



Eastertide 2021 | The time between Easter and Pentecost is called “Eastertide” in the Christian calendar. This is a season where we have an extended celebration of Christ’s resurrection and where we explore the importance and effect of Easter for the redemption of all creation, and for joyful Christian living. Some of our sermon texts in this season will be drawn from the Lectionary readings. This week you are invited to read: Acts 4: 5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3: 16-24, John 10: 11-18.

10:00am Worship Service
Worship Participants this week:
Preacher: Pastor Amanda Bakale

GATHERING AND GREETING

Gathering Song	“See, What a Morning”
Welcome and Announcements	
Call to Worship	
God’s Greeting	
Songs of Praise	“This is Amazing Grace” “Open the Eyes of My Heart”

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Call to Confession	
Prayer of Confession	
Song of Confession	“Before the Throne of God Above”
Assurance of Pardon	
Children’s Worship Story	
Children’s Worship Song	“Jesus, Strong and Kind”

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination	
Scripture Reading	Luke 24: 13-35

Sermon	“Encountering Jesus”
Prayer of Application	
	RESPONSE TO THE WORD
Song of Response	“Alleluia! Alleluia!”
Offering Announcement	Ministries of Community Christian Reformed Church FACE Fund (Financial Assistance for Christian Education)
Prayers of the People	
God’s Parting Blessing	
Doxology	“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

In response to the current provincial state of emergency and stay at home order, **the Council of CCRC has voted to reduce our worship services to livestream only for the duration of the stay at home order.**

Even though we are within the 15% capacity allowed for in-person religious services by the province, Council desired to protect our staff, volunteers, and the community around us by reducing our worship services to livestream only. This decision was not made lightly or easily, but with a sense of caution and concern for the welfare of our staff and our region.

All of us long for the day when we can all worship together in-person and so we pray for that day to come, while acknowledging it is not here yet.

Please note that during the stay at home order, the staff and pastors will be working from home as much as possible and are available by phone or email (see contact information at the end of the bulletin).

COMMUNITY CRC CHURCH FAMILY

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

Congratulations to Stephen and Carita (14) M as they were united in marriage in our church yesterday. May the Lord grant them much joy and blessings as they go forward in life together!

We praise God that **Denise H’s (11)** surgery is scheduled for April 27th. With rising hospital admissions due to the pandemic, please pray that Denise may be able to continue her hospital stay as she waits for the surgery. May God provide strength and endurance to Denise and Mike and their family in the next weeks.

On April 21 at 7:00 pm, members of Community 11 will gather on Zoom to pray for **Denise H** and her family as they await surgery and pray for healing. The congregation is invited to join Community 11's time of prayer. Please check the emailed copy of the bulletin for the link.

Congratulations to **Marty and Tammy M (13)** as they will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on April 20. May the Lord continue to bless and strengthen their marriage for many years to come!

Congratulations to **Kor and Grace H (14)** as they will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on April 21. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

C serving as Chaplain at Forest Heights Long term care home.

Matters for Prayer |

- As we continue in the third **provincial state of emergency**, we ask God for renewed patience and continuing endurance for all of us and may God grant wisdom to our provincial and regional leaders as they discern and decide the path ahead.
- Pray for our small business owners and our **neighbourhood businesses** as they seek to follow restrictions and keep their businesses going.
- Pray for the smooth and efficient **roll-out of vaccines**. Every shot in the arm brings more hope for a way through this pandemic. May the vaccines get to those who need it most to protect the most vulnerable and most at risk.
- As schools return from Spring Break, may teachers and staff, parents and students, find the energy and persistence that they need in another round of at home learning.
- Pray for the ongoing **nominations process** as people are sought to serve in leadership positions at Community CRC during a season of exhaustion and uncertainty for so many.
- Pray for our sister-church, **The Journey**, as they continue to discern a way forward in their own search process.
- Pray for **Dive into Doctrine** and all the participants as small groups wrap up their discussions. We praise God for deep conversation and honest wrestling with difficult issues!
- 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**

STAFF NEWS

Pastor Amanda is on vacation until Monday, April 26. If a need or concern arises during this time, please contact Pastor Betsy or your Pastoral elder or deacon.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Apr 25	10 am	Pastor Betsy DeVries
May 2	10 am	Pastor Betsy DeVries
May 9	10 am	Pastor Betsy DeVries Lord's Supper

Upcoming Baptism Sundays | Are you looking to be baptized or to have your child baptized? The next Baptism Sundays are scheduled for May 23 and June 27. 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 the FACE (Financial Assistance for Christian Education) Fund. As a congregation we have a FACE Fund to assist with tuition costs for those wishing to send their children to a Christ-based school. The fund is available for any approved elementary or secondary school. Please contact either the deacons or the church office in order to receive an application.

