



HRC Heartbeat July 2020

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HAMILTON COMMUNITY VBS IS COMING SOON



Join us for a one night, outdoor, family VBS!
Tuesday, July 21, from 6:30-7:30pm on the lawn at HRC.
(Rain date is July 22 from 6:30-7:30pm.)

Take a blanket along and spread out on the grass for a great evening as a family! (at least one parent will stay with their children during this VBS event) We will have games, a Bible story, singing, and a craft during this one-hour event. We will also have take-home packets for each family filled with additional VBS material and crafts, music CD and a special treat to continue the VBS fun at home!



A link for registration is available on our VBS Facebook page
(Hamilton Community Vacation Bible School)
as well as our website (click on the Hamilton VBS 2020 link)
Registration forms are also available in the church office or outside the library.

DONATIONS NEEDED...

Several items are needed for VBS this year. If you are willing to donate, please visit sign-up genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E48A4A623A4FF2-hamilton1> All items can be brought to the church office or dropped off Sunday mornings at our drive-in service. Items should be dropped off on or before Tuesday, July 7. Monetary donations are also welcomed, please put them in an envelope labeled VBS and place them in the offering box. Thank you!

If you have any questions please email Gracie Bosch or Nicki Boerman at: hrchildren@gmail.com

***We realize that some people will not be comfortable attending in person and that's okay!!
You can pick up VBS materials at HRC from 10:00am-3:00pm on July 20 or 21. Fill out a registration form and check the "pick up supplies" box so that we can have materials ready for your family.*

The Consistory Chronicles

In June the Elders spent time discussing the future of the denomination. It was learned that leaders from conservative, evangelical RCA churches met at the beginning of 2020 to explore options for ministry collaboration in the event that the denomination would divide. Please be in prayer for the RCA, its various leaders as well as our Consistory as we seek the Spirit's leading in these matters. If you would like more information about what is happening in the RCA please reach out to Pastor Adam.

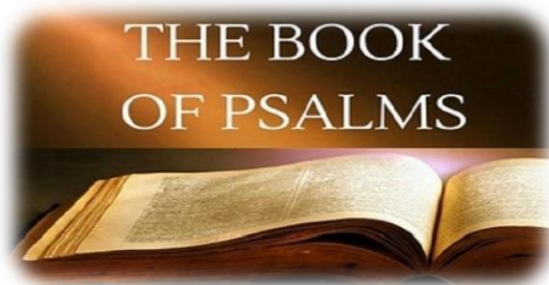
The Consistory held a Zoom meeting on June 8 to discuss several matters of urgent business:

- A letter of resignation was received from Rob & Kerri Ritsema for the position of indoor custodians.
- Because of complications brought about by COVID-19, a motion was made by the Personnel Committee to alter the review process for HRC staff members for the 2019-2020 year. That motion carried.
- The Consistory spent time discussing how to transition back into the building for in-person worship services. It was decided that a congregational survey should be sent out to better understand the attitudes and preferences of our worshipping community.

The Consistory met in person on June 22:

- **HRC will continue with drive in services through the month of July and tentatively plan to resume all in-person worship services as of August 2.** The Consistory agreed that this is the earliest possible date that HRC would be ready to make a full return. There are a number of impending factors based on our congregational survey that will determine if this date needs to be pushed back. The Consistory will meet again on July 27 to make its decision.
 - **Effective immediately:**
 - Outdoor fellowship will be allowed after Sunday services. Those who wish to stay can drive their vehicles to the north end of the parking lot upon dismissal. There they can congregate on the north lawn with the expectation that they will practice social distancing.
 - Refreshments will NOT be offered during the outdoor fellowship time. Bring your own beverage and/or snacks.
 - HRC bathrooms will be open for use on Sundays.
 - **Effective beginning in July:**
 - After the holiday weekend, children will be dismissed for summer story time while the drive-in service is taking place.
 - **Effective beginning in August:**
 - Student ministries will resume.
 - HRC (tentatively) moves into the building for all in-person worship services.
- The financial reports are as the following:
 - General Fund: \$49,035
 - Building Fund: \$11,839
 - Building Maintenance Fund: \$36,217
 - Memorial Fund: \$18,925
 - Love Fund: \$4,279
- The next Elders meeting will be on Monday, July 6, at 6:30pm.
- The next Consistory meeting will be held on Monday, July 27, at 6:30pm.

During July we will continue to explore the vast treasures of the book of Psalms during our drive-in worship services.



