

FEBRUARY 2019

THE

Outlook

A NEWSLETTER OF ORLAND PARK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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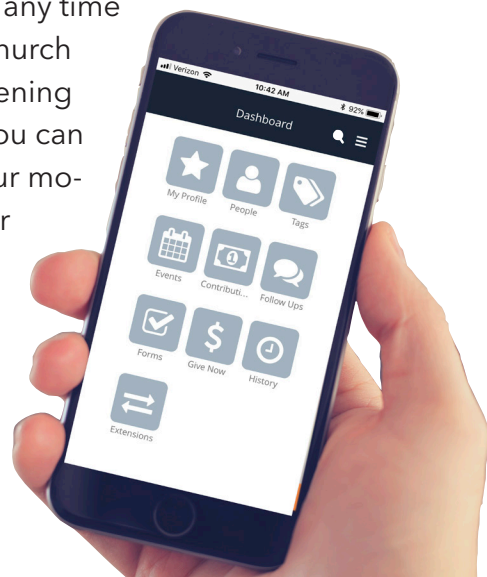
OPCRC Launches New Breeze System

CHURCH MEMBERS CAN SIGN UP FOR AN ACCOUNT TO ACCESS NEW FEATURES

We are so excited to unveil our new church management software. This platform will allow church members to stay connected in a new and simple way!

With Breeze, you can see and update your personal and family information. Did you move? Add a new phone number? Provide the most current information with the click of a button. You can also access an online church directory! Breeze allows you to give online simply and easily. You can also access your giving history (whether you've given online or through budget envelopes) any time you wish. Breeze provides an online church calendar, so you can see what's happening at our church throughout the week. You can also download the Breeze app for your mobile device! Just search Breeze in your app store to download the app.

If you have any questions or would like help signing up for Breeze or downloading the app to your mobile device, come to the help desk in the flex room after either morning services and someone will assist you.



Orland Park
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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February 3: Race Relations | crcna.org/race

The Ministry of Race Relations is mandated by synod to “design, organize, and implement programs that will assist the denomination, churches, and members in eliminating the causes and effects of racism within the body of believers and throughout the world.” Because there is a need for leaders and their congregations to have more effective ministry in the diverse communities they serve, there is also a need to have assistance in becoming culturally intelligent. The Office of Race Relations offers the resources and tools to develop this capacity.

February 10: Bible League | bibleleague.org

“Serving the under-resourced Church globally through the provision of Bibles, biblical resources, and training to transform lives worldwide through God’s Word.” For over 75 years, the Bible League International has been equipping the local church with God’s Word worldwide. Today, they serve in 6 regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, and the U.S. Their local and worldwide ministry is to reach the world’s largest cities and most remote villages with God’s Word.

February 17: PASS | passnetworkforlife.org

Pregnancy Aid South Suburbs (PASS) has served women and men in unplanned pregnancy situations since 1983. For over 30 years, PASS has served thousands of women and men facing the traumas of unplanned pregnancies. Beyond services and care, PASS has provided tangible items such as diapers, car seats, formula, baby food, infant clothing, maternity clothing and other items to thousands of families in need. PASS annually teaches Abstinence before Marriage and Faithfulness in Marriage to over 15,000 students and provides a highly effective post-abortion healing program.

February 24: Cadets (Local)

This offering goes directly to our local Cadets club at Orland Park CRC. The Calvinist Cadet Corps is an independent (non-denominational) youth ministry organization whose purpose is to provide the local church with ministry programs that will enable them to effectively share Christ’s love with boys from their church and community. The Basis of the Cadet Corps is the Word of God, whose ministry encourages studying the Bible as a guide to life. The ministry also encourages experiencing the presence of God as he is revealed in nature through outdoorsman skills and learning to be stewards of creation. Men, as God’s servants, dedicate themselves to bringing boys into a loving relationship with their Savior.



Iron Sharpens Iron Men’s Conference is coming to our church again this year on Saturday, February 16. Join over 600 men for some powerful worship and great speakers. Sign up at the information center! We are also in need of volunteers for this event. If you are willing to help with set-up (Friday from noon until completion) and/or take-down (Saturday from 3:00 pm on), contact Tim Hoekstra. Ladies, if you can help in the kitchen on Saturday during the conference, please contact Darla Hoekstra. If you have any other questions about the conference, please contact John Dykstra or Tim Hoekstra.

