



MARCH 2019

THE **Outlook**



A NEWSLETTER OF ORLAND PARK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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YOUTH GROUP THEME DINNER

**A NIGHT
ON THE
RED CARPET**

MARCH 9, 2019 | 6:00 PM

SIGN UP TODAY IN THE OUTER LOBBY!



Orland Park
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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March 3: World Renew Disaster Response Service

World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) brings hope to disaster-affected communities in North America by restoring homes and lives of those who are most vulnerable. Their mission is to show God's love, help communities recover, and provide Christians the opportunity to honor the Lord by serving others. DRS carries out their mission through services at every stage of recovery, in partnership with other organizations and volunteers.

March 10: Bethany Christian Services | bethany.org

Bethany Christian Services is a global nonprofit organization that brings families together and keeps families together. Bethany is recognized as a prominent leader in social services worldwide, and is the largest adoption agency in the U.S. Services include adoption, foster care, pregnancy counseling, counseling to families, and assist refugees and immigrants resettling in the U.S. Founded in 1944, Bethany's mission is to demonstrate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting and enhancing the lives of children and families through quality social services.

March 17: Calvin Theological Seminary | calvinseminary.edu

Calvin Theological Seminary is a learning community in the Reformed Christian tradition that forms church leaders who cultivate communities of disciples of Jesus Christ. Founded in 1876, Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) is the oldest denominational ministry and the sole theological seminary of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. A majority of ordained ministers who serve in CRCNA congregations have received their primary theological education at CTS. With a focus on preparing students for biblical, authentic, contextual, and life-changing ministry rooted in historic Christianity, CTS provides a foundation that connects the best of the Reformed tradition with the contemporary ministry practices essential for tomorrow's leaders.

March 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.

ADULT SERVE HOME BUILD

The Hattiesburg, MS, home build project is complete! View photos of the project on the bulletin board by the gym. The group had a dedication ceremony and celebration lunch, which was attended by the family, volunteers, and local leaders. Thank you for your prayers and donations for this project. Please continue to pray for the homeowners, the Walker family.

WATCH OUR SERVICES LIVE!

Sick or on vacation? Have a friend you'd like to share a service with? Check out the livestream of our worship services! All you need to do is go to our church Facebook page or our church YouTube page (go to YouTube.com and search "orland church.") to see the livestream video. A special thanks goes to our tech team for making this feature available!

COMMUNITY HELPERS VISIT PRESCHOOL

What would you like to be when you grow up?

It can be fun to hear the children's responses to this question! These are some of the answers our preschool children gave: a teacher, a princess, a football player, a zoo keeper, a ballerina, an artist, a chef, a forest ranger, and an animal rescue worker - some great ideas!

During the first week of February, the kids at our preschool had the opportunity to learn about different jobs that help people in our community. We invited a nurse, two police officers, and an airline pilot to come into our classroom to share stories and items from their daily work. These workers are friends of the teachers or parents of our preschoolers, and they enjoyed coming into the classroom of their own children and meeting their children's friends.

Mrs. Christie Konior, a cardiac nurse at Palos Health, was our first visitor. She wore her nurse's scrubs and her hospital name badge that she uses for identification and entrance privileges. She brought in some x-ray photos, a leg cast, and her stethoscope and talked about how she uses these things to help people who are hurting from a broken bone or whose hearts are sick. She also talked about ways she helps people to stay healthy. After reading us some stories about children in hospitals, she went around the circle and let each child listen to his/her own heart with her stethoscope. We were surprised at how

loud it sounded in our ears! Each child made a mini doctor kit filled with cotton balls, tongue depressors, and band aids to take home.



"I can hear my own heart beating!"



An x-ray can show us if you have any broken bones.

