



This Sunday, we welcome Pastor Tom B to our pulpit! Pastor Tom has been recommended by Council of Community CRC for the position of Pastor - Communities & Missions and he will be preaching a pre-recorded sermon. An Information package was emailed to the entire congregation this past Wednesday, February 24, with more details and information on Pastor Tom and this position.

We have also invited in person worshipers from Communities # 5, 6, 7, and 8. We will follow the same procedures that were in place prior to the shutdown and stay-at home order. Our services will continue with the registration process in order to make sure we do not exceed our capacity of 100 people. If your Community is scheduled for worship on a particular Sunday, look for an email with the Eventbrite link to sign up on Monday or Tuesday. If there are extra spaces by Friday, a link will be sent to the entire congregation with the bulletin to fill the extra spaces available for the Sunday service.

Our schedule for sign-up continues as follows:

Mar 7: 1,2,3,4

Mar 14: 9,11,13,14

Mar 21: 5,6,7,8

All attendees are required to wear a mask and maintain a 2-meter physical distancing both in the building and while outside.

Lent Series | I AM: Jesus in the Present Tense

At the very center of our faith is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That makes Good Friday and Easter two of the most significant days in the Christian calendar. Lent is the 40-day period before Easter. It is a season of preparation and repentance as we look toward the events of Good Friday and Easter. Historically, Lent has been an occasion for Christians to deepen their faith and devotion by exploring and deepening a kind of spirituality that centers on our union with Christ.

Our worship series on the "I AM" statements of Jesus help us to see more clearly the one we are united to. These statements about Jesus' identity do not allow us to keep him safely in the past, as if they have turned into "I was" statements. Rather, they help us to see who Jesus is to us in the present tense. Lent is a journey to the cross, and this Lent we will journey with Jesus as our teacher and companion as we explore who Jesus was in his own words and who he still is to us and to the world.

Calling Artists of All Ages and Abilities | Get out the paintbrushes or pencils, we want to see your artwork! Our upcoming Lent series will bring us through the "I am" saying of Jesus. In these sayings, Jesus teaches his disciples about himself using everyday objects like bread, light, gates, and vines. Help us to illustrate these sayings by creating artwork - drawings, paintings, even sculptures - and send a picture of your art to Rachel V so we can share it with the congregation in worship. You can choose to illustrate one "I am" saying or all of them. There is no limit! This activity is for people of all ages and abilities. you can submit your art any time between now and March 31. Send a photo or scan of your art to worship@ccrc.on.ca.

Here are the sayings of Jesus that we would love to see illustrated:

- I am the bread of life (John 6:25-40)
- I am the light of the world (John 9:1-7)
- I am the gate for the sheep (John 10:1-10)
- I am the good shepherd (John 10:11-18)
- I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:1-27)
- I am the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:1-7)
- I am the vine (John 15:1-17)

Sunday, February 28, 2021 - 10:00am Worship Service

Worship Participants this week:

Preacher: Pastor Tom **Liturgist:** Pastor Betsy

GATHERING AND GREETING

Gathering Song

"O Worship the King"

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

(Based on "Our World Belongs to God" st. 42-43, John 4:24)

Leader: In a world estranged from God, where happiness and peace are offered in many names, we witness to the only one in whose name salvation is found: Jesus Christ

All: **In Jesus, God reconciles the world to himself.**

Leader: Jesus Christ rules over all.

All: **Let us worship Jesus Christ in the Spirit and in truth.**

God's Greeting

Song of Praise

"How Great is God"

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Song

"Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

Assurance of Pardon

Children's Worship Story

Song

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading	John 9:1-7
Sermon	"I Am the Light of the World"
Prayer of Application	

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Song of Response	"Christ Be My Light"
Offering Announcement	1) Ministries of Community Christian Reformed Church 2) Pastor Church Resources
Prayers of the People	
God's Parting Blessing	
Doxology	"This Little Light of Mine"

COMMUNITY CRC CHURCH FAMILY

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

Please pray for **Cristina K (6)** who went to the hospital last Sunday and was shocked with a diagnosis of cancer. She came home Wednesday. Tests are continuing and some treatments will be starting this week. The entire family covets your prayers.

After ongoing testing, **Mike and Denise H (11)** are receiving more answers about Denise's current health issues that keep her in the hospital. From what the doctors are saying there will be a serious operation in Denise's future, however Mike and Denise are thankful and relieved to learn that she does not have cancer. Please continue to pray for the H family, especially for physical strength and healing, as well as ongoing patience through this very long and ongoing process.

Tom and Helen H (6) are grateful to report that their daughter's surgery revealed the growth to be benign. We thank God with them for a successful surgery and for this good news.

Our condolences are extended to **Nellie K (6)** with the sudden passing away of her younger brother, Jim. Jim passed away earlier in February from pancreatic cancer. May the Lord

comfort and sustain Nellie and her family during this difficult time.

