

Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church



Jarvis, Ontario

Ebenezer Family Journal

Introduction to the Ebenezer Family...

As we embark into 2023, our Ebenezer family is looking forward to celebrating our 75th anniversary. Seventy-five years of God's goodness, guidance and leading. The Ebenezer family was initially formed in 1948 under the name Erie Christian Reformed Church, when a small group of Dutch immigrants, led by their dependence on God, desired to worship together in their mother language. A few years later the group applicably chose the name, Ebenezer, meaning "thus far the Lord has helped us. 1 Samuel 7:12", which today still rings as true as the day the Ebenezer family was initially formed.



Brief History of our Ebenezer family...

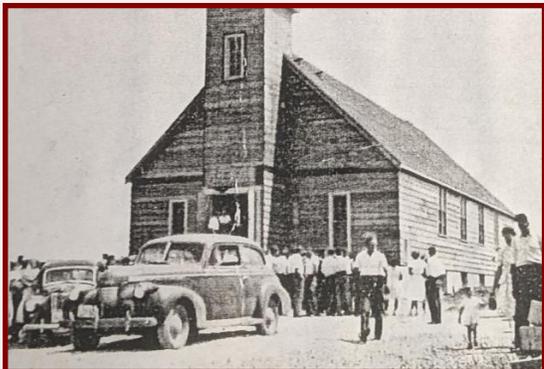
The Ebenezer family began under the leadership of home missionary Adam Persenaire, and first gathered with fourteen families on February 20, 1948.

On November 29, 1948, the Ebenezer family first formally organized with twenty-two families and six single charter members under the name Erie Christian Reformed Church. Services occurred at the "Stone Church" east of Jarvis, Ontario.



By May 5, 1949 the Ebenezer family became a calling church and gathered with 100 worshippers.

In April of 1950 land was purchased and first church building was built.



On August 11, 1954, the Ebenezer family formally incorporated under the name Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church of Jarvis.

In 1955 the Ebenezer family was instrumental in the organizing and establishing Jarvis District Christian School, a Christian elementary school.

October 4, 1957, the daughter church, Maranatha CRC was started in York, Ontario by 16 families from the Ebenezer.

October 6, 1957 the daughter church, Immanuel CRC was started in Simcoe, Ontario by 29 families from Ebenezer.

In 1975 the current church facility, with the exception of the administrative wing, was built.

On June 26, 1990 the daughter church, Community Christian Reformed Church of Hagersville, was formed by forty-two families and five singles from Ebenezer.

In 2010 an administrative wing was added to the church building.



Mission, Vision and Core Values...

Our Mission and Vision Statement:

Ebenezer is a Christ-centered Reformed church sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others for the growth of Christ's church. Led by God's Word and Spirit, we teach, equip and empower people to respond to, be transformed by and share God's saving grace.



Our Core Values:

1. Biblical preaching, teaching and discipleship
2. Commitment to prayer and the sacraments
3. Serving as the hands and feet of Christ
4. Building intentional relationships through intergenerational fellowship and worship
5. Supporting global missions and missionaries
6. Offering love and care to all
7. Promoting a sense of Christian justice and dignity in the world

Our Position Statements...



We believe that the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, the only infallible rule for faith and life. We affirm three creeds—the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed—as ecumenical expressions of the Christian faith. We also affirm three confessions—the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort—as historic Reformed expressions of the Christian faith, whose doctrines fully agree with the Word of God. Along with these historic creeds and confessions, we recognize the following Reformed expressions of the Christian faith, adopted by synod as contemporary testimonies: the call for unity, justice, and reconciliation of the Belhar Confession and the witness of Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony.

Lord’s Supper/Communion

The sacrament of holy communion, the Lord’s Supper is celebrated at regular intervals throughout the year. Professed members in good standing, who accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour in this church or in another Christian Bible believing church, whether in person or online are invited to participate.

Public Profession of Faith

Public Profession of Faith (PPF) is primarily the personal response of faith to God’s promises made in baptism. In our baptism, God brings us into his covenant family in Jesus Christ, and in PPF we respond by declaring our personal faith and commitment as baptized members in Christ. PPF also marks a passage into full participating membership in this church and CRCNA including attendance and voting privileges at congregational meetings. Persons who accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour and are knowledgeable in the CRCNA creeds, confessions and Reformed expressions of the Christian faith are encouraged to publicly profess their faith.

Baptism

The sacrament of baptism is performed by an ordained minister of the Word. The method of baptism is by the sprinkling of water on the forehead of the person to be baptized. Baptism is for children of believing parents as well as for adults who join but have not previously been baptized in a Christian church. An adult who is baptized is also called upon to make a public profession of his or her faith in Christ.

Our Position Statements continued...

Lord's Day

The position of this church with respect to keeping the Lord's Day holy is based on the fourth commandment. Sunday is consecrated to worship; in order to assist congregants in keeping the Lord's Day holy we offer and encourage attendance at two services each Sunday and services offered on days of religious significance.

