

## CHURCH NEWSLETTER JANUARY 24, 2021

### NOTHING IS LEFT TO 'CHANCE'

(James Smith)

"My times are in Your hand!" Psalm 31:15

Every event is under Divine control. **Nothing is left to 'chance'.**

The hand of God is in all that occurs: directing, overruling, and sanctifying everything to our good and His glory.

He appointed all that concerns us, and appointed all in infinite wisdom and love. Therefore, we should not judge rashly--or conclude hastily. We know not what may occur today--but we know that the purpose of God cannot be frustrated, nor can His purpose fail. He works all things after the counsel of His own will.

He says, "My purpose shall stand--and I will do all My pleasure." But this is our comfort, that He takes pleasure in His people, and in the prosperity of His redeemed ones.

Let us consider, then, that everything that happens to us . . .

passes under our *Father's* eye;  
is overruled by our *Savior's* power;  
is directed by the *Holy Spirit* to do us good.

It shall not be as our enemies wish, or as our hearts fear; but as our God and Father pleases, and has ordained.

Therefore, do not be anxious, troubled, or cast down! The Lord God omnipotent reigns--and He is your Father and your God! He shall preserve you from all evil--He shall preserve your soul.

"We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

Spurgeon: When you go through a trial, the sovereignty of God is the *soft pillow* upon which you lay your head. There is no attribute of God more comforting to His children than the doctrine of *Divine Sovereignty*. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe troubles, they believe . . .

that Sovereignty has *ordained* their afflictions,  
that Sovereignty *overrules* them, and  
that Sovereignty will *sanctify* them all.

#### THE FIRST COLLECTION IS ALWAYS FOR THE CHURCH

#### EXTRA or 2nd COLLECTION FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2021

JAN 24 – SEMINARY FUND

JAN 31 – LOCAL EVANGELISM

FEB 07 –CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

FEB 14 – GUATEMALA MISSION

FEB 21 – PEACE HAVEN

FEB 28 – DEACON FUND

**DONATING ONLINE:** The Email address is: LondonFRCgifts@outlook.com This email transfer is set up for auto deposit. That means when the transfer is sent it is automatically deposited in the FRC of London bank account. The sender is able to add a note to the e-transfer so they may indicate what the gifts are for. A message is sent to the receiving email address to confirm the transfer. This allows the treasurer to verify and record the gift.

**BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO CJTW-Faith FM - 99.9FM 2:00PM**

## **JANUARY 31, 2021**

Our pastor will be preaching in the Bornholm FRC on Sunday January 31 the Lord willing. **Our church will be closed** please dial in on Sermon Audio - Bornholm Free Reformed Church. Connect just a couple of minutes before the service starts. Church times are 9:30am and 2:30pm.

### **FROM THE CONSISTORY**

At our last consistory meeting we discussed and decided to change the beginning of our worship service. Now that we have our own pastor we do not feel the need to have an elder open the service and make announcements.

Thanks to God's gracious provision our congregation now has live video streaming and an online sermon archive with the Sermon Audio website. This was made possible through the donation of equipment by the St. Thomas congregation and the efforts of Pastor Eric Moerdyk and brother Kyle Pennings. We express our heartfelt appreciation to them and our joyful thanksgiving to God for this means of listening to sermons when gathering for public worship is not possible. Please visit our sermon audio account at <http://www.sermonaudio.com/londonfrc> and contact Pastor Hicks if you require assistance.

We want to inform the congregation that when there is no Elder present for the worship service; due to the health and isolation situation we begin with a "zoom" meeting before the church service. This is not ideal, but this way there will still be "oversight" by the Elders. This also took place last Sunday.

### **CONSISTORY REPORT**

The Consistory met remotely with zoom technology on Thursday January 14 @ 7:00 pm. Pastor Bergsma was the only member absent due to illness. Pastor Hicks opened with prayer, welcomed all to the meeting and gave a meditation on Psalm 124. The minutes of the consistory meeting held on December 17, 2020 were read and adopted as read. We warmly thanked our brother John Schinkel for his years of sacrifice and service to the church of God as our elder. It has been approved that going forward Pastor Hicks will be the consistory chair, Elder Van Meppelen Scheppink the vice-chair, and Pastor Bergsma the clerk. The agenda was set and adopted. Discussed during the meeting were correspondence, phone calls and family visits, maintenance, pulpit supply, confession of faith classes, online capabilities, ministry strategies, safety policies, and other congregational matters. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 28, 2021 @ 7:00 pm DV. Pastor Hicks closed the meeting in prayer.

#### **January 24, 2021 AM**

9:30 am Rev. B. Hicks  
Singing: 221:1-3  
Singing: 103:1-4  
Scripture Reading: Isaiah 42  
Text: Isaiah 42:1-4  
Singing: 243:5-8

#### **Sermon: Behold Jehovah's Servant**

I. The Servant's Credentials  
II. The Servant's Conduct  
III. The Servant's Conquest  
Singing: 166:4-6  
Doxology 200:4

#### **January 24, 2021 PM**

4:00pm Rev. B. Hicks  
Singing: 227:1-3  
Scripture Reading: Matthew 7  
Text: Matthew 7:23-28  
Singing: 138:1-4  
Singing: 1:1-3

#### **Sermon: Build Your Life on Christ's Word**

I. It is Wise to Build Your Life on Christ's Word  
II. It is Foolish Not to Build Your Life on Christ's Word  
Singing: 1:4&5  
Doxology 243:15

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Phone number of Mrs Rebekah Hicks 1-616-514-7372 email address is [Rebekah.a.hicks@gmail.com](mailto:Rebekah.a.hicks@gmail.com)

**PRAYER REQUESTS**, We ask that you consider praying for the following people. Our leaders who are making decisions about restrictions of our church, that they may make God fearing decisions. Not just in Ontario, but in Canada. The sick and lonely: Pastor Bergsma (he is recovering well but is still weak), Mrs Bergsma, Mrs Van der Ploeg, Miss Dyer, Anna VMS, Mr Black, Mrs Bouma and Mrs Linker and others that are not feeling well. Pray for wisdom for the doctors, nurses and caretakers. Give them the knowledge to treat the ill, including Covid 19 patients. Pray for unity in our Churches. This is a difficult time for all of us. There are so many opinions on what should and should not be done and how things should be handled. Pray that we may stand united with the word of God and that it may take priority in our lives over all other things. One thing is needful.... That our circumstances may bring us closer to the Lord!

Please also remember our brother Ren Van Meppelen Scheppink as he is scheduled for knee surgery on Tuesday January 26, 2021 D.V. May the Lord guide the hands of the surgeon and may our brother find relief from the pain.

#### **UPDATE ON JANELLE HAVEMAN JAN 16**

Before Janelle was discharged, we had a conversation with her chemo doctor. Based on her results of a recent MRI scan, and her reaction to her last few chemo cycles (low blood counts, lengthy recovery times), her oncology team has decided not to do any more chemo treatments. They are confident that this is the right time to stop, but she will be closely monitored with MRIs and follow up appointments.

This will likely be the last update for awhile regarding Janelle unless there is a significant change in her journey. Please continue to remember her in your prayers as she battles this cancer.