



Guelph Campus Ministry Fall 2018

a bridging community -- bridging campus and church,
faith and feelings, expectations and experiences and
always naming Christ as Lord.

“Wonder...Lament...and live into God’s Redemption,” Sara DeMoor said to 25 students at the opening retreat. “Practice Resurrection!” added a student familiar with Wendell Berry’s poem. We step into awe and wonder for God’s creation – and experience this as we study. We grieve and lament for all the things that are twisted and broken by sin – polluted water as well as broken relationships within GCM. But we know Christ’s redemption. So we watch with hope for what Jesus is doing among us and through us. God’s resurrection power changes things!

Fall is a time for connecting and reconnecting!

New Students stream onto campus in September. GCM joined in O-week events with hikes and food and an open door. GCM also welcomed a new pair of campus ministers to work beside Sara this school year: Neil & Virginia Lettinga are experienced CRC university chaplains from northern B.C.

Returning Students are a delight to see once more! They returned with tears for the past and enthusiasm for fresh growth. “A highlight this year,” wrote one of the returning students, “was the fall retreat, especially sharing communion together outside after a rather muddy hike!” “It’s good to be back together again!” said another student.



Sara DeMoor & Neil Lettinga scoop ice cream during a Multi-Faith event in front of Raithby House during O-week.



Food and friends in Raithby House

We share food and thankfulness.

Wednesday community dinner is a crowded event; we had to pick up 20 new bowls from the thrift store! Students are amazed at the creativity and generosity of the food that churches provide and are happy to sign a thank you card. “But are you sure that we should say grace before the meal?” asked one student. “Don’t you think an opening prayer might exclude some who come?”

“But this is who we ARE,” explained Sara. “We are people who acknowledge God and are thankful to God. We want to be welcoming, but we also want our identity to be clear.”

Is power always dangerous? Nicole VanderWindt described her responses in a popular GCM group on this topic. Andy Crouch’s book *Playing God* underpins the discussions. Nicole was struck that instead of thinking of power as a negative force, she can consider power as a tool to support flourishing. How can we use the creative power God has gifted us with to create more power for others? Can we stop using power as a commodity to hold on to? “This conversation has challenged me,” Nicole said, “to discover the ways in which I can use the power God has gifted me with to contribute to the flourishing of others.”



A crowd of GCM folks showed creativity and shared a carving tradition with int’l students!

Guelph Campus Ministry is a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church under Classis Huron and is located in Raithby House in the heart of the University of Guelph Campus. Campus Ministers: Sara DeMoor, Neil & Virginia Lettinga. Email: gcm@uoguelph.ca . Sara’s cell: 416-705-7838. Neil’s cell: 250-612-8670. Virginia’s cell: 250-961-8021.

We share songs and Scripture and listen for God

Sara introduced *Lectio Divina* at the first Wednesday evening worship gathering of the semester. *Lectio* is a format for reading the Bible prayerfully. What is God saying to me in this text, we ask ourselves. In mid-October, we read Mark 4 :21-25 (NLT) where Jesus said, “Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given—and you will receive even more.” One student felt convicted to do her Bible reading more slowly. Another wondered aloud if he should listen to some of the voices and opinions he often blocks. All of us considered what *paying close attention* could mean in our lives



Student art shows Sara's Fall Retreat's message



Neil & Virginia Lettinga with Sara DeMoor caught a bit of sunshine at the Western Ontario student retreat.

Together we wrestle with changes and challenges.

“No one would ever wish for a staff change like Guelph Campus Ministry experienced!” said Virginia, “and still, it is a delight for Neil and me to be working with students this Fall.” With decades of experience as university faculty and CR chaplains, the Lettingas are enjoying their one-year GCM partnership with Sara. “What a gifted person Sara is for this time!” we often hear as students, alumni, staff, grieve the choices and actions that closed Jamie’s time with GCM. The staff thanks the Lord for grace through the changes: the regular community dinner that fills Raithby House to the brim; a lively grad group that has begun meeting weekly, and a crowd of 1st years who are part of worship & events.

We appreciate your prayers for Guelph Campus Ministry!

- Pray for GCM’s student leaders – Nicole and Anna, Aaron and others who encourage 1st year students, organize special events, and help keep the Raithby House mess under control.
- Pray for students full of questions: questions about God, about their plans, about the church, about their sense of betrayal... and so much more! Pray for God’s hope in all the difficult questions and doubts.
- Pray for wisdom as GCM steps into new patterns -- and as it continues traditions that seem healthy and helpful. Ask the Lord to open our eyes to what he’s calling us to in this school year!
- Pray for Sara and the Lettingas as they leave the crazy work days natural to the start of the school year and learn to live into an honest, non-workaholic’s schedule.
- Thank the Lord for the friendships and partnerships that continue to flourish between GCM and the university. Colleagues and connections continue to open doors for ministry and fellowship

Your financial support for Guelph Campus Ministry helps to shape conversations and lives on campus. We never know where those conversations will go or how exactly God’s Spirit will move in students’ lives. But we trust in a faithful Saviour and proclaim with confidence that Our World Belongs to God.

Your donations contribute to the following Campus Ministry projects

Education & Internships \$ 3,500	Hospitality & Community Dinners \$1,000
Worship Gatherings \$1,000	Social Justice Initiatives \$500
Discipleship & Retreats \$1,500	And of course staff salaries....



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