Daily Reading List from the Psalms Included below is the second part of a daily reading list from the book of Psalms (the first part was in the June Heartbeat). If you stick to reading 2-3 Psalms each day you will have read through the whole book in just 8 weeks! Make that a goal and a daily practice during the weeks ahead.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Psalm 88	2 Psalm 89-90	3 Psalm 91-92	4 Psalm 93-94
5 Psalm 95-96	6 Psalm 97-98	7 Psalm 99-100	8 Psalm 101-102	9 Psalm 103-104	10 Psalm 105-107	11 Psalm 108-109
12 Psalm 110-111	13 Psalm 112-113	14 Psalm 114-115	15 Psalm 116-118	16 Psalm 119	17 Psalm 120-122	18 Psalm 123-124
19 Psalm 125-126	20 Psalm 127-128	21 Psalm 129-130	22 Psalm 131-132	23 Psalm 133-134	24 Psalm 135-136	25 Psalm 137-138
26 Psalm 139-140	27 Psalm 141-142	28 Psalm 143-144	29 Psalm 145-146	30 Psalm 147-148	31 Psalm 149-150	

Daily Updates Reflecting on the Psalms In each daily update email, Pastor Adam will draw devotional material from one of the Psalms that is listed for that day's reading list. If you aren't receiving the daily emails and would like to be added to the mailing list, email the church office at: hamiltonreformedchurch@gmail.com. If you don't have email, call the office and each week we can mail you a printed copy of the emails (269-751-5145).

Word Connections Bible Study on the Psalms Pastor Adam's weekly teaching on the book Psalms will help those who wish to learn more about the Psalms beyond sermons and personal reading. The video teaching will be posted on our Facebook page each Thursday. DVDs and printed copies of the lesson can be picked up in the office or it can be mailed to you.

Dates to Remember

- June 30 – Personnel Committee Meeting
- July 6 – Elders Meeting
- July 7 – VBS Donations Due
- July 12 – Summer Story Time
- July 19 – Summer Story Time
- July 21 – Hamilton Community VBS
- July 22 – VBS Rain Date
- July 26 – Summer Story Time
- July 27 – Consistory Meeting
- July 27 – August Heartbeat Deadline
(the August Heartbeat will be published late so updates from Consistory can be included)

The church office is open Monday-Friday from 8:00am-1:00pm.



Summer Story Time begins July 12!

Kids: please bring your own beach towel to sit on and join us for some fun activities during the service!

Parents: your child(ren) will be dismissed to join us in the lawn during the first song. Please bring them over to join us. Children should be picked up during the doxology.

Congregation: if you are willing to donate beach towels, we would love to have some extras on hand for visitors or those who forget. Also, if you are interested in helping out during a Sunday in July please email Nicki and Gracie at hrcchildren@gmail.com. All materials and instructions will be provided.



Survey Responses: Summary of Results

**Note – some people selected several answers per question, not everyone answered all questions*

Which of the following best describes your attitude toward returning to in-person worship?

The majority of people said they would return immediately; some folks at the first chance (40 responses) and others with conditions (30 responses). Some were not sure how they felt (15 responses) while a number of people said they would wait several weeks (14 responses) or even some time before returning (12 responses).

As soon as we receive clearance for public gatherings, what is your preference for returning?

The second question posed to our worshipping community showed that a majority of folks would like to see the drive-in services continue (56 responses). Others expressed a desire to resume all in person gatherings immediately (35 responses). A smaller group of folks claimed to prefer seeing smaller groups getting together first – at least for the next few months ahead (18 responses) while only a few people weren't sure how they felt (6 responses).

Do you expect our church to offer children's and student ministries as we return?

We learned that almost half of those who responded were open to the idea as long as HRC had good precautions in place before starting (42 responses). We also learned that others felt strongly about not resuming these ministries when we return to in-person worship (or 22 responses). Some were still undecided in their feelings (18 responses) while even less were convinced that these ministries should resume right off the bat (11 responses).

Which of the following reflects your attitude toward wearing a mask during the worship hour?

While some folks were still up in the air about the issue (19 responses) there were others who had more defined opinions. There was a clear group of folks who were prepared to wear a mask during worship (45 responses) while others said they would rather stay at home than wear a face covering on Sunday mornings (46 responses).

Which is the best indicator that resuming in person worship was permissible?

Most people said when social distancing guidelines are loosened that would be a good sign that returning is okay (43 responses). There was a large group of people who said that a continual decrease in COVID cases for our county would be a good indicator (32 responses). Another large group of people weren't sure how they felt at the time they filled out this survey (29 responses). Others thought that the best indicator for HRC to return is when a vaccine is widely available (11 responses) or local restaurants see an up-tick with in-person business (10 responses).

Would you and your family still attend if we did not immediately open the nursery?

When asked if those with small children would attend worship at HRC if the nursery was closed only a few answered negatively – saying they would probably wait until that space became available for their little ones (4 responses). Some were sure they would still attend if the nursery were not opened immediately (10 responses) while the majority of people weren't sure.

Should HRC consider offering two services on Sunday mornings to help maintain social distancing?

We discovered most people felt strongly that HRC should NOT consider this ministry option. They believed that our building could allow us to creatively host people for worship (66 responses). A smaller group believed we should consider exploring two services (26 responses) while less than a handful weren't sure how to answer.