ADULT SERVE HOME BUILD

There are still volunteer spaces available for Week #3 (February 10-15). Applications are available at the information center. More info is available on the bulletin board outside the gym.

COLD AND SNOWY JANUARY THEMES



God made polar bears and penguins, giving them special bodies for living with ice and snow!



Making snowmen helps us practice spelling our names.

The children at Orland Park Christian Preschool have had a great month of learning and growing using the themes of "Snow" and "Winter Animal Friends" during the month of January. We loved our stories about "Frosty the Snowman," "The Snowy Day," and "The Biggest Snowman Ever." We made snowman crafts and even built snowmen out of paper snowballs that had the letters of our names on them. What a fun way to practice the recognition and the spelling of our own names! The winter animals we studied were polar bears and penguins. We learned that polar bears live near the North Pole and penguins live on the other side of the world near the South Pole. It is truly amazing how God created them so that they have just the right kinds of bodies to survive those cold temperatures!

REGISTRATION FOR 2019/2020 CLASSES IS HERE

With the arrival of registration time for next year's classes, we were blessed to hear two parents give their testimonies with our director on the stage during the Sunday morning worship services on January 13. Thank you so much to Amy DeRuiter and Beth Solle for sharing with the congregation how much their children have grown spiritually and academically at Orland Park Christian Preschool. The impact of the Bible stories that are taught and the love of Jesus that is shared is such an important part of the early childhood education that is received at our school. I'd like to share one more testimony from a mom whose three children attended Orland Park Christian Preschool in the past. She was not able to be here to share her testimony in church so she sent a written note

in order to share what God has done for her family through their experience in our Christian preschool. Thank you so much to Tiffinee Garcia for sharing this testimony when asked, "What is the reason you and your husband chose to send your children to Orland Park Christian Preschool and what kind of spiritual impact have you seen in them since then?" Here's her response:

"Choosing Orland Park Christian Preschool was something I always knew we would pursue; however, I never really thought about the immense impact that it would make on my young children. The story that always stands out for me is setting up our nativity and my middle daughter, by this time she was in

Story continued on page 4...



'Preschool Registration' continued from page 3

2nd or 3rd grade, and her telling me the story of the birth of Jesus. She was telling it in such a descriptive way, using words I had never used. I asked her about her story and she said that she remembered learning it at preschool.

For our family, we attend Sunday School, church, Gems, God's Posse, and Youth group. Our choice has been the public school and, for us, it has been a good experience. Yes, they are not receiving God's Word in the school environment and this is something we talk about as a family. We encourage the importance of witnessing and walking the walk, so that others can see the love of Christ through them. Their teachers have always recognized this in conferences. I say this because for us, that initial foundation was extra important. It may seem dramatic, but, truly, that first preschool experience made a differ-

ence in my children's lives. Those young impressionable minds were filled with nothing but love, security, and most importantly stories of God's love. Stories that they remember today, maybe the way they heard them in preschool was so memorable as they were told in a more simplistic way. I wish I had the words to describe what is on my heart, but what our preschool does is so very important. You should stay encouraged just as you have encouraged our children. We will always support you."

Glory to God who is using our preschool ministry to grow children in faith and learning FOR HIM! Please contact Ruth Baas at 708-532-4933 or send an e-mail to preschool@opcrc.org if you would like more information about registering for next year's classes.

Food Pantry Update

-Jessica Clevering

SHOWING THE LOVE OF CHRIST TO OUR COMMUNITY

Each Wednesday the hallway outside the church office is transformed into our food pantry. Volunteers from the church spend time preparing bags of food, picking up food, and distributing the food to pantry clients. In 2018 we saw 1269 clients come through the food pantry. On average we serve 26 clients each Wednesday. We have seen numbers as high as 41 on a Wednesday.

One of our volunteers shares, "I was a manager of a food pantry for 16 years and have volunteered at the OPCRC food pantry for 5 years. We provide food for the hungry, homeless, and those who are less fortunate. Some of our food pantry clients are working, but after they pay their bills, they can't buy food for their families. The church food pantry provides all the staple items needed to fill their bags. Also, with the help of another pantry we provide bread and produce."

We would also love to provide these families with meat. The pantry now has a brand new freezer, but we need meat to fill it up! We are reaching out to the congregation for help. Do you know someone in the meat department? Do you know anyone who butchers their own animals or hunts deer and butchers this meat? Or, do you know of a place to purchase meat at a discount price? Please let Jessica Clevering know if you have any resources for us.