Next week our offering is for GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Saviour) | GEMS is an acronym for Girls Everywhere Meeting the Saviour. It is a non-denominational, non-profit, Christian organization whose vision is to see girls around the world actively and enthusiastically expressing love for God and others—girls equipped, motivated, and passionately engaged in living out their faith. Their mission is to bring girls everywhere into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.

Upcoming Offerings:

- May 2 | Friendship Ministries
- May 9 | World Renew – Maternal and Child Health

Offerings Received as at April 11, 2021:

April 11, 2021	\$	4,245
Year to Date	\$	173,651
Budgeted 2021 Total Contributions	\$	923,460
Second Offerings		
World Renew – Refugee Sunday	\$	160
Ray of Hope	\$	85
Resonate Global Mission		70
FACE Fund – Financial Assistance for Christian Education	\$	65
GEMS – Girls Everywhere Meeting their Saviour	\$	65

Thank you for Participating in Refugee Sunday.

Thank you for sharing the love and hope of Jesus Christ with our global neighbours who have had to endure the heartbreak of war, persecution, and injustice. World Renew is grateful for your support that makes it possible for refugee families to rebuild their lives and look towards the future with hope in a God who is loving and compassionate. If you would like to learn more about how World Renew is answering God’s call

for justice and mercy in our world, please visit: worldrenew.ca

COMMUNITY CRC NEWS

Book club news! The spring book club book is the award-winning bestseller and modern classic “The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America” by Thomas King. “The Inconvenient Indian” has been recommended by the CRC’s Office of Social Justice, and the Toronto Star called it a book “every Canadian should read.” We’ll be discussing the book on Tuesday May 18 from 7.30 - 9 pm on Zoom. E-mail Carling L for the Zoom link. Copies of this book abound at local bookstores and libraries, and it’s also available as an audiobook.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

Partnering Well Beyond the Pandemic | Webinar - Start or strengthen your church's global connection! Join World Renew for a free webinar on **Thursday, April 22** at 7 PM EDT to discover how international church partnerships in East Africa and Latin America have not only survived but thrived despite travel restrictions. Connect with World Renew staff and others who have been on the frontlines of cultivating partnership during these unprecedented times. Register for this webinar at: bit.ly/partneringwell

Easter Victory from Shameful Defeat? | Join CRC campus ministers Rick Mast (University of Alberta) and Mike Wagenman (Western University) for a timely discussion for the post-Easter season: what can we as Western Christians learn from the long history of theological reflection in the East? There are not only racial and economic divisions in our world that we’re addressing in this year’s online book club - but also our divisions as Christians. Join us on Sunday, April 25 (8pm ET | 7pm CT | 6pm MT

| 5pm PT) as we engage Dr. James Payton's new book, *The Victory of the Cross: Salvation in Eastern Orthodoxy*. Payton taught church history for many years at Redeemer University (Ontario) and will share some of the insights he's drawn from a long study of Eastern Christianity. Register at www.WesternCampusMinistry.ca!

What's Ahead? | Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Do you believe your future looks bright? Have you prayed to God about what's ahead? God proclaims that when you call on him, he will listen (Jeremiah 11:12-13). Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

Groundwork: Making Sense of Setbacks | Just like most building and construction projects, we can expect to encounter setbacks in our lives. Join Groundwork as we study the setbacks Ezra and Nehemiah faced in Ezra 3-4 and Ezra 7:8-28 to gain a greater understanding and biblical perspective for enduring our own trials and setbacks. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Seeking Justice Together is a virtual conference hosted by Citizens for Public Justice from May 17 to 20 exploring how we are called to seek justice together through intersectional, interpersonal, and interconnected approaches. Through a variety of keynotes and workshops, participants will explore living examples of what it looks like to seek justice as people connected to one another and to the lands in which we live. We will consider how our identities, histories, systems, and geography shape our experiences of power and privilege, and how this informs the ways in which each of us are called to seek justice together. Speakers and facilitators will address issues of racism, Indigenous/settler reconciliation, 2SLGBTQIA+ rights, disability

rights, poverty in Canada, climate justice, and refugee rights.

Register at cpi.ca/seeking-justice-together.

RESOURCES

Instructions for giving to Community CRC | 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. (for more information)

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



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.