



# CHRISTIAN REFORMED CAMPUS MINISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

December 2021 Newsletter

Thank you for your support. Please continue to pray for us and those to whom we minister. May we see the Spirit working on campus, in our communities, and in our lives.

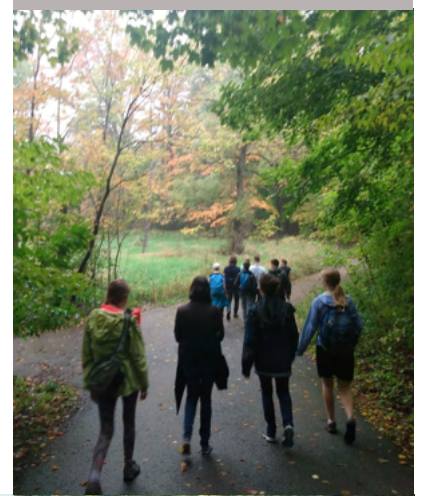


## GRADUATE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (GCF)

We are so thankful to have been able to meet in person this semester, as there was a deep longing to find Christian community after a season of being online. We've been joined by quite a number of new people eager to converse over a shared meal, to get to know each other as embodied persons, and to be able to linger for late-night conversations with others. We met outside until mid-November in Brenda's backyard and then moved inside a student's home because of the cold. It is an ongoing discussion as we navigate how to meet together in a way that is welcoming and safe to all involved.

This semester we've spent time listening to each other's stories and thinking about various topics. The community was blessed by two students sharing their faith journeys with us. We have read and reflected on some of the more unusual stories in the Old Testament, along with WBB this term. As both the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Remembrance Day both landed on Thursday, we spent time reflecting on how we tell and remember our history, and how that can bring harm or healing. We've also spent some time talking about church. We encourage people to participate in local church, while also acknowledging that church is complicated for some, especially those who've been hurt by it in the past. Some find GCF can be their church for a season, giving them a safe space to engage with their questions and disillusionment, while still staying connected to the faith. Please pray for those who've been hurt and that we can be a community and encouragement for all who join us.

Our annual fall hike



*The Christian Reformed Campus Ministry at the University of Toronto seeks to challenge, mentor, and enable students to think, work, and live as Christian disciples in the academy and in their professions. Rooted in the confession that all truth is in Christ, we seek a radical Christian discipleship in all of life.*



# WINE BEFORE BREAKFAST (WBB) at Church of the Redeemer

We are once again meeting in person and celebrating the Eucharist every week. We have found a home at Church of the Redeemer and are thankful for their hospitality and the opportunity to continue to connect to the Anglican Church in Toronto. We've tried to bring in more voices and perspectives, such as including art and prayers from racialized groups, inviting new preachers, and exploring the strange stories of Elijah and Elisha.



It has been good to wrestle with these texts. We can be caught up in wonder at the miracles Elijah and Elisha perform: raising the dead, calling down fire from heaven, and healing the leper. We can be inspired to follow boldly in their footsteps. Yet, looking closer at the stories, we see how kings and prophets have misused power or not listened to others, like Obadiah the prophet (1 Kings 18) or the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 2). Yet, God still works in and through the brokenness of those serving God - and so we are given hope that God will work also in and among us.

We continue to wonder what God has for WBB as we've transitioned to a new space and have new leadership. We would appreciate your prayers as we strive to reconnect with the university community. May we be able to share with them the gifts of WBB: community, the Eucharist, wrestling with the biblical text, and an invitation to see God working in the world around us.

If you're ever in downtown Toronto on Tuesday morning, we'd love to have you join us - just contact Brenda for details.



"Shepherds in a nativity play, or just bundled up for outdoors in November?"



## STAFF TEAM UPDATE

Alongside hosting WBB and GCF, the staff team has provided pastoral care to numerous individuals and engaged in various projects to serve the church and the university. Brenda joined the York campus ministry team in giving a presentation to Classis on young adults, the church, and deconstruction. Hana is embarking on a grant project to look closer at the history of the U of T and York campus ministries in order to invite the Spirit to teach us about being an inclusive and welcoming community, celebrating how God has worked in the past while also learning from our mistakes.

*The Christian Reformed Campus Ministry at the University of Toronto is graciously supported by the churches of Classis Toronto, as well as the generous support of our campus ministry communities, alumni, and friends.*

If you'd like to donate to the ministry, you can do that online or by sending cheques to our new address:  
Christian Reformed Campus Ministries at U of T, TST, 47 Queen's Park Cres. E, Toronto, Ont. M5S 2C3

For more info about donating and the ministry, see <http://crc.sa.utoronto.ca/donate/>