



### **COVID-19 Province-wide Shutdown**

**In response to the province-wide shutdown restrictions announced this week, our worship services will be live-streamed only and our church building will be closed.**

**Worship Services:** Starting this Sunday, December 27, we will be livestreaming our worship services from the sanctuary with a team of 10 people, the maximum allowed in attendance at religious services by provincial restrictions. The 10 people will include: the pastor (1), musicians (4), tech team (3), a Children's Worship storyteller (1), and an additional spot (1) for an extra musician or tech person depending on the needs of the service.

#### **Upcoming Services:**

- Christmas Day Service: Pre-recorded service available on our website starting on Friday, Dec 25 at 10am
- Sunday, December 27: Live-streamed service available as usual
- New Year's Day Service: Pre-recorded service available on our website starting on Friday, Jan 1 at 10am

**Church Building:** Our church building will be closed to everyone except staff. This includes anyone with a church key, unless you are a keyholder and are assigned to a worship service. The Church Office continues to be staffed during this time. The staff and pastors are available by phone and email.

As our province enters this time of shutdown, please keep our health care and frontline workers in your prayers. Pray for those waiting for surgeries and procedures that may be delayed because of the rising case load. And may we all continue to feel the ties that bind us as a congregation even as we enter another intense season of distance and separation.

*Do you have a question or concern? Please reach out to the members of the Administrative Council or to your community elder or a pastor.*

**Sunday, December 27, 2020 - 10:00am Worship Service**

**Worship Participants this week:**

**Preacher:** Pastor Amanda Bakale

**GATHERING AND GREETING**

**Welcome and Announcements**

\* **Call to Worship**

(based on Psalm 130:5-7, 27:1)

Leader: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

**ALL: There is no darkness with you, O Lord.**

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation –whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life –of whom shall I be afraid?

**ALL: There is no darkness with you, O Lord.**

Leader: Hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love and redemption.

**ALL: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit**

\* **God's Greeting**

\* **Songs of Praise**

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven"

**CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Song**

"Your Glory"

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Song**

"Who You Say I Am"

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Reading**

Galatians 4: 4-7

**Sermon**

**"Fear and Belonging"**

**Prayer of Application**

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

\* **Song of Response**

"Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me"

**Prayers of the People**

**Offering Announcement**

- 1) Ministries of Community Christian Reformed Church
- 2) Food Bank of Waterloo Region

\* **God's Parting Blessing**

\* **Doxology**

"Glory Be to the Father"

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## COMMUNITY CRC CHURCH FAMILY

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

Our condolences are extended to **Arno and Kathy W** (3) with the passing away of Arno's mother, **Mrs. Klaziena W. Mrs Wassink** passed away on December 18, 2020 in her 92nd year. Mrs. W was also a grandmother to **Matthew and Lauren W** (7), **Jordan and Julie W** (7), **Christa and Tim B** and their children **Luke, Josiah, Avery and Aliyah** (3) and an aunt to **Johan and Wendy W (Shawn & Steven)** (9). May the Lord comfort all who mourn.

After undergoing surgery on December 18,2020 **Kor H** (14) is recuperating well at home. Continue to keep Kor and Grace in your prayers as he continues to recover.

Please keep **Holland Christian Homes** in your prayers as they are dealing with a significant COVID outbreak in Faith Manor. Pray for residents, staff and their families as they deal with the realities this outbreak brings.

### Matters for Prayer:

- Pray for guidance and wisdom for the Search Team as they make recommendations to Council and for the officebearers as they discern the way forward filling the Pastoral positions.
- 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 in Grade 12 as they are at the mid year mark of their final year and looking ahead to what next year brings.
- Pray for folks to step up as leaders into Impact ministry.
- Pray for our provincial and municipal leaders and front-line workers as the

case numbers of COVID are increasing across the country.

