
The Bentheim Bell Tower

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BENTHEIM
REFORMED CHURCH



From the Elders

BY KYLE LAMPEN

In the fall our family spends quite a bit of time at cross country meets. If you have ever watched a cross-country race, you know that it is quite a different spectator experience than other sports. There are no scoreboards, no court or playing field, and no stands or bleachers to sit comfortably and watch the action. Only a large mob of runners that take off at the starting line at the crack of the gun. Quickly they are off and into a turn around the corner and then disappear in the woods, accelerating into their 3.1 mile adventure. Michelle and I strategically run to different spots along the course to catch a glimpse of Ellery and Grant. We do our best to sprint back to the finish to see them as they cross the line.

As a parent, there is something special about watching your children run. You watch them prepare for the race, you watch them start the race, and then you wait for them to come back into view. Sometimes they look strong, other times you can see the exhaustion on their faces. There are hills to climb and difficult stretches of trail to manage, and moments where you can tell they are just trying to gut it out and hang in there.

There are so many ways in which a race such as this is an analogy for our lives. The apostle Paul thought so too. He uses this often in scripture as a picture of the Christian life. In 1 Corinthians 9:24, he writes: "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it."

Paul is illustrating that following Christ requires perseverance. Our Christian lives are not a quick sprint but a race that requires endurance. Our action depends on the course in front of us. There may be times when the path seems easy and also times where the hills seem impossibly steep. We will experience seasons of great strength and seasons when we feel extremely weak.

He references running again in Philippians 3:13-14, "...but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Runners keep their faces forward, looking ahead at all times. The same is true for us. We cannot be distracted with past failures or even sit idly by admiring our successes. We may stumble and even fall, but we must get back on our feet and stay on our mission.

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Keep this truth in mind: We are not running to earn our salvation; Christ has already accomplished this. We are running because we belong to Him. And He has promised that we will not do it alone. He has given us the Word, His Spirit, and the Church.

Whether you are setting a record pace right now, or you are being beaten down by the conditions, remember we are running as a team and keep going! Christ will sustain you. And by His grace when we come to the final stretch and the finish line, we will echo the words Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 4:7: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race. I have kept the faith."

Pastoral Search Committee Update

The Search Committee is truly grateful for the number of pastors who have expressed interest in serving at Bentheim Church. We have been blessed with many qualified candidates, a few of whom we are prayerfully considering.

We have conducted interviews through a variety of formats, including in-person meetings, video calls, and phone conversations. We have also had multiple interviews with a couple of strong candidates as we continue to learn more about them, their ministries, and how they may align with the needs and vision of BRC.

At this stage in the process, we especially covet your continued prayers for wisdom, discernment, and God's guidance. With several strong candidates under consideration, we recognize the importance of carefully and prayerfully discerning whom God may be calling to serve our church.

Thank you for your prayers, patience, and support as we seek God's direction for the future of BRC.

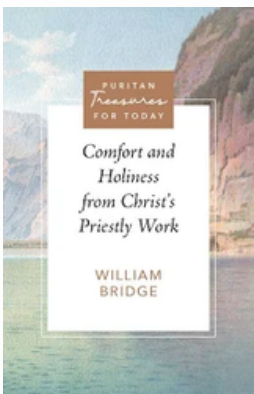
Thank you,
The Search Committee

Book-of-the-Month

Comfort and Holiness from Christ's Priestly Work

William Bridge

As Christians, how wonderful it is to know that Jesus Christ has made atonement for us as our Savior. But it is vital to our comfort and sanctification also to recognize and understand the scope of the Lord as our High Priest. We can struggle with sin, doubt, temptation, and discouragement if we fail to grasp the significance of Christ's priesthood. Puritan writer William Bridge reminds us of the four effects of Christ's labor: making satisfaction, intercession, offering gifts, and blessing His people. Be blessed as you read this short book by being reminded of our great advocate we have in Christ!



Interior Updates

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

- The painting in the narthex is complete.
- The carpet in the narthex will be replaced and installation will occur during the week of September 28. Installation is expected to take a week, so events during this week may need to be flexible regarding which entrances and rooms are easily accessible.
- The stairwells and narthex baseboard will be re-carpeted later in October.
- The upstairs women's bathroom is planned for painting and updates by the end of September.

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

August 2026 Financial Report

General Fund

Receipts needed per month per budget	\$44,238.23
Receipts: from offerings	\$39,940.60
Disbursements: for the month	\$35,156.62

Building Fund

Receipts: from offerings	\$7,110.00
Disbursements	\$5,954.04

Mission Fund

Receipts needed per month per budget	\$6,916.67
Receipts: from offerings	\$7,222.25
Disbursements	\$7,514.73



Church Sign Donations

Received in August 2026: \$5,200

Total Received through August 2026: \$15,400

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

Ministry of the Month: Church Made Simple

We are excited to return for another year of Church Made Simple with some wonderful new changes for the 2026/2027 program year!

