congregational Meeting

7 p.m.

September Meetings:

September 1: Committee Meetings

September 8: Executive Committee Meeting

September 14: Elders & Consistory Meetings

Hand2Hand Needs

Our current Hand2Hand needs:

- Snack Pack Crackers/Cookies
- Trail Mix
- Yogurt Pouches
- Applesauce Pouches
- Popcorn
- 100% Fruit Items (juice, fruit cups, snacks, etc.)
- Tuna Helper
- Fruit/Breakfast Bars



Donations can be placed in the basket by the Information Center. (We are not allowed to give out food that is past the expiration date or anything in a glass container).

Thank you for helping us provide nutritious food to kids who need a little extra over the weekends! If you have any questions or if you would like more information about how you can get involved, please see Jess Hassevoort or Darla Groenheide.

Nursery, Welcome, Hospitality Volunteer Schedules

Date	Nursery	Welcome	Hospitality
September 6	Brielle Groenheide Annie McCleery Morgan Koetsier Oliver McCleery	Sandy Hoeve	Hannah Walters
September 13	Kylee Geurink Nicole Blauwkamp Ava Lengkeek Taylor Patmos	Dan & Jodi Geurink	Meghan Walters
September 20	Charity Walters Averie Brower Claire Debo Sadie Schutter	Dan & Dawn Hoffman	Janine Kooienga
September 27	Michelle Geurink Jodi Geurink Chloe VanDyk Marisa Patmos	Carol Brower	Tom Overhiser
October 4	Lisa Lugten Leah Walters Rylan Schutter Evelyn Busscher	Rick & Lisa Dirkse	Jane Rietman
October 11	Amanda Schurman Laura Lengkeek Clara Busscher Sutton Geurink	Keith & Ann Walters	Missy Jipping
October 18	Kiel Patmos Taylor Oosterink Kelsey Geurink Blake Lugten	Cris Walters	Sandy Hoeve Paula Scholten
October 25	Kelly Eding Gail Schutter Bristol Hoeve Mallorie Koetsier	Bruce & Jill LaMar	Erma Eding Nancy Sal

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 - 7 pm: Committee Meetings	2 - 6:30 pm: Discipling class	3	4	5
6	7	8 - 6:30 pm: Executive Committee Meeting	9 - 8:30 am: Quilting Ministry - 6:30 pm: Discipling class	10	11	12
13	14 - 6:15 pm: Elders' Meeting 7:30 pm: Consistory Meeting	15 - 7 pm: Women's Ministries - 7 pm Bible Study Fellowship	16 - 6:30 pm: Discipling class	17	18	19
20 - Walk Out Worship & God's Gang - Sunday School - Call Class - 6 pm: High School Ministry - 6:30 pm: Post High Group - 6:30 pm: Young Adults Group	21	22 - 9 am: Women's Bible Study - 7 pm Bible Study Fellowship	23 - 8:30 am: Quilting Ministry - 5 pm: Supper - 6:15 pm: Middle School Ministry - 6:15 pm: GEMS/Cadets Kick Off - 6:15 pm: Route 56 - 6:30 pm: All Church Bible Study - 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple - 6:30 pm: Discipling Class	24 - 7 pm: Women's Bible Study	25	26
27 - Walk Out Worship & God's Gang - Sunday School - 6 pm: High School Ministry	28	29 - 9 am: Women's Bible Study - 7 pm Bible Study Fellowship	30 - 5 pm: Supper - 6:15 pm: Middle School Ministry - 6:15 pm: Cadets - 6:15 pm: Route 56 - 6:30 pm: All Church Bible Study - 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple - 6:30 pm: Discipling class			