- Give thanks and praise that a vaccine is starting to be administered locally and continue to pray for leaders as they plan the rollout for all Canadians.
- Pray for those with ongoing health concerns and those undergoing cancer treatments during a time when other illnesses seem to have taken a back seat to COVID-19.
- Pray for those experiencing the financial strain of the upcoming holidays and the stress this creates
- Pray for those experiencing loneliness, isolation, or disappointment at a time that is traditionally spent in Christmas and New Year's celebrations.
- 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 B** serving with Waterloo Campus Ministry and **Shannon C** serving as Chaplain at Forest Heights Long term care home.

Are you struggling with anxiety or depression?



**shalem**  
Mental Health Network

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/>.

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## STAFF INFORMATION

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Our Bookkeeper, **Diana W**, will be on vacation starting Thursday, December 24. She will be back in the office on Tuesday, January 5.

### **Important update regarding church emails:**

This week's church bulletin was sent out using a new email program. There have been a few issues with the church email lately and this is an attempt to minimize some of the issues. Please let Anita or Donna know if you **do not receive an email with the bulletin this week**. Also, if there is a different email that you use please let us know so that we can keep you updated with news and announcements from the church. You can also update your information on The Bridge App. The office will be notified if a change is made and we will update your contact information on our end. Your patience is appreciated as changes are being made in the church office. Thank you!

**Anita D and Donna V**

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## UPCOMING SERVICES

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Fri   Jan 1	10 am	Pastor Amanda Bakale New Year's Day
Sun   Jan 3	10 am	Pastor Betsy DeVries
Sun   Jan 10	10 am	Pastor Amanda Bakale

**Upcoming Baptism Sundays:** Are you looking to be baptized or to have your child baptized? Baptism Sundays are scheduled for January 24, 2021 and February 28, 2021. If you are interested in one of these dates, please contact Pastor Amanda or Pastor Betsy.

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## OFFERING SCHEDULE

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**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.**

**Today our offering is for the Food Bank of Waterloo Region.** *"There is no 'typical' food bank recipient and there is no single reason for people to need assistance. Food insecurity is a complex problem and the solutions are complicated. Thanks to a caring community, our network is able to provide nourishment and connection to other essential supports so those who need our help can move their lives forward."*

**Next week our offering is for Beginnings Family Services.** Beginnings is a non-profit, faith-based agency providing pregnancy counselling and adoption services as well as embryo donation services.

**Year End Donations |** As 2020 draws to a close, we would like to thank you for your continued support during this very difficult time. To ensure a 2020 charitable donation receipt, **please ensure your donation is received by December 31, 2020 (mailed in donations should be postmarked on or before December 31).** The Church mailbox and dropbox will be checked regularly until December 31. Donations made through the GIVE function on the Bridge App will be receipted as of the time you submit your payment.

**Budget Envelopes |** This year the Budget envelopes are being distributed via your Deacon. You should be contacted by your deacon within the next two weeks to receive your envelopes. If you have any questions or if you would like envelopes and currently do not receive them, please contact Karen V.

## Upcoming Offerings:

- Jan 10 am | Therefore Go Ministries  
(Formerly Youth Unlimited)  
Jan 17 am | Monica Place

### Offerings Received as at December 20, 2020 including PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance):

December 20	\$	66,773
Year to Date	\$	754,346
Budgeted 2020 Total Contributions	\$	885,705
<b>Second Offerings</b>		
House of Friendship	\$	1,976
Benevolence Fund		2,870
World Renew		1,450
Missionary Support	\$	920
Laurentian Hills Christian School	\$	450
Food Bank of Waterloo Region	\$	275
Calvin University	\$	50
World Renew – World Hunger	\$	25
CCRC - mortgage reduction	\$	5,000
CCRC - new roof	\$	5,000

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## COMMUNITY CRC NEWS

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### Administrative Council Meeting Highlights Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- Received and reviewed various staff and ministry reports and meeting minutes.
- Council welcomed members of the Calling Committee and received a report from them.
- Council discussed the impacts of COVID restrictions. Council wants members in attendance to be aware if you are exposed to COVID at church, you *may* be required to quarantine for 14 days.
- Council will be writing an overture to Classis to request more time to review the Human Sexuality report as put out by Synod.