Human Sexuality

LGBTQ practice is incompatible with obedience to the will of God as revealed in Scripture. The Church exercises compassion for these persons in their sins the same as it does for all other sinners. The Church will help persons with same-sex orientation and give them support toward healing and wholeness. Christians not actively involved in LGBTQ practices are encouraged to use their gifts in the cause of the kingdom and serve within the congregation.

Ecclesiastical Office

This church subscribes to men serving in the offices of Minister, Elder and Deacon. This church has Elder approved male pulpit supply (and does not participate in the Classis approval process for new women ministers).

Marriage

Marriage is an institution created by God. It is a covenant relationship established by mutual vows between a man and a woman (biological gender at birth) united by God. Permanent unity in marriage is possible in Christ and is demanded of Christ's disciples who are married. The Church has a guideline document on marriage and the marriage ceremony.



Quilts made by the Community Comfort Quilters

Our Ebenezer Family in Action...

Sunday School

From September until June children, from ages 3 to and including grade 3, are encouraged to grow in their knowledge and understanding of their awesome God through singing, bible lessons and crafting during the Sunday morning worship service.



Gems Girls Club

Girls from grade 4 to grade 8, are encouraged to grow in their faith and knowledge of their Lord and Saviour through an evening of devotions, games and life skill activities each week.

Cadets Boys Club

Weekly from September to April, boys from grade 4 to 8 are inspired to seek to develop their knowledge of God and His creation through evenings of devotions, woodworking and life skill building activities.



Youth Group/Catechism

Our teens are challenged through weekly meetings from September to April, to delve into and develop their knowledge of the Reformed Creeds and serve their community through services projects.



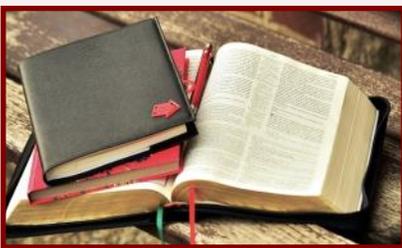
Summer Blast

During the summer holidays, children grades 4 to grade 8 are motivated to grow in their love for God and to fellowship with each other through a weekly afternoon of devotional time and indoor and outdoor games.

Our Ebenezer Family in Action...

Coffee Break

From October until April, ladies of the Ebenezer family along with friends from the community meet bi-weekly for a time bible study and fellowship, supporting each other in the development of their faith life.



Bible Study Groups

Many members of the Ebenezer family participate in bible study groups throughout the year, building friendship and comradery while striving together to gain a better understanding and knowledge of the beauty of God's word and it's application in day to day life experiences.

Community Comfort Quilters

Every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month, a group of women from the church and the community gather together to share their skills and love of quilting. Quilts made are donated to various non-profit organizations in the community such as Indwell, the Pregnancy Crisis Center and Children's Aid Society. The organizations disperse the quilts to those in need. The Community Comfort Quilters also sew 50+ large stockings each December and work together with an organization "Church Out Serving" that matches families in need to a stocking. Members of the Ebenezer family then fill these stockings for these families prior to Christmas.



Soup Sunday

As there's nothing better than a warm bowl of soup when there's a chill in the air; from Fall to Spring, the Ebenezer family gathers once a month for a soup luncheon after the morning service. It's fun time of great soup, buns and fellowship, which is relished by all ages.

Sunday Funday

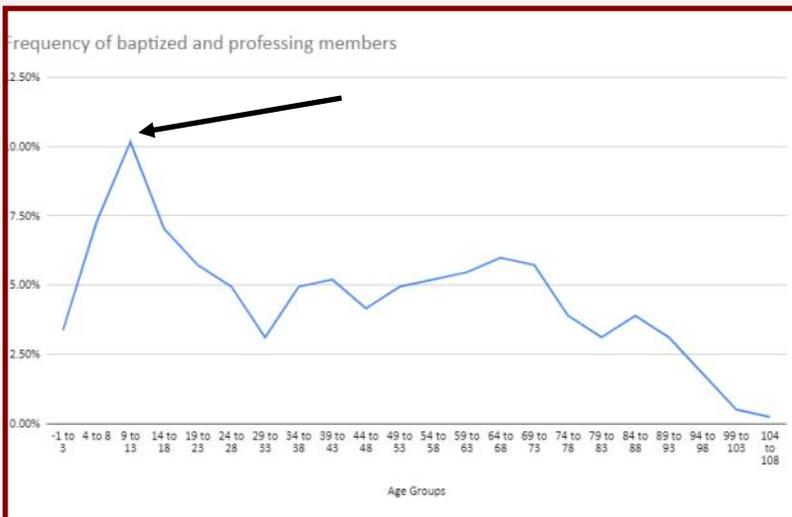
A new initiative began during the summer of 2022, with a family friendly Sunday afternoon activity such as baseball or a visit to the beach, happening once a month! It was a highlight for many of the young and young at heart!



Our Ebenezer Family Demographics...

