



WILLOWDALE WEEKLY

Willowdale Christian Reformed Church

Tel: 416-221-7829 / Email: office@willowdalecrc.com

70 Hilda Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M2M 1V5

The Bridge App – Search Home Church: Willowdale CRC

February 23, 2024

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for our **1st offering** for our **church ministries and expenses**, faithful giving is a blessing to our whole church family.

Please pray for our **2nd offering**; The Banner magazine shows how Christian faith in its Reformed expression makes sense for today's world. Whether we're addressing subjects like parenting, movies, politics, church ministries, or society we live in, The Banner explores all such issues from the perspective of the good news that in Christ God is reconciling the world himself. Your gift will help The Banner continue to provide this Reformed expression.

<https://www.thebanner.org/>

Food and Faith Conversation: Youth and young adults are invited to gather right after the church service today (February 23) for food, fellowship, catechism, and Bible study. This program is for six consecutive Sundays. For more information, please contact Pastor Greg.

Human Sexuality Report – Gathering Tonight

(February 23): The Christian Reformed denomination has had extensive conversations about its [Human Sexuality Report](#) that was published five years ago. This evening (February 23) at 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., we at Willowdale will develop initial reflections concerning this report through a conversation facilitated by Syd Hielema. Pastor Syd will suggest a framework for the conversation and invite a sharing of honest reflections for this sensitive topic. There will be coffee and dessert. For more information, please contact Pastor Greg. The session will be offered only in English.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Fundraiser: The Willowdale Fundraising Team will be hosting a pancake supper fundraiser for our church on **Shrove Tuesday, March 4**. There will be 2 seatings 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 each for adults, \$5.00 for children under 12 years old and under, children under 5 years old eat for free! Please speak to Beth Little about how to buy your tickets. The team is also in need of volunteers to help on March 4th with cooking and serving pancakes. Contact Beth Little if you help. beth.marie.little@gmail.com

Birthdays:

February 27 — Corrie d.W.

Ordination Service for Nasser & Sylvie: On

Wednesday, February 12 at the regular meeting of Classis Toronto, Nasser Zand and Sylvie Charliekaram passed their exam of faith and life as well as biblical and theological knowledge to be ordained as commissioned pastors in the Christian Reformed Church. Therefore, on **Sunday, March 2** we will, Lord willing, gather at 7:00 p.m. at the church to ordain Nasser and Sylvie as Commissioned Pastors, serving with Spiritual Growth Ministry, and continuing their Farsi Fellowship ministry at Willowdale CRC. We give thanks to God for this ordination journey and look forward to celebrating, encouraging Sylvie and Nasser, and praising God together.

Ash Wednesday: On Wednesday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m., Willowdale will hold an Ash Wednesday service.

In the universal or catholic tradition of the Church, Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a forty-day period that leads up to Holy Week and Easter. During Lent, we meditate on the way to the cross that Jesus took to liberate us from sin and death. On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes on either our forehead or wrist to remind us of the biblical truth, "You are dust, and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3) When we live and die in union with Christ, death is defeated, and God has a final word of life for us.

Come and deepen your union with Christ on Ash Wednesday and on all the Sundays in Lent.

Reformational Journey Through Lent: During the Sundays in Lent we will be focussing on our Reformed tradition and how we speak with a Reformed accent. How do we live into this rich biblical tradition that we have learned from Calvin, Kuyper, Bavinck, Seerveld, Mouw and others? For example, we will begin by learning about divine sovereignty and the four derivatives: common grace, antithesis, sphere sovereignty and the church as institute and organism. We will go from there together on our journey towards the cross where Jesus brings renewal and redemption, grace restoring nature, God's sovereign plan.

ZOOM Host Schedule:

February 23 – Alana
March 2 – John
March 9 – Peter
March 16 – Alana and Nafise
March 23 – Peter
March 30 – Alana

Greeters Schedule:

February 23 – Suzanne C.
March 2 – Cici L.
March 9 – Asal P.
March 16 – Ann G.
March 23 – Batac Family
March 30 – Rob D.

Coffee & Tea Serving Schedule:

February 23 – Alana Y., Nasim K., Haniyeh H., Lelia N.

From the Deacons:

Starting in **March** your offerings will be collected from the pews during the worship service, as was done before in pre-pandemic times. Please contact the deacons if you have any questions.

Please Note Upcoming Changes to Liturgy Publication:

Starting on **Sunday, March 2**, to be good stewards of the environment and finances, the liturgy bulletins will be reduced to 12 pages and 100 hard copies. As usual you will receive via email on Saturday mornings the ZOOM link, liturgy, and Willowdale Weekly in separate files.

A few hard copies of the Willowdale Weekly will be available from the welcome table in the Narthex for guests, and members who do not use email.

Please consider sharing a copy of the liturgy on Sunday mornings so there are enough to go around.

Thank you for understanding and supporting this change.