

# Guelph Campus Ministry

*A ministry of the Christian Reformed Church at the University of Guelph*



## **Our Mission:**

To be a community where all who are curious about life and God wrestle with scripture and are challenged to root their identity in Christ.

## Learning Scripture in Community

**By Devin Hogg, GCM Alum**

This winter I had the great honour to spend some time with the current GCM community. I am currently pursuing a Master's of Theological Studies at Conrad Grebel University College and the University of Waterloo. One of my courses this past semester focused on Teaching the Bible and a key project was to lead a 4-5 week Bible study. I instantly thought of doing so in the community which played such a huge part in my own faith journey. It was through Guelph Campus Ministry that I became Christian as an adult and I was delighted to share my passion for, and knowledge of, scripture with a new generation of students.

Over the course of four sessions, we looked at the Gospel of Matthew, the Epistle to the Romans, the Book of Ecclesiastes, and the Epistle of James. We explored the New Testament's continuity with the Hebrew scriptures, the importance of the wisdom tradition, and the multi-vocality present throughout the Bible. Throughout the sessions, I was impressed by the enthusiastic engagement of the students. They all made me feel very welcome during the Community Dinners that preceded each study session. They also offered keen insights and shared openly across a wide variety of topics.

I deeply appreciated the opportunity to teach and to learn in a community that remains dear to my heart. I was heartened to see the way in which the Spirit continues to bless this ministry on the University of Guelph campus. I am more thankful than ever for the solid foundation that was laid during my own time there as my passion for scripture was encouraged, my unique skills and talents developed, and my leadership ability cultivated. I am excited to see where the next generation of student goes in their own faith journeys.



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## Winter Retreat Reflection

**By Simon Enns, Current GCM Student**

In January, the first weekend after classes had started, a group of just over 15 students from GCM and ECM ventured out to Liebenzell retreat centre just a short drive from the university of Guelph. The trip started with a slow drive through a snowstorm which although was not great for driving, made for a wonderfully snowy weekend. Our time was full of opportunities to have fun, grow as people and students, and get to know one another more fully. Our guest speaker, Willemina Zwart, led us through workshops with themes of intentional Christian community and conflict resolution. I felt she helped us to better understand the importance of finding and building Christian community around yourself as well as helping us learn about ourselves so we could better understand our personal methods of conflict resolution.

The rest of the weekend was full of activities and free time that helped all of the students take their minds off of school for the weekend and grow as a community. We went on a hike through the snowy woods, had many snowball fights, play games, worked through trust building exercises, cooked meals for one another, worshiped and had communion together, and had late night conversations where everyone felt they could open up and be vulnerable. The retreat being at the start of the semester really allowed us all to become comfortable with each other and gave us the opportunity to form important relationships that were fostered throughout the rest of the semester.

Although not everyone felt ready to leave, the weekend ended with us all working together to get our cars out of their snowy cages, and we all made it back to Guelph for another week of classes. This retreat was another way that I feel GCM is helping people like me grow into more than just a good student but also a well-rounded person learning life and faith skills to help me both inside and outside of the classroom.







## For His Glory Worship Night

**By Jesse DeBoer, Current GCM Student**

My name is Jesse and I'm a second year student at the University of Guelph in Mechanical Engineering. I started taking part in GCM at the beginning of my first year, and have always enjoyed the fellowship of other Christians on campus.

Early this February, Anna M, one of the GCM student interns for this semester, reached out to me about planning a worship night that could be held on campus in Guelph. Anna and her friends had just been to a few different worship nights at neighboring universities, and thought that we should do something similar at Guelph with the help of GCM. We formed a small planning committee of 5 students.

Our team began meeting together regularly, and with the main intent of the worship night being on praising God, chose a theme for the worship night of "For His Glory". With a lot of prayer and planning, the "For His Glory" began taking shape. Local churches were happy to donate equipment, and we worked with various Christian campus groups to help advertise the event. Before we knew it, we were expected to be at capacity for the worship night.

On March 14th, over a hundred people were able to attend the "For His Glory" worship night, which was led by a fantastic worship team of volunteers from surrounding churches. In addition to worship music, there were times of prayer, testimony, and scripture readings. Afterwards, there were refreshments provided by GCM.

Throughout this whole process, I was encouraged by the support that was shown to us from Christian campus groups, local churches, and all the volunteers who helped make "For His Glory" a great outreach and worship night. Special thanks to everyone who helped plan "For His Glory," and to GCM for being able to provide financial assistance for the night. God is good!



## Whole Life Stewardship (AKA “Faithful Adulting”)

**By Sara DeMoor, GCM Campus Minister**

At the suggestion of students, GCM organized a few workshops this semester on different topics relating to “adulting,” led by GCM alumni or experts from our supporting church communities. Part of GCM’s vision is resilient graduates who know that Christ calls them to live faithfully without fear and with hope, stepping into the challenges of their time, and this series of workshops is one way we are equipping students to embody this vision!

We wanted to expand our sense of what faithful “adulting” looks like, so we started out this series with a Faithful Advocacy workshop led by GCM alumnus Conor Russell, who shared his experience and expertise with social and political action and advocacy, both locally and internationally (he recently attended the Eco-School in Greece with the World Council of Churches), and helped us understand the necessity of advocating for justice in concrete ways as followers of Jesus.

The last “adulting” workshop for the semester was a hands-on car maintenance workshop led by Peter Kingma, (recently retired) licensed mechanic and long-time GCM supporter from Water Street CRC. Peter invited us into his 2-bay garage (and into his home for a coffee break), showed us how to change a tire and check tire pressure on one of his vehicles and a students’ car, and even created a “cheat sheet” document so we could take notes while he demonstrated! We spent a few hours with Peter, as he patiently showed us how a vehicle works under the hood, made sure we knew what warning lights meant on the dash, and answered all our many questions with kindness and enthusiasm. Students left with a deeper understanding of the complicated insides of a vehicle, and a deep appreciation for Peter and his vocation as a mechanic and mentor.





## GCM @ College Royal

All Weekend | Michelle | iGEM Booth | SSC1511

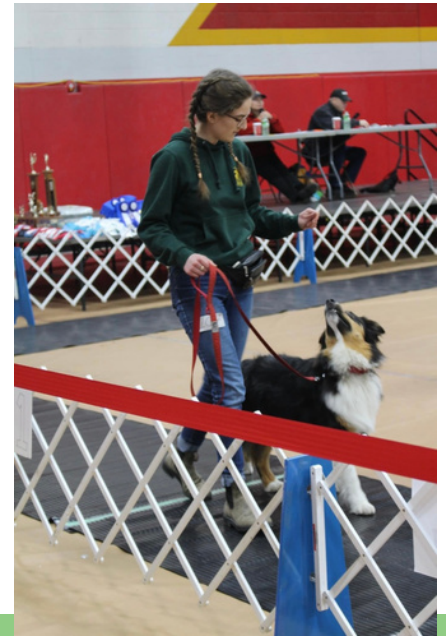
All Weekend | GraceAnn | Seeds & Forages | CSRC116

10:40 & 2:40 SAT | Anna W. | Square Dancing | Mitchell Gym

1-4:30 SAT | Aeryn | Sheep Show | Clinical Skills

9am SUN | Anna W. | Dog Show | Mitchell Gym

1pm SUN | Julie | Dog Show | Mitchell Gym



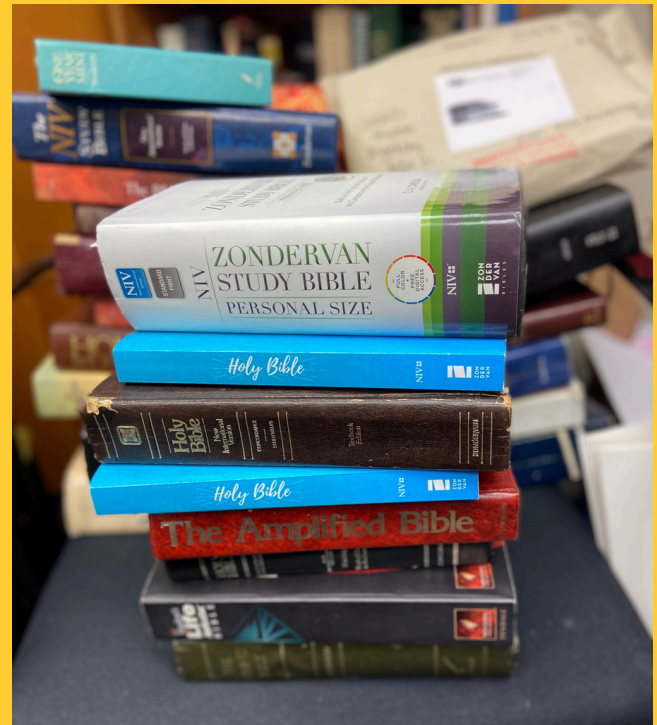
## GCM Does College Royal!

Each winter the University of Guelph hosts College Royal, an open-house event that showcases academic programs, research, and campus life. This year was a particularly big event, as it was the 100th College Royal! Since many of our GCMers took part in one or more College Royal events, we put together a schedule of where GCMers could find each other (above). Below are some pictures of our students in the square dancing, sheep show, and dog show!





**Anna M., Anna W., and Leah** - it has been an joy and a privilege to have you on leadership as GCM interns over the past year. We are so grateful to all three of you for the time, energy, and passion you shared with our community.



**HUGE** THANK YOU to our Classis Huron CRC Supporting Churches - after Sara shared a need for Bibles, we received over 30 Bible donations and \$500 to purchase more!

## End-of-Year Fancy Party!



### Contact Us



[www.facebook.com/GCMuniversityofguelph](https://www.facebook.com/GCMuniversityofguelph)

@guelphcampusministry

**Sara DeMoor**, Campus Minister: [sdemoor@uoguelph.ca](mailto:sdemoor@uoguelph.ca)

**Brianne Gayfer**, Administrative Coordinator: [gcm@uoguelph.ca](mailto:gcm@uoguelph.ca)