



This series brings us the gifts of Advent as found in the stories in Luke 1 leading up to the birth of Christ. The season of Advent is one of waiting, and so we wait in eager anticipation and expectation in hope. In each of the four weeks leading up to Christmas, we will discover a gift that God gives. Through the stories of Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary, we will find that God gives the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. And as we ponder their stories, we will look at our own stories to find what gifts God might have for us. This will culminate with Christmas Day when we reflect on the gift of the birth of Jesus.

Welcome | We're glad you could join us as we grow in relationship to God, each other, and our community. May the Lord bless your time of worship with us today! We would like to get to know you, so please fill out the Visitor Form on the back of the bulletin and put it in the offering plates or bring it to the Information Centre.

Childcare & Sunday School | Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no nursery available at this time. However, following the Children's Blessing, children ages 4 to Grade 3 are invited to participate in Sunday school in our gym. Children ages 4-5 need to be registered online and signed in and out by a parent or guardian.

Fellowship | You are invited for fellowship in the parking lot while maintaining physical distancing. Following the service, please be seated and the ushers will dismiss you from the pews.

Accessibility | A hearing loop system is installed in the sanctuary. To use, switch your hearing aid or cochlear implant to the "T" (Telecoil or Telephone) position. Portable listening devices are available at the sound booth. The Information Centre has LARGE PRINT Bibles available.

10:00 AM Worship Service

Preacher: Rebecca Bokma (Seminary Student) Liturgist: Pastor Amanda Bakale Elder-in-Charge: Dave H

GATHERING AND GREETING

Gathering Song	"Jesus Messiah"
Welcome and Announcements	
Call to Worship	
God's Greeting	
Song of Praise	"Hark the Glad Sound"

CANDLE LIGHTING

Lighting of the Advent Candle	
Advent Declaration	
Song	"Christ Be Our Light"

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Institution	
The Promises of God	
Confession of Faith	The Apostles' Creed
Song	"Ten Thousand Reasons (Bless the Lord)"
The Vows	
The Baptism of Brooke H and Matthew B	
Baptismal Prayer	
Song	"Jesus Loves Me"
Children's Blessing	Children ages 4 – Grade 3 are now invited to participate in Sunday School

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Song of Illumination	"Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)"
Prayer of Illumination	
Scripture Reading	Luke 1: 5-25
Sermon	The Gifts of Advent: The Gift of Hope
Prayer of Application	

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Song of Response	"By Faith"
Offering Announcement	1) Ministries of Community CRC 2) The Benevolence Fund
Prayers of the People	
God's Parting Blessing	
Doxology	"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Please leave the building immediately after the ushers dismiss you from the pews.
You are welcome to fellowship in the parking lot while maintaining social distance.

Join us this evening at 7:00 pm for the Blue Christmas Service

As we go into this advent season, we are holding a “Blue Christmas” service to make space and take time to acknowledge our sadness and mixed emotions around this season. Come and join in prayers, Scripture, singing and candle-lighting that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle - and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Please feel free to invite others to come with you, as your support, or if you know that they too are finding that Christmas hurts. This service will also be live streamed or you can sign up at the following link: <https://ccrc-bluechristmasservice.eventbrite.ca>

COMMUNITY CRC NEWS

Administrative Council Meeting Highlights Tuesday November 23, 2021

- Received and reviewed various staff and ministry reports and meeting minutes.
- Council heard a request for a parent-led 3-year-old Sunday school and is in support of trialing this program given safe church and COVID protocol compliance.
- Council approved vacation request from Pastor Tom for the week of December 6-13
- Council continues to discuss the Human Sexuality Report (HSR) and our response. There are plans to submit an overture to Classis focused on the Confessional status portion of the report. More information to follow
- The Nominations Committee is starting to look to fill upcoming vacancies. If you want to volunteer or know someone who would fill this role well, please talk to your Community Elder or Deacon, or Judy H (Chair of the Nom Com).
- Council approved the recommended name to fill covering the administrative duties of the Worship Coordinator during Rachel's maternity leave.
- Council discussed the suggestion that was brought up at the congregational meeting to host an additional service which requires proof of vaccine to attend. Watch for a survey sent to your email to get your opinion heard.