**Mission Challenge: Neighbourliness** | What does hospitality look like during a global pandemic especially with the winter season approaching? How can we spread Christ's love to our neighbours while maintaining social-distancing measures? The Mission Strategy Team has been pondering these questions and would like to issue a challenge along with Consistory to the congregation and Communities for the month of January:

1. Each family pick one neighbour;
2. Commit to pray for that neighbour for the month of January;
3. Reach out to that neighbour via outdoor conversation or a simple note/card in their mailbox and see how you can be hospitable to them or simply letting them know you care;
4. Share your stories/ideas with your Communities.

Let's try to share the light of Christ through simple, everyday acts of being a good neighbour.

**Join a Deepening Faith Cluster | Sign up by Sunday, January 3.** 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 in January/February at a time and place (Zoom or in-person) that works best for the group. Interested? Let Pastor Amanda know by Sunday, January 3.

**Calling all folks who love our kids and made baptismal vows | Impact needs you!** Our very last youth leader is transitioning out this month, which means when we (hopefully) return after lockdown for our physically distanced fireside chats, we are leader-less. Sign up for an evening or 2 a month. Enjoy the AMAZING company of our high-schoolers and be blessed by your

experience. Contact a youth elder or Anita D to sign up and join the fun!

**Human Resources Representative** | Community CRC is currently looking for a volunteer who has Human Resource experience to be an HR advisor. This position is a resource to Administrative Council for HR matters (hiring, disciplinary action, review of job descriptions) and is responsible for facilitating staff reviews and presenting the results of the review to Admin Council.

The person serving in this position is not eligible to serve as an Elder or Deacon. This position starts in the spring and would serve a 3-year term. Please email Alesha H if you feel you could serve in this capacity.

**Volunteers Needed** | 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.

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## DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

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**At-home Faith Formation Tip** - The Practice of Hospitality: Kathleen Norris wrote, "True hospitality is marked by an open response to the dignity of each and every person." As you go through your week, focus on approaching every person you meet with this kind of open response. At the end of the week, look back at how this approach changed your attitudes and actions. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit [crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices))

**Town Hall for Christian Reformed Canadians** | The recording of the virtual Town Hall led by Chris Bosch from Chisel Consulting, and Canadian Ministries Director Darren Roorda on November 21st is available for you to view at [www.network.crcna.org/ministry-canada](http://www.network.crcna.org/ministry-canada) This recording is shared discussion and feedback about compliance with the Canadian Revenue Agency and the work of the Canadian Restructuring Team.

**Online Worship Learning** | You are warmly invited to register for a free online learning experience held January 6-26, 2021, on key themes in worship and the Christian life. Register for free at [worship.calvin.edu/symposium](http://worship.calvin.edu/symposium). This experience is designed for all kinds of learners: students, artists, musicians, pastors, scholars, teachers, worship leaders and planners, and all worshipers around the globe. Sponsored by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and the Center for Excellence in Preaching

**January Series** | Coming this January for the 34th year, Calvin University presents the 2021 January Series – the award winning free liberal arts education delivered in 15 weekly, lunchtime lectures. This year the series begins on January 6 and continues weekdays through January 26 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. EST with topics ranging from the future of the Supreme Court, climate change, the era of intelligent technology, civil discourse, racial tensions, the arts as a healing balm and so much more by top experts in their fields. And access to the award-winning lecture series will be easier than ever. This year, due to the realities of COVID-19, the January Series will have a completely virtual audience. Attendees will be able to watch and listen to the 15 presentations on their own personal devices, in their own locations, or gather at small remote sites available across the continent. For more information about the

speakers, topics, remote sites and to register for personal viewing, visit our website at [www.calvin.edu/january](http://www.calvin.edu/january)

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## RESOURCES

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### Instructions for giving to Community CRC

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As we enter lockdown, the following donation methods are currently 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](mailto: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.
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.

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