

Community Christian Reformed Church
Kitchener, Ontario



December 4, 2016

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10:00 a.m.

Pastor John Medendorp

Elder-in-Charge: Adom P

[* Please rise, in body or spirit]

Advent is a four-week season of preparation for Christmas (sort of like Lent before Easter), and in the historic church has been a time of fasting, prayer, and generosity. One of the traditional themes of Advent is walking a mile in the shoes of ancient Israel, as they wait for the coming Messiah (since we find ourselves post-ascension in a similar state of waiting for the Messiah's return). These themes sort of move "backward" in time as the season progresses, starting with a focus on the new creation, and moving toward a focus on the person of the Messiah, culminating on Christmas Day with the declaration of Isaiah 62: "Behold, your Saviour comes!" Throughout, we will be focusing on the theme of **peace**, which is a central characteristic of the coming Kingdom and the coming Messiah.

This year is a little odd in that Christmas and New Year's Day are both on Sundays, so Council has approved the option of not having evening services on those days. Otherwise, the Advent services are as follows:

Today (December 4) is the second Sunday of Advent. Pastor John will be leading the service this morning and will be focussing on the *"coming King from the line of Jesse who will establish God's **Kingdom of Peace** on earth."*

Our evening service will focus on the theme of Advent waiting through the story of Naomi in the Book of Ruth. The service will offer space for prayer, reflection, and silence. If you are looking for rest from the craziness and hoopla of the holiday season or if you are feeling more empty than full this Advent, please join us for worship this evening at 6 p.m.

December 11 we celebrate the Lord's Supper in the morning service followed by the Friendship Christmas service in the evening.

December 18 we are excited about the celebration of the baptism of two of our youngest members. The evening service will be our annual Candlelight Service where we will be joined by the choir.

December 25 is the Christmas Day Service at 10:00 a.m. with the choir participating. Following our Christmas celebrations, we will have a **New Year's Eve service on December 31 (7:00 p.m.)**, and a **New Year's Day service on January 1 at 10:00 a.m.**

Gathering and Greeting

Gathering Song: *"You Are Holy (Prince of Peace)"*

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

*God's Greeting and Mutual Greeting

*Songs of Praise: PsH #329 *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*
"Better Is One Day"

Confession and Assurance

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*Song of Response: PsH #351 *"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*

*Confession of Faith

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Kingdom Kids (Children 3 – Grade 3) are now invited to participate in Sunday School. Children (ages 3-5) only need to be signed in and out by a parent or guardian.

Proclamation of the Word

Song of Preparation: *"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10

Sermon: **"A Shoot from Jesse"**

Response to the Word

Children in Grades 4-6 are invited to participate in their weekly sermon discussion

Special Music: *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

Prayers of the People

Offering: 1) Ministries of Community CRC

2) Woodland Christian High School

Offertory Music: *"10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"*

*God's Parting Blessing

*Doxology: PsH #635 *"Glory Be to the Father"*

All Nursery Volunteers: There will be a short meeting after the service today to review the new nursery procedures and sign-in forms.
Please remain in the sanctuary following the service.

**The congregation is asked to remain in their seats after the service to allow the Pastor and people with special duties or disabilities to exit first.
Please exit when the music begins.**



**Following the meeting, everyone is invited to come together for fellowship and coffee/tea/juice in the gymnasium.
Coffee for seniors is served in the Multi-Purpose room.**

6:00 pm

Pastor Amanda Bakale

Pianist: Lorraine V

[* *Please rise, in body or spirit*]

Praise and Prayer

Welcome

Call to Worship: Psalm 130

*God's Greeting

*Opening Song: PsH #328 vs. 1,2,4,6 "*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*"

*Confession of Faith

*Song of Response: "*Wait for the Lord*"

Prayer and Reflection

Offering: Woodland Christian High School

Hearing the Word

Song of Preparation: PsH #481 "*Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*"

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1

Sermon: 'Living With(out) Hope'

Prayer of Application

Song of Response: PsH #568 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

God Blessing

Doxology: "Three-Fold Amen"

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

The bracketed numbers indicate the Community to which these individuals belong

John N (3) is doing well and the doctors are very pleased with his progress after surgery at Hamilton General Hospital to remove what turned out to be a tumor from his brain. However, follow-up treatments are needed and so John will be starting radiation treatments this week in Juravinski Hospital in Hamilton. Pray for safety in travels to Hamilton and for strength to sustain the treatments.