Andrew D (2) was offered a position with the Canadian Navy and will be leaving for boot camp in Victoria, B.C. on March 6th where he is committed to serving the next four years as a boatswain. His parents, Jeff and Laura and sister, Mikayla are very proud of him and glad that Andrew has found his calling and is starting a new chapter in his life and career. They covet your prayers as Andrew prepares to leave home and serve our country. Pray for God's protection, nearness and strength as he seeks to fulfill his calling.

*"The Council of Delegates (COD) of the CRCNA has decided to **cancel Synod 2021** that was scheduled to meet on the campus of Dordt University in Sioux Center, Iowa. They also decided to defer any discussion or decision about the report from the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality until Synod 2022. The synodical Program Committee (the officers who served at Synod in 2019) will carefully review matters submitted for the Agenda for Synod 2021 and will decide which matters are essential to be dealt with this year. Similar to 2020, those essential items will be referred to a special, virtual meeting of the COD to be held in June."*

Matters for Prayer |

- Pray for guidance and wisdom for the congregation as they consider the Search Committee's recommendation for a pastoral position.
- Pray for our sister-church, The Journey, as they continue to discern a way forward in their own search process.
- Pray for strength and energy for single parents who are balancing work and childcare on their own.
- Pray for those who live in and work in long term care as they deal with the current challenges from the pandemic. May God grant strength and patience to **Sandra K** (9) and **Frederika V** (11), residents in long term care.
- Pray for safety and patience for students and teachers as schools reopened this past week.
- Pray for those experiencing financial strain, unemployment or underemployment, and the stress this creates.
- As Christians respond in different ways to the pandemic, pray that our faith in Jesus may be shown in a positive way to the world - a beacon of hope.
- Pray for Dive into Doctrine and all the participants as small groups begin to meet this week. Pray for wisdom, kindness and for technology to work.
- Pray for the ongoing nominations process as people are sought to serve in leadership positions at Community CRC
- 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

Mar 7	10 am	Pastor Brian Bork 3 rd Sunday of Lent
Mar 14	10 am	Pastor Amanda Bakale Lord's Supper

Upcoming Baptism Sundays | Are you looking to be baptized or to have your child baptized? The next Baptism Sunday is scheduled for March 28, 2021. If you are interested in this date, 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 Pastor Church Resources, a denominational ministry of the Christian Reformed Church of North America (CRCNA). Pastor Church Resources serves pastors, churches, and classes as they seek to promote healthy relationships, encourage one another in ministry, and discern next steps in seasons of growth, transition, or challenge.

Next Week our offering is for World Renew | Next week, we'll be taking part in World Renew's Canadian Foodgrains Bank Sunday. This unique partnership makes it possible to reach the front lines of need in the midst of a crisis, bringing life-giving food to families who need it most. All gifts will be matched up to 4X!

LIVE Devotional Experience | Andy Harrington, Executive Director of Canadian Foodgrains Bank, together with a few of World Renew's Church Engagement staff will be sharing a LIVE devotional experience on Thursday, March 4 at

3PM EST. Join us on Zoom at bitly.com/livedevor or on Facebook at facebook.com/worldrenew/live. Enjoy listening in as they talk about ways to love our neighbour by implementing education and advocacy as spiritual disciplines.

Upcoming Offerings:

- Mar 14 | DIG - Calvin Theological Seminary
- Mar 21 | Laurentian Hills Christian School

**Offerings Received as at
February 21, 2021 including
remittance from the Bride App**

February 21, 2021	\$	16,240
Year to Date	\$	89,152
Budgeted 2021 Total Contributions	\$	923,460
Second Offerings		
Missionary Support	\$	779
World Renew – Canadian Foodgrains Bank	\$	295
Pastor Church Resources	\$	125
Calvin Theological Seminary	\$	125
World Renew	\$	50
Race Relations	\$	50
Benevolence Fund	\$	50
Woodland Christian High School	\$	50

COMMUNITY CRC NEWS

Highlights from the Administrative Council Meeting of Tuesday February 23rd, 2021

- Received and reviewed various staff and ministry reports and meeting minutes.
- Council discussed the ongoing pandemic and the implications as well as looking ahead to what services will look like “post-COVID”.
- Council approved Denise H to be the new HR advisor to Council.
- Council approved the Handbook Policy committee.

- Council approved vacation for Pastor Betsy; March 8-12 and May 10-14.
- A list of names was discussed and approved for the Nominations Committee for upcoming office bearer vacancies.
- Council discussed the plans around the call process and the Q&A session with Pastor Tom B and Jodie.

Have you been heard? Our congregation has a once-in-five-year opportunity to participate in the 2021 CRC denominational survey. This survey helps denominational leadership understand the concerns and needs of local congregations like ours. It is crucial that as many people from our congregation as possible participate. Please answer the questionnaire reflecting this past year with all the difficulties that includes. Visit the link in the emailed copy of the bulletin to answer the survey questions **by March 31**. P.S. The survey and promotional tools are also available in Korean and Spanish. Thank you,
Administrative Council

The Church Doors and Alarm | There have been some instances in the past few months where the church has been left unlocked and the alarm has not been set. If you are last to leave the church, check **ALL** doors (not just the door you entered) to make sure they are locked and **set the alarm every time**.