If you are new to your faith or eager to grow deeper, this is the perfect opportunity. Please invite someone who would enjoy exploring and strengthening their faith with us.

What's New?

- **New Location:** Church Made Simple will now be held every Wednesday in the parsonage—come enjoy scripture and coffee in a cozy, homey atmosphere.
- **Series Study:** This year, our weekly speakers will guide us through Who Jesus Is, a LifeChange study series, sharing the love and works of Jesus with everyone in the Bentheim community.
- **Personal Testimonies:** Some sessions will feature inspiring personal stories from our own church members, enriching the experience.

These special nights are a great chance to connect with friends, family, and neighbors through the power of God's word. We encourage and challenge you to bring someone along, whether a friend, a coworker, or anyone who could be uplifted by this experience.

We can't wait to see you there! Please reach out to Renee Breuker with any questions!

A vertical poster for 'Church Made Simple' at Bentheim Reformed Church. The top half has a teal background with white text. The bottom half has an orange background with white text. A photo of people reading Bibles is on the right side. There are orange starburst graphics on the right side.

Church Made Simple
@ Bentheim Reformed Church

A PLACE TO BELONG, BELIEVE, AND BECOME

Grow in Faith
At Church Made Simple, we create a safe and fun space where you can explore your relationship with God and ask big questions about life, purpose, and identity.

Build Real Connections
More than just an adult group, Church Made Simple is a place to belong. You'll meet new friends, share experiences, and grow together through studies and group discussions that make every Wednesday night something to look forward to.

Join a community of adults growing in faith and friendship

Wednesdays
October - April
6:30 PM
Coffee Bar/Treats
Doors open at 6:15

3997 38th Street
BRC Coffee House (Parsonage)

www.bentheim.org
renee@bentheim.org

Upcoming Events



September 15: Women's Ministries

7 p.m.



October 10: Crane Orchards Outing

10 a.m.



September 25: Seniors Dinner with the Youth Group

6 p.m.



December 6: Children's Christmas Program

5 p.m.



November 9: Annual Congregational Meeting

7 p.m.

October Meetings:

October 5: Executive Committee Meeting

October 6: Committee Meetings

October 12: Elders & Consistory Meetings

Nursery, Welcome, Hospitality Volunteer Schedules

Date	Nursery	Welcome	Hospitality
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
November 1	Shannon Hoffman Hannah Walters Mia Brink Hannah VanDyk	Mike & Lisa Lugten	Darla & Brielle Groenheide
November 8	Emily Geurink Paula Scholten James McCleery Joelle Debo	Sandy Hoeve	Hannah Walters
November 15	Carie Hoeve Samantha Zeerip Taryn Schurman Morgan Koetsier	Dan & Jodi Geurink	Meghan Walters
November 22	Jen Vander Kolk Carolyn Dekker Oliver McCleery Ava Lengkeek	Dan & Dawn Hoffman	Janine Kooienga
November 29	Ronda Lameris Cherish Nyboer Sadie Schutter Ellery Lampen	Carol Brower	Tom Overhiser

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 - 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	5 - 6:30 pm: Executive Committee Meeting	6 - 9 am: Women's Bible Study - 7 pm: Committee Meetings - 7 pm: Bible Study Fellowship	7 - 8:30 am: Quilting Ministry - 5 pm: Supper - 6 pm: Middle School Ministry - 6:15 pm: GEMS - 6:15 pm: Route 56 - 6:30 pm: All Church Bible Study - 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple - 6:30 pm: Discipling Class	8 - 7 pm: Women's Bible Study	9	10 - 10 am: Crane Orchard's Event
11 - Walk Out Worship & God's Gang - Sunday School - 6 pm: High School Ministry	12 - 6:15 pm: Elders' Meeting 7:30 pm: Consistory Meeting	13 - 9 am: Women's Bible Study - 7 pm Bible Study Fellowship	14 - 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	15 - 9 am: Coffee Break - 7 pm: Women's Bible Study	16	17
18 - Walk Out Worship & God's Gang - Sunday School - 6 pm: High School Ministry - 6:30 pm: Young Adults Group	19	20 - 9 am: Women's Bible Study - 7 pm: Women's Ministries - 7 pm Bible Study Fellowship	21 - 8:30 am: Quilting Ministry - 5 pm: Supper - 6:15 pm: Middle School Ministry - 6:15 pm: GEMS - 6:15 pm: Route 56 - 6:30 pm: All Church Bible Study - 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple - 6:30 pm: Discipling Class	22 - 7 pm: Women's Bible Study	23	24
25 - Call Class - 6 pm: Seniors Dinner with High School Ministry	26	27 - 9 am: Women's Bible Study - 7 pm Bible Study Fellowship	28 - 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	29 - 7 pm: Women's Bible Study	30	31