The police officers that came to visit were Officer Ben DeYoung of the Chicago Police Department and Illinois State Patrolman Andy Dykstra. They each came in wearing their uniforms with official badges and hats, and they showed us many of the tools they use - batons, flashlights, handcuffs, and two-way radios. It was interesting to hear how they communicate with other police officers and keep us safe by writing tickets for speeders and stopping criminals. One of the officers also demonstrated the proper way to sit in your car seat and wear your seat belt. Each child made a personal police badge to wear home and some of the children

painted a paper plate police car with shapes for wheels, windows, a siren, and a star decal.

Southwest Airlines pilot Mr. Joe Cofran came to school to help us learn about his work. Before we listened to his presentation, we each got a "pretend" passport with our picture on it. We lined up as if we were boarding an airplane and showed our teachers our cards for identification. Then we high-fived the pilot on our way to our seats! Pilot Joe told us how he had to go to school to learn how to fly an airplane safely, and we were surprised to see all the buttons and levers in the flight deck of an airplane.

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'PRESCHOOL COMMUNITY HELPERS' continued from page 3

He also showed us photographs of the things he gets to see as he flies an airplane – the mountains, the rivers, and the cities below! He loves his job as a pilot. We learned that there are many other jobs at an airport, such as flight attendants, ticket gate attendants, luggage handlers, and security workers. We made mini airplanes out of paper and attached them to straws so we could blow through the straw and make the airplane fly around our classroom.

After enjoying the presentations, the children started saying they may want to be nurses, police officers, or airline pilots when they grow up. The community workers that came to visit us did a great job!



"My dad is an airplane pilot!"



"Always buckle up with the strap crossing in front of your shoulder."



A police officer's badge has his personal number on it.

SUCCESSFUL PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSES AND REGISTRATIONS

The annual preschool open houses with opportunities to register were held on January 27 and 29 this year. We had a wonderful time hosting about 30 families and giving tours of our facilities. It was a blessing to meet new children and their parents and share with them the details of a typical day for a child who attends our preschool. Many comments were heard about the beauty of our facilities and the strengths of our program!

We were blessed to receive a good number of registrations for next fall. Our classes are about

half filled at this time, and more inquiries about our program by phone and e-mail are coming in. Many of the visitors who came said they have a personal recommendation from a church member or a friend that has attended in the past. Please continue to share the good news about our preschool where children can learn about our great God and His love for us! Brochures are available around the church and our church website is a great source of information.

Family Game Night

-Judy Kamp, Education Coordinator

MINUTE-TO-WIN-IT FAMILY GAME NIGHT WAS A NIGHT OF FUN COMPETITION



Some friendly family competition: Joel and Amy DeRuiter demonstrate their skill in the speed stacking game as their kids look on.

On Friday night, January 25, 13 teams braved the elements to participate in our Minute-to-Win-It Family Game night and life-size Candy Land game. It may have been cold and snowy outside, but the competition inside was warm and friendly!

Teams consisted of anywhere from two to six players. Each team played ten different games, with many team members being able to play each game. Most games were given scores of five points for attempting the challenge and ten points for completing the challenge in one minute or less. These games were Baby Rattle, Cookie Face, Junk in the Trunk, Movin' Blue, Nut Stacker, Stack Attack, and Yank It Down. Games involved shaking gumballs through 2L bottle "rattles," transferring a cookie from their forehead to their mouth without using their hands, shaking ping-pong balls out of a tissue box tied to their backside, moving a blue solo cup from the bottom to the top of a stack of 30 cups, stacking five nuts one on top of another using only a chopstick, stacking 36 solo cups into a pyramid and breaking it down again, and stacking five solo cups with a piece of cardstock in between each then quickly removing the cardstock to get the five cups to stack one on top of the other. Each of these challenges needed to be completed in one minute or less! Three games involved individual scores - Kix Chopstick Race, Penny Towers, and Sticky Marbles. (Winning teams are listed in the column to the right.)

Stay tuned for another Family Game Night coming this spring!