We are currently experiencing the blessing of many children in our Ebenezer family, with 18% of the church being under the age of 11. We also have the blessing of many seniors within our congregation with 27% of the population being over the age of 65 years young. Parkview Meadows Christian Retirement Village is located in the neighbouring town of Townsend, and our Ebenezer family includes numerous of the residence of this retirement village.

Grouped	SUM of COUNTA of DATE OF BIRTH	
1915 - 1919	1	0.26%
1920 - 1924	2	0.52%
1925 - 1929	7	1.82%
1930 - 1934	12	3.13%
1935 - 1939	15	3.91%
1940 - 1944	12	3.13%
1945 - 1949	15	3.91%
1950 - 1954	22	5.73%
1955 - 1959	23	5.99%
1960 - 1964	21	5.47%
1965 - 1969	20	5.21%
1970 - 1974	19	4.95%
1975 - 1979	16	4.17%
1980 - 1984	20	5.21%
1985 - 1989	19	4.95%
1990 - 1994	12	3.13%
1995 - 1999	19	4.95%
2000 - 2004	22	5.73%
2005 - 2009	27	7.03%
2010 - 2014	39	10.16%
2015 - 2019	28	7.29%
2020 - 2024	13	3.39%



Our Ebenezer Family in the Community...

Jarvis Community VBS

Jarvis Community VBS (Vacation Bible School) is held each year for local children during the first full week of August at Ebenezer's church facility. The Ebenezer family together with other surrounding churches (St. Paul's Anglican Church, Jarvis Community Church and Kingsway Church). All are welcome! Many members of the Ebenezer family volunteer many hours to make this week a success every year.



Refugees of Hope



Refugees of Hope is a joint committee of 6 churches in the Haldimand-Norfolk County area which have a common goal to reach out and assist refugees in resettling in our community. The Ebenezer has taken the lead and has financial oversight over this committee. The other church communities involved are: Simcoe Immanuel CRC, York Maranatha CRC, Hagersville Community CRC, Kingsway Church, and Sweets Corners Christian Church.

Church Building...

Sanctuary

Our church building consists of a large sanctuary equipped with up-to-date sound and projection equipment, providing the capability for worship music to be led by praise teams accompanied by piano, organ, percussion and other instruments as well as the ability to live-stream worship services.



Fellowship Hall

The church building also has a large fellowship hall which is utilized to host coffee after the morning service and a monthly soup Sunday lunch for the Ebenezer family.



Educational Wing

A large educational wing is also housed within the church building which provides ample room for Sunday school for children ages 3 to grade 3, gems, cadets and youth group activities.



Administrative Wing

The most recent addition to the church building, added an administrative wing with offices for church staff and pastors as well as a large council room.



Nursery and Toddler Care Rooms

During the most recent addition, the nursery and toddler care rooms were renovated.



Library

The church library houses a large collection of books for all ages.



Parsonage

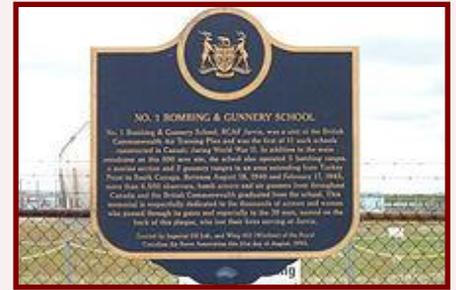
The current parsonage is a modest 3 bedroom 1 bath home. This 1 1/2 story home includes a main floor kitchen, dining room, bathroom and large living room with attached nook which could be used as an office or additional sitting area. The home has large bright windows allowing streams of natural sunlight to brighten the living space. Upstairs you will find 3 spacious bedrooms and downstairs is the laundry room and ample space for storage including a small workbench area for all your tools and hobby equipment. The parsonage is located on the church grounds and is presently empty and available if desired for either temporary or permanent housing for a new pastor.



Highlights of the Jarvis Area...

Historic Roots

In 1844 the Plank Rd was built from Port Dover to Hamilton. The settlement of Jarvis was started in 1850 at the intersection where it crossed the Talbot Stagecoach route.



Jarvis Today

Jarvis is now a growing agricultural service town and this intersection at Highway 3 and 6 is surrounded by fertile farm land on the border of Haldimand and Norfolk counties. It's close proximity to several other towns - Townsend, Hagersville, Port Dover (on Lake Erie) and Simcoe lends to easy access for groceries, sport facilities and other professional services. Shop till you Drop trips are 35 to 40 minutes away in Hamilton or Brantford.



Lake Erie

Love the beach? It is an easy afternoon drive to Turkey Point and Long Point. Both are on Lake Erie and feature long beach walks, swimming, boating, fishing and bird watching. Whether you go east or west along the lake, it's cottage country all the way!



Other Recreational Activities

If you really want to get into the swing of things, there are several great golf courses in the area. Abandoned rail tracks in the area have been converted into super hiking and biking trails which go on for many kilometers. We are also situated close to plenty of great campgrounds to enjoy God's creation!



Picture Collage...

