



Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is that time of year when we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ at Christmas. This Advent season we are focusing our attention on the most frequently repeated command in the Bible: "Do not be afraid!" As we face an uncertain winter ahead, this command takes on particular relevance. It is also repeated throughout the usual Christmas stories – to Zechariah, to Mary, to Joseph, and to the shepherds when they see angelic messengers. We can relate to the deep fears of the characters in these stories: the fear of disappointment, the fear of having to revision our lives, the fear of a ruined reputation, and the fear of bad news. The angels' command, "Do not fear," is an invitation for us to take comfort in the providential care of God which is most visible to us through the baby in the manger, Jesus Christ.

We will continue with the registration process in order to make sure we do not exceed our capacity of 100.

December 6: 11, 13, 5, 2
December 13: 9, 8, 6, 14

Wed December 9: Blue Christmas
Wed December 16: Candlelight Service

All attendees are required to wear a mask and maintain a 2-meter physical distancing both in the building and while outside. Following the government guidelines, seating goes by who you live with under the same roof NOT who is in your bubble.

Our services will continue to be live streamed, so those who are not comfortable returning or who are unable to return can continue to worship with us. If there are issues with the live stream a seamless video will be posted to the CCRC website (Vimeo) after the service on Sunday afternoon. Be sure to watch the video from the church website or YouTube.

Watch the worship service on Sunday morning for the story to be read by one of the Sunday School leaders. This week's story is "Jesus Calms The Storm".

This Sunday, November 29, is the Congregational meeting. **If you would like to attend the meeting in person,** please sign up for in-person worship through the link that was emailed on Monday. The meeting will start immediately following the service.

10:00am Worship Service

Worship Participants this week:

Preacher: Pastor Amanda Bakale **Litanist:** Pastor Betsy DeVries

GATHERING AND GREETING

Gathering Song: "King Of Kings"

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Call to Worship

God's Greeting

Song of Praise: "Glory (Let There Be Peace)"

CANDLE LIGHTING

Lighting of the Advent candle

Song "Christ Be Our Light"

Children's Worship Story Jesus Calms The Storm

Children's Song "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands"

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Song of Preparation "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Isiah 11: 1-10

Sermon: "Advent Longing"

Prayer of Application

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Song of Response "O Little Town Of Bethlehem"

Offering Announcements 1) Ministries of Community Christian Reformed Church

2) The Benevolence Fund

Prayers of the People

God's Parting Blessing

Doxology: "Father, We Love You"

Our condolences are extended to several families in our community.

Pete and Joyce D (4) with the passing of Pete's brother, Keith. Keith passed away on November 18, and a service was held in Peterborough on November 28.

Rob K (8) and his extended family. Rob's nephew, Dalles, died unexpectedly this week. Dalles leaves behind a wife, Michelle, and a grief-stricken family.

Pastor Amanda (8) and her family with the loss of her grandmother, Myrt B. Due to Covid restrictions and high case count in Michigan, Pastor Amanda and her family will not be travelling home for the funeral.

May God comfort each family with the assurance of his presence and the hope of resurrection. Please remember the families in your prayers as they mourn this loss.

Pastor John and Ashley are happy to announce that Ryan John has a baby brother! Eli Augustine Medendorp was born on November 25, 2020, just in time for American Thanksgiving! The whole family is doing well. You can send your congratulations on to John and Ashley.

We would like to thank our church family for the support, prayers and cards which we have received in the past few weeks after our sister, Joanne, passed away. As a family, we are comforted that Joanne is now in heaven, her mind and body perfect, glorifying her God and Saviour. **Peter and Minnie H.**

Matters for Prayer:

- Pray for our sister-church, The Journey, as they seek to call a pastor in the near future. May the Spirit lead them well and clearly in their discernment.

- Pray for those who are joining us as new members in this difficult time. May they feel connected and enfolded even while we maintain distance.
- Pray for guidance and wisdom for the Search Team as they continue the process of seeking a candidate for the position for a Pastor-Preaching and Pastoral Care.
- Pray for folks to step up into much-needed volunteer positions on the Mission Strategy Team, Impact Youth Ministry, and the audio-visual team for Sunday morning worship.
- Pray for our provincial and municipal leader and front line workers as the case numbers of COVID are increasing across the country.
- Pray for those with ongoing health concerns and those dealing with illness that seem to have taken a back seat to COVID-19.
- Pray for those seeking employment or experiencing job loss.
- Pray for those dealing and struggling with mental health which can be exacerbated by the pandemic.
- Pray for **Anthony and Barbara P.** with Daystar Ministries on Manitoulin Island, **Hank and Rosario S.** volunteering in Guatemala, **Pastor Brian Bork** serving with Waterloo Campus Ministry and **Shannon Cook** serving as Chaplain at Forest Heights Long term care home.

Are you struggling with anxiety or depression? Would it help to talk to someone? As a congregation, CCRC has committed to providing no-charge counselling sessions to all members through **Shalem Mental Health Network**. To book a counselling appt, call Shalem directly at 1-866-347-0041. And for more resource

information check their website at <https://shalemnetwork.org/>.

STAFF NEWS

Sherrie M. will be on vacation from November 30-December 6. **Marcella G.** will be covering for Sherrie.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Dec 6 | 10:00 a.m. Pastor Betsy DeVries
Second Sunday of Advent

Wed Dec 9 | 7:00 p.m Pastor Betsy DeVries
Blue Christmas

Dec 13 | 10:00 a. m Pastor Amanda Bakale
Third Sunday of Advent
Celebration of Lord's Supper

Wed Dec 16 | 7:00 p.m. Pastor Amanda Bakale
and Pastor Betsy DeVries
Candlelight Service

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 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. You can give to this cause via the PAR donation by using your church envelope

Next week our offering is for Calvin University. Calvin University is a Christian Reformed undergraduate that equips students, to think

deeply, to act justly, and to live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world.