Some simple ways to help the pantry:

- Pray for our clients.
- Volunteer at the pantry.
- Donate non-perishable items, loaves of bread, produce, meat.
- Help us find a source for meat.

If you are able to help in any way, please contact the church office and talk to Jessica.

As a church, God has blessed us in many ways. As Christians, we are called to help those in need, and the OPCRC food pantry is just one way we can answer that call. As one of our volunteers puts it, "As Christians we are called to reach out and help each and every one. There is food in abundance in this country and no one should ever go hungry."

FOOD PANTRY SNAPSHOT...

Each client gets two bags of non-perishable items.

Bag 1

- 1 can of soup
- 1 can of Beef Stew
- 1 can of chicken
- 2 can of tuna
- 1 jar of spaghetti sauce
- 1 box of spaghetti noodles
- 1 box rice mix
- 2 boxes of mac and cheese
- 1 box of potatoes
- 1 box of hot chocolate
- 1 roll of toilet paper
- 1 box of tissues

Bag 2

- 2 cans of chili
- 2 cans of vegetables
- 1 can of fruit
- 1 can of spaghetti's
- 1 can of Ravioli
- 1 box of cereal
- 1 jar of jelly
- 1 jar of peanut butter
- 1 box of granola bars

Financial Peace University Class Begins February 24

The deacons of OPCRC are excited to offer a new financial course here at Orland Park CRC: Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University." This class is for anyone and everyone - any age or stage in life. We'd love to have you join us as we learn how to use our money as God intended.

No more money stress! With Financial Peace University, you will learn how to create (and stick to) a budget, save for emergencies, and make a plan for the future. Doesn't that sound peaceful?

Planning for the future is hard when you're still paying for the past! There's a better way! Join the Financial Peace University class, and we'll learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future... together! Interested? Join us at church for this 9-week

class starting Sunday, February 24, at 4:00 pm. Sign up will begin on Sunday, January 27. Please be sure to sign up by February 17 to ensure materials will arrive in time for the class. Childcare will be provided.

If you would like to learn more about how to be a good steward of the money that God has entrusted to you, consider signing up for this class. There is a cost of \$109 per family associated with the class. When you purchase a Financial Peace University (FPU) membership, you receive all the class materials and one year of full access to FinancialPeace.com. Spouses and engaged couples can attend together with a single membership, and teens living at home are welcome to attend with their parents. Singles are welcomed as well! If you would like to attend the class but cannot pay the fee, the deacons are happy to discuss assistance with you. Just contact Jon Van Dyk with any questions.

A promotional graphic for Financial Peace University. It features a blue background with orange diagonal stripes in the top-left and bottom-right corners. At the top, the "FINANCIAL Peace UNIVERSITY" logo is displayed, with "Peace" in a script font. The main text reads "IT'S TIME TO TAKE Financial PEACE!" in large, bold, white and orange letters. Below this, a white brushstroke line separates the headline from a call to action: "Join the millions who never worry about money!" in orange. Underneath, in white, it says: "Dave Ramsey and his team of financial experts will teach you how to beat debt and build wealth with the most powerful tool there is . . . your income."

Book Review: "Orphan Justice"

ORPHAN JUSTICE: HOW TO CARE FOR ORPHANS BEYOND ADOPTING

A book review by Grace Kamp


The Bible commands us to "look after orphans and widows in their distress." This book suggests ways the church can do this. It's an important read for answering the call to care for orphans.

According to UNICEF, in 2013 there were 153 million children worldwide who lost one or both parents due to all causes. Innocent children are living with HIV/AIDS, trafficking and other horrors. According to U.S.D.H.H.S, human trafficking is second only to drug dealing with over 1.2 million child victims. Orphanages are helping, but God made the family for children. Agencies in impoverished countries work with local churches where families in that culture facilitate the actual care of vulnerable children. Eventually,

the role of the orphanage as a long-term residence can be eliminated. When legal, adoption provides children an opportunity to experience family as God intended. If not adopted, a child in an orphanage is turned out on the street when they are eighteen.

In addition to adopting children ourselves, we have the privilege of offering support to our "sister churches". The Carrs have adopted 3 special needs children.

**Note: If you enjoy reading and would like to write a short book review of a selection from our library, please let the library staff know or email Judy Kamp at judy@opcrc.org.*



Join Cadets & GEMS:
FEBRUARY 22: 5-8 PM

DINNER & BAKE SALE!

