

May Newsletter

Council Motion Re: Women On the Pulpit

This following announcement of read from the pulpit on Sunday April 8, 2018.

At our last Council meeting, as part of our discussions regarding Women on the Pulpit, we first would like to thank everyone for their prayers and letters and conversations with their elders. After a lengthy discussion Council made a motion to invite women on the pulpit and with a majority vote it was defeated. Moving forward we ask that you keep the members and the leadership of this church in your prayers.

Council Highlights

Council met on Wednesday May 2 and the following items were discussed:

- Elders Ben Schinkel Sr and John van Huizen will be attending the upcoming Classis Chatham meeting as delegates. This meeting will be held on Tuesday May 22 at Covenant CRC in Woodstock, ON
- Several committee reports were heard. The Board of Administration is investigating several new projects.
- The Installation of the new Elder and Deacon will take place on Sunday May 13 with Pastor Nate VanDenend officiating. The results of the Casting of the Lots were as follows Elder Ben Schinkel Jr and Deacon Anna Redekop.
- The Lord's Supper will be celebrated here in Essex on Sunday May 27 with Pastor Norman Visser officiating.
- Council has directed the church office to begin preliminary discussions with IPC Canada Photo Services to publish a new pictorial directory sometime in September 2018.
- Council has directed the church office to prepare nametags along with lanyards for the greeters.

Potluck Luncheon – Sunday June 3,

On Sunday June 3, we will have the privilege of hearing from Rev. Mike Morency, Director of the Matthew House in Windsor, ON.

After the service we would like to invite everyone to attend a Fellowship Luncheon in the hall downstairs. Bring your favourite cold dish either a Salad and/or Cold Plate and Dessert to share with everyone. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. For more information, see Sarah or Beverley.

Folger's Coffee Cans

If you drink Folger's coffee sold in the plastic containers would you consider donating them to a local farm? Erin Kuipers works at a local horse farm and they use Folger's coffee plastic containers to mix the horses' grains. With over 25 horses they need a lot of containers. This is a way to help a local farmer and divert plastic out of the waste management system. Please bring cans to church and give to Erin or Sarah. Thank you for your help.



“SEARCH Woodstock”

Are you looking for something different to do with your youth? Check out Search! A youth weekend retreat with a focus on our well-being, enabling youth and leaders to discover answers to some of the questions and issues that face us in our lives. Registration is now open for grade 9-12 students being held at Maranatha CRC, Woodstock from July 26– July 29th. Please join us for a weekend filled with dive-in sessions and speakers in which we will have in-depth discussions looking at “Who Am I”, “What Am I Here For”, and “Where Do I Fit In”. Our main speaker this year is Jason Dykstra, a mediator, conflict coach, and father. We will also go out to work sites within Woodstock, lending a helping hand to those in need. For more information and to register, please check out our website – searchwoodstock.webs.com. You can also contact Kristin at 519-539-5301 at Maranatha CRC.

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Hey, You(th)!

Jesus made it sound so simple. Love God and love your neighbour as you love yourself. Three things, “The Big Three.” Love God, Love yourself, Love your neighbour. But what does that *actually* look like in today’s uber-connected, messy, self-absorbed world? #Struggle, right?!

We’ll be unpacking those three things (and more!) at this year’s Classis Chatham Fall Youth Retreat! If you’re high-schooled aged, come and hang out with us at Forest Cliff Camp, September 28-30. The planning team is shaking things up this year, and we promise you it’s going to be a weekend you don’t want to miss!

To register, visit classischathamyouthretreat.eventbrite.ca or email classischathamyouthretreat@gmail.com for more information.

Loving Your Neighbour Conference

Join us July 30 – August 1 at Calvin Seminary for this year’s Loving Your Neighbour Conference. We will explore what ‘Loving your Migrant, Immigrant and Refugee Neighbour’ means today. Hear from keynote Dr. Paul Lin of Vanderbilt Divinity School, and a variety of other speakers whose ministries focus on migrants, immigrants, and refugees. We invite pastors, ministry leaders, and lay members to attend this conference. Registration is \$100.00 if you sign up before July 1. Register at www.calvinseminary.edu/neighbor

From Faith Formation Ministries

New Catechism Course! The Big Question

Looking for something new for youth group or catechism class? The Big Question is getting rave reviews! This informal four-session exploration of Q&A 1 is easy to lead and offers lots of activity options to choose from. Published by Faith Formation Ministries under the Faith Alive imprint. It’s available now at FaithAliveResources.org. Check it Out!