
The Bentheim Bell Tower

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BENTHEIM
REFORMED CHURCH



From the Desk of the Liturgist

BY JONAH WALTERS

Greetings and Merry Christmas!

I thought it would be best if I gave a short update to answer the question, "What's Jonah been up to?" As you may have noticed, I am engaging in the services more and participating in more of the responsibilities that come along with it. I have had the opportunity to read the call to worship and plan the liturgy of the service, as well as to support our worship leaders. I hope to continue in this dual role and explore with wherever the church has needs. I very much enjoy aiding the worship team with singing and praising my Lord, that has not changed. But now I am thankful for the opportunity to participate in more of the spoken service - reading the call, leading the pastoral prayer when Pastor Kris is gone, reading the announcements, etc. And I'm so thankful for your support, the consistory's support, as well as Pastor Kris' support, in guiding me and allowing me to see where God is taking my wife and me.

I frankly do not know what that will be, but I am confident it is at Bentheim. I can see a future where God leads me to seminary or to a more strictly pastoral role with teaching and shepherding. I can honestly say that the idea scares me. Which perhaps is even more the reason I should explore it. What I do know is that currently I aim to be an aid to Pastor Kris perhaps like an assistant pastor, as well as aiding the worship leaders like a worship pastor. Whatever is needed of me in His Church.

In Christ,

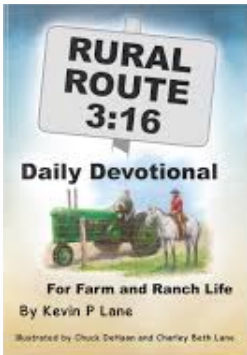
Jonah



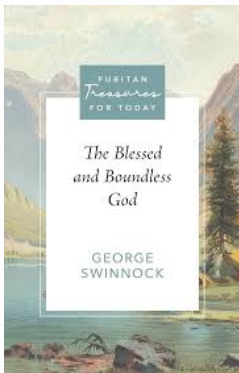
Book-of-the-Month

This month, the book of the month recommendation will actually include 3 books.

The elders have been talking a lot about the importance of family devotions and prayer. The Bible teaches us that Christ should be the center of our lives every day of the week. When we spend time together as a family, praying and reading the Bible, we show one another just how important Jesus is in our life. Think of it as our spiritual food for our souls. And just like our bodies need to be fed daily, our souls do as well. Remember that Jesus said “man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). So, we would like to encourage you to set up a time of day that you and your family worship the Lord together. Some families find doing it before breakfast is a great way to start the day and other families finish their supper with a devotion. Therefore we like to recommend a few devotionals for you to help you get started.



First is a devotional called ***Rural Route 3:16*** by **Kevin P. Lane**. You don't have to be a farmer to appreciate the agricultural focus of this book and how it ties into Scripture. It is great for families or personal devotion as well and has great illustrations! One of the elders likes this devotional a lot and uses it in his family devotions. You can purchase this book for about \$25 on Amazon or Barnes & Noble and even our local bookstores have it. If you would like to get an idea of what this book includes, you can visit the website ruralroute316.com.



Second is a devotional recommended by one of our elders called ***The Blessed and Boundless God*** by **George Swinnok**. The author focuses on growing closer to God by knowing God, and the result will be becoming more and more like our Savior. In this devotion, doctrine is applied to our lives. It is priced at \$8 and you can get this at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or if you'd like you can take a trip up to Reformation Heritage bookstore in Grand Rapids. Trust me, it'll be worth the trip.



The third devotion is a book called ***Things Unseen*** by **Dr. Sinclair Ferguson**. The focus is to help Christians live by faith on a daily basis. It offers practical encouragement and instruction with great examples taken from personal experiences. Sinclair Ferguson is a wonderful teacher and a gifted preacher. It is a little bit more expensive than the other two mentioned above, priced at \$28.

Whichever devotional you and your family choose, whether it one of these three or another favorite, start the year off right by spending time with your family around the table devoting time to the Lord. I never met anyone who has said this was a waste of time

October 2025

Financial Report

General Fund

Receipts needed per month per budget	\$44,238.23
Receipts: from offerings	\$39,612.98
Disbursements: for the month	\$71,632.18

Building Fund

Receipts	\$1,190.00
Disbursements	\$0.00

Mission Fund

Receipts needed per month per budget	\$6,916.67
Receipts	\$7,126.46
Disbursements	\$8,027.34

Married Couples Bible Study

There is a married couples Bible Study that meets two Saturdays each month at 9:30 a.m. If you are interested in joining the study or learning more about it, please reach out to Jonah Walters at 616-617-2335.

Upcoming Events



December 7: Children's Christmas Program

5 p.m.



December 14: Christmas Hymn Sing

5 p.m.



December 9: Women's Ministries

7 p.m.