- Council is excited to hear that Laura D accepted our call and will be here January 17th.
- Council continues to wrestle with the issues in the HSR and would like to draw the congregation's attention to three resources: “All one Body”, The Abide Project”, and “The Hekman's Library”. This is in response to the HSR and it captures the scope of the internal conversations within the CRC. Council does not endorse any of these sites rather wants the congregation to have access to the conversations and material available.
- “All One Body” is largely against supporting the HSR, “The Abide Project” is largely in support of the HSR, and the Hekman Library is where you can find church's overtures which range from supporting and standing against the HSR.

We are looking for 15 people to serve in the 8 elder and 7 deacon positions that will become vacant in June 2022. **Could God be calling you to serve this way?** Come to a meeting at the church on January 18, 2022 to find out more about being an elder or deacon and to begin the process of discernment. Contact Pastor Tom or Judy H for more information.

Pictures needed | Did you take pictures during 2021 while at church or attending a church ministry or event? If so, we would love to have them. We would love to show them in a PowerPoint of 2021 highlights for the New

Year's Eve service. These pictures will not be posted on social media. Please send them to the church office at office@ccrc.on.ca.

Cadets and GEMS are meeting on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 with the following schedule going forward:

December 2 | Grades 2-4 meeting

December 9 | Grades 5-8 meeting

December 16 | Outdoor Family Christmas Party

We are still looking for more volunteers! Please sign up at [gems@ccrc.on.ca](https://www.ccrcc.on.ca).

Friday Night Dinner | December 3 @ 6-8pm Hey young adult folks! This coming Friday we'd love to have you over for a delicious meal and good conversation. If you're a regular or have never been to FND, you are welcome! Message Pastor Amanda to claim a spot by Thursday, Dec 2. *(Note: Because we have two tiny unvaccinated people in our home, we're asking those who come out are double-vaccinated to protect our tinies and to protect each other. Thanks! Pastor Amanda + Brian)*

A note from Gary T (sponsored missionary of Community CRC) | As you know, Galina and I are engaged in a new front for Resonate Global Mission, as we've embarked on a 2-year journey that makes us innovators of blending domestic (former Home Mission) with international (former World Mission) Gospel ministry along our missionary trail. Diaspora ministries is a major strategy focus with Resonate these days. To hear of our experience and how the leaders of Resonate Global Mission see all this, you may want to sign up for a Resonate missions-promo event happening **online on Dec. 2. This 1-hour event features my unfolding of this "pioneer" role in a brief 10-minute spotlight.** Other "Resonaters", including Canadian director Kevin d and Eurasia field director Joyce S, will be sharing the spotlight with me, and then the hour will finish with a substantial time of Q&A where we will answer your questions. Check the

emailed version of the bulletin for more information.

Volunteers Needed | Are you looking for a place to get involved in the church? We are looking for volunteers in various ministries and areas throughout the church. Interested? Go to the website to see where there are volunteer opportunities and how you might be able to give of your time and talents. Go to:

<https://www.ccrcc.on.ca/volunteers>

UPCOMING SERVICES

Dec 5	10 am	2 nd Sunday of Advent Pastor Tom Bomhof C# 1, 2, 3, 4
Dec 12	10 am	3 rd Sunday of Advent Pastor Amanda Bakale Lord's Supper C# 9, 11, 13, 14
Dec 19	10 am	4 th Sunday of Advent Pastor Tom Bomhof C# 5, 6, 7, 8
	6:30 pm	Pastor Amanda Bakale Candlelight Service All Communities

Upcoming Baptism Sundays | Are you looking to be baptized or to have your child baptized? The next Baptism Sunday is scheduled for the new year on **January 30, 2022 (note the change of date)**. If you are interested in one of these dates, please contact the church office.

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 go online to www.ccrcc.on.ca/giving.

This week our offering is for the Benevolence Fund. This fund is used by the deacons to financially assist those within our church and the community when a need arises or help is requested.

Next week our offering is for Calvin University. Calvin University is a Christian academic community dedicated to rigorous intellectual inquiry. Calvin students study the liberal arts and select from a broad range of majors and professional programs. The university fosters scholarship that creates new knowledge, that performs creative work, and that sustains natural and cultural resources.