Which of the following reflects your attitude toward congregational singing during the worship hour?

Because COVID-19 travels through the air droplets when we speak a real concern has emerged in faith communities about the issue of singing. Our survey showed that most people would still attend our worship services if we offered congregational singing (70 responses) while significantly less people said they would not attend if we spent time singing during services (6 responses). It was also learned that some people wouldn't feel comfortable worshipping at HRC if we practiced congregational singing (32 responses) while only one response was undecided on the issue.

Drive-In Weather Cancellations

In the event of inclement weather, the official call for having or not having our drive-in service will be made no later 8:00am Sunday mornings and will be broadcast on WCSG (91.3 FM), WOOD-TV (channel 8) and WZZM (channel 13). However, we shouldn't expect that just rain or just wind will move us to cancel.



Severe Weather Guidelines

If a Tornado Watch or Warning has been posted for Allegan County within one hour prior to a church service, the service will be cancelled. Also, if a Severe



Thunderstorm Warning has been posted for Allegan County within one hour of a church service, the service

will be cancelled. Cancellations will be posted on:

- WZZM (TV – Channel 13) wzzm13.com
- WOOD (TV – Channel 8) woodtv.com
- WXMI (TV – Channel 17) fox17online.com
- WCSG (91.3 FM)

Friends at Home

Please continue to remember our Friends at Home as they receive limited to no visitors. Send them a note or have your children draw them a picture.

Barb Bleeker

Leona Boerigter

Jill Broekhuis

Harvin Bultman

Gary Ende

Ken Haverdink

Jean Hutt

Wilma Johnson

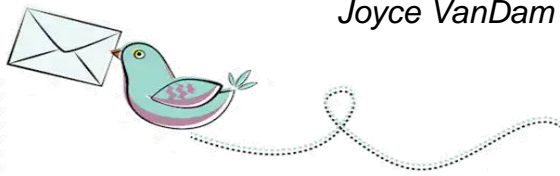
Marlene Joostberns

Alvina Klein

Jack Poll

Irene Slotman

Joyce VanDam



July Missions of the Month

Bible League
Wycliffe Bible Translators

Freedom in Christ

Psalm 119:45 says, "I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts."

This Independence Day, remember that our true freedom comes from faith in Jesus. How many words can you make from the words *Freedom in Christ*?

F R E E D O M I N C H R I S T

2-letter words:

3-letter words:

4-letter words:

5-letter words:

Words with 6 letters or more:

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Please see the church directory for address*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Rev. Dean VanFarowe*</i>	2 <i>Paul & Marie Jacobs (51)</i>	3	4 <i>Shelly Boerman Nancy Joostberns</i>
5 	6 <i>Bob Berens Linda Poll</i>	7 <i>Calvin Kragt</i>	8	9	10 <i>Kirk Boerman Joan Dougan Mary Redder Connie Top Don & Donna Lampen (62)</i>	11 <i>Ron Eding Stan Gates</i>
12	13 <i>Kay Bakker Eunice Veldhoff Curt Windemuller</i>	14	15	16 <i>Shirley Berens Tristin Eustice</i>	17 <i>Belva Brower</i>	18
19	20 <i>Lynn Bosch Carla VanderPoppen</i>	21 <i>Zander Boerman</i>	22	23 <i>Bill Jacobs Freddie VanDine</i>	24	25 <i>Dave & Sally Elenbaas (46)</i>
26 <i>Marlene Joostberns</i>	27 <i>Ken Haverdink</i>	28 <i>Mark Groenheide</i>	29 <i>Tim Bleeker Brayden Hulst Dick Immink David McCleery*</i>	30 <i>Mark Kleinheksel</i>	31	

Patient Attention...Valuable Discoveries

For many people, the coronavirus pandemic has been a test of patience – or worse. Medically vulnerable people face an anxious time of hypervigilance. Furloughed workers wait on hold or in lines for assistance. Special events have been canceled or rescheduled. Those not impacted directly deal with assorted frustrations and inconveniences. Many people are learning the benefit of slowing down, being present (even virtually) to others and practicing patient attention.

Interestingly, scientist Isaac Newton did some of his best work when the plague forced Cambridge University to close. At home, he invented calculus and developed groundbreaking theories of gravity and optics. Later Newton called 1666 his *annus mirabilis* (“year of wonders”) and reportedly said, “If I have made any valuable discoveries, it [owes] more to patient attention than to any other talent.”

What have you discovered during the Covid-19 crisis? What appreciations have you developed for aspects of life you may have previously taken for granted? What has social distancing taught you about the value of neighbors, church, community volunteering?

During the pandemic, what have you learned about persistence and God’s presence? What empathy do you now feel for writers of words such as “I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope” (Psalm 130:5, NIV)?