ROSELAND YOUTH PARTNERSHIP BENEFIT

Roseland Christian Ministries invites you to attend our 3rd annual Roseland Youth Partnership Benefit on Saturday, March 16, 3-6pm at Chop Shop in Chicago. Come out for a fun filled afternoon to raise funds for all the youth programs. Collectively, we can make a difference in protecting the lives of children and families in the Roseland neighborhood. Your support can help push back against the violence and provide a place of safety and belonging. For more info or tickets please go to roselandyouthpartnership.yapsody.com.

WINNING TEAMS FOR FAMILY GAME NIGHT:

The top three teams received Culver's Gift cards and were:

1st Place-Team: Strykforce
(Garrick, Courtney, Reese, Graham, & Collins Stryker)

2nd Place-Team: Parkey
(Bill, Kristin & Rafe Slager & Seth Summers)

3rd Place-Team Unstoppable:
(Phil, Becky, Jacob, Connor, Brenna Schaafsma, & Grant Veldman)

Sunday School Happenings

-Judy Kamp, Education Coordinator

We are more than halfway through a fantastic Sunday school year here at OPCRC. Some highlights of the year have been:

K-12th grade filled Thanksgiving bags for the food pantry clients. Each Sunday school family was given a bag to fill with special holiday items such as pie ingredients, stuffing mix, sweet potatoes, etc. These bags were handed out to our church's food pantry clients the two weeks before Thanksgiving. The bags also included literature from our church, a letter from Pastor Derek and cards made by the Gems' girls.

"Jesus Means Christmas To Me" Christmas Musical:

On December 9, the K-4th grade students presented the annual Christmas musical. The program was opened by the Children's Church kids who sang "Away in a Manger," recited a fingerplay, and said Isaiah 9:6. Then, 4th grade narrators Nolan Loerop, Macie Vande Kamp, Ainsley Weidenaar, Landon Stoub, and Lily Loerop told the traditional Christmas story as the other children presented the story in action and songs. Soloists James Rynberk and Elizabeth Hospes were featured in the song, "Jesus Means Christmas to Me." After the performance, the kids and the congregation enjoyed Christmas cookies

and punch in the gym. It was a wonderful evening and all the performers did an excellent job! On the Saturday before the program, the K-4th graders enjoyed a Christmas party that included a left-right nativity game, Christmas bingo, and special Christmas treats.

The 5th graders have been studying sections of the Old Testament,

from Exodus to Ruth, under the guidance of Christy Soulian. They are now moving onto the New Testament focusing on Acts and Romans. Their memory verses are hung in their classroom to remind them to hide God's word in their hearts.

6th-8th graders have been learning from the Old Testament about kings and kingdoms.

They have also moved on to the New Testament and are focusing on Jesus our King. Chase Deaton and Shepherding Elders Bob Van Lonkhuyzen and Mike Otte are their fearless leaders.

The 9th and 10th graders have been studying the first part of the Heidelberg Catechism, taught by Shepherding Elder Bob Kamp. Intense games of 'Hangman' between the boys and the girls in the class is always a hit!



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'SUNDAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS' CONTINUED FROM PAGE ?

The 11th and 12th graders have been looking at the uniqueness and superiority of Christianity as opposed to World Religions. Shepherding Elder Jeff VanWyk is a seasoned teacher who has led these lessons and discussions before.

Friendship class has been studying "The Spirit, Our Helper" under the guidance of teachers Lisa Cavanaugh and Becki Hoekstra. They enjoyed a Christmas party on December 9, including a visit from Pastor Derek! (See photo to the right.)

Teachers have been meeting together periodically to support and encourage one another as well as to learn how to keep the focus in their teaching on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, no matter what the story is for that day. As a service project, some of the teachers recently led a time of worship and Bible story for the residents of Bethshan. It was a great experience full of singing, laughter and the Bible story "The Wise Man and the Foolish Man." The story was told with real sand, a rock and duplo houses which served as a great visual for the residents! It was also fun to make a joyful noise to the Lord together.



