

Nobleford Christian Reformed Church

newsletter ~ NOVEMBER 26, 2022

Dear friends at Nobleford CRC,

Thank you for standing with your missionaries and ministry leaders worldwide!

Your congregation's support for God's mission through Resonate reaches the hearts and minds of people in more than 40 countries, including places where Christians are vulnerable to persecution, isolation, and prejudice. You make it possible for Christian Reformed ministry leaders to be there for people: you send them to teach, preach, welcome, and encourage—wherever God has called them. What a gift you've given!

Sending missionaries, church planters, and campus ministers remains a vital way that your church can join with others throughout the denomination to share the gospel story, both here at home and overseas. Seekers and new Christians alike need pastors and mentors to help them grow in faith and in their walk with Jesus Christ. Thank you for being part of the family of faith that walks alongside them.

On behalf of Resonate Global Mission, and of all those who are no longer alone or afraid to live out their faith, thank you for all you do. I know you are a faithful witness through prayer and involvement with your own community and I am grateful you also have chosen to bless your brothers and sisters in Christ around the world through Resonate!

In Christ, Kevin DeRaaf, Acting Canada Director

10/21/2022 \$3,183.33 801110 Resonate: Ministry Share

10/21/2022 \$913.00 801210 Resonate Global Mission: Where Most Needed

10/21/2022 \$774.00 202514 Resonate: Sinclair, Greg

Become a Lead Cook with World Renew DRS! - Do you enjoy caring for others by cooking for them? Consider a ministry opportunity by becoming a Lead Cook DRS volunteer! While volunteers are working hard on reconstruction sites, there are others working hard in the kitchen, cooking to nourish bodies which are rebuilding hope for disaster survivors! If interested, email Diana at dmarquez@worldrenew.net with questions.

Safe Church 2022 Webinar Series: Safe Church Basics - Webinar 5: Responding to Abuse with Compassion and Justice - This webinar will feature Rev. Amanda Benckhuysen and Rev. Eric Kas as they walk through the basics of responding to an abuse allegation. This fifth step will premiere November 30th at 12 pm ET as a pre-recorded video resource on our YouTube Channel: [Youtube.com/SafeChurchMinistry](https://www.youtube.com/SafeChurchMinistry). We will also be hosting a watch party with many Safe Church Coordinators of Classes - all are invited as well to share via chat, ask questions, and connect briefly together at 1 pm ET (10am PT). You may register for this Collective Zoom Watch Meeting here: <https://bit.ly/SCwebinar5>

Family Fire - is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

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Advent: Our Great Hope - Check out the kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. We know God always loves us and is kind to us and that he sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins and give us eternal life. This is our great hope! Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Advent: God Brings Peace - Check out the kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Look for ways you can be a peacemaker this Advent season. If you have any friends or family members who haven't trusted Jesus, tell them about how he came to earth to bring peace between us and God. You can also find ways to make things easier, less worrisome, or less lonely for people in need. Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Advent: God's Joy - Check out the kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. We know the words to the song well, "Joy to the World, the Lord has come..." But what exactly is the joy of Christmas all about? Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Groundwork: The Magi: A Reminder that Jesus Came for All Nations - The Magi may not be present at Christ's birth like most nativity sets would suggest, but the inclusion of the Magi in the gospel of Matthew is strategic and intentional. Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 2:1-12 to hear the gospel writer's message and prepare our hearts to once again celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Advent At-home Faith Formation Tip - During Advent, we light the candle of Hope. Through Jesus Christ, God provides us with hope for our daily living and hope for our future. How can you be a messenger of hope this week? Wonder and talk about that with someone this week. (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)

Advent At-home Faith Formation Tip - During Advent, we light the candle of Love. Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection were all characterized by love. In return, we are to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." Consider how your family or household might do those things more fully in the coming year. (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)

Advent At-home Faith Formation Tip - During Advent, we light the candle of Joy. Joy is not a fleeting happiness, but an attitude of the heart that springs from gratitude. What brings you joy? How might you spread joy to others? Wonder and talk about that this week. (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)

Community-Flourishing Online Cohort - Is your congregation interested in helping your neighbourhood and community thrive? A new online cohort is starting January 2023! "Community-Flourishing: Becoming a Strengths-based, Community-driven Congregation" hopes to meet the third Thursdays of the month at 7:30 PM Eastern (6:30 CT, 5:30 MT, 4:30 PT, 8:30 AT). Diaconal Ministries Canada and World Renew are teaming up to inspire and mobilize your congregation to love, listen to, and engage with your neighbours, neighbourhoods, and local organizations as you seek to cultivate a place of flourishing. Find out more by contacting Rachel Vroege, Regional Ministry Developer for Diaconal Ministries, at rvroege@crcna.org or visit www.crcna.org/thrive/thriving-practices