Upcoming Offerings:

Dec 9 p.m. | Missionary Support
Dec 13 | Laurentian Hills Christian School
Dec 16 p.m. | Missionary Support
Dec 20 | House Of Friendship

Offerings Received as at November 22, 2020 including Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR):

November 22	\$	8,120
Year to Date	\$	607,567
Budgeted 2020 Total Contributions	\$	885,705
Second Offerings		
Waterloo Campus Ministry	\$	25
Benevolence	\$	320
Missionary Support (Pennings & Timmermans)	\$	1,041
Laurentian Hills Christian School	\$	25
Chaplaincy and Care Ministry	\$	230
Calvin University		25

COMMUNITY CRC NEWS

We have an urgent need for accommodations for a 1 bedroom apartment in Kitchener/Waterloo. If you are able to help or know of a place that might be available please contact the Deacons or send an email to office@ccrc.on.ca.

Faith Formation Activity: This Advent we are happy to share two opportunities for faith formation. For families with kids through grade school, we have shared a devotional called "Do Not Be Afraid" which includes five devotions, coloring pages, crafts, and an Advent calendar of activities you can do together each day. Check your email to download and print these

devotions - they were sent to the whole congregation earlier this week. For older families and individuals, we encourage you to sign-up for the daily devotional reflections on the book of Micah, called "He Will Be Our Peace". These devotions are put together by World Renew, Resonate Global Missions, and CRC Office of Social Justice, and include reflections from CRC ministries around the world! Head over to justice.crcna.org/advent to sign-up to have these devotions emailed directly to you.

Coffee Break | Meets this week with the virtual small group meeting on Monday night via Zoom at 7:30 p.m. We are studying the book of Hebrews and the book *Women of the Word* by Jen Wilkin. In person meetings at the church have been temporarily suspended until further notice. If you have any questions please connect Irene F. Kirstin B.

Impact | Gr 9-12 folks, come on out for an outdoor fireside chat, music, snacks, and good people. 7-8:30pm @ CCRC.

Friday Night Dinner is back! (Well, kinda.) Drop by **Pastor Amanda and Brian's** backyard on **Friday, December 4** between 7-8pm for an informal **outdoor** gathering. There'll be twinkly lights, a fire, hot cocoa, and warm popcorn. We'll keep our distance, keep each other safe, and enjoy each other's company. Come for 5 minutes just to say hi and grab a hot cocoa or stay for a little longer and connect with folks you haven't seen in a while. We've missed having you all over and we'd love to see your (masked) faces even briefly.

The Admin Council is looking for interested people to maintain CCRC's policy handbook.

The staff at CCRC have worked hard to update and compile our policies. In order to keep these policies relevant, we are looking for a few

members (who have a knack for filing and sorting) who would meet 1-3 time/year to review the policies and keep this handbook up to date.

We are also looking for members to review our ministry shares.

The CRCNA has recently changed how the ministry shares program works. In response, it seems prudent to review the changes and re-evaluate what our participating in the program could look like.

If either of these tasks interests you and you would like to help out, please email **Alesha H.**

Knifty Knitters | will not be meeting for the remainder of the year.

Cadets | will not be meeting in the month of December.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM - A group of CRCNA agencies is collaborating to expose the Hidden Crisis of gender-based violence (GBV), this horror and pain inflicted on women and girls around the world for the "crime" of being female. Together, we have joined in the UN Women's initiative, 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM (November 25–December 10), to raise awareness of the causes and impacts of GBV and how Christians can make an impact on families' lives and bring hope for the future. Join us for a specialized podcast, webinars, advocacy opportunities, Bible study material, educational video, and more. Find out more details in this CRCNA Network article: <https://bit.ly/gbv2020>

Faith Formation Ministries

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Generosity: We often associate generosity with financial giving, but we can also cultivate a generous spirit in our relationships. Ponder how

you might practice this in daily life, perhaps by focusing on refraining from mental criticism, attributing the best motives to people's actions, being "present" and attentive when spending time with others (especially children), or doing acts of random kindness. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices.)

Miscellaneous

Redeemer University performance | "Stranger in the Land". Written and directed by Redeemer's own Professor Ray Louter, Stranger in the Land is the story of Anne Vander Berg, a woman coming to terms with generational trauma and her connection to the people who immigrated to Canada after the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. The performance will be recorded and released digitally on December 12. For more details, visit redeemer.ca/stranger-in-the-land

Safe Church Ministry: December Webinar: Raising our Voices - This webinar will feature two courageous people who will raise their voices to share with us from their own experience of abuse, what it was like for them and how the church responded in ways that were helpful, and perhaps sometimes in ways that were unhelpful. What can we learn for the future? Learn more: network.crcna.org/safe-church/raising-our-voices

RESOURCES

Instructions for giving to Community CRC

As we begin to meet again, the following donation methods are currently in place:

1. PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) – is the preferred method of giving.

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.**

4. If you are registered to attend the Church service, you may bring in your donation.

Notes:

- You may use your vouchers (only for second collections) - please mark clearly which cause they are intended for.
 - We are not issuing vouchers at this time.
5. **NEW** 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.