Sue M (3) spent this past week in ICU at St. Mary's Hospital with heart issues. It has not been an easy week for Sue and the final course of treatment has also not been determined. Pray for health and encouragement.

Your prayers are coveted for **Claire N**, a 6th grade student at Laurentian Hills Christian School, whose cancer has returned. Claire's father **Terry N is a nephew to John and Ruth N.**

The Congregation is asked to pray for a baby, **George D**, who is in Sick Kids Hospital recovering from injuries after a car accident that killed his mother, Susanna. Also pray for his father and grandmother who

survived the crash. Susanna is a cousin to Ligia and Ovi G, members of Grandview Baptist church and members of our church's Monday Night Cycling group. Susanna had moved to Canada a short while ago and the family were on their way to visit Ligia and Ovi the night of the accident.

John and Tina B (8) and **Joanne O** (2) are presently volunteering with World Renew Disaster Response Services in Century, Florida due to tornados. They will be there until this Saturday, December 10. Pray for safety, good health, a meaningful experience with opportunities for them to touch and give hope to hurting people in this relief ministry.

Please continue to pray for:

- those dealing with various illness among members of their extended family;
- those dealing with depression and other forms of mental illness;
- those dealing with cancer;
- those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis because of various health issues;

- those who are unemployed or underemployed;
- **John and Jane H** with Samaritan Foundation in the Dominican Republic; **Anthony and Barbara P** with Daystar Ministries on Manitoulin Island; **David and Jessica O** with World Renew in Senegal; **Kim H** with CRWM in Guatemala, **Hank and Rosario S** volunteering with CRWM in Guatemala;
- **persecuted Christians**
- the Ministries and the Leadership of our congregation.

Congratulations to **Marjo M** (14) who celebrates her birthday on December 9th. May she experience God's richest blessings in the coming year and as she celebrates her birthday!

Sunday Coffee/Tea: The gift of hospitality, such as serving refreshments on Sunday morning, is such a blessing for so many. Not only do the servers have the opportunity to talk to people they rarely speak to but also for everyone to stop and chat and build relationships. Thank you to those who served coffee in November.

Christmas Day Coffee: Christmas is a day when a lot of people have family commitments and plans that require them to be out of town or to leave directly after church. For this reason, no official Coffee Servers were scheduled for December 25. If you are going to be here and feel that you would like bless others on Christmas Day with refreshments, please let Donna in the church office know.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Dec 11	10 a.m.	Pastor Amanda Lord's Supper
	6 p.m.	Pastor John Friendship Service
Dec 18	10 a.m.	Pastor John Baptisms: Ezra F Gavin S
	6 p.m.	Pastor Carel Candlelight Service

OFFERING SCHEDULE

**Budget Contributions
For Nov 27, 2016**

	Actual Contributions Received	Targeted Contributions	Accumulated (Shortfall)/ Surplus
Nov 27	\$11,575	\$12,845	(\$1,270)
YTD	\$686,870	\$762,915	(\$76,046)
CRWM – Kim H			\$ 2,606.00
FACE (Financial Assistance for Christian Education)			\$ 1,030.00
Ray of Hope			\$ 70.00

This week our offering is for Woodland Christian High School. Woodland Christian High School is a vibrant Christian community of learning where the love of God is evident and where students will be equipped to serve in our society as followers of Christ.

Woodland Christmas Concert: You are invited to join the Woodland Christian High School community on **Thursday, December 15 at 7:30 pm** for their annual Christmas concert. A variety of performances will be presented as they celebrate the Christmas

season and the musical gifts of their students. You are welcome to enjoy this evening with them!

Next week our offering will be for the House of Friendship. *“House of Friendship was founded in 1939 by a women’s prayer group with the support of local Christian churches. Originally, House of Friendship was a store-front mission on King Street in downtown Kitchener. The mission was a response of the local Christian community to the physical and spiritual needs of immigrants and disadvantaged individuals regardless of race or creed in the volatile era of the late 1930’s. Over the years, the mission has evolved into a charitable social service agency serving thousands that is a vital part of the social service network of Waterloo Region, providing food and assistance, shelter and supportive housing, addiction treatment, and community development and summer camp.”*

Vouchers: Current vouchers will expire Dec 31, 2016. Please keep this date in mind when ordering voucher purchases. Vouchers purchased in December will have 2017 expiry date. Purchases can be made in the usual way using your budget envelope. At year end, if you still have 2016 vouchers, they can be exchanged for 2017 vouchers. If you have any questions, please contact Karen V.

COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWS

Highlights from the Council meeting of November 22, 2016

- Community CRC has been accepted as part of the Faith Formation Cohort offered by CRC's Faith Formation Ministries. Pastor Amanda and Faith Formation liaison, Diana Z will be meeting with our assigned coach, Rev. Lesli V. For more information, please contact Pastor Amanda.
- The Community Ministries Team will be leading “kitchen table conversations” with officebearers and Community Care Group Leaders to evaluate how the Community Model is working.

The Christmas Choir: There is still time to join the Christmas Choir! Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. and finish around 8:30 p.m. Tenors and Basses are especially needed. The pieces will be performed during the Candlelight and Christmas Day services. If you have any questions please contact Kyle.

Cadets (boys 7-13) will meet tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. at the church.



L.A.F.F. (Life After Fifty Five) will meet this week at the church. Coffee and Fellowship will start at 10:00 a.m. with the meeting to start at **10:30 a.m. (note the change in time)**. There will be a short Christmas program followed by the next lesson on Joseph. Lunch will be pizza and will be \$5.00/person.

Friendship: On Tuesday, December 6,  during our regular meeting time we will have a practice for our Friendship Christmas service and then a time for a gift exchange between mentor and friend. The gift should be small but have a special meaning for the mentor and friend. Also, we ask that all mentors bring a special Christmas snack to share.

On Sunday, December 11, at 6:00 pm, we will have our Christmas service. All the members of the congregation are invited to attend! There will be snacks and drinks afterwards. Mentors, please be at the church at least 15 minutes before the service to assist with costumes. This will be our last Friendship event for 2016.

The Deacons will meet this Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room at the church.

Volleyball: All are welcome to join in this Tuesday, at 8:30 p.m. (for fun and non-competitive volleyball. If you have questions or would like to know more, please contact Adom P or check out our Facebook Page "Volleyball at CCRC".

Ladies: all ages are welcome to join us for  **Coffee Break Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. here in the multipurpose room.** Nursery and preschool classes (up to age SK) are provided. Join one of our current studies: The Parables of Jesus, Jennie Allen's "Restless" DVD study or "Women of the Word" by Jen Wilkin. You are also invited to join us for a Christmas Potluck on the morning of Wednesday, December 14th.

For more information, contact coffeebreak@ccrc.on.ca.

GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Saviour – girls ages 7–13) will meet on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the church.



Youth News

Student Impact (Grades 9 – 12)

Student Impact will be having a Bible Study evening on Wednesday, December 7th from 7-9 PM. We will be wrapping up our discernment series with a discussion lead by Pastor John about music.

On Wednesday, December 21, Student Impact will be having a Christmas event from 6:30-9 PM. We will be having a dinner and Christmas games night. Please sign up on the youth board, and specify whether you would like Chinese food or Swiss Chalet. Wear your ugly Christmas sweaters, and bring a wrapped recycled gift for a gift exchange game. The cost for this event will be \$10. Hope to see you there!

Faith and Hops - Thursday, December 15 @ 5-7pm: We took a break in November, but we're back for December! If you're a 20ish to 30-something looking for a place to connect and deepen your faith, come on out to Faith and Hops at Williamsburg Arms. Once a month we get together for engaging discussion, fried goo, and a beverage of your choice. There's a seat waiting for you!

Student Impact is looking for more youth to become involved with worship at CCRC.

If you have musical abilities and are at all interested in being part of a praise team, please talk to John L.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

For all of the announcements, employment and volunteer opportunities available through the Denomination and others, please see the listing and posters on the bulletin board across from the washrooms for information.

A Theology of Star Wars - Anyone in your family excited about Rogue One: A Star Wars Story coming out soon? Some of the sharpest thinkers on theology and pop culture explore key themes in the seven previous films in "A Theology of Star Wars," an eBook from Think Christian. Simply sign up to receive Think Christian articles by email and the eBook is yours! Learn more at thinkchristian.net/starwars.

Gospel Beginnings: Matthew - Have you ever wondered why the four gospels tell the same story different ways? Join the conversation as we anticipate Christ's birth by studying Matthew 1 to discover why this gospel begins with a long list of family names. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.