Derby Races
& DINNER

Orland Park Church Family News



SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to Marv and Gerry Hooker as they mourn the loss of Marv's brother, Harley Hooker, who passed away in Michigan at the age of 85.

We extend our sympathy to Madison Riemersma as she mourns the loss of her grandfather, Bob Riemersma, who passed away in Wisconsin. Pray for Madison and her family, especially her parents, former members Craig and Becky Riemersma, in this time of sorrow.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please remember these people in prayer who are recovering from recent hospitalizations, who are shut-ins, or who are dealing with other health problems.

Jessie Alderden	Len Donofrio	Jim Kallas	George Schaaf
Jim Boerema	Richard Dykstra	Ray Kerkstra	Al Siegers
Carol Boersma	Arlene Hoekstra	Pixie Molenhouse	Terry Vander Laan
Jim Bulthuis	Bob Hofstra	Rich Oost	Marv Vis
Dan Davis	Ray Iwema	Bob Piersma	

To request prayer or give thanks for answered prayers, please send your request by email to prayer@opcrc.org or contact the church office at (708) 532-4900.

MARCH OUTLOOK SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the March issue of the Outlook are due on **Sunday, February 17**. Please send to Denise Vander Plaats at denise@opcrc.org or drop off in the church office.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Our church calendar is now active on our new Breeze software! If you'd like to see events that are happening at Orland Park CRC, just go to Orland's Breeze site and click on events. Events for each week are still always listed in each Sunday's bulletin.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ray Manring

92 years
February 8

John Jacobsma

90 years
February 11

Ralph Buikema

91 years
February 12

Ruth Kamp

81 years
February 18

Earl Engh

87 years
February 22

Janet Huizinga

84 years
February 22

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Mel & Marge Dokter

February 3 | 63 years

Bill & Judy Bronsema

February 13 | 60 years

Cal & Carol DeBoer

February 18 | 53 years

Rich & Karen Oost

February 19 | 54 years

Hank & Grace Kamp

February 25 | 64 years

Orland Park Church Family News



THANK YOU, OPCRC!

Praise the Lord for his goodness, he led us to Orland Park CRC where we love the pastors and church family. In these difficult times I am very grateful for your care and support. We have been part of this church for about three years yet loved like life-long members. Thank you for blessing us with continuing love, support and prayers.

-Len Donofrio

"Thank you" just doesn't seem enough for all the get well wishes, the visits from the pastors, the district care giver, Mary Catherine, and all who prayed for my recovery. Thank you so very much!!!

-Pixie Molenhouse

At the onset of this new year, it's our privilege to again partner with Orland Park Christian Reformed Church in mission through the Luke Society. Your faithful support is not only a blessing to doctors around the world, but an encouragement to those sitting around you today as we band together in support of Christ's kingdom. We sincerely thank you for your financial gifts and prayer support. May you be blessed in the year ahead.

-The Luke Society

CONGRATS!

Ben and Jenna De Young were blessed with a baby boy, **Noah Wayne De Young**, born on December 26. Give thanks for this precious gift from God.

Ryan and Mary Catherine Baas were blessed with a baby girl, **Harper Elizabeth Baas**. She was born on January 13. Rejoice with them for this precious gift from God.

BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL CONTINUES TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

Thank you so much for your generous gifts and support that Back to God Ministries International receives - and also for the special support that our Chinese and Russian ministries receive from your church. Back to God Ministries International (BTGMI) continues to share the Gospel around the world. We still use radio, television and printed materials like the Today devotional - but we are also using new media to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The BTGMI Chinese ministry team is developing a series of audio sermons that people can listen to 24/7. This type of digital delivery has proved to be effective during the period of time that one of Beijing's largest unregistered churches was shut down. During this time the church leaders encouraged people to listen to the audio sermons in small groups. The virtual

church service was effective and groups of two or three could walk in parks, getting exercise while hearing God's word. After listening to the audio sermons, many listeners discuss what they heard over coffee, lunch or another type of fellowship.

The technology allows God's Word to be heard even though the government tried to shut down the church. "We see new media as the future of the church," Jerry An, our Chinese ministry leader said. "New media has no boundaries and offers us new ways of reaching out."

Thank you for your support! Please remember to pray for our ministry as we share the Gospel around the world in 10 languages.