

July 5, 2020

Kitchener, Ontario



Welcome to another edition of CCRC's bulletin! It has now been an unprecedented 17th Sunday in a row that we have not had the privilege to gather at the church for communal worship.

This Sunday, we will be live streaming a service at 10 AM. The video will be available for viewing live on the church website at 10 AM, and will remain on the website for viewing after the service is completed.

The past months have been largely unprecedented for many of us. We have been worshipping "together apart" now for many more weeks than we ever anticipated. With recent announcements from various governments about "re-opening", many of you will have questions on what CCRC is doing or planning. The Council of CCRC has been deliberating particularly in light of the government's recent announcement to re-open churches on how to proceed safely and with care for our members and would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on the rolling out of services in the upcoming weeks and months.

A COVID Committee was recently formed to report to the Council on research, recommendations, training and the procurement of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for managing the COVID environment at the church. The committee includes members with professional experience in the areas of healthcare and workplace health & safety. Council has approved protocols and procedures to allow for the current live streaming of services and future services where more congregants can gather in person. At this time, we are proceeding cautiously and carefully in opening the building to attendance at services. **A congregational letter with detailed information regarding plans for a phased roll-out of services will be sent out to members by email in the coming week.** We thank you for your patience and prayers as the Committee worked to make possible the live stream services and we encourage you to reach out with your questions and concerns as you review the information. Please feel free to contact Henry V, the Committee Chair or Alesha H, Clerk of Council.

The Council of Community CRC

The elders and deacons along with Pastor Amanda have been seeking to keep in touch with the entire congregation. If there are any concerns please don't hesitate to call one of the pastors, your Community elder or deacon or Shalem Mental Health Network using the Congregational Assistance Plan.



During COVID19 restrictions the CAP counselling ministry through Shalem Mental Health Network continues to make anonymous professional counselling support available to congregants of our church at no charge. All services are provided through a secured video or telephone connection.

To book a CAP appt, call Shalem directly at **1-866-347-0041**. And for more resource information check their website at <https://shalemnetwork.org/>

COMMUNITY CRC CHURCH FAMILY

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

We give thanks to God for his care over **Sandra K (9)** and we are happy to report that Sandra has tested negative for COVID – 19 and the outbreak at Forest Heights LTC has been declared over! Please keep all those from our church family who live in long term care in your prayers as they face ongoing challenges: **Frederika V (11)** at Chartwell Westmount; **Jenny W (9)** and **Dennis S (9)** at Lanark Heights, **Gine K (1)** at Columbia Forest Long Term Care.

Matters for Prayer:

- Pray for **Stephanie S** as she recovers from surgery and awaits results.
- Pray for guidance and wisdom for the Search Team as they begin their work searching for a Pastor – Preaching and Pastoral Care.
- Continue to lament the effects of the pandemic on our region, country and

world. Be bold before the Lord and pray for an end to the virus.

- Pray for continued safety as Waterloo Region and the province of Ontario continue the next stage of re-opening.
- Pray for courage, health, strength and safety for front line workers serving during this pandemic.
- Pray for those in leadership positions in government as they seek to guide us throughout the pandemic, and as they seek to work on easing restrictions.
- Pray for those dealing with mental illness and addiction which is exacerbated by the pandemic.
- Pray for those dealing with other illnesses that seem to have taken a back seat to COVID-19.
- Pray for those who find themselves stuck in abusive relationships or homes.
- **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.
- Pray for the church locally and internationally as it addresses COVID-19.

Pray for an ability to share the good news of Jesus even now.

Congratulations to **Johan and Wendy W** (9) as they will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary next Sunday, July 12, 2020. May the Lord continue to bless and strengthen their marriage for many years to come!

STAFF INFORMATION

Hello Community CRC! I am very excited to be joining your pastoral team again during this time of transition and change. The last time I was at CCRC was in November, 2018. Since then I have finished my Ph.D. in Theological Studies with an emphasis in Homiletics (a big word for the study of preaching), I have done work as a Visiting Scholar with the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship at Calvin University, and I served as an Interim Pastor of Preaching at Woodlawn CRC in the summer of 2019. My passion for serving the Church and preaching God's Good News has remained steady since I was with you last! My family still lives in Drayton, where my husband, Daniel, continues to serve as a co-pastor at Drayton Reformed Church. Our two boys, Emmett and Leo, are now 6 and 4 years old. They have been enjoying all the time at home with mom and dad, but like many kids, they miss their friends and fun summer traveling - especially trips to Michigan to see their grandmas and grandpas.

I look forward to catching up with many of you and making new connections over the course of the next year as I serve as your interim pastor.

Pastor Betsy

The church office hours | Donna V is currently working on a part-time basis of 20 hours per week. These hours are: Tuesday (9-4), Wednesday (9-4) and Friday (9-3). If you send an email or leave a phone message outside of these hours, it will be checked on the next working day during office hours. If you have a time sensitive matter, please contact your elder or pastor as needed.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Jul 12 | Pastor Betsy DeVries (Lord's Supper)

Jul 19 | Pastor Amanda Bakale

Jul 26 | Pastor Betsy DeVries

The live stream service will begin at 10 AM and will remain on the website for viewing afterwards.

Next Sunday 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.

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.

This week our offering is for Missionary Support. "Missionary Support" means becoming more intentional about our financial commitment to those called to serve in missions. The term Missionary support protects the identities of those mission workers who live in sensitive fields and it is the term used by Resonate Global Mission for direct financial

support of a missionary. We are aiming to raise \$15,000 for missionary support in 2020 in quarterly offerings.

