



1275 Bleams Rd, Kitchener, ON, N2E 3X6 | ccrc.on.ca

Office Hours: closed due to COVID-19 | 519-743-9482 | office@ccrc.on.ca

COMMUNITY CRC CHURCH FAMILY

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

COVID – 19 Update – Week 2. These are unprecedented times as we increasingly are spending time apart from one another in our respective homes because of the spread of the Coronavirus. It has been a week and a half now since the World Health Organization has declared a COVID-19 pandemic. The result of that has been world changing as country after country has closed borders and as businesses have closed down and people have distanced themselves one from another. For CCRC it has meant that the church building has been closed as of Thursday, March 18 and now connections are being made via phone, email, text and FaceTime and various other platforms that allow people to stay in touch. (Just so we are clear: a closed church means that the doors are locked and there are to be no meetings or gatherings of any sort, until further notice.)

Until further notice, all scheduled events at CCRC have been suspended, with no knowledge as to when they will be able to begin again. Weekly emails are being sent to keep everyone up-to-date on what is happening and Community elders and deacons are keeping up with their respective Communities and any needs that may arise.

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. We are all just a phone call away. **The CAP (Congregational Assistance Plan) is still in effect** during this time of isolation. Please be aware that the Shalem intake staff will continue to be at their office to manage calls from clients and others toll free **866-347-0041**. Meanwhile, why not use this occasion to give someone in your church Community or in your neighbourhood a call? Throughout all of this, remember that the Lord walks with us. While this time of being at home may provide many of us with some much

needed rest and time away from a hectic lifestyle, it is also a good time for us to perhaps relearn what it means to rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him.

Our condolences are extended to **Ray and Kristin S** (3) with the passing away of Ray's mom, **Alice (Aly) S**. Mrs. S passed away on March 17, 2020 in her 93rd year. A private family interment was held with a Celebration of Life service being scheduled for a later date.

Our condolences are also extended to **Jim and Barb R** (6) with the passing away of Jim's brother, **Durward R**. Mr. R passed away on March 17, 2020, in his 81st year.

Gary B (8) suffered a considerable fall at his home on Friday and was taken to Grand River Hospital for surgery on his hip. Pray that things may go well.

Please remember in your prayers **Bontje W**, sister of **Jane V** (13), who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. She lives in Holland and is 91 years old.

Please continue to pray for:

- those for whom these days of isolation are filled with stress and loneliness.
- those whose financial wellbeing is being challenged because of closures.
- those dealing with depression and other forms of mental illness only heightened in this time of uncertainty.
- those dealing with broken relationships
- **Anthony and Barbara P** with Daystar Ministries on Manitoulin Island, **Hank and Rosario S** volunteering in Guatemala, **Shannon C** serving as Chaplain at Forest Heights Long Term Care, and **Pastor Brian B** serving with Waterloo Campus Ministry
- the staff and leadership at the Journey

- the persecuted Church
- this time of transition for CCRC

OFFERING SCHEDULE

**PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)
March 20, 2020**

	Actual Contributions Received	Targeted Contributions
Mar 20	\$15,522	\$29,725
YTD	\$155,136	\$194,976
Budgeted 2020 Total Contributions		\$885,705
Benevolence Fund		\$ 950.00

If you are interested in donating via the PAR program, please contact Kathy W at treasurer@ccrc.on.ca.

COMMUNITY CRC NEWS

**Administrative Council Meeting Report
Thursday March 12, 2020**

- Received and reviewed various staff, ministry reports, and meeting minutes.
- Council approved recommended staffing structure. Recommendations were outlined by an ad-hoc committee which was formed in light of the results of the survey. (refer to the email of March 17, 2020 entitled CCRC staffing update for more details).
- Council also discussed initiating calling committee.
- Kathy W was present to discuss the financials from 2019 which were approved for presentation to the congregation at the next Congregational meeting.
- Discussed impact and implications of Corona Virus and how we as a church ought to react.
- Consistory and Diaconate has approved the motion to end our regular evening worship services. Plans are being made for a final service

to celebrate and mourn this significant change in the history of CCRC.