Canadian National Gathering 2023 - Every three years, representatives of Christian Reformed churches and classes across Canada gather to discuss, pray, listen, and plan next steps for ministry at a congregational, regional, and national level. The next Canadian National Gathering will be held May 25-28, 2023 in Ottawa, Ontario, on the campus of Algonquin College and will focus on Indigenous justice and reconciliation. Representatives from every classis across Canada are invited to participate. If you are interested in attending to represent your area, please talk to someone who is attending the next meeting of your classis. For information, go to www.crcna.org/canadian-national-gathering

Tour the Biblical Lands of Israel - March 6 – March 17, 2023. Experience a refreshing renewal of your faith, and gain a deeper understanding of the Bible, as you tour the biblical lands with teaching host, Pastor Peter Tuininga, and Sindbad Tours of Israel. See many of the biblical places (Jerusalem, Galilee, Caesarea, Jericho, and much more), and gain spiritual and historical insights which will make the Bible come alive for you. For complete information, cost, and registration, go to toursofisrael.wordpress.com or call Peter Tuininga: 1 289 877 8433 or e-mail: peter.tuininga@gmail.com



A Reflection from Rich Braaksma

I ran some errands this week. My destinations included a tire shop, grocery store, the mall, etc. It's not even the last week in November but Christmas decorations and holiday advertising abound. I know this is not surprise to anyone. Neither it is a surprise that **Christmas music** is pumped out through the in-store speakers in all of the above contexts. Sure, there is plenty of the secular stuff - *Jingle Bells*, *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town* - but I also heard the Christian classics like *Joy To The World*, *Hark the Herald*, and even *Come Let Us Adore Him*.

Now, I'm guessing we don't all share the same appetite or enthusiasm for Christmas music (especially as it's curated for Safeway shoppers), and, no doubt, the motivation for broadcasting that music is probably dominated by commercial concerns as opposed to a genuine desire to draw attention to the birth of Jesus...

But! Nevertheless! Intended or not! Even in the mad consumeristic frenzy that will intensify all the way up to Christmas, if you have ears to hear, there it is in the middle of the mess! **The proclamation that Jesus is coming to make God's blessings known far as the curse is found is playing in aisle 18 at Canadian Tire. How cool is that?!**

I always remind our congregation that Advent is not Christmas, it's the waiting and longing leading up to Christmas. And, indeed, so much good Christmas music invites us to enter to that longing... *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus!* It's a cry or hope echoing the exilic prophets while simultaneously mapping itself onto our current lived experience. And there is some deep theology in those Christmas stanzas too! How about this one: "Come desire of nations come. Fix in us they humble home. Rise the woman's conquering seed, bruise in us the serpent's head. Adam's image now efface, stamp Thine image in its place. Second Adam from above, re-instate us in Thy love." Wow!!! I love that call of hope, and there is something not-so-un-incarnational when it's played in the lobby of Midas Muffler.

For this newsletter we wanted to give a nod to Christmas music! **We even started a [Spotify playlist](#) (although there aren't many songs yet, hit reply with suggestions, or fill in the form linked at the bottom of this newsletter, and we will add them) for your listening pleasure.** We'll accept Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer but we'd also love to hear the Christmas songs that have impacted you with maybe a little more spiritual depth as well.follow this link to read more from Rich Braaksma from Resonate Global Mission!

[Hear all that Advent Music? \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Reconciliation: From Words to Action

November 29 is Giving Tuesday.

For Giving Tuesday this year, we wanted to reach outside the walls of The King's University and embody the call of Micah 6:8 to "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God." I'm sure you have not missed the calls to action for truth and reconciliation over the last several years. We want to take this call seriously by supporting and renewing relationships with our Indigenous neighbours. It's time to turn words into action.

This Giving Tuesday we are partnering with local churches and organizations to turn these expressions of reconciliation into meaningful action. The Pakitinâsowin Reciprocity Fund has been established to provide grants that support grass-roots Indigenous organizations in the work they're doing in their communities. All granting

decisions are made by the fund's Indigenous-led advisory circle.

Visit kingsu.ca/Giving-Tuesday for more information about the fund and to learn how you can be a part of growing it.

Click this link to find out more: [Giving Tuesday: Reciprocity Fund: The King's University | Edmonton's Christian University | Christian University in Alberta, Canada \(kingsu.ca\)](https://kingsu.ca/Giving-Tuesday)