The March/April 2021 edition of the Today Devotional Booklet and the February and March editions of the Banner are now available. You can pick these up at the church on Sunday. If you would like to pick up a copy or have one mailed to you, please call the church office at 519-743-9482 to set this up. The Today Devotional can also be found online at <https://todaydevotional.com/> or on your phone or tablet via **the Bridge App**.

Looking to return church library material?

Books can be returned on Sundays to the blue bin on the information desk, or throughout the week to the church office. The church library will remain closed on Sundays.

Impact | Join us this Wednesday evening for a fireside chat at the church from **7:00 – 8:15 pm** Prior to attending, please follow the link for the COVID screening form that can be found in the Instagram bio as well as the weekly email sent to the parents.

Book Club news! The winter book club book is "The Mindful Christian" by Irene Kraegel. Kraegel is the director of the Centre for Counseling and Wellness at Calvin University. Her book is a practical guide for a faithful integration of Christian faith and mindfulness practice. **We'll be discussing the book on Tuesday March 16 from 7:30 - 9 pm on Zoom.** E-mail or call Carling L by March 9 to register. Copies of the book are available from Words Worth Books @ 96 King St. S. in Waterloo. Contact the store by phone (519-884-2665) to pay for the book in advance of curbside pick-up or delivery. Let them know the book you want is being held under the name "Luymes."

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

You are invited to the Annual Inter-Classis Safe Church Zoom Presentation, which will be held on **Saturday, March 6, 2021** (this week!) from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we are unable to host the presentation in person this year. Instead, we are offering a Zoom presentation titled "UNMUTE, The Impact of a Pandemic on Gender Based Violence". This presentation is free; however, registration is required. The registration, information and reviews are available at:

www.wmott.ca/scc/workshops_online.php

Your Zoom link and information will be sent to you before the March 06 presentation.

CRCNA Day of Prayer | In the spring of 2020, a small group of pastors and worship leaders gathered via Zoom for a time of prayer, sensing a need for a space for shared prayer in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a movement that came out of that first meeting to commit to praying together every other month for a year. The next gathering will be held on March 10 at 11:00 am EST and 2:00 pm EST on Zoom. If you are interested in participating, please fill out this [short CRC Prayer Sign Up](#) for access to the Zoom link. This particular meeting falls on the day the CRCNA has designated to be our denominational day of prayer. More information available on this Network post: [Join Us for the CRCNA Day of Prayer March 10, 2021](#)

Women's Inspirational Conference | In this season of dealing with COVID, are you tired and weary? Have you struggled to stay connected with other Christians? It's time for a Women's Retreat. This year we are hoping to gather women from across the country in a virtual retreat!! All women are welcome, especially if you've never been part of a Coffee Break or small group. We'd love to have you join us. Save the Date - April 16 - 17, 2021 - a virtual retreat for all women! Registration details will follow.

Groundwork: A New Family | In his second word from the cross Jesus shows deep compassion for his mother. Join our Groundwork conversation on John 19:23-27 to discover what Jesus' great concern for his family shows us about his humanity and uncover the profound theological implications that arise from this earthly concern. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Give with A Willing Heart | Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. As a kid, you don't have a job that pays you loads of cash. So, how can you give? Once you begin looking for ways to give, you will find many opportunities! Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

RESOURCES

Instructions for giving to Community CRC | As we are slowly opening following the recent "Stay At Home order", 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. No cash, please

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.



CAP, or Congregational Assistance Plan, is a way for our CCRC to make counselling services available for everyone in the church. From time to time all of us are faced with difficulties. Usually, we are able to resolve them. But there come times when our usual ways of coping no longer seem to work. This is especially true in this stressful time of lockdown and pandemic that we find ourselves in. If this is happening to you, CAP offers professional Christian counselling support to you as an individual, as couples, and as families.

Through the Shalem Mental Health Network, CCRC is able to offer a solution-focused counselling model of up to 6 free sessions in a year. A professional Christian counsellor will help you to develop a strategy to cope with and resolve a variety of issues, including marriage difficulties, adolescent and children's issues, bereavement, stress, trauma, depression, anxiety, addiction, abuse and others.

What's the First Step?

To use CAP, you do not need to be referred by your doctor, pastor or elder. Simply call Shalem's CAP number **(1-866-347-0041)** and mention that you are a member of CCRC. An intake staff will ask you a few questions to determine the issue about which you are seeking counselling and to note any specific requests, such as wanting a male or female counsellor, evening appointment times, etc. You will then be contacted by the appropriate CAP counsellor, who will set up your first appointment with you. **More Questions?** Go to ccrc.on.ca and follow the links to CAP or talk to Pastor Amanda.