- Reviewed nominations process and names as approved by the nominations committee.

Manitoulin Island: We are still looking for some volunteers to go to Manitoulin Island to help with some construction on Anthony and Barbara Ps residence. We need people for demolition as well as to put up drywall. The dates for these activities are not known right now, but if this is something that interests you, once life gets back to normal, please contact Jane V.

SERVE/CCRC Mission Fund - Fundraiser: The scheduled April 18 fundraising event has been called off. Watch for a new date.

SERVE 2020 (July 18-25): We are still looking for some leaders to take our youth on SERVE this summer (we need one male and 2 females) and there are still some openings for youth. The registration deadline is April 1. Does God call you to be a leader this summer? Does SERVE seem like something you would want to attend? Please contact Jane V if you are interested.

VBS News! The railway to VBS is open the week of July 20th-24th. Open to children going into JK – children going into grade 6 in September. Registration will open around May.

We will require lots of volunteers to make this a great year, please consider if this is something you are called to. **Please contact the church office** if you are willing to volunteer. We are also looking for assistance and support in the planning stages of VBS. If you can help in this way, please let the office know as soon as possible.

Worship Coordinator Position

Community CRC is currently in the process of hiring a part-time (20-hours) Worship Coordinator to coordinate our worship ministry and equip worship volunteers. If interested, please contact office@ccrc.on.ca.

Interim Pastor Position

Community CRC is currently in the process of hiring an interim (1-year) pastor to work alongside Pastor Amanda while we rebuild the pastoral team. If interested, please contact office@ccrc.on.ca.

The Administrative Council is meeting virtually via Zoom this Tuesday evening, March 24, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

OTHER EVENTS

Disabilities Conference: The April 25th conference, scheduled for CCRC, has been moved to October.

COVID-19 – Week 2 Update (Emailed on March 18 to the congregation)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

What a unique, unsettling, unprecedented strange time this is in world history. Not many of us, at CCRC, have ever experienced something like this. And as the pandemic continues to take hold of the Canadian population, and as our national and provincial and regional leaders along with a host of front-line health workers, seek to keep us safe, we want to honour them and live into their requests and excellent advice.

As a result, the congregation is urged to take note of the following decisions:

1. Our regularly scheduled worship services for March 22 and 29 have been suspended.

2. All upcoming scheduled ministries will be suspended until April 6.
3. We would encourage our Communities not to gather in person. Actually, we would encourage all our members to stay home.
4. For worship ideas for Sunday, March 22, including a sermon video, please see the "Church at Home" rotator on the website, and follow the links to the Lenten Sermon series.
5. Weekly bulletins can be found at www.ccrcc.on.ca/bulletins.
6. At this point the church and the church office will be closed, with staff working from home. Any voice mails left at the church will be responded to.
7. Please know that the pastors will not be making visits in person but using the available electronic means to be in touch with the congregation. Please note that all staff can be reached via phone, email or text.
8. Staff is exploring ways in which we can stay virtually connected allowing for some of our teams to meet at their regularly scheduled times.
9. If you are experiencing anxiety or struggling to make ends meet or struggling in other ways, please do not hesitate to call your Community elder or deacon or call one of the pastors.
10. Those of you who are not set up for automatic donations or pre-authorized withdrawals may be wondering about their options for continuing their habit of weekly giving during a worship service. By the end of the week you will be receiving a communication about ways in which to continue your financial giving to the church.
11. As this is a constantly changing and fluid situation, please be aware that things

could change at short notice, so please check your email regularly.

12. For reliable and up-to-date information, you are encouraged to follow these two sources:

Federal Government Public Health Services

Province of Ontario Coronavirus page

God is our refuge and our strength.

The leadership of Community CRC