Flood Relief - British Columbia | In response to the flood damage in British Columbia, our Church has been in touch with Gateway CRC and New Life CRC in Abbotsford to see how we can best help. Both churches are dealing with the flood impacts, on a personal and community level. New Life for example is seeking donations to help families with the cost of replacing kitchen appliances and is donating food. Gateway is working with Christian Stewardship Services to help with the long-term impacts of this disaster. The Deacons will hold special offerings today, Sunday, November 28th and Sunday December 5th, to help the overall recovery needs. There will be a third offering "bucket" together with the 2 normal ones in the main lobby. If paying by cheque please make payable directly to Community CRC. Thank you ...The Deacons.

Upcoming Offerings:

- Dec 12 | Missionary Support
- Dec 19 | House of Friendship

Offerings received as at November 21, 2021:

November 14, 2021	\$	4,130
Year to Date	\$	703,709
Budgeted 2021 Total Contributions	\$	923,460
Second Offerings		
Chaplaincy and Care Ministry	\$	298
Missionary Support	\$	275
Benevolence	\$	225
World Renew – World Hunger	\$	100
Woodland Christian High School	\$	50
Laurentian Hills Christian School	\$	50
Faith Formation Ministries	\$	50
Disability Concerns	\$	50
Race Relations	\$	50

Note: Offerings received through the Bridge App are counted once a month and are not reflected in each week's offering amount

COMMUNITY CRC CHURCH FAMILY

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

Give thanks to God that Pastor Laura accepted our call to be the Interim Pastor – Preaching and Pastoral Care! Please keep Pastor Laura in prayers over the next few weeks as she transitions from Second CRC in Grand Haven to CCRC.

Bill H (14) is at Grand River Hospital and is awaiting a transfer to long term care. Pray for Bill as he deals with this change and for **Geralee** and the family as they care for him.

We continue to pray for **Don F (8)** for strength and patience as he manages pain and ongoing treatments for cancer. Because this leaves him

mostly home-bound, Don would welcome phone calls for connection and conversation.

Albert O (1) was released from the hospital this past week due to some health issues. Please pray for Albert and Johanna over the next two weeks as they hope Albert is able to mend and manage without further medical intervention.

Please keep **Gary B (8)** in your prayers as he is recuperating at home following recent back surgery.

MATTERS FOR PRAYER

- Pray for those affected by the flooding in BC and for churches who are helping with the response.
- Pray that God would raise up leaders for our Youth and Children's ministries.
- Pray that our members will provide names for potential candidates for the position of Pastor – Preaching and Pastoral Care and pass them on to the Search Committee.
- Pray for **Gary and Galina T** with Resonate Global Missions, **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.

STAFF INFORMATION

Pastor Amanda will be on vacation this week and will return to the office on December 6. Please contact Pastor Tom should a need or concern arise during this time.

Donna V, Administrative Clerk, will be on vacation this week. She will be back in the office on December 8.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ray of Hope | Dear Community CRC,

Thank you for your generous support for Ray of Hope. We gratefully received \$1000 from your benevolence fund and wanted to express our deep gratitude. As a local mission, Ray of Hope helps people cope with poverty, hunger and homelessness in Kitchener/Waterloo. The pandemic forced Ray of Hope to “pivot”. As everything was shutting down we decided to open more. Following all of the public health guidelines we increased our meal service from one meal per day to three meals per day. Most of those meals are “boxed” and taken “to go” by our guests. Now, with restrictions lifting the Community centre once again opening to guests and we need volunteers. If you or a team from your church would like to become a volunteer to help prepare meals for the homeless please go to our website and sign up. The commitment is small and the reward is great. Here is the link: [Volunteer - Ray of Hope](#).

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

Children's Devotions | A Time of Hope | Waiting for something can be hard. Looking forward means that something special hasn't arrived yet. Have you given your life to Jesus yet? So, what are you waiting for? Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content, including The Gifts of Kindness Advent Calendar and the KC parent blog too.

Groundwork | Christmas Hope: Tamar | If you feel far from God this Christmas, or if you just need a reminder that nothing can separate you from his love, then join Groundwork as we study Matthew 1:1-3, Genesis 38, and Romans 8:35-39. Together we'll be reminded of the real meaning of Christmas and find hope in the story of Tamar. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

CHURCH RESOURCES

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. For more information go our website at www.ccrcc.on.ca and click “Counseling Services” under the “Ministries” tab



shalem
Mental Health Network