UPCOMING EDUCATION PROGRAM DATES/EVENTS

- Spring break (no classes) will be March 31 and April 7
- The K-4th grade children will be singing in the upcoming choir cantata on April 14, 6:00 pm service.
- No classes on Easter Sunday, April 21
- Celebration Sunday will be held on Sunday, May 5 between the services. Everyone in the congregation is invited to join us for a time of singing, student recognition and to celebrate God's faithfulness throughout the year.

Please continue to pray that the Lord will use our education program to teach the children the truths of God's Word, and that it would help lead our youth to a saving faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All Glory to God!!

Bibles for Prisoners

-Kent Hook

COLLECTING BIBLES AND CHRISTIAN BOOKS FOR PRISONERS IN COOK COUNTY JAIL

I am once again collecting softcover Bibles and Christian books to give to prisoners at Cook County Jail. Because of my work at the Cook County Jail as a mental health social worker, I am able to bring these reading materials to prisoners at the jail. So far, about 800 Bibles and books have been collected for this worthy cause.

This is a worthy cause. Why? The goal is a practical means of sharing Jesus with individuals, some of whom are Christians, but many who are not - some are atheists, agnostics, or have fallen from the faith. I never fully know how giving a Bible or Christian book to a person will impact their lives. It is my hope and prayer is that the seed will be planted and that God will nurture His Word in their lives when they read, to be transformed into those who seek God and want a personal relationship with Jesus. Then, I pray their total lives can be transformed from prisoners to those set free to follow Jesus and change their lives to who God wants them to be when they re-enter their community.

Through the giving of these books and Bibles, I am able to share what Jesus has done in my life. When I begin talking with people and they seek to know more about Jesus, I feel very grateful that God has provided this opportunity for me to share Him with others. When I can give a man or woman a Bible and tell them, "this Bible is for you to keep the rest of your life," they can't believe it. Most prisoners have nothing. They grab onto the Bible and carry it around with them like it is gold. They welcome anything they are given to read to pass their time while their case works its way through court.

Some men at the jail have a couple of Bibles they used to start a Bible study of six to eight men. They read small portions of the Bible and talk about it with each other, and some try to memorize the verses to keep it in their mind and heart. You can imagine the reaction when I earmarked some of the first Bibles for these small groups of men sharing Bibles or Christian books so each one could have their own copy!

I hope that in the next year, I can give 1000 or more Bibles and books to the men and women at the prison. I am hoping that our church will join me in this opportunity. Thank you!

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

DONATE BIBLES/BOOKS.

Bring soft cover Bibles of all sizes and kinds. They may be leather bound, but they cannot have any metal in the stitching or inside the book. The same is true for Christian books by Christian authors. Lastly, fiction and nonfiction books, novels, etc. of a whole-some value. Please drop off Bibles and books in the box under the information center marked "Bibles for Cook County Jail."

PRAY FOR THE PRISONERS.

Please pray for the prisoners that will pick the books you have donated. Pray they will understand God's Word and find ways to apply to their life. Pray for changed lives. Pray prisoners seek out one of the hundreds of Chaplains who see prisoners at the County Jail to discuss their worries, fears, concerns, and to know more about Jesus. Pray they will attend a church when they leave jail and return to the community.

Book Review: "Hope Rising"

AUTHORED BY KIM MEEDER

A book review by Grace Kamp

"Hope Rising" is the story of Kim Meeder and her husband, Troy, who purchased a three-acre former rock quarry and developed it into the Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch (CPYR). CPYR is a unique non-profit organization in Oregon. They rescue abused horses and pair them with disadvantaged children, offering children a safe place of peace and hope. The ranch's program pairs one child with one horse, guided by one leader 100 percent of the time. All this is done free of charge.