Next week our offering is for the Centre for Public Dialogue. This is who the Centre for Public Dialogue is according to their website <https://www.crcna.org/PublicDialogue/about-us> : *"We are Reformed Christians who believe that every person is created in the image of Creator God. From this foundation, we work to promote the flourishing of all people through constructive dialogue and advocacy in Canada. We believe that God calls all Canadians to be engaged citizens and to stand with vulnerable and marginalized people in our communities as allies. As Christian citizens, we work toward a just world in which structures and institutions give every person the opportunity to thrive. **It's our goal to present a positive voice of faith in Canadian public life, and to live out justice, hope, and reconciliation in advocacy and citizenship.** Our main office sits around the corner from Parliament Hill in Ottawa, on unceded Algonquin territory. We are grateful and indebted to the Algonquin Nation for their hospitality. Our grassroots advisory committee comes from Christian Reformed and Reformed Church in America churches across Canada— from Halifax to Victoria."*

Upcoming Offerings:

July 19 | Laurentian Hills Christian School
July 26 | F.A.C.E. Fund (Financial Assistance for Christian Education)

Instructions for giving to the church

During the Church closure, the following donation methods are currently in place:

1. **PAR** – is the preferred method of giving at this time. We encourage you to sign up for our Pre-Authorized Remittance program: There

is a link on our website: ccrc.on.ca with instructions.

If you would like to stop your PAR payments, please contact our Treasurer at Treasurer@ccrc.on.ca.

2. You can mail your donations to the Church.
 - a. **The mail is being checked daily** from Monday-Friday and is secured in the church.
 - b. **Deposits are made on a weekly basis.**
 - c. At this time, please send cheques only – no cash. **We will accept vouchers** but please clearly the cause for which they are intended. We will not issue vouchers at this time.
 - d. Be sure to indicate if you are supporting the church budget, diaconate, or capital fund.
 - e. Be sure to include your envelope number OR name and address so that we can properly record for donation receipt purposes.
3. For second collections not tied directly to Community CRC, you can either donate directly to the organization (a link will be provided each week in the bulletin) or included with your mailed in donation. If you mail it to CCRC, please be sure to clearly indicate which cause you are supporting. The mailbox is checked daily from Monday – Friday.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact our Treasurer Kathy W or our Bookkeeper Diana W and they will happily help you.

Second Offerings

If you would like to donate to the second offering this can be done with your church envelope (indicate the cause and amount on your envelope) or you can donate directly to the cause through the link provided.

Offerings Received as at June 28, 2020

June 28	\$	6,828
Year to Date	\$	299,342
Budgeted 2020 Total Contributions	\$	885,705
Second Offerings		
Food Bank of Waterloo Region	\$	200
World Renew – Disaster Response Services	\$	200

COMMUNITY CRC NEWS

Calling Committee Update | The church building might be closed, but there is a lot of exciting things happening at CCRC! In light of Pastor Carel's retirement and Pastor John accepting a call to Bellflower, California, a Calling Committee was formed this spring with the task of seeking the position of **Pastor – Preaching & Pastoral Care**. The committee which is comprised of Kim T, Agnes B, Mia F, Scott K, Jim R, Greg S, and Laura D, have already met a number of times via Zoom to start the search process.

After reviewing the Church Survey Analysis Report, Pastoral job descriptions, and other church resources, the committee has put together a church packet for applicants that gives a snapshot of our congregation and information regarding the position we seek to fill. We have created a job posting which will soon be advertised on the church website at www.ccrc.on.ca/careers and we welcome your suggestions for potential candidates by e-mailing careers@ccrc.on.ca. Throughout the summer and into early fall, the committee will be reviewing the potential candidates and will aim to interview and make recommendations to council by this coming winter. Throughout this process, we ask for your continued prayers for wisdom, discernment, and perseverance as we seek the Lord's will for CCRC.

Join a Deepening Faith Cluster - Sign up extended to Monday, July 13 | 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 over the summer at a time and place that works best for the group. Interested? Let Pastor Amanda know by Monday, July 13.

Upcoming Baptism Sundays: July 26 + August 23 | Are you looking to be baptized or to have your child baptized? The pastoral elders and Pastor Amanda would love to work with you to figure out what this sacrament can look like in a safe way during this time of Covid-19. Please contact your pastoral elder or Pastor Amanda for more information.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

Join the Team at World Renew! - We are compelled by God's deep passion for justice & mercy, we join communities around the world to renew hope, reconcile lives, and restore creation. If you're passionate about this mission and want to join our team check out the following career opportunities: Associate Director, Human Resources, based in Grand Rapids, MI; and Marketing Communications Writer - Parental Leave, based in Burlington, ON. See our website for more details about these opportunities and the links to apply: <https://worldrenew.net/careers>.

MISCELLANEOUS

Woodland Christian High School is seeking a full time Business Director for this fall. For more information please go to <https://www.woodland.on.ca/woodland-news/career-opportunity>.

Two Bedroom Walkout Basement Apartment in Christian Home Available August 1, 2020

Bright, clean, open concept 1300 sq.ft. apartment located in Kitchener. Separate entrance. 3-piece bathroom. Fridge, stove, dishwasher, and washer/dryer provided. Two parking spots. Large outdoor deck. 5 min walk to bus stop. For more information or to view, please email the church office for contact info.