December Meetings:

December 1: Executive Committee Meeting

December 2: Committee Meetings

December 8: Elders & Consistory Meetings

Missionary of the Month: Church Made Simple (CMS)

October 1, 2025 was our very first time opening the doors of the fellowship building for Church Made Simple. However, that did not come without months of planning, brainstorming, and praying on how this new ministry would take shape at Bentheim Church.

The CMS team was so excited to launch. The building was revamped to meet the needs of the new ministry. We did a run though, trained some baristas, and promoted the new CMS ministry all over the Hamilton community. The team was ready to meet our first attenders of CMS. Unfortunately, no one came. Were we discouraged? NO! We continued to pray, promote, and challenge the congregation to invite and attend with a friend, neighbor, or coworker.

Weeks 2 and 3 came and went with no attendees. We continued to pray for God's hand in this ministry and His timing. Guess what? Week 4 came around and not 1, not 2, but 7 people came to hear the Good Word! All in His timing!

From then on CMS has brought in a steady attendance. With new speakers each week, there has been something for everyone. CMS is a place for community members to come in a casual, less intimidating environment to learn about the word of God and grow in their faith. Attendees are able to gain a much deeper understanding of the Word in a simple and basic way with the resources to apply to their everyday lives. We welcome conversation and open dialogue during our CMS time together. It is amazing what coming around the Bible and a good cup of coffee can do!

We are continuing to challenge not only the members of BRC to bring someone, but the entire consistory of elders and deacons to attend and bring someone to Church Made Simple on a Wednesday night.

If you have any questions about Church Made Simple or would like to know more about how you can become involved, please reach out to Pastor Kris, Renee Breuker, or Brad Kalmink.

Nursery, Welcome, Hospitality Volunteer Schedules

Date	Nursery	Welcome	Hospitality
December 7	Charity Walters Cherish Nyboer Ava Lengkeek Ellery Lampen	Dan & Dawn Hoffman	Darla Groenheide
December 14	Emily Geurink Averie Brower Morgan Koetsier Bristol Hoeve	Keith & Ann Walters	Erma Eding Nancy Sal
December 21	Kylee Geurink Dawn Wedeven Taryn Schurman Brea Geurink	Sandy Hoeve Jodi Mesbergen	Brielle Groenheide
December 28	MaryJo Mulder Carie Hoeve James McCleery Joelle Debo	Rick & Lisa Dirkse	Meghan Walters
January 4	Laura Lengkeek Leah Walters Taylor Patmos Blake Lugten	Carol Brower Hannah Walters	Shawn Hulst
January 11	Kelly Eding Kiel Patmos Bethany Kalmink Hannah VanDyk	Dan & Jodi Geurink	Hannah Walters
January 18	Amanda Schurman Tammy Bosch Rylan Schutter Kelsey Geurink	Mike & Lisa Lugten	Russ Lameris
January 25	Lisa Lugten Gail Schutter Oliver McCleery Evie Boeve	Keith & Ann Walters	Sandy Hoeve Paula Scholten

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	
	- 6:30 pm: Executive Committee Meeting	- 9 am: Women's Bible Study - 7 pm: Bible Study Fellowship - 7 pm: Committee Meetings	- 5:30 am: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 am: Quilting Ministry - 9 am: Play Group - 5 pm: Supper - 6 pm: Middle School Ministry - 6:15 pm: GEMS - 6:30 pm: All Church Bible Study - 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple	- 9 am: Coffee Break - Release Time Bible Club - 7 pm: Women's Bible Study		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
- Walk Out Worship & God's Gang - Faith Builders & Seekers - Al Gernmen's Class - Marriage Class - 3 pm: Choir Practice - 5 pm: Kids' Christmas Program - 6 pm: High School Ministry	- 6:15 pm: Elders' Meeting - 7:30 pm: Consistory Meeting	- 9 am: Women's Bible Study - 7 pm: Bible Study Fellowship - 7 pm: Women's Ministries	- 5:30 am: Men's Bible Study - 5 pm: Supper - 6:15 pm: Middle School Ministry - 6:15 pm: Cadets - 6:30 pm: All Church Bible Study - 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple			- 8 am: Firewood Ministry
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
- Walk Out Worship & God's Gang - Faith Builders & Seekers - Al Gernmen's Class - Marriage Class - 5 pm: Christmas Hymn Sing - 6 pm: High School Ministry - 6:30 pm: Young Adults Group		- 9 am: Women's Bible Study	- 5:30 am: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 am: Quilting Ministry - 5 pm: Supper - 6:15 pm: Middle School Ministry - 6:15 pm: GEMS - 6:30 pm: All Church Bible Study - 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple	- 9 am: Coffee Break		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
- Walk Out Worship & God's Gang - Faith Builders & Seekers - Marriage Class - 3 pm: Choir Practice - 6 pm: High School Ministry			- 5 pm: Christmas Eve Service			
28	29	30	31			
- 6:30 pm: Young Adults Group						