Each chapter is about an individual child and their horse that they helped rehabilitate. Some of the chapter titles are *Hope Rising from Stone*, *Hope Rising Within a Child's Heart*, *Hope Rising Above Pain*, *Hope Rising Beyond Emptiness*, *Hope Rising Across All Seasons*, and *Hope Rising Triumphant*.

Every decision the Meeders make begins with prayer: "Lord, please show us the way." They realize true happiness is not found in gaining what we don't have, but in giving what we do have. Because of her

vision and generosity, Kim Meeder won the Jefferson Award, the Nobel Prize for public and community service, in 2004.

This is an interesting story of faith and giving, and I would highly recommend this book for anyone who loves to read.



**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.*

THANK YOU, OPCRC!

I would like to thank the pastors and congregation for all the prayers, visits, kind words of encouragement, & cards after my recent surgeries. Such a wonderful family of God I'm glad to be a part of!
-Jim Bulthuis

Thank you for the many acts of kindness shown to our family after our dad/grandpa passed away. We appreciated the cards, prayers, and meals. Also to the many from the congregation that attended the visitation and/or celebration service. We are so blessed to be a part of the family of God.
-Bill, Kris, Abby, Jeremy and Rafe Slager

Thank you very much for your outpouring of care and concern shown in the great number of cards I've received during the past weeks and special visits by Pastor Dan and Elder Steve. We feel your continued prayers for God's healing and patience during this time. Please continue to pray that the daily infusions of antibiotics may remove the infection so that surgery can be done to replace the shoulder in early April.
-Ray and Betty Kerkstra

Orland Park Church Family News



CONGRATULATIONS

Rev. Derek and Aubrey Buikema were blessed with a baby boy, **Robert Joel Buikema**, born on February 18. We rejoice and give thanks with them for this precious gift from God.

SYMPATHY

We extend our sincere sympathy to Vince and Janna Kuyvenhoven, as they mourn the loss of their 23-year-old son, Christopher, who passed away suddenly on January 25. Continue to pray for the family, including Chris's brother, Ryan, and sister, Karlee, during this very difficult time.

Our sympathy is extended to John and Nina Ahrens, as they mourn the loss of John's cousin, Matt Storie, who was killed this month in an accident. Pray for his new wife of a few months and newborn baby in this profound and heart-breaking loss. Also keep the family in your prayers as Nina's birthmom's stepson, Jordan, passed away in February as well. Pray for the family in this difficult trial, especially for Nina's birthmom and her husband who are really struggling.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Jessie Alderden	Len Donofrio	Ray Kerkstra	Phil Schaafsma Sr.
Jim Boerema	Richard Dykstra	Pixie Molenhouse	Al Siegers
Carol Boersma	Arlene Hoekstra	Rich Oost	Terry Vander Laan
Diane Brouwer	Bob Hofstra	Eloise Overzet	Marv Vis
Jim Bulthuis	Ray Iwema	Eros Perez	Herm Werkman
Dan Davis	Jim Kallas	George Schaaf	

To request prayer or give thanks for answered prayers, please send your request by email to prayer@opcrc.org or contact the church office.

APRIL OUTLOOK SUBMISSIONS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dorothy Greendyke
80 years | March 1

Lois Bretall
81 years | March 5

Cal Drenth
81 years | March 6

Ida Boss
91 years | March 7

Bill Bronsema
83 years | March 7

Vera Wilken
90 years | March 7

Bruno Brouwer
80 years | March 10

Pete Greendyke
82 years | March 10

Raymond Iwema
85 years | March 15

Bill Terborg
82 years | March 21

Elsie Van Drie
84 years | March 23

Arlene De Horn
82 years | March 23

John Boss
81 years | March 25

Gerry Hooker
88 years | March 30

Marlene Vos
81 years | March 31

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Ray & Betty Kerkstra
March 8 | 62 years

John & Sharon Boss
March 24 | 58 years

Hank & Doris Doorn
March 28 | 61 years