



Happy New Year!

Today marks the first Sunday of 2021. While we deal with the ongoing lockdown in Ontario, we give thanks that we can continue to worship God online and in our homes! God calls us to love our neighbours and reach out to others but what does that look like during a global pandemic especially during this winter season? How can we spread Christ's love to our neighbours while maintaining social-distancing measures? The Mission Strategy Team has been pondering these questions and would like to issue a challenge along with Consistory to the congregation and Communities for the month of January:

1. Each family pick one neighbour;
2. Commit to pray for that neighbour for the month of January;
3. Reach out to that neighbour via outdoor conversation or a simple note/card in their mailbox and see how you can be hospitable to them or simply letting them know you care;
4. Share your stories/ideas with your Communities.

Let's try to share the light of Christ through simple, everyday acts of being a good neighbour.

In response to the province-wide shutdown restrictions announced last week, our worship services will be live-streamed only and our church building will be closed. We will be livestreaming our worship services from the sanctuary with a team of 10 people, the maximum allowed in attendance at religious services by provincial restrictions.

Our church building will be closed to everyone except staff. This includes anyone with a church key, unless you are a keyholder and are assigned to a worship service. The Church Office continues to be staffed during this time. The staff and pastors are available by phone and email.

If you are struggling mentally, spiritually, financially, or in any other way, please be sure to contact your Community elder or deacon or one of the pastors. It may seem like you are alone, but you are not. Help is just a phone call away. Please be assured that the CAP (**Congregational Assistance Plan**) is still in effect during this time of isolation. If your mental health is being challenged, please be aware that the Shalem Mental Health Network will continue to manage calls from clients and others toll free **1-866-347-0041**.

Sunday, January 3, 2021 - 10:00am Worship Service

Worship Participants this week:

Preacher: Pastor Betsy DeVries

GATHERING AND GREETING

Gathering Song "Amid the Thronging Worshippers"

Welcome and Announcements

* **Call to Worship**

* **God's Greeting**

* **Song of Praise** "The King Has Come"

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Song of Preparation "Lord Speak to Me that I May Speak"

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading 1 Peter 4: 7-11

Sermon

Prayer of Application

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* **Song of Response** "Will You Come and Follow Me"

Mission Strategy Announcement

Offering Announcement
1) Ministries of Community Christian Reformed Church
2) Beginnings

Prayers of the People

* **God's Parting Blessing**

* **Doxology** "They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love"

COMMUNITY CRC CHURCH FAMILY

(The bracketed numbers indicate the Community to which these individuals belong)

The Westmount Chartwell Long Term Care home, where **Frederika V** (11) lives, has reported positive cases of COVID-19 in a staff worker and 4 residents on her floor. All residents are being isolated and tested at this time. Please pray for the healing, that God would prevent the spread of the virus to other staff and residents and that He would give wisdom to management and staff at the home to do their jobs well.

This is one of many long term care homes that is being faced with challenges brought about by the coronavirus. We think also of Forest Heights Long Term Care where **Sandra K** (9) lives, Faith Manor (part of Holland Christian Homes in Brampton), and the many, many LTC homes that are being affected across Canada and the world. Pray for residents, staff and their families as they deal with the realities this outbreak brings.

Matters for Prayer:

- As our province enters this time of shutdown, please keep our health care and frontline workers in your prayers.
- Give thanks and praise that a vaccine is starting to be administered locally and continue to pray for leaders as they plan the rollout for all Canadians.
- Pray for those waiting for surgeries and procedures that may be delayed because of the rising case load.
- Pray for those experiencing financial strain and the stress this creates
- Pray for those experiencing loneliness, isolation, or disappointment at a time that is traditionally spent in Christmas and New Year's celebrations.
- Pray for those seeking employment or experiencing job loss.

- Pray for those dealing and struggling with mental health which can be exacerbated by the pandemic.
- Pray for guidance and wisdom for the Search Team as they make recommendations to Council and for the officebearers as they discern the way forward filling the Pastoral positions.
- Pray for our sister-church, The Journey, as they seek to call a pastor in the near future. May the Spirit lead them well and clearly in their discernment.
- Pray for our neighbourhoods and our neighbours as we continue to persist in this time of lockdown. May we each be the light of Christ where we live.
- Pray for **Anthony and Barbara P** with Daystar Ministries on Manitoulin Island, **Hank and Rosario S** volunteering in Guatemala, **Pastor Brian B** serving with Waterloo Campus Ministry and **Shannon C** serving as Chaplain at Forest Heights Long term care home.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sun Jan 10	10 am	Pastor Amanda Bakale Lord's Supper
Sun Jan 17	10 am	Pastor Betsy DeVries

Lord's Supper Note: Next Sunday, January 10, we will be celebrating the sacrament of Lord's Supper online and in our homes. The Council of Community CRC invites believers of all ages to the table, following an age and ability appropriate public profession of faith. If you desire to come to the table but have not made profession of faith, please let a pastor or elder know so we can begin the conversation.

There is no Sunday School this week. A lesson will be emailed out next Sunday!

Upcoming Baptism Sundays: Are you looking to be baptized or to have your child baptized? Baptism Sundays are scheduled for January 24, 2021 and February 28, 2021. If you are interested in one of these dates, please contact Pastor Amanda or Pastor Betsy.

OFFERING SCHEDULE

There are two offerings taken on a weekly basis at Community CRC. The first offering is for the Ministries of Community CRC and the second offering is for various causes that our church supports. For more details on how to donate to the church, please see the Resources section on the last page of the bulletin.

This week our offering is for **Beginnings Family Services**. Beginnings is a non-profit, faith-based agency providing pregnancy counselling and adoption services as well as embryo donation services.

Next week our offering is for **Therefore Go Ministries**. ThereforeGo Ministries (formerly Youth Unlimited) is a non-profit, nondenominational Christian organization that focuses on assisting local congregations in their ministry to youth and emerging adults. This ministry is passionate about assisting congregations across Canada and the U.S. in their youth ministry through short-term missions and church training.

Upcoming Offerings:

Jan 17 am | Monica Place
Jan 24 am | Calvinist Cadet Corps

Offerings Received as at December 27, 2020:

December 27	\$	19,677
Year to Date	\$	774,023
Budgeted 2020 Total Contributions	\$	885,705
Second Offerings		
Benevolence Fund	\$	1,031
World Renew	\$	865
Laurentian Hills Christian School	\$	545
Missionary Support	\$	552
Food Bank of Waterloo Region	\$	388
House of Friendship	\$	115
Faith's Orphans Fund	\$	100
Calvin University	\$	50

COMMUNITY CRC NEWS

Join a Deepening Faith Cluster | Deadline is extended by one week - Sign up by Sunday, January 10. What's a deepening faith cluster? It is a small group for folks new to CCRC, thinking about profession of faith, recently made profession of faith, or who simply have some questions about God, faith, and church. Each cluster will be made up of 4-6 people, led by Pastor Amanda or Pastor Betsy, and will meet 5-6 times in January/February at a time and place (Zoom or in-person) that works best for the group. Interested? Let Pastor Amanda know by Sunday, January 10.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

Calvin University January Series - Each year Calvin University provides a publicly accessible series of speakers on various topics related to the Christian life and worldview. This year the January Series runs from January 6 through 26, 2021 and because of COVID-19 is offered to us in the safety and comfort of our homes. They are offering an impressive lineup of speakers and topics. The series is free of charge, but you

need to register to watch it. More information on the content, speakers list, and REGISTRATION details can be found at www.calvin.edu/january

Groundwork: Commitment and Discipleship |

Following Jesus is not always easy. Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 13:3-23, Luke 14:25-33, and Hebrews 12:1-3 to better understand the spiritual discipline of commitment and learn how we can cultivate the lifelong discipline of following Jesus Christ. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

RESOURCES

Instructions for giving to Community CRC | As we are currently in lockdown, the following donation methods are in place:

1. PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) – monthly pre-authorized payment. Fill out form, along with a blank void cheque by email to treasurer@ccrc.on.ca
2. You can mail your donations to the Church. Please do NOT mail cash. The mailbox is checked regularly.

3. You can drop off your donation in our drop-off mailslot located on the outside of the kitchen door at the church. This is a secured locked box that safely receives your envelope within the building.

4. you can now donate using the Bridge App (or this link):

<https://crc.etadvance.com/churches/community-crc-kitchener/donate>

You can self-direct your donations using your credit card (note there is a 3% admin fee taken by the processing company) or direct to your bank account (no admin fee). At this time, we offer opportunity to donate to the Church Budget, our Capital Fund, or the work of the Deacons locally (benevolence).

Note: if you use the link, the only payment option is credit card. The Bank account option is only available through the Bridge